



CASA DE MACAU
VANCOUVER

Voz dos Macaenses de Vancouver

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Presidents Report

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I was once again fortunate enough to represent our Casa at the pre-Encontro meeting held in Macau, from Nov. 26th to Dec. 1st, 2003. Twelve Casas were present to plan for the next Encontro which will be held in Macau from the last week in Nov. to the first week in Dec. 2004.

There were numerous meetings with various officials, and one with the Chief Executive, Mr. Edmund Ho. At one of the meetings, Mr. Ho told us that he/the government would support these reunions and future gatherings, as long as we have a workable plan and that we would come and promote Macau. There was nothing concrete financially, but it does show that the Macau Government cares about its overseas Macanese.

Reference was made as to the creation of a "Council of Casas". This "Council" would represent all the Casas in dealings with various government departments and sponsors in Macau, in regard for funding of our community on a worldwide basis, development of programs to preserve the Macanese language and culture, and will comprise of APIM as head, and another six (6) Casas. (I personally feel that six out of twelve casas seems inappropriate, as all twelve come from different and diverse areas each requiring specific needs). A "Youth Encontro" was brought up by the host (APIM), which will be held in 2005 with

ages ranging from 18-40. Not much in details was available regarding level of subsidy however. This program will allow younger members to travel to Macau and even parts of China, for a month of immersion in a Chinese University.

There will be a "Cooking Contest" at the next Encontro. Every casa is allowed to send a team (one chef and one assistant) to represent their casa in Macau to compete in the grand finale. Local contests to be held by each Casa is encouraged so as to arrive at a "winner" for each casa locally. Each participant will have to sign a waiver, provide a recipe for their own food, which will be published in a new book entitled "Macanese Cuisine". (List of various dishes is available upon request) Cutlery, utensils etc. will be provided by the host APIM at the finale.

Award of prize money in Macau is as follows: "First" MOP 5,000 (five thousand patacas), "Second" MOP 3,000 (three thousand patacas) and "Third" MOP 2,000 (two thousand patacas) plus air fare and hotel accomodation in Macau.

The best news that I received was when our Vice-President came running up to me to tell me that the "Funds for the Sede" was still in Macau, and I advised him to research it further, which he did. His report is under a separate column in this newsletter.

Mickey da Roza

UMA BATISADO FILHOMACAU

Depois de dia de nace, durante uma mais fora, novo mai pai logo aranja com Padre de ele-sa igreja pa treze bebe pa batisa. Eles logo scole gente de familia, sempre uma de mai-sa lado, uma de pai-sa lado, pa fica madrinha e padrinho de ele-sa bebe.

Naturalmente, bebe logo wousa ropa di batisado, bem lavado e stricado, com "bonnet". Sempre todos bebes di mesmo familia logo wousa mesmo ropa di batisado, uma passa pa outro, talvez quanto generacaos.

A tempo passado, dia de batisado sempre sung Sabado a tarde e nungteng outro garrotos e bebes pa batisa juntado - sau nossa bebe. Na Canada, tantos horas, todos garrotos e bebes de mesmo igreja logo faze batisado juntado na uma Sabado ou Domingo di uma mais - "sung moda"..... gente fala! "Aiya, assing tanto gente gente, pusha vai, pusha ving! Talvez nung-teng lugar pa senta! Assing "maah-faan"! Mas, cousa nos pode faze, nung-e?"



Depois de cerimonia na igreja, todos gentes logo vai casa ou clubo pa cha gordo - tanto pa come, tanto pa bebe - festa de Filhomacau sung assing ya!

Uma ou talvez quantos mulhers logo bota pronto mesa de batisado. Assunga mesa logo teng branco toila de mesa, e elas sempre logo aruma mesa com cortadinhas bem cortados, rebosados e uma bolo de batisado - talvez sung uma "sponge cake" ou "chocolate cake" ou "marble cake", ou uma bolo 'falsu' sau pa olha e corta, nung-e pa come! Nos logo passa pa todos nossa Filhomacau bolo de batisado - deveras bom sabour - mais tanto brandy, mais bom! Assunga bolo sung mesmo bolo di natal e casamento, bem cortado e embrouillado com doillee branco e (si rapaz) lassu azul ou (si rapruga) lassu di core de rosa.

