



THE SCORESHEET

May 2023

Issue #10



GIVE ME 5!

RC Alabang welcomes new members to the club

In a whirlwind of excitement and growth, the Rotary Club of Alabang proudly welcomes five extraordinary individuals to its esteemed ranks. With a relentless commitment to making a difference in their community, these top professionals and big-hearted businessmen have answered the call to join our noble cause.

Amidst the backdrop of The Palms Country Club, the induction ceremony held on May 11th marked a momentous occasion for our club. Surrounded by camaraderie and boundless enthusiasm, the new members were embraced by the Rotary Club of Alabang's warm and welcoming spirit. Their addition not only strengthens our collective resolve but also infuses our organization with fresh perspectives, diverse expertise, and a

shared passion for philanthropy.

Together, these individuals embody the very essence of Rotary, personifying selflessness, compassion, and a resolute dedication to helping those in need. With their unique backgrounds and extensive experience, they bring a wealth of knowledge and innovative ideas that will elevate our club's impact on the community we serve. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our existing members for their unwavering support and extend an open invitation to others who are inspired to join our compassionate mission. The Rotary Club of Alabang stands united, eager to forge ahead and leave an indelible mark on the lives of those less fortunate, one act of kindness at a time.

by Rotarian Royce Fabela

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President's Message

I'd like to welcome everyone to our Rotary family, and look forward for all of us to do great service together while having fun.

Dear Members and Anns,

May is the penultimate month for Rotary Year 2022-23 and the exciting activities of the club continued at a fast pace.

This was the "new member induction" month for the club. At our meeting on May 11 at the Palms, we officially inducted five new members into our ranks: Patrick "Pat" Webb (wife Dearsy), Generoso "Gene" Silades (wife Mary Ann), Christian "Chris" Nervego (wife Valerie), Benjamin "Ben" Bitong (wife Meg), and Miguel "Miguel" Fernandez (wife Misty). I'd like to welcome everyone to our Rotary family, and look forward for all of us to do great service together while having fun.

On May 14, we participated with our RCC and Rotaract Club, as well as their Home Owners Association and Barangay officials, to help Bagong Paraiso celebrate their 38th Anniversary. Through the generosity of Director Jun Umali and Gardenia Bread, we provided 400 loaves of bread to the residents as well as supplying candy for their games and bubbles for all of the kids.

We also had a big month for getting Gardenia bread donations for great activities. In addition to the donation at Bagong Paraiso, we were able to supply 500 loaves for the MVV Medical Caravan to Urdaneta City (with RC Makati Paseo de Magallanes), 100 loaves for Jobs Fair (with RC Las Piñas East), 350 loaves to ALIG for their "Fresh Start Friday" and "Scholars" programs, and expect to finish the month with a 100 loaf donation to the Parish Paalay Kids Feeding program with our RCC in Bagong Paraiso. Thanks so much to Director Jun Umali and Gardenia for making all of this possible.

In the midst of all of this, Past President Narmel and Past President Alvin, with the help of Admin MeAnne, were able to submit a Pillar Grant proposal for the upcoming Rotary Year 2023-24 for the purchase of additional desks

and furniture for the Southville 3A High School, to continue the refurbishment we started this year.

While I was in Switzerland, I had the opportunity to attend the meeting of the Rotary Club of Lenzburg, following up on my visit last year when I was in town. I met with their current president, officers and around 40 members, presented an update about what our club has been doing and saw presentations by their two exchange students from Holland and Mexico about on their year in Switzerland. The student from Mexico was very interested in our club's activities and might want to come to the Philippines. I presented them with our club flag this time as a token of appreciation, and I believe they may be willing to work with us as part of a global grant in the future.

Next month will be my final President's message as I finish up my term, so until then...






Cheers,
ROC



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Induction of New Members



In a whirlwind of excitement and growth, the Rotary Club of Alabang proudly welcomes five extraordinary individuals to its esteemed ranks. With a relentless commitment to making a difference in our community, these top professionals and big-hearted businessmen have answered the call to join our noble cause.

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Together, these individuals embody the very essence of Rotary, personifying selflessness, compassion, and a resolute dedication to helping those in need. With their unique backgrounds and extensive experience, they bring a wealth of knowledge and innovative ideas that will elevate our club's impact on the community we serve. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our existing members for their unwavering support and extend an open invitation to others who are inspired to join our compassionate mission. The Rotary Club of Alabang stands united, eager to forge ahead and leave an indelible mark on the lives of those less fortunate, one act of kindness at a time.

