

Rotary Club of Baguio



OFFICIAL CLUB BULLETIN
Volume LXXVIII - Issue 30
Saturday, 18 April 2026

MS. MELANIE KU-MARQUEZ
Guest of Honor & Speaker



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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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.”



P PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CEL



PRES. JOE URSUA
RCB President
RY 2025-2026



APRIL: WARMTH AND NEW HORIZONS

In the Rotary Club of Baguio, every month carries its own meaning and gift. April, the fourth month of the year, stands out as a time of warmth, renewal, and new horizons. For our April birthday celebrants, this season reflects their spirit—full of energy, open to growth, and ready to embrace the opportunities that life continues to offer.

In the Philippines, April is a month of sunshine and summer. The rains of earlier months give way to bright skies, making it a season for outdoor gatherings, school graduations, vacations, and family reunions. For many, it is also a season of travel and discovery, a chance to celebrate life's blessings while looking forward to new experiences. Easter often falls in April, reminding us of rebirth and triumph, of the promise of hope even after life's trials. To be born in April, then, is to share in a season of joy, optimism, and renewal.

Science and tradition provide insights about those born during this month. Research suggests that April-born individuals often exude energy, confidence, and a sense of enthusiasm that inspires those around them. They are said to be natural leaders—people who carry the ability to influence others through warmth and example. Whether or not we rely on research, experience within our fellowship shows the same truth: our April celebrants often bring lighthearted joy and a motivating spirit that help keep our community alive and forward-looking.

Within Rotary, these traits are of deep importance. April celebrants remind us that service is not only

about fulfilling obligations but also about carrying enthusiasm into every task. Their energy lifts the spirit of our gatherings; their creativity inspires new approaches to service; their friendship builds stronger bonds among members. They teach us that when we serve with joy, our impact deepens, and our fellowship flourishes. Their birthdays highlight not only their personal journeys but also their contributions to our collective mission.

Throughout history, many remarkable figures were born in April—thinkers, artists, leaders, and reformers who changed the world in different ways. Their lives, like the month itself, symbolize the courage to begin anew and the strength to inspire transformation. Our own April-born members, in their unique ways, reflect this same legacy. Whether through leadership roles in the club, active participation in projects, or simple acts of kindness and support, they bring warmth and meaning to our Rotary family.

As we honor our April celebrants, we do so with gratitude and admiration. May this season of sunshine bless them with continued health and happiness. May their journeys in Rotary be filled with fulfillment and purpose, and may their lives always be surrounded by fellowship, love, and joy.

Indeed, April is a month of warmth and new horizons—and our celebrants remind us that every life, when lived with optimism and service above self, becomes a source of light for others.



OUR APRIL-BORN MEMBERS



PP Marilyn Barredo
April 02



Rtn. Jeff Isip
April 06



Rtn. Krash Padilla
April 08



Rtn. Tonton Tan
April 17



PP Atom Mendalla
April 21



PP Veeh Balajo
April 24



Rtn. Vangie Cacho
April 30



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

- 02 – PP Marilyn Barredo
- 06 – Rtn. Jeff Isip
- 08 – Rtn. Krash Padilla
- 17 – Pres. Tonton Tan
- 21 – PP Atom Mendalla
- 24 – PP Veeh Balajo
- 30 – Rtn. Vangie Cacho

MOST RECENT EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

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

22 March – Purple FAM RUN, a cluster project, 5:30 AM at City Hall. *Participant: IPP Susan*

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

10-11 April – District Conference (DISCON 2026), Hotel Supreme Convention Plaza, Magsaysay Avenue, Baguio City

ATTENDANCE

21 MARCH 26

WE MISSED YOU LAST MEETING:: Dir. Vel, Rtn Nancy, PP Jun, Dir. Kat, PP Arnel, Rtn. Vangie, PP Anet, Rtn Eric, Dir. Lou, PP Lani, Rtn. Glen, Rtn. Jeff, PP Ali, Rtn. Levy, Rtn. Kacey, Dir. Ed, Rtn Jojo, Dir. Arlene, Dir. Glaiza, Dir. Noel, Rtn Harley, Rtn Peter

EXCUSED: Rtn. Ike, PP Chris F, PP Cy, PP Libby, PP Ben, PDG Linda, PP Lily, PP Benny, PP Raffy, PP Lily, PP Diony

