



Voz dos Macaenses de Vancouver

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



May 2015

Volume 16 Issue 1

OUR NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I think about our Association and our twenty years inexistence, I look at the opportunity to serve for the next two years as your President. The reasons that we formed this Association are still very valid today as it was then.

I decided to run as President because I believe that there is an opportunity and need to address some of the challenges that our Casa has today and also add to already what is working well.

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Special dates of interest:

- June 17-24th: Youth Encontro 2015
- June 21st: Father's Day
- July 1: Canada Day
- July 11th: Casa General Meeting
- August 3rd: BC Day



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Here are just some of the areas, in discussions with some of you that we can work on:

- Additional activities and use of the Sede
- Create an atmosphere to encourage more participation of our younger members
- Participate in the Jovens Macaenses Conference in Macau in June, 2015
- Review and update the By-laws to address current needs
- Party to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of our Casa

In addition, we encourage members, new as well as seasoned to share their views, experience or expertise with the Executive.

I feel that with my fellow Executive Committee members, your participation and support we can achieve this and more.

Let me also thank the past President, Executive Committee members and sub-committee members who had donated their effort and time over the last few years to serve this club.

Yours truly,

Francis da Costa, President

HELLO FROM OUR NEW 2ND VICE PRESIDENT



Dear members and fellow executives of the Casa de Macau Vancouver,

I would like to thank you all for the opportunity of being your Second Vice President for the next two years. As a long-time member of our club, I've grown up learning facets to our shared Macanese heritage I would have otherwise been unaware of. In the coming years, I feel this will be an integral part of our club - with younger generations not having the direct connection to Macau, it will fall to us to provide the cohesive support to show

them more of our proud and unique heritage.

In the coming term, I hope to be an effective and productive executive on behalf of the entire club.

Thank you and kindest regards,
Alex King

THANK YOU FROM OUR FORMER PRESIDENT



By Mickey Da Roza

As all of you know by now, I did not seek a second term as President.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee whom I worked with for all their hard work. I'd also like to thank the cultural committee, the social committee and other various committees for their hard work and dedication. I'd like to express my gratitude to all the members that supported me during my term.

For the club, I hope that I served all of you well. During my term, I was able to acquire funds for a new TV and funds to subsidize our tea for after our meetings. I was able to acquire subsidy for our seniors who attended our functions and cultural events. These were some of my contributions to the club. I was also able to secure some funds for us to celebrate our 20th anniversary.

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For myself, I am happy that I was able to complete one full circle of service. One of the highlights for me which is an important moment for this club was being elected as Vice-President of the CCM.

I have now handed the reigns over to Francis Da Costa who I know will serve you well and continue on the correct road for what is best for our club. I hope that all of you, will support him in his endeavors, and I look forward to seeing all of you at a function meeting or get-together soon. Until then, please take care and keep well.

With warmest regards,

Mickey Da Roza,

Former President (and Ex-Officio)

Caring & Sharing Day Celebration

By Rhyllis McCarthy

Kung Hei Fat Choi!!!

The Chinese regard sheep as an auspicious animal, so the Year of the Sheep (Goat/Ram) heralds a year of promise and prosperity. These blessings together with longevity, good health, good fortune and happiness, are wished upon each of our Casa members.

Well, once again, the Casa celebrated in grand style. February 7th – with Valentine's Day and the upcoming Chinese New Year just a few days away, we didn't need any further excuse for celebrations. We had a party... and wasn't that A PARTY!!

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It was a pot luck dinner so the evening was appropriately themed “Caring & Sharing”. The folks that attended truly, in good Macanese style, showed how much they cared by their presentation of a lavish and really scrumptious dinner. The quantity, the aroma, the assortment of the dishes presented was overwhelming and the elegance of it all was by triumphed by the scrumptious and huge, succulent



Roast Pig – presented in all its glory – crisp skin, juicy and tender meat with a side of soy sauce and hoisin sauce. It was the highlight of the evening and a very, very pleasant surprise. It was a gourmet meal and I don’t think too many people had room for it all. There were generous portions, so much so, that Styrofoam take-out containers were distributed at the end of the evening, so that folks could savour the flavours later.

The evening went off very well ending with music and dancing. There were two very cute kids who joined the line dancers; the little girl was trying to learn the steps while her slightly older brother videotaped her attempts with great aplomb. Their frolics brought a smile to all the adults and I don’t think anyone left the Casa that evening without a big smile on their faces and a warm feeling in their hearts.

