



Voz dos Macaenses de Vancouver

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



May, 2013

Volume 14, Issue 1

OUR NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Your 2013 Executive Committee: (L to R): Colleen Lobelsohn, Cathy Xavier Fung, Mickey da Roza, Ricardo (Ricky) Rozario & Angela Gomes Renfro

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Mickey da Roza



Hello dear fellow members.

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for putting your trust in me to be the President of your club as we start another chapter.

I would also like to thank the out-going administration for their hard work, patience and sacrifices.

Although I am president, I do not 'own' the club. We as a whole 'own' the club; therefore, everyone must contribute and volunteer in sharing the workload. The more we volunteer the higher we will soar.

Continued on Page 2...

In this issue:

New Executives	1
President's Message	1
Fusion Fest	2
Visit from Australia	4
Encontro 2013	4
Encontro Article	5
Taste of Macau	6
New Members	8

Special dates of interest:

- May 11th: Casa Meeting
- May 12th: Mother's Day
- June 29th: Cha Gordo at the Sede (High Tea to celebrate São João)
- July 1st: Canada Day



We teach and encourage each other and our children to volunteer and contribute whether it's at our own home or in society, as this is the legacy we would like to leave behind. I hope when its time to sign up for some work in our club, you are not too busy!!! We could also plan our day around the meeting days or event day/evenings.

So I would like to encourage all of you to volunteer to help in "your club" no matter how insignificant it might seem.

Looking forward in seeing one and all.

Mickey Da Roza - President

FUSION FOOD FEST

By Ricardo Rozario

Our Casa's hardworking Social Committee, under the capable leadership of Lyce d'Assumpção Rozario, who for the past four years put forth a mindboggling thirty major Casa functions for our members' enjoyment and pleasure, decided to outdo themselves by putting on one more special function before our Casa's AGM in March 2013, signifying Lyce's term as our Casa's 2nd VP coming to an end.

Lyce, my wife, knowing that the Chinese Lunar Year of the Snake was coming up in February, knew that many of our Casa members would like to honour and celebrate this



important calendar event, and she therefore presented her idea to the Social Committee and Casa Executives that a special "Fusion Food Fest" was the right theme that would please our Casa members. Her idea was accepted and approved.

Our Casa members, many of whom lived in Hong Kong, Macau, Shanghai, Malaysia, Goa and other places in the Far East are fortunate to have been



introduced to a variety of foods and spices like curries, Balichão, soy and Worcestershire sauce, etc. They are therefore conditioned, since early childhood, to try different foods and certainly would welcome a dinner served with a variety of dishes (fusion food) from different countries.

That event was therefore set for Saturday, February 23rd, 2013 at our Sede. Our Casa top chefs which include Angela Renfro, Cathy Fung, Fernanda Ho, Sabrina Lobelson, Dale Johnson, Sheldon Suen and of course Lyce Rozario, were ready for the challenge.

This party was eagerly anticipated by our members. Once again, we had a full house.

Continued on Page 3...

Many started arriving at 4:30 p.m. at the Sede, instead of the posted starting time of 6:00 p.m. They were all welcomed in anyways and relaxed with a nice hot cup of Hong Kong tea prepared by Lyce Rozario, whilst the Social Committee continued to get their dinner ready .

There was a multitude of different foods, Macanese diabo, Bolinhos Bacalhau, minchie, capella, Portuguese buns, hot Indian curry meatballs and eggs, Malaysian seafood medley, Jamaican patties, Japanese California and salmon rolls, Chinese Buddhist feast, soy chicken wings, prawns, vegetables, honey garlic pork chops bean curd rolls with mushrooms, pig trotters with "narm yui" roast pork and barbecue pork, e mein, Korean salad, Argentinian rolls with chourico etc.

Then out came the desserts prepared by Colleen Lobelshon, Ellen Yao, Leonie Todd, Teresa Cheung, Fernanda Ho and oh yes Lyce Rozario too. There was an abundance of pao de leite, bebinca, lemon bars, butter tarts, gummy, puddings, Indian dessert, cookies, fruits, dumpplings etc. etc. The desserts were divine and the folks with a sweet tooth had a ball, not knowing which dessert to go for first.

Our Casa members couldn't believe the quantity and quality of the Fusion Food and desserts provided them that evening. They went for it with gusto !!! Many went back for seconds and some for third helpings. So who's counting?

