



# Voz dos Macaenses de Vancouver

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



April, 2012

Volume 13, Issue 1

## OUR NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Your 2012 Executive Committee: (L to R): Maria Elena Seifert, Fernanda Ho, Colleen Lobelsohn, Cathy Xavier Fung & Lyce d' Assumpção Rozario

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Fernanda Ho



Happy New Fiscal Year 2012-2013! Welcome to yet another exciting year!

First and foremost, I wish to thank Mickey da Roza (outgoing First Vice-President) and Ann-Marie da Costa Carter (outgoing Treasurer) for their work and dedication. You two are already being missed, so be sure not to wander off too far!!!! And a very warm welcome to Cathy Fung (incoming First Vice-President) and Colleen Lobelsohn (incoming Treasurer) to the Executive Committee.

This issue will introduce our new Editor, Sheldon Suen, who has done a fabulous job with the Newsletter. Thank you, Sheldon, so much for stepping up to the plate.

Under the leadership of Lyce d' Assumpção Rozario, our Social Committee has been very busy with social functions for the enjoyment of all our members.

Many thanks and kudos to you all!

I wish also recognize our Cultural Committee led by Angela Renfro, our Gastronomia Representative. We indeed learned a wealth of cooking and baking! Thank you!

In closing, I wish to thank our members for showing up at meetings, attending the social functions, and in so many cases, helping with the set-up and clean-up, and for being an integral part of our Casa. Your presence and involvement is vital to the life of our Casa. Assing sung nossa Casa ya - nos com nos! Muito obrigada pa todos!

Fernanda Antonia de Pinna Ho

President (2011-2013)

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## Special dates of interest:

- May 12th: Casa Meeting
- May 13th: Mother's Day
- June 1st: Canada Day
- June 24th: Cha Gordo at the Sede (High Tea to celebrate São João)



## MISSION STATEMENT OF OUR CLUB

I was asked to include a copy of our Casa's By-Laws (January 21, 2011) referencing out Clubs Constitution (Articles I, II & III) This outlines what we, as a community stand for and the reasons why the Club was formed on April 3rd, 1995.

CONSTITUTION	
ARTICLE I	
1.	The name of the Society is:
	CASA de MACAU CLUB (VANCOUVER)
ARTICLE II	
PURPOSES	
1.	To bring together Macaenses living in Canada or elsewhere with roots and direct or indirect ties with Macau, Portugal, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Goa, and other parts of South-East Asia.
2.	To pursue, promote and provide social, cultural, historic, culinary, linguistic, educational, athletic and recreational programs and activities for members of the Association.
3.	To promote, foster and encourage closer links and ties with all Macaenses and Casa de Macau clubs and organizations throughout the world who share our common Macaense interests, goals and objectives.
4.	To foster and encourage community service and responsible Canadian citizenship among its members.
ARTICLE III	
1.	The operation of the Association will be mainly carried out in the Lower Mainland area of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, in the Province of British Columbia. This clause is unalterable.

## NOITE ESPECIAL—TO HONOUR OUR CASA'S OCTOGENARIANS (80 YRS+)

By Erica-Anne Tetzl

My grandmother, Mildred Tetzl has been a member of the Casa de Macau Club (Vancouver) for awhile when I was invited by her to attend one of the events at the clubhouse, the "Festa Macaista", which took place in October 2011. I enjoyed myself so much and was so impressed with the warm friendship there that I asked if I could also join the club. I haven't missed a single event there since then.

On February 25, 2012, I attended the festa to honour our Casa's octogenarians. That festa was unlike the other festas that I attended. It seemed extra special that evening. Perhaps it was because I saw how very happy my grandmother was to be one of the over 80s to be honoured.

Not only did every octogenarian receive a complimentary dinner, but

I noticed that they were all greeted warmly at the door by our Social Co-ordinator Lyce Rozario, who welcomed them and they each received a lovely corsage. Those corsages were made especially for them by Diana Pires. My grandma was all smiles when she received hers.