Novo padrinho, nos choma "Kai-yeh" ou talvez novo pai logo da "speech" e logo bebe sahudi, logo viva bebe e familia. Cava speech, amah logo toma conta de bebe ya, e mai pai pode goza com ele-sa familias, parentes e convidados.

Qui bom, nung-e? Aquele tempo, nos teng nossa "baby amah"! Mas agora, na Canada, nos apsiso faze todos em todos — nung faz mal — nos ja fica muito capaz — sabe faze tanto coizas!

by Boca Tanto

Muito Obrigado

The Executive and members of the Casa de Macau Vancouver gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance received from the Fundação Oriente for the production, maintenance and upkeep of our newsletter and website. The Fundação Oriente has been a prominent supporter of our activities and publications in the past and we are grateful to once again receive their support in our efforts to preserve and maintain our heritage. Our members are encouraged to visit the Fundação's website at www.foriente.pt to learn more about what the Fundação Oriente does in Portugal and around the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - BIRTHS

PAVLOVIC: Nicholas William Rios, on Valentione's Day to Denise and Albert Pavlovic. Denise is the daughter of Dennis and Lydia McGrann. Mother and baby are doing fine and first-time grandparents are tickled to have happily survived the event.

A Local Hero - Evelyn Florendo

As Halloween approached last October many of us were scurrying about thinking "orange" and accumulating candies, treats and other assorted goodies for those little ghosts and goblins certain to call on us on the 31st. We were focussed on getting through this last of the calendar activities before the onslaught of the Christmas season requiring much planning, shopping, cooking, baking and decorating. The malls were starting to fill with eager shoppers and late night shopping became the norm rather than the exception.

The picture painted above is likely experienced by the vast majority of us year after year. All except one lady - her focus is on another event altogether separate and apart from what normally engulfs the rest of us during the latter part of each calendar year. This lady is Evelyn Florendo.

For the past 19 years, Evelyn has organized an annual Christmas feast at the Burnaby Youth Secure Custody Centre bringing Christmas to young offenders who would otherwise not have the chance to celebrate Christmas. The Burnaby institution houses youths who are serving time for committing various crimes of varying degrees during their short lives. The hope is that during the time served there, these young adults will come to understand the severity of their crimes, learn more appropriate methods of dealing with their anger and hopefully be released to become productive members of our society. Christmas can be a very bleak place in this Centre but Evelyn has managed to bring a little of the message of Christmas to them at a time when they have to be separated from their families. Aply assisted by her group of vounteers, Evelyn embarks each year by bringing a little of the love of Christmas to these young lives by serving a traditional Christmas meal complete with gift bags and entertainment. Much has been already written by at least two local newspapers regarding this well documented act of charity by a local hero who happens to be a member of our Casa, and we are indeed well proud of our association with her.



One can only expect that with such people as Evelyn on their side, these kids stand a far better chance at rehabilitation. "I'm trying to change their path in life. I'm sure some of them have," she insists. "That is what I pray for."

Update on the Sede

At the Encontro meeting held in Macau in Nov 2003 we discovered that the funds for a “sede” in Vancouver was still being held in trust by Fundação Macau on behalf of our two Vancouver clubs. Our members will recall that these funds were offered to the two Vancouver clubs in 1999/2000 by the Fundação Macau for the purpose of building or acquiring a Macau Cultural Centre to be used for the benefit and enjoyment of the Macanese people in the Vancouver area. Similar clubs are already established in Toronto, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Sydney. The USA is nearing agreement on their San Francisco Area clubhouse as they had previously met conditions for the funds to be transferred to them a few years ago.

Up until now, we had been under the impression that the funds were forfeited due to the fact we could not reach agreement with the Macau Cultural Assn. on the terms as set out by the Macau Government. The-then Governors representative handling the matter was Mrs. Gabriela Cesar who was extremely helpful in trying to assist us with overcoming the local difficulties we were having.

