

Happy New Year! It's...Back to Basicsin 2020!

by Tony D. Lilles

Off to a new start. In a new home. With the same great food. Opening photographic challenges. Exploring untrodden ground without ever leaving home. All the while centered around continuing friendships. Yes, We shall title 2020 as the year we go "Back to Basics". Participation is this year's aim for all Club activities and projects.

Whether it's new destinations or old ones with a twist, whether its for an official OTS or for a developing project with Tourism Philippines, University of the Philippines or The Mind Museum, we hope to tread new ground physically and figuratively with the added excitement and fulfillment of contributing to nation building by exploring and promoting new sites for tourism and sharing it with our countrymen and the world.

Read up on our 2020 contest rules, ask members, and accept new challenges and twists while finding more reasons to join through encouraging improvements and tweaks. Even the new themes have been thoughtfully picked to compliment each other while encouraging OTS participation with locations that suit to finding and shooting for such themes. We hope this enhances the OTS experience while exploring the full spectrum of interpretations of... simple themes. With 2 convenient in-town OTS destinations and 2 more within the country, we are encouraging participation without the big expense or logistical challenges in the past. Block off the dates, join early OTSes and come to the group lunches to be better organized. Remember that based on the 2019 scores and OTS analytics (in the November Viewfinder issue), it pays to join as early and as many OTSes straight away. If you are busy in some months of the year, pick or join your choice of any of the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Conferences. It can be very rewarding and not to mention that the trophies for each Conference's 1st, 2nd and 3rd Places are substantial and beautiful too.

We hope you will enjoy the new location of our regular monthly meetings with access points from all over this metropolis. Aside from adjacent

buildings, parking at *BGC The Strip* and *One and Two Parkades* is convenient and many routes can be taken going in and out of BGC. As outgoing 2019 Pres. **FDR** said in his speech, we thank continuing Board member and PP **Fred Yuson** not only for offering his office/bistro for our monthly meetings venue but for choosing *Chef Jessie* to be its permanent caterer too. Unfortunately, as good as *Chef Jessie* is, the necessary dinner expense, although lower than any other of the same *calibre*, is a drain on the Club funds. As we continue to find and test ways to minimize this unavoidable cost, the best program thus far is to collect these dinner fees in advance. After all, we all pledged by oath when we joined this Club to meet every 1st Monday of the month to dine with friends, enjoy photography and any art updates, trends, and share stories, destinations, tips, projects and anything to enhance the Club experience.

A special thanks for the exceptionally smooth running of the program of the 2019 Awards Night must

go to many volunteers: For emcee **Jaime Cumagun** who not only physically brought the many trophies (which are really precious and delicate works of art courtesy of Board Member **Mark Bautista**) but also managed all the evening's logistics. For co-emcee **Bob Sison** who gave the invocation and revised prayer so apropos for the evening. For **Evan Grabador** for preparing the display of the winning pictures and photographers to coincide with their awarding as set in the program. For **Emir Bautista** for preparing (in one day) the acclaimed and professionally done video for **2019 Master Photographer Boyet Mesuga** that simply wowed everybody and set a new standard for our Club for such work. In fact, we also proudly awarded a special plaque of appreciation for Evan, Emir, Boyet as well as batch mates **Erikk Bautista** and **EJ Lagrimas** for continuing to discharge every and all duties of a probee this past two years and running. We thank all fellow members who helped document and post pictures of the evening.



Members of the 2019 and incoming 2020 Boards of Trustees, our esteemed Lifetime members, fellow members, guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Although 2019 is not a milestone year for the Club, as last year was, being in its 90th year of existence, it nevertheless was, or will shortly be, a year full of memorable moments for us. Challenging as it was, we have now finished the race that 2019 was, so to speak. But then I was fortunate to have with me in the board of trustees, staunch members that helped me steer the Club through the peaks and troughs of the year. For sure, we owe a lot to the excellent work and devotion of our members, more particularly, our lifetime and senior members and those regular and newbie members who have volunteered to continue probee tasks during our monthly meetings.

Tonight, I am happy (and quite relieved in some way) that I and some members of the 2019 board will turn over the helm of the Club to a capable team headed by 2019 Vice President and Incoming President Jorge Buenaventura. Knowing how committed and devoted the incoming members of the 2020 board are, having worked with most of them during this year, particularly President Jorge, I can confidently say that there is no other group that I consider more worthy to accept the baton of leadership of the club than our incoming board. But as I remarked a year ago almost to this day, we recognized only too well that the board's strength can only come from you, our dear members—from your support, cooperation and your contribution, to your insight, understanding and patience. And more importantly, it is your loyalty to the Club that we all look up to with the highest regard and in very high esteem.

Allow me to now share with you a few things about what we together accomplished in 2019 for our Club.

Let me start with what we haven't been able to fully realize from the goals that we set out to do at the beginning of this year. A key milestone that we had hoped to achieve this year was a definitive agreement towards the establishment of an Institute or Center of photography together with the infrastructure that goes with it and in cooperation with the University of the Philippines' College of Fine Arts. This effort has not come to fruition as yet for various reasons, most important of which was the change of leadership and consequently in the priorities within the College of Fine Arts. But fortunately, fellow Board member, Mark Bautista, who has shepherded this effort has established a good relationship with the new dean so the effort will continue. One activity that is actually moving ahead, but due to time constraints at this time can only be implemented at the start of next year, is the Exhibit of CCP photos taken during our OTS in UP at the College of Fine Arts. That should serve as an important peg in establishing our desired tie-up with the university.