I hope to attend many more Casa dinners and though our busy life styles and every grind might keep our interaction at the lowest, they should not become excuses to weaken the bond we Casa members share.

Cheers and again Kung Hei Fat Choi!!

IN MEMORIAM

Sir Roger Lobo 1923-2015

A former lawmaker whose 1984 attempt to lift the veil of secrecy over Sino-British negotiations on the future of Hong Kong sparked suspicion in Beijing has died at the age of 91.

Roger Lobo, a Macau-born entrepreneur and one of the most respected members of the city's Portuguese community, died of cancer on Saturday.

His public service - for which he received a knighthood - included years on the Executive Council, as an acting and later a full member from 1967 to 1985. He was also a lawmaker, becoming senior member of the Legislative Council from 1980 to 1985.

One of his best-known acts was moving the so-called Lobo motion, which demanded a full debate in Legco before Britain and China reached a final agreement on Hong Kong.

"The purpose of this motion is very simple. It means what it says - no more - and one might think that it could not be easily misunderstood or misrepresented," he told lawmakers after Beijing implied it was a bid to intervene in talks. It was passed unanimously, six months before the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

In 1989, he worked with business leaders and former civil servants to found the Vision 2047 Foundation, to build global understanding of Hong Kong.

Former governor David Wilson said he was saddened by Lobo's death. "He had a profound love of Hong Kong and a deep commitment to public service."

Former lawmaker Lydia Dunn hailed her "tireless and selfless" colleague, while PCCW chief Richard Li Tzar-kai called Lobo, who served on the firm's board, a "giant of his times" who "was never on the side of the authorities for the sake of it, but always a voice of reason".

Businessman Victor Fung Kwok-king, a long-time friend, said: "We were extremely fortunate to have had a man who cared so deeply for the well-being of the people of Hong Kong."

Lobo is survived by his wife, Margaret, five sons and five daughters, as well as 28 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Son-in-law Kenneth Morrison said Lobo was deeply committed to Hong Kong and its people, in particular its youth.

The Casa De Macau (Vancouver) would like to express their deepest sympathies to the family of Sir Roger Lobo. May he be remembered in our thoughts, memories and prayers.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY FATIMA, PATRONESS OF MACAENSES COMMUNITIES



This year is the 98th Anniversary of Our Blessed Mother's Appearance to the three children in Fatima on May 13th 1917.

The Virgin Mary, our Lady of Fatima, is the Patroness of all the Macaenses worldwide. We humbly honour and thank her for Her continued protection and blessings she has given to our Casa and families and we pray that she will bring Peace and unity in our Casa."

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Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Mother  
Protectress of Macaenses  
Prostrate at Thy feet  
Proclaiming You our Patroness  
We implore You  
Be our Way, our Light and our Guide  
Be with us and our families  
Wherever life takes us  
Keep us united with one another  
Be the link of our Unity  
Today and Forever  
Queen of the World  
Patroness of Macaenses  
Pray for us.  
(Recite "Hail Holy Queen")



## GOLDEN GALA : JANUARY 2, 1965 - JANUARY 2, 2015



Two of our founding members celebrated a monumental milestone in their lives and some members of the Casa De Macau were present to help them celebrate this momentous occasion and one member wanted to share her experience with 'the Voz' readers:

By Lorelei Todd

*Jerszy Darling,*

*Oh you missed the most divine party the other day! It was on a Friday night January 2, 2015 which started at 6 PM until the wee hours. I truly thought I was attending a Red Carpet event at the Beverley Hills Hilton! Lights, camera and sparkling personalities! It was Lyce (nee d' Assumpcao) and Ricardo Rozario's 50th wedding aka Golden anniversary held at Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond.*

*Jerszy, these two darling kids married in Hong Kong in 1965 – that's 50 years of marital bliss. You and I wouldn't have lasted 50 days leave alone 50 years! Now don't misunderstand me, I adore you even with your foibles, not to mention my own, which I hold dear to my heart if I do say so!*

*Doll, they had it all and everyone was dressed to the nines; as if we could do otherwise, given the occasion. Upon entering the restaurant, the decorations were tastefully done with a gorgeous banner stencilled with Lyce's and Rick's name commemorative of their anniversary with lovely little hearts at each end of said banner. This creative work of art was very thoughtfully done by some wonderful friends of our 'Golden' couple.*