As Vancouver is the only region that still did not have a “sede” or the funds to acquire one, we requested the help of Mrs. Caesar once again - to arrange a meeting with Mr. Victor Ng (of Fundação Macau), so that we could discuss this matter in further detail. Mr. Carlos Cordeiro of the MCA and I met with Mr. Ng, who told us that, as soon as he receives a signed document from the both Vancouver Clubs that we can agree to purchase a “sede” and set up a joint bank account, the money will be remitted as quickly as possible.

Mr. Cordeiro told him that we were in agreement and that we will be going to look for a place. Upon leaving Mr. Cordeiro and I thought that the meeting went well and that would be having more discussion upon returning to Vancouver.

After our return from Macau, I met with Mr. Cordeiro and Mr. Pina both of MCA. During this meeting I felt

that they showed no interest in looking for a place to be shared by all, and more than once returned to their original proposal of a 70/30 split of the funds in their favour. This update was reported to our members who were present at our January 2004 meeting and it was suggested that we write them a letter explaining our position, which we did. This latest letter was returned "Unclaimed".

We shall keep our members updated as the situation progresses.

Antonio Amante

Club News

All members are reminded that the March meeting on March 13th is the Nomination Meeting for Executive positions with terms ending this year. The May 8th meeting is the “Election” meeting.

All 2004 dues are now due and payable. Please remit your dues to the Club at the address provided on Page 1 as soon as you can. Thank you.

Watch for a Spring “Event” in April 2004 and picnic in June.

Cookie Exchange

Our first ever Cookie Exchange was held at my home on Sunday, December 14th, 2003. Actually I should thank everyone for getting me motivated and getting my home organized for Christmas. I’m usually still wrapping and decorating on the 24th!

We had a great turnout and it seemed like everyone enjoyed themselves. What a great way to get variety in your Christmas baking and at the same time have a good time in the kitchen

There was so much baking even the volunteer drivers benefited from the event.

Maybe we should make this an annual affair?

Marge da Costa

Images from the Preliminary Encontro Meeting November 2003



Mickey da Roza and Mr. Edmund Ho



Mickey and Dr. Jorge Rangel



L-R: Dr. Jose Manuel de O. Rodrigues, Dr. Lourenco Antonio do Rosario, Antonio Amante and Mickey da Roza

The Artist In Our Midst

The juxtaposition of East and West as well as a mixture of traditional and modern concepts bring to life Mandy Boursicot's oil paintings. These images, many of which are of antique looking Chinese household utilitarian objects, give the illusion of being three-dimensional, while framed within or alongside flat patterned areas. High art is thus contrasted with artisanal, decorative Craft.

"The idea is to represent those objects with a Western aesthetic, that is rich, sumptuous and visually pleasing to the Western eye", explains Mandy. "Of course, not all my paintings are like that, and at the moment I am working on two large pieces which have a more multicultural flavour. One is due in May for a group show at my new gallery, the Buschlen-Mowatt Gallery and the other is for the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in June. I also do murals". *(Some of Mandys work appears on the facing page - Ed)*



Although Mandy's talent surfaced when she was young and prevailed throughout her school years, she turned to other things in adult life. Then after a 17 year hiatus the interest re-emerged and her formal artistic career began. It started with drawing lessons ("for pleasure" says Mandy), followed by a diploma course in art at the University of Hong Kong and successful local showings; eventually leading to studies at the Emily Carr Institute in Vancouver.

In addition to regular shows at the Diane Farris Gallery, which she joined in 2000, the Macau Government sponsored her solo show called 'A Macanese Story' in October 2000 in Macau. They also included her among the 'Artists of the Macanese Diaspora' at the Encontro of 2002. The Macau Foundation's collection includes paintings by Mandy, and two of her original Macanese history paintings hang at the Fundação Santo Nome de Deus in Lisbon. When this facility opened in April 2001, Mandy was invited to attend and was presented to the First Lady of Portugal, Dr. Jose-Maria Ritta. "The Macau Government has been one of my biggest supporters", says Mandy.

