



Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA)

# NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026 EDITION

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### BUSINESS RESOURCE & TOOLBOX

-Grants & Training Resources For Women-Owned Businesses

-Cybersecurity During Tax Season: What Every Small Business Owner Needs to Know

### COMMUNITY EVENT SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating Women, Culture, and Leadership at the International Women Celebration Gala 2026

### PACCA MEMBER NEWS

A Life of Faith, Strength & Purpose: Coco Gonzalez

### WOMEN'S MONTH SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating Filipina Leadership

### UPCOMING EVENT

Ceremonial Turnover & Induction of Officers and New Members

### BUSINESS UPDATE & NEWS

How U.S.–Iran Tensions Could Shape World Markets: And Why It Matters to PACCA Members Here at Home

### MEMBER ENTREPRENEUR SPOTLIGHT

Real Estate Agent & Team Leader | The Le Sampaga Team

### HERITAGE & CULTURE

Gabriela Silang: The Spirit of the Filipina Warrior

### PACCA UPDATE & NEWS

-PACCA Hosts Business 101: From Foundation to Growth, Money, Law and Strategy with 2026 VIP Tour Launch  
 -WELCOME TO PACCA NEW MEMBERS

**ROOTED IN COMMUNITY.  
 RISING TOGETHER.**

*PACCA's strength comes from deep community roots—culture, service, and shared history—while our collective vision lifts businesses, leaders, and future generations forward. In 2026, we honor where we come from as we grow together into what's next.*

## MISSION

WE ARE COMMITTED TO ASSISTING FILIPINO-AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURS AND PROFESSIONALS BY PROVIDING TIMELY AND INFORMATIVE RESOURCES, PROMOTING AND FOSTERING BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS, AND MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND THE BROADER BUSINESS COMMUNITY, BOTH LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

## VISION

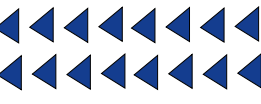
TO BE THE PREMIER RESOURCE FOR FILIPINO-AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURS, CREATING A THRIVING COMMUNITY THAT DRIVES INNOVATION, GROWTH, AND IMPACT IN THE LOCAL AND GLOBAL BUSINESS LANDSCAPE.

Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA)



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# MESSAGE FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

**Mabuhay and warm greetings, PACCA Family,**

It's always an honor to stay connected with a community that continues to grow through purpose, collaboration, and shared success. PACCA has become a space where individuals don't just build businesses — they build relationships, support systems, and opportunities that extend far beyond themselves.

This issue highlights the strength and momentum within our network. You'll find valuable resources, including funding opportunities for women-owned businesses, timely cybersecurity reminders during tax season, and insights on global developments that may impact our community. Each piece is thoughtfully curated to provide guidance, spark ideas, and help you stay informed in an ever-changing landscape.

What stands out most about PACCA is the people. The willingness to show up for one another, to mentor, to collaborate, and to celebrate each other's wins — that is what truly defines this organization. Success here is not achieved alone; it is built together.

As Immediate Past President, I've had the privilege of witnessing the growth of this Chamber and the impact it continues to create. It's inspiring to see how members step into leadership, support new initiatives, and carry forward the mission of empowering Filipino American professionals and entrepreneurs.

I encourage you to take full advantage of what PACCA offers — engage in conversations, build meaningful connections, and continue to find ways to give back. Your presence and participation are what keep this community strong and moving forward.

Thank you for being part of PACCA and for contributing to a culture rooted in support, integrity, and progress.

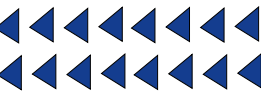
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With appreciation,

**Edward Lago**

Immediate Past President  
Philippine American  
Chamber of Commerce of Arizona





# MESSAGE FROM THE 2026 PACCA STATE PRESIDENT

**Mabuhay and warmest greetings, PACCA Family!**

As we move forward together this season, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for each of you who make our Chamber strong. Your commitment, participation, and belief in our shared mission are what continue to drive the growth and impact of our community.

PACCA is more than a business organization – it is a network of leaders, entrepreneurs, professionals, and families who genuinely support one another. Every connection made, every collaboration formed, and every opportunity shared strengthens not only individual businesses, but our entire Filipino-American community here in Arizona.

I am especially proud of the spirit of leadership and service that continues to shine within PACCA. We see members stepping up, mentoring others, building partnerships, and finding new ways to create value – not just for themselves, but for the community as a whole. That is the heart of who we are.

As we look ahead, let us remain focused on connection, engagement, and growth. Together, we will continue creating opportunities, building meaningful relationships, and empowering one another to thrive.

Thank you for being part of this journey. The future of PACCA is bright because of you.

With gratitude and respect,  
Atty. Luan Mai  
State President  
Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona



# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**Mabuhay and heartfelt greetings, PACCA Family!**

This March, we celebrate the strength, creativity, and impact of women in our PACCA community – from entrepreneurs building businesses with vision, to community leaders inspiring change, to members quietly making a difference every day. Their stories remind us that leadership comes in many forms, and that every act of support, mentorship, and collaboration strengthens our community as a whole.

In this issue, we're excited to share a mix of practical resources and timely insights for our members. You'll find grants and funding opportunities for women-owned businesses, helpful cybersecurity tips during tax season, and updates on what's happening overseas and the impact on our community and business owners. Each article is designed to equip you with tools, guidance, and information you can use – whether you're running a business, growing your network, or supporting others in the community.

PACCA is more than a Chamber – we are a family of professionals, entrepreneurs, and advocates who lift each other up. This month is a perfect reminder of the power of connection, the importance of mentorship, and the joy of celebrating each other's successes. Together, we continue to learn, grow, and thrive.

We invite you to explore this issue, share the stories that resonate with you, and engage with the PACCA community – your voice and participation make all the difference.

With appreciation and community spirit,  
Kristine Bartolome  
Editor-in-Chief  
Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona





# How U.S.–Iran Tensions Could Shape World Markets: And Why It Matters to PACCA Members Here at Home

Over the past few days, global headlines have focused on rising tensions between the United States and Iran. A recent analysis by Reuters explored how these developments could ripple through world markets — and while it may seem far from Arizona, the impact can hit closer to home than we think. At PACCA, we always say: global events shape local business realities. This is one of those moments.



## WHY THIS MATTERS TO BUSINESS OWNERS

When geopolitical tensions rise — especially in energy-producing regions — markets react quickly. One of the biggest concerns right now is oil supply. A key shipping route called the Strait of Hormuz carries a significant portion of the world’s oil. If disruptions occur there, oil prices could spike. And when oil prices rise, so do:

- Shipping and freight costs
- Airline fares
- Manufacturing expenses
- Everyday consumer goods

For Arizona businesses — especially those involved in logistics, construction, retail, import/export, or food service — higher energy prices mean tighter margins and increased operational costs.

