



VOZ DOS MACAENSES DE VANCOUVER

Official Newsletter of the Casa de Macau (Vancouver) since 1995

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REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

My Dear Friends and Casa Members,

As my term as president is coming to an end in May 2009, let us take a look at what we had achieved in the past year.

We have our Sede (Clubhouse), our dream of eight years, after relentless battles, but great effort and support from all of you, the past and present executives in my four year tenure as the President of the CASA. I like to take this opportunity to show my sincere appreciation to you.

I am very proud of the youth members, their active contributions and responsibilities, and who are the new stream for the club - I know they can keep up their work in the future.

Much as a house is not built in one day, our CASA would not reach where we are today without all of your support, and the many hours and dedication put in by the different committee members. Our Renovation and Decoration Committee did an outstanding job to take our Sede

project through to the current state. We have received a lot of compliments from members and Casas for their work and the clubhouse. Our Social Committee keeps our club warm with the social events and the variety of goodies on our meeting days. Our membership has been increasing. We are able to keep a close connection with APIM In Macau. My sincere thanks again to Dr. Jose Rodrigues, Dr. Sebastião da Roza, Dr. Luis Machado and the staff of APIM for their great support to our Casa, also Dr. Vitor Ng (Fundação Macao) for releasing the clubhouse funds after various meetings.

I met General Vasco Rocha Vieira (Ex-Governor of Macau), during my trip to Portugal in October 2008. I had extended my thanks to him, on behalf of the Casa, for coming personally to Vancouver to grant us the money for the Clubhouse.

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Voz funding from Fundação Oriente is gratefully acknowledged

REPORT—CONT'D

A photo of the General is displayed at our clubhouse to honour his remarkable contribution and support to the Casa de Macau Club (Vancouver).

We will have the election for the positions of President, 2nd Vice President and Secretary. I hope you will continue to give your support to the new Executive Board and take our club to the next level: Bigger and Better.

Best wishes to all of you.

Antonio Amante

President



Antonio Amante and General Vasco Rocha Vieira

YEAR OF THE OX


2009 is the Year of the Ox in the Chinese Zodiac - the

sign that symbolizes prosperity through fortitude and hard work.

How did this system of 12 animals come about? The exact origin remains unknown. However, according to legend, the Jade King was bored and decided that he wanted to see the animals that inhabited the earth. He told his advisors to bring him 12 animals, and the first invitation was sent to the Rat, telling him to also bring the cat. But the cat never received the invitation because of

the rat's jealousy.

Invitations were also sent on to the Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon Snake, Horse, Ram, Monkey, Rooster and Dog. When they arrived at the palace they lined up in front of the king who only counted 11 animals. The king sent his servant to get a 12th animal, and he brought back a Pig.

The animals stood in front of the king in no particular order. The Rat hopped onto the Ox's back and started to play the flute. The king was so impressed that he gave the Rat first place. He gave the Ox second place for its good sportsmanship and third to the Tiger because he looked courageous. The Rabbit was given fourth

place, the Dragon fifth, the Snake sixth, the Horse seventh, the Ram eighth, the Monkey ninth, the Rooster tenth, the Dog eleventh and twelfth place went to the Pig.

When the ceremony ended, the cat (who never received the invitation) came and begged the king to include him, but was told it was too late.

People born in the Year of the Ox are said to have strong characteristics and work ethics. They are also said to be truthful, motivated, friendly and genuine, but can be obstinate and quick-tempered.

LYCE D'ASSUMPÇÃO ROZARIO CELEBRATES HER 70TH BIRTHDAY

by Fernanda de Pinna Ho



And what a party it was!!!!!!!

Although it was wet and dingy outdoors on that December Saturday evening, love and warmth prevailed throughout the evening to provide blue skies and unlimited visibility in the church hall of St. Paul's Parish in Richmond, BC for Lyce to celebrate her 70th birthday with her closest friends and family in utmost style and perfect harmony. "Who would have 250+ friends to invite to his/her birthday party and actually have 250+ of them show up – only you, Lyce, only you!" I echo the words of one of Lyce's good friends, Akemi Kobayashi.

In any party, there is always food, drink, entertainment and music – these are indeed the basics! Lyce's party had an abundance of these, and much, much, much more – Lyce's dream party team with Lyce at the helm, had turned a dream party into a glorious real-life party indeed!

To simply record Lyce's party in general terms would not be proper by any standards, so the writer has categorized each aspect under its own heading.

