

Voz dos Macaenses de Vancouver

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

September, 2013

Volume 14, Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"Encontro is in the air"

That is correct my fellow members, we have received news that there will be an "Encontro" (reunion) this year. The dates are from December 1st to December 7th in Macau. You will have to sign up with us if you intend to go as the Organizing Committee will require that information for 'head count' and security purposes. Please let us know which hotel (or where) you are staying. This information will help us determine that 'if' there is a subsidy provided by the Macau government, we want to make sure that no one who attends misses out on it (for those that qualify for a subsidy).

On a sad note, in the last month, our tenant upstairs from the Casa has moved. If any member knows of someone who would like to rent the office on our second floor, please let us know and we will pass it on to Dorset Realty.

On a sadder note, our ex-webmaster and past president Michael Guterres, who has taken the retirement road and decided to step down after 18 years as the webmaster for our club. I would personally like to thank Mike who volunteered and took care of our website from its infancy to today without remuneration or complaints and kept it up to date on all matters regarding our club. Mike also received compliments on many occasions from other clubs and people about the website.

I also would like to thank our other committees especially the social committee for volunteering their time, sacrifice, hard work and dedication in preparing all our functions and a SPECIAL thank you to all the "Iron Chefs" of our club who whip up 'mouth watering' food that we all haven't tasted in a long, long time!!!! This is what volunteering is all about.

I hope all of you will come try and taste some of their cooking if not at a meeting then at a function.

Hoping to see you then. Keep Well.

Mickey Da Roza - President

In this issue:

President's Message	1
Dia De Sao Jao	2
Boxing in Macau	3
Summer Fun	4
Macanese	6
Encontro - Macau 2013	9
New Members	11
From The Editor	12

Special dates of interest:

- October 14th: Thanksgiving
- October 26th: Outono Festa De Comida
- November 9th: General Meeting
- November 11th: Remembrance Day
- December 1st to December 7th: Encontro - Macau 2013



CELEBRATION OF DIA DE SAO JAO

By Rhyllis McCarthy

Cha Gordo at the Sede!! That's what the Casa website announced... oh boy, another Macanese feast! I wasted no time and e-mailed Lyce, telling her that the three of us would be attending. Greedy woman, you might think... yes, for sure; who wouldn't want to partake of the scrumptious fare that's *always* served at the Sede? Food and friendship make a terrific combination and this is what is appreciated by all who attend the Casa functions.

June 29th - in sunny Richmond, was indeed just that! Twenty-six degrees and probably hitting thirty indoors at the Sede, which was already packed with revellers at 2:30 p.m. The cha gordo was supposed to start at 2 pm but we learned that folks showed up early and the party was well under way by 2 o'clock.

The executive and social committee were mingling up front to cordially greet members and guests as they entered so it was like coming home for a special celebration; everyone really feels they're welcomed like family at the Sede.

As the website indicated, for Dia de São João, "*traditionally, the Macanese get together to feast on a variety of fruits as they socialize with their family and friends*".

So...I expected a variety of fruit (and Lyce's Hong Kong tea). I should have known better, even though this was our first cha gordo. This function was organized by the Social Committee, headed by our Social Co-ordinator, Lyce d' Assumpção Rozario. Yes, I should have known better! I was not prepared to see FIVE tables chock-a-block with platters neatly laid out, each identified with captioned labels.

There was an attractive presentation of fruit – mango, melon, pineapple, oranges and grapes, to name a few but there were vegetable platters, varieties of sand-

wiches, cheese and shrimp toast, mini samosas, not forgetting the tasty chilicots made by Angela Renfro and Rick Rozario who got some assistance, so Cathy Fung, Maureen Mui and Lyce Rozario deserve special mention for their help in folding the chilicots.

Rick also made an irresistible pao racheodos and wife Lyce outdid herself with her delicious spicy, curried meatballs – my favourite. This was truly a buffet banquet – or is it a banquet buffet? Regardless, it was a spread fit for royalty! There was also sweet and sour vermicelli, ee mein, chicken wings, spring rolls, sausage rolls, Jamaican patties, lau pak go, lotus root cakes, bolo bacalhau and ristois. Oh gosh, I had to go back for a second share!!