*According to my keen eye and sense of smell, I'd say there were 292+ guests at best. This included family and overseas guests who flew in for the party. Jerszy, Lyce and Rick, are so well loved and appreciated that six of her overseas guests included Lyce's god-daughter Edith Mak, a member of our Casa along with her immediate family and Marcia Aw flew over from Hong Kong. Another six arrived from San Francisco who included Lyce's kai nui, Maria Roliz, president of the Lusitano Club of San Francisco, Dorothy Oliveira, and Loudie Remedios, and each of their respective spouses.*

*Getting back to my further observations of the decorations, the tables each had 2 gold balloons and one red one anchored by a small gold coloured weight to keep them aloft. The round tables were each covered with white linen table cloths and red linen serviettes. The colour scheme was perfect and patriotic. The party favours at each place setting was quietly quaint with gold chiffon beribboned pouches, each held 5 gold foil covered sugared almonds with appreciation tags attached.*

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*Jerszy darling, I couldn't have been more impressed upon walking into the restaurant and see a long table upon which there were congratulatory letters from not only our lofty Prime Minister Stephen Harper, but six other politicians! Placed alongside the letters was a beautiful gold framed picture of my dearest friends Lyce and Ricardo Rozario on their wedding day. I was remiss in signing the Guest sign in book, but Lyce and Ricky Ricardo –that's my pet name for him, know mum and I love them to bits and we would not have missed the chance to celebrate this wonderful occasion with them.*

*Jerszy dear, you know what impressed and touched me the most was to discover that Lyce and Ricky's American friends baked a beautiful traditional wedding fruit cake, cut it into 300 pieces and each lovingly wrapped in saran and decoratively wrapped in white doilies held in place with a gold silk ribbon and a commemorative tag with Lyce and Rick's name scrolled on each. The fruit cake was most delicious aside from my own maternal grand-mother's recipe for a traditional Christmas fruit cake much like Manna from Heaven.*

*Dorothy Oliveira from San Francisco generously baked Lyce's wedding anniversary fruit cake. Also, Maria Roliz, the president of the Lusitano Club of San Francisco along with her trusted entourage ensured Lyce and Rick's friends would enjoy the 50th wedding anniversary right down to the fruit cake. Jerszy dear, now that's what I call friendship, which has withstood the tides of time.*

*Now let's see, ah yes, the Head table, Msgr. Luterbach presided and said Grace before dinner, and bestowed his special blessing upon the couple. Sister Maureen Therese was present as well. Antonia, Lyce and Rick's dutiful daughter basked in her parents' joy. Lyce's god-daughter Edith Mak, god-son Michael Muller, Maria Roliz (Lyce's kai nui), Emily Fung, her god-daughter's sister and their spouses were also at the Head table with a perfect unobstructed view of the dance floor. This is understandable since Lyce would be holding court on the dance floor with her dedicated line dancing students.*

*Jerszy honey, they had the best Master of Ceremonies presiding over the gala, a rather jovial chap known as Sheldon Suen, who I understand also runs the newsletter for the Casa as their editor and webmaster, neither of which are easy feats. He's Cathy Xavier Fung's son, Cathy is currently First Vice of our Casa and a guest as well at this glamorous event. Lyce calls Sheldon her Booboo as she used to carry him as a babe! Sheldon, don't be bashful and blush, we've all been babies at one point – I was a baby going on 80!*

*Now for the most important part of the evening – yes, I do mean important, as my tummy started to protest in hunger, but that's not unusual. You wouldn't believe the 12 course elaborate Chinese Banquet dinner that ensued. It was as if I had passed into the ethereal realm of the Afterlife where zero calories were the order of the day, and all of us were 9 Stone (126 pounds) perpetually without an ounce to spare. Now in case you were wondering dear heart – 1 Stone is equal to 14 pounds.*

*Now that we've settled that dilemma without too much head scratching; we can safely move onto the first Entree presented. It was a delicious deluxe platter of crispy, succulent roasted Pork, barbequed Duck, Honeyed Garlic Pork Spareribs.*

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The next aromatic dish offered, was a lovely culinary concoction of Jellyfish with marinated Pork Hock that was absolutely divine. Next, to tease our overworked salivary glands and mastication muscles was the shredded Chicken, Duck and Mushroom soup – a delectable choice, which merely whet our over wrought appetites for the plethora of dishes yet to be served.