MAKE-UP: Rtn. Bong, IPP Susan, Dir. Lorena

ON-LEAVE: Rtn. Ruth, Rtn. Ailyn



PP CORA OCAMPO
 RCB Secretary
 RY 2025-2026



Early DisCon Attendees, 10 April 2026, Hotel Supreme Conception Plaza





GUEST OF HONOR & SPEAKER

CREATIVITY, WELLNESS AND PURPOSE

In a world where the demands of daily life often take a toll on mental and emotional well-being, Melanie “Melan” Ku-Marquez stands as a refreshing and inspiring presence—an accomplished artist, successful entrepreneur, devoted mother, and passionate advocate for mental health. Her life’s journey beautifully illustrates how creativity and physical activity can become powerful tools for healing, growth, and meaningful community impact.

A cum laude graduate of Saint Louis University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Melan built a strong academic foundation that continues to shape her work today. Her understanding of human behavior and mental wellness is not confined to theory—it is something she actively brings to life through her art, her businesses, and her advocacy.

As an entrepreneur, Melan has successfully established and managed several businesses in Baguio and Benguet, contributing to local economic development while staying true to her advocacy for wellness and community care. Her ability to balance enterprise with purpose reflects a rare and admirable clarity of vision—one that prioritizes both success and social responsibility.

Equally remarkable is her passion for sports. Melan has competed in ultramarathon and duathlon events, both locally and internationally, earning recognition within her age group. Since 2012, she has also served as a race director for various fun runs for a cause, using sports as a platform to promote awareness and support meaningful community initiatives. For her, physical endurance is not merely about competition—it is a pathway to discipline, resilience, and mental strength.

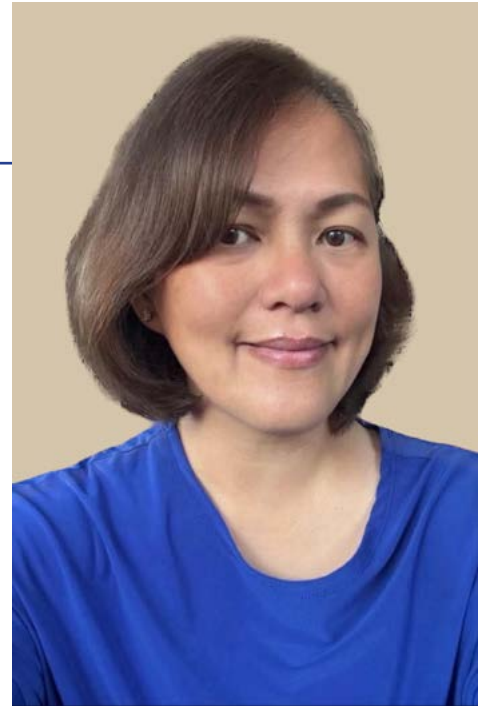
In the realm of the arts, Melan is the founder of Neurographica Arts Philippines, an initiative that introduces individuals to a unique form of art that promotes mental clarity and emotional healing. Over the past five years, she has guided and inspired many to use creativity as a way to process emotions, overcome challenges, and reframe their perspectives toward a more positive and empowered outlook.

Her involvement in organizations such as the Anxiety and Depression Group Baguio and her honorary membership in the Pasakalye Group of Artists further reflect her commitment to both mental health advocacy and artistic collaboration. Through these engagements, she continues to reach out to individuals and communities, offering support, inspiration, and practical tools for personal growth.

Melan’s dedication is further embodied in her upcoming book, “Mindful Lines, Mindful Lives: Drawing Your Way Out of Stress for Mental Clarity – Rewiring Your Mind to a Happier and Successful Life.” This work captures her philosophy and provides accessible, real-life strategies to help individuals navigate stress and cultivate a more balanced, fulfilling life.

In recognition of her meaningful contributions, she was honored as one of the 2025 Outstanding Women Leaders (OWLs) by the City Government of Baguio—a testament to her influence across the fields of mental health, arts, and community empowerment.

As we warmly welcome Melanie “Melan” Ku-Marquez into our circle, we celebrate not only her achievements, but also her heart for service—an enduring reminder that true success lies in uplifting others while staying grounded in purpose.