The honoured guests were given the opportunity to get their food first. The tables were filled with all kinds of Macanese foods and there were labels to indicate what

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**Rene Ozorio enjoying his food.**

those dishes were and I soon learned to appreciate and learn the names of the many outstanding food there, such as diabo, feijoada, vaca estufada, minchi, curry, vedura, arroz forgado etc. all prepared by our best Casa chefs: Angela Renfro, Diana Pires, Cathy Fung, Lyce and Rick Rozario. There was also barbecue pork, roast pork, vegetarian dishes, noodles etc. to add to all the other dishes. A wonderful spread enjoyed by everyone.

Then there was a table full of irresistible desserts such as pao de leite, bebinca, tarts, cakes, mango puddings, lemon bars, cup cakes etc. all made by Colleen Lobelsohn, Fernanda Ho, Teresa Cheung and Lyce Rozario, but a big cake specially ordered in for that occasion was also brought out and the octogenarians gathered together to cut it and they had their picture taken in front of it. They all felt so honoured.

After dinner, we were all treated to a dance performance led by Lyce Rozario. She and her group did a lovely Spanish Line Dance, much to the delight of the audience. After that she taught a couple of simple rumbas and cha chas and even the shy members joined in.

Some then did ballroom dancing and Mickey da Roza danced away and he serenaded his special lady, Claire, since it was also her birthday. We all joined in singing "Happy Birthday" to her.

Then came the Karaoke. One singer after another took to the microphone and entertained everyone with their great voices. I was most reluctant to leave, but I had to attend a birthday party of a very good friend of mine that same evening and had to leave while they were still singing, however I heard that the party went on till past mid-night. Rick Rozario kindly drove grandma home. The next day when I spoke with her, she told me that she had a great time!

Full credit and many thanks go to our Casa's Social Committee, headed by Lyce Rozario, and all the other volunteers who were there that evening to see to the success of the party. I look forward to their multi-themed events and I appreciate the great service which they provide to our Casa members. The festas are all so unique, interesting and so much fun. Keep up your good work! My grandmother and I eagerly look forward to the many more upcoming Casa events.



(Left to Right): Mildred Tetzl, Don Gillis, Rosalyn Yee, Mabel Ozorio & Renee Ozorio



Octogenarian Louis Lim singing away much to the delight of everyone while Elizabeth Luk holds the mic.



Jocelyn Renfro helping out at the party for our Casa's Octogenarians



## A PERSPECTIVE FOR MOTHER'S DAY

By Sheldon Suen

*"There were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him." ~ Matthew 27:55*

When I was young, I, like many other children thought Mother's Day was a day to give your Mom chocolates or flowers; when your entire family would take her out for a nice Mother's Day Brunch or a day when you would be hanging out with Dad so your Mom could be pampered at a spa without being interrupted by the screams and constant nagging of children.

Of course now being older I realize the importance of what Mother's Day truly means. It's not just celebrating the woman that gave you life; it's paying respects to all of the female figures in that life that has shaped you in to who you are today.

All my life I've been told about my Chinese Culture and where I came from. I know about the significance of my last name, 'Suen' and the relation it has to Dr. Sun Yat-Sen. I am very fortunate to have been surrounded by strong women in my life such as my grandmother, Mary Suen Lam Hon-Ming who

always stressed the importance of tradition and pride in being Chinese. She was (and in many instances still is) the glue that holds my Suen Family together. Her unwavering expectation for family loyalty and love is instilled in all of us who carry the 'Suen' name both in blood and namesake.

However, it's thanks to my Mother, Cathy Xavier Fung, that I can say that I am enriched in not only maintaining my Chinese roots but also knowing a little about my Macanese heritage. My mother has always shown me unconditional love and in many occasions "Tough Love". She's been the stern disciplinarian while growing up. Therefore I knew of my connection to the Macanese Community early on. I remember growing up and going to many dinner parties and functions; I would eat some of the most amazing food, sing the most wonderful songs, and listen to an amazing language which was a mixture of Cantonese and Portuguese. I remember hearing Auntie Lyce's ghost stories and seeing Uncle Rick's infectious smile. I remember Auntie Lyce and my mother's friends who were always laughing while reminiscing about old times. But what

