



Why Rizal Day goes almost unnoticed - Page 6

PHILIPPINE Fiesta

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Simbang Gabi Page 8

More US troops off to Mideast; Iran slams Trump 'act of war'



Protesters set fires outside the US Embassy compound in Baghdad on Tuesday, the eve of the New Year, an incident that Washington said was instigated in part by Iran's top general Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in a US airstrike three days later. —Photo by AP

BY AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Thousands more US troops were ordered to the Middle East, after the United States assassinated Iran's top general, Qassem Soleimani, in an airstrike early Friday.

On Saturday, Iraqi state television reported a new airstrike targeting pro-Iran fighters, hours ahead of a planned mourning march for Soleimani in Baghdad.

According to a Pentagon official, 3,000 to 3,500 troops from the 82nd Airborne Division's Global Response Force—which had already sent hundreds of reinforcements earlier this week—will go to Kuwait.

Some 14,000 other troops have already been deployed as reinforcements to the Middle East this year, re-

flecting steadily growing tensions with Iran.

The deployment of more troops is in contrast to US President Donald Trump's repeated claims of having pulled US troops out of conflict zones.

Speaking at West Palm Beach, Florida, on Friday afternoon, Trump confirmed that, "at my direction, the United States military successfully executed a flawless precision strike that killed the No. 1 terrorist anywhere in the world, Qassem Soleimani."

But Trump also attempted to lower tensions by maintaining that, "We did not take action to start a war."

"We do not seek regime change," he also said.

Then in a tweet on Friday night, he said in part, "He [Soleimani] should have

been taken out many years ago.' In an interview with CNN, Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations Majid Takht Ravanchi said the attack on Soleimani was "an act of war."

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the US strike was "extremely dangerous and a foolish escalation."

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei declared three days of mourning and promised "severe revenge" for the assassinated general.

Lethal foe

Soleimani, 62, had long been considered a lethal foe by US lawmakers and presidents. The last straw was an attack by a pro-Iranian mob in Baghdad against the US

Continued on page 3

Supreme Court junks same-sex marriage case 'with finality'



LGBTQ members light candles as they gather outside the Supreme Court in Manila on June 19, 2018, during the oral arguments on the petition for same-sex marriage.

BY RAMBO TALABONG

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court (SC) upheld its decision to junk

the same-sex marriage petition that was once touted as historic for the predominant

Continued on page 4

The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, Inc. Induction of Officers 2020-2021



Photo by Dale Esperante

This past Saturday, December 21, 2019, The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, Inc. (FCSV) held their 2019-2020 Installation of Officers at the Jose Rizal Community Center in Sacramento, CA. This year, FCSV invited Nilda Valmores, Executive Director of My Sister's House, as their Installing Officer and Keynote Speaker for the evening. Continued on page 9

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Happy New Year!!!

BY MARGAUX SALCEDO

This is going to be a wonderful year, I can feel it!

To start the year right, I compiled a list of restaurants that look promising enough to check out this year.

There are veteran chefs trying new things and new chefs making a name for themselves with their modern Filipino menus. Disclaimer: I have not visited all of these restaurants – some of them are on my “to try” list, too. If you eat there ahead of me, do drop me a note or tag me @margauxsalcedo on Facebook or Instagram and let me know what you think.

But this is my list and I’m sharing it with you as I’m ready to check these restos twice to find out which are naughty and which are nice!

HAPAG MNL

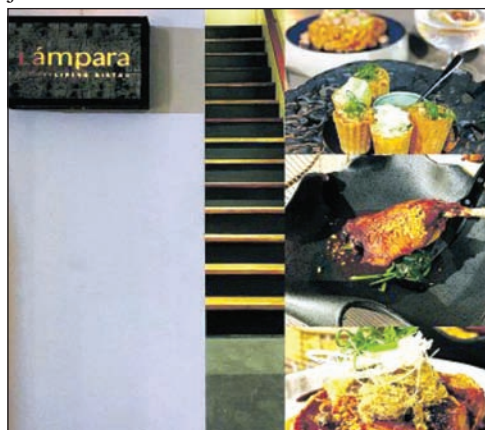
201 Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City
+63 947 560 1853

I have been hearing a lot of good reviews about this 24-seater restaurant, praising the progressive Filipino creations of Chef Thiridy Dolatre who is joined by Kevin Villarica and Kevin Navoa. There is an 8-course tasting menu although there is also an a la carte option. Sounds like a definite must-try, even if it is all the way in the state of Quezon City.

HELM

Arya Residences, G/F McKinley Pkwy, Taguig +63 906 234 1900

I have eaten at Helm three times and it was always a rich experience. Josh Boutwood is currently at the top of my list of Filipino chefs worth raving about and I strongly recommend him to anyone who would want to experience creative takes on Filipino ingredients. He changes the menu every few months. Sometimes a course or two will miss a note, but overall, Helm is not only delicious but also educational and even thrilling. It is worth the splurge, even just once.



Lampara is described as a “neo-Filipino bistro”

LAMPARA

5883 Enriquez Street, Makati City
+63 917 173 5883

Lampara is described as a “neo-Filipino bistro”, i.e., haute cuisine with a more modern and casual approach but capitalizing on fresh and natural flavors. The chefs – RJ Ramos, Alfonse Sotero and Prince Tan – are reportedly graduates of Enderun. I dined at Lampara once last year and was underwhelmed. However, I keep reading rave reviews about it so I would like to visit a few more times this year. Perhaps the menu has improved. It does have one good thing going for it though: in the middle of Poblacion where parking is almost impossible, there is

a huge parking lot beside it. Big bonus for titas who drive their own cars.

LINAMNAM

31 Greenvale 2, Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque +63 917 573 0246

This is quite literally a backyard restaurant as the setting is a nipa hut in the owner’s garden in Marcelo Green Village. But the menu by young Chef Don Baldosano looks inspired. He offers a 16-course tasting menu at more or less only P2,000/head.

TALISAY

44 Maginhawa St., UP Village, Quezon City +632 8293-9077; +63 919 877 6321

Unlike the other restaurants, this one by Chef Tatung does not go the route of modern Filipino. Instead, he goes back to basics with lengua, paella and other Filipino favorites, but adds a regional perspective and a touch of Tatung magic. I featured Chef Tatung in one of my Mission: Manila events at Raffles Makati (a special dinner open to the public by a chef I choose with the objective of promoting the chef and Philippine recipes and ingredients) and to this day I get comments from guests that it was one of the best meals they had eaten in a while (he whipped up a Mindanao-themed menu). Tatung is incredible when he is inspired, so let’s hope that with this restaurant, he will be inspired every day.

THE TEST KITCHEN

One Rockwell G/F East Tower, Makati
+63 977 288 5751

The Test Kitchen, also by Josh Boutwood of Helm, was a much appreciated by-reservation-only dining space on Kamagong. It was magical inside but parking was a problem and when road construction took place, it was just a disaster. So it was wonderful to see that this restaurant has taken the place of what used to be Apartment 1B in Rockwell. Expecting to be wowed again by Boutwood’s incredible attention to detail as well as his impressive sourcing and research.

METIZ

Karrivin Plaza, G/F Building A, 2316 Chino Roces Ave. Ext., Makati
+63 917 898 5751

Metiz is another modern Filipino restaurant. This one is by a French-Filipino chef Stephan Duhesme. It has an open kitchen and offers a 5-course experience using local ingredients.

BESO BESO

P. Guanzon Street, Poblacion, Makati City
+63 917 174 5862

This is the comeback resto of Chef Rob Pengson, creator of one of the first degustation restos in the metro, the dearly missed The Goose Station. This is now his signature restaurant, aiming to showcase his style of Filipino cuisine. He offers a foie gras “dirty ice cream” and a rellenito of crab and crab fat.

So that is my list so far. If you have other suggestions, let me know.

I heard somewhere that when it’s a leap year, you can eat as much as you want and not gain weight ... (shh.. I just made that up but you can try!).

Happy New Year! May it be a wonderful year of eating and eating well for all of us!

BY GLENDA GLORIA

2020 with a Bang

Barely had we said adieu to 2019 when American forces fired missiles on January 3 at the Baghdad international airport, killing Iran’s top general. It’s a major decapitation strike that is unparalleled – and, some say, even more significant than the killing of Osama bin Laden 8 years ago.

The American president has suddenly unleashed the sword of war as he prepares for his own impeachment trial over charges of abuse of power. Donald Trump’s order against Qasem Soleimani even stunned the Pentagon, according to the New York Times in a January 4 report, and it has mobilized thousands of mourners never before seen in Iranian streets in recent years.

What’s at stake and what can we expect this week in the aftermath of the assassination of the general who had shaped the battlefield in the Middle East and helped direct Assad’s war in Syria?

President Trump acted where other American leaders saw big risks.

The Atlantic describes the assassination as “America’s most consequential strike this century.”

Security experts at RAND say the difference between the killing of ISIS leaders and that of Soleimani is that “Iran is a highly capable nation-state that has the resources to counter” the US strike.

And so the world “waits with bated breath,” says Christiane Amanpour, as to how Iran will retaliate after the mourning period.

The Observer in the UK says that what Trump has done “is wrong – and dangerously so.”

The BBC’s diplomatic and defense correspondent asks a key question: What does the strike tell the world about Trump’s overall policy in the Middle East? Is there now a “new zero-tolerance” toward Iranian operations?

PUTTING OUT FIRES

Another leader is also putting out fires – literally and figuratively – in Australia as the southeastern part woke up to blood-red skies on Sunday, January 5, in what residents say is one of their worst days ever.

Here’s what you need to know about Australia’s deadly bushfires that have hit every state, with New South Wales being the



Australia’s deadly bushfires

hardest hit.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Johnson, who won in May 2019, is taking a beating, too, after he took a family vacation in Hawaii last month as the fires spread. He’s been heckled online and on the ground.

Is climate change to blame for the fires? BBC has this explainer.

Back at the homefront, the first few weeks of 2020 can also be a game-changer for some sectors in the Philippines – in the media, the water industry, and the human rights movement that’s basking in two legislative moves in the US that seek to impose travel restrictions on human rights violators in the Philippines.

