

## Presidential Welcome Speech to Our FAAGB Winter Holidays Around the World Celebration!

Good afternoon and welcome to our FAAGB holiday celebration. As we gather today, we not only celebrate the joy of the season, but we also mark the close of one presidential term. I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to serve and for all that we have accomplished together over the past two years.

During this term, FAAGB has been committed to serving others through impactful charitable efforts—supporting Children’s Hospital, expanding educational scholarships through our Independence Day Gala and Golf Tournaments, raising support for our Disaster Relief Fund through choir caroling, and sharing the joy of the season through toy donations for the Circle of Love Toy Drive. We have also continued our outreach by partnering with Rise Against Hunger, Alabama Food Solutions, and Habitat for Humanity, helping address hunger, food insecurity, and housing needs in our community and beyond.

We also strengthened our community connections by using Facebook, Instagram, and our FAAGB website to promote and support local businesses, partners, and sponsors.

I would especially like to thank the members of our Dream Team Executive Officers, whose dedication and leadership made these accomplishments possible: Gabby Sapalaran (Vice President), Lutchie Castor-Ford (Secretary), Bing Phillips (Treasurer), Eden Yutiamco (Auditor), and Jam Passion (Public Relations Officer).

We are proud to celebrate Winter Holidays Around the World, honoring traditions that bring light, hope, and unity—Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. At Christmas, we remember that when the Christ Child was born, peace was brought to all the lands. That message of peace connects beautifully with the shared values of

light, faith, and community found in all these celebrations.

As we enjoy our Christmas program, let us continue this spirit of brotherhood, sisterhood, and unity, and join our hearts in praying and working for peace in our world.

Following this welcome, we will hold an oath-taking ceremony for our incoming officers, marking the beginning of a new presidential term and a new chapter for FAAGB.

In closing, may the light and meaning of this season remain with us. May the values we celebrate tonight—peace, compassion, unity, and respect—guide our words and actions. May we leave here inspired to strengthen our bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood, to serve others with kindness, and to continue working together for peace in our community and in our world.

Maligayang Pasko, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Kwanzaa!

— Marcie Braden

President, 2025-2026

Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham, Inc.