

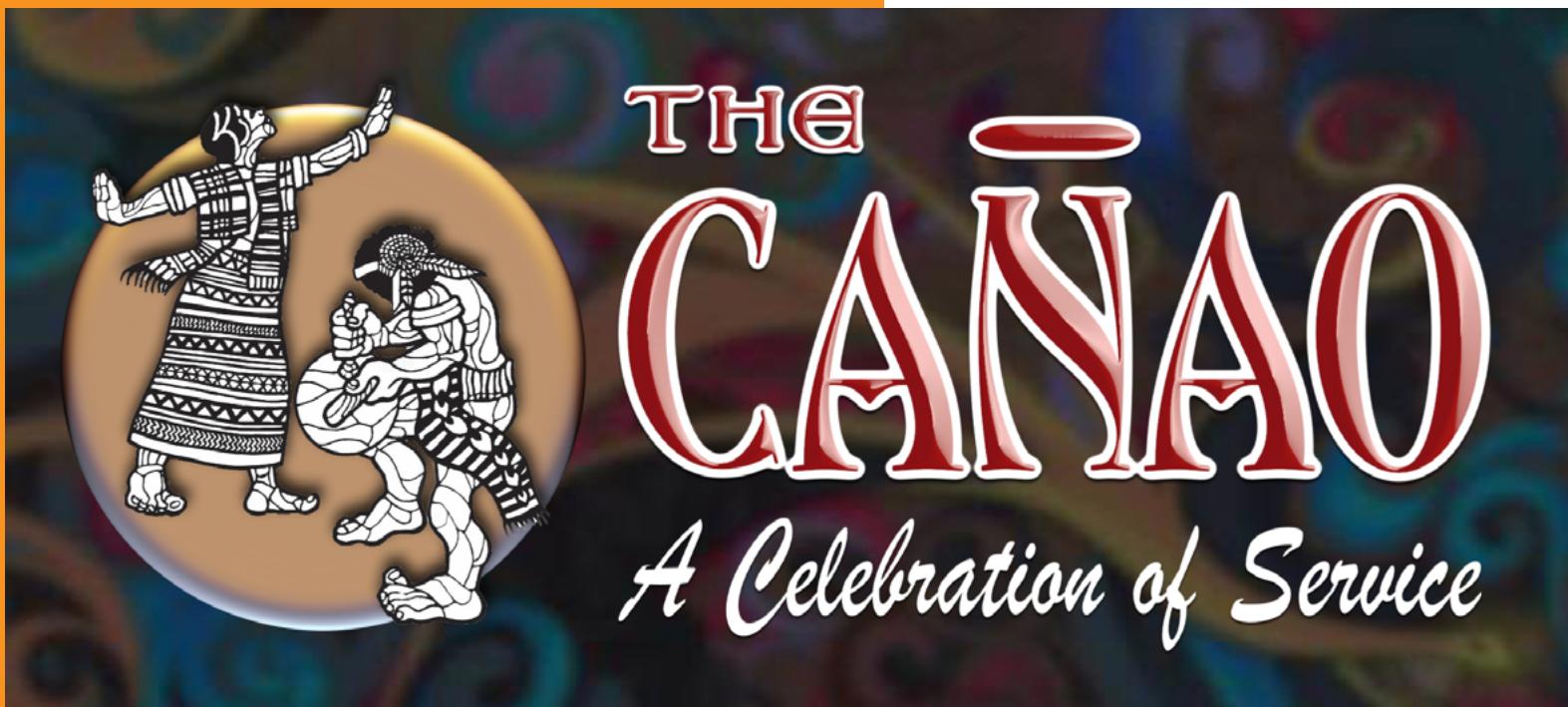
Rotary Club of Baguio



OFFICIAL CLUB BULLETIN
Volume LXXVIII - Issue 26
Thursday, 19 January 2026



88TH CHARTER
ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



Baguio City, Philippines
R.I. District 3790, Club No. 16863
Chartered on 21 February 1938

The Rotary Club of Baguio
meets every Saturday
at 12:30 to 2:30 pm
at the Baguio Country Club



INTERACTIVE LINKS
<https://rcbaguio.org>
<https://canao.rcbaguio.org>
Email: canao@rcbaguio.org