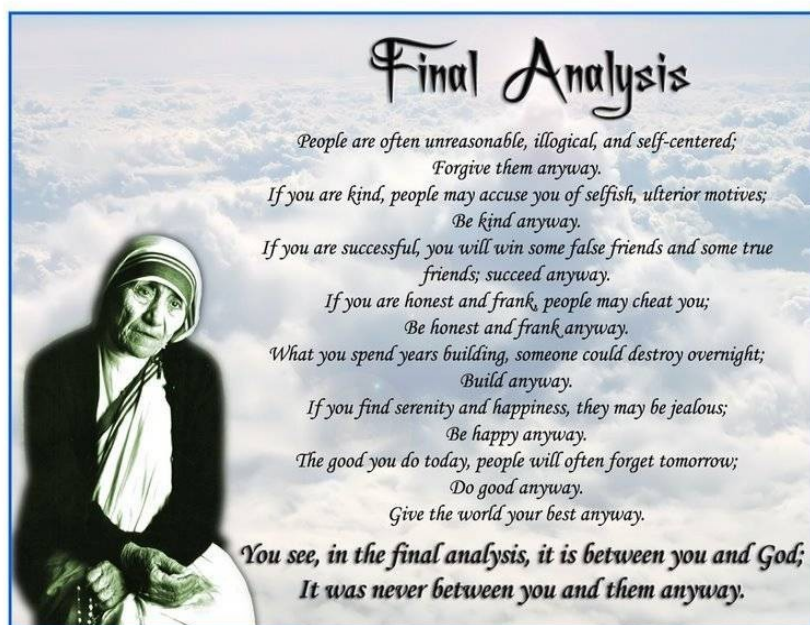
stuck with me the most was that fact that although we weren't related, there was never a time I ever felt like an outsider. I was always treated like I was family.

This feeling now exists today as a member of the Casa De Macau (Vancouver). Again, I see all the same amazing food growing up. I listen to all the wonderful songs that they used to sing (which are apparently songs in Karaoke) and the same laughs and reminiscing that went on back then. But what I appreciate now is seeing great relationships; where a Granddaughter who became a part of this club to spend more time with her Grandmother. I see three generations of a family who come to our Sede to keep their family close. And I also see wonderful people who (like me) don't look Macanese but are still a part of this wonderful community.

So for me, Mother's Day isn't just a day to honour my Mother & the women who made me who I am; it is also a time to celebrate all of the wonderful ladies in our Macanese Community called the Casa De Macau (Vancouver).

And with Mother's Day fast approaching; here is wishing a special blessing to all our Casa Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers, Aunties, Sisters, Wives, Girlfriends, Daughters, In-laws, Nannies, and Women.

Happy Mother's Day!!!!



(Standing left to right): Sheldon & Kitty Suen; (Seated): Mother, Cathy Xaxier Fung



## YEAR OF THE DRAGON KICKS OFF WITH A BANG!



By Lorelei Todd

Kung Hei Fat Choy all you lovely people!

Well, I must say the Year of the Dragon has certainly started with resounding fanfare at the Sede on January 28, 2012 at 6 PM. Mind you, with the most delicious aromas emanating from the front and back doors of the Clubhouse, I am not surprised folks in festive finery arrived at least an hour earlier and had a rip rollicking good time until the wee hours of the morning.

Upon arrival, we were greeted warmly by our long-standing and esteemed member Rene (Sonny) Ozorio who also doled out Lai See, which contained gold chocolate coins. Lyce d'Assumpcao Rozario and her band of diligent volunteers worked tirelessly to decorate the Sede with Chinese dragons and gold coloured characters which lent itself well to the magical ambiance and general camaraderie amongst the revellers.

2012 is the year of the Dragon and good fortune. Therefore those born in 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000 - people, this is your year, much good fortune and blessings reign upon you and your loved ones.

Many of the ladies wore red in commemoration of Chinese New Year, while Fernanda Ho, the president of the Casa de Macau, Vancouver chapter, donned a fabulous forest green Cheong Sam.