## WHAT WE’RE SEEING IN THE MARKETS

**DURING TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY, INVESTORS TYPICALLY MOVE MONEY INTO “SAFE HAVEN” ASSETS LIKE GOLD OR STABLE CURRENCIES. MEANWHILE, STOCK MARKETS OFTEN BECOME MORE VOLATILE.**

**FOR PACCA MEMBERS WITH INVESTMENTS, RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS, OR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EXPOSURE, THIS KIND OF VOLATILITY CAN FEEL UNSETTLING. BUT HISTORY SHOWS THAT MARKETS RESPOND IN WAVES — AND PREPARATION MATTERS MORE THAN PANIC.**

## THE BIGGER PICTURE FOR FILIPINO–AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURS

MANY OF OUR MEMBERS OPERATE ACROSS BORDERS — WHETHER THROUGH:

- INTERNATIONAL SOURCING
- FAMILY BUSINESSES IN THE PHILIPPINES
- REMITTANCES
- GLOBAL CLIENTS

CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS AND SHIFTING TRADE DYNAMICS CAN AFFECT CONTRACTS, PRICING, AND PROFITABILITY. EXCHANGE RATES MAY MOVE QUICKLY WHEN GEOPOLITICAL RISKS INCREASE.

THAT DOESN’T MEAN WE SHOULD FEAR GLOBAL EVENTS — BUT IT DOES MEAN WE SHOULD STAY INFORMED AND ADAPTABLE.

## OPPORTUNITIES IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

**PERIODS LIKE THIS ALSO CREATE OPPORTUNITY. CERTAIN SECTORS — INCLUDING DEFENSE, ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE, LOGISTICS INNOVATION, AND SUPPLY CHAIN TECHNOLOGY — OFTEN SEE INCREASED DEMAND DURING GLOBAL TENSIONS. BUSINESSES THAT ARE AGILE, DIVERSIFIED, AND FORWARD-THINKING CAN POSITION THEMSELVES STRATEGICALLY.**

**AS ENTREPRENEURS, RESILIENCE IS PART OF OUR DNA. THE FILIPINO–AMERICAN COMMUNITY HAS ALWAYS NAVIGATED UNCERTAINTY WITH CREATIVITY AND STRENGTH.**

## PACCA TAKEAWAY: STAY PROACTIVE, NOT REACTIVE

HERE ARE A FEW PRACTICAL STEPS FOR MEMBERS:

- REVIEW SUPPLY CHAIN EXPOSURE AND TRANSPORTATION COSTS
- REVISIT CONTRACTS TIED TO FUEL OR SHIPPING RATES
- EVALUATE FOREIGN EXCHANGE EXPOSURE IF DOING CROSS-BORDER TRANSACTIONS
- DIVERSIFY WHERE POSSIBLE
- STAY CONNECTED WITH FELLOW MEMBERS — COLLABORATION BUILDS RESILIENCE

**GLOBAL EVENTS MAY FEEL DISTANT, BUT THEIR ECONOMIC EFFECTS ARE INTERCONNECTED WITH OUR LOCAL BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM.**

AT PACCA, OUR MISSION IS TO **CONNECT. ENGAGE. THRIVE.**

THAT INCLUDES STAYING INFORMED ABOUT GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS THAT INFLUENCE OUR ENTREPRENEURIAL LANDSCAPE. LET’S CONTINUE TO LEAD WITH AWARENESS, ADAPTABILITY, AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT — NO MATTER WHAT THE HEADLINES SAY.



# Cybersecurity During Tax Season: What Every Small Business Owner Needs to Know

Tax season is already demanding—tight deadlines, financial reviews, payroll filings, and coordinating with accountants. But while you're focused on compliance, cybercriminals are focused on you.

According to the National Cybersecurity Alliance through its educational platform StaySafeOnline, tax season is one of the most targeted times of the year for small business cyberattacks. Why? Because businesses are handling their most sensitive data—employee records, EIN numbers, bank information, and tax documents.

For PACCA members, protecting your business is protecting your livelihood, your employees, and the community we serve.

**Let's break this down by industry so you can see what this means for YOU.**

## Restaurants & Hospitality Businesses

Many Filipino-owned restaurants, catering companies, and food service operators process:

- Payroll for hourly staff
- Vendor payments
- POS system data
- Online delivery platform accounts

### Biggest Risks During Tax Season:

- Phishing emails pretending to be from payroll providers
- Fake IRS notices requesting urgent payment
- Compromised POS systems
- Business email compromise scams

### What You Should Do:

- Enable multifactor authentication (MFA) on payroll and banking platforms
- Update POS and accounting software immediately
- Verify payment change requests by phone—not email
- Train managers to spot fake IRS or vendor emails

## Real Estate, Mortgage & Professional Services

For brokers, loan officers, CPAs, consultants, and insurance professionals, tax season involves:

- Social Security numbers
- Tax returns
- Bank statements
- Wire instructions
- This makes your business a high-value target.

### Biggest Risks:

- Wire fraud
- Fake client emails requesting document transfers
- Cloud storage breaches

### Impersonation scams

### What You Should Do:

- Never send tax documents via regular email
- Use encrypted file-sharing portals
- Confirm wire instructions verbally
- Back up client files securely (cloud + offline)
- If you're handling escrow or financial transfers, one compromised email account can cost thousands.

## Retail & E-Commerce Businesses

If you operate an online shop or retail store, you're managing:

- Customer payment data
- Vendor invoices
- Sales tax filings
- Business banking

### Biggest Risks:

- Fake refund scams
- Credential theft
- Malware through invoice attachments

### What You Should Do:

- Monitor business bank accounts daily during tax season
- Use strong, unique passwords with MFA
- Update website plugins and payment gateways
- Keep encrypted backups of sales records

## Small Service-Based Businesses (Cleaning, Caregiving, Contractors, Pet Services, etc.)

Even if you think, "I'm too small to be targeted," that's exactly why cybercriminals look your way.

### Smaller businesses often:

- Lack IT support
- Share passwords informally
- Use unsecured Wi-Fi
- Skip regular software updates

### What You Should Do:

- File taxes early to reduce fraud risk
- Secure your Wi-Fi network
- Install antivirus and firewall protection
- Create a simple cybersecurity plan
- You don't need a big IT department—you need smart, consistent habits.

### The Most Common Tax Season Scams to Watch For

- Emails pretending to be the IRS demanding immediate payment
- Fake W-2 or 1099 requests from someone posing as your CEO
- Vendors requesting "updated" bank details
- Payroll provider impersonation

**Remember: The IRS does not demand payment via email, text, or gift cards.**

## PACCA Takeaway: Protecting Our Businesses = Protecting Our Community

As Filipino American entrepreneurs, many of us are family-owned, community-driven, and relationship-based. Trust is our strength—but it can also be exploited if we're not careful.

**This tax season:**

**File early**

**Use multifactor authentication**

**Back up your data**

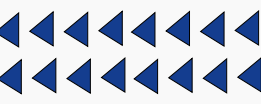
**Train your team**

**Verify unusual requests**

**Use secure document portals**

**Cybersecurity isn't just an IT issue. It's a leadership issue.**

**When we protect our businesses, we protect our employees, our families, and the future of our community.**



# Grants & Training Resources For Women-Owned Businesses

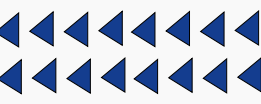
March is a time to celebrate the strength, leadership, and innovation of women. It is also an opportunity to support their continued growth in entrepreneurship. Across Phoenix and Arizona, women-owned businesses are playing a powerful role in shaping local communities, driving economic impact, and inspiring the next generation of leaders. Yet building and sustaining a business requires more than passion; it requires access to knowledge, mentorship, funding, and supportive networks. Fortunately, a growing ecosystem of grants, training programs, accelerators, and community initiatives exists to help women entrepreneurs start, scale, and thrive. In honor of Women's Month, we have curated a list of current grants, training opportunities, and strategic resources available in March and April 2026. Whether you are launching a new venture, expanding an existing business, or exploring new pathways for growth, these programs are designed to provide practical tools, financial support, and meaningful connections to help you move forward with confidence.