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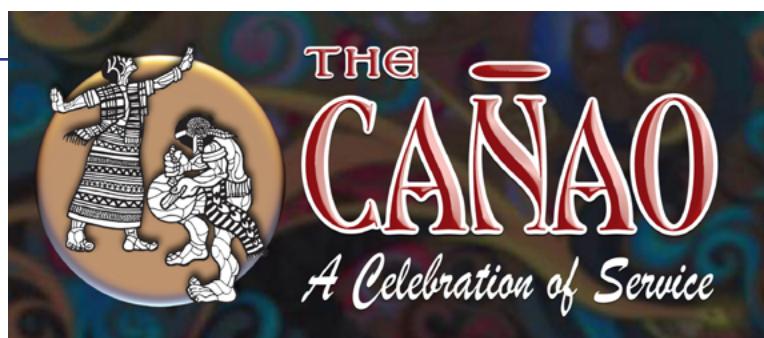
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THE CAÑAO & NEW EMBLEM

Symbolizing unity, joy, and gratitude, "Cañao" (pronounced kan-yau) is a traditional dance from the Cordilleras in Northern Luzon of the Philippines, celebrated during feasts and gatherings.

Our new emblem shows a male and female in ritual dance within a native gong—honoring abundance, much like how we celebrate service and fellowship in Rotary. Truly, "A Celebration of Service."



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CHARTER ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE

Today, as we celebrate the **88th Charter Anniversary of our beloved Rotary Club of Baguio**, we pause not merely to count the years, but to honor the legacy, the service, and the enduring spirit that have shaped who we are today.

Eighty-eight years is far more than a number. It represents generations of Rotarians who believed in something greater than themselves. It speaks of countless projects completed, lives uplifted, partnerships strengthened, and friendships formed through the simple yet powerful principle of **Service Above Self**. Each milestone reached is a testament to the dedication of those who came before us—and to the responsibility we now carry forward.

We stand on the shoulders of pioneers whose vision and courage laid the strong foundation upon which our club continues to grow. Through changing times and evolving challenges, the Rotary Club of Baguio has remained relevant, responsive, and resilient because its members chose unity over division and service over self-interest. Their legacy reminds us that true leadership is measured not by recognition, but by the positive impact we leave behind.

Yet an anniversary is not only a time for remembrance; it is also an invitation to reflection and renewal. As we gather today, we gently ask ourselves: Are we worthy stewards of this 88-year legacy? Are we serving with the same passion, humility, and integrity that defined our predecessors? Are we united despite our diverse vocations, perspectives, and experiences? The answers, as always, can be found within our Rotary hearts.

Rotary teaches us that while we come from different walks of life, we share one mission—to promote goodwill, foster fellowship, and create meaningful change within our communities. It is this unity that transforms individual efforts into collective impact. Every handshake, every shared meal, every project completed together becomes a reminder that fellowship is the heartbeat of service.

As we celebrate this milestone, let us recommit ourselves to strengthening our bonds as Rotarians and as friends. Let us continue expanding our service, mentoring the next generation, and nurturing a culture of kindness and respect within our club. The world continues to change, but our calling remains constant: to be a beacon of hope and compassion for those who need it most.

May our 88th year inspire us not to slow down, but to move forward with renewed enthusiasm and a deeper sense of purpose. The legacy entrusted to us is alive and vibrant, and we are its caretakers today. With every act of service, every moment of fellowship, and every life touched, we ensure that the spirit of Rotary continues to shine brightly.

Let us unite to do good. Let us keep our club a source of pride—not only for ourselves, but for the generations who will follow after us.

Happy 88th Charter Anniversary, dear Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Baguio.



PRES. JOE URСUA

RCB President
RY 2025-2026

WOMEN IN RCBAGUIO

When your EIC entered the Rotary Club of Baguio in August 1997, the presence of women in the Club was already warmly established. Their participation felt natural, even expected, as if the Club had always been a place where service knew no gender. Yet, as I looked more closely into our history, I realized how remarkable this evolution truly was. Through the generous help of PP Veeh Balajo, I gathered a list of the pioneering lady Rotarians who helped open the door wide for future generations of women in our Club.

