

Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham  
PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)  
February 4, 2026 / Second Edition



**FAAGB Easter Picnic  
at Sicard Hollow Splash Pad & Park  
on April 20, 2025**

Last year began with laughter, games, and the aroma of home-cooked dishes during **FAAGB's Easter Picnic on April 20, 2025, at the Pavilion at Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex.** Thank you to everyone who helped with setup and cleanup, and to all who brought delicious food to share. The highlight? The nostalgic **pabitin** that brought back childhood memories of Easter in the Philippines.

Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham  
PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)  
February 4, 2026 / Second Edition



**FAAGB'S 127<sup>TH</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY GALA  
JUNE 21, 2025**



The year continued in elegance and generosity through **FAAGB's 127<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Philippine Independence Day Gala Celebration on June 21, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham – The Wynfrey Hotel**, showcasing the strength and heart of our **KABABAYAN**.

# Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham

PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)

February 4, 2026 / Second Edition

## Celebrating Our 2025 Scholarship Awardees

Congratulations to these inspiring scholars! Your FAAGB family is behind you every step of the way. **(L-R: Liqaya Gapud, Sammi Buhanan, Jazriene Rivalde, and Kyle Vinson)**



## Independence Day Gala SPONSORS

We are deeply grateful to all **47 Sponsors—both businesses and individuals**—who supported this year's event by placing advertisements in our souvenir program book. Your generosity sustains our mission and keeps our cultural traditions thriving in Birmingham.

### **Motivity Chiropractic**

<https://www.motivitychiropractic.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/motivitychiropractic>

### **Dr. Steven Johnson of Legacy Chiropractic & Wellness**

<https://www.legacychirohoover.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/legacychirohoover>

### **Dr. Retna Billano of Heights Dermatology & Aesthetics**

<https://heightsdermatologyandaesthetics.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/Dr.Billano>

### **Dry Eye Center of Alabama & Family Eye Care**

<https://www.dryeyecenterofalabama.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/dryeyecenterofalabama>

### **Leonora Smith of Café Baboy**

195 Vulcan Road

Homewood, AL 35209

205-862-9898

# Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham

PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)

February 4, 2026 / Second Edition

## **Jill Rhodes of Financial Literacy World Financial Group**

<https://agents.worldfinancialgroup.com/jill-rhodes>

jill.rhodes.wfg@gmail.com

407-864-7154

## **Paris Hair Salon – Jenny Tran**

<https://www.facebook.com/parishairsalonbhm>

541 Interlox Road

Irondale, AL 35210

(205)-951-5875

## **Nail Opi – Cindy Tran**

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61567072297775>

541 Interlox Road

Irondale, AL 35210

(205)-936-2987

## **Daniel Atchison of Salon D**

<https://www.solasalonstudios.com/salon-professional/daniel-atchison>

## **Atty Rick DiGiorgio of Cory Watson Personal Injury Attorneys**

<https://www.corywatson.com/birmingham>

## **Atty Raymond L. Johnson, Jr. of The Johnson Law Firm, LLC**

<https://www.raymondjohnsonlaw.net>

## **FIL AM Law Firm, PLLC**

<https://www.filamlawfirm.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/filamlawfirm>

## **Go Medical Group**

<https://www.gomedicalgroup.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/Gomedicalgroup>

## **Philippine Heritage Group**

Huntsville, AL

## **Philippine Nurses Association of Alabama (PNAAL)**

<https://www.pnaalabama.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/208643212509825>

## **Frank W. Phillips of Arc Realty**

<https://frankphillips.arcrealtyco.com>

<https://www.frankphillips.net>

<https://www.facebook.com/realestatebham>

## **Abhi Eatery and Bar**

<https://www.abhieatery.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Abhi%20Mt%20Brook/105498974279343>

## **Maro – Mountain Brook**

<https://www.marobham.com>

# Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham

PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)

February 4, 2026 / Second Edition

## Surf Hound

<https://www.eatsurfhound.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574996704161>

## Okinawa Sushi & Hibachi Steak House

<https://www.okinawasushihabachi.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100058858073963>

## Super Oriental Market/Red Pearl Restaurant

<https://superorientalmkt.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/superorientalmarket>