After this splendid gastronomic extravaganza was



completed and enjoyed by our members, they continued to socialize and to mingle with other members and guests present. It's no surprise how amiable and sociable one gets after a superb meal. For the Macaenses, good food is a priority and always comes first, a known fact!



Lyce Rozario then got her line dance group together and others joined in for the fun and did not hesitate to get onto the dance floor. The dancers ranged in age from 9 yrs. to 85 yrs. and they all had a wonderful time entertaining our members with their enthusiasm and skills. They did several numbers that evening before the karaoke singers took over the lime light.

Michelle Ho (Fernanda and Humphrey Ho's daughter) then took up the mic and dazzled and wowed those present with her amazing singing voice. Lyce, who was bursting with pride, quickly stood up and proudly proclaimed "she's my kai nui"!!! Tiara Shuster, 9 yrs. old also very eagerly stood before our members and sang a very sweet "Ave Maria". Both singers received loud applause and were asked to sing some more and they graciously complied.

Many members and guests stayed way past mid-night, chatting and socializing with each other, a sure sign of yet another successful Casa event. Bravo Lyce and the Social Committee !!! Our Casa is most fortunate to have you all working for us as a first class team. Our members thank you for your hard work and ability to put out such fantastic and delicious food for us for the past four years. We look forward to our next Casa event.



*His Holiness
Pope Francis*
266th SUPREME PONTIFF
OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH
Elected March 13, 2013

Holy Spirit,
look with favor upon our new
Holy Father, Pope Francis,
as he begins his mission as Shepherd of
the Universal Church.

May he be a holy servant, a strong leader,
and a faith-filled guardian of the
teachings of Jesus Christ.

As the Vicar of Christ and successor of
Saint Peter, may he be filled with zeal for
the truth and may his heart be filled
with deep compassion and love for
the least ones among us.

May he experience your peace and grace
in abundance, as you pour forth
upon him your spiritual gifts of wisdom,
understanding, wonder and awe, counsel,
knowledge, fortitude, and piety.

O Beloved Holy Spirit, bless and watch
over our new Pope, and be with him,
and us, as we begin this new journey
of faith together.

We ask these things through
Jesus Christ, Our Lord, *Amen*

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VISIT FROM CASA DE MACAU AUSTRALIA

On his way to Whistler for a holiday with his family, Casa de Macau (Australia) treasurer, Marcus Gutierrez, stopped by to visit our Sede and catch up with old friends.



From Left to Right: Peter Da Silva (member), Bill Renfro (member), Marcus Gutierrez, and Mickey da Roza (President)



ENCONTRO DAS COMUNIDADES MACAENSES - MACAU 2013



An email from Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses regarding the Encontro - Macau 2013

Exmos. Senhores
Presidentes das Casas de Macau

Pelo facto de ainda não estar formada a Comissão Organizadora do "Encontro das Comunidades Macaenses - Macau 2013", não foram ainda assentes as datas nem o programa deste evento.

Porque foram recebidas neste Secretariado diversas indagações sobre as datas da realização do mesmo Encontro, há necessidade de ser tomada uma decisão sobre este assunto o mais cedo possível, para permitir aos participantes planearem as suas viagens.

Assim, o Encontro deste ano ficou provisoriamente marcado para o período de 23 a 30 de Novembro.

Com vista à tomada de uma decisão final, agradece-se a todas as Casas de Macau que enviem dentro de uma semana a este Secretariado as suas opiniões ou sugestões em relação às datas indicadas, e o programa do evento.

Melhores cumprimentos.
O Secretariado do Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses.

Continued on Page 5...

To the Presidents of The Casa de Macau

As the Organizing Committee of the “Encontro das Comunidades Macaenses – Macau 2013” has not been formed, the dates and the program of this event could not be set yet.

Because several enquiries were received in this Secretariat asking for the dates of that Encontro, it is necessary that a decision be taken on this subjects as early as possible in order to allow the participants to plan their voyages.

So, the Encontro of this year was provisionally set of the period from 23 to 30 of November.

For a final decision to be made, we request to all the Casas de Macau to send to this Secretariat, within the period of one week, their opinions and suggestions regarding the proposed date and program for the coming Encontro.

Best regards,
The Secretariat of
The Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses

THE MEANING OF ENCONTRO

By Sheldon Suen

Encontro? What's this Encontro that keeps popping up lately in member's conversations? What does Encontro mean?