Our very first lady Rotarian was **Lorna Gomia**, who joined in **1991**, marking a milestone in RCBaguio's long and storied journey. She was followed by a second lady Rotarian—a banker named **Linda** whose full name has, unfortunately, been lost to the passing of time. PP Veeh recalls that she had been transferred to Pangasinan before many had the chance to know her well. By **1992**, PP **Veeh Balajo** herself became the **third** woman to join our ranks. The following year, PDG/PP **Linda Winter** came aboard as the **fourth**.

The trail continued as more exceptional women entered the fold: **Crispy Matib** in **1995** as the fifth; **Flo Bayquen** in **1997** as the sixth; **Libby Fernandez** in **1998** as the seventh; and **Pam Perkins** in **2000** as the eighth. Each one brought her own passion, her own strengths, and her own brand of leadership to the ever-growing tapestry of RCBaguio.

Curious about how these early admissions were received, I tried to gather stories from long-standing members. Was there debate? Was there hesitation? Did the men-only membership of earlier decades wrestle with the idea of welcoming women? Interestingly, no one—not even our

current oldest member, PP Diony—could recall any meaningful opposition. There were no dramatic confrontations, no accounts of tension, no whispered protests carried through the halls of our history.

If we use the views of PP **Jack Gesner**, our Club President in **1972–1973**, as a benchmark, it becomes easier to understand why. PP Jack, remembered fondly for his forward-thinking perspectives, represented the mindset of many early Rotarians who believed in the value of progress, inclusion, and meaningful change. His openness suggests that our forebears were dynamic men—receptive, inclusive, and confident enough to welcome the so-called “weaker” sex, though time has proven that term to be both inaccurate and outdated. The women who followed would show strength equal to, and often surpassing, any expectations placed before them.

That is why it feels almost unimaginable that in our own District 3790, there remains a Rotary club that still proudly declares itself an all-male organization—claiming this as a badge of honor. One cannot help but ask: *Is something wrong somewhere?* At a time when Rotary International champions diversity, equity, and inclusion as pillars of its identity, such a stance feels strangely detached from the spirit of our global movement.

In contrast, RCBaguio shines as a Club that embraced women early, naturally, and wholeheartedly. Today, we celebrate not only their presence but the leadership, dedication, and compassion they bring—qualities that enrich our service and strengthen our fellowship. Truly, women in RCBaguio are not merely members; they are pillars of tradition, progress, and heart.

Remembering our
Historical Past
by your Cañao Editor-in-Chief



SECRETARY'S UPDATE

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

01 – PP Lani Fabi
06 – Dir. Lorena Cachola
09 – Dir. Glaiza Tan
25 – PP Chris Peralta

MOST RECENT EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

Weekly – Mental Health Help Desk in Baguio City Jail (male and female dorms)
Participants: Rtn Bong (lead)

12 February – MEETING and DINNER with our Partner in Scholarship Rotary Club Japan, Abong for the meeting and Baguio Country Club for the dinner.
Participants: PP Arnel, PE Reymund, Sec Cora and Treas Marilyn

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

19 February – 88TH Charter Anniversary of RCB, 5:30 pm Diamond Ballroom, Hotel Supreme

21 February – POLIO PLUS Banquet, 2nd Floor Levo Hotel, San Vicente Urdaneta City at 4 pm

ATTENDANCE

14 FEBRUARY 26

WE MISSED YOU LAST MEETING: PP Jun, Rtn Vangie, PP Anet, PP Lani, Rtn Eric, Rtn. Glen, Rtn. Jeff, Rtn Kacey, Rtn Jojo, Rtn. Annarie, Rtn Harly, Rtn. Peter

EXCUSED: Rtn. Ike, PP Chris F, PP Chris P, PP Cy, PP Ben, Rtn. Lily, PDG Linda

MAKE-UP: Rtn. Bong, Dir. Eduard, Rtn. Kat, Dir. Noel, PP Arnel

GUESTS: Rotary Anns: RA Cecille Barrios, RAPP Louie Claridad and RAPP Josie Chan
RotaKids: Jacc Cachola and Seth Tan

ON-LEAVE: Rtn. Ruth



PP CORA OCAMPO

RCB Secretary
RY 2025-2026



GUEST OF HONOR & SPEAKER

PRESIDENT RAOUL C. CREENCIA

Attty. RAOUL C. Creencia is the Managing Partner of The Firm of Creencia Carillo and Velasco (CCV), a legal consulting firm. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree (Major in Political Science) from the University of Santo Tomas; earned his Juris Doctor degree from San Beda University, and pursued further studies in law at the University of Sydney (Australia).