Now for the piece de resistance people, let us meander into the other half of the Sede where the mouth-watering morsels are being heated and transported to the dining area. As always, Lyce and her team came through for us as they always do in their own inimitable fashion with regards to the plethora of Macanese entrees offered. The list is mind boggling but here are a few mentioned: Chai which is the Buddhist Feast, my personal favourite which included vermicelli, Chinese mushrooms, and Tofu cooked by Cathy Xavier Fung. - I thought I had been elevated to a truly Celestial plane! Lyce's famous egg curry was another item, which defied description other than to say YOWSER, 'tis a delectable dish you have here and my discerning taste buds thank you immensely; Angela Renfro for the tasty Tacho - the dish had me at Ta!

I would be remiss if I didn't take my hat off to the breath taking desserts donated by the various 'confectioners' and their baked goodies such as the cupcakes, light as a feather chocolate cake, and oh my gosh before I think I've gone back to that aforementioned Celestial plane, Teresa Cheung's absolutely out of this planet mango pudding and two large Pyrex dishes of it - it's just unfortunate I didn't carry a very **large** tote with me or else I would have **very** discreetly placed at least one dish of the pudding in it! Yes, Teresa, it was umm umm goood! Now I know for a fact, kudos must be awarded to Colleen Lobelson for some of the desserts, Diana Pires and to

another esteemed member Rick Rozario for their culinary skills brought to the event.

Whilst pampering our tummies and savouring all the fantastic fare, our music gurus shared the spotlight between Alexandra Henrique and Leonard Rivero who brought Walter Petrie (Petty) who serenaded the crowd with his dulcet rendition of Stardust accompanied by Leonard who played the Clarinet.

Of course, the evening would not have been complete without our beloved Karaoke king Humphrey, who painstakingly set up the monitor and numerous discs and lists from which avid singers could choose their song and thus stretch their vocal chords beautifully.

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Little Braedon Lawrence all decked out for the Year of the Dragon



(Left to Right): Rosalyn Yee, Angie Lau, Mildred Tetzl, Teresa Prata and Season Lau



I, of course, held onto that microphone for dear life whether or not I could deliver an audible version of a song or not; I wanted to be heard and I wanted to be the Canadian Idol for the evening. Yes, siree, no one was going to snatch the spotlight from me, it was a good idea for Humphrey to have supplied two microphones! Thank goodness, for Elizabeth and Ray Luk who saved the crowd from my crowing with their gorgeous voices as did Michelle and Fernanda Ho. Albert Lee sang with the pizzazz of crooners of the old days. Lyce, who didn't want to be left out of the fun and games, joined in as did Rick Rozario her husband. Hedley Morris, Teresa Cheung's husband sang Somewhere My Love to his lovely wife who toiled in the dining area helping to clean and clear away the food. I volunteered to take of the mango pudding, alas it was not to be - it was polished off, depleted, gone into the tummies of others whilst my tote was left bereft of a Pyrex dish! I must say Mickey d'Roza sang to Claire his significant other and later Fernanda and I sang the Mickey song to Mickey, thank goodness, Fernanda can carry the tune while I still day-dreamed of mango pudding!

To say, we stayed until the bitter end would be inaccurate, but to say we stayed until the better end of 12:30 AM would be true and such fun!

Once again much good fortune and blessings upon you and yours in this year of the Dragon.



(Left to Right): Leslie Sauders, Leonard Rivero and his guest, Walter



(Left to Right): Humphrey Ho & Michelle Ho



## **FELIZ NATALE –A VISIT FROM SANTA**



By Natasha Lawrence

On Saturday, December 17, 2011 our Casa hosted another successful event: "Feliz Natal". Our annual event, since 2009, is eagerly looked forward to by the young and "older". It is a great event where our members and guests can bring their children (and grandchildren) to share in a family event for the season.

Even though December 17 was a cold winter's day, unfortunately, there was no snow. Despite not looking like a winter wonderland outside, the feeling inside the Sede was festive. It was splendid to see how the halls of the Sede had been "decked". The transformation was complete with a wonderfully decorated Christmas tree, overflowing with presents underneath.

Throughout the evening Christmas carols resonated in the Sede. Lead by Eddie Tsui on the keyboard, traditional Christmas music was sung joyfully by both the children and the other members.

