



VOS DOS MACAENSES DE VANCOUVER

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

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President's Corner - Fernanda de Pinna Ho

When our Casa was formed 16 years ago, having our own Clubhouse was something which only existed in our dreams. Today, our dreams have been brought to fruition and our Clubhouse offers members an ideal facility to attend meetings, participate in social and cultural activities or simply gather together to “chit-chat”.

I wish to thank Mickey da Roza, Lyce Rozario, Ann-Marie da Costa and Pat de Albuquerque for their valuable support and input as members of our Casa's Executive Committee.

The annual elections were held at the Annual General Meeting on March 12, 2011 - a very warm welcome to our incoming Casa Secretary, Maria Elena da Costa Seifert. Many thanks to our Elections Committee (Angela Renfro, Colleen Lobelsohn, Isabel Ma) and to our Parliamentarian (Rick de Guzman) for a superbly-run election and also thanks to Teresa Cheung for holding the post-office box key.

As well, I wish to thank Lyce Rozario, our Social Head and her Committee for all the delicious goodies and the most enjoyable functions, Angela Renfro, our Cultural Head and her Committee for all the cooking demonstrations, our Editor – Edwina Shuster, our webmaster – Michael Guterres, our Portuguese Language teacher – Alexandra Henriques and our By-laws Ad Hoc Committee (Yvonne Antonio, Rick de Guzman, Rick Rozario, Francis da Costa and Michael Guterres).

Last but not least, my thanks and appreciation to all members for your continued support. Casa de Macau (Vancouver) is indeed “nossa Casa” and our Clubhouse is indeed our common home.

The Executive Committee



Fernanda Ho, Ann-Marie da Costa, Mickey da Roza,
Lyce Rozario & Maria Elena Seifert

The 3rd Ministerial Conference in Macau

by Lyce d' Assumpção Rozario

The Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese speaking Countries was created in October 2003 in Macau. It was sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of China, hosted by the Macau Special Administrative Region Government with the joint participation of seven Portuguese speaking Countries: Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and East Timor.

The Macau Forum aims at promoting and developing economic and commercial relations between China and the seven Portuguese-speaking countries in economic and commercial fields, using Macau as a platform for the promotion of common development in mainland China, the Portuguese speaking countries and the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR).

The 3rd Ministerial Conference was held at the Macau Dome on November 13-14, 2010 and was attended by the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Wen Jia Bao, who was the principal speaker at this Conference.

The Representatives of the Casas de Macau from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Hong Kong, Portugal and the U.S.A., were cordially invited to be present at this Forum Conference so that all the Casas in the Diaspora will be able to contribute, by means available to them, when they return home to their adopted country and possibly come up with positive and constructive ideas that will help implement Prime Minister Wen Jia Bao's vision and goal to "Diversify Co-operation and Harmonious Development" in Trade and Commerce with its Luso speaking partners.

As 2nd VP of Casa de Macau Club (Vancouver), I was appointed by our Casa President, Fernanda de Pinna Ho to represent our Casa at this Conference, a very important and auspicious event. It was a great honour and my pleasure to represent our Casa at the Forum. The organizers of the Forum ensured that my stay was a comfortable one, at the Venetian Hotel, Macau's most opulent and luxurious hotel. I was treated royally.

Dr. Jose Manuel de Oliveira Rodrigues, President of the Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses kindly invited all the Casa Representatives to a scrumptious Chinese dinner at MGM Hotel, on November 12, 2010, the day before the Forum Conference began. Dr. Rodrigues was a most gracious host. Muito obrigada Dr. Rodrigues.

Amongst the guests that evening, was Mr. Bian Tao, Deputy Director-General in Macau Special Administrative Region. Mr. Tao conversed fluently in Portuguese, English, Mandarin and Cantonese. He was seated next to me and I found him to be a fascinating gentleman and the evening was a most pleasant one.

On Nov. 13, 2010, the Casa Representatives met at the Main Lobby of the Venetian Hotel and we were taken by bus to the Macau Dome to attend the Conference. Due to tight security, we were all screened prior to entering the Dome.

The People's Republic of China's Prime Minister Wen Jia Bao welcomed all the Delegates present, then addressed and reviewed the progress achieved by countries, which had effectively fulfilled their Action Plans and offered a positive contribution in reinforcing and raising the level of their economic and trade co-operation with China.