## GRANTS & ALTERNATIVE FUNDING

| Resource   | Date/ Deadline                      | Focus/ What It Offers  | URL   |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Amber Grant for Women                            | Monthly (March & April cycles open) | \$10,000 monthly funding + annual awards                                 | <a href="https://ambergrantsforwomen.com/get-an-amber-grant/">https://ambergrantsforwomen.com/get-an-amber-grant/</a>   |
| Arizona Microbusiness Loan Program               | Ongoing                             | Low-interest loans + support for microbusinesses (5 or fewer employees). | <a href="https://oeo.az.gov/microbiz">https://oeo.az.gov/microbiz</a>   |
| Maricopa SBDC Grants & Resources                 | Ongoing                             | Updated list of local/state grant programs and small business support.   | <a href="https://www.maricopa-sbdc.com/resources/small-business-grants-and-resources/">https://www.maricopa-sbdc.com/resources/small-business-grants-and-resources/</a>                   |
| GrantWatch – Women Grants Listings               | Ongoing                             | Catalog of many women-focused grants (national/Arizona opportunities).   | <a href="https://arizona.grantwatch.com/cat/61/women-owned-startups-and-businesses-grants.html">https://arizona.grantwatch.com/cat/61/women-owned-startups-and-businesses-grants.html</a> |
| Arizona Grant Portal – Women Entrepreneur Grants | Ongoing                             | Ongoing grant opportunities for women entrepreneurs/small businesses.    | <a href="https://arizona.thegrantportal.com/women">https://arizona.thegrantportal.com/women</a>   |
| Galaxy Grant (Women & Minority Entrepreneurs)    | Rolling applications                | Small business funding opportunities                                     | <a href="https://galaxyofstars.org/galaxy-grants/">https://galaxyofstars.org/galaxy-grants/</a>   |

## TRAINING & SUPPORT

| Resource   | Date/ Deadline                      | Focus/ What It Offers   | URL   |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Prestamos Women's Business Center (Phoenix)                                      | March–April 2026 (multiple classes) | Financial projections, accounting basics, funding preparation, business planning              | <a href="https://phoenixwbc.org/our-events/">https://phoenixwbc.org/our-events/</a>   |
| SBA Women's Business Centers (national network)                                  | Ongoing                             | Free/low-cost business training & counseling for women entrepreneurs; find local center info. | <a href="https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/resource-partners/womens-business-centers">https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/resource-partners/womens-business-centers</a>   |
| Women-Owned Small Business Certification Cohort (WOSB training)                  | March 2026 cohort cycle             | Training to obtain SBA Women-Owned certification (federal contracts access)                   | <a href="https://www.azcommerce.com/small-business/checklist-items/i-would-like-information-on-certification-programs/sba-woman-owned-small-business-wosbedwosb-program/">https://www.azcommerce.com/small-business/checklist-items/i-would-like-information-on-certification-programs/sba-woman-owned-small-business-wosbedwosb-program/</a> |
| EmpowHER: Small Business Start-Up Resource Fair (Fresh Start Women's Foundation) | March 27, 2026                      | Business startup support, resources, mentoring connections for women entrepreneurs            | <a href="https://freshstartwomen.org/events/empowher-a-small-business-start-up-resource-fair/">https://freshstartwomen.org/events/empowher-a-small-business-start-up-resource-fair/</a>   |
| Law Day for Women (Fresh Start)  | March 28, 2026                      | Free legal & financial consultations — valuable for business owners                           | <a href="https://freshstartwomen.org/events/law-day-for-women-dia-de-ley-para-mujeres-10/">https://freshstartwomen.org/events/law-day-for-women-dia-de-ley-para-mujeres-10/</a>   |
| Arizona Good Business Summit (Local First Arizona)                               | March 11, 2026                      | Speakers, business strategy workshops, sustainable business development                       | <a href="https://localfirstaz.com/events">https://localfirstaz.com/events</a>   |
| Growth Mindset for Small Business Owners (Phoenix Training)                      | Early March sessions                | Business growth mindset & strategy training   | <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/d/az--phoenix/small-business-conference/">https://www.eventbrite.com/d/az--phoenix/small-business-conference/</a>   |
| Fresh Start Community Partner Breakfast  | April 16, 2026                      | Connect with business support organizations & mentors   | <a href="https://freshstartwomen.org/get-involved/events/">https://freshstartwomen.org/get-involved/events/</a>   |
| Women With Vision: Your Money, Your Voice  | March 4                             |   | <a href="https://www.nawbophx.org/wwv-2026">https://www.nawbophx.org/wwv-2026</a>   |



# Celebrating Women, Culture, and Leadership at the International Women Celebration Gala 2026

The International Women Celebration Gala 2026 brought together an inspiring group of community leaders, cultural advocates, and champions of women’s empowerment for an unforgettable evening dedicated to recognizing leadership, service, and generosity across diverse communities.

Founded in 2017, the **International Women Celebration** has grown into a nonprofit platform that honors women who make meaningful contributions while promoting cultural unity, leadership, and empowerment.

The evening was further elevated by the presence of distinguished leaders, including Kevin Hartke, Mayor of Chandler, and Jenny Ho-Vijungco, Honorary Consul of the Philippines in Arizona. Their attendance reflected strong civic and community support for initiatives that celebrate diversity, empower women, and strengthen meaningful connections.

PACCA was proud to be part of this special evening, with several PACCA members and leaders also in attendance, showing support for this impactful celebration and reinforcing our commitment to community engagement and collaboration.

**International Women's Celebration**  
**MARCH 7, 2026**  
**6PM-11PM**  
**WEKOPA RESORT & CASINO**  
**10438 WEKOPA WAY,**  
**FORT MCDOWELL, AZ 85264**

**DR. JUDY R. ROBLES**  
Keynote Speaker

**MICHAEL POLLACK**  
Inspirational Speaker

**A Night of Unity, Celebration and Empowerment by 12 Women Organizations & Communities in Arizona.**

**VIP TICKET: \$160 or \$1,500 table of 10**  
 • Special Plated Dinner  
 • VIP Seating  
 • 1 Signature Cocktail drink  
 • 1 Special gift

**REGULAR TICKET: 85 or \$800 table of 10**  
 • Special Plated Dinner

**PROGRAM**  
 • Red Carpet Photo  
 • Live Performances  
 • Parade of Cultures  
 • Inspiring Speakers  
 • Women of Distinction Award  
 • Special Plated Dinner  
 • Open Bar  
 • Dancing with DJ

Purchase ticket online, scan the QR Code or visit:  
[www.intwomencelebration.org](http://www.intwomencelebration.org) | Phone: (602) 621-5125



Events like these strongly align with PACCA’s mission—supporting leadership, celebrating cultural diversity, and recognizing individuals who make a meaningful impact in our communities.



