



March 2016

Volume 16 Issue 1

President's Year End Address



Dear Members,

Wow how time flies when you're having fun. It has already been one year since I assumed the Office of the President of our Casa. Looking back at the year, we have managed to achieve quite a lot with most of the focus on internal matters. Today I feel that we have made good progress on many items but there is still more to do.

Finances – I am happy to report that we have a good handle on our finances and our books are up to date. All of this thanks to the excellent work done by an Ad Hoc Committee and our treasurer.

By-laws and Constitution – An Ad Hoc Committee has been working for several months on reviewing these documents and looking to update them to address the current needs. We hope to complete this in the next few months and be ready for the New BC Societies Act that comes into force in November, 2016.

Cultural and Social Programs – Several events were held during the year and enjoyed by many of you including the 20th Anniversary of our Casa. These events were successful because of tremendous effort from all the volunteers and the support of the members.

General State of Affairs – when we started the year there were tensions within the club which unfortunately resulted in some incidents that did not benefit anyone least of all the Casa. Looking at where we are today, I would say that there is a definite improvement in behavior and atmosphere. Here credit must be given to all of you that are doing your part to achieve this. It is my hope that this will continue to improve and will do my best where I can to assist in achieving this.

Continued on Page 2...



... Continued from Page 1

In Closing 2015 – Here I would like to personally thank all the Executives, SubCommittees, volunteers and member support that contributed to achieving a successful year.

Looking Forward to 2016 – Besides the on-going items mentioned above, I hope to put more focus in the following areas:

1. Better interaction with other organizations including APIM/CCM, Macanese Casa's and Associations worldwide.
2. Reach out to the local Macanese Community many of whom are not members.
3. Encourage and drive programs to build increased younger member participation.

In addition, this year the Encontro will take place in Macau at the end of November and it is an opportunity for members to meet many relatives and friends from all over the world as well participate in events that celebrate our heritage.

With the support of the Executive Committee, sub-Committees as well as the Sede Administrator, Webmaster, our new Voz Editor and member support we should have another successful year.

In closing, I wish you all a very successful and healthy year.

Francis da Costa, President
Casa de Macau Club, Vancouver

Casa's 20th Anniversary



By Alex King

I recall being only twelve when attending my first function held by the Casa de Macau - it was a New Year's party hosted at one of Richmond's hotels, where a night of dinner and dancing brought a large group of people with a shared heritage together. When you're young, grasping identity is a difficult thing - in some regards, I knew what being Macanese entailed, but I didn't quite have as concrete an understanding of my heritage as my Italian or Filipino friends of the same age had of theirs. Attending the functions allowed me to gain a better understanding of my family's heritage - of what so many of us determine as cultural identity and camaraderie.

It's been nearly twenty years since that evening and, to this day, I still recall it warmly. The dedication of our executives and membership from that time onward has shown me the great community the Macanese enjoy and helped stoke my involvement - today, I'm proud to be a member of the current executive and strive to further every facet of Macanese heritage we as a club want to put forward. I can only hope the furthered involvement of our membership inspires more youth to take up the mantle and do the same.

Twenty years is no small milestone - to ring it in, we celebrated our 20th Anniversary Dinner & Dance at Richmond's Executive Inn on October 10th, 2015. The night was a wonderful event that featured amazing food, great music, and incredible company.

Continued on Page 4...

... Continued from Page 3

The main course was a lovely take on tamarind pork, and the slideshow of pictures from past events and occasions reminded us of how far our roots go! A special round of thanks goes to Natascha Lawrence for heading the organizing committee, along with Diana Pires, Fernanda Ho, Lucy Quinn, and (the late) Betty Sousae. A thanks for prize donations goes out to Lucy Quinn, Bosely's by Pet Valu, and Executive Inn Richmond, and another round of thanks for our accomplished bakers David Clarke, Tessie Delgado, Maria King and Colleen Lobelsohn. The event couldn't have been as big a hit without all your time and effort.

Most importantly, the greatest breadth of thanks should go to our membership - without the contribution and involvement of each and every one of you, we wouldn't have twenty years to celebrate. I have seen the amazing things our community can do when we pull together for a common goal, and I can only hope the youth of our future will continue to see it for years to come!

Twenty years is no small feat - here's to many more years ahead of us!---



Continued On Page 5...

... Continued from Page 4



Strolling Down Memory Lane

By Lyce d'Assumpção Rozario

As the years go by, I often stroll down memory lane and I think of my early childhood days in Hong Kong. My thoughts also go back to the early days of our Casa, its formation, its growth and my proud involvement from its inception. Our new Editor, Anita Da Roza Gomes must have noticed how I often like to reminisce about our Casa's early days so she has asked me if I would put some of those thoughts on paper to share with other Casa members.