MELANIE KU-MARQUEZ
Multi-Talented Baguio Girl



BELONGING TO SOMETHING BIGGER

There is a quiet moment in every Rotary gathering — perhaps during the invocation, or while reciting the Four-Way Test — when we are reminded that we are part of something far greater than the room we sit in. Within the fellowship of the Rotary Club of Baguio, we experience warmth, familiarity, and shared purpose. Yet beyond our meetings lies a vast and vibrant network that stretches across continents.

To be a Rotarian is to belong not only to a local club, but to a global movement.

Founded in 1905 and now present in more than 200 countries and geographical areas, Rotary International unites professionals, leaders, and community builders under one enduring ideal: Service Above Self. This shared commitment forms an invisible yet powerful thread — connecting Baguio to Bangkok, Manila to Melbourne, the Cordilleras to communities halfway across the world.

What does it mean, then, to belong to something bigger?

First, it means that our local actions ripple outward. When we conduct a literacy program, support environmental initiatives, or mentor young leaders, we are participating in a global tapestry of service. Somewhere, at the same hour, another Rotary club is organizing a medical mission, planting trees, or sponsoring scholarships. Though separated by distance and culture, we are united in intention.

Second, belonging to a global network broadens our perspective. Rotary invites us to think beyond our immediate surroundings. Issues such as peacebuilding, disease prevention, maternal health, and clean water are not abstract global concerns; they are shared human realities. When we engage in Rotary's areas of focus, we align our efforts with a coordinated international vision — one that seeks sustainable

solutions rather than temporary relief.

For us in Baguio, this global connection carries both privilege and responsibility. We enjoy the fellowship of a close-knit club, yet we are called to think expansively. We are beneficiaries of Rotary's reputation for integrity and service. That reputation has been built over decades by millions of Rotarians who came before us. In our conduct, in our projects, and in our leadership, we safeguard that trust.

There is also a deeply personal dimension to this global belonging.

When a Rotarian travels abroad and visits another club, there is an immediate sense of familiarity. The meeting format may vary. The language may differ. But the values resonate. The same Four-Way Test. The same emphasis on ethical leadership. The same commitment to community upliftment. Rotary becomes a bridge — transcending nationality and culture.

In a world often divided by politics, ideology, and misunderstanding, this global fellowship is quietly radical. It reminds us that cooperation is possible. That service unites where debate divides. That goodwill can cross borders without passports.

Yet belonging to something bigger does not diminish our local identity. On the contrary, it enriches it. The unique character of the Rotary Club of Baguio — shaped by our city's heritage, diversity, and resilience — becomes our distinctive contribution to the global Rotary family.

As we gather week after week, let us remember: we are not an isolated club striving alone. We are threads woven into a worldwide fabric of service.

And in faithfully serving our beloved City of Pines, we strengthen the very global thread that joins us all.



M MEMBERS' ROSTER

ROTARY CLUB OF BAGUIO CURRENT ACTIVE MEMBERS



Dir. Mariver Agayas



Rtn. Nancy Alabanza



PE Reymund Barrios



Rtn. Kat Bosantog



Rtn. Vangie Cacho



Dir. Lorena Cachola



Dir. Emylou de Guzman



Rtn. Ericson de Guzman



Rtn. Dwight Dulnoan



Rtn. Glenliel Flores



Dir. Benedicto Grajo



Rtn. Jeffrey Isip



Rtn. Ailyn Kindipan



Rtn. Lily Landayan



Rtn. Cornelio Naguit Jr.



Rtn. Levy Lloyed Orcalez



Rtn. Krashemae Padilla



Dir. Eduardo Ramos



Rtn. Ruth Rillera



Rtn. Arlene Joy Sumalag



Dir. Glaizazette Tan



Rtn. Ronald Carlton Tan



Dir. Emmanuel Velasquez



Rtn. Anecita Viernes



Rtn. Harly Wasing



Rtn. Peter Wasing



M MEMBERS' ROSTER

ROTARY CLUB OF BAGUIO
 PAST PRESIDENTS AND CURRENT PRESIDENT
 RY = Rotary Year - Term of Presidency