The highlight of the day, was when Santa arrived with gifts for all the girls and boys (and teenagers too!) Santa arrived with one of his helpers, an Elf who happened to look a lot like our Casa President Fernanda Ho, and his wife, Mrs. Claus (or was that Lyce Rozario?). Santa was an instant hit with kids who came (18 in total); it was nice to see the look of pure joy on all their faces when they received their presents (even if some of the kids started to inquire where Uncle Rick was during the gift giving).

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Several of the children getting ready for their picture with Santa

That was just the beginning of the festivities; Mrs. Claus held various games, such as "Simon Says!" and musical chairs, which brought out the competitive streaks in some of the kids and even some of the adults! There were prizes for the winners and a bucketful of candy canes for all, which a special little helper, Connor da Roza, handed out to everyone.

Later that evening, keeping the festivities alive, many sang karaoke and danced the night away.

As always, the food was not only abundant, but delicious. There was a wide variety of Macanese dishes (such as pao racheado, empada, chillicoti and vermicelli), holiday favourites (ham and turkey), desserts (Christmas cake, shortbread, aluar, stolen, jello) and even a late night snack for all those who stayed until mid-night! Those who partied through the night were treated with tacho, minchi, rice, and even more sweet treats. What a great way to start off a little holiday weight gain!

On behalf of the Casa I would like to thank all the members of the Social Committee who put on another wonderful event. Due to the tireless commitment of these members, lead dutifully by Lyce Rozario, their hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated. I am eagerly looking forward to the next Casa event.



**Rick Rozario serenades, but where did Santa go?**



**Lyce having lots of fun!**



**Food! Food! And More Food!!!**



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Letter to the Editor, Casa de Macau Club (Vancouver)**

Dear Editor,

Rene and I would like to express our sincere thanks to all the Casa members who organized and helped out at the lovely party held at our Sede on Saturday, February 25, 2012 i.e. the "Festa – Noite Especial" to honour our Casa's Octogenarians. We are both members of the Casa and are 80 yrs. +.

We certainly enjoyed the tasty food and the great company there that evening, but most of all we appreciate their thoughtfulness towards our Casa seniors. We shall treasure the memory of this very special event always.

Thank you,

*Mabel & Rene*  
Mabel and Rene Ozorio

Dear Editor,

Lyce and I would like to wish all our Casa members Feliz Pascoa – Happy Easter! Best wishes for a Happy, Joyous and Peaceful Easter to everyone and their families.

Easter is a sacred and the most important religious event celebrated each year by Macanese Catholics in Macau and worldwide in the diaspora signifying new life and new hope for them all.

Thank you,

*Rick and Lyce Rozario*

Rick and Lyce Rozario

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**CASA DE MACAU**  
VANCOUVER, CANADA



**VOZ DOS MACANENSES DE VANCOUVER**

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**Find us at [www.casademacau.org](http://www.casademacau.org)**

## From the Editor

First, I would like to thank the Executive Committee for having the confidence in me to take over the responsibilities of being your Editor. I hope that I will be able to meet the expectations required of me.

To be honest, it wasn't an easy decision to take on the role as Editor simply because of the newsletter's name itself. The translation of "Voz dos Macanenses De Vancouver" is "the Voice of the Macanese Vancouver". Therefore this newsletter isn't just to provide information to the Casa and it's members, but it is also a reflection of our community. Therefore, I wasn't certain I was the right person for the job.

However, at the very subtle urgings (and I do mean, VERY SUBTLE) of Mr. Bill Renfro, he convinced me that it was important for someone to help stimulate the readers with what's happening in our community, to motivate our members (especially our youth)

to learn the importance of their roots, culture and identity and to create a new medium that will entice prospective members to join our growing community. With that I promise to put my efforts in to ensuring this newsletter is a truthful reflection of it's members.

But I need **YOUR** help! This newsletter can't write itself. I need members to get more involved by writing articles about, the Casa Parties, Cultural festivities and member's accomplishments. I need editorials about our community; new perspectives. I want our Youth Members to have a voice here too (What interests them about the club? Where do they see our community going? How would they do things differently?

This is your time! This is our "Voz!"

~ I want to hear from you! Please email me at [shelsuen@gmail.com](mailto:shelsuen@gmail.com)