My singular favourite, by far, was the third course of perfectly prepared Peking Duck with its accompanying pancake wrap made from scratch, not the run of the mill wonton wrap – thank goodness. The fourth item on the menu - the Lettuce wrap with diced duck marinated in a scintillating sauce was *tres magnifique!* Jerszy, I must confess, if I had my way, I would have saved my Crab Claw Lollipop, our fifth course, for you to taste; alas that would have been breaching all rules of etiquette. Honestly, I would have made a special trip to the kitchen to procure more of the Crab Claw Lollipops, if I knew where it was located! These were decadently delicious and yes my weight is perpetually at 126 pounds if you please! The sixth item which we anticipated with relish was the braised Chinese Mushrooms with Chinese Broccoli. This dish was consumed in no time flat. Yes, I am guilty of smacking my chops while remaining ever so polite as I waited patiently for the 'Lazy Susan' to bring the entrée to where I sat. The seventh was the melt-in-your mouth Golden Medallion Filet Steak Oriental Style, which was exceptionally done and apparently very difficult to prepare according to Dan Lai. Dan and his wife Candy were my dinner companions and he was, by my account, well versed in the Culinary arts and connoisseur of fine wine. Of course, I would be quite remiss if I didn't mention the eighth entrée of Prawns and Scallops cooked with Celery and Snow Peas. Our collective tummies were replete by now and some eyelids drooped, mine in particular. The prawns and scallops called to me with their sirens' song; so I ignored my belly's protestations, twisted my rubber arm and promptly helped myself to another spoonful of said dish.

The ninth installment of the 12 course banquet, was the deep and stir fried Fish Filet with Vegetables, a pure delight to the taste buds as each distinct flavour partied in my mouth to their own music. Dish number tenth offered was the Crispy Chicken – Colonel Sanders you have some serious competition *mon ami!* eleventh on the list and counting was the Dry Scallop Egg White Fried Rice mixed well with the Prawns, Scallops and Celery – oh rapture, oh bliss, lead me to your Chef Extraordinaire so I may pay my compliments. Last, but not least, the twelfth item on the menu included the braised E-Fu Noodles – shall we say yummy in my tummy, oh yes, let's.

The Desserts, the thirteenth entree on our banquet menu, were equally and elegantly presented with a feast of Coconut Soup with Taro and Tapioca – a tasty temptation. The other offering was Mango Pudding, which was lovely, but no comparison to Teresa Morris' flavourful creation, which she makes for our Casa's events without fail. Almond and Fortune Cookies, large Oranges were also presented.

The piece de resistance of desserts was the much anticipated rich fruit cake. There were also two additional cakes, the coffee and walnut cakes from Anna's Cake Shop, sliced and offered – the butter icing was wickedly delicious!

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### **... Cont'd from Page 10**

The various beverages offered to wash down this veritable feast were Chinese Tea, Pop, Sparkling Apple Juice, Red and White wine flowed for each table, and of course the usual staple of tea and coffee to end our dinner.

Jerszy darling, we must make it a point to patronize the Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond on Cambie and No 5 Road. I mean the staff were impeccable with their sense of discretion and attention to detail. The service was par excellence, superb. Each guest was able to take home food with the help of the staff, who supplied containers of all sizes, should one decide to take some of the fare on offer.

Lyce's well-kept secret of hiring a wonderful piano Accordionist to serenade us all before and during dinner was delightful. Once the repertoire of romantic ballads ended; the DJ presided for the rest of the evening as he ushered in the various performances in honour of Lyce and Rick's 50th wedding anniversary. The first of which was St. Paul's Noon Choir. Next, there was the dance recital performed by Tianne and Andy Schaub both of whom are members of our Casa.

Their dances included a medley of the Waltz, Country, Zumba, Jive and Jitterbug to the tunes presented. Interspersed between the performances were short expressions of appreciation and congratulations to Lyce and Rick on their milestone anniversary. Ginger Hodgkinson expressed her appreciation for Lyce and Rick's dedication to the St. Paul's seniors for their tireless efforts and unadulterated devotion of service for the last 15 years of teaching Line Dancing every Thursday afternoon. Right after Ginger's speech, Lyce lead her line dancing seniors in a wonderfully choreographed number. She was in her element – bravo Lyce!

