



VOZ DOS MACAENSES DE VANCOUVER

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

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The Voz

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*The President and Executive Committee
wish all members and their families a
very Merry Christmas and a very
Happy and Prosperous 2010!*



VISIT FROM MACAU

by Marie Cecile Guterres

Sr. Luis Machado from APIM-Macau, spent a very pleasant visit with us in November. Luis contacted Antonio and Rebecca Amante to advise them of his short visit on APIM business. Antonio very graciously advised our Casa and a quick advisory was sent out to the membership to arrange a dinner in his honour.

Sr. Machado arrived on November 4 and the next day Antonio Amante drove him to Whistler to see the Olympic facilities. After returning from Whistler some of our members hosted him to a Buffet dinner at the River Rock Casino in Richmond .

The next day, Alex Tan and Sonny Guterres showed him around Vancouver taking in the city and Stanley Park. The three ended with a seafood lunch in the Steveston area of Richmond.

Luis reiterated the message that the next Encontro would be held in Macau in 2010 and looks forward to seeing us all there .



Luis Machado and Casa members after dinner at the Runway Café Buffet



Voz funding from Fundação Oriente is gratefully acknowledged

OPEN HOUSE AT THE SEDE

by Leonie Todd



Fernanda Ho
welcoming
members &
guests



Sunday September 6, 2009 was an auspicious day for a dual celebration - the 1st Anniversary of our Sede, and the 10th Anniversary of the RAEM (the informal party). The more formal one to celebrate the RAEM's existence will be held on December 19th, 2009. However, at the Open House there were over 120 members and their families who attended through the course of the day, which began at 3PM and ended at 7PM.

Our day at the Sede started with a heartfelt welcoming hug at the door from Lyce Rozario, our Social Committee Head. As new members of the Casa de Macau Club, my daughter Lorelei and I have thus far enjoyed the warm camaraderie and jocularly of a few members. A couple of the ladies from the Executive Committee led by our Casa President, Fernanda de Pinna Ho, were very gracious in welcoming us as always.

We were encouraged to partake

of the *Cha Gordo*, which I learned means *High Tea* in Macanese. The *Cha Gordo* consisted of a plethora of tasty treats, one of which was the *bacalhau*, along with the perfectly prepared prawns, compliments of Leonard Rivero. Other equally delectable morsels included Lyce's scrumptious spring rolls, sausage rolls, Chilicoti and delectable samosas as well as Miguel da Roza's delicious fried noodles. Other savouries included Fernanda's irresistible cheese toast, Marie Elena's meatballs accompanied by two

lip-smacking sauces, Rick Rozario's *pão rachado*, sandwiches and salads. The desserts, which I call Heavenly ambrosia, consisted of *natas*, Fernanda's *bebinca de leite* and *pão de leite*, Maria's *baji*, Lyce's gummy-gummy and lemon bars and Patricia's decadent chocolate agar-agar. You know what they say; 'from the lips to the hips', well my lips relished the decadence of several cakes painstakingly baked by Lyce, such as the chocolate, lemon, and the rum cakes. Of course the *pièce de résistance* were the two very



OPEN HOUSE – CONT'D

generous cakes, one of which was with vanilla icing – the RAEM's 10th Anniversary Cake; and the other with chocolate icing was for our Sede's First anniversary. Our compliments go to the creative confectioners who decorated each cake with the appropriate inscriptions. The beverages included Hong Kong tea, coffee, and carbonated drinks. Lyce and her industrious Social Committee relentlessly replenished the abundance of dishes throughout the day.

Lyce Rozario who is our second Vice-President and Social coordinator always exceeds everyone's expectations with a 110% of toil and trouble undertaken to ensure everyone has plenty to eat, drink and ensures their enjoyment in the process.

We thoroughly enjoyed meeting Alexia Haslam, her son Tim who brought along his wife and two sons to the Open House. We have known Alexia and her two children by sight for many years as we are all parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church. How fortuitous to have finally met her and her lovely family sans her daughter, who was unable to attend the Open House.