The desserts too were excellent, plentiful and thoroughly enjoyed. These were replenished in endless succession so there was no one wanting for anything more. If I remember correctly, there was cream caramel made by Natascha Lawrence, bebinca leite and pao de leited made by Fernanda Ho, squares, lemon bars and cookies baked by Colleen Lobelsohn, mango pudding made by Teresa Cheung and of course Lyce's gummy .

With this amount of food, there were many of us bursting at the seams so thankfully, there was a break when Lyce and her dance troupe did some line dancing while we watched and enjoyed the music. In between the dancing there was some old time favourite listening music which had a lot of folk humming or accompanying Dean Martin and reminiscing of crooners well-loved and missed.

By 7 o'clock, when the cha gordo was supposed to wind-up, we had decided to leave. We had a wonderful afternoon and promised to meet up again at the next function but then came the biggest surprise of all. More food was brought out!! This time, there was baked pork chop rice and a huge pot of tacho made by Angela Renfro, delicious minchi made by Rick and the curried

Continued On Page 3...

...Cont'd from Page 2

favourite that everyone loves – the egg curry made by Lyce. Cathy Fung also prepared a huge dish of broccoli and cauliflower that looked inviting. Everything, in fact, looked so delicious but we couldn't put down another morsel and had to leave before gluttony tempted us.

We regrettably left the friendly atmosphere, but octogenarian parents need an early night, so we missed the karaoke which I believe was spotlighted by Rick Rozario, Fernanda and Humphrey Ho. I heard that the party carried on until 9 o'clock or so!!

Mum, Dad (Corinne & Rowland) and I became members last November. Initially, we were reluctant to join the Casa because we aren't Macanese and felt shy about being 'outsiders'. However, after the first event we attended, we were so enthused by the warmth and camaraderie; we felt a kinship toward the people we met, who made us feel so welcome, that we decided without further hesitation, to join the Club.

Since we've joined the Casa, we've been to five functions and have enjoyed every one of them. Of course, I ask a lot of questions, trying to decipher translations and am still learning the names of the culinary creations but I'm beginning to see that the eclectic nature of Macanese cooking is a type of fusion cuisine that is unique. I love it!

Having known Lyce d' Assumpção Rozario for many years and listening to her stories, I have learned quite a bit about the interesting Macanese culture. Joining the Casa de Macau (Vancouver) has been a good decision. We are beginning to fit in quite comfortably, thanks to the warm hearted people we've met at the Sede. In fact, we're so at ease with the group that we are looking forward, God willing, to going to the Encontro this year and are keen to learn more about the history of the Portuguese in Macau.

ANOTHER SPORTS MILESTONE FOR MACAU

COMBATANTS MANNY PACQUIAO (LEFT) AND BRANDON RIOS (RIGHT) POSING (photo credit: Chris Farina - Top Rank)

By Sheldon Suen

I am sure many of you read my article in the December, 2012 newsletter titled "Sports History Made In Macau" where I wrote about a Mixed Martial Arts event propelling Macau in to the mainstream for sporting events globally. Well, I am delighted to report that because of that inaugural event, HBO and American Top Rank is now bringing the world's biggest professional boxing match ever held in China to Macau. Highlighted by one of the biggest superstars in professional boxing, Manny Pacquiao, this event being held on November 24th, 2013 is called "Clash in Cotai." It is expected to build on the reputation of Macau as being a top global destination for sports.

This event has already sold out the 15,000+ seat arena and is expecting a pay-per-view buy rate of over a million worldwide potentially making this event the largest pay-per-view mega-fight overseas in television history.

Because of this event, it is bringing even more visitors to Macau which again will further increase Macau's popularity and economy making it a prime destination for travellers to visit. This event is also the main reason why it is difficult finding hotels for our Encontro this year.

It is amazing to see this much growth in such a short time. I can't wait to see what's next for Macau.