THE VENUE

Most people expect a church hall to be, yes, just a church hall – no more, no less, no frills, no nothing! However, anyone who was at the party can certainly attest that this

particular church hall was transformed into a fabulously-decorated party venue, festooned with thousands of white lights, dancing figurine cutouts all along the walls, Christmas decorations and table-centres, etc. etc., much like how Cinderella's pumpkin was magically transformed into a carriage fit for a Princess! While Lyce is no Cinderella, she is in every way a Princess, and Rick is of course her Prince Charming!

THE FOOD AND THE DRINKS

Everyone knows that if Lyce chose to do so, she could have easily cooked for her 250+ friends – no problem! However, she chose instead to have the meal catered, thereby allowing herself plenty of time to meet and mingle. A long table, no less than 30 feet in length, was filled with an array of salads, roast beef, baked ham, chicken creole, penne alfredo with giant prawns, rice pilaf, buttered vegetables, noodles, etc. etc. and.....TWO ROAST PIGS NO LESS, followed by an "all-

you-can-eat-tonight runway" of desserts: tiramisu cakes, rum cakes, cheese cakes, natas, lemon bars, coconut tarts, puddings, jellos, cheese-trays.....all too many to name. Many of the desserts were baked and made by Lyce with "TLC".

Drinks consisted of red wine and white wine for dinner and tea-coffee-juice-pop-coolers throughout the evening.

Everyone ate and drank to their heart's content.

At the end of the evening, out came the doggy bags and Styro-foam containers which were filled to the brim with leftovers. The unopened drinks were donated to the church.

THE SPEECHES

The evening opened with Rick's welcoming speech. And

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Lyce with Rick and daughter Antonia

LYCE'S 70TH BIRTHDAY - CONT'D

who said Rick was shy and nervous when it came to delivering speeches! Does anyone really think that a shy and nervous person will have the courage to publicly admit that his wife is always right?

Lyce's and Rick's daughter, Antonia, honoured her mother with love and beautiful words. Antonia reminded us of Lyce's favourite saying – "leave everything in God's hands".

Then it was Akemi's turn to speak. Akemi's speech was captivating and each and every guest could relate to what Akemi had to say about Lyce. Indeed, Akemi spoke for all of us. If I were to sum up Akemi's speech in one sentence, it might go something like this: We, Lyce's party guests are honoured that Lyce regards us as her friends because she is the epitome of what a real friend is!

And yet another friend, unfortunately whose name I cannot recall, was happy and proud to announce to everyone that Lyce was Richmond's Senior Idol. Not everyone knew this because not everyone lived in Richmond. Being the person she is, it is no wonder that Lyce was chosen for this coveted title! Bravo, Lyce!

Lyce also spoke. Everyone was moved by the words from her heart. She acknowledged with thanks and appreciation all her guests for attending and all who volunteered their help, in however big a way, in however small a way. She said that even though it was indeed her 70th birthday, this

party provided an opportunity to show her thanks, appreciation and gratitude to her friends who supported her throughout her life, through thick and thin – in good times and in bad times – in sickness and in health.

CAKE-CUTTING

In true birthday tradition, everyone sang "Happy Birthday", following which Lyce cut her birthday cake. Her cake was professionally made and beautifully decorated and was so large that after it was sliced and served to each of the 250+ guests, there was still lots left over.

"Happy Birthday" was sung a second time to honour those guests born in the month of December. Lyce then presented each "December baby" with "uma pequenino lembrança".

THE ENTERTAINMENT

One of Rick's presents to Lyce was the production of a CD (with the help of another good friend) entitled "STROLLING DOWN MEMORY LANE". This production consisted of photographs (with captions) of Lyce as a baby, toddler and child, of her teaching years, of their wedding, her family and her dogs. The production made its debut that evening and one can still hear the "ooo's and aahh's" as each photograph flashed on screen.

While Lyce's friends know that she is multi-talented, not all of them know that she is also gifted in music. Her choice of dinner music consisted of a selection of her favourite songs (sung by the original artists) and most guests

found themselves singing and tapping along while enjoying their meal

The 12 Noon Choir of St. Paul's Parish performed several songs in honour of Lyce. One of the songs was a very special blessing song entitled "MAY GOD BLESS YOU", which was so touching that it seemed that there was not a dry eye in the house!

Then came Rick! Most people know Rick well, but have never heard him sing, never even knew he could sing! That night, to the pleasant surprise of everyone, he unveiled his hidden talent. He serenaded Lyce with his rendition of "I CAN'T STOP LOVING YOU". I am told by Rick himself that he chose this song because this is the first song to which he and Lyce danced on their first date! Yes, believe it, Rick "can't stop loving" Lyce, after that first date and their love for each other continues to flourish even after 44 years of marriage – a match made in heaven no doubt!

Grace Archer sang "White Christmas". Did Grace have some insight as to the heavy snow we were to experience at Christmastime? Or perhaps, was a white Christmas Lyce's dream-come-true birthday present from above? It seems to me to be the latter.