Another pleasant surprise was meeting Hedley Morris and Theresa Cheung, who are new members as well. I have known them through mutual friends, and have attended some of the same New Year's Eve parties over the years.

The latter part of the afternoon started with a dance recital, which

began with entrancing music along with colourfully costumed dainty dancers and their languid interpretation of the Fan Dance.

Unfortunately, my daughter and I had to bid our hasty adieu since we had a previously planned engagement, which was unavoidable. Overall, it was a most enjoyable Cha Gordo with fare to tantalize the most discerning taste buds along with engaging conversations to end our evening.

A hearty thanks to the Executive and Social Committees whose untiring efforts ensured the enjoyment of their members.

A very special thank you to Lyce Rozario whose dedication to the Sede is phenomenal.



Valentina Archer celebrated her 98th birthday on December 6, 2009 with family and friends at the River Rock Casino.



Viva!
Tina with daughter Gracie, grandson Tony and great-grandsons Darien, Cody and Riley

Youth Encontro

In the last issue of the Voz, we printed the winning essays of three Casa youth members who represented us at the 2009 Youth Encontro in Macau.

Monique Guterres, Amanda Wolniewicz and Alex King will be giving a presentation of their Encontro experiences at the upcoming RAEM party.

These stories, accompanied by photos will appear in the next issue of the Voz.

Lazy Hazy Days of Summer

by Marina Neves and Michael Neves

On Saturday, August 15, 2009, our Casa de Macau held its first indoor picnic. It was attended by about 70 members of all ages.

Our 2nd Vice-President, Social co-ordinator, Lyce Rozario, prepared a scrumptious fare of a variety of cold cuts, Portuguese buns, noodles and salads. One of our members brought chicken and vegetarian curry. There was ice-cream with an assortment of toppings, gummy gummy, cakes and fruits.

When we had our fill, the entertainment began with Fernanda Ho playing and singing on her guitar, and Russell Clarke on drums.

We look forward to another indoor picnic as we enjoyed ourselves immensely.



The dessert table (above) & ice cream bar (right)



Line dancers Maria King & Lyce Rozario



Members enjoying the indoor 'picnic'



PHOTO EXHIBITION

by Ricardo Rozario

The members of Casa de Macau Club (Vancouver) were treated to a fantastic experience when the International Institute of Macau sponsored a Photo Exhibition at our sede. It was held as part of the festivities commemorating Macau as a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China since December 20, 1999.

The Photo Exhibition from Macau consisted of fifty one high quality colour photographs of Macau, taken by Macau's top amateur photographers showing its enviable cultural diversity of its citizens celebrating everyday life at work and play.

Macau was shown and displayed at its very best in these photographs taken of weekly or annual events and celebrations by its citizens. Various events, parades and religious street processions, art and musical festivals were included. Drunken Dragon dances and Dragon Boat races, bicycle and formula car racing are all part of Macau's top annual entertainment. The Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration is another big ticket event celebrated in Macau by all each year.

Tourists flock to Macau for these annual special events, a financial boom for Macau. All these major events were ably captured in these award winning photographs at the Exhibit displayed at our sede.

Our Social Committee,

headed by Lyce Rozario and her competent team eagerly looked forward to the arrival of these photos which were forwarded to us by "AmigudiMacau" in Toronto.

Upon arrival, our Social Committee got to work right away, setting up these fifty-one exhibits on easels to adequately display them for our Casa members and invited guests' pleasure. Our Casa's wall-to-wall mirrors highlighted the exhibits.

The Exhibit commenced on Sunday, October 5, 2009 in an emotional and colourful ribbon cutting ceremony. Our very own Valentina Archer, much loved and affectionately known to all our Casa members as Auntie Tina, the oldest member of our club, cut the ribbon which she did with much grace amidst thunderous applause, a recognition and honour well deserved.

Richmond's MLA Linda Reid, visited and graced this occasion by her presence, an honour for our Casa.