The House of Representatives is expected to start hearings this month on the expiring franchise of media giant ABS-CBN. During the holidays, President Rodrigo Duterte blurted out his best-case scenario for his hated media company, saying the Lopezes should just sell to a new owner.

Should they? Could they, given the company’s history? Here’s a challenge to ABS-CBN, as we wrote in Rappler editorial on Monday, January 6: “Ang nagpapa-bully, lalong binubully.”



Editor’s Note

Time really flies fast for me, and I’m sure, mostly for everyone. I sometimes try to stay awake late in the night to get more things done. Time seems to never be enough for me anymore.

The year 2020, has come, whether we liked it or not. A new beginning, or a time extended to get more things done from the previous years that we have failed to accomplish. As always, we want to be better persons, for another promising year.

Here comes the first issue of Philippine Fiesta news for the year. We hope that you enjoy glancing through the pages seeing past events of holiday season celebrations in our community.

As we get deeper in to the realm and the beginning of another decade, we wish everyone good health and prosperity in the heart, and with all God’s blessings.

With you in celebrations,
Dinnah San Pedro

'Another Duterte' needed to continue 'drug war,' Bato says

BY FRANCO LUNA

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Ronald dela Rosa believes another Duterte should be the next president as other politicians may not achieve the results that he said President Rodrigo Duterte has.

The former PNP chief, who initially led the president's bloody campaign against illegal drugs, and was director general of the national police when, in 2017, a 17-year-old boy was killed by Caloocan City cops who claimed he was a drug runner.

Robredo is meeting with UN reps this week. Here's what the UN has said about drugs and 'drug wars'

Duterte hopes successor will continue drug war

The former police official praised the administration's progress and said these have to be sustained.

Dela Rosa said in a radio interview that the government is "running out of time" and that "maybe we need another Duterte to continue the work."

Lobbying and political campaigns management firm PUBLiCUS released results of a survey in December where it said 35% of respondents picked Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio in a list of 21 potential candidates for president. "If you speak of possibilities, then it's limitless. Everything's possible," presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said then, when asked about the possibility of Duterte running for vice president alongside his



A former Davao City police before becoming the country's top cop, Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa helped President Rodrigo Duterte — a former city mayor — bringing Davao City's brutal narcotics crackdown to the national level.

daughter, said:

"We have to do concrete actions right now otherwise we are going to the dogs. Ang ating bansa magiging narco state tayo. Baka marama ang PNP na ang aatras sa armadong drug lords gaya sa Mexico," Dela Rosa said.

"Huwag natin hintayin na ganun. Dahil malapit na talaga tayo kung di naging presidente si Pangulong Duterte."

(Our country might become a narco state. The PNP might retreat from a fight with heavily-armed drug lords like what is happening in Mexico. We should not wait for such an eventuality. We might have been a narco state if President Duterte was not elected.)

Dela Rosa was echoing Duterte's rhetoric in 2017 that the country was well on its way to becoming a "narco-state" if it wasn't already.

Vice President Leni Robredo, shortly after her removal from the Inter-Agency

Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs, pointed out that the administration used faulty and often conflicting statistics to back up their claims.

"Ngayong hapon, naging klaro iyon na iyong mga numerong iyon hindi din klaro. Iyong 1.8 [million] ang pakiramdam, not just DDB but also the other members of the ICAD. Ang pakiramdam, parang iyong integrity ng numbers hindi masyadong puwedeng pagkatiwalaan kasi iyong, parang iyong circumstances, iyong sample size, iyong lahat iba naman," Robredo said on November 8.

(This afternoon, it became clear that, not just the Dangerous Drugs Board but also the members of the ICAD feel the 1.8 million figure is unclear. The sentiment is there is not much confidence in the integrity of the numbers because of the different circumstances and sample size used.)

Dela Rosa is a staunch Duterte ally and now chairs the public order and dangerous

drugs committee.

Three years into Duterte's presidency, the "drug war", which human rights groups say have killed as many as 27,000 people, 55% of the country's barangays being declared cleared of illegal drugs.

Government data acknowledges more than 5,500 "drug personalities" killed in law enforcement operations. Authorities say all of those who died had shot it out with police.

During his electoral campaign in 2016, Rodrigo Duterte promised to deal with the country's drug problem within six months of his inauguration.

He asked for multiple extensions after the first six months.

"Marami naman dyan bigyan lang ng chance pero di natin alam kung kasing tapang niya; iba kasi si Pangulong Duterte. Kahit may guided missile tatama sa sasakyan niya, wala sya pakialam basta gawin nya trabaho nya," Dela Rosa said during a radio interview.

(There are many out there who could wage war against illegal drugs. We will give them a chance but we don't know if they are as brave as President Duterte. He will continue his fight even if a guided missile hits his car. He does not care. He will fight on.)

More US troops off to Mideast; Iran slams Trump 'act of war'

From page 1

Embassy this week. According to Trump, "Soleimani was plotting imminent and sinister attacks on American diplomats and military personnel, but we caught him in the act."

As head of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps' foreign operations arm, Soleimani was a powerful figure domestically and point man for sophisticated and wide-ranging Iranian involvement in Middle East affairs.

Western analysts regard the slain general as a dangerous enemy of the United States but also a charismatic and popular leader among his compatriots and elsewhere in the Middle East.

Thousands of mourners gathered on Saturday for a funeral procession through Baghdad in honor of Soleimani. Many of them were dressed in black, as they carried Iraqi flags and the flags of Iran-backed militias fiercely loyal to Soleimani.

In Tehran, tens of thousands of protesters torched US flags and chanted "death to America."

New airstrike

But hours ahead of these protests, a new strike on Saturday targeted a convoy belonging to the Hashed al-Shaabi, an Iraqi paramilitary network dominated by Shiite factions with close ties to Iran.

The Hashed's deputy chief, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, was also a fatality on the attack on Soleimani on Friday.

The Hashed did not say who it held responsible for the Saturday airstrike but Iraqi state television reported it was a US attack.

A police source said the

strike left "dead and wounded," but did not provide a specific toll. There was no immediate comment from the United States. The White House is portraying the Soleimani killing as evidence of strength.

In a tweet on Friday, the White House said, "Soleimani contributed to terrorist plots to kill innocent people around the world. His reign of terror is over."

'Brink of a major conflict' While Republicans publicly approve the Soleimani killing, Democrats claim Trump is now going down precisely the warmongering path he long railed against.

Democratic presidential aspirant Joe Biden warned in a statement, "We could be on the brink of a major conflict across the Middle East."

"I hope the administration has thought through the second- and third-order consequences of the path they have chosen," the former US vice president also said, adding that "Iran will surely respond."

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Soleimani's killing risks provoking a "dangerous escalation of violence."

She also pointed out that the attack "was taken without the consultation of the Congress."

"American leaders' highest priority is to protect American lives and interests. But we cannot put the lives of American service members, diplomats and others further at risk by engaging in provocative and disproportionate actions," Pelosi said in her statement.



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'Balikbayan' from US spared from planned PH visa requirement

BY DJ YAP

"Balikbayan" Filipinos from the United States will not be affected by President Rodrigo Duterte's plan to impose visa requirements on Americans traveling to the Philippines in retaliation for the US ban of Filipino officials involved in the detention of Sen. Leila de Lima.

Malacañang issued the clarification on Wednesday after an earlier announcement that even Filipino-Americans would be required visas should the United States actually ban any Filipino official on account of De Lima's detention.

The Palace announced the planned tit for tat after the US ban became law on Dec. 20, when US President Donald Trump signed the \$4.7-trillion federal budget, which carried a provision imposing the ban on human rights abusers.

United States Senators Patrick Leahy (Democrat, from Vermont) and Richard Durbin (Democrat, Illinois) wrote the provision, a sanction on the Duterte administration for silencing critics of its brutal war on drugs under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act.

The criticisms of Leahy and Durbin are "misplaced," according to presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo, who also announced that the two Democrats would be barred from the Philippines.

Later, the Palace escalated the ban to include all Americans should the Uni-



Filipino Balikbayan from US.

ed States proceed with the sanction on Duterte officials behind De Lima's detention on drug charges, which she had described as retaliation for her investigation of alleged extrajudicial killings in Mr. Duterte's drug war.

Panelo said Mr. Duterte would issue an executive order requiring American citizens, "including Filipino-Americans," to get visas for travel to the Philippines.

On Wednesday, however, Panelo issued a statement clarifying that Filipinos living in the United States and visiting the Philippines as balikbayan will not be affected by the administration's action.

Panelo defended the visa requirement for foreigners as "an exercise of a sovereign right and is not an insult to any particular community."

Filipinos required US visas. He noted that the US government has long been requiring Filipinos to have US visas to be able to travel to the United States.

"As the community of nation believes in, 'diplomacy is equality,'" Panelo added. Responding to Malacañang's threat last week, Durbin said the "Duterte regime should stop threatening the travel of these Filipino-Americans and so many others who travel between our nations, and instead release Senator De Lima or [give her] a

quick and credible trial."

Leahy prodded the administration to "either release Senator De Lima immediately or provide her the fair, public trial she is entitled to."

Panelo said the remarks of the two American lawmakers were coming from "either absolute ignorance or shameful bias."

"The call of these foreign officials to release Sen. Leila de Lima, who is presently facing charges before an independent Philippine court, is a brazen interference into our sovereignty," he said.

"Their alternative demand to provide [her] a fair, speedy and credible trial is totally misplaced because precisely, that is being given her by the hearing court as required by the Constitution," he said.

"Unfair publicity stunts" "If any party feels that such constitutional guarantee is not being observed, then [that] party should avail [itself] of appropriate remedial measures under Philippine law instead of resorting to unfair publicity stunts," he said.

Panelo said all Filipinos were "impleaded" in De Lima's case "by reason of her wrongful acts."

"Hence, any undue persuasion that tramples upon our judicial processes or puts any form of tension on the officers of our courts relative thereto must be condemned accordingly by all citizens of this state," he said.

Slain Iran general one of the best — Locsin

BY PIA LEE-BRAGO

MANILA, Philippines — Iran's top military commander Qasem Soleimani, who was killed in an airstrike by the United States at Baghdad's international airport on Friday, was not a terrorist, the Philippines' top diplomat said over the weekend.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said Soleimani, one of the most powerful figures in the Islamic Republic and one of Iran's highest-ranking, was a "great" general who would not have liked being called a martyr.