In 1996 to 2010, Atty. Creencia was engaged in private practice in his own firm, focusing on civil and corporate litigation, and corporate advisory services. He also did litigation work and argued his cases in the Supreme Court.

He also became a Law Professor upon passing the bar, and until today continues to teach Corporation Law and Basic Securities, Insurance Law, and Corporate Practice. He is also a Bar Reviewer in Corporation Law. Since 2006 up to the present, he lectures in the MCLE program provided by the IBP and UP Law Center, specifically on the PPP Code, Oral Advocacy, and Commercial Arbitration. He was also invited as a lecturer on corporate governance by the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) and the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD).

In October 2010, he was appointed Government Corporate Counsel (GCC), and in such capacity served as the chief lawyer of all government corporations and financial institutions of the country. He handled the the GOCC cases before the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court, and represented the country in mediation and arbitration hearings in New York, Singapore, and Hongkong.

In 2016, he was appointed Undersecretary of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), and was tasked to handle two important porfolios: legal affairs and procurement.

After his stint in government, Atty. Creencia is now back in private practice, with the same Firm which he founded almost 30 years ago. He and his revitalized and expanded team now handle various PPP and Government Procurement Projects in the water, power, waste management, and infrastructure sectors, among others.

Despite his busy professional schedule, Atty. Creencia finds time to serve in various civic organizations. He currently serves as President of the Rotary Club of Manila (the First in Asia), where he passionately devotes his time nowadays. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the following: World Surgical Foundation Philippines, Inc., Guild of Real Property Entrepreneurs and Professionals (where he served as Past President), and RC Manila Foundation, Inc. (where he is incoming Chairman of the Board). He currently sits as an Independent Director of a bank, and is a member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines – Quezon City Chapter, as well as the Philippine Bar Association.



PRES. RAOUL CREENCIA
RCMANILA PRESIDENT

R IN RETROSPECT

SERVICE, TALENT, AND FELLOWSHIP

Under the steady guidance of Program Coordinator PP Alfred, the fellowship was called to order by President Joe Ursua at 12:30 pm, briefly recessed, and then resumed in a spirit of warmth and renewed commitment.

Dir. Glaiza led the invocation, followed by the National Anthem, Rotary Hymn, and the Four-Way Test—anchoring the gathering once more in Rotary ideals. PAG Gigi introduced visiting Rotarians and guests, warmly welcoming Rotary Anns and Rotary Kids, reflecting the continuity within the Rotary family.

During Members' Time, PAG Gigi addressed compliance with Baguio Country Club policies. A statement regarding corkage regulations was read, acknowledging the ₱3,000 payment due from the previous meeting and reinforcing accountability. Members were reminded of the importance of observing venue guidelines.

PP Raffy reported that hard copies of the Charter Anniversary *Cañao* will be made available from Unique Printing Press, coordinated with PP Diony, with payments coursed through Treasurer Marilyn. PP Alfred read the list of members who availed, while PP Atom clarified that each ₱300 copy should be paid individually—another example of transparent governance.

Excitement built as PP Veeh outlined the flow of the upcoming 88th Anniversary celebration on 19 February 2026. The President of the Rotary Club of Manila—the club's mother club—will be our Guest of Honor and Speaker and will light the anniversary candle. PP Diony, PE Reymund, and President Joe will receive the flame, followed by Past Presidents, the Board, and the rest of the members, symbolizing leadership passed through shared light.

President Joe urged full attendance to our Anniversary Celebration, especially with our sister clubs invited. He relayed reminders from the Cluster meeting regarding the Polio Banquet on 21 February in Urdaneta, Pangasinan, and announced the cancellation of meetings on February 21 and 28 due to the Panagbenga festivities. Gratitude was expressed to contributors to the Polio Plus Fund.

Director Vell reported on the successful *PDL Got Talent* held February 10, thanking members, donors, and sponsors who helped bring joy to Persons Deprived of Liberty. Masks donated through Rotary Club Wonju were turned over to BJMP clinics, with Rtn Bong acknowledged for supporting the health of PDLs. The club also celebrated the blessing of an additional \$5,000 for the scholarship program.