## Dan Pahos of Home Instead Senior Care

<https://www.homeinstead.com/bham>

## Adah Coburn of Logo Balikbayan Box

(254)-723-2177

<https://us.logocargo.com>

## Joy Barron of Player's Choice Tennis, Inc.

<https://www.playerschoicetennis.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088517420829>

## Carla Martin of The Storage Depot

<https://www.thestoragedepotbham.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/storagedepotbham>

## Paul, Marge, and Andre Davis of PMA Supermarkets, Inc.

Cedartown, GA

## Mary Peppers of National Tree Service

<https://www.nationaltreeservice.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/NationalTree>

## Dr. Julie Grimes of Altadena Valley Animal Clinic

<https://www.avacbham.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/AltadenaValleyAnimalClinic>

## **Independence Day Gala DONORS**

Our Silent Auction was a tremendous success, with **40 out of 51 items sold**, raising valuable funds for the **Empowering Dream Scholarship Program**. A heartfelt thank you to our **25 Donors** who contributed wonderful items and financial assistance—your kindness is helping turn dreams into reality for our youth.

Abhi Eatery and Bar

<https://www.abhieatery.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Abhi%20Mt%20Brook/105498974279343>

Amy Sanders

# Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham

PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)

February 4, 2026 / Second Edition

Dr. Ronald and Eden Yutiamco's B & A Children's Clinic, PC  
2891 US Highway 431  
Boaz, AL 35957  
256-840-1716

Bettina Bailey

Bing & Frank Phillips

Boya & Donna Guevara

Complete Dental Care, PC  
<https://www.completedental-al.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/completedentalcarebham>

Cory Bowen

Dry Eye Center of Alabama & Family Eye Care

Eden Yutiamco

Fingers and Toes, Nails and Spa  
<https://www.facebook.com/p/Fingers-Toes-Nails-and-Spa-100068759132934/>

Garrett & Marina Guevara

Guillen Family

Gunn Dermatology  
<https://gunndermatology.com>  
<https://www.facebook.com/gunndermatology>  
Heights Dermatology & Aesthetics

Hyatt Regency of Birmingham  
<https://www.facebook.com/Hyatt.Regency.Wynfrey>

Legacy Chiropractic & Wellness  
<https://www.legacychirohoover.com>  
<https://www.facebook.com/legacychirohoover>

Linda McGuire

Lutchie Castor-Ford

Marcie & Johnny Braden

Merlyn Charies

Nick & Norma Valencia

# Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham

PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)

February 4, 2026 / Second Edition

Nori Thai & Sushi

<https://www.inorified.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/NORIBirmingham>

Olexa's

<https://olexas.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/olexascafe>

Starbucks Mountain Brook

<https://www.starbucks.com>

Vivien Hutto

Will Kelley

## **Independence Day Gala PERSONAL GREETINGS**

We also extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who submitted Personal Greetings. You helped make the gala celebration even more special and memorable for our community.

Angie M./Dong C./Lutchie F./Leonor M./Leila C.

Banez Family

Braden Family

Brownsville United Methodist Church – Leon Jr. & Vicky Kennedy

Carmen Gose Horne

Cory Bowen & Tres Marias

Dr. Harold & Virna Settle

Guevara Family

Martin Family

Montenegro Family

Nenita & Luke Gose Ross

Nepomuceno Family

Nichols Family

Pasion Family

Salillas Family

Sexy Seven Ladies

Sweeney Family

The Bitago Family

The Nesters

Tiambeng Family

Valencia Family

Veluz Family

# Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham

PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)

February 4, 2026 / Second Edition



## FAAGB'S CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

FAAGB extends heartfelt thanks to all who made our **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Charity Golf Tournament on September 27, 2025**, a resounding success. Your generosity powers the **Empowering Dream Scholarship Program**, providing tuition, books, and mentorship for our students.