"He was a soldier not a terrorist. He was a general, possibly one of the best in modern times, and never lost a battle so far as I know," Locsin said on Twitter yesterday.

Soleimani, who was major general of the Quds force — a division responsible for extraterritorial military and clandestine operations — was listed as a known terrorist by the US for leading militant groups that killed hundreds of Americans.

"Soldiers must honor soldiers if they are to be honored when their time



Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said Soleimani, one of the most powerful figures in the Islamic Republic and one of Iran's highest-ranking, was a "great" general who would not have liked being called a martyr.

comes," Locsin said. "He was a soldier and soldiers die as he did, in battle, by assassination by any means to stop his brilliance from carrying the day, day in, day out on any battlefield. Honor the enemy, honor yourself," he added.

Locsin's tweets did not sit well with Twitter users, who criticized the foreign affairs secretary for glorifying a "terrorist kingpin."

"A totally embarrassing statement by Mr. Locsin, glorifying the terrorist kingpin. So providing a military assistance to terrorist Hezbollah merits a title 'best of our times' wow!" a Twitter user said.

Another user criticized how Locsin had never talked the same way about victims of drug-related killings.

"Heard a lot of stories about families who can't mourn their loved ones because they have no money to get the bodies to the morgues. Here he is crying like Sisa for a general who'll be venerated like a martyr by known terrorists," the tweet read, alluding to a character in national hero Jose Rizal's novel who went insane.

US President Donald Trump earlier said the airstrike was carried out "to stop a war" as Soleimani "was plotting imminent and sinister attacks on American diplomats and military personnel, but we caught him in the act and terminated him."

The US Defense Department blamed Soleimani for the deaths of hundreds of Americans, and said he was behind recent attacks on coalition bases in Iraq, including one on Dec. 27 that killed an American defense contractor.

Iran vowed to seek revenge and "harsh retaliation" on the US for the death of Soleimani.

Supreme Court junks same-sex marriage

From page 1

inantly Catholic country. "[T]he Court resolved to deny with finality the said motion for reconsideration as no substantial arguments were presented to warrant the reversal of the questioned decision," the High Court said in a notice sent to reporters on Monday, January 6.

The case's brief history: The dismissal was hinged on technicalities. Jesus Falcis, a young and openly gay lawyer, filed the petition

against the Civil Registrar General, the public official in the position to deny a marriage license to gay couples. But Falcis himself was not seeking marriage.

The SC also pointed out during oral arguments the petition's violation of the hierarchy of courts, saying that in the United States, activists had to climb the hierarchy of courts before reaching the Supreme Court to argue their case and win the same-sex marriage case.

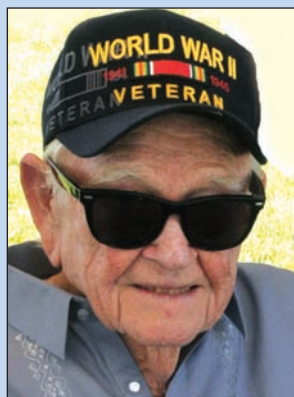
The Supreme Court earlier made a crucial pronouncement that the Constitution does not explicitly ban same-sex marriage.

"From its plain text, the Constitution does not define, or restrict, marriage on the basis of sex, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression," SC spokesperson Brian Keith Hosaka said, quoting the decision during an earlier press briefing.

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Killing of Iran general sends oil and yen surging

Markets hold breath for Tehran's response after US strike on Soleimani

BY TAKESHI KUMON



Demonstrators burn the U.S. and British flags during a protest against the assassination of the Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani by the U.S., in Tehran on Jan. 3.

TOKYO/WASHINGTON -- Oil prices surged and the yen climbed on Friday as markets reacted to the death of Iran's top general in a U.S. airstrike, with the risk of greater Middle East tensions hanging over Asia's energy supply.

Benchmark Brent crude rose as much as 5% to \$69.50 a barrel, the highest since September and close to the psychologically important \$70 mark. The yen briefly strengthened to the 107 range against the dollar, touching a two-month high. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index and India's Sensex both slipped Friday, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell by over 200 points in early trading.

The killing of Qassem Soleimani, the commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force, at Baghdad airport in Iraq underscores the shift by U.S. President Donald Trump's administration toward a more hard-line stance on Iran.

"There could have been no greater blow than this to Iran's leadership," said Hisae Nakanishi, dean of the Graduate School of Global Studies at Kyoto's Doshisha University. "It is hard to imagine that Iran's Revolutionary Guards will take this quietly."

A U.S. Department of Defense statement called the strike on Soleimani a "defensive action" that "was aimed at deterring future Iranian attack plans."

Soleimani "had orchestrated attacks on coalition bases in Iraq over the last several months" and "approved the attacks on the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad that took place this week," the Pentagon statement said.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, said on Twitter that "severe revenge" awaits those who killed the general.

Soleimani led the Quds Force, an elite unit of the Revolutionary Guards, which answers directly to Iran's supreme leader. The U.S. had accused him of playing a central role in expanding Iranian influence in the Middle East. A charismatic figure who was a national hero in Iran, he had been a target of U.S. sanctions.

His killing marks the clearest indication yet that the Trump administration has toughened its stance on Tehran. Last June, Trump stopped short of ordering an airstrike on Iran following the downing of an American military drone. The U.S. also held off on military action in response to an attack on ally Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure in September, which Washington accused Iran of abetting.

The focus turns to Iran's next move. Kazuo Takahashi, a professor emeritus at the Open University of Japan, said Tehran has vowed retribution in the past, only to take no action in some cases.

"Iran knows full well that President Trump doesn't want a war," Takahashi said. "I think there will be skirmishes in the tense relationship between the two countries until the U.S. presidential election in November."

Japan recently approved a deployment of Self-Defense Forces personnel to the Middle East for maritime survey operations, a decision that follows attacks on oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital sea lane for the country's energy supply. Tokyo declined to take a role in the U.S.-led coalition to patrol those waters amid an ongoing domestic debate over the SDF's status under Japan's pacifist constitution.

Nakanishi, the Doshisha University professor, said that if the U.S. Navy expands its activity in the Persian Gulf, there may be an impact on ally Japan's operations.

How the world is reacting to US killing of top Iran general

Iran Guards ex-head vows 'revenge' on US over Soleimani death

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARIS, France — The world reacted with alarm on Friday after top Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani was killed in a US strike in Iraq, with leaders appealing for restraint.

The assassination was praised by US President Donald Trump's Republicans but elsewhere there were warnings of the danger it could inflame regional tensions.

Following are some of the reactions from around the world:



Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani

'Severe revenge'

"Martyrdom was the reward for his ceaseless efforts in all these years," Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Twitter, declaring three days of mourning.

"With him gone, God willing, his work and his path will not be stopped, but severe revenge awaits the criminals who bloodied their foul hands with his blood and other martyrs' in last night's incident."

Khamenei called Soleimani the "international face of the resistance" and said he was killed by "the most cruel of those on earth".

All people who back the resistance would be his "avengers".

"The lack of our devoted and dear general is bitter, but continuing the fight and achieving final victory will embitter the murderers and criminals even more."

'Price of killing Americans'

"In a display of resolve and strength, we struck the leader of those attacking our sovereign US territories," top House of Representatives Republican Kevin McCarthy said in a statement.

"Wow — the price of killing and injuring Americans has just gone up drastically," Senator Lindsey Graham, a close confidant of Trump, wrote on Twitter.

'Adventurist step'

"The killing of Soleimani... was an adventurist step that will increase tensions throughout the region," the Russian foreign ministry was quoted as saying by news agencies RIA Novosti and TASS.

"Soleimani served the cause of protecting Iran's national interests with devotion. We express our sincere condolences to the Iranian people."

'Dangerous escalation'

The killing of Soleimani risks provoking a "dangerous escalation of violence", US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in a statement.

"America — and the world — cannot afford to have tensions escalate to the point of no return."

"President Trump just tossed a stick of dynamite into a tinderbox," former vice president Joe Biden said in a statement.

"Iran will surely respond. We could be on the brink of a major conflict across the Middle East."

'Appeal for restraint'

"China has always opposed the use of force in international relations," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a press briefing.

"We urge the relevant sides, especially the United States, to remain calm and exercise restraint to avoid further escalating tensions."

He said Iraq's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity must be respected.

China, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, is a key partner of Iran and major buyer of the country's oil.

'Spark a devastating war'

Iraq's caretaker prime minister Adel Abdel Mahdi said the US strike, which also killed an Iraqi commander, was an "aggression" that would "spark a devastating war".

"The assassination of an Iraqi military commander in an official post is an aggression against the country of Iraq, its state, its government and its people," he said in a statement.

Abdel Mahdi said the strike was a "flagrant violation of the conditions authorising the presence of US troops" on Iraqi soil.

'World more dangerous'

"We have woken up to a more dangerous world," France's Europe Minister Amelie de Montchalin told French radio, saying President Emmanuel Macron would consult soon with players in the region.

"In such operations, when can see an escalation is under way, but what we want above all is stability and de-escalation," Montchalin said.

"All of France's efforts... in all parts of the world aim to ensure that we are creating the conditions for peace or at least stability," she added.

"Our role is not to take sides, but to talk with everyone," Montchalin said.

'Cowardly aggression'

The Syrian government accused Washington of trying to fuel conflict in the Middle East.

Syria is "certain that this cowardly US aggression... will only strengthen determination to follow in the path of the resistance's martyred leaders," a foreign ministry official was quoted as saying by the state news agency SANA.

'Divine victory'

Iraqis who have demonstrated for months against a government they see as beholden to Iran broke into song and dance after the US strike.

"Oh Qasem Soleimani, this is a divine victory," they cheered in Baghdad's iconic Tahrir Square, the epicentre of their movement.

"This is God's revenge for the blood of those killed," one added, after nearly 460 people were killed in violence that many demonstrators have blamed on Iran-backed security forces.

Why Rizal Day goes almost unnoticed

BY AMBETH R. OCAMPO

Rizal Day usually comes and goes almost unnoticed, a nonworking holiday overlooked by the public because it falls between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Worse, the rites are set around 7:05 a.m., the recorded time Rizal's life was snuffed out by a bullet, and are thus missed by citizens who sleep in late because it's a holiday.