A memorable moment of the evening was the surprise presentation of the inaugural IWC Legacy Luminary Award to Michael Pollack, Title Sponsor and Inspirational Speaker. The award recognized his longstanding commitment to initiatives that uplift women, celebrate culture, and strengthen community partnerships.

The Legacy Luminary Award itself is a remarkable sculpture created by renowned Vietnamese American master sculptor and humanitarian Daniel K. Winn. The artwork features a transparent hand rising from a dark base, holding a magnifying lens that encases a vibrant blue butterfly—symbolizing transformation, vision, and the lasting impact of generosity.

Through philanthropy, leadership, and community involvement, Pollack’s support has helped organizations like the International Women Celebration continue their mission of recognizing women’s leadership and amplifying voices across cultures.



One of the highlights of the evening was the recognition of 12 remarkable women representing different nationalities, each honored for their dedication, compassion, and commitment to serving others. Through their leadership and advocacy, these women continue to uplift families, strengthen communities, and inspire the next generation of leaders.

The evening served as a powerful reminder that when communities come together to celebrate leadership, service, and generosity, they inspire future generations and strengthen the bonds that unite us.

The Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA) is proud to spotlight events like the International Women Celebration Gala—celebrating the incredible work being done to uplift communities and empower leaders across cultures.



# Real Estate Agent & Team Leader

## The Le Sampaga Team

This **Women's Month**, PACCA is proud to spotlight **Cabrina Le-Sampaga** — a resilient leader, dedicated mother, and accomplished real estate professional whose journey reflects both strength and heart.



As the Team Leader of The Le Sampaga Team, Cabrina helps individuals and families across Arizona make confident real estate decisions — whether purchasing their first home, selling at the right time, or investing in rental properties. In addition to residential real estate services, her team offers hands-on property management, ensuring landlords secure qualified tenants and maintain consistent returns. Her mission is simple yet powerful: provide guidance, protection, and personalized service at every step.

Cabrina's path into real estate was shaped by leadership and life experience. Before entering the industry, she served as an Assistant Manager at MidFirst Bank, earning multiple Relationship Awards and the prestigious Cactus League recognition. When she became a mother, she sought a career aligned with long-term vision and family values — a leap of faith that led her into real estate.

Life presented unexpected challenges when she became a widow. This was a defining season that deepened her resilience and purpose. Real estate became more than a profession; it became a vehicle for reinvention, stability, and service.

Now in her eighth year in business, Cabrina leads a team of five professionals and was recently honored as a Top 10 company-wide agent at West USA Realty. She has also achieved multiple Top Producer recognitions, reflecting disciplined growth and excellence.

What truly sets Cabrina apart is perspective. As a Vietnamese immigrant, she understands firsthand the meaning behind the American Dream. For many families, including immigrant and Filipino-American households, homeownership represents far more than property. It symbolizes sacrifice, security, and generational legacy. Cabrina leads with empathy, clarity, and financial expertise, combining structured strategy with genuine care.

Beyond business, Cabrina continues to build impact within the community by supporting families navigating major life transitions and by aspiring to expand her involvement through mentorship, education, and service.

In her personal time, she recently began running with a goal of completing the Phoenix Marathon in 2027. For her it is a meaningful symbol of resilience and forward movement. As she shares, progress is built one step at a time — in fitness, in business, and in life.

Cabrina Le-Sampaga embodies the spirit of Women's Month: strength, reinvention, leadership, and heart.



# Gabriela Silang: The Spirit of the Filipina Warrior



Long before the modern conversations about women’s leadership and empowerment began, the Philippines already had a powerful symbol of Filipina courage — Gabriela Silang. Born María Josefa Gabriela Cariño de Silang in Ilocos Sur, she became one of the most iconic female figures in Philippine history and the first Filipina to lead a revolutionary movement against colonial rule.

During the Spanish colonial era, Gabriela Silang emerged as a fearless leader following the assassination of her husband, Diego Silang, who had been spearheading an Ilocano revolt. Rather than retreat into mourning, she reorganized rebel forces, appointed military leaders, and continued the struggle for independence which is a rare and revolutionary role for a woman in the 18th century.

Although her leadership lasted only a few months before she was captured and executed in 1763, her legacy endured far beyond her lifetime. She became a symbol of resistance, resilience, and the strength of Filipina identity proving that women were not merely witnesses to history but active architects of change.

Today, Gabriela Silang represents more than revolutionary bravery. She embodies the cultural spirit of the Filipina: courageous, determined, community-driven, and unafraid to lead. Her story continues to inspire generations of women who challenge boundaries and redefine leadership in modern times.

## Modern Filipina Trailblazers: Carrying the Legacy Forward

Just as Gabriela Silang stood against injustice centuries ago, modern Filipinas continue to break barriers across politics, media, sports, social activism, and global leadership. Here are five contemporary trailblazers whose contributions reflect the evolving identity and power of the Filipina.



**Maria Ressa: Champion of Truth and Press Freedom**  
 Journalist and Rappler CEO Maria Ressa has become a global symbol of courage in media and democracy. In 2021, she became the first Filipino Nobel Peace Prize laureate, recognized for defending freedom of expression and combating misinformation. Ressa’s work highlights the role of Filipinas not only as storytellers but as guardians of truth and accountability, continuing the tradition of standing against oppressive forces, much like Gabriela Silang did in her time.



**Hidilyn Diaz: Breaking Barriers in Sports**  
 Weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz made history by winning the Philippines’ first Olympic gold medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Her victory represented years of perseverance despite limited resources, symbolizing the strength and resilience of the modern Filipina athlete. Beyond sports, Diaz’s journey inspires young Filipinas to pursue excellence regardless of obstacles, proving that representation matters on the global stage.



**Leni Robredo: Leadership Rooted in Service**  
 Former Philippine Vice President Maria Leonor “Leni” Robredo exemplifies servant leadership. Known for transparency initiatives and grassroots community programs, she became widely recognized for her humanitarian and governance efforts, particularly during national crises. Her leadership style reflects a distinctly Filipina approach — combining empathy, resilience, and strong civic responsibility.



**Catriona Gray: Cultural Ambassador and Advocate**  
 Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray used her platform beyond pageantry to advocate for education, indigenous culture preservation, and women’s empowerment. She has become a global ambassador for Filipino identity, showcasing cultural pride while championing social causes. Gray represents how modern Filipinas leverage visibility and influence to create meaningful change.



**Senator Risa Hontiveros: Voice for Social Justice**  
 Senator Risa Hontiveros is widely known for championing healthcare access, women’s rights, and anti-trafficking legislation. Her initiatives, including mobile medical clinics and investigations into exploitation, demonstrate how Filipina leaders continue to shape policy and protect vulnerable communities. Her advocacy highlights the ongoing role of Filipinas as defenders of justice — a legacy rooted in historical heroines like Gabriela Silang.