SUMMER FUN AT THE SEDE

By Dale Johnson

Dear friends and members of the Casa de Macau Club (Vancouver),

Once again, it is my great pleasure to write and tell you all about the great fun we had on our August 3rd 2013 Casa event at our Sede. Since you all already know, it kind of begs the question: "Why am I writing at all?"

Well, I guess the answer to this question is that, since we all see through our own eyes, I can only tell you what I saw, and what I saw was everyone having a great time the way our ancestors must have had on festive occasions like this for hundreds of years in Macau and Hong Kong.

These festive occasions include first and foremost our elders. These are the key people who cement and hold us together. Just as when I was a child, it filled me with joy to be in their company. Without our elders there would be no Casa de Macau, and luckily for us there were many of them there that evening.

Next, these occasions must include babies and children. What would our event be without children? In fact, there were children from the ages of nineteen months into their early teens. We Macanese and friends of Macau, all tend to be a gregarious and lively bunch, and being with the young ones, we tend to remain young well into our seventies and eighties.

In addition to this, at every festive event, there has to be lots of people, and that there was. Once again, we had a full house. Luckily for us, the weather was wonderful, and we were able to open the big back doors. The bright light of the August day brightened our spirits even more and allowed the fresh air to flow through the Casa, which brought the tempting aromas from the barbecue just outside the backdoor wafting inside. Many thanks must go to Ferdi Sobrinho, who loaned us his barbecue set, helped us to set it up, and, furthermore, tended to it for us that pleasant summer evening. Muito obrigado!

Every festive event must have a host. When I was a child, these events were always held at my grandparents' home, and host was always my Avo, Humberto Pires. He and my grandmother organised everything. They tended to all the details, and, in addition, made everyone feel welcome and special. They were wonderful hosts !

Fortunately for us, in the case of our Casa, we have our Social Co-ordinator, Lyce Rozario, who always does just that, planning, cooking, tending to details and putting in hours of work for the pleasure of our Casa members. In this respect, my heartfelt appreciation goes to Lyce Rozario and her husband Rick Rozario, who is always by her side, ready and willing to help her in any way he can.

As at every festive Macanese event, however, it would not be a successful festive event without top quality food. Our best Casa chefs helped to marinate and cook the food too, and as usual, there were many exceptionally great dishes; to mention them all will be tough, but I'll try.

Cont'd On Page 5...

...Cont'd From Page 4

Angela Renfro's Bifi Macau was out of this world. I could not decide whether to have it with the tempting Rice Pilaf which Blossom Sobrinho made or with the freshly baked Portuguese Buns staring at me; therefore, I indulged in both. Angela's barbecued fish was a real hit too, and, although many fish were barbecued that day, they were gone in no time.

Then, there was Clera Lobo's butter chicken and the hot curry dishes which Lyce made. Who can resist either one of them? I had tasted both before, and each was great; therefore, although my plate was already overflowing, I just had to have some of both – so please forgive me if you didn't get quite as much as you would have liked.

However, that was not all. We still had Rick's delicious minchi, Cathy Fung's freshly fried and perfectly seasoned vegetables and salad. Of course, my mom, Diana Pires, brought out her pots and pans on that day, too, and made a tray of Hawaiian Chicken and another Portuguese Chicken. I know personally that Lyce could not keep herself from enjoying just one of the wings. She kept going back for another and yet another. In fact, I heard her say that not even a spoon of gravy was left behind from that dish. Lyce also kindly said that the dish of spareribs which I, myself prepared went over very well, too; of course, I thanked her for her kind exaggeration. Our Casa chefs beamed with pleasure that evening!

Colleen Lobelsohn's Shepherd Pie was also a favourite of many, as was Angela's Balichao Tamarinho. Lyce, of course, was aware that some of the members were vegetarians, so she made sure that there was a tray of Buddhist Feast, vegetarian egg plant, vegetables, salad, and Chinese mushroom with "ee mein," too.