Mandy's latest career highlight took place on January 5th, 2004 when she was featured in a national CBC television broadcast. The show is a French language programme called Zig-Zag, and covers all components of art and entertainment in Western Canada. The feature on Mandy covered her most recent show of oil paintings held in September 2003 at the Farris Gallery in Vancouver. Mandy talked about her Macanese heritage and how this is represented in her works, as well as her early years in Canada and the audience that has come to appreciate her art. The 10-minute presentation on Zig-Zag was edited down from about four hours of filming done intermittently over the last three years. This originated from the Gallery's press releases regarding mixed heritage concepts, exchange of ideas between East and West, and the merging of painting methods and techniques. "I use both Western classical realism and Chinese brush painting techniques in my work, along with my 'colourful' Macau and colonial background influences", says Mandy.

Mandy has recently recorded an interview that will be catalogued in the National Archives in Ottawa's Museum of Civilization. "I always try to promote knowledge and interest in Macau's history and people. I believe that we should have more widespread recognition as one of Canada's multicultural communities and we can do that with outreach programmes, increasing public visibility and getting involved in the larger community as well as in the Luso-Canadian community".

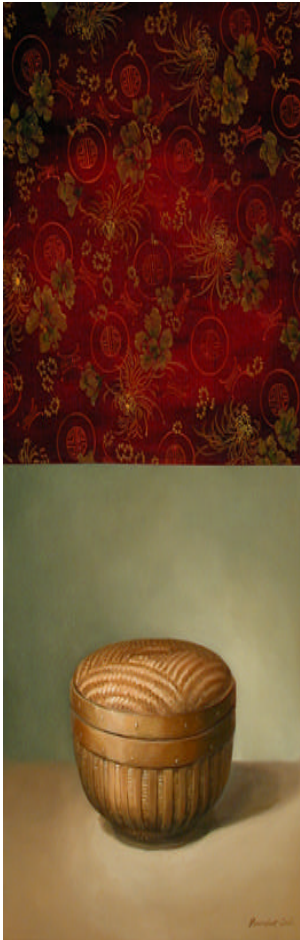
Many of us know Mandy as a fellow Casa member, but may not have had the opportunity to appreciate her work. We were fortunate to obtain some examples of Mandy's paintings to include with this article so we can now catch a glimpse of her accomplished artistry.

by Edwina Shuster

Some of Mandys Work



Cha Gordo



Bamboo Basket



Teapot Holder



Dim Sum Box

Remember This?



Escola Camoes acts all day through,
It guides us well what we've to do.
We're asked to keep an open eye
Lest opportunity slips us by.

Alert with hands, with eyes and ears
Not just now to keep, but throughout the years.
Obey little orders, no matter how hard.
Be on your watch! Be on your guard!

*(please excuse any inaccuracies in the words,
it's been over 45 years!)*

Boca Tanto

New members

Please welcome the following new members:

John and Marie Abbas
Jackie Alexander
Courtney Bohoslavog
Keane Shuster
Luis and Coletta Ribeiro
Rene and Mabel Ozorio
Lauren Jackson
Linda and Allen McDonell
Debbie Hope
Pat and David Bahl
Brock and Cathe Thompson
Brian and Susan Sedelmann

Nossa Casa Deseja as Boas-Vindas para o Ano 2004

Ice and snow is not that common in Vancouver winters, but by Wednesday, December 31, 2003, we had had more than our fair share. This unusually cold and white winter, however, did not deter the majority of casa members, family and friends from attending our New Year Eve party, and their spirits were not dampened by this adverse weather. Everyone ate, drank, danced and had a good time. The buffet was splendid, the music a mélange for the young and the young at heart, and the prizes lavish.



Some of those who were unfortunate enough not to be able to dig out of their driveways or who lived too far away (considering the icy roads), still did not miss out completely. All who had purchased tickets for the event had their names included for the door prize draws, and quite a few absentees were among the lucky winners.

A big 'obrigada' to Isabel Ma for her effort in organizing the celebration and for doing such a great job as Master of Ceremonies. A thank you also goes to all who helped out, and to those who contributed towards the plentiful and extravagant door prizes. It was a nice end to 2003 and a fine welcome to 2004.

Edwina Shuster

The editor wishes to acknowledge everyone who contributed articles, time and followup to bring this issue to press.