## The Filipina Identity: From Revolution to Reinvention

*From the battlefield leadership of Gabriela Silang to today’s global changemakers, the Filipina story is one of transformation and resilience. The modern Filipina is no longer confined to a single narrative; she is a journalist, athlete, policymaker, artist, entrepreneur, and cultural ambassador.*

*What connects these women across centuries is not just achievement but courage. Gabriela Silang fought with weapons; today’s Filipinas fight with ideas, innovation, advocacy, and leadership. Together, they form a continuum of strength that defines Filipino culture and inspires future generations.*

Photo credits:

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria\\_Ressa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria_Ressa)
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# A Life of Faith, Strength & Purpose: Coco Gonzalez

Born in Guanajuato, Mexico, with beautiful family roots tracing back to the Philippines and Spain, this PACCA member's story is one of resilience, passion, and unwavering faith. From a young age, she embraced life fully — grounded in family values, guided by faith, and fueled by a deep desire for growth.



## From the Court to the World Stage

Her journey of discipline and excellence began at age 12 on the basketball court. For 17 remarkable years, she played competitively and was recognized as one of the top players throughout her high school career. While earning her Bachelor's degree in Chemistry, she helped make history when her university's women's team from the School of Chemistry became champions for two consecutive years — a first in the school's history.

At 17, she discovered another calling: running. What began as a passion soon became a platform for national pride. With an impressive marathon time of 2:45:58, she earned the opportunity to represent her country at the Olympic level — a dream realized through dedication, discipline, and faith. From 3K to full marathons, every race became a testament to perseverance and belief.

## Science, Service & New Beginnings

After completing her degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences, she spent eight years working in the industry before making a life-changing move to the United States at age 28. Marriage and motherhood marked a new chapter — one filled with courage, adaptability, and reinvention.

She began teaching Spanish at Berlitz, while also earning certifications in fitness and nutrition. For over 18 years, she inspired others through gym instruction and indoor cycling classes, helping individuals reconnect with their strength — physically and mentally.

When her family relocated to Arizona, she continued her journey of growth by completing all four programs at PSI Seminars. This experience deepened her self-awareness and leadership, empowering her to live with courage and greater purpose.

## Faith, Family & Legacy

Her greatest accomplishment, however, is motherhood. Raising three strong, educated, and kind young adults is the blessing she holds closest to her heart. Watching them grow into individuals of character and purpose fills her with gratitude beyond words. Raised Catholic and now a devoted Christian, her faith remains the anchor of her life. It is her source of strength, humility, and service.

## Lights, Camera, Purpose

In an unexpected yet exciting turn, she was invited to act in her first movie — portraying a character inspired by her real-life journey. That opportunity opened the door to four additional films and a television pilot titled Food Fight. Each role became another avenue to inspire and represent strength, culture, and authenticity.

## Community Impact & Media Presence

Service has always been central to her life. She has volunteered with Feeding My Starving Children, participated in home-painting community projects, and served as a host for the Chandler International Film Festival.

She also hosts a bilingual podcast and radio program, Fortis Femina Radio Show, serving as a bridge for the community by connecting listeners to valuable resources, inspiring stories, and empowering conversations. Through her platform, she uplifts voices and fosters unity across cultures.

## Wellness Advocate & Entrepreneur

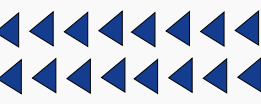
Today, she is a proud wellness advocate and entrepreneur with Activz — a company integrating epigenetics, science, and technology to improve health while creating pathways to financial freedom. Through this platform, she brings hope, transformation, and opportunity to families seeking better health and stronger futures.

Her mission is clear: to help others rediscover their strength, faith, and limitless potential.

And as she beautifully says — she's just getting started.

**PACCA is honored to spotlight a member who embodies resilience, leadership, and heart.**

**Her journey reminds us that with faith, discipline, and community, we can build legacies that transcend borders and generations.**



# PACCA Hosts Business 101: From Foundation to Growth, Money, Law and Strategy with 2026 VIP Tour Launch

The Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA) successfully hosted Business 101: From Foundation to Growth, Money, Law and Strategy on March 5, 2026, at Halo-Halo Kitchen in Phoenix, bringing together entrepreneurs, professionals, community leaders, and community members for an evening of learning, networking, and opportunity.

The event was organized by the **Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA)**, with the support of Philippine **Honorary Consul Jenny Lynn M. Ho-Vijungco** and served as an important platform for business education and community engagement.

The program featured discussions on key areas that help businesses grow and succeed, including financial readiness, legal guidance, business structure, and long-term strategy. Attendees gained practical insights from experienced professionals and were given the opportunity to better understand the foundations needed to build and expand strong and sustainable businesses.

The panel featured a distinguished group of professionals who shared expert insights from their respective fields: **Jeremy Jarrett, attorney for business and corporate, real estate and property at Sacks Tierney**; **David Pilar, VP and branch manager at Columbia Bank, specializing in business banking and lending**; **Priscilla Chesler, certified public accountant, with expertise in tax planning and financial strategy**; and **Edward Lago, president and CEO of Our Community Mortgage, specializing in business lending and capital structuring**.



In addition to the panel discussion, the evening also featured the official Arizona launch of the **2026 Very Important Pinoy (VIP) Tour**, presented by **Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz of the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles**, together with **Consul Levi Anthony Malaylay** and Communications Officer **Ramoncito Mendoza**.

During the presentation, **Consul General Cruz** introduced the **2026 VIP Tour itinerary** and shared the exciting opportunity for attendees and their families to discover the beauty of the **Philippines. Scheduled for July 12 to 21, 2026**, the tour is designed to connect or reconnect Filipino Americans and friends from the United States to the Philippines through its culture, heritage, and natural beauty.

**The 2026 VIP Tour** will bring participants to major destinations including **Manila, Dumaguete, and Cebu, with day trips to Siquijor and Bohol**. Organized by the **Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, through the Philippine Embassy and Consulates General in the United States, in partnership with the Philippine Department of Tourism and Rajah Tours**, the program offers a unique opportunity for participants to explore the country while deepening their connection to their roots and heritage.

To further encourage participation, Honorary Consul Jenny Lynn M. Ho-Vijungco welcomed representatives from China Airlines and Starlux Airlines, who shared information on competitive international fares for prospective tour participants.

Consul General Cruz also thanked the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA), State President Atty. Luan Mai, and President Emeritus Edward Lago for the opportunity to share this exciting program, invite attendees and their loved ones to discover the beauty of the Philippines, and for the successful hosting of the event.

**State President Atty. Luan Mai** said the event reflected PACCA's commitment to empowering entrepreneurs, fostering collaboration, and creating meaningful opportunities for business growth and community connection.

PACCA also extends special appreciation to **Halo-Halo Kitchen** for serving as the host venue and for its generous food sponsorship for the panelists and representatives of the Philippine Consulate.

Event highlights were beautifully captured by **photographer and videographer Julian Gutierrez**, preserving memorable moments from this successful gathering.

The event was more than a business seminar. It was a gathering that reflected PACCA's continuing mission to support entrepreneurship, promote professional development, and strengthen ties within the Filipino American community. Through programs like Business 101 and partnerships that open doors to broader engagement, PACCA continues to create meaningful opportunities for business growth, community connection, and cultural pride.

