



**President:** Remi Kuklewski-Baculi



Congratulations to all of us who are on the new list of PCGOM Governing Body, Board of Directors and Volunteers!

We hope to continue making history together to preserve our culture/ heritage/ values and share these within our diverse communities.

\*With your trust, I'm honored/ proud to take on this presidency making sure our commitment will continue to build on the legacy of our Past President/ Founder/ Incorporator **Chit Barker**. It has been 22+ years ago today; and YES, we can do it for many more!

THANK YOU Chit Barker for taking on your new post as Executive Director! All your hard work for PCGOM for these many years may remain as an example of a true committed/ dedicated leader!

**THE PHILIPPINE CULTURAL GROUP OF MICHIGAN (PCGOM) PROUDLY PRESENTS ...**

**SINULOG AND FLORES De MAYO CULTURAL FESTIVAL**

**May 16, 2026**  
**St. Joseph Parish Wright Church**  
**18784 8th Ave, Conklin, MI 49403**  
**3:30 pm ROSARY and 4:00 pm Holy MASS**

A CELEBRATION OF FAITH, CULTURE, AND TRADITION  
 The name "Sinulog" stems from the Cebuano word "sulog" which translate to "like water current movement". The term Flores de Mayo which translates to Flowers of May, honor the Blessed Virgin Mary and the founding of the Relic of the Holy Cross by Saint Helena

Officiating Priest: Rev Andrew M. Ayers

Bring your Santo Nino to be blessed  
 Also share the potluck food buffet get together after Holy Mass  
 We look forward to celebrating with you!

Excerpt from an article written by *Fr. Eugene Batungbacal*  
**Timeless Traditions : Sinulog, Flores de Mayo**



One of the most celebrated events of the Philippines in the United States is the *Sinulog Festival*, held annually in various locations, which features a vibrant dance honoring the Santo Niño, or the Infant Jesus. This lively celebration is marked by participants dressed in colorful costumes and storytelling through a dance ritual that narrates the history of Christianity in the Philippines, creating a captivating spectacle that draws thousands of attendees.

Another significant tradition is the *Flores de Mayo*, a month-long celebration that occurs each May. This floral festival commemorates the discovery of the Holy Cross by Queen Helena of Constantinople and is celebrated with beautiful processions and the presentation of flowers to the Virgin Mary. The event often includes the participation of children, who dress in traditional attire, adding a youthful charm to the festivities while highlighting the deep reverence for the Blessed Mother in Filipino culture.

*Fr. Eugene Batungbacal* is PCGOM Spiritual Director. He has been a priest for 15 years; was born in the Philippines. He is currently the canonical administrator for 2 parishes and an elementary school in the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Michigan.  
 ~*Ligourian Publication, March/April 2026 issue.*

**Executive Director:**  
 Chit Barker



Congratulations to Everyone! Without you, our members, and volunteers there will be no PCGOM.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat for your generous donations, support, prayers for the success of our PCGOM association!

I'm looking forward to working with all of you. Please direct any further questions/ comments/ problems to our core/task group: Remi, Russ, Mike and myself. Remember: NO complaint, NO action from us.

\*This task group has an open-door policy for your concerns, so please let us know immediately for us to be able to find some help/ solution and take action.

Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat and MABUHAY (Long live)!

See Page 4: Schedule of 2026 Activities



## 2026-27: PCGoM GOVERNING BODY

### OFFICERS:

Executive Director/Founder/ Incorporator:  
Chit Barker

President: Remi Kuklewski

Co-President: Russ Kruizenga

Vice President: Michael Mitchell

Youth President: Leahann Stamp

Secretary: Ruby Skibinski

Treasurer: Jocelyn Sabin

Assistant Treasurer: Lily Willmer

Auditors: Dave and Rosalie Johansen

Special Event Directors: Hazel Joy Wood &  
Melissa Kruizenga

Communications/ Facebook: Remi Kuklewski

Communications / Website: Russ Kruizenga

Sergeant at Arms: Pete Baculi, Devin Nash

### BOARD of DIRECTORS

Lee Barker

Jayben Bodrie (Dance Director and Instructor)

Merlita Crame

Lynie Huynh

Marithes Jacobus (PCGOM CHOIR Leader)

Marvie Blain Nash

Evelyn Scarbrough

Lea Stamp

Elvira Szumal

Riza Thomas

MaryJo Yowaish

Vicky Zwart

### SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Fr. Eugene Batungbacal

## 2026 Existing List & New Projects

Advertisements/ FB announcements/ flyers: Remi Kuklewski

Photos: Hazel Joy Wood

Banners/ Event Tickets: Russ Kruizenga

Children's Christmas/ Halloween Party: Marithes Jacobus  
(*new*)

Adult Christmas Party: Saturday, December 5, 2026  
(*new*) reduced to \$50.00 per person, children TBA

Craig's Cruisers: Ruby Skibinski

In-charge of Desserts : Rosalie Johansen (*new*)

Phil. Expo (Pinoy) Fest: Chit Barker

Gift Donations: Ruby Skibinski/ Vicky Zwart/ Melissa  
Kruizenga (Chit Barker: assistant)

Little Miss Philippines: Chit Barker (Lily Willmer/ Ruby  
Skibinski: assistants)

\$10.00 Membership Drive donation: Remi Kuklewski (*new*)

Religious Program: **Marvie Blain Nash** handles Religious  
Praying & Sharing, Mama Mary, & Rosary (In-charge of  
keeping Mama Mary and santo Nino statues)