The next pages are our new members' biography, but here's a very quick glimpse:

- Benjamin "Ben" Bitong is the Head, Investments (Wealth Management) of Maybank Philippines.
- Miguel "Miguel" Fernandez is the Group CFO of Maya Bank Inc. and Maya Philippines Inc.
- Christian "Chris" Nervegno is an entrepreneur managing retails, import and distribution businesses L'Epicerie Gourmande.
- Generoso "Gene" Silades Jr. is an engineering services contractor and construction management consultant.
- Patrick "Pat" Webb is a quality assurance expert and President of Ne Plus Ultra PW Consulting. We published his biography in the previous issue. Read it [HERE](#).

Their induction followed the orientation for prospective members held in February and March and the follow-up meetings where the prospective members got to know more about the club and meet more RCA members.

Let us all welcome our new members and help them along in their "Rotarizing" journey.

Mabuhay!

Meet the New Members



Generoso Silades, Jr.

Gene is a licensed Mechanical Engineer with a diverse and accomplished background. Born on October 13, 1978, in Surigao Del Norte, he spent his formative years in Manila from grade two and currently resides in B2-L8 La Concordia Homes, Brgy Poo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Gene's educational journey began at Buli Elementary School in Muntinlupa and continued at PEDHS in Alabang for high school. He pursued his college education at the Technological University of the Philippines (Manila), where he took up the MPET course and graduated in 1999. Later, he obtained his degree in BSME from the University of Perpetual Help (Las Piñas Campus) in 2004. Throughout his college years, Gene displayed independence and a strong work ethic, undertaking various jobs in different companies in Manila to assist his parents with his educational expenses.

Following his studies, Gene embarked on his professional career. In 2005, he started working in sales in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), where his exceptional performance led to a promotion as a showroom in-charge in Kuwait, which he held until 2009. Subsequently, he worked as a Mechanical Engineer in various companies in Saudi Arabia's Eastern and Western regions. His roles included working as an Operation and Maintenance personnel at Delta Water Company, serving as a Project Manager at Saudi Aramco Oil and Gas Refinery in Safania/Tanjib under Arabian FAL Holding Company, and assuming the position of General Mechanical Engineer at King Abdulaziz University under Bong Kyong Construction Co. In 2016, Gene returned to the Philippines to establish his own construction business, G. Silades Construction Services (GSCS-2016), while concurrently working as a Project Manager at Inovus Building Solutions Inc in Biñan Technopark. Additionally, he serves as an approved online consultant for Enquire AE, located in Washington DC, USA.

Gene's dedication to his profession extends beyond his individual achievements. He has actively participated in professional organizations, serving as a former Board of Director of PSME-LPM Chapter and holding the position of President of MMHS-PEDHS Alumni Association in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. With a rich tapestry of experiences and contributions, Gene Silades continues to make his mark in the field of mechanical engineering and construction.

Meet Christian, a remarkable individual with a rich background rooted in the French Mediterranean. Hailing from Antibes, South of France, Christian's diverse heritage encompasses both French and Italian roots. After completing his degree in sales and management, he embarked on a fulfilling career in the retail industry, marrying Valerie in 1990 and welcoming their first child, Estelle, in 1995.

In 2000, Christian's journey took him to Dubai, where he was recruited by Carrefour, one of the world's largest French hypermarket chains. Over the course of 14 years, he explored various parts of the Middle East, residing in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain. It was during this time that Christian's family grew with the arrival of their second child, Leo, in 2004.

In 2013, Christian and his family made the bold decision to relocate to the Philippines, enticed by a new opportunity. Although the job did not meet their expectations, they fell in love with the country and its vibrant Filipino culture. Embracing this new chapter in their lives, Christian chose to make Manila his permanent home, establishing his own businesses—a restaurant and an import company. Additionally, he continued to share his extensive retail experience through consulting missions with local retailers.

Christian's exceptional leadership skills shone through as he managed diverse teams of up to 5,000 employees from 51 different nationalities. Known for his loyalty, effective communication, and people-oriented approach, he thrived in fostering inclusive and cohesive work environments.

Beyond his entrepreneurial pursuits, Christian finds solace in his passions for sailing, skiing, off-road adventures, and motorbiking. A true epicurean, he revels in the pleasures of good food and fine wines, always ready to share delightful moments with friends.

Now a busy entrepreneur in his mid-50s, with his children grown up and residing in France and Canada, Christian has decided to dedicate a portion of his time to support the community. His commitment to making a positive impact led him to join the Club, where he eagerly contributes his expertise and time to serving others.

Sante! (Cheers in French)



Christian Nervegno

Meet the New Members

Benjamin Bitong's life was a harmonious blend of family, career, and diverse experiences. For the past 14 years, he had shared a beautiful journey of love and commitment with his wife, Meg. Their two daughters, Gabby and Alli, brought joy and laughter to their home in Ayala Alabang. As the head of investments at Maybank Philippines, situated in the bustling Bonifacio Global City (BGC), Benjamin navigated the dynamic world of finance with expertise and determination.