Michelle Ho sang "I WILL SURVIVE", made popular by singer Gloria Gaynor. Although the actual words of the song tell of a girl being able to survive and

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LYCE'S 70TH BIRTHDAY - CONT'D

move on after her boyfriend left her, the song title "I WILL SURVIVE" applies so appropriately to Lyce. Throughout her life, Lyce has had close to, or perhaps even more than, two dozen surgeries and SHE HAS "SURVIVED" THEM ALL – a shining example of "grace under pressure" (Ernest Hemingway, A Farewell To Arms).

AND MORE ENTERTAINMENT

Holly Ramcharita, one of Lyce's line dance students, honoured Lyce with a short speech and introduced the 3 R's (Retired, Restless and Recycled), or Lyce's Line Dance Group as they are more affectionately called. The significance of this group is that the average age of all the dancers is well over 70 years! It was an awesome sight - each dancer wore a striking red top and black slacks, and with one behind the other, they formed 5 lines of about 6 or 7 to a line.

They began their performance with a skit which included a Lyce-

impersonator, played by Ginger Hodgkinson, another of Lyce's line dance students. "Yoo-hoo! Yoo-hoo!" is now inscribed in the history books as Lyce's signature attention grabber!

Led by Lyce, the dancers then performed five dances, much to the delight of their audience, who applauded endlessly after each dance. The audience so readily accepted the invitation to participate in the last dance that there was no space left on the dance floor. This dance led to the dance segment of the evening.

THE DANCE SEGMENT

Everyone knows that any party Lyce organizes will be extraordi-

nary so everyone came prepared to dance the night away, and certainly did, to the music of DeeJay Gary Lim who was in his usual top form. Thus, while no one went home hungry (Lyce's motto), no one went home with sore feet either!

"ALL GOOD THINGS MUST COME TO AN END"

As well, everyone went home with love and fond memories of a perfect party.

I am sure Lyce's birthday party will be a topic of conversation for a long, long time among her friends and her community.....that is, until Lyce decides to have another birthday party!



Family and friends enjoying a wonderful evening



Rick serenading Lyce



YAN YAT CELEBRATION

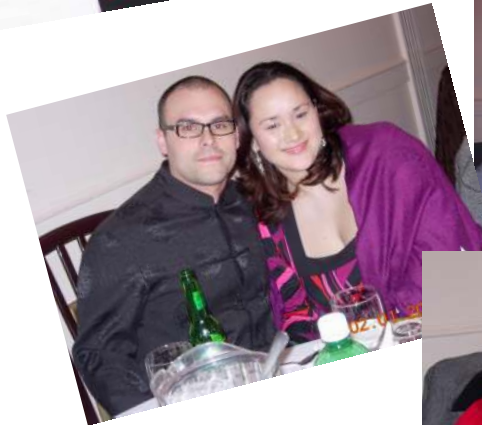
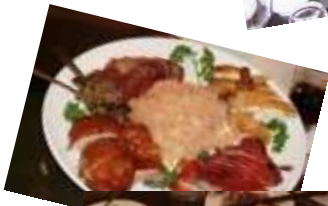
On February 1, 2009, our casa celebrated 'everyone's birthday' to herald in the Year of the Ox. As usual we had a fantastic Chinese banquet, organized by Pat de Albuquerque.

Members and guests enjoying the evening



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YAN YAT—CONT'D



Some of our younger members and guests

From the cold appetizer platter to the crabs to noodles to dessert — just a sampling of the 11 dishes



Two of our youngest members



In December 2008, Valentina Archer (known affectionately as Cha Cha) celebrated her 97th birthday. Family and close friends gathered for a delicious dinner and to honour the lovely lady on this auspicious day.

Parabéns!



A beaming Cha Cha surrounded by her family of three generations - Gracie, Tony, Jackie, Darien, Cody and Riley



An important date to remember is:

May 09, 2009

This is the day of our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the day we vote for our new President, 2nd Vice-President and Secretary.



The Youth Encontro will be held in Macau in July 2009, and all casas have each been invited to send three of their younger members.

Youths in our casa were asked to submit an essay expressing their interest in attending the Encontro and learning more about their Macanese heritage.

The three winners are Monique Guterres, Amanda King Wolniewicz and Alex King.

Their essays will be printed in the next issue of the Voz.

Welcome to New Members

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Linda Achiam | Josephine Graham |
| Marsha Au | Alan & Karen Koizumi |
| Jose Cardoso | Joyce Renfro |
| Geoff & Rebecca Doerr | Cecilia Rozario |
| Brian Ho | Anthony Rozario |
| Gilberto Gomes | |