PP Vicenia BALAJO
 RY 1997-1998



PP Marilyn BARREDO
 RY 2014-2015



PP Ricardo BONDOC Jr.
 RY 2017-2018



PP Arnel CABANISAS
 RY 2021-2022



PP Anita CALABIAS
 RCBS RY 2011-2012



PP Mia Joy CAWED
 RY 2009-2010



PP Rafael CHAN
 RY 2007-2008



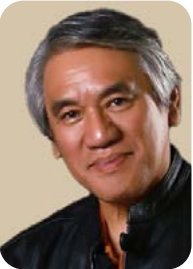
PP Dionisio CLARIDAD
 RY 1988-1989



PP Mary Leilani FABI
 RY 2018-2019



PP Chris Fernando FAELNAR
 RY 2016-2017



PP Cyrus FAGAR
 RY 1992-1993



PP Elizabeth FERNANDEZ
 RY 2012-2013



PP Gormito KAUR
 RY 2019-2020



PP Ben LADILAD
 RY 2010-2011



PP Alfredo LAYGO
 RY 2001-2002



PP Evangeline MARANAN
 RY 2015-2016



PP Alma Teresa MENDALLA
 RY 2020-2021



PP Ali MORALES
 RY 2022-2023



PP Maria Corazon OCAMPO
 RY 2023-2024



PP Christopher PERALTA
 RY 2002-2003



PP Benito SUNGA
 RY 1991-1992



PP Alberto TALCO
 RY 2008-2009



Pres. Joe URSUA
 RY 2025-2026



IPP Jesusa VILLANUEVA
 RY 2024-2025



PDG/PP Linda WINTER
 RY 2003-2004



FROM ONE TABLE TO THE WORLD

It began, as many meaningful things do, not with grandeur but with a simple and sincere gathering. In 1905, in a modest office in Chicago, four men came together with a shared desire for friendship, trust, and mutual support in a rapidly changing world. That small meeting—around a single table—would become the seed of what we now know as Rotary, a global fellowship that continues to shape lives and communities more than a century later.

The early vision was straightforward: to create a circle of professionals who could rely on one another, not only for business, but for genuine human connection. Yet what began as fellowship soon revealed a deeper purpose. The realization emerged that if individuals could come together in friendship, they could also unite in service. From that insight grew the guiding principle of “Service Above Self”—not merely a slogan, but a way of life that continues to inspire Rotarians across generations and across continents, cultures, and communities worldwide.

From those first gatherings, Rotary grew steadily, extending from city to city, then from nation to nation, and eventually across the world. Its strength did not lie in grand declarations, but in the quiet consistency of its members—people willing to give their time, talent, and compassion to causes greater than themselves. Whether building wells, supporting education, advancing peace, or responding to crises, Rotarians carried forward a shared belief that small acts, when multiplied across many hands and many hearts, can create meaningful and lasting change in communities everywhere.

Here in Baguio, we understand this spirit in a deeply personal way. Our fellowship reflects that first table in Chicago. We gather not merely as colleagues, but as friends bound by a shared purpose and a sense of responsibility to others. In the cool air of the highlands, surrounded by pine trees and a vibrant community, we continue a tradition that is both global in reach and local in expression, rooted in service and strengthened by fellowship.

What makes Rotary endure is not simply its history, but its remarkable capacity to adapt. Across generations, cultures, and changing circumstances, Rotary has remained relevant because it listens, evolves, and responds to real human needs. It welcomes new members, embraces new ideas, and encourages innovation, all while remaining firmly anchored in its founding values of integrity, service, and fellowship, which continue to guide its mission.

More than a century later, the table has grown larger, yet the invitation remains the same. It calls each of us to take our place—not just as members, but as stewards of a living and growing legacy. A legacy that reminds us that great movements often begin quietly, with a conversation, a handshake, and a shared commitment to do good.

And so, from that one table in Chicago to gatherings across the world, including our own here in Baguio, Rotary continues—not merely as an institution, but as a living fellowship. One that endures because it is built on something timeless: people coming together in trust, goodwill, and shared purpose to create a better world for all, today and for future generations.



RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

Every thriving organization understands a simple truth: growth is not merely about numbers — it is about renewal. For the Rotary Club of Baguio, chartered in 1938 and rooted deeply in the life of our City of Pines, recruitment is not a campaign strategy. It is an act of stewardship.

We who are privileged to belong to the **Rotary Club of Baguio** carry a legacy shaped by decades of service, fellowship, and ethical leadership. That legacy did not sustain itself automatically. It was handed down — Rotarian to Rotarian — through personal invitation, mentorship, and example. Each of us is here because someone believed we would add value to this circle of service.

Recruitment, therefore, is not about filling seats at our weekly meetings. It is about widening the circle of impact.