PACCA likewise thanks the speakers, moderators, organizers, volunteers, sponsors, guests, and partners whose support helped make the event both informative and memorable. With the successful presentation of Business 101 and the 2026 VIP Tour launch, PACCA looks forward to creating even more meaningful opportunities in the months ahead.



# WELCOME TO PACCA!

## Welcome to PACCA: Nelver Nagera

*Financial Professional | Financial Educator | CVICU RN | ECMO Specialist*

The Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA) is excited to welcome our newest member, Nelver Nagera!

Nelver is a multi-talented professional with expertise in both finance and healthcare. As a Financial Professional and Financial Educator, she is passionate about empowering individuals and businesses to make informed financial decisions and achieve long-term growth. In her healthcare career as a CVICU Registered Nurse and ECMO Specialist, Nelver demonstrates precision, care, and dedication, supporting patients in critical moments and making a tangible impact on their lives.

Her unique combination of skills reflects a commitment to service, empowerment, and community impact. Nelver's dedication to helping others succeed—whether through financial guidance or life-saving care—makes her a valuable addition to the PACCA network.

We are thrilled to have Nelver join PACCA and look forward to the expertise, insights, and positive influence she brings. Her passion for empowering others aligns perfectly with PACCA's mission to support and strengthen the Philippine-American business and professional community.

Welcome to PACCA, Nelver—we're glad to have you with us!

Learn more: [nelnagera@icloud.com](mailto:nelnagera@icloud.com)



## Welcome to PACCA: Nina Cedro

*Co-Founder | Marketing & Branding Strategist | Community Advocate*

The Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA) is excited to welcome our newest member, Nina Cedro!

Nina is the Co-Founder of TalaKō Creative, a team of passionate professionals dedicated to helping local businesses grow through intentional strategy and digital storytelling. Known for "Creating Good Problems for Great Businesses," TalaKō Creative specializes in marketing, branding, and community-driven strategies that empower established local businesses to thrive.

Nina's commitment to empowering entrepreneurs and fostering a strong, connected business community aligns perfectly with PACCA's mission. Her expertise in strategic growth and storytelling brings fresh insights and valuable opportunities to Arizona's business network.

We are thrilled to have Nina and TalaKō Creative join PACCA and look forward to the positive impact they will bring to our community and beyond.

Welcome to PACCA, Nina—we're glad to have you with us!



## Welcome to PACCA: Erica Kazuko

*Co-Founder | Creative Marketing Leader | Storytelling Strategist | Community Builder*

The Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA) is excited to welcome our newest member, Erica Kazuko!

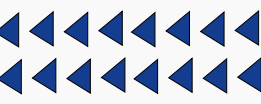
Erica is the Co-Founder of TalaKō Creative, where she leads a dedicated team of creatives committed to helping local businesses grow through intentional strategy and digital storytelling. Known for "Creating Good Problems for Great Businesses," TalaKō Creative specializes in marketing, branding, and community-driven strategies that empower established companies to expand with purpose and clarity.

Erica's passion for supporting entrepreneurs and strengthening the business community aligns perfectly with PACCA's mission. Her leadership and expertise in strategic marketing and storytelling bring fresh perspectives and meaningful opportunities to Arizona's business network.

We are thrilled to have Erica and TalaKō Creative join PACCA and look forward to the positive impact they will bring to our community and beyond.

Welcome to PACCA, Erica—we're glad to have you with us!





# Women's Month Spotlight: **Celebrating Filipina Leadership**

Every March, communities around the world pause to recognize **Women's Month**—a time to honor the **strength, resilience, and contributions of women who shape our families, communities, and future.**

For the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA), this celebration is also an opportunity to highlight the remarkable Filipina leaders within our community whose work reflects the enduring values of service, leadership, and bayanihan.

This year, PACCA is proud to spotlight two inspiring women whose journeys embody the spirit of Filipina leadership. Through their work in community service, advocacy, and leadership, they continue to uplift others while strengthening connections within the Filipino community in Arizona and beyond.

In the following pages, we feature the stories of **Honorary Philippine Consul Jenny Lynn Ho-Vijungco, Arizona's first Honorary Philippine Consul**, and **Rhia "Luz" Nkulu, founder and host of Buhay Buhay Sa Amerika.** Though their paths and professions differ, both women share a common mission: to lead with compassion, empower others, and create meaningful impact for future generations.



**Jenny Lynn Ho-Vijungco**  
**Honorary Philippine Consul**



**Rhia "Luz" Nkulu**  
**Founder and host of**  
**Buhay Buhay Sa Amerika**

**Their stories remind us that leadership is not defined by titles alone. It is defined by the courage to serve, the commitment to uplift others, and the willingness to create opportunities for those who will follow.**

**As we celebrate Women's Month, we honor their journeys and the countless Filipina women whose strength, dedication, and vision continue to inspire our community.**



# Leading with Purpose: Honorary Philippine Consul Jenny Lynn Ho-Vijungco and the Power of Service

*Business leader, healthcare administrator, philanthropist, and Arizona's first Honorary Philippine Consul, Jenny Lynn Ho-Vijungco embodies Filipina leadership rooted in compassion, community, and the enduring spirit of bayanihan.*

Following this celebration of Filipina leadership, we begin with Honorary Philippine Consul Jenny Ho-Vijungco, whose work in diplomacy, healthcare, business, and philanthropy reflects a deep commitment to service and community. As Arizona's first Honorary Philippine Consul, she continues to strengthen the connection between Arizona and the Philippines while uplifting the Filipino community through leadership rooted in compassion, faith, and the spirit of bayanihan.

## A Legacy of Compassion and Service

**Growing up, Ho-Vijungco witnessed firsthand the profound impact that compassion and service could have on others. Her father, a physician in the United States, remained deeply connected to the Philippines and regularly organized medical missions to serve communities in need. Her parents' dedication to helping others left a lasting impression.**

**"Those trips were never about recognition," she recalls. "They were simply about helping people who needed care the most."**

**Watching her parents devote their lives to caring for others shaped her understanding of leadership from an early age. For Ho-Vijungco, leadership was never about prestige. It was about responsibility, compassion, and using one's opportunities to create meaningful change.**

**As her own career developed in business and healthcare administration, those early**

Beyond her professional and philanthropic work, Ho-Vijungco is deeply devoted to her family. Together with her husband, Dr. Joseph Vijungco, and their three children—Jaden, Jordan, and Jaya—she continues to live out the values of compassion, service, and purpose-driven leadership both at home and in the community.

Yet beyond her impressive credentials, Ho-Vijungco's leadership story is deeply rooted in the values she learned early in life.