Congress once initiated a measure to move Rizal Day from Dec. 30, the date of his death, to June 19, the date of his birth, so that it would neatly fall a week after June 12, Independence Day. But that measure was unacted upon and ended up in the archives.

Rizal Day starts as early as 6 a.m., when a hardy group of men, the Knights of Rizal, gather in Fort Santiago wearing their trademark uniforms, some ornamented by sashes and an assortment of medals.

The Knights, their ladies and a youth group then walk solemnly from the gate of Fort Santiago to Bonifacio Drive toward the Rizal monument, tracing the martyr's final walk to the place of execution on the morning of Dec. 30, 1896.

The Knights have to arrive in their designated space by the monument shortly before the official ceremony begins.

As the Knights begin the Rizal Walk, government officials gather by the iconic Luneta flagpole, the navel of the country—Kilometer Zero from which all distances in the archipelago are reckoned.

Marked on the ground are the positions of "VVIPs" (very very important persons), whose names or titles are arranged, by order of precedence, in relation to the president, who is guest of honor. Rizal Day has three components: the Philippine flag is raised, and then lowered to half-mast; the Philippine Airforce



conducts a fly-by in Rizal's honor, capped by the dropping of confetti and flowers from Air Force choppers onto the monument; and the laying of wreaths by the monument that many people forget is actually a tomb.

Rizal's remains lie somewhere under tons of bronze and granite.

The highlight of the ceremony should fall around 7:05 a.m., and is marked by the firing of cannons and the most eerie sound you will ever hear wafting from Manila Bay.

This unusual sound comes from all the foghorns and whistles blaring from ships docked on the harbor. When the president is absent or is represented, the rites are downgraded and certain parts of the program like full arrival honors and a gun salute are omitted. If the president is absent, there will be less jostling for position and social-climbing around the flagpole.

From the time the guest of honor is received to the time he or she leaves takes about 25 minutes, or half an hour maximum. This short moving ceremony, to honor the man who is considered the Father of the Nation, is one of the duties of the president.

Joseph Estrada was a no-show once, and his spokesperson's excuse was that Rizal Day was not on the president's schedule for that day! At least that spokesperson was truthful.

This year, the President was earlier announced as a no-show, and rather than making up a decent excuse, the spokesperson flippantly said, "Palagi naman na daw nagpupunta sa Luneta, iba naman." Adding insult to injury, the spokesperson

remarked: "Ang dami naman nating heroes." (President Duterte eventually changed his mind and led the Rizal Day rites in Davao City.)

Perhaps the spokesperson should be reminded that other heroes are not forgotten and each has designated days in the calendar, marked either as national or local holidays. And to make sure nobody is forgotten, there is a catch-all "National Heroes Day" that falls on the fourth Monday of August each year.

The problem with official commemorations is that it goes by rote and ritual, making people forget rather than remember. Emilio Aguinaldo declared the first Rizal Day in 1898 when flags were flown at half-mast, black cloth was hung from houses, and races and other forms of merriment were not allowed as a sign of mourning.

Then the Americans came, appropriated Rizal, and turned Rizal Day into a time for baseball and agricultural and beauty queen contests.

I spent Rizal Day visiting Luneta and the Rizal Shrine in Fort Santiago, eavesdropping on people's comments. While many were curious about Rizal's life and legacy, they clearly had to unlearn many wrong things they picked up from school.

To appreciate Rizal, one has to read beyond the "Noli," "Fili" and "Ultimo Adios" required in class. Rizal wrote far more, but unfortunately, Rizal wrote a lot for a nation that does not read him.

2020s

BY MICHAEL L. TAN

Do an internet search for "Vision 2020" and you'll get many links to websites describing programs that were set up in previous years, with 2020 as a goal for targets ranging from corporate sales all the way up to an entire nation's development goals.

Malaysia's Wawasan 2020, literally Vision 2020, was set up as early as 1991 by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, with the rather ambitious goal of reaching developed country status by the year 2020.

I would not be surprised if Prime Minister Mahathir himself thought up the name, because he was a practicing physician before he entered politics.

The concept of 2020 is borrowed from the tests for visual acuity, a 20/20 result—from reading the letters of different sizes on a Snellen chart—more or less indicating good vision.

"Perfect" vision is much more complicated than being able to read the Snellen chart, but the metaphor became popular, especially as the year 2020 and the decade of the 2020s approached.

I thought I'd pick up on this 2020 metaphor to elaborate on the need for communities, corporations and nations to think some more about what it means to have a clear vision for the future and a sense of mission—what needs to be done now.

We stand to learn from the vision sciences, sometimes referred to as visual sciences, as with the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of the Philippines' College of Medicine.

The vision sciences look into how humans and non-humans process visual information. Integrating many disciplines, from psychology and physics



to philosophy and the computer sciences, the vision sciences show that "seeing" is extremely complicated.

Just look at artificial intelligence or AI, a major focus of the vision sciences. AI is really programming of machines to see (or, ominously, to put communities and people under surveillance).

The vision sciences look at how "seeing well" depends on functioning structures, starting with the amazing eyes, which differ from one animal species to another in the way they process light and images.

The social analogy is that we need strong, functioning institutions to allow us to look ahead and plan.

This is where the 20/20 analogy is somewhat weak, because good vision, more than reading letters of the alphabet, involves contrast sensitivity, color vision, depth perception, peripheral vision and the ability to track movements, all products of our evolution and all vital to our survival.

The vision sciences explore how we can enhance the way we see, and the way we look. An example is sports vision training—being able to follow movements and to make split-second decisions to enhance athletic performance.

The social analogy is that we, too, need to develop institutions and skills to "see" what is going on in society, an example being our public opinion survey firms like Social Weather Stations.

Societies need to train their peripheral vision, too, as we know from the term

"blindsided"—to be taken by surprise, to be ambushed, because we were not perceptive enough to catch something going on at the side, whether corruption within an office, or enemies from within and without, taking a nation hostage.

Vision scientists will tell us that beyond the visual structures, it is really the brain that "sees." We see what we want to see, sometimes choosing to be blinded to realities around us, allowing masters of deception to trick our brains by playing on emotions like anger and avarice, as well as turning up our biases and prejudices to cloud our perceptions, leading to fatal flaws in our judgment.

We can train our brains, though; there are ways by which we can intentionally allow nobler emotions—love, compassion—to sharpen our vision.

Finally, let's not forget that even if the brain and the visual apparatus are functioning well, clarity of vision depends on the environment's light.

We can be blinded by too much light—nakakasilaw in Filipino—which happens in society when we are blinded by the quest for fame, and driven by ambition and hubris.

At UP, during the Christmas celebrations, there were several events where I talked about the darkness that has descended on our nation and our university. Huwag talikuran ang liwanag, I appealed to our constituents. Look for and follow the light, which provides not only vision, but also comfort, hope and courage.

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Where American traditions meet Filipino flavors

Sergei Magnitsky did not die in vain

PerryScope
By PERRY DIAZ

Last December 11, 2019, a U.S. Senate committee passed Senate Resolution 142, invoking the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act. It put a lot of officials in foreign countries at risk of being sanctioned and face the prospect of being denied U.S. visas and having their assets there frozen.

The law is named after Russian lawyer and auditor Sergei Magnitsky, who uncovered \$230 million in massive tax fraud, which implicated Russian officials. Magnitsky alleged there had been large-scale theft from the Russian state, sanctioned and carried out by Russian officials. Magnitsky was jailed in 2008 and later died in 2009 days before his release, after he had been beaten and denied medical treatment while in custody.

Magnitsky's death led a U.S. financier, Bill Browder, to launch a campaign to ensure that the Russian officials involved would face consequences in the form of sanction. Browder's campaign resulted in the U.S. Congress passing the Magnitsky Act in 2012. The law mandated the US State and Treasury departments to impose travel restrictions and freeze assets of Russian officials responsible for serious human rights violations.

It later became the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act with extrajudicial scope. On December 20, 2017, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 13818 that allowed the U.S. government to effectively freeze the property interests of people involved in serious human rights abuse or corruption.

Extrajudicial Killings

In the Philippines, officials who have been involved in extrajudicial killings (EJK) and human rights violations are targeted for sanction by the U.S. A recent case is former Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief and Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa who has been sanctioned by the U.S. for EJK and human rights violations. His U.S. visa was revoked and assets and properties in the U.S. frozen.

However, dela Rosa claimed that he has not been notified by the U.S. Embassy of his visa cancellation. Dela Rosa led the PNP's anti-drug campaign, Oplan Tokhang that claimed the lives of more than 5,000 drug users and pushers, which human rights advocates say were denied due process.

Some say that imposing sanctions is tantamount to meddling in Philippine internal affairs. However, advocates claim it is the sovereign prerogative of the sanctioning country to impose sanctions. Besides, the Philippines is a United Nations member; thus, it is committed to honor universal human rights.

Many Philippine officials are suspected of having bank accounts and properties in the U.S. With the adoption of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, a lot of them are at risk of being sanctioned.

De Lima Case

The Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act is also being invoked in the celebrated case of Sen. Leila de Lima who is imprisoned on drug and corruption charges.

At issue is the U.S. 2020 spending law amendment that bans Philippine government officials involved in the imprisonment of de Lima from entering the U.S. The U.S. spending law includes a "Prohibition from Entry" provision, which states that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo "shall apply subsection (c) to foreign government officials about whom Pompeo has "credible information have been involved in the wrongful imprisonment of Sen. de Lima, who was arrested in 2017." Subsection (c) refers to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, which allows the U.S. government to impose a travel ban and a freeze of assets to those it deemed were human rights violators.

President Duterte reacted by ordering the Bureau of Immigration to deny entry to two American senators who supported the 2020 spending law. They are senators Dick Durbin (Illinois) and Patrick Leahy (Vermont). They introduced the amendment to include a provision denying entry to government officials behind de Lima's "wrongful imprisonment." Duterte also threatened to require American citizens to secure a visa to enter the Philippines if the U.S. enforces the ban.