So much has transpired over the past 20 plus years since the formation of our Club, therefore, I'll just recount some of the highlights and hopefully they may bring back some fond memories to other members and perhaps our new members may find them interesting and informative.

Yes, it was around the spring of the year 1995 when I and a small group of us filhos and filhas de Macau of Vancouver, B.C. got together and toyed with the idea of forming a club of our own. The excitement grew and we became more serious and determined to see that idea become a reality. We decided to call our Club "Casa de Macau Club (Vancouver). Pat Adams very kindly designed our logo for us.

It was decided that it would primarily be a social club, where members would get together to chat, eat, enjoy each other's company and share memories of our youth with the younger generation.....just a fun social group.....and it really was! To make it official, we selected our first President, John de Carvalho and Board, but we still had to register our Club. Our application was accepted on April 3rd 1995. Not too long later, we were recognised by Macau CCM and were invited to their Encontro in 1996, which many of our members attended.

The first big event of our Club was most memorable for me and therefore, I'll elaborate on it and be brief on the rest of our other Casa events. Our members can read about them in our Voz newsletter on our Casa website. I was assigned the task of arranging for a pot luck dinner. Being also one of the "founding fathers" of our Casa, it was my pleasure to accept. Since we only expected no more than 20 people, it seemed easy enough for me and I offered my home as the venue. I had a karaoke machine, cd players and space enough for us all. It would be no problem whatsoever. A piece of cake!

Continued on Page 7...

...Continued from Page 6

I brought out my special blue and white set of dishes because I was told by my old aunts that's what were used when entertaining guests in Hong Kong and Macau. Anita Da Roza Gomes worked with me to decorate my home to make it look extra nice and festive. We even put up signs in Macanese to direct the guests as to where to find items or rooms etc. That was lots of fun and brought a chuckle or two because of my limited ability to speak in Macanese let alone to try to put the words in writing.



Two days before the party, our Casa President informed me that there may be 25 people attending that potluck....that's o.k.. I have lots of blue and white dishes. Ah ha, an hour later, I was told to expect 30. Shortly after that the numbers grew to 35, then 40 and up. The day before that special event, I was informed to expect around 70 + people. I don't think that I slept a wink that night. I was tickled pink to have so many who wanted to participate in our first event, but that required careful planning to ensure its success.



The much awaited day came and I simply just left the front door open with a big welcome sign. My daughter Antonia was assigned the task of directing cars as to where they could park, including on my freshly cut lawn. Her room was used to register the names of any of the attendees who wanted to join our Club and the guest room downstairs was used as an entertainment room for the children, with cartoons ready for them to watch on the T.V.. There was a table filled with yummy treats for them too. The family room was the karaoke room with theatre style placed folding chairs which they could also use as seats at dinner time.

Upstairs there were three large tables for food and there were also tables on the sundeck for more food as it came in. Everyone was so generous with the amount of food that they brought....huge portions, and I mean huge, all kinds of authentic Macanese favourites for dinner and for the desserts that followed. It was incredible!!!! What a feast for our Casa's first party!.....nothing formal or prestigious, but a really great and enjoyable evening for us all.

Continued on Page 8...

... Continued from Page 7

Folks were running up and down the stairs, going back and forth replenishing their plates with all that fantastic food presented. After dinner we could hear singing down below, people chatting away and chuckling and simply having a great time socializing. I was presented with a delicious box of chocolates by our Casa President in appreciation for my hosting the event.

Before I knew it, I had a whole year of events planned for our new club. We went on a wonderful trip to the tulip festival in Washington State. To make it even more fun we car pooled there. We had a dinner party at the Holy Name Church Hall to celebrate Mother's day, a picnic out at New Westminster Park with sports for the young and mah jong for the seniors etc. You will just have to



read some of our old Casa newsletters for more details of many of our fun events in the late nineties, all of which were enjoyed by our Casa members.

Eventually, by word of mouth, our Casa's popularity grew and many new people signed up to join our Club. Many friends even came from Seattle Washington to attend our parties. I knew that future events would have to be held in large halls to accommodate at least 200 people, so South Arm Community Center was one of

the venues chosen. We had numerous events which were held there, including "Festa de Comida", "April in Portugal", "Fall Fest", "It's a Small World". Our New Year's Eve party was held at the Richmond Inn. We had a garage sale at my home to raise money for a scholarship fund for one of our members. We even raised enough money to purchase our first large coffee percolator. We were a happy, united club with a great future for our children and the Macanese community here in Vancouver.