The Exhibit was only topped by the superb spread put out by our

Casa's Social Committee, much to the delight of our members. Three tables full of unimaginable, mouth-watering goodies were spread out for a four hour period. The members made full use of the time, a veritable feast for the mind, body and eyes, enjoyed by everyone present on the first day of the exhibit, which then went on for another nine days.

The Social Committee worked extremely hard to ensure the success of this Casa event and top kudos go out to them for a job well done.

A special note of thanks goes to the International Institute of Macau for their very thoughtful and generous gesture for sponsoring this exhibit which is much appreciated by all of our Casa members. These wonderful images of Macau will remain in our minds' eye forever.

Tina Archer cutting the ribbon to open the exhibit



MLA Linda Reid & Casa Executive members



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

by Maria Elena Seifert

Do you believe in the magic of Christmas? Do you think Christmas is only for children? if you answered yes to both these questions, you are absolutely correct – Christmas is magical and it is the one holiday loved by children of all ages.

On Saturday, December 5th which was a beautifully clear but cold winter afternoon in Richmond, the Sede welcomed the children and grandchildren of our members for a Christmas Party. Everyone who came through the Sede's doors that afternoon entered a Sede that was magically transformed for the Christmas season – there were larger than life candy canes and tinsels at the door; the sign-in table was garlanded with greenery and decorated with a crafty felt lighthouse bearing the red, yellow and green of our heritage; the coffee table was adorned with a festive runner and snowmen; the sofa was flanked on either side with potted white poinsettias. On looking ahead, one would see two tables covered with tablecloths adorned with Santas and groaning with food. Past the double doors, the mirrored wall was garlanded, but it was the Christmas tree that drew your attention with its unique and creative decorations; the two tables with wrapped gifts piled high; and a special chair for Santa who would be visiting - (*kudos go to Diana Pires for her artistic talent and her lead assistants, Rick and Lyce Rozario*). All the while Christmas songs and carols were being played in the background. Did I

mention that all Social Committee members were easily identified by their Santa hats and reindeer head bands?

For the young people attending the first order of business was to set the stage. Lyce cheerfully dressed in red, read to the children the story of the Gingerbread Man and after the reading, each child was presented with an iced gingerbread man. The next story was about Rudolph the Reindeer and for that story, Lyce got the children to participate by mimicking actions in the story.

As the excitement grew, Santa made his appearance and there was so much awe in his presence that you could hear a pin drop. The children were on their best

behaviour and were thoroughly satisfied by the gifts from Santa. The children's faces were a delight to behold. There was a little girl whose stuffed animal was almost as big as she was and she cuddled her present as soon as she got it. A big hit with the older children were the movie passes that they received and for several lucky young girls, the beautifully crafted animal handbags that were made by one of Santa's special elves. On hand to assist Santa were his special elves dressed in green velvet – our President, Fernanda Ho and her daughter, Michelle. After Santa made his exit, it was time for tea.