Many well deserved compliments were heard all around for the wonderful food. Therefore, on behalf of everyone who enjoyed the dinner, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lyce and the rest of our Social Team and volunteers, once again, for preparing all that great food. "Thank you sincerely! We really appreciate it!!!"

Now, let's get to the desserts. We had an ice-cream bar which I was glad to man. Some requested sundaes. Others requested banana splits, or just plain vanilla or chocolate ice-cream. My mother, Diana, prepared a favourite that my Avo used to make: mango ice cream. Some wanted sprinkles on their desserts, and others wanted chocolate, gummy bears, or other little delights. It's a good thing that I had enjoyed a feast earlier on, for it took a lot of the energy to scoop one huge scoop after another as fast as I could. Fortunately, some decided to go for the other tempting desserts set before them, baked and made by Colleen Lobelsohn and Lyce Rozario. I could hear their oohs and ahs as they tried to decide on which dessert to have first.

After our scrumptious meal, however, the party then really began. Tables were swiftly moved aside and the ladies and men too, got up and eagerly lined danced for our pleasure and their own. Needless to say, they were led by none other than Lyce Rozario. How Lyce managed to dance with them for over two hours is beyond me, because I didn't see her sit even for a moment all evening, and I understand that she had already been there working at the Sede since 9:00 am.

Cont'd On Page 6...

... Cont's From Page 5

While this was going on, many others took up lively conversations in the back room and outside, moving back and forth from one group to another, all the while going back for endless refills of Hong Kong tea. I had my guitar with me and some of the ladies enjoyed singing along as I played on it. They certainly do have lovely voices, which made playing the guitar such a pleasure for me.

And so the evening went by, until at the end of a great day, we said our good-byes till the next time we meet again. I always look forward to seeing my fellow members and friends at our Casa de Macau Club. "Adeus. Ate logo."

WHAT IS MACANESE?... THE DEBATE CONTINUES

By Sheldon Suen

Living in Canada we are very fortunate that we have such a vast mixture of different cultures. Whether you are at a shopping mall or grocery store, walking the street or taking public transit, you will always notice a variety of different faces everywhere you go. We are such a mixed bag here in Canada, cultural borders are even more blurred which broaches the never-ending question about the Macanese culture. What is Macanese? In doing a lot of research over the past six months on the internet, what is common in my findings – there is no distinctly correct answer and everyone has their own interpretation of how they would define "Macanese". However, Mr. Frederic A. (Jim) Silva, a noted Macanese writer has written many articles regarding this ongoing and somewhat controversial debate. I'd like to share some with you.

The first article is excerpts from a transcript of a paper given by Mr. Silva at the Macau Encontro in 2004.

The second article is (in my humble opinion) the perspective I relate with the most and I feel it truly defines the word, culture & heritage that is "Macanese."

**We Macanese**

By Jim Silva

Whoever said "East is East, and West is West and never the twain shall meet" had obviously never met a Macanese. In the Macanese there has been the perfect blending of East and West.

What then is a Macanese ?

A short answer is that a Macanese is someone from Macau or else a descendant of someone from Macau. Another accepted definition is that a Macanese is a Eurasian of Portuguese and Asian blood. Portuguese and, say Chinese, Goan, Malay or Japanese ancestry – perhaps more than one of these.

Cont'd On Page 7...

... Cont'd From Page 6

What do we look like ?

My wife tells me that my particular brand of good looks can come from anywhere East of Suez.

On the way to the last Encontro I travelled with a group of delegates to Macau via Seoul, Korea. We met up with a group of Casa de Macau members from Vancouver to make our joint way flying across the Pacific. We had a great re-union on board. On this same flight were a group of American service wives returning to their husbands in Korea. They were intrigued with our chatter and looks and finally asked – “Excuse me - but who are you ? We replied “Guess”. They consulted and pondered and finally decided – “You are a group of Hawaiians.”

Truly, our Macanese looks defy description. Some of us look absolutely European and some look 100% oriental, with most of us somewhere in between. Because of our tangled roots we are a cocktail mix. Even within the same family there are darker skinned children amidst lighter skinned brothers and sisters. Our European, Goan and Chinese background adds to the mix.