Born in the vibrant city of Los Angeles, Benjamin had traversed continents, immersing himself in different cultures and perspectives. From the United States to the Philippines, he had embraced the richness of each place he called home. Beyond his professional pursuits, Benjamin found solace and fulfillment in his hobbies. Travel allowed him to explore new horizons and discover the wonders of the world. Sports ignited his competitive spirit and kept him physically active. Music resonated deep within his soul, providing an escape and a means of self-expression.

In the tapestry of Benjamin Bitong's life, every thread was carefully woven, creating a vibrant and fulfilling existence. With his unwavering commitment to family, his leadership role in the financial realm, and his passion for exploration and creativity, Benjamin's story continued to unfold, painting a picture of a life well-lived.



Benjamin Bitong



Miguel Fernandez

Miguel Fernandez is an exceptional Chief Financial Officer (CFO) with 27 years of experience, having worked with some of the most reputable and recognized companies globally. With a core focus on the tech industry, e-commerce, and FinTech sectors, Miguel has achieved remarkable success in leading companies to unicorn status and driving growth.

Currently serving as the Group CFO at Voyager Innovations, Inc., Miguel has played a pivotal role in optimizing liquidity, profitability, and shareholder returns. Under his leadership, the company, with an impressive annual gross transaction value of \$15 billion, has emerged as one of the only two tech unicorns in the Philippines. Miguel's strategic vision and financial acumen have enabled the successful launch of a new digital bank critical to their unique payments and enterprise ecosystem, driving substantial revenue growth and positive contribution margins.

Previously, as the CFO of Coupang.com, a publicly traded e-commerce leader with a market cap of \$26 billion, Miguel achieved profitability and drove a remarkable 20%+ increase in productivity. His leadership and financial expertise have consistently delivered impressive results, positioning the organization for sustained growth and success.

Miguel Fernandez's extensive experience, coupled with his ability to navigate complex financial landscapes, make him a highly respected figure in the finance world. His track record of driving revenue growth, optimizing costs, and delivering substantial shareholder value continues to inspire and shape the industry.

Mother & Nature: A Mother's Day Tribute



Combine the two words and a new meaning emerges - "Nature personified as a creative and controlling force." "Nature represented as a woman thought of as the source and guiding force of creation."

Why "woman" and not "man"? Searching for answer, I found "The concept of Mother Nature has its roots in Greek mythology. The Goddess Gaia essentially gives birth to nature." Another "Why?" - "it is a personification of nature that focuses on the life-giving and nurturing aspects of nature by embodying it, in the form of the mother."

But that's not my true intent in this tribute to Mother's Day. It's about the mother of my 3 children - wife Myrna - whose curiosity, embrace of nature and loving it has already caught my attention in a very fascinating manner. Pandemic is a jolting factor that wakes up one's senses to look at the used to be taken-for-granted value of nature to our personal lives. Prior to Covid, our house for example, is visually seen naked with just concrete structure with 2 trees to accentuate its look Today, she surrounded it with so many plants that they can hide the years of wear and tear already due for renovation The plants, when I take time to water-feed them, reminds me of my departed mother who used to garden and has a gift of successful flowerings of hard to handle "domesticated" wild orchids. This is her first embrace to nature. It's within our property.

The next one is outside our premise - the outdoors! She started browsing campsites, joining social media groups, observing, increasing her curiosity, interest and knowledge. Then, before I knew it, she announced a Holy Week "retreat" via a

7-Church "7 Last Words of Christ Reflection" and capping it with an overnight camping at Lake Caliraya, Cavinti, Laguna. Tents, accessories, and a long list needed for a memorable maiden "car camping" were assembled and packed! I held back my teasing to avoid spoiling her camping debut. Why? The items squeezed in our minivan are almost like moving to a new house. The only thing missing are the furniture!

It was a great experience! Nature indeed cut through our senses even if inconveniences were felt - like parking the car or erecting the tent, next time, horizontal instead of inclined/declined. No. We did not woke up on another area after rolling downhill.