**Organizers & Committee Leads:** Freddie Rapadas; Gabby Sapalaran; Kahataw Golf Team; Ricky Isip; Bing Phillips; Lutchie Castor-Ford

**Our Volunteers:** Lyn Co; Frances Cao; Aileen Rapadas; Mae AB Maniti; Abi E. Otamias; Miguel Aragon

**Sponsors:** (Diamond) Columbia Southern University; Golf Galaxy; (Gold) Edwin Watts Golf; (Silver) Allstate Insurance - James Anthony; Southern Company - Mario Lagliva; (Bronze) FARR Elights Services, LLC

# Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham

PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)

February 4, 2026 / Second Edition



On November 2, 2025, FAAGB Officers, Members, and Friends gathered at the **Homewood Public Library** for the **FAAGB General Assembly**. At this meeting, we welcomed our newly elected **2026–2027 Executive Board Officers**: **(President)** Marcie Braden; **(Vice President)** Jun Bitago; **(Secretary)** Chelle Tabuena; **(Treasurer)** Bella Guevara; **(Auditor)** Bing Phillips; and **(Public Relations Officer)** Eden Yutiamco.

Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham  
 PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)  
 February 4, 2026 / Second Edition



**FAAGB CHRISTMAS PARTY  
 DECEMBER 14, 2025  
 LEVITE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**

**FAAGB’s Christmas Party** proudly celebrated **Winter Holidays Around the World** on **December 14, 2025, at the Levite Jewish Community Center**. Traditions that bring **light, hope, and unity—Christmas, Hanukah, and Kwanzaa** – were honored on this special event reminding us 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.

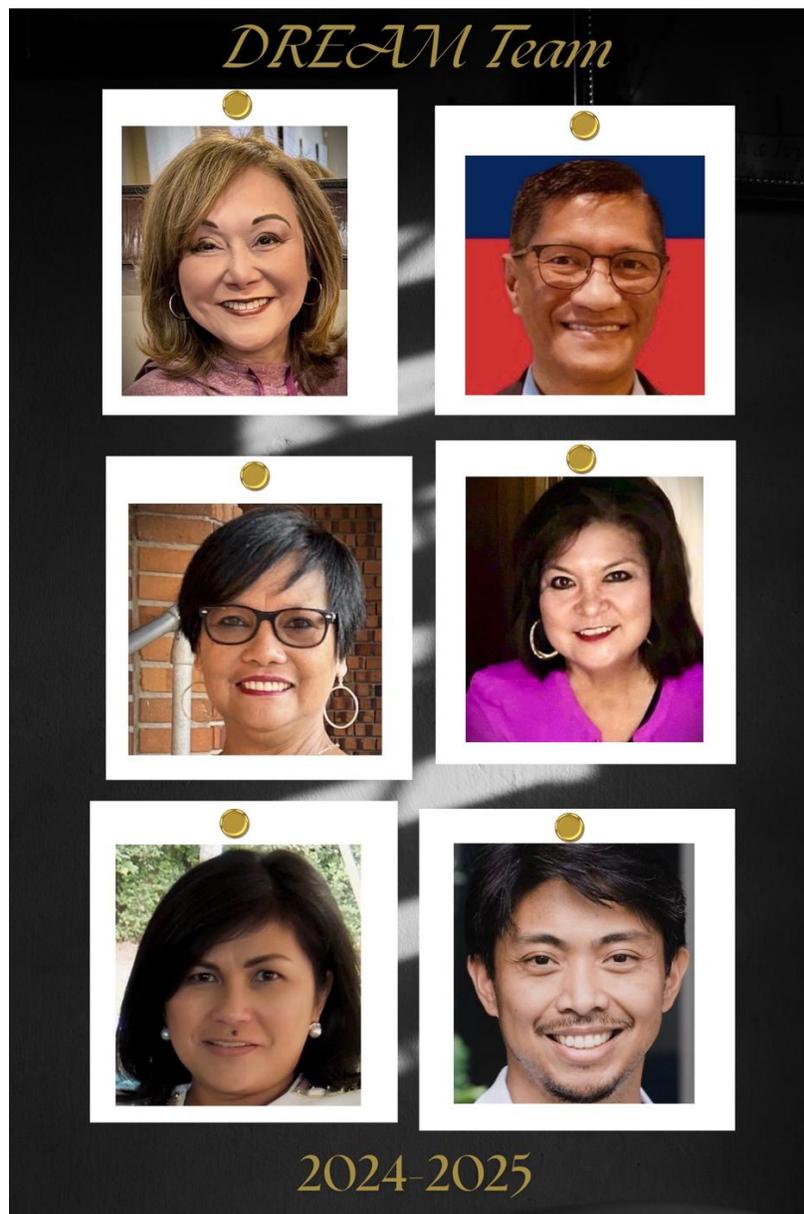
# Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham

PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)

February 4, 2026 / Second Edition

## WELCOMING OUR NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our **Dream Team Executive Officers (2024–2025)**, whose dedication and leadership made all these accomplishments possible: Marcie Braden (**President**), Gabby Sapalaran (**Vice President**), Lutchie Castor-Ford (**Secretary**), Bing Phillips (**Treasurer**), Eden Yutiamco (**Auditor**), and Jam Passion (**Public Relations Officer**).



# Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham

PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)

February 4, 2026 / Second Edition

The new members of our **FAAGB Executive Board Officers** were officially inducted during our Christmas Party celebration. Please join us in warmly welcoming our **new Executive Board Officers —The Empowering Team (2026–2027)**— who will continue the important work of advancing our mission and serving our community: Marcie Braden (**President**), Jun Bitago (**Vice President**), Chelle Tabuena (**Secretary**), Monique Montenegro (**Asst. Secretary**), Bella Guevara (**Treasurer**), Bing Phillips (**Auditor**), Eden Yutiamco (**PRO**), and Sang Ordiz (**Asst. PRO**).



# Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham

PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)

February 4, 2026 / Second Edition

## OUTREACH PROGRAM EVENTS:



Last summer, **FAAGB Officers, Members, and Friends** came together to support and welcome the Filipino first responders who proudly represented the **Philippines in the 2025 World Police and Fire Games**. From warm hospitality and transportation assistance to home-cooked meals and moral support—you truly embodied the spirit of bayanihan. **Special thanks to Lutchie Castor-Ford and Bing Phillips for organizing this beautiful act of hospitality.** Mabuhay ang ating mga volunteers at ang buong Filipino community! Your kindness made our guests feel right at home.

Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham  
PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)  
February 4, 2026 / Second Edition



Many thanks for **FAAGB Officers and Members** who continue to meet once a month at **Alabama Childhood Food Solutions in Sylacauga** to help bag food for those in need.

Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham  
PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)  
February 4, 2026 / Second Edition



Together with volunteers from across the community, FAAGB Officers and Members helped package nutritious meals for children and families facing hunger - supporting both local students in need and global food aid efforts - at the **Birmingham Rise Against Hunger** service event held at Mountaintop Church on Tuesday, **July 15, 2025**.

Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham  
PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)  
February 4, 2026 / Second Edition



On **February 15, 2025**, FAAGB officers and members assisted with a home-building project in partnership with **Habitat for Humanity Greater Birmingham**, supporting the **Windham Family Home** as part of the *Building on Faith 2025 – Pope Francis Build* — building not just a house, but hope for a family.

Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham  
PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)  
February 4, 2026 / Second Edition

**DISASTER RELIEF DONATIONS:**



FAAGB proudly supported humanitarian efforts in the Philippines through our **Disaster Relief Fund**. Following the devastation caused by **Tropical Storm Kristine (Trami)**, monetary donation was sent to the **Philippine Humanitarian Coalition**. PHC, along with their partner **Tanging Yaman Foundation**, responded quickly to meet the urgent needs of affected families in Bicol and northern provinces.

Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham  
PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)  
February 4, 2026 / Second Edition



In the spirit of compassion and solidarity, FAAGB sent a monetary donation to disaster victims in the Visayas and Mindanao regions through the **All Terrain Medical Relief Organization (AMRO)**. These funds came from the remaining **Disaster Relief Fund** created last Christmas by the FAAGB Choir. We are grateful to everyone who helped make this contribution possible. Through this act of giving, we reaffirm our commitment to humanitarian service and our hope to continue this vital outreach in the years ahead.

Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham  
PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)  
February 4, 2026 / Second Edition

**OTHER EVENTS:**



FAAGB officers, **Lutchie Castor-Ford** and **Bing Phillips**, were honored to present and participate in a cooking class at **Samford University**, hosted by **Clara Darling, MS, RD, LD — Director of Food Labs and Wellness Kitchen and Assistant Professor on March 29, 2025**. This meaningful collaboration highlighted Filipino culture, nutrition, and community engagement through food, creating a wonderful learning experience for students and faculty alike.

Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham  
PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)  
February 4, 2026 / Second Edition



The **KAISAHAN: Unity in Diversity on August 23, 2025**, was held at the Dream Theater in Huntsville, AL. FAAGB Choir had the honor to share the stage with the **Mabuhay Performing Arts Group of Alabama** to celebrate the beauty, history, and heart of Filipino culture through music and dance. Our choir was truly grateful to be a special guest in this vibrant night of cultural expression.

Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham  
PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)  
February 4, 2026 / Second Edition



FAAGB Officers and Members are proud to collaborate with the **UAB Fil-O Students** in meaningful community service and cultural engagement efforts. Together, we continue to strengthen intergenerational connections, share leadership, and uplift our Filipino American community through teamwork and service. This partnership reflects the heart of **bayanihan**—working hand in hand, learning from one another, and building a stronger future for the next generation.

Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham  
PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)  
February 4, 2026 / Second Edition



**Celebrating the Feast of  
Our Lady of Penafrancia**



Saturday - September 6, 2025  
Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church  
2 Xavier Circle  
Birmingham, AL 35213  
Celebrant: Fr. Pachomius Alvarado-Garcia, O.S.B.  
Assembly 12:45 pm  
Rosary - 1:00 pm  
Followed by the Mass 1:30 pm  
Reception to follow at the Parish Hall



The **Feast of Our Lady of Peñafrancia on Saturday, September 6, 2025**, held at **Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church** in Birmingham, Alabama. The celebration was led by **Fr. Pachomius Alvarado-Garcia, O.S.B.** and followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. Several members of the FAAGB Choir participated in the celebration

**Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham**  
**PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)**  
 February 4, 2026 / Second Edition



The Filipino-American Catholic Community celebrated the **11th Annual Simbang Gabi at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church**, which began on December 13 and culminated on December 21, 2025. The celebration was presided over by **His Excellency, the Most Reverend Steven J. Raica**, Bishop of the Diocese of Birmingham, with **the Very Reverend Father Vernon Huguley** as concelebrant. We were also blessed to have several members of the FAAGB Choir participate in the Eucharistic Mass on the final day of the Simbang Gabi celebration.

**Filipino American Association of Greater Birmingham**  
**PERYODIKO NG KOMUNIDAD (FAAGB Community Newsletter)**  
 February 4, 2026 / Second Edition



**Santo Niño Festival Sinulog In Birmingham**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025  
 10:00 AM  
 ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH  
 2 SAVIER CIRCLE, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35218

BEING IN OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:  
 INVITING EL NINYO POR FAVOR SI NO WE CELEBRATE  
 THE FEAST OF SANTO NIÑO DE CEBU!

MASS CELEBRANT  
 MOST REVEREND ROBERT J. BAKER, S.T.D.  
 Bishop Emeritus of Birmingham in Alabama

CONCELEBRANT  
 FATHER PACHOMIUS ALVARADO-GARCIA

PROCESSION, STREET DANCING,  
 ENTERTAINMENT TO FOLLOW (Start in Potluck)

in honor of:  
 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM - EUCARISTIC MASS  
 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM - FREE ROSSINI  
 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM - LUNCH & ENTERTAINMENT  
 www.faaqb.org

The annual **Santo Niño Festival Sinulog Event** in Birmingham was joyfully celebrated on **Saturday, January 25, 2025**, at **Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church**. The event began with a multidialectal Rosary, followed by the Eucharistic Mass presided over by **Most Reverend Robert J. Baker, S.T.D.**, Bishop Emeritus of Birmingham, Alabama, with **Father Pachomius Alvarado-Garcia** as concelebrant. We were truly honored to have several members of the FAAGB Choir participate in this beautiful celebration of faith, devotion, and Filipino Catholic tradition.

**Thank you to all our current members and followers on our social media at**  
**FAAGB.org (<https://faaqb.org>) and FB page**  
**(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/171145609602884>).**