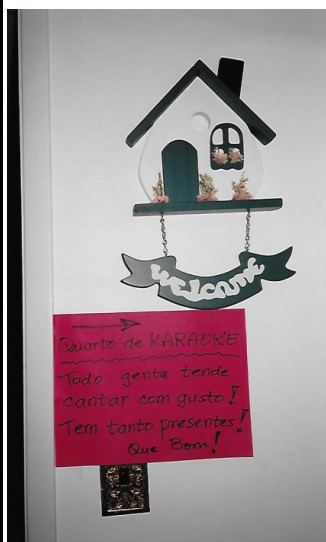
Our members first had their General Meetings at the River Club in Richmond, then eventually a room was rented at the Metro Town in Burnaby. That was a challenge for the Social Committee, because we had to cart the coffee percolator, goodies, plates, forks, napkins, etc. all the way there. Fortunately we could unload everything from our car onto a push cart and we managed to use the service elevator to get up to the meeting room. Many of the early Executive and Committee Meetings were held at my home, and the spouses of those committee members went downstairs to the family room to chat. I welcomed them all with great pleasure.

Continued on Page 9...

... Continued from Page 8

Unfortunately, much to my dismay, I was diagnosed with cancer in 1998. However, I completed my term as social co-ordinator at the end of March of 1999, before I handed over the reins as Social Co-ordinator to somebody else in order to concentrate on my cancer treatment.

In 2009, praise Our Lord, my cancer went into remission and I felt strong and energetic once again. By then we had our own Sede. I was elected 2nd V.P. for two terms (four years), during which time, I was also the Property Manager, the Sede Administrator, and the Social Coordinator as well as a member of the Communication Committee, filling all those roles at the same time. Those were very busy years for me, because I also led the seniors' line dance group at St. Paul Church in Richmond. However, that did not deter me from doing what I had to do. I loved it! After I finished with my two terms as 2nd V.P., I continued to serve as the Sede Administrator and Social Co-ordinator for two more years for our Casa.



Looking after the Sede was a big responsibility. Doing the socials for the Casa was not an easy task, however, it was very gratifying. To give you just a brief idea as to what the extent of the work entailed, starting April 1st 2009 and up to March 31st 2015, (just six of the nine years as our Casa's social coordinator), at the Sede, the Social Committee had for its members 41 major events, mostly with a full house of 80 members, (that's the maximum number allowed by the strata). Apart from those events, we also provided Hong Kong tea, coffee and tables of goodies for 30 General Meetings, 2 Extraordinary Meetings and 6 AGMs. Those numbers don't even include the Macau Photo Exhibition which went on for 10 days at our Casa Sede and the grand formal 10th anniversary RAEM party with 170 + members attending, as well as invited Provincial, Federal, Local and Consular dignitaries, who attended that important event at a lovely, large Church Hall in Vancouver on December 19th 2009. It was a great honour for our Club!

The Social Committee did not forget the children and grandchildren of our members. We organized Christmas parties for them, with Santa and Mrs. Claus at hand in our beautifully decorated Sede to welcome them, as well as other members who delighted in the games which Mrs. Claus had ready for them to participate in.

Except for a couple of times when a cleaning lady came over to the Sede after a major event, the clean -up was left to the Social Committee, who often remained till 3:00 a.m. to complete the job. I must especially thank Sheldon Suen, son of Cathy Xavier Fung, who always remained to help out till the early hours of the morning. Our Social Committee never complained. We offered to serve and we did just that. It was indeed a labour of love.

Continued on Page 10...

...Continued from Page 9

To give the Social Committee a break, two of our Casa's events were held at a Portuguese restaurant (Senhor Rooster), in Vancouver. The food there was excellent, truly authentic Portuguese food served in an authentic Portuguese venue with live music that was a pleasure to listen and dance to. Our members and their guests all enjoyed the evenings there tremendously and they also provided the rare opportunity for our Social Committee members to participate, relax and enjoy themselves and not have to be concerned with the clean up afterwards.



Many have said that doing the socials was a thankless job, however, I know that the Social Committee and I volunteered our services, not expecting anything in return. Our prime concern was to serve our members in the best way we knew how, a very rewarding experience for us all and we enjoyed doing it. Many of our members have very kindly written complimentary articles and sent me emails regarding the social activities we provided and to personally thank me and the Social Committee for our work done for the club. The Social Committee and I have always been very grateful to them for doing so, for they only inspired us to work even harder for all our members, knowing that our hard work was appreciated. We loved our Club!

I sincerely thank all the members of the Social Committee for all their help and support throughout those years. Special thanks to Sheldon Suen, Teresa and Hedley Morris, Maureen Mui, Cathy Fung, Leonie and Lorelei Todd, Anita Da Roza Gomes, Mickey Da Roza and last, but not least my dear husband Ricardo Rozario who stood by me and fully supported me in all my endeavours. Words cannot really express the gratitude I feel for their being there for me and for serving the members of our Casa so faithfully. Thanks, also, to all the members who helped with some of the cooking and baking when we had the big events.