In Google Translate, it states that the Portuguese word “Encontro” in English means “meeting”. However, from what I've been told, “meeting” doesn't even begin to describe what “Encontro” truly means to all the members that attend it all over the world.

Not having ever participated in an Encontro, I was very curious to learn what all the talk was about. So I began to listen to different people start talking about it. I wanted to learn why the word “Encontro” seemed all mystical - much like the unicorn or the Easter Bunny.

I remember the first time I posed the question to Casa member, Bill Renfro as to what the Encontro was, the first words that came out of his mouth was “IT'S AMAZING!” A sparkle came to his eye at the mere mention of it. I could tell it brought out so many good memories and experiences that he initially couldn't put in to words what it meant to him (which, if any of you know Mr. Bill Renfro, he's rarely ever at a loss for words – only kidding, Bill).

After he was able to compose himself, I told him I didn't understand what the big deal was - I've been to Macau many times before in my previous travels. Which he immediately responded, “You may have been to Macau, but you've never seen **THIS** side of Macau before.” And said it as if he was issuing me a challenge. But I could definitely see the passion he had towards what he considered such an important event.

I later went on to ask Auntie Lyce Rozario her perspective of what the Encontro was all about. Her response was, “My dear, Sheldon! My darling boo-boo! IT'S AMAZING!” I was thinking to myself sarcastically—Great! The Encontro is starting to sound like it is one of life's great mysteries.

But in typical Auntie Lyce fashion she explained to me that its an event that highlights the best things about Macau - its superior culinary food and the wonderful parties full of singing and dancing that follow. She added that she tries to model all of our Casa functions the Social Committee plans after the events that happen during the Encontro. And similarly to Bill, she also looked like she was thinking about the good memories and experiences she had while attending the Encontro.

Continued on Page 6

Finally I was able to speak to another member and again, the common theme was, "IT'S AMAZING!" However for her, she said that the greatest thing about the Encontro is that she was able to re-connect with old friends and make some new ones. She said even some people get to meet family members they have never met before. She added that you go from activity to activity enjoying the company of different people you meet along the way.

All in all, after speaking to many different people, one thing is very clear, the Encontro is something you have to experience for yourself as it is different for everyone. It shows members another side of the city, the culture and it's people. It's what makes us unique and who we are today. Those who experienced an Encontro get to share their experiences with members all around the world which makes it pretty..... AMAZING!!!!

A TASTE OF MACAU

by **Dale Johnson**

As a fairly new member of the Casa de Macau Club (Vancouver), the social event "A Taste of Macau" was the third function that I had the pleasure of attending. This event, which took place at our Sede on Saturday, April 20th, 2013, was inspired and organized by our Social Coordinator, Lyce d' Assumpção Rozario, who always ensures that the Casa members have the opportunity to enjoy excellent home cooked Macanese food regardless of the theme of any event.

Each time I attend one of these warm and friendly events, I feel that I am in the presence of my late grandfather, Humberto Pires, whom many of you knew as "Bert" and whom I, and all of my many cousins called "Man-Avo". We called him this, because English was our first language, so it was the only way that we could distinguish him from our other "Avo", whom we called "Lady-Avo".

When I and all my siblings and cousins were children, throughout our childhood, we attended many, many family functions. At these family gatherings, usually around Christmas, Easter, and other special days, many members of our extended family and family friends would enjoy the tastes of Macau during a lively, happy, and crowded evening of high-spirited family fun—sounds very much like our evenings at our Casa de Macau, don't you think?

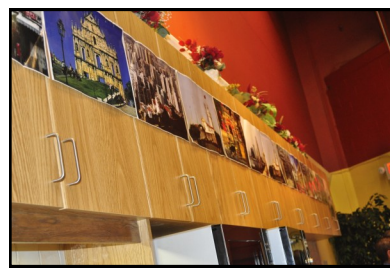
The Sede was fully-attended on the evening of our "Taste of Macau" event. As usual, many members came early in anticipation of the fun and great food. Lyce convinced our Casa's top chefs (and for some reason, even me) to bring out their pots and pans and to cook up a storm, much to the delight of the members who attended this special Casa event.

I noticed that all our Casa Executives were present and I understand from Lyce that they all helped her in some way or other, along with other volunteers.