Prime Minister Wen Jia Bao's main theme was "Diversified Co-operation and Harmonious Development". He outlined China's goals and targets for the next three years with its seven Luso speaking partners. His speech was favourably acknowledged by all present at the Forum Conference. The seven Delegates from the Portuguese speaking countries then introduced themselves and gave updates on completed projects at home and those still in the works.

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Ministerial Conference - Cont'd

That evening, Premier Wen Jia Bao hosted a huge banquet for everyone who attended the Forum Conference. The superb Chinese dinner included a suckling pig on each table. It was enjoyed by everyone present.

Thank you Dra Lurdes de Souza, my first contact person, for assisting me with all the necessary documents which I was required to fill out and send to her, and for making the arrangements for a double room, since my husband Rick decided to accompany me to Macau.

I wish to thank the Secretariado Permanente do Forum, especially the Secretaria-Adjunta, Dra Rita Santos who greatly contributed to the success of the 3rd Conference.

My sincere thanks also goes to Mr. Henrique Manhão for all his kind help shown to Rick and me, both during and after the Conference.

Further thanks goes to Ms. Edith Lopes, Casa de Macau, Portugal, for all her patience and attention given to the Representatives of the Casas while we were in Macau, reminding us of the time and place to meet and keeping us in sync with the programme of the day. Edith you were just wonderful! Thank you very much for your kind help.

Then there were also the young Chinese University students, who were assigned to us to be our guides throughout the Conference. They looked after us very well and made sure that we did not get lost in the crowd and that we arrived safely and on time at the designated meeting sites. They were simply delightful! It would be a great experience for them if they could visit our Casas' youths in the Diaspora.

In all, a very successful and most interesting Forum Conference Meeting and a most enjoyable and memorable one for me.

Muito obrigada, once again, to all the hardworking organizers of the Conference. It was a great lifetime experience which I will always remember.



Head Table: The Prime Minister of PRC, Mr. Wen Jia Bao, with the Ministers from Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal & East Timor.



The Secretariado Permanente do forum Secretaria - Adjunta, DRA Rita Santos (centre - in red) with representatives from the various Casas



Rick & Lyce Rozario with Nuno Prata da Cruz & several of the Chinese University students

"Sun Neen Fai Lok" Or "Kung Hay Fat Choy"

by Lana Wightman

However you say it, January 29th, 2011 was a grand affair at our Sede. As a brand new member of Casa de Macau, this was my first Chinese New Year's celebration and hopefully, not my last. I last celebrated Chinese New Year as a child in Hong Kong. It was a very long time ago. Until the Encontro, I had not been back except for a brief visit two years prior.

How wonderful it was to walk into the Sede which was beautifully decorated and filled with happy people and wonderful smells. Upon entering, we were given a "Lai See" containing a chocolate gold coin.

Lyce d'Assumpção Rozario, her social committee and team of cooks and bakers are to be thanked for the fantastic food and desserts. I must also acknowledge the contributions of other members of the Sede. Angela Renfro made the Bacalhau (*very tasty*). Cathy Fung the Buddha's feast (*very colourful*). Veggies and Ngau Mei Farn - Teresa da Roza (*super*). Minchi - Rick Rozario (*delicious*). Curried meatballs and tacho - Lyce (*scrumptious*). There were also numerous chafing dishes filled to the brim with Chinese food bought from a restaurant. Honey garlic spareribs, beef with onions, deep fried prawns, tofu with Chinese mushrooms, fried noodles, barbecue pork, roast pork, soy chicken. As if we weren't full enough already, out came the desserts. The table was covered with sweets! One of my favourite bakers, Colleen Lobelson, made not 1, not 2 but 3 (or more) bars and slices. Each

one tastier than the other! Who can forget the coqueiras, mango pudding, Jell-O, etc. that Lyce managed to find time to bake between decorating, shopping, cooking and generally preparing a feast for all the hungry members. I contributed some decorated fruit platters and a few chocolate covered strawberries which the children loved! Rick remembered to pick up large and small mandarin oranges. These were scattered on the tables for good fortune.