Over time there has been more interesting intermarrying with other non-Portuguese Europeans, especially in Hong Kong. In Hong Kong we had large Macanese clans bearing the names of Hyndman, Osmund, Brown, Gardner, Yvanovich, Demee and Danenberg.

In Shanghai there was a Macanese family with the name Lubeck. From Goa two family names came to Hong Kong and are the Alvarez and Figueredo clans. They are all said to be descendants of young Goan men who settled in Macau many years ago and intermarried with Macanese women.

We have Spanish blood too with Macanese families bearing names like Gutierrez, Alarcoun and Alonco. Then there is that large Castro clan. The story is that three Spanish brothers settled in Hong Kong and Shanghai and intermarried with Macanese women producing numerous offspring.

All this goes to show that the racial component for this mix was established earlier and this mixing of mixtures continued on and on.

There is a further complication which is peculiar to Macau only, and not seen in Hong Kong or Shanghai. This has to do with the racially pure Chinese adopting the Catholic faith and then taking a Christian first name on baptism – as in say – Carlos Chan. He can then even adopt a Portuguese last name as well – perhaps the last name of his god-father and become say, Carlos Pereira. This was a common practice in other Portuguese colonial territories of Goa, Africa and Ceylon.

By changing his birth name, of say, Chan Kwok Hung to Carlos Pereira on baptism would indicate that the person readily accepted the language, religion and culture of Portugal and may at the same time have some social and economic advantages on reaching adulthood – both by employment opportunities and quicker social integration. These converts would seamlessly integrate and intermarry with others of similar background or within the larger Macanese Eurasian community. Thus the mix continues.

When one considers that this and other mixes have continued for over 400 years one can appreciate the diversity.

*information and text from “We Macanese” is credited to the Casa De Macau – Australia website.

Cont'd On Page 8...

... Cont'd From Page 7



MACANESE – IF YOU PLEASE

by Jim Silva

This website recently gave the number of Macanese existing today. This was given as 250,000 persons!!! Incredible. Mindboggling. Hardly believable.

I would have thought that 10% of this number would be more to the mark. I think I know how a discrepancy of this magnitude can be arrived at.

Both estimates obviously have to do with defining “Who is a Macanese” (since there are no green cards or passports being issued). Slippery ground here.

In earlier days of Portuguese Macau there had already been controversy on this score. Some contended that to be a Macanese one has to be born in Macau. Others say that to be a Macanese one has to have at least SOME Portuguese blood in his/her ancestry.

Besides place of birth and blood – language skills, culture, religion and current citizenship should also be considered since there is no document that exists that can pass for a Macanese passport.

This “Slippery Ground” has always been apparent – but especially so today when perhaps 80% of the community have seen it fit to move away from Shanghai, Hong Kong and Macau to re-establish themselves permanently in Canada, Australia, USA, Brazil and Portugal.

By common reckoning the majority of Macanese today are now established away from the Far East. What about the progeny of these Macanese now scattered around the world? To what degree would they still be considered Macanese?

Be aware that succeeding generations of these migrants and the generations that follow will always have a tendency for marriage outside their community. At what generational stage does one lose the Macanese identity?

Hard to tell. If one includes ALL progeny of Macanese – perhaps the figure of 250,000 Macanese could still ring true. But that would be a hard pill to swallow.

I would help to simplify and clarify the tribe with this qualification. ALL who love ” Minchi ” and “Tacho” and “Balichao” will be able to call themselves Macanese, and entitled to fly a banner of Green and Red superimposed with an emblem of a purple shrimp rampant.

**”Macanese - If You Please” is provided by Mr. Roy Xavier and found on the www.fareastcurrents.com website.

*Mr. Silva’s picture in this article is credited to the www.fareastcurrents.com website



ENCONTRO DAS COMUNIDADES MACANESE “MACAU 2013”

PROGRAM

30th November (Saturday)

18H00 - Welcome Reception for the participants, at the “Escola Portuguesa de Macau”.