During the year, we implemented a few changes to improve our financial condition. We are pleased to report that as of today, we have



CCP 2019 Christmas Party and Awards Night

December 2, 2019, CWC Interiors BGC

Outgoing President's Address – **Alfredo S. del Rosario, Jr.**

arrested the decline in our annual funds position, which has been caused by the subsidies that the Club provided for

our monthly dinner and other miscellaneous expenses in previous years. As you know, we had required a dinner fee to be paid in addition to the membership fee. That was intended not only to encourage attendance but also to augment our resources in covering the minimum charge for the dinner fees in our monthly meetings. As to our cash position, our Treasurer Chito Viñas who continues on to next year's board has reported to me that we currently have a total of P2,828,615 in the bank, up by P165,349 from the previous year's P2,663,266.

As to our Master Cup competition, we believe that with the variety of formats and other changes in the rules introduced this year, we have made the contests more challenging, interesting and hopefully fulfilling for all. Although we had aimed to re-introduce the film slide format in one special theme contest (or possibly in one OTS), this proved to be difficult due to the limited supply of film slides and processing providers. Hopefully, this can be achieved at some time in the future. We sincerely thank Lifetime Member and 6-time Master Photographer, Mang Rudy de Leon, despite his being over 8 decades old, for being up to the challenge in managing our rigorous and tedious monthly and OTS contests.

The Membership Committee, under the capable watch of Lifetime member Joey Montalban, has consistently implemented our membership rules, our Code of Conduct, while ensuring that members are constantly informed of the guidelines, policies and processes that pertain to maintaining their good standing in the Club.

I also wish to thank Past President and External Affairs Chairman Fred Yuson for generously making the arrangements to have our

monthly meetings held in the most comfortable venues: From the Rockwell Club to the Top of the Citi and now to his CWC Interiors in BGC. He has single handedly continued to find our Club a fitting home when we suddenly had to move. On top of this, he even managed to have Chef Jessie to continue all catering which assures us of the usual fine dining we've been accustomed to in the past two venues!

Finally, allow me to thank our dear spouses and families for their patience and profound understanding for allowing us board members to be away from home, taking precious time from family during our usually long-drawn meetings. I have to hand it to my fellow board members too for also juggling between our paying, day jobs, our family obligations, other important social responsibilities while presiding over Camera Club affairs, duties and projects, for which we have to stress, we do not receive any emoluments for.

Thank you very much and allow me to be the first to congratulate the winners of the 2019 Master Cup competition. Let's have a Merry and Blessed Christmas and A Happy, Prosperous, Productive and Harmonious New Year.



Good evening fellow members,

First of all, on behalf of the incoming board, thank you for giving us the opportunity to look after the club for 2020. Personally, I am excited and enthusiastic to have this leadership role entrusted to me. I now recall what my sponsor, the late Fr. Basil Apostol, once told me: Sooner or later you must make a sincere contribution to the club because what you put into it is what you get out of it. My excitement is also because I will be working with a super board. Other than mainstay Chito Viñas and new and fresh directors Bob Sison and Jaime Camagun, I will be able to leverage on PP Manolo Roxas, PP Tony Lilles, PP Raffy Santos, PP Fred Yuson, PP Nesty Ocampo, and of course, now PP Fred Del Rosario as our ex-officio.

The Board has not yet met for our planning but already we have discussed broad strokes for next year. We focus on Two points: The continuous improvement of the regular activities and new projects. On continuous improvement, we will address our monthly contests – back to basic and understandable themes, proper selection of judges and to



possibly outsourcing the mechanical portion.

On OTSes, it will be an all Philippines OTS year that attempts to be more nationally aligned and socially responsive. A festivity in Iloilo, saving a dying Pasig river, capturing the revitalization of old Manila and revisiting the old time favorite of the rice terraces of *Banaue* and *Batad* will renew the spirit of camaraderie in a more local setting.

In membership, there are a few slots open for new members on a first-come first-qualified basis. We will continue with improvements in our monthly meeting attendance programs that have been a success last year. As mentioned by outgoing President FDR and a perennial drain to Club funds since the beginning, the dinner fee (since we never really know how many will attend and have dinner) remains the biggest monthly expense of the Club. We also plan to renew the club ID for next year. For projects, we

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Incoming President's Address –
Jorge Buenaventura

making more efficient our scoring system by even have started to work with the Tourism Promotions Boards to collaborate in exploring and discovering new tourism destinations for our country. Also, we are eyeing a bonafide Club exhibit or two next year.

We are celebrating our 92nd anniversary next year. That means we are only 8 years away from making the 100 year mark. With the unwavering participation of the membership and its valuable feedback through our Board, we should take care and ensure that the Club is ushered well into this historic milestone. Allow me to borrow and paraphrase an old advertising slogan of a luxury watch that seems apropos to our Club: We do not really own this Club...We merely look after it for the next generation. With this in mind, and through your input, your board will have a steady focus on three main areas: 1) our photography and fellowship, 2) our photography and fellowship, and 3) our photography and fellowship.

With our shared bond in great photography in an organization originally envisioned as a refuge for the enjoyment of our chosen art form anchored to an equally great and growing friendship, let us continue to cultivate our relationships and continue to capture our intimate images and share it with our nation and the world.

Merry Christmas!



Joey Antonio's
First solo Exhibit
at Galleria Antonio
at Century Mall
Makati.



January 2020 Birthdays

Narcingdela Merced – January 1
Ruth David – January 1
Gutch Gutierrez – January 3
Ruben Asedillo – January 3
Manolo Roxas – January 4
Nap Venturina – January 5
Amang Jose – January 8
Emir Bautista – January 10
Charmaine Valmonte – January 14
Juni Samson – January 17
Evan Grabador – January 19
Aster Torres – January 21
Chito Madrono – January 23
Francis Rivera – January 29
Annabelle Chavez – January 31