It is interesting to note that the majority of tourists coming to the Philippines are American citizens of Filipino heritage, who have enjoyed unrestricted entry to the



A portrait of lawyer Sergei Magnitsky is held by his mother, Nataliya Magnitskaya, in Moscow in 2009. (Alexander Zemlianichenko/AP)

Philippines. This would create a backlog of visa applications in Philippine consular offices in the U.S. Until now, Filipino-Americans can enter the Philippines visa-free for 30 days.

Indeed, enforcement of the ban on Philippine officials could eventually affect all American citizens. Philippine presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said: "Should a ban from entry into U.S. territory be enforced against Philippine officials involved in – or by reason of – Senator de Lima's lawful imprisonment, this government will require all Americans intending to come to the Philippines to apply and secure a visa before they can enter Philippine territory."

If the issue of de Lima's imprisonment is not resolved, it would lead to a diplomatic standoff. The question is: Is de Lima's imprisonment wrongful (according to the U.S. government) or is it lawful imprisonment (according to the Philippine government)? Tough question that requires both governments to review their positions vis-à-vis de Lima's imprisonment.

Canadian sanctions

In November 2017, two weeks after it passed its Magnitsky Act, Canada imposed sanctions on 30 individuals tied to Russia, 19 Venezuelan officials, including Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, and three individuals from South Sudan. They were sanctioned for corruption and rights abuses.

Russia protested but Canada stood firm. The Canadian Foreign Minister issued a statement saying: "Canada is determined to protect human rights and combat corruption worldwide. Today's announcement sends a clear message that Canada will take ac-

blatant corruption, violence, and violations of basic human rights," says a press release issued by the U.S. Treasury.

Khashoggi murder case

In November 2018, the U.S. Treasury, using the Magnitsky Act, sanctioned 17 individuals allegedly involved in the killing of Jamal Khashoggi. It resulted in the designation of "any property or interests in property of the individuals designated within or transiting U.S. jurisdiction is blocked."

Consequently, several other countries followed and introduced their own legislative framework to impose sanctions on grave human rights abusers including Canada, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and the United Kingdom.

Interest in Magnitsky Act is catching fire in other countries. With the European Union (EU) moving towards adoption of the Magnitsky Act, that would add the 28 countries in the EU that could sanction individuals who are suspected of violating human rights.

Dictators who are human rights abusers are on top of the list of potential Magnitsky Act violators. In today's advanced technology in tracing financial movements, there is no safe haven for dictators to keep their ill-gotten wealth.

Indeed, the Magnitsky Act is one hell of a deterrent that would keep the international scene free of human rights violators. Who's next? At the end of the day, Sergei Magnitsky will be remembered for his crusade against corruption and human rights abuses. Thanks to him the world will be a lot safer. He did not die in vain. He is a hero. (PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

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Rosalinda & Pete Delacruz Renewal of Vows 50th Wedding Anniversary

BY DALE ESPERANTE



FAVA friends of Pete and Rose Delacruz

A Renewal of Vows was held at St. Joseph's Church in Elk Grove on 28 Dec 2019 at 11 o'clock. Church Pastor, Father Julito R. Orpilla, officiated the momentous ceremony for Mr. and Mrs. Pete and Rose Delacruz. Included in the processional entourage: Diego Edralin, Rocco Edralin, and Angelo Edralin; Jasmin Delacruz and Angelo Edralin; Theresa Schriever and Justin Delacruz; and of course Rosalinda and Pete Delacruz. The Order of the Catholic Mass for Pete and Rose included the Rite of Marriage fulfilling the sacred renewal of vows along with the Exchange of Rings promising their continued commitment to each other.



Son and daughter

Later at 5pm in the afternoon, the family and friends of Rose and Pete gathered again at the Falls Event Center – now Wedgewood Weddings. This venue is touted as Sacramento's newest luxury wedding venue, huge enough to accommodate a total of 225 people, a grand ballroom, dressing suite, waterfalls, courtyards, elegance, and style—a venue truly deserved by our friends Rose and Pete. The entrance hall is complete with an open bar and a generous table of hors d'oeuvre, that pleased the arriving guests who gratefully indulged.

Sister Josie Tanudtanud of St. Charles

Borromeo Parish gave the special dinner prayer. Dinner was superb, complemented by ones choice of beverage from the open bar. In my case, the red wine hit the spot. Folsom's Aloha Dance Troupe entertained the dining audience with multiple exciting dances, ending with an audience participation segment. Mahalo to the Aloha dancers. Community songstress Remy Solomon wowed the audience with a special Filipino song with her duet Solito Pabon backed by the Bayanihan choir. Pete and Rose got



Mr. and Mrs. Pete and Rose Delacruz

Photos by Dale Esperante



Renewal of Vows presided by Father Julito Orpilla



The Dance

up to their feet to dance when they heard the next Filipino song from Remy and the Bayanihan choir. If captured just right by the photographer's lens, Pete and Rose's dance with Remy and the Bayanihan choir serenading in the background would make a memorable picture to prominently display in their loving familial home. I'm hoping

my lens captured it. The Dance was a hit. So afterwards, Rose picked up the microphone to acknowledge all the special people in her life: her sister Belen Alarcio, niece Jocel & friend Rebecca Sumaway (all visiting from the Philippines), her sister Lolit & Marcial Delacruz (not related to Pete) from Dallas Texas, nephews and nieces from Dallas and Washington D.C. (about 100 Delacruz family members), community friends, and of course, the number one man in her life, Pete. Pete was so moved by Rose's message that he responded by delivering an awesome emotional speech as well. His touching message reached all ears, but most especially, heard by the most precious woman in his life, Rose. Not content with just saying his words, Pete instructed the DJ to start the background music so that he can sing his English and Filipino words to his only Rose. Pete's hidden talent caught me incredibly off-guard that I forgot to keep the camera rolling. I just enjoyed witnessing the genuine expression of love and affection of Pete to his lovely Rose.

The good times continued for the rest of the evening. Led by Pete and Rose, the dance floor quickly filled with rhapsodic figures swaying to the inviting music. Also in attendance, Pete's out-of-town relatives: Christie Fuentes, Girlie Adreani, and family from Los Angeles. The majority of Pete's family are from Sacramento and vicinity. Philippine Fiesta wish to express, Bravo and Congratulations to the Golden Anniversary couple, Mr. and Mrs. Pete and Rose Delacruz!

Simbang Gabi

BY DALE ESPERANTE

Simbang Gabi at St. Charles Borromeo. On the final evening, 23 Dec 2019, the Couples for Christ Choir sang all hymns in Filipino. After the mass, the Spanish Pastor of the church, Father Oscar Gomez-Medina, acknowledged the melodic music the choir provided. He publicly invited them to come sing in church again, not only on a special mass like Simbang Gabi. The mass schedule for nine consecutive evenings was organized by Sister Josie Tanudtanud. Sister Josie reached out to the community and church organizations to choose and sponsor a scheduled mass. A simple reception offering refreshments and beverages followed each mass in the church vestibule. However, on 23 Dec 2019, the parish's gymnasium was used for the final reception. Major Filipino dishes,



such as, two complete lechons, lumpias, turons, pancit, and assorted meat dishes were served with international dishes, such as, tacos, pastas, salads, rice dishes, and various desserts. St. Charles Borromeo's Simbang Gabi was supported by both the Filipino and



Spanish community. The Filipinos supported the Spanish by participating in the nightly reception at the conclusion of the Simbang Gabi and Posadas. The different cultures who call St. Charles their parish church recently raised \$1.8M in a fundrais-

ing campaign for the much needed church renovation. Mabuhay and Felicidades! Philippine Fiesta takes this opportunity to congratulate and thanks the above organizations for inviting us to experience their wonderful Christmas Celebrations.

The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, Inc. Induction of Officers 2020-2021

BY CARLETON & SARAH T. ENLOE

This past Saturday, December 21, 2019, The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, Inc. (FCSV) held their 2019-2020 Installation of Officers at the Jose Rizal Community Center in Sacramento, CA. This year, FCSV invited Nilda Valmores, Executive Director of My Sister's House, as their Installing Officer and Keynote Speaker for the evening.

The Mistress and Master of Ceremonies for the evening was District 4-C5 Governor (DG) Sarah Enloe and Multiple District 4 Past Council Chair (PCC) Derek Ledda, of Lions Clubs International, who welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. The program began with MC Derek introducing Lilia Rivera, Past President of FCSV and a long time respected leader in the Filipino Community, to give the invocation before dinner. Then MC Sarah invited the guests to partake of a delicious dinner prepared by Carol and Melchor Munar, long time members of the Filipino Community. During dinner, the guests were entertained by Cleo Sabarre-Ner, who performed an interpretation of the Bendayan (Bendian), a beautiful ethnic circle dance of the Benguet tribe Mountain Province in Northern Luzon in the Philippines. The circular movements of the dance symbolize unity and harmony among the tribe.

Following dinner, MC Sarah introduced Apol Reyes and Tin Tin Garcia to sing the United States anthem. Maria Bahoric and Dinah San Pedro, co-owner of the Philippine Fiesta Newspaper, sang the National Anthem of the Philippines, accompanied by the Bayanihan of Sacramento Choir, Dave San Pedro, conductor.

After dinner, MC Derek introduced outgoing FCSV President Mercy Guerrero, who had served four years as President of FCSV, for her Welcome and Farewell addresses. President Mercy gave a warm welcome address and then she called all her officers to join her center stage for a short presentation before the installation of the new officers. President Mercy presented a Certificate of Appreciation to each officer with a picture of the cabinet and enumerated their contributions during her past four-year reign. It



Induction of Board Members by Guest Speaker and Inducting Officer Nilda Valmores.

Photos by Dale Esperante



PCC Derek Ledda and DG Sarah Enloe



Nilda Valmores



Certificate of Awards given by Outgoing President Mercy Guerrero



1st Vice Pres. Edna delos Reyes and 2nd Vice Pres. Mina Guerra



Mercy Guerrero with Joe Gonzales

was definitely a moving moment. Afterwards, Past President Aida Azurin, presented her a bouquet of roses and the outgoing cabinet and Board Members started singing "For She is a Jolly President" and the guests joined in. Edna de los Reyes, outgoing Secretary and incoming First Vice President introduced the Pinay Supremes (Leila Pereira; Zenny Yagen; Lee Ramirez; Cleo Sabarre-Ner; and Sarah Enloe) who performed a special dance number for President Mercy.