My sincere thanks also go to our Casa Executives and our Casa members for their overwhelming support of our Casa's Social Programmes the past years, helping to make them all fun and memorable ones. As I mentioned earlier, it was an honour and a privilege to have served the members of our club and although it is now time for me to sit back and enjoy the work and efforts of others, I will always be willing to lend a helping hand and contribute in some way or other to our Club.

In conclusion, I wish the present and future Executives, the co-ordinators of the various committees and other Casa volunteers all the best in their endeavours in the years to come. I trust that they will find that their service to our Casa and members will be a most rewarding experience and they will certainly make many new friends and earn the respect of our members.

Thank you all for your kind support throughout those years. Muito Muito obrigada.

Chinese New Year Dinner



By Anita Da Roza Gomes

Members of the Casa celebrated the Lunar Year of the Monkey by attending a Chinese dinner held on February 26th, 2016 at the Pelican Chinese Seafood Restaurant on Hastings Street in Vancouver.

We were served Peking Duck, crab, steamed fish, shrimp with vegetables, and fried rice just to name a few dishes. For desert, a delicious tapioca pudding with taro (my personal favourite). I am sure everyone had their own favourite at the dinner. Regardless, it was all very tasty and no one went home hungry.

It was a very nice start to the weekend and a great get-together for the members. Personally, I had a very interesting evening getting acquainted with Maria King, her brother Manuel and Mary Ann Antonio with one of their children, Michael (who attended the Youth Encontro last year) and our Second Vice President, Alex King and his girlfriend, whom I found out is a designer and seamstress too.

On behalf of the members, I would like to thank Fernanda Ho, Lucy Quinn and the Social Committee for organizing this dinner and all the members for supporting this scrumptious event.



Editor's Note

It's with great pleasure and excitement that I have accepted the responsibility of this roll.

Just a little while background about myself. I am one of the founding father's of our club and at that time we started the club we all had to wear many "hats" so we filled in and used our strengths and talents in certain areas as needed. Since I was a "party animal/social butterfly" by nature, it only stands to reason that I would be in the Socials and worked side by side with Lyce d'Assumpção Rozario, Rick Rozario, Sonny (George) & Marie Cecile Guterres, Rowena Tan, Tessie Delgado, Hercia Delgado, Monica Remedios de Carvalho, Marge da Costa and the late Gilbert Gomes and so many more members who helped and volunteered. Together we worked like a well oiled machine and have put together many successful dinners and dances for our club from fund raising to membership drives.

One of the other "hats" I wore was being an assistant editor to Fernando Pereira who was the 1st Editor and together we published the first 4 newsletters and later handed over this important task to others. In 1995 we did not have a website so the newsletter was a very important tool for communication and keeping the members informed of the clubs activities and achievements. Thanks to our current Parliamentarian, Mike Guterres who introduced us to updated technology and became our Editor and webmaster for many years.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge all the work the founding father's have contributed whether individually or as a couple to the success of our club and the Sede that we have today. I also would like to acknowledge our founding members and members who contributed significantly to the club. I hope to have them write an article about their experiences and how they contributed at the beginning of our club the last 20 years in future newsletters.

My focus is on members, their achievements, milestones, celebrations, their families and our culture. I am hoping that in our future editions we will have the newer members contribute to the newsletter as well.

Finally, I want to thank Sheldon Suen in agreeing to stay on as our webmaster and he will assist me in certain areas of publishing, however he will no longer be responsible for receiving or publishing any articles. All articles to be published in our newsletter can be forwarded to my email address noted below.

I alone will be responsible for all articles deemed fit for publishing; therefore any comments, suggestions or articles for publication can be forwarded to me. All submissions will be reviewed for it's appropriate content, accuracy and length of the article and as the editor, I reserve the right to reject articles that in my opinion, may cause harm to our members, the club and our goals.

~Anita Da Roza Gomes - Editor (email: agomes2016@yahoo.com)

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 MACANÊSES DE VANCOUVER

Executive Committee

President

Francis Da Costa

Second Vice-President

Alex King

First Vice-President

Cathy Xavier Fung

Secretary

Angela Gomes Renfro

Interim Treasurer

Bob DeGuzman

Parliamentarian

Michael Guterres

Committee Co-ordinators

Communications

Cathy Xavier Fung

Membership

Angela Gomes Renfro

Cultural Coordinator

Angela Gomes Renfro

Socials Coordinator

Fernanda Ho

Webmaster

Sheldon Suen

The Voz—Editor

Anita Da Roza Gomes