PARTY- CONT'D

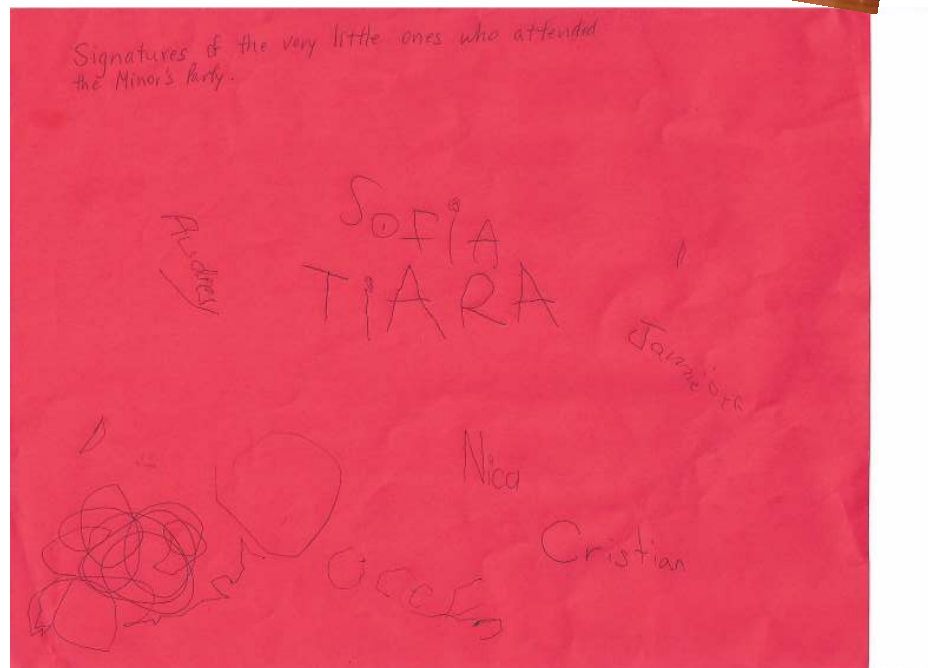
There were pizza, popcorn, chips, noodles, sandwiches, spinach dip, coconut meatballs, Christmas cookies, Christmas cake, palmers, jello and a chocolate cake with whipping cream and fresh fruit. As usual, when you reached the tea table, you said to yourself what should I have first because everything is so good. The favourites with our younger guests were chips, popcorn and pizza washed down with pop or juice.

After a little rest, Lyce got the children to play the Candy Cane game where no one is a loser. Here's how the game works - there were numbers scattered on the floor and when the music stopped, you stood close to a number and waited for a number to be called out. Each time a number was called out, the person having the number left, but with a candy cane so no one was a loser.

Seeing how much fun the children had, the adults also wanted to play and this round consisted of the parents and grandparents of our young guests - the first person to be cut was Bill Renfro who was delighted to be presented with not one but two candy canes for his personal consumption. The last two people on the floor were Manuel and Mary-Anne Antonio, one of whom was heard saying to the other "You better not cheat!" The winner of that game was Mary-Anne. The adults wanted to play some more and it was time for musical chairs - a lot harder to play but still a lot of fun - especially when two bottoms want the same seat -

I must confess to seeing some cheating going on, but all in good fun! Our members are competitive! The winner of the ladies' musical chair was Isabel Ma and in the men's game was Michael Antonio.

By then everyone was gamed out and it was time for open mike for Christmas karaoke. We were serenaded for the next hour by Fernanda Ho, Rick Rozario, Teresa Cheung and Hedley Morris. In the intervening period, our guests had slowly departed; all that was left to the Social Committee members was to clean up and leave the Sede in good order.



Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Elections 2010

Timeline

January 30 (6 weeks before AGM):

- deadline for nominations to be received by Elections Committee

February 6 (5 weeks before AGM):

- up-to-date voting membership roll to have been handed over by Casa Secretary to Elections Committee for mail-out
- election ballot forms with Notice of Meeting, Renewal Notice Form, self-addressed return envelope to impartial address sent to voting members

March 13 - AGM

- elections for First Vice-President and Treasurer



Dates to Remember

January 9 - General Meeting
(meeting at 2 pm followed by a Pot-luck)

March 13 - Annual General Meeting

May 8 - General Meeting

July 10 - General Meeting

Renewal Fee Reminder

Membership renewals are due on March 31, 2010. A late payment fee of \$10.00 will be charged if renewals are not paid by July 1, 2010

Welcome New Members

Teresa Cheng & Hedley Morris
 Lucille & George Chow
 Teresa & Phillip Clarke
 Russell Clarke
 Teresa & Tony da Roza
 Alexander Henriques
 Vicky Clarke Huapaya & Julio Huapaya
 May & Simon Leung
 Gilbert Lobelsohn
 Lydia & Dennis McGrann
 Tina Remedios
 Eddy Tsui
 Mary Wang
 Yvonne Watt

Remembering.....

John Abbas and George Abbas

John, husband of Marie Abbas, passed away in September 2009

George, husband of Violet Abbas, passed away in October 2009

Our sincere condolences to Marie and Violet and their families.