Following their performance, MC Sarah introduced President Zenny Yagen, President of the Filipino Women's Club, who introduced the Inducting Officer and Guest Speaker for the evening,



Beautiful FCSV ladies

ning, Nilda Valmores, Executive Director of My Sister's House.

Nilda stated that she was honored to be invited to be the Installing Officer and guest speaker for

the evening. She continued to say that "The new Officers and Board of Directors are important because they have said yes. Yes to the past 90 years of FCSV's history. Yes to the present knowing where the organization is and all its wants. Yes to the future of FCSV to building and implementing the dreams of FCSV. What if there were no FCSV?

Who would speak for the Filipino Community of Sacramento Valley. It couldn't be MSH abused victims. It couldn't be Maharlika Lions, they are an important service organization. Filipino Women's Club, speaks for the women. Different groups like Ilocano Association, represent specific communities or the churches, religious groups. All are great groups with great purposes but FCSV has a great purpose too, which is to preserve our cultural heritage and history and promote the Filipino American community's social and economic well-being. and to grow our Filipino American leadership. FCSV has to be a unifying voice for our community.

Continued on page 10

International Philippines Association (IPA)

BY DALE ESPERANTE

Members of the International Philippines Association (IPA) held their Christmas Party at Magellan Hall on Saturday, December 7, 2019. Mistress of Ceremonies Ann Viernes kept it lively while Past President Brian Jumawan played music complete with sound effects to synchronize with the activities. President Josie Canlas gave a brief speech sharing the organization's encouraging progress, as well as, plans of future projects for the benefit of the community as a whole. For entertainment, everyone was given a copy of Christmas songs lyrics for the caroling portion of the evening. Everyone enthusiastically participated in singing with some members standing up as a choir. The raffles drawing became entertaining because of the movie soundtracks Brian provided, such as, cartoon sounds, Chariots of



Photos by Dale Esperante

Fire, Rocky Balboa, etc. The birth month of Jesus was also celebrated with a huge birthday cake, recog-

nizing also the members celebrating a December birthday. What a happy occasion! It felt more like a

family gathering because the children of the founders, now adults,

are actively supporting their parents and the organization.

The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, Inc.

We need, the Sacramento Valley, especially, needs FCSV and all its leaders during these trying times, during these census times to speak and sing loudly of the needs of our Filipino community. We need FCSV to implement its vision of building a Filipino center. We need FCSV to make sure that Sacramento leaders know that Filipinos are the largest Asian group in the Sacramento area. Sacramento needs FCSV and so for that I am thankful to celebrate the leadership and install the leadership tonight".

Following her remarks, MSH Executive Director Nilda Valmores

installed the 2020-2021 FCSV Officers: President – Dick Mason; 1st Vice President – Edna de los Reyes; 2nd Vice President – Mina Guerra; Secretary – Leila Pereira; Assistant Secretary – Rose Basos; Treasurer – Aurora Ramos; Assistant Treasurer – Alberta Pena; Auditor – Erlinda Aglubat; Peace Officers – Alex Avera, Segundo Azurin and Norman Johnson; Board of Directors: Myrna Agbunag; Fe Alvarez; Ling Avera; Bembet Borromeo; Divina Borromeo; Lourdes Belasco; Carlos Cordero; Luz Daclan; Vickie Debord; Rose Delacruz; Vicky Johnson; Carol Munar; Murray Navarro; Cleo

Sabarre-Ner; Rick Pasalo; Jay Paular; Nardo Pena; Dave San Pedro; Remy Solomon; and Zenny Yagen; Advisors – Mercy Guerrero, Aida Azurin, and Lilia Rivera. Following the installation, D Dreamgirls performed a dance performance for the guests entertainment.

MC Derek introduced President Dick Mason, who gave his acceptance speech and shared his goals during his term as President of FCSV. Following his acceptance speech, MC Derek performed a surprise number written and performed by him, called "Oh, My Father".



New elect FCSV President Dick Mason

Afterwards, MC Sarah introduced outgoing 1st Vice President Joe Gonzalez, who gave the closing remarks. The dance floor was opened for the traditional evening of dancing by the guests.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the elected Officers and Board of Directors 2020-2021 as they continue to support and embrace the Purpose, Mission and Vision of FCSV.

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CPUAACC donates to CPU College of Nursing

BY NESTLE G. TAALA

Dr. Gabriel Ortigoza represented the CPU Alumni Association of Central California as he turned over their chapter's donation to CPU College of Nursing on December 5, 2019. The donation of eight sphygmomanometers is essential for CPU Nursing students on their Fundamentals of Nursing.

Raised by Centralian parents, Dr. Ortigoza shared that one of the memories he cherishes the most during his stay at Central is the Christ Emphasis Week. He also appreciated the strong educational foundation from excellent professors of CPU. "CPU is really different. I cannot put it into one word," he shared with a huge smile on his face.

When asked about his insight about the Central Spirit, he said, "It is the center of how I assess the patient. I look at the patient as a whole, not only on the physical illness but also I look for their spiritual needs." In addition, he encouraged Centralian Nursing students to focus on their studies and to enjoy their stay in CPU.



Dr. Ortigoza turns over the CPUAACC donation to the College of Nursing Dean Atty. Salex Alibogha.

Dr. Ortigoza, a graduate of CPU College of Nursing in 1991, was the inspirational speaker during the CPU College of Nursing Capping, Pinning and Candle Lighting Ceremony on December 6 at the Rose Memorial Auditorium.

The CPU AACC is an active alumni chapter which holds meeting every quarter to strengthen their relationships and makes use of the technology as they communicate on how they will be able to

show their gratitude to CPU.

Meanwhile, the ever dynamic Dean of the CPU College of Nursing Atty. Salex E. Alibogha expressed his gratitude to the CPU AACC and all the Centralian Nurses both here and abroad. He is looking forward for its members to attend the Grand Alumni Homecoming 2020 on February 5-9, 2020 at Central Philippine University.



Dr. Antonio S. Daquipa

Former Mabuhay and Maharlika Lions member Antonio Salang Daquipa shed his earthly life shortly after midnight on Thursday, December 12, 2019. He was surrounded by family and friends. Born to educator parents, Antonio was a general surgeon who served in the US Army Reserves. Raised on the Catholic precept of loving God and helping one's neighbors, his motto was "Service is my Business."

As a young man, he cleaned the streets of his hometown of Corella, Bohol in the Philippines, and as a surgeon, he brought American surgical specialists to

Bohol to provide free surgical services to the poor. During his four decades in the Sacramento area, he helped establish a medical clinic in Galt, worked as a cardiothoracic surgeon at Mercy General Hospital, and also volunteered free medical services to farm workers in the delta. He traveled to Africa to help dig wells that provide access to fresh clean drinking water and started a mosquito net project to protect babies born in a newly built maternity hospital from the prevalent disease of malaria.

Antonio is survived by his wife and partner in service of 50 years, Nenita Cloma Bongoyan, and their three children: daughter Maria, son Mark with wife Sherri Pouyadou and grandchildren Harper and Merrick, and son Anthony with grandson Paolo. His legacy of service is remembered by the many recognition awards: from his alma mater, the University of Santo Tomas, his province of Bohol, his Lions Club International involvement, and the Knights of Columbus. He loved music, dancing, adventure movies, traveling the world, and golf. Over the past year, he suffered from leukemia, which he described as "nothing" compared to what Jesus endured on the cross. His service to others touched many lives, and through that service, he will live forever. Antonio will be remembered at a service on Saturday, February 8, at 1pm at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Las Vegas.

Bienvenido San Pedro

Ben was born on March 10, 1936 in Bacoor Cavite, Philippines, married to Adelaida Esmane on April 18, 1964, and together had two children, Gina and Noli, with grandchildren Naela, Niles, and Nikko.

Coming from a musically inclined family from parents Gregorio and Carolina San Pedro, Ben's love of music had allowed him to join the Bacoor 96 Band, competed and won in concerts playing clarinet, saxophone, and trumpet in the Philippines.

In 1988, Ben's job at the US Naval Base in Olongapo as a firefighter/musician had paved his way to bring his family to migrate to the US, settling in San Leandro, California, till his passing on December 13, 2019.

Ben will be remembered for his kindness and integrity by friends and families, leaving the legacy of his love of music to his three grandchildren and the rest of the family.



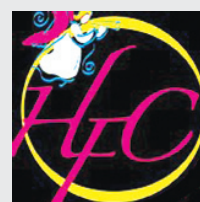
Celebration of life of Joe Bahoric



Maria Bahoric with daughter and husband with three grandchildren celebrated Joe Bahoric's death anniversary with relatives and friends on December 22, 2019. A requiem mass and prayers at their residence followed by Buffet Lunch at South Villa Restaurant in Sacramento, CA.



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The Filipino American Veterans Association (FAVA) Christmas Party



Santa Clause and The Filipino American Veterans Association and their ladies.

Photos by Dale Esperante

BY DALE ESPERANTE

The Filipino American Veterans Association (FAVA) scheduled their Christmas Party at Wackford Community Center in Elk Grove on December 14, 2019. Merry Red dominated the color of the evening, from the aprons of the food servers (all veterans) to the attires of the ladies and children, and of course, the special guest of the evening, Mr. Santa Clause.



Children Carolers



With Santa

The families and friends of FAVA filled the community hall of Wackford. Friends who have not seen each other for a long time, reunited for this wonder-

ful Christmas celebration. They expressed their joy as they watched their little ones (anak and apos) perform traditional

Christmas Carols. When the children sang Santa Clause is Coming to Town, there must have been an electric glitch causing all the lights to turn off. But like troupe-

ers, the little ones continued singing. Until the shadow of a white bearded man all dressed in red came approaching, then shrieks of joy echoed in the darkness.

The lights suddenly came on again and there he was, resplendent in his red Christmas costume, Jolly Old Saint Nick aka Santa Clause.

President Elect Jesse Velasco thanked Santa Clause, Outgoing President Dick Weitzenberg, as he was leaving to continue his "world-tour of gift-giving."