1st December (Sunday)

18H30 - Opening Ceremony of the Encontro presided by His Excellency the Chief Executive of Macau S.A.R. followed by banquet at the Grand Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt Hotel

2nd December (Monday)

11H00 - Ceremony at the Monument for the Macanese Communities of the Diaspora presided by His Excellency the Chief Executive of Macau S.A.R. and with the presence of the Secretary of Administration and Justice of the Macau S.A.R.

Blessing by the Rev. Bishop of Macau and Laying of wreaths of flowers.

16H00 - Debate on the “Macanese Identity” and “Presentation of the Forum of Macau”. Followed by reception and dinner offered by the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese Language Countries, at the Scientific Center

3rd December (Tuesday)

09H30 - Meeting of the Macanese Communities Council (with elections of the Social Boards)

10H00 - For the remaining participants: Guided visit by experts from the Cultural Institute of Macau to the places of historical interest.

18H00 - Reception at the Residence of the Consul General of Portugal in Macau, for the delegations of the Casas de Macau and the Organizing Committee

Cont'd on Page 10...

... Cont'd From Page 9

4th December (Wednesday)

Macanese Culture Day

11H00 - Cultural Session organized by the International Institute of Macau with the presentation of the new editions and interventions on ``The Cultural Role of the 'CASA DE MACAU'', at the 'D. Pedro V' Theatre.

17H00 - Solemn Session commemorative of the 142nd Anniversary of APIM and the 80 years of the Kindergarten "D. José da Costa Nunes", followed by "Chá Gordo" organized by the "Confraria da Gastronomia Macaense", with the collaboration of other "Associações Lusófonas", in the kindergarten "D. José da Costa Nunes".

5th December (Thursday)

15H00 – Photo session at the Ruins of St. Paul with the presence of His Excellency the Chief Executive of Macau S.A.R. and of the Secretary for Social Affair and Culture.

18H00 – Mass and Te-Deum in the Cathedral.

20H00 – Youth convivial at the Albergue da Santa Casa de Misericórdia.

6th December (Friday)

11H00 – "Cozinhaçam maquista para jôvi-jôvi" with the collaboration of the "Instituto de Formação Turística", followed by lunch at the IFT.

15H00 – Youthful tour.

19H30 – Closing Dinner Party of the Encontro "MACAU 2013".

Note: Due to the fact that the location for the Closing Party of the "Encontro" has not yet been defined, this event may, eventually, move to the 7th of December.

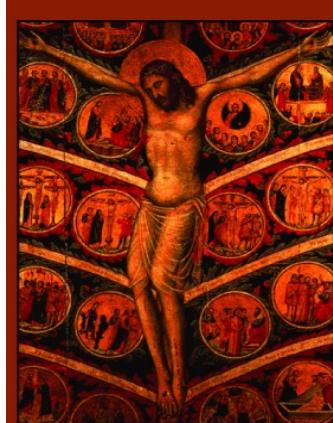
OUR CONDOLENCES

The Casa De Macau (Vancouver) would like to express their sincere condolences to the families of the following members whom we lost:

Thomas Gutierrez

Prisca Quan

May they Rest in Peace!



Eternal rest grant unto the deceased
O Lord, and let perpetual light
shine upon them. May all the souls
of the faithful departed, through the
mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

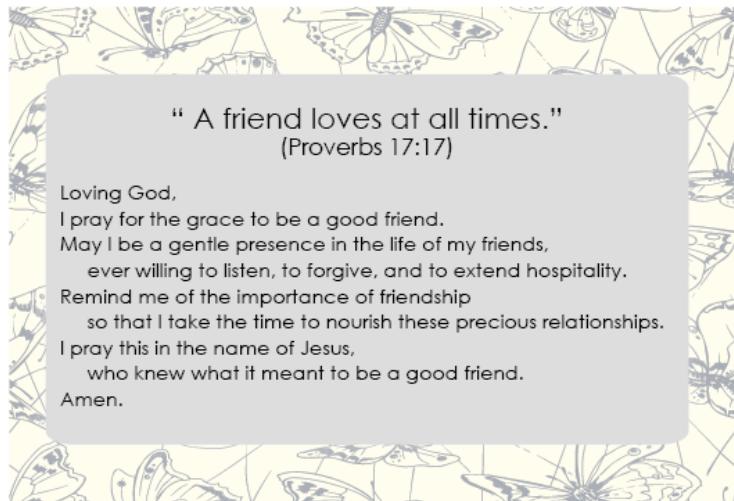
NEW MEMBERS

The Casa would like to recognize the following new members:

- Alberto & Alma Nisperos
- Angela Rocha Haigh
- Trevor Wright
- Frances & Arthur Lopes
- Eileen Lopes
- Sydney Lopes
- Kelsey Lopes
- Jenny Chan
- Winnie Chan
- Lisa Ye

The Casa would also like to recognize the following returning members:

- Marc & Nicole Davidson
- Mandy Boursicot
- Patricia de Albuquerque



Casa De Macau (Vancouver)

Clubhouse and Mailing Address:
Suite 130 - 3757 Jacombs Road
Richmond, British Columbia
V6V 2R3



CASA DE MACAU VANCOUVER, CANADA



VOZ DOS MACAENSES DE VANCOUVER

Executive Committee

President

Mickey da Roza (604) 612-5007

First Vice-President

Cathy Xavier Fung (604) 277-9448

Second Vice-President &

Property Manager

Ricardo Rozario
(604) 271-0034

Treasurer

Colleen Lobelsohn (778) 688-1826

Parliamentarian

Rick de Guzman (604) 303-7590

Secretary

Angela Gomes Renfro (604) 232-3371

Committee Co-ordinators

Communications

Cathy Xavier Fung (604) 277-9448

Membership

Angela Gomes Renfro (604) 232-3371

Cultural

Angela Gomes Renfro (604) 232-3371

Socials & Sede Administrator

Lyce d' Assumpção Rozario
(604) 271-0034

Webmaster

Sheldon Suen (604) 760-5418

The Voz—Editor

Sheldon Suen (604) 760-5418

Find us at www.casademacau.org

From the Editor

Wow! Can you believe it??? It's already the end of summer! The hot sunny days are almost over. The kids are all back to school. Before you know it, it will be Thanksgiving and then Christmas. How time flies.

During the past 4 months we had 2 successful parties that were fully attended. I'd like to recognize our Socials Committee for all their time and effort in ensuring that long time members and new members alike had wonderful food to eat, and enjoyed lots of fun and laughter. What is even more important is that many of the guests that attended were left with a positive impression. It really shows that the health of our Casa is as strong as ever. Thank you to those who wrote articles about our wonderful gatherings.

Now, the latest excitement around the Sede revolves around the upcoming Encontro. It sounds like Casa De Macau Vancouver will have a large contingent of members representing us in Macau this coming December. I believe there will be many new stories and adventures happening for our members this year and I can't wait to hear about everyone's experiences. I hope the members attending will share their experiences with us for the next newsletter. As for me, I am not sure if I'm able to attend yet but I do hope I can make it. It would be my first time attending an Encontro and I'd love to

find out what all the "Hooplah" is all about.

On a lesser note, As some of you are aware I have taken over the responsibilities as our Casa's new webmaster. I am excited about the launch for our new website which we are planning for it to "Go Live" the same day as the Casa General Meeting on Saturday, September 14th. A very special thanks to Casa Member and my sister-in-law Amy Leung for volunteering her time and talent on helping to re-design our website to make it more interactive and enjoyable not only for our members but viewers interested in our Casa. I also would like to thank the Executive Committee for their input and assistance on bringing our new website to life. Because our former webmaster, Mr. Mike Guterres did such a wonderful job managing and updating our website for many years, he has set the bar very high. I just hope I will be able to continue the tradition he originally established.

Lastly, I would like to continue asking our members to submit articles, comments, and pictures (with consent) for our newsletter. The more you contribute the better our newsletter will be. It is truly the voice of our community.

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

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