The latest one was a summer beach getaway! But instead of the usual cozy resort room booking, my wife, now with just my youngest daughter, wanted a camping experience in front of the shore-line! Off we went to La Playa de Caleta in Morong, Bataan! Nestled in a small cove, it's perfect for a serene, laid back environment while flora and fauna are in abundance! For some reason not intending to spoil the camping experience, the resort management "upgraded" us to a closed bamboo cottage with free breakfast! Wife and daughter took the available comfort while this writer, Boy Scout residue still in mind, was not seduced to "business class" and remained to stick with the tent below a tree canopy put up on a heated white-grayish sands a friend calls "cattle class" in airline parlance.☺

Noel Guevara
RC Alabang
Past President, RY '17-'18



Bagong Paraiso's 38th Anniversary

by Ms. Ara Deuda Club Secretary / President Elect, Rotaract Club of Alabang - Bagong Paraiso



The Rotary Club of Alabang celebrated the 38th anniversary of Bagong Paraiso in the most heartwarming way possible - by spreading love, joy, and kindness to the community. On this special occasion, the members of the Rotary Club distributed breads and treats to both children and adults, filling the air with the sweet aroma of freshly baked goodies.

As the community gathered to celebrate this momentous occasion, the Rotary Club organized various games and activities to add an extra layer of fun and excitement to the event. The atmosphere was filled with laughter, cheers, and a sense of togetherness as the members of the community came together to celebrate.

The Rotary Club of Alabang has always been at the forefront of community service, and this event showed their unwavering commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of those around them. They not only spread joy and happiness by organizing this celebration with the help of Bagong Paraiso Association Incorporation, Rotary Community Corps, and Rotaract Club of Alabang - Bagong Paraiso, but they also inspired others to follow in their footsteps and make a difference in their own communities.

As the day drew to a close, the Rotary Club of Alabang left behind a trail of smiles and memories that will be cherished for years to come. They proved once again that it's the simple acts of kindness and generosity that can make the biggest difference in the world. Here's to another year of spreading love and joy to the world, one act of kindness at a time!





Fellowship Continues

We continue to enjoy the wonderful ambience at L'Epicerie Gourmande, Molito.



And just recently, we were able to dine and laugh with the late 3X Past President Nelson Mendoza's daughter, Bea.

We wish you were all there with us!



Fresh Start Fridays

May 12th, another batch of 150 loaves was donated to Southville 3A Elementary School with the help of our partners at ALIG.



Big thanks to Director Jun Umali for his kind support and dedication to the kids at Southville 3A!

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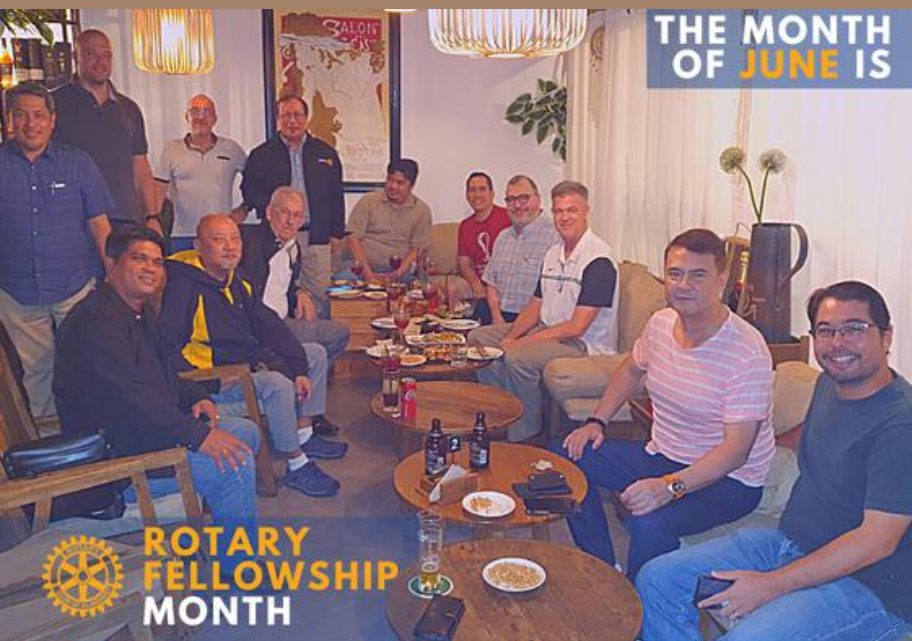
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JUNE

ROTARY FELLOWSHIP MONTH

8	Thu	FELLOWSHIP MEETING
4	Sun	Noel Guevara's Birthday
9	Fri	Requesting 150 loaves for Fresh Start Friday at Southville 3A Elementary School w/ALIG
10	Sat	Tony Olizon's Birthday
13	Tue	Monette Villanueva's Birthday
13	Wed	Narmel and Bicbic Duque's Anniversary
20	Tue	Jeff Garcia's Birthday
22	Thu	BUSINESS AND FELLOWSHIP MEETING - HANDOVER
23	Fri	Requesting 250 loaves for Bread Donation for Southville 3A Scholars children w/ALIG
30	Fr	Nikki Gilladoga's Birthday



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