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Crossing the ‘Great Wall’

Love will never be enough, but through mutual effort it can persist

BY TRISTAN ZINAMPAN

“Back when I was a kid, I thought all restaurants were take-out counters—the kind where you ordered by knocking on the kitchen back door.”

Growing up, my father often shared with us stories of his impoverished youth. It’s one of those things that, now in adulthood, I feel bad laughing at as a kid. But you know, at the time, they were these sorts of stories that became an inside joke between us siblings. How our Debby Downer of a dad would always find a way to add a sad punchline to any situation by sharing how these mundane comforts we barely thought about were alien luxuries in his day.

There’s the story of how he thought breakfast cereals were *tsitsirya* (basically eaten like *kornik*). There’s also how—and this was before green salads were a thing—he unintentionally surprised my mom by making a *ba-gong* and *kangkong* salad when she was expecting something closer to potato or macaroni. “It was the only ‘salad’ I was familiar with,” he told us.

The irony of things is that, while he often shared these sadly comedic anecdotes of his life, they would often come with a juxtaposition. He would also tell us of the affluence of his Chinese grandfather. “For a time, he had the tallest house in all of Tuguegarao!” “Our family could have owned half of Tuguegarao if only he accepted all those land titles as loan collaterals.”

A large part of my father’s humble beginnings stemmed from how he was the first-born of a forbidden marriage. His mother, my grandmother, was a near 100% Chinese woman, born of a mainlander and an Aparri-raised *tsinay*, who married a pure Ybanag *kutsero*-turned-teacher. And she was disowned because of this.

“Langit ka, lupa ako”

My grandparents’ love story is that of the typical meeting of two worlds.

My grandmother was the first-born of a prominent Chinese businessman in Tuguegarao. Even amongst the wealthy Chinese in the province, he held a certain distinction. He was the president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, he owned multiple businesses, and he sort of functioned as the godfather-type in Tuguegarao, whom those with problems in the *Tsinoy* community often turned to.



LOLO GREG AND LOLA EMY CIRCA ‘69

I’m reminded of *Grease* whenever I’d hear descriptions of how my grandparents were back. My Lola Emilia was prim-and-proper, bespectacled, bright, and ultra-religious. When she’d leave the house, she had an assistant who followed her with an umbrella and would hail rides for her.

My Lolo Greg (short for Gregorio), on the other hand, grew up poor but was quite the rough-around-the-edges charmer. Like his father, he was a *kutsero* (*kalesa* coachman). Yet he also had the body of a dancer, showcasing his folk dancing skills in schools, smooth-talking women along the way. (Based on the stories, he was quite popular.)

Their paths would soon cross once my grandfather was hired as the CAT instructor in the school where my grandmother was teaching Physics. Back then, there was no dating for Lola Emy. *Guakong* would only allow suitors who were 1) Chinese and (not or) 2) successful. Neither of which my grandfather was.

My grandparents’ coupling is something we’re still baffled by to this day. One is cordial and will draw you into hour-long stories, whether you like it or not. The other is quiet, analytical, and reticent. Needless to say, after a year, my grandparents traveled to Manila and got married in secret.

Their marriage would cause outrage in Tuguegarao and it only had *guama*’s blessing, my father would tell me. And true enough, she was shunned by her father for it.

Left to their own devices and without a home to go back to, they raised their family in whatever small home they could rent. The shadow of our *guakong*’s towering home loomed over them both

literally and figuratively—as the three-story mansion did stand out amongst the mostly bungalow homes in Tuguegarao. It was only our *guama* who maintained contact with our grandmother.

My grandparents, however, along with my father and his siblings,



CIRCA ‘85

would eventually end up living in the house of our *guakong* after some time. Albeit, it was in the weirdest of arrangements. One which wasn’t a gesture of reconciliation but one of convenience.

My grandmother’s only brother—who was the one living with our *guakong* and *guama* back then—moved to Manila to start his own family. Aging and without company, our *guama* invited my grandmother to live with them. Though in the same house, there were still literal divisions in their living arrangement.

My father’s family had to eat at a different dining table, one in the middle of the house’s storage room. They also had their own separate food, one which was mostly composed of vegetables our grandfather farmed in their backyard, while our great-grandparents feasted on *adobo* and *lugaw*.

“We didn’t even have enough money for rice, we ate boiled corn,” my dad would tell me.

My father would soon move out of the province at the age of 12, after getting into Philippine Science High School. And my grandfather would become an OFW during the first wave of Saudi migrant workers.

Aftershocks

I’d love to say that this story ended with a grand gesture, a mahjong game similar to that scene in *Crazy Rich Asians*, where the outsider gains the favor of the conservative head of the family by a cinematic display of worthiness. But it doesn’t.

It isn’t even a story of warming up through time. Life just continued. At the end of his life, our *guakong* spoke to our grandfather from time-to-time, but I wouldn’t classify it as a friendship nor a familial bond. It was just something that they eventually had to do.

There’s no story of a surprise inheritance—and I don’t think it was much of a surprise that my grandparents weren’t left with much. My grandfather was able to support his family by working in the Middle East. However, this was already well into my



PRESENT DAY

father’s college years, after he got a DOST scholarship at the De la Salle University.

Whenever I see my father, and the person he is today (and this may

also affect the person I am today), I think our grandparent’s choice to love no matter what still has aftershocks 60 years after.

My own father’s love language is built upon acts of sacrifice. Being the first-born, even though unrequired, he took it upon himself to do what it takes to secure a better future for his siblings.

He had to leave his family at an early age for a better education. He had to forego the long-process of building a career as a chemical engineer (which, until this day, he wishes he took the boards for) for a sales job that paid better and churned a quicker profit so he could help his family out. And I, in turn, was also raised to equate love with service, to romanticize hardship even though it shouldn’t always be the case.

The economics of love can be tricky. Life is too complex for love to be enough in securing a fairytale ending. Things don’t always end up rosy—and my grandparents, my father and his siblings, and, in some ways, even us, went through a lot of financial hardships. But when it comes to love in its purest form, I do believe it can persist.

My Lolo Greg and Lola Emy are still together until this day, and so are my parents, and so are most of my father’s siblings and their spouses. And though they may not all be aware of it, I’d like to credit my grandparents’ display of love amidst all as the cornerstone of all our definitions of love.

We don’t choose the people we fall in love with. However, the choosing comes when we decide to let love continue.

Like my grandparents, absolutely all of the situations around them beckoned that life would be more comfortable if they went their separate ways. And yet they made a move, chose each other – breaking barriers in the process. Even if it meant a life of hardship and disapproval.

So, for those that do find that special connection, I want to tell you that no, love alone cannot sustain a relationship. Love cannot conquer all. But it’s the people that choose love, and the choices they make, that must do the conquering.

Love isn’t just a feeling. It is mutually choosing to be with a person despite all...even if it means, in the case of my grandparents, never getting to cross that “Great Wall.”

The Real Trick to Staying Young Forever

BY JENNY ANDERSON

As more people live longer, the case for intergenerational relationships is getting stronger.

People are living longer today. But how do we make sure those extra years are good ones?

For people in wealthy countries, it's a question of increasing urgency. In 2019, for the first time ever, there were more Americans over age 60 than under age 18. One in three of babies born in the UK will live to see their 100th birthday, according to the UK's Office of National Statistics. These demographic shifts raise the question of how the 60-plus set will find purpose and meaning in their second and third acts of life—elements which are key to happiness.

Author and social entrepreneur Marc Freedman has one idea. "The real fountain of youth is in the same place it's always been," he said at a longevity conference in London. "The real fountain of youth is the fountain with youth." In other words: Spending time with kids and young adults.

The architecture of Western societies today keeps generations apart from one another. A recent UK parliamentary inquiry (pdf) into intergenerational connection found that levels of segregation between retirees and young adults had roughly doubled between 2001 and 2018; during the same period, children's chances of living near someone over 65 fell from 15 to 5 percent.

That's a shame, according to Freedman. As he writes (paywall) in the Wall Street Journal, "for all the hand-wringing about the graying of America, the needs and assets of the generations fit together like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle." That's why, in places from Singapore to London to Cleveland, Ohio, organizations are working to try and help the young and old forge connections.

The Case for Intergenerational Friendships

In 1938, amidst the dark days of the Great Depression, scientists began tracking the health of 268 Harvard sophomores. They hoped the study, which would eventually track those men, their children, and their wives, as well as a sizable control group, for more than 80 years, would reveal what factors constituted a healthy, long, and happy life. Dubbed the Harvard Study of Adult Development (and often referred to as the Grant study), it is one of the world's longest studies of adult life, rich with data about their physical and mental health.



Photo by Reuters/David Mdzinarishvili.

Its main finding? Relationships deeply affect people's physical and mental health—including relationships with younger generations. George Vaillant, the psychiatrist who led the study for decades, found that those in middle age or older who invest in nurturing the next generation were three times as likely to be happy as those who fail to do so. "Biology flows downhill," he said.

Intergenerational friendships provide huge benefits to young people, too. In one of the most famous longitudinal studies (pdf) to look at resilience—why some kids thrive under adversity and others do not—a team of mental health workers, pediatricians, public health nurses, and social workers followed the development of nearly 700 children from Kauai, Hawaii, from age one to age 40.

After four decades, it became clear that the children who faced great adversity but thrived were those who had the support of one caregiver—often a grandparent or an older member of the community. "Children who succeeded against the odds had the opportunity to establish, early on, a close bond with at least one competent, emotionally stable person who was sensitive to their needs," the study notes. "Much of this nurturing came from substitute caregivers, such as grandparents, older siblings, aunts, and uncles. Resilient children seemed to be especially adept at 'recruiting' such surrogate parents."

"Every child needs at least one adult who is irrationally crazy about him or her," Freedman said, citing child psychologist Urie Bronfenbrenner. Friendships between the young and old are also a natural fit: Older generations have time and love to give; younger ones are very much in need of both. Parents meanwhile, are often bereft of time, and in search of any support they can get.

It Wasn't Always This Way

Freedman points out that generations weren't always so stratified. Parents, children and grandparents used to live and work together,

including those that might not already be looking at the above-65 set.

In his book, Freedman looks at a range of other initiatives. Singapore, for example, is investing \$3 billion to build "a cohesive society with intergenerational harmony," including co-locating eldercare and childcare facilities "to maximize opportunities for inter-generational interactions.