Ferdi Sobrinho, a member of our Casa and that of the Knights of Columbus made a heartfelt speech of thanks to Lyce for her awesome ability to teach her Knights of Columbus group of line dancers every Friday night despite her inability to walk or stand for any length of time. Lyce, you are a star! The Knights of Columbus group of dancers, who Lyce lovingly calls her "twinkle toes" executed two dance numbers with Lyce at the helm. We were all treated to a Circle Dance, which was a choreography clockwise and counter-clockwise of two groups of dancers superbly synchronized. Jerszy dear, I would have been completely lost and a bit cross-eyed had I deigned to participate. Mind you, being completely replete with the veritable feast consumed, you can guess why I was merely a spectator. Legs you've failed me yet again, belly you too have betrayed your mistress!

Antonia, Lyce and Rick's only daughter, toasted her parents as she regaled us with short anecdotes of her childhood. Lyce and Rick rendered a warm toast to their guests for sharing such an auspicious occasion with them and their family. The enormous 50th Anniversary Cake was displayed on a table just under the colourful banner with an arch of balloons over it.

Atop the cake, two darling China kissing dolls, a gift from Maria Roliz and Dorothy Oliveira.

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There were two other similar large coffee and walnut cakes generously lathered in beautiful butter icing from Anna's Cake Shop, these were displayed on another table close by, ready to be cut and served to all the guests.

A PowerPoint show of Lyce and Rick's childhood photos were shown along with pictures of their respective youth, subsequent pictures of their wedding day and current photos were enjoyed by all.

Ricky Ricardo, this is my nickname for him, gave a wonderfully poignant speech to Lyce in which he indicated he loved her more at that moment than he did on their wedding day – oh my goodness, where is that Kleenex when I most need it? He expressed his joy and honour in being married to his one and only love for the last 50 years. Rick serenaded Lyce with a song called "Silver Threads Among the Gold" I looked around our table and there was not a dry eye to be found! Truth be told, I was not immune to the sentimentality of the ballad as I found myself bleary eyed – mind you, it could have been the lovely Chardonnay I continued to sip all evening!

Alas, tears dried and folks were moving toward the dance floor to trip the light fantastic and burn off all the calories consumed – in my world, there were zero calories, that's my story and I am sticking to it. Mum jived with Trevor Wright and later, I joined a group of dancers who were dancing to John Travolta's famous Saturday Night and mimicking his disco moves. Well, I paled in comparison, so I chose to improvise and grooved as I saw fit. Shook my booty until it hurt – no seriously, my feet really were killing me! The music was stellar and we enjoyed the evening tremendously.

Jerszy darling, our 'Hollywood Gala' was at an end. Gee, I hope they managed to photograph my good side, no wait, I don't have one! Hot yoga, here I come. Thank you Lyce and Rick for the honour of sharing in your most momentous and memorable 50th wedding anniversary – a veritable golden gala indeed – Bravo!



Lyce and Ricardo Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1965



Lyce and Ricardo Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015



## MORE PICTURES FROM THE SPECTACULAR EVENT!



## WELCOME!!!

The Casa De Macau (Vancouver) would like to welcome the following new & returning members as of November 8th, 2014.

|                            |                            |                    |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Botelho, Joao              | Gayoso, Alina (Gomes)      | Haigh, Tiana       |
| Botelho, Isabel            | Geyer, Joshua              | Ho, Chris          |
| Bouriscot, Amanda          | Boomer, Jamie              | Ho, Sarah Chang    |
| Cheang, Margarida          | Gomes, Francisco           | Ho, Sharon Maino   |
| Connolly, Therese          | Gomes, Chera               | Ho, Roy Maino      |
| D'Souza, Daniel            | Gomes, Carlos              | Ho, Jayne Cheng    |
| Da Roza, Jasmine           | Griskaicis (Leitao), Carol | Cheng, Eric        |
| Da Roza, Tony              | Griskaicis, Joseph         | Ho, Gene           |
| Da Roza, Teresa            | Griskaicis, Alexandra      | Cadiot, Thomas     |
| De Carvalho, John Jr.      | Guterres, George           | Ho, Ronald         |
| De Carvalho, Maria         | Guterres, Marie Cecile     | Ho, Teresa Mok     |
| De Carvalho, John III (nv) | Guterres, Michael          | Jenkins, Catherine |
| De Carvalho, Augustin (nv) | Guterres, Carol            | Koizumi, Alan      |
| De Carvalho, Joseph        | Guterres, Andrew           | Koizumi, Karen     |
| Delgado, Louann            | Guterres, Christopher      | Lee, Annette       |
| Fong, Maggie               | Haigh, Angela              | Lee, Louis         |
| Fung, Emily                | Haigh, Melissa             | Leitao, Joy        |
| Fung, Walent               | Haigh, Janine              | Leitao, Daniela    |
| Gayoso, Elizio             | Haigh, Owen (nv)           | Leitao, George     |