After being totally stuffed, we were entertained all evening by musicians and singers Francis da Costa, Michael Remedios, the lovely Ann-Marie da Costa, Russell Clark, John da Silva, Tony Pang and Eddie Tsui. Violet Neo entertained everyone with pre dinner music selections on her new keyboard.

At various times, the Band was joined by singers Terri (John da Silva's driver), Lorelei Todd, our president Fernanda Ho, and a few other brave souls who all took turns at the mike. Who knew we had such talent in our midst? (Advice, don't quit your day jobs quite yet - a little more practice still needed but you are getting close!)



Lyce, who had been running around all day, still managed to do a rumba or two. All in all, it was a wonderful, fun evening amongst friends. What a bargain and what a delightful way to celebrate the Year of the Rabbit.

Thanks everyone for making it such a great event for a "newbie" like me.

At the end of the night, many pitched in to help with the massive cleanup. Colleen and I were on "dishes detail". Bob Sandison, Angela and Bill, Rick, Teresa Cheung, Diana and a guest Angie Lee were busy stacking, sweeping, and cleaning. There were leftovers for anyone who wanted them. Yum!

Kudos everyone!



Just Jamming



BBB Jamming Event at the Sede

by Mary-Anne Antonio

The Casa hosted a BBB (Bom, Bonita, Barato) jamming event at the Sede on October 16, 2010. It was a delightful evening! Our Macanese people love their food, and featured were many delicious types of congee with all the accompaniments, mei fun, many snacks, desserts, etc. and beverages, including Hong Kong tea.

In addition, Francis da Costa and his daughter, Ann Marie, were there along with many other talented musicians to perform a jam session and then whomever wanted to come up to sing could get up and share their talents. The Casa is blessed with many gifted singers! Not to mention the lovely line of lady back-up dancers. We all enjoyed the music and were also able to visit with our fellow Casa members.

Knowing Lyce and the Social Committee, much time and effort are put into events like these, and I just wanted to acknowledge and thank them very much for all that they do for us and to let them know that it is very much appreciated by everyone in the club. Events like these keep our culture alive and keep our people together so that we can pass this onto the future generations. I hope we can have many more events like this!



Vancouver Music Jams

by Leonard Rivero

Every Saturday from 7-11pm, at 7613 Edmonds St., Burnaby, great local musicians and friends who enjoy music meet and socialize for the sole purpose of having FUN.

These Vancouver Music Jams were originally a yearly charity picnic at Peace Arch Park, then became a monthly thing, they have now successfully expanded into weekly jams for a total of nine events.

There is no cover charge and no profit is made by the promoter or the musicians. Joyce Wong, owner of Happy Valley Restaurant, has been supportive by providing her upscale restaurant, which has comfortable seating for 50, free of charge. She makes her small profit by serving \$4.50 appetizer plates and drinks such as bubble tea, wine, beer and coffee.

The house band consists of guitarist John de Silva who works well with singers and fellow musicians Sean Gunn on base guitar, Ophee Gabriel who sings and plays guitar, and Eddy Tsui who also sings and plays keyboard. The band plays all styles of music and they complement the visiting musicians and singers who enjoy jamming. Some Casa members have attended the music jams and enjoyed the relaxed venue and many had fun singing with the band and to karaoke DVD's projected on a huge screen. Violet Neo entertains on her keyboard between sets.

Always a fun evening!



Remembering

Maria Aleixa Haslam was born on February 4th, 1938 in Hong Kong, the second of three children born to Olivia Maria Barretto and João José Basto. She grew up in Hong Kong and trained at King's College, London, as a physiotherapist. She immigrated to Canada to take up a position at St Catharine's, Ontario, and later settled in Vancouver where she worked at the Arthritis Society.

She worked as a physiotherapist in private clinics before opening her own in 1978 at Broadway and Granville. In 1979 she moved the clinic to Chinatown where she built up a very successful practice, with a multi-national clientele, for over 30 years. She learned to speak fluent Cantonese and was highly respected locally--and affectionately known by the community as Lam-Tai. She was a champion for the clients of the downtown lower east side and a firm believer in patient education, advocating a proactive approach to their own health. She taught them home exercises and holistic, self-care long before it became standard practice.