Our new Casa President, Mickey da Roza helped by going to Vancouver to pick up the bacalhau and Portuguese buns. Our 1st VP Cathy Xavier Fung made a delicious platter of broccoli and cauliflower mixed with turmeric and also a zucchini dish mixed with carrots and onions. Our new 2nd VP, Ricardo Rozario made a well received dish of minchi. Our new Secretary, Angela Gomes Renfro, who is also our Casa Gastronomia, made an excellent Feijoada, and irresistible Porco Balichao Tamarinho, a dish of Prawns and Okra, which went fast, Arroz Carregado and a bolo menino. Our Treasurer, Colleen Lobelsohn made a tiramisu, which was practically attacked even before it could touch the dessert table, a yummy cheese cake and other desserts.

Then there was an excellent Vaca Estofada made by my mom, Diana Pires, a great Capella, bebinca and pao de leite by Fernanda Ho and yours truly, Dale Johnson made the Porco Bafassa, which people kindly said was really good, too.

Continued on Page 7...



I guess that I must have inherited one or two gastronomic genes from Man-Avo!!!

Of course, Lyce Rozario's much requested curry dishes were there along with her delicious Arroz Gordo and her many sought after desserts too. Oh no, I did not forget her famous Hong Kong tea. I saw folks trying to drain even the last few drops out of the thermoses.

Natascha Lawrence made her wonderful cream caramel, a favourite of my mom's and Judy Chua and Ellen Yao also contributed by making a special dessert each. Teresa Carmo Cheung made an excellent mango pudding too.

Every one of the great dishes that we enjoyed at our Sede that evening—especially Lyce's curry—brought back the microcosm of Macau that my grandfather and grandmother created within their home. The difference, however, between these family events and the ones held at our Sede is that my grandfather, with the help of only my grandmother, would prepare all the dishes by himself. He was the best cook that I have ever known—every one of the dishes he prepared would contain that magical ingredient that we, the sons, daughters and friends of Macau crave deep within our hearts.

My grandfather passed away at the age of 106, and, for awhile, I thought that I might never have the chance to taste Macanese food again. Fortunately, I joined our Casa and, with the many events held there and the tables strewn with a multitude of exceptionally well prepared Macanese food, I now have the pleasure, once again, of enjoying the food—and company— that means so much to me.

My sincere thanks to Lyce Rozario for continuing to head the Social Committee and to the rest of the committee, who, along with Lyce, willingly put in countless hours of hard work so that the members of our Casa can all continue to enjoy these wonderful events with all their delicious food, lively company, and entertainment.

My thanks also go to our Casa Editor, Sheldon Suen, who took pictures of the event for our Casa's Voz. Once again, Sheldon remained at the Sede with Lyce till the early hours of the morning to help speed up with the clean up even though a cleaning lady was also there to do the work.

Thank you, for bringing back the world of my childhood and for making it real once again. I am certainly looking forward to our next Casa event. I wouldn't want to miss it for anything. I am so glad that you have invited me to join the Casa!!!



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VOZ DOS MACAENSES DE VANCOUVER

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Find us at www.casademacau.org

★ NEW MEMBERS ★

The Casa would like to recognize the following new members:

- Lucy Quinn
- Alicia Prata
- Theresa Prata
- Jim McDowell
- Francisco Ho
- Tammy Ho
- Peter Da Silva
- William Hartman
- Andre Baptista
- Jasmine Da Roza

From the Editor

Happy 2013 Everyone!!! Although I can't believe 2013 is almost halfway through. Time does fly when you are having fun.

Much has happened since the last 'The Voz'.

We have a new Executive Committee with Mickey, Uncle Rick and Angela taking on the responsibility of President, 2nd Vice President and Secretary respectively. I also would like to thank the departing Executive Committee members for assisting me in making this newsletter enjoyable. Without their contributions, comments and ideas, this newsletter wouldn't be the same. I would also like to thank the Executive Committee for allowing me to carry on the duties of being your editor for this term.

We also have had some wonderful parties attended by lots of members, new and old. It's always wonderful to see people come together. I think that is what makes our Casa

so special.

With that said, I continue to ask everyone to make this newsletter better by submitting articles, comments, and pictures (with consent). 'The Voz' is only as good as we make it. This is your time!!! This is our "Voz!!!"

~ I want to hear from you! Please email me at shelsuen@gmail.com



**WISHING ALL THE MOTHERS A
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!!**