But hard-fought advancements, including the introduction of child labor laws and universal education, meant that the family unit was increasingly separated. Meanwhile, as older people started living longer, retirement communities sprang up to house them, with the aspiration of turning the graying years into "golden" ones. (When Sun City, the first retirement community in the US, opened in 1960 in the Arizona desert, 100,000 people turned up, producing what Freedman describes as "the largest traffic jam in state history.")

Clearly, moving children from factories to schools was a good idea, and retirement communities are a necessity with so many adult children living far from their parents. But the upshot is that there are few structures that bring together generations. Interestingly, the two largest groups in society who report being loneliest are the young and the old.

That separation has also led to more agism, as old age becomes associated not with experience and wisdom, but with higher health-care costs, sickness, and loneliness. It was not always so, Laura Carstensen, founder of the Stanford Center on Longevity and a professor of psychology at Stanford, said at the inaugural Longevity Forum in London on Nov. 5. In 1900, 25 percent of children died before age five, and many more before age 12. "Death wasn't strongly associated with old age but with young life."

Bringing the Old and Young Together

Freedman, in his 2018 book *How to Live Forever: The Enduring Power of Connecting the Generations*, explains that it doesn't have to be this way. Freedman himself started Experience Corp in the US in 1996 to help older people to teach younger children to read. Independent research showed the kids learned more, teachers welcomed the help, and the "tutors" were happier. Today, he's the CEO and founder of Encore.org, which connects retiring adults with internships at nonprofits as a way to provide talent to organizations,

including those that might not already be looking at the above-65 set.

In his book, Freedman looks at a range of other initiatives. Singapore, for example, is investing \$3 billion to build "a cohesive society with intergenerational harmony," including co-locating eldercare and childcare facilities "to maximize opportunities for inter-generational interactions.

For his research, Freedman also visited Judson Manor, a senior living community in Cleveland which hosts an artist-in-residence program, providing free housing for graduate music students who in turn perform for the residents and join in meals and other activities. According to Freedman's Wall Street Journal piece, "When one young violinist living at Judson became engaged in 2014, she asked her 90-something neighbor to be part of the wedding party."

There are other efforts to bridge the generational divide to help combat loneliness. In Norfolk, Friend In Deed runs the Little Visitors scheme, where young mothers with babies visit seniors in the Badgers Wood Care home. The Cares Family, a charity with branches in London, Manchester, and Liverpool, creates social gatherings for young professionals and older people such as dance parties, cooking clubs, podcasting clubs, and dim sum lunches. The charity also has an outreach program to help connect those in need with services, and a one-one-one matching service to connect in people's homes. Research shows these programs are effective at combatting loneliness and improving social connectedness.

"When older people and younger

people share time, there's magic," Alex Smith, founder and CEO of the Cares Family, said at the longevity conference. "Younger people get a sense of pause from their everyday lives, a sense of connection to another generation and a different set of life experiences, as well as a sense of community."

The program helps change the way both younger and older people experience the cities in which they live. While many young people come to places like London or Manchester for the diverse cultural and economic opportunities, they often end up alone, or with only people like themselves. Meanwhile, older people, eager to explore what is new in their cities—like new restaurants or cocktail clubs—may feel those spaces are off-limits to them; younger people can introduce them to those spaces. "It's a way for older people to reclaim their city through physical space and shared storytelling," he added.

While there is a popular narrative that older generations have robbed younger ones of future prosperity, Smith says the generations have more in common than not. Almost eight in 10 people between 18 and 24 and the over-65s want life to slow down, and social care for older people remains the second-highest concern for 18-to-34-year-olds. The issue is not whether they have anything in common, but how to connect them.

One of the most important things about intergenerational friendships is that they serve as a reminder that there is no predetermined lifestyle that accompanies getting older. "Aging itself is malleable; it is a moving target," says Carstensen. "We can influence how it unfolds." Freedman, meanwhile, thinks we can help aging happen in a way that connects people together, rather than isolating them. "We can fix it," he said. "And in the process it can fix us."

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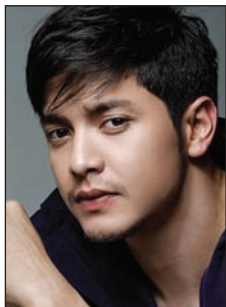
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Memorable celebrity quotes of 2019

BY DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL

As we bid 2019 goodbye, allow me to share more quotes from celebrities I interviewed this year. Thank you to the stars for accommodating me and to my readers for your vote of confidence. The trust of celebs and your support make the show biz circus worthwhile.

Let's look back at 2019 and look forward to 2020 with a smile in our hearts. May we see fireworks in everything we do, even when the New Year revelry is over.



Alden

Alden Richards

My first team-up with Kathryn Bernardo worked because nothing was forced. We just let the moment take care of itself and let everything be organic.



Piolo

Piolo Pascual

It's more fulfilling to be an actor than to be a producer. But I enjoy doing both. It just feels better to get paid as an actor than to shell out money as a producer.

As much as I hate remembering it, I would have to say my biggest calvary was when I deeply disappointed Pops by going astray. As much as I know that these things really happen in life, I spent the rest of mine trying to convince her and everyone watching that I was worthy of redeeming myself.

Martin Nievera



Martin

Onstage and off, it was an uphill climb. But with God's grace, together with Pops' forgiving heart, I was given a second chance at friendship, as well as a second life on-stage. I remain forever grateful for that.

Solenn Heussaff

The craziest thing that my husband Nico [Bolzico] and I ever did was a five-day road trip with no music. Having survived that is an indication that I married the right person.



Solenn

Charlene Gonzales-Muhlach

One of the hardest things for parents is realizing that your children are getting older. You will always see them as your babies. I always remind myself that Aga and I have to give our twins space to grow. We want them to



Charlene

explore and find their own unique path, but we assure them of our support no matter what.

Richard Yap

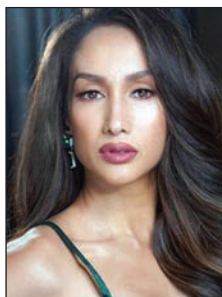
I stay away from temptation in the biz by always thinking of how good my wife is to me and that, by itself, stops me from doing anything crazy.



Richard

Ina Raymundo

My husband is supportive of my show biz career, but he's the type who would join me in show biz events. I think that's one of the reasons why our marriage works. He lets me do my thing as an actress, but we also have "couple time."



Ina



Jim

Jim Paredes

Substance shines longer than form, if you want to have a long career. Don't follow trends. You will fade away when the trend has played out. Having your own voice and sound is your contribution to the

world.

Epy Quizon

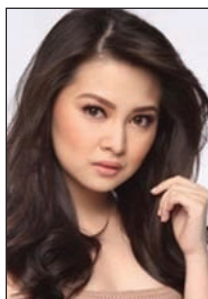
It's a misconception that the Quizonos are "chickboys." We just fall easily and, sometimes, to a fault.



Epy

Barbie Forteza

We all have two sides, whether we admit it or not. The flip side of my being sweet is that I speak my mind. I'm not the type who will suffer in silence. When something is wrong, I put my foot down.



Barbie

Anne Curtis stuns in maternity shoot

Manila, Philippines – Anne Curtis and Erwan Heussaff rang in the new year looking forward to being first-time parents – and blessing our timelines with photos from their maternity shoot.

The black-and-white photos, shot by fashion photographer Mark Nicdao, show a topless Anne and Erwan tangled in an embrace.

Anne and Erwan shared the photos on Instagram. In her caption, Anne said "2020 is going to be the best chapter of our love story mon amour [Erwan]. I just know it."

She then greeted everyone a Happy New Year, while adding "yes, this includes; Dirty diapers, late nights, loud crying, hiccups, little giggles and little kisses.. EVERYTHING. We got this."

Erwan posted a different photo from the shoot, alongside one of him and Anne at a music festival from 10 years ago.

"Started the decade partying it up at a music festival, ended it counting it down, just the two of us with virgin cocktails and starting the new one with another girl to carry on my shoulders," he wrote.



SOON-TO-BE PARENTS. Erwan Heussaff and Anne Curtis pose for a maternity shoot by photographer Mark Nicdao. Screenshot from Instagram.com/annecurtissmith

The couple announced Anne's pregnancy in November 2019. In December 2019, they shared that they are having a baby girl.

The couple married in New Zealand in November 2017. They have been together since 2010.

Anne is expecting her first child with husband Erwan Heussaff. *Rappler.com*

James Reid and Nadine Lustre: Some good things never last, indeed!

BY RICKY LO

Despite the protestations of JaDines who seem to be in denial about their idols James Reid and Nadine Lustre's reported breakup, the sad reality is that Jojo Gabinete's scoop in pep.ph is true, and not fake news.

It was confirmed that Nadine packed up and left the Loyola Grand Villas (Quezon City) home of James that has served as their love nest for more than two years, and moved to a unit in a posh Makati condo. But even if they are now living apart, the un-couple is said to still see each other.

During their JaDine In Love concert in 2016 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum, James officially announced that he and Nadine were going steady, punctuated with a kiss and a reverberating "I love you." In 2017, they began living together, prompting Nadine to hush up critics (who claimed that JaDine was setting a "bad" example for their fans) by saying, "Come on, guys, it's 2017!"

It was towards the end of 2019 that cracks in the relationship were reported. After James left Viva, the studio that built him up, he embarked on a solo flight, set to firm up his career as a singer under his own recording company called Careless Music Manila. ABS-CBN announced a



JaDine breakup: A case of too much, too soon?

project that would star James with KPop star Nancy Jewel DcDonie (of Momoland). Nadine frowned on James being paired with another actress.

Jojo mentioned "irreconcilable differences" as the cause of the breakup. Was it a case of "too much, too soon"...too much togetherness and too soon to be living together?

A week ago, Nadine posted on her Instagram a picture of a bikini-clad girl standing in the veranda, captioned, "I can't be who you want," followed a few days later by a photo of four people in the sea, captioned "No questions, just go with it," and still another (black and white) photo of hers surveying a city by night from her condo unit or hotel room, captioned "for good reason, lost all of my love."

Come on, Nadine, it's 2020. James is not the only "fish" in the sea.



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