Senior Project/ Program: MaryJo Yowaish/ Remi Kuklewski

Sinulog/ Flores de Mayo: Father Andrews, Chit Barker &  
Zonia Martinez cultural exchange/ partnership

Student Grant/ Picnic: Lily Willmer/ Mike Mitchell (picnic  
assistant)

Youth Program/ Youth Day Camp: Leahann Stamp/ Remi  
Kuklewski/ Russ Kruizenga/ Mike Mitchell/ Chit Barker



## Community Connections ...

**PCGOM Partners with WMAAA Mission (West Michigan Asian American Association):** *"We are committed to an empowered, collaborative, and actively engaged in the Asian community in West Michigan and beyond. Our mission is to bring together AAPI economic and cultural resources to enrich and support the community through engagement, service coordination and advocacy efforts."*

"It was an honor to represent the Filipino American community and represent PCGOM to this event, April 2026 Asian International Leadership Summit." ~Chit Barker



Grant Writing Workshop - Story Telling for Grants

"I have learned, from Grant writing workshop that we (Remi/ myself) attended on April 30, 2026 - our website is an important tool for storytelling, especially if we would like to apply for grants, so I came up with the statements below. Please feel free to make suggestions, corrections, and additions. Salamat po!" ~Chit Barker

**Who are we?** The Philippine Cultural Group of Michigan also known as PCGOM is a nonprofit organization supporting Filipino Americans and other minority communities. We are an association of cultural programs, especially representing Filipino culture and traditions and its community. Our Focus are:

- To preserve and nurture our Filipino heritage by educating, and presenting, our rich and beautiful Filipino culture within our Filipino-American community.
- To educate, inspire, and appreciate other West Michigan community's cultural and different heritage.
- To serve and promote unity with other group especially Filipino- American associations in harmony.
- To become a reliable source of cultural Programs, and different cultural heritage.
- To help our Kababayan (Filipino countrymen) access resources to Government, Health information, other Asians, Asian businesses to help them improve their skills. Please join us in supporting PCGOM and learn more about us at [www.pcgom.org](http://www.pcgom.org)

**Grant Writing Workshop** sponsored by *The West Michigan Welcome Plan Collaborative (WPC)* is a multi-organizational group that represents over 50 organizations including local school districts, non-profits, government businesses.



### Message from WMAAA

Our Asian International Leadership Summit 2026 at @Goei Center was a success!

The event was filled with meaningful discussions from our keynote speaker and panelists, along with great networking throughout the day.

It was truly inspiring to see so many high school and college students participating with enthusiasm and curiosity. Their presence brought incredible energy to the summit.



L-R Founder Bing Goei, Executive Director Dr. Yilin Wendland-Liu, with Keynote Speaker

**Remi** is one of the recent 9 certified Community Resource Navigators in April 2026 with training/ certification provided by WMAAA. She will inform us of any programs beneficial to our community soon.



**AAPI Month**  
2026

Honoring  
Our Roots.  
Building  
Our Future.



**WMAAA Community Resource Navigators Team**



**AAPI Month**  
2026

Honoring  
Our Roots.  
Building  
Our Future.

WMAAA's 9 certified Community Resource Navigators are trusted leaders in their community and represent over 20 Asian languages and dialects.

They will get continuous training, work on project based tasks, and connect children and families in the Asian community and beyond to medical and non-medical related resources.

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

**What is a Resource Navigator,** a professional, often within social services or non-profits, who connects individuals to community resources, such as housing, healthcare, education, employment, to overcome personal and social challenges. They assess clients needs, provide advocacy, and guidance.



<b>SAVE-the-DATE</b>	<b>2026 PCGOM ACTIVITIES</b>
May 16	<b>Sinulog with Flores de Mayo</b> St. Joseph Parish Wright Church 18784 8 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Conklin, MI 49403
June 12 & 13	<b>Grand Rapids Asian Festival (GRAF)</b>
June 27	<b>Russ &amp; Melissa Kruizenga's Wedding</b> Church of Christ, 3725 44th St SW Grandville, MI 49418
Aug 2	<b>Wahlfield Park PICNIC</b> Membership Drive Donation \$10.00 6811 Alpine Ave NW, Comstock Park, MI 49321
Aug 22	<b>Wahlfield Park: Youth Day Camp &amp; First Counting: Miss Little Phil Contest</b> , 6811 Alpine Ave NW, Comstock Park, MI 49321
Aug 29	<b>Last Counting: Miss Little Philippines Contest @</b> Marithes Jacobus residence, 1388 Stanwood NW Grand Rapids 49534
Sep 5	<b>Craig's Cruisers Youth Outing for graduating Youth Day Camp attendees</b> Call Chit Barker (616) 822-5965 or Remi (616) 780-6984
Sept 19	<b>Cultural 50th Wedding Anniversary</b> St. Mary Magdalene Church, 1253 52nd St. SE, Kentwood, MI 49508
Sept 26	<b>Coronation Contest, Little Miss Phil.</b> St. Mary Magdalene Church, 1253 52nd St. SE, Kentwood, MI 49508
Oct 3	<b>Phil Fest (Pinoy Expo)</b> St. Mary Magdalene Church, 1253 52nd St. SE, Kentwood, MI 49508
Oct 24	<b>Halloween</b> St Mary Magdalen Church, 1253 52nd St. SE, Kentwood, MI 49508
Dec 5	<b>Thousand Oaks Christmas Party</b> 4100 Thousand Oaks Drive NE Grand Rapids, MI. 49525