Baguio City continues to evolve. New professionals, entrepreneurs, educators, creatives, and civic-minded individuals are shaping its future. If Rotary is to remain relevant and vibrant within this changing landscape, we must intentionally reach out to those who share our ideals — even if they do not yet know that Rotary is the platform through which their desire to serve can flourish.

New members bring more than membership dues. They bring fresh perspectives. They bring new skills — digital expertise, innovative thinking, networks in emerging industries. They bring energy and questions that challenge us to refine how we communicate our mission. In welcoming them, we do not dilute our tradition; we strengthen it.

At the same time, recruitment requires thoughtful discernment. Rotary membership is an honor and a responsibility. We seek individuals of integrity, professional excellence, and community commitment — men and women who resonate with the principle

of Service Above Self. When we invite someone to Rotary, we are not merely asking them to attend meetings; we are inviting them into a lifelong philosophy.

Equally important is how we welcome them once they say yes.

A warm induction ceremony is meaningful, but integration is what sustains engagement. Assigning mentors, involving new members in committees, encouraging them to participate in projects early on — these gestures communicate belonging. A new Rotarian who feels useful will remain committed. A new Rotarian who feels unseen may quietly drift away.

Recruitment is also an expression of confidence in our club's future. It declares that we believe Rotary's work in Baguio is far from finished. Our community continues to face challenges — in education, health, environment, and livelihood. The needs are real. So must be our resolve to expand the hands available to serve.

Let us also remember that recruitment is deeply personal. The most effective invitations do not come from posters or social media campaigns alone. They come from one Rotarian saying to a friend or colleague, "Come and see what we do. I believe you belong with us."

As members of RCBaguio, each of us is an ambassador. Each conversation about Rotary is an opportunity. Each invitation carries the possibility of shaping the next generation of leaders within our club.

If we cherish our history, we must invest in continuity. If we value fellowship, we must enlarge it. If we believe in service, we must multiply those who serve.

In recruiting new members with warmth, discernment, and intentional care, we are not simply growing our roster. We are safeguarding the enduring light of Rotary in Baguio — ensuring that it shines brightly for decades to come.



PP RAFFY CHAN
Cañao Editor-in-Chief
RY 2025-2026

PROGRAM FOR TODAY

REGULAR MEETING at the BCC Wolfson Room

Saturday, 18 April 2026

TIME	PORTION	IN CHARGE
12:00 nn	Fellowship	
12:30 pm	Call to Order-----	Pres. Joe Ursua
	Invocation-----	Rtn. Vangie Cacho
	Pambansang Awit-----	(Everyone)
	Rotary Hymn -----	(Everyone)
	Four-Way-Test-----	(Everyone)
1:20 pm	Introduction of Visiting Rotarians & Guests (VRG)-----	Rtn. Lily Landayan
	Entertainment -----	Dir. Emmanuel Velasquez
	Raffle -----	Dir. Ed Ramos
	Finest Moments -----	PP Anet Calabias
1:40 pm	Members' Time-----	(Anyone)
1:50 pm	President's Time-----	Pres. Joe Ursua
1:55 pm	Introduction of GHS -----	Dir. Glaiza Tan
	Guest of Honor & Speaker (GHS) -----	Ms. Melanie Ku-Marquez
	Topic: Baguio Environmental Agenda	
	Open Forum	
	Club Response -----	PP Libby Fernandez
2:30 pm	RCB Hymn-----	(Everyone)
	Pilipinas Kong Mahal-----	(Everyone)
	Adjournment-----	Pres. Joe Ursua
	Program Coordinator -----	PP Arnel Cabanisas
	Retrospect -----	Rtn. Ailyn Kindipan
	Imagers-----	PE Reymund Barrios and Rtn. Peter Wasing

PARTICIPANTS FOR NEXT MEETING

REGULAR MEETING at the BCC Wolfson Room

Saturday, 02 May 2026

Program Coordinator -----	PP Alfred Laygo	Introduction of GHS-----	PP Mia Cawed
Invocation -----	Rtn. Vangie Cacho	GHS	
Introduction of VRG-----	Dir. Glaiza Tan	Topic:	
Entertainment-----	PP Cora Ocamp	Club Response-----	PP Bert Talco
Raffle-----	Dir. Benedict Grajo	Retrospect-----	PE Reymund Barrios
Finest Moments-----	PP Chris Faelnar	Imager -----	Rtn. Peter Wasing

APRIL 2026 IS ENVIRONMENTAL MONTH