## Turning Success into Service

**One of the most meaningful milestones in Ho-Vijungco's journey was the founding of Project J.O.Y. (Join Our Journey), a nonprofit initiative dedicated to providing medical missions, healthcare support, and housing assistance to underserved communities in the Philippines. Through Project J.O.Y., Ho-Vijungco continues the legacy of service she inherited from her parents while expanding its reach to new communities in need.**

**Among the organization's most impactful accomplishments was the creation of Project J.O.Y. Village in Jimenez, Misamis Occidental, where families who once faced homelessness now have a safe place to call home. For Ho-Vijungco, moments like these reaffirm the power of compassion and persistence.**

**"Even small efforts, when done with heart and persistence, can change lives," she reflects.**



*"Leadership is not about titles or positions. It's about service, responsibility, and using whatever opportunities you are given to uplift others."*

Based in Chandler, Arizona, Ho-Vijungco is known for her leadership across multiple fields, including real estate development, healthcare administration, and community service. She is the founder of **Miranda Construction and Development** and serves as administrator of **Discover Vein and Vascular Center** and **Discover Surgical Center**, both Joint Commission-accredited facilities under her leadership. In addition to her professional achievements, she was appointed Arizona's first Honorary Philippine Consul, a role that allows her to strengthen ties between Arizona and the Philippines while advocating for the Filipino community. She also founded **Project J.O.Y. (Join Our Journey)**, an initiative that organizes medical missions and provides housing support to underserved families in the Philippines.



PROJECT  
J.O.Y.

JOIN OUR JOURNEY



## Representing Culture with Pride

In 2023, Ho-Vijungco reached another significant milestone when she was appointed Honorary Philippine Consul in Arizona—a role she describes as both humbling and deeply meaningful.

The appointment represents more than a diplomatic title; it reflects the trust placed in her to represent the Filipino community and to strengthen the cultural and economic ties between Arizona and the Philippines. In this role, she works to support Filipino Americans, build connections between communities, and promote pride in Filipino heritage. Her leadership philosophy is strongly shaped by Filipino cultural values.

***“In our culture, there is a strong emphasis on family, respect, humility, and community,”*** she explains. ***“The spirit of bayanihan—the belief that we are stronger when we help one another—continues to guide how I lead.”***

This perspective has influenced her collaborative leadership style, which focuses on bringing people together and creating opportunities for others to succeed.

### Leadership Built on Relationships and Resilience

Throughout her career, Ho-Vijungco has learned that leadership requires both humility and resilience. She believes that meaningful relationships and genuine connections form the foundation of lasting impact.

***“Leadership is really about people,”*** she says. ***“When people know you genuinely care and believe in a shared mission, incredible things can happen.”***

Balancing family, career, and community responsibilities has not always been easy. Like many leaders, she has faced moments when the weight of those responsibilities felt overwhelming. Yet those challenges strengthened her resolve and helped her focus on what matters most: integrity, perseverance, and staying true to her values.

### Empowering the Next Generation

For Ho-Vijungco, leadership is not only about present accomplishments; it is also about creating opportunities for future generations.

She hopes her work will inspire young Filipinos, particularly Filipina women, to pursue their ambitions while remaining connected to their cultural heritage.

***“Sometimes young Filipino Americans feel they must choose between being Filipino or being American,”*** she explains. ***“But they don’t have to choose. Both identities are part of who they are.”***

She believes that encouraging young people to embrace both identities strengthens their sense of belonging and broadens their perspective on what they can achieve.

## Honoring Women, Celebrating Strength

As Women’s Month invites reflection and celebration, Ho-Vijungco sees it as an opportunity to recognize the countless women who have shaped the paths of future leaders.

Among her greatest inspirations is her mother, whose strength, grace, and perseverance left an enduring influence on her life. “She demonstrated that you can be strong while still being kind and humble,” Ho-Vijungco shares. “Those lessons stayed with me as I built my career and became involved in community work.”

Her message to Filipina women stepping into leadership is both encouraging and empowering:

***“Believe in yourself and don’t be afraid to step forward. Leadership is a journey, and we learn along the way.”***

Through her work in business, healthcare, philanthropy, and diplomacy, Honorary Philippine Consul Jenny Ho-Vijungco continues to demonstrate the profound impact that purpose-driven leadership can have. Her story reflects the enduring values of compassion, resilience, and community that define Filipina leadership—and serves as an inspiration for the generations who will follow.

**Follow Honorary Philippine Consul Jenny Ho-Vijungco on Facebook and Instagram:  
@jennyhovijungco | @philconaz | @projectjoyaz**



# Finding Voice Through Faith and Purpose: The Leadership Journey of Rhia Luz Nkulu

*A registered nurse, community advocate, and founder of Buhay Buhay Sa Amerika, Rhia Luz Nkulu embodies Filipina leadership rooted in resilience, faith, and the power of bayanihan – inspiring a new generation to lead with purpose.*



Another inspiring Filipina making a meaningful impact in the community is **Rhia “Luz” Nkulu, founder and host of Buhay Buhay Sa Amerika**. Through storytelling, service, and encouragement, she has created a platform that connects, inspires, and amplifies the voices of Filipinos both locally and globally.

Through her work as a registered nurse, community advocate, and Arizona Chairwoman for the Women’s Federation for World Peace, Rhia represents the evolving strength of Filipina leadership – grounded in heritage while boldly shaping the future.

Based in Chandler, Arizona, Rhia balances multiple roles as a healthcare professional, mother of three daughters, and community leader – all guided by a deep commitment to service. Her journey into leadership became clearer when she joined the Women’s Federation for World Peace, an experience that helped her understand her purpose as a woman, mother, and servant-leader. Through this chapter, she discovered how her unique gifts could be used to serve both community and faith.

**“My daughters inspired me,”** she shares. Leadership, for Rhia, is both deeply personal and generational. It is a way to model perseverance, faith, and courage while encouraging others to recognize their own potential.

*“I lost my breast but I found my voice.”*

## Carrying Heritage with Purpose

Central to Rhia’s leadership philosophy is her Filipino identity. She believes that when she represents herself, she also carries the legacy of countless Filipinos who paved the way before her. This perspective fuels her commitment to demonstrating the integrity, strength, and values that define Filipina leadership.

She explains that being a Filipina leader is both an honor and a responsibility – an opportunity to uplift the community while increasing representation and inspiring others to step forward with confidence.



## Transformation Through Adversity

**One of the most defining moments in Rhia’s life came with her breast cancer diagnosis in 2016 – an experience that reshaped her outlook and strengthened her voice as a leader.**

**Rather than allowing hardship to define her, she transformed adversity into purpose. Through Buhay Buhay Sa Amerika, she created a platform that encourages storytelling, empowerment, and community connection. The experience gave her a renewed sense of gratitude and clarity, reminding her not to take life for granted and to lead with authenticity and resilience.**

**“I stood on the shoulders of millions of Filipinos who paved the way before me.”**

## Building Community Through Bayanihan

At the heart of Rhia's mission is unity. She actively promotes the Filipino value of bayanihan, encouraging collaboration, shared responsibility, and belonging within the community. Her work has impacted many lives, particularly through scholarship programs and humanitarian initiatives supporting typhoon victims. These are moments that reaffirmed her belief in the power of collective action.

Rhia believes that Filipina leaders today possess a unique strength, versatility, hard work, flexibility, and unwavering faith. Through her leadership, she encourages people and strives to be a motivator, showing others that they can create meaningful change simply by using the talents they already possess.