Birthday celebrants Director Lorena and Glaiza were warmly greeted before raffle excitement filled the room, with all 150–160 slots taken and prizes ranging from cupcakes to umbrellas and perfumes.

PP Atom then presented an AVP honoring birthday celebrants from October 2025 to February 2026, followed by a toast themed "*Youth and Wisdom—Nothing Fades but Grows Fine.*" Candles were lit as wishes for good health and lasting friendship were shared. PE Reymund distributed bear-adorned ballpens through VP Lou.

The fellowship continued with a lively series of musical performances that showcased the talents of the club. PP Raffy and RAPP Josie opened the serenades, followed by PP Diony with RAPP Louie, then VP Lou with PP Alfred, and Director Lorena with Rotakid Jacob. The final performance by Rtn. Levy and PP/Sec Cora charmed the room and



RTN. LEVY ORCALES

RCB Member since 2022

earned them the afternoon's top honors, drawing enthusiastic applause from everyone present.

VP Lou also promoted IQ Billiards and Café by Rtn Eric, generously sharing matcha drinks and burgers with fries—sweetening both palate and fellowship.

The meeting closed with the RCB Hymn and *Pilipinas Kong Mahal*. An AVP by Dir. Edward featuring *PDL Got Talent* reminded everyone that while fellowship strengthens the club within, service remains its greater mission.

As the gavel fell, what lingered was not merely celebration, but a renewed spirit of unity—where accountability, gratitude, and service continue to grow finer together.

R RETROSPECT SCENES

SCENES WE LIKE TO SEE :



Retrospect Photos By:
RAPP Josie Chan, PP Libby Fernandez,
PE Reymund Barrios and PP Raffy Chan

14 FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING



THE ROTARY CLUB OF BAGUIO HYMN

(The Force of Goodwill)

Composed by Dennis P. Flores, M.D.

Instituted in February 2013, in conjunction with our
DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION

We have been summoned by God's loving call
To follow a great, self-less road
To serve, heart and mind, every trial, stand tall
Unburden a man's heavy load...

Trained to examine the gifts of the past
Consider the present we bear
To aim for the best of the future we must
Broaden our minds as we care...

We are the force built on Goodwill and Service
Love friend or foe, we embrace this demand
Called to be brave through life's burning furnace
Rotary Club of Baguio, we stand

The Truth, all actions must certainly yield
To all of our mankind, be fair
For Goodwill and Friendships we constantly build
Forever God's Goodness we share...

We are the force built on Goodwill and Service
Love friend or foe, we embrace this demand
Called to be brave through life's burning furnace
Rotary Club of Baguio, we stand

We are the force built on Goodwill and Service
Love friend or foe, we embrace this demand
Called to be brave through life's burning furnace
Rotary Club of Baguio, we stand!



We are the members of the
Rotary Club of Baguio (RCB),
the Mother Club of District 3790,

proud of the traditions passed on
to us by our Rotary forebears,
which have been preserved
from our rich and
glorious **PAST**.

To this day, these traditions
have been continued and,
when appropriate,
transformed as they would
best function in
our **PRESENT**

Commitment to Serve.
We likewise proudly and
continually look forward
to the **FUTURE**,
carefully steering ourselves toward
where we could best serve
our community, our country,
our world.

As a group of committed leaders,
we never forget to include in our
Commitment to Serve:
the lessons of the **PAST**,
the wisdom of the **PRESENT**
and our dynamism
towards the **FUTURE**.

ROOTS, REFLECTION, AND RENEWAL

This year, as we mark the **88th Charter Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Baguio**, we pause with gratitude and reverence for the journey that brought us here. It was on that crisp morning of **27 November 1937** — long before our club was officially chartered — that a gathering of visionary Rotarians assembled in the social hall of the Pines Hotel. They were led by a distinguished delegation from our *mother club*, the **Rotary Club of Manila**, under the stewardship of Justice George A. Malcolm. In that moment, far from the bustling streets of Manila, a seed was planted in the cool air of Baguio — a seed of fellowship, purpose, and service.

Three months later, on **21 February 1938**, Rotary International formally approved our Charter, making the Rotary Club of Baguio the **4,587th Rotary Club in the world**, the **6th in the Philippines**, and proudly, the **first Rotary Club north of Manila**. From that day forward, our club became part of a lineage rooted in fellowship and committed to serving humanity.