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|                   |                        |                          |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Leong, George     | Pires, Asia (nv)       | Rosa, Kimberly           |
| Leong, Robert     | Pires, Craig           | Rosa, Michael            |
| Leong, May        | Pires, Phyllis         | Rosario, Anthony         |
| Leong, Jacqueline | Pires, Carolyn         | Sabourin, Mike           |
| Leung, Samuel     | Pires, Allison (nv)    | Schaub, Tienne           |
| Leung, Rebecca    | Pires, Philip (nv)     | Schaub, Andy             |
| Leung, Elaine     | Pires, Reginald        | Sousae, Betty            |
| Mak, Edith        | Pires, Carol           | Sousae, Cynthia          |
| Moffat, Barbara   | Pires, Brianna         | Sousae, Nydia            |
| Nielsen, Shirley  | Pires-Lopez, Christine | Souza, John              |
| Nielsen, Flemming | Pires-Lopez, Ernesto   | Souza, Huiemie           |
| Nitting, Vivian   | Pooley, David          | Souza, Sandra            |
| Nitting, Bjorn    | Pooley, Rebecca        | Souza, Peter             |
| Oliviera, Brenda  | Quan, Henry            | Souza, Philip            |
| Pereira, John     | Quinn, Derrick         | Souza, Octfavia          |
| Pereira, Melin    | Raichandani, Lachmi    | Stables, Bamvie          |
| Pereira, Mario    | Ramcharita, Holly      | Stonehouse, Jeanie       |
| Pereira, Corwin   | Remedios, Michael      | Stonehouse, Xavier (nv)  |
| Pereira, Gino     | Rentuza, Zenia         | Stonehouse, Zachary (nv) |
| Pereira, Lisa     | Rodriques, Audrey      | To, Edwina               |
| Pires, Camille    | Rodriques, Vasco       | Wang, Mary               |
| Watt, Christina   | Yee, Jeannette         | Yee, Charmaine           |

## Casa De Macau (Vancouver)

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**CASA DE MACAU**  
VANCOUVER, CANADA



**VOZ DOS MACANENSES DE VANCOUVER**

## Executive Committee

### **President**

Francis DaCosta

### **First Vice-President**

Cathy Xavier Fung

### **Second Vice-President**

Alex King

### **Treasurer**

Colleen Lobelsohn

### **Secretary**

Angela Gomes Renfro

### **Parliamentarian**

Michael Guterres

## Committee Co-ordinators

### **Communications**

Cathy Xavier Fung

### **Membership**

Angela Gomes Renfro

### **Cultural**

VACANT

### **Socials**

VACANT

### **Webmaster**

Sheldon Suen

### **The Voz—Editor**

Sheldon Suen

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

## From the Editor



Hello Fellow Casa Members!! It's Summertime so let the BBQ's begin!!! Okay, before that we must reflect on the 2nd half of 2014 until now. A lot of eventful things have happened in the Casa. The biggest thing that sticks out for me is the growth of our club. In less than 6 months up to November 8th, 2014, we have added 123 new/returning members (voting and non-voting) . Yes! you read that right 123 (one hundred and twenty-three). That's accounts to about one third of our overall membership! Truly Amazing!

We have also achieved another milestone - 20-years of the Casa's existence. A committee is in place to plan a huge party to commemorate such a momentous event. I am looking forward to attending this extravaganza and reporting on it.

We also have elected a new President and new 2nd Vice President. Respectively, Mr. Francis Da Costa and Mr. Alex King. And I'd like to congratulate them on their new roles within our Community. I'd also like to congratulate Ms. Angela Gomes Renfro for being re-elected for a 2nd term. I am excited for our future and I look forward to working with them. With that said, I would like to personally thank the out-going President and 2nd Vice President, Mr. Mickey Da Roza and Mr. Ricardo Rozario for all their help, experience and suggestions to make my role as Newsletter Editor and Webmaster easier. Considering they are both volunteers, the amount of time, dedication, personal sacrifice and accountability in their role is a testament to their character.

So now, we move forward with many events like the Youth Encontro and our 20th Anniversary Party, the Casa's future looks promising. It's up to everyone to participate and volunteer. It is our time!!! This is Your Voz!!!