## Honoring Women, Inspiring the Future

For Rhia, Women's Month represents a meaningful opportunity to highlight those who have made lasting contributions to the lives of others. One of her greatest inspirations is her 91-year-old mother, whose courage and resilience shaped Rhia's understanding of faith, sacrifice, and perseverance.

**Her message to emerging Filipina leaders is simple yet profound:**

**"God gave you already the talents – go and use it."**

**Through her voice, her service, and her unwavering dedication, Rhia Luz Nkulu continues to embody the spirit of Filipina leadership, i.e., transforming adversity into purpose, strengthening community through unity, and inspiring future generations to lead with courage, faith, and heart.**

Follow Rhia "Luz" Nkulu at Buhay Buhay Sa Amerika  
<https://www.facebook.com/buhaybuhaysaamerika>

As we celebrate Women's Month, the stories of **Honorary Philippine Consul Jenny Ho-Vijungco** and **Rhia "Luz" Nkulu** remind us that Filipina leadership takes many forms through diplomacy, entrepreneurship, advocacy, storytelling, and service to the community.

Though their journeys are different, both women embody the values that define our culture: resilience, compassion, faith, and the spirit of bayanihan. Their work continues to uplift others, strengthen connections within the Filipino community, and inspire the next generation of leaders.

**PACCA is proud to recognize and celebrate these remarkable Filipina leaders whose dedication and vision continue to make a lasting impact in Arizona and beyond.**



# Celebrating Leadership, Service, and New Beginnings: PACCA's 2026 Ceremonial Turnover & Induction of Officers and New Members

The Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA) proudly invites members, partners, and the community to a distinguished evening of celebration at the Ceremonial Turnover & Induction of Officers and New Members on **April 11, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM.**

Set against the elegant backdrop of the **Courtyard by Marriott Salt River in Scottsdale**, this highly anticipated event marks a significant milestone in PACCA's continued commitment to empowering Filipino-American businesses and fostering strong community ties.



PHILIPPINE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF ARIZONA

## Ceremonial TURNOVER

&  
INDUCTION OF  
OFFICERS & NEW MEMBERS

**April 11, 2026  
6:00 - 11:00 PM**

**Courtyard by Marriott Salt River.  
5201 N Pima Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85250**

VP Events: Cabrina Sampaga (602) 780-3337  
State President: Luan Mai info@paccaz.org  
<https://paccaz.org/>



Scan to Register



PHILIPPINE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF ARIZONA

### Ceremonial TURNOVER

INDUCTION OF  
OFFICERS & NEW MEMBERS  
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PLATINUM  
\$1000

Premier Visibility and Recognition with Gift Token  
Full-page advertisement in the PACCA Newsletter  
Special Sponsor recognition with a 1-minute on-stage airtime or promotional video  
Sponsor recognition at the event, with the opportunity to display a standing Banner (8ft x 5ft 3 in)  
Reserved table seating for 10 guests at the Induction Night

GOLD  
\$750

Prominent Event Recognition with Gift Token  
Full-page advertisement in the PACCA Newsletter  
Sponsor recognition at the event, with the opportunity to display a standing Banner (8ft x 5ft 3 in)  
Reserved table seating for 6 guests at the Induction Night

SILVER  
\$500

Supporter Recognition with Gift Token  
Half-page advertisement in the PACCA Newsletter  
Sponsor recognition at the event  
Reserved table seating for 4 guests at the Induction Night

BRONZE  
\$350

Supporter Recognition with Gift Token  
Half-page advertisement in the PACCA Newsletter  
Sponsor recognition at the event  
Reserved table seating for 2 guests at the Induction Night

Sponsorship opportunities contact:  
VP Events: Cabrina Sampaga (602)-318-5263  
State President: Luan Mai  
Email to info@paccaz.org



[www.paccaz.org](http://www.paccaz.org)

### A Night of Purpose and Prestige

The Ceremonial Turnover is more than a formal transition of leadership—it is a celebration of dedication, vision, and service. The evening will honor outgoing leaders for their contributions while officially welcoming a new set of officers who will carry forward PACCA's mission. In addition, new members will be inducted, symbolizing growth, collaboration, and renewed energy within the organization.

Guests can expect an inspiring program filled with meaningful moments, recognition ceremonies, and opportunities to connect with fellow entrepreneurs, professionals, and community leaders.

### Building Connections and Opportunities

As PACCA continues to expand its impact, this event serves as a platform for strengthening relationships and opening doors for future collaborations. Attendees will have the chance to network, share insights, and celebrate shared successes within the Filipino-American business community.

### Sponsorship Opportunities Available

PACCA also offers a range of sponsorship opportunities for businesses looking to gain visibility and support this important occasion. Sponsors will receive recognition during the event, promotional exposure, and exclusive benefits depending on their selected package.

This is an excellent opportunity for organizations to align with PACCA's mission while showcasing their brand to a dynamic and engaged audience.

## Join Us!

Whether you are a long-time member, a new inductee, or a valued supporter, this evening promises to be a memorable celebration of leadership, unity, and progress.

**Venue:** Courtyard by Marriott Salt River

**Date:** April 11, 2026

**Time:** 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM

*For inquiries, sponsorships, or registration details, please contact:*

**VP Events:** Cabrina Sampaga  
**Email:** [info@paccaz.org](mailto:info@paccaz.org)

17



Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA)

# NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026 EDITION

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## FINAL THOUGHTS

As we close out this March edition, we are reminded that the strength of our community lies in our shared commitment to growth, collaboration, and service. Each story, event, and milestone featured this month reflects the vibrant spirit of PACCA—a community built on connection and driven by purpose.

From empowering entrepreneurs to celebrating culture and supporting one another through meaningful initiatives, PACCA continues to serve as a bridge for opportunity and impact. For over three decades, the organization has remained dedicated to fostering relationships, supporting businesses, and uplifting the Filipino-American community in Arizona and beyond.

As we look ahead to the coming months, we are excited for what's to come—especially our upcoming Ceremonial Turnover & Induction of Officers and New Members, where we will celebrate leadership, welcome new members, and continue building a stronger future together.

Let us carry forward the spirit of bayanihan—working together, supporting one another, and creating opportunities not just for ourselves, but for the generations to come.

Thank you for being part of PACCA. Together, we grow stronger.

## PRODUCTION & CONTRIBUTORS

### Editor-in-Chief

Kristine Bartolome

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PACCA Communications Team

### Layout & Design

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### Contributors

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### Production

Our Virtual Professionals

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## SHARE YOUR STORY WITH PACCA

Every PACCA story begins with people — our entrepreneurs, families, leaders, and community builders. The moments we share, the businesses we grow, and the culture we carry forward are what truly connect us.

We invite you to submit an article, share a personal story, or highlight a business, initiative, or meaningful moment that reflects the heart of our Filipino-American community.

From milestones and community impact to cultural celebrations and quiet wins worth celebrating, your story helps shape who we are and where we're going.

Send your submission to:

[kristine@ourcommunitymortgage.com](mailto:kristine@ourcommunitymortgage.com)

**LET'S CONTINUE BUILDING THE PACCA STORY — TOGETHER.**

Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA)



Stay Connected with Us!  
 Follow PACCA on social media for the latest updates, events, and community highlights — and visit our website for exclusive resources and news.  
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<https://paccaz.org>