Our **Club Manifesto** captures this spirit with eloquence and clarity: “*We are the members of the Rotary Club of Baguio (RCB), the Mother Club of Rotary International District 3790, proud of the traditions passed on to us by our Rotary forebears, which have been preserved from our rich and glorious past...*” continued by our commitment to carry forward those traditions into the present, and to steer ourselves toward a future where we can best serve our community, our country, and our world.

These words form the heartbeat of our identity — a solemn reminder that we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. They remind us that every service project undertaken, every community uplifted, and every

life touched is part of a legacy that began with courageous Rotarians who believed that fellowship, shared ideals, and collective action matter deeply.

The **Rotary Club of Manila**, chartered in 1919, holds the distinction of being the **first Rotary club in Asia** and served as a beacon for others to follow. Its early members embodied the values of **Service Above Self**, sowing seeds of humanitarian work across the islands. From Manila’s bustling harbor to Baguio’s misty hills, that spirit of service crossed distance and time to take root in the north.

Over the past 88 years, our club has evolved — responding to the changing needs of society while preserving the wisdom of our founders. We have learned that service is not a momentary action but a lifelong commitment; that fellowship is not merely companionship, but a shared pledge to uplift others; and that legacy is not preserved in plaques or photos, but in hearts transformed and communities strengthened.

As we celebrate this milestone, let us remember that our past is not a distant memory, but a living foundation. We draw strength from the wisdom of those who went before us, we stand firmly in the present with purposeful dedication, and we look forward to the future with hope and resolve.

May the Rotary flame that once traveled **from Chicago to Manila, and then to Baguio**, continue burning brightly within us — guiding every step we take in service, compassion, and fellowship.

**Happy 88th Charter Anniversary,
Rotary Club of Baguio.**



PP RAFFY CHAN

Cañao Editor-in-Chief
RY 2025-2026

ROTARY CLUB OF BAGUIO
88th Charter Anniversary
Diamond Grand Ballroom, Hotel Supreme
Thursday, 19 February 2026

TIME	PORTION	IN CHARGE
4:00 pm	Holy Mass	
5:30 pm	Registration and Fellowship	
6:30 pm	PROGRAM	
	Program Coordinator: Rtn. Levy Orcales	
	Opening Salvo -----	Children from Project 1
	Call to Order -----	Pres. Joe Ursua
	Invocation-Reflection -----	AVP
	National Anthems: Japan -----	AVP
	Philippines -----	AVP
	Rotary Hymn -----	AVP
	Four-Way-Test -----	AVP
	Welcome Address -----	VP/PN Lou de Guzman
	Introduction of Visiting Rotarians & Guests (VRG) -----	PP Arnel Cabanisas
7:00 pm	DINNER	
	Entertainment -----	PP Benny Sunga, Rtn. Kat Bosantog, PP Diony Claridad ----- PP Chris Faelnar, PP Cora Ocampo, Dir. Noel Villanueva
7:30 pm	RCB, 88 years of Service Above Self -----	AVP
7:45 pm	ANNIVERSARY RITES	
	Lighting of Candles	
	Prayer for the Departed RCB Members -----	PP Marilyn Barredo, AVP
	Renewal of Commitment to Rotary and to RCB -----	PDG Linda Winter, AVP
	Anniversary Toast -----	PP Bert Talco
	RCB Hymn -----	AVP
8:15 pm	Message from Honorary Member -----	PDG Seichi Morita
8:20 pm	Introduction of Guest of Honor & Speaker -----	PP Chris Faelnar
	Inspirational Message -----	Pres. Raoul Creencia
8:30 pm	Presentation of Tokens of Appreciation -----	Pres. Joe Ursua
	Pilipinas Kong Mahal -----	AVP
	Adjournment -----	Pres. Joe Ursua
9:00 pm	FELLOWSHIP & RAFFLE -----	Dir. Ed Ramos ----- Surprise Guests
	Retrospect: PP Libby Fernandez	
	Images: Rtn. Peter Wasing	

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
Our next REGULAR MEETING at the BCC Wolfson Room, will be on
Saturday, 07 March 2026

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE 21 FEB 26 AND 28 FEB 26 SATURDAY MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED.

FEBRUARY IS PEACEBUILDING & CONFLICT PREVENTION MONTH