She loved what she did and continued working into her late sixties until she retired in 2007. She kept herself active and enjoyed travel and recreational pursuits like swimming, lawn bowling, walking and bridge where she formed many lasting friendships. In the last decade she particularly enjoyed extended trips with her daughter Catriona, and at times her sister, to Alaska, Australia, Hawaii, Hong Kong, the US and Europe.

Marie Aleixa was a member of the Casa de Macau (Vancouver), a cultural club through which she introduced her family to her heritage. She served as Parliamentarian for several terms, as well as on the Executive.

She is survived by her husband, Michael, son Timothy and daughter in law Caroline, daughter, Catriona and grandsons, James and Michael. She will be missed by all her friends and family.



Remembering.....

Marcus (Mac) Anthony Da Roza
May 24, 1927 – January 21, 2011

Mac passed away peacefully after a long battle with cancer. He will be greatly missed by daughter Mary-Anne Antonio, husband Manuel, son Mark Da Roza, wife Kim, daughter Michelle Dar, husband Raymond and grandchildren Matthew, Michael, Mario, Marco, Breanna and Claudia. Marcus loved helping people through reflexology

Our prayers and
condolences to
the families of
these recently
deceased Casa
members.





In Loving Memory.....

Valentina Maria Archer

December 6th, 1911 - March 18th, 2011



Valentina Maria Archer was born in Hong Kong on December 6th, 1911. She was fondly referred to as Cha Cha by the family and Antina by friends.

She was one of 16 siblings and grew up in Hong Kong, where she met and married Charles Percy Archer. They had one daughter and named her Grace - Gracie to family and friends.

Cha Cha remained in Hong Kong during the war when Japan occupied this British Colony. In the mid '60s, she immigrated to Canada. She lived in Ottawa for a few years with her sister Irene and husband Jimmy before settling down in Vancouver with the rest of her family.

Cha Cha is survived by her brother Chico, daughter Gracie, grandson Tony and great grandsons Darian, Ryley and Cody.

She lived to the incredible age of 99. Her entire life was devoted to her family and she was a care giver to all of them. Cha Cha loved the Lord, her family, and was kind to everyone whether she knew them or not. She was loved by all and will be dearly missed by all.



Cha Cha loved reading the Bible, and here are two of her favourite passages.

Those that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.

They will mount up with wings like eagles.

They will run and not grow weary.

They will walk and not faint or become tired.

Isaiah 40:31

Because she has set her love upon Me, therefore I will deliver her;

I will set her securely on high because she knows My Name.

She will call upon me and I will answer her;

I will be with her in times of trouble.

I will deliver her and honour her.

And with long life I will satisfy her and show her My salvation.

Psalms 91:14 - 16



Braedon Noel James Lawrence (7lbs 13 oz) was born on December 2, 2010

Proud parents are Natascha and Kyle Lawrence, and proud grandparents, William and Angela Renfro.

Welcome little Braedon.



Dates to Remember

April 15, 2011
Mah Jong & Socializing

April 30, 2011
Festa de Comida

May 14, 2011
General Meeting

What's Cooking!



Cooking classes will be held again this year.

Once dates are confirmed, members will be advised.

Welcome to our New Members

Gemma and Donald Gillis



As Aulas de Português Recomeçam

1, 15, 22 e 29 de Maio de 2011

Maryknoll Gala Dinner

As many of you may know, a number of our Casa members are graduates of Maryknoll Convent School in Hong Kong. Our local Vancouver alumni are regular supporters of the Maryknoll Sisters and their Motherhouse in Ossining, New York. I would like to share with you news of our most recent successful event.

The Maryknoll Convent School Alumni (BC) Association held a Fundraising Gala Dinner on April 2nd, 2011, and raised over \$10,000 towards the cost of producing "Trailblazers in Habits" – a documentary depicting the Sisters' selfless dedication to helping the community of Hong Kong in the 1950's and 1960's. We knew our Sisters as educators, but not many realized their incredible contribution to Hong Kong social services during that period.

Thanks to the generosity of Maryknollers, their families and friends, our local alumni have been given the opportunity to have had a part in making this documentary a reality.

Casa members attending: Fernanda and Humphrey Ho, Maria King, Jose Cardoso and Edwina Shuster.



Two styles of mugs with pictures of the School and the Motherhouse were available for sale during our Gala to help with the fundraising.