



VOZ DOS MACAENSES DE VANCOUVER

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

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VOLUME 10, NUMBER 2

AUGUST 2009

WELCOME NEW EXECUTIVES



Left to right: Pat de Albuquerque, Ann-Marie da Costa, Fernanda de Pinna Ho, Maria King & Lyce Rozario

At our Annual General Meeting on May 9, 2009, some of the Casa's current Executives' terms were over, and the positions were replaced.

A warm welcome to new

President Fernanda de Pinna Ho, 2nd Vice-President, Lyce Rozario, and Secretary Pat de Albuquerque.

Maria King remains as 1st Vice-President and Ann-Marie da Costa as Treasurer.

Voz funding from Fundação Oriente is gratefully acknowledged

Youth Encontro 2009

Three youths from our Casa (Monique Guterres, Amanda King Wolniewicz and Alex King) attended the Youth Encontro in Macau from July 18 to 25, 2009. They submitted the winning essays expressing their interest in attending the Encontro and learning more about their Macanese heritage. These are their essays.

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

by Monique Guterres



Being enrolled in the Criminology Honours Program at Simon Fraser University, I am aware that my education to date, has given me the opportunity to see the world beyond my scope. Unfortunately, when it comes to my Macanese heritage, I find myself inquisitive and distressed at my lack of engagement within the Filhomacau community. During my participation at the Casa Sede Grand Opening, I distinctly recall taking a protracted look at all the faces in the crowd; it was then that I became conscious that the Macanese diasporas in Canada will eventually disappear as the older generation dies off.

One must recall that the term Encontro means to "encounter".

The Encontro's attempt to bring attention to the global aspects of rejuvenating a sense of pride for our Macanese heritage is a positive step forward for all Macanese youth. It is an affirmative approach by Macau to bring together a new generation belonging to a single culture that has, over time, become strangers. In part, I firmly believe that without such an encounter, it is inevitable that our unique identity, traditions and culture will be assimilated within our host countries. Further, I also regretfully acknowledge that I had to decline my invitation in October 2007 by Casa de Macau Vancouver to attend the first Youth Encontro due to academic commitments. Despite missing out on such a unique experience, I have steadfastly regarded the Encontro as an opportunity for me to network and interact with young fellow Macanese from all over the world, an experience I believe I should embrace.

My Macanese heritage has played a significant role in ascertaining my identity, despite my upbringing in Canada. As a child, I participated in several social activities and was once on the socials committee due to my love for Macanese cooking. The saying 'food touches the soul' has profound meaning for me as I grew up

in a household where minche and tacho are staples. Further, I am fortunate to have family members who have vividly shared their stories of living in Macau. When they describe the 'old days' I do my best to imagine what it must have been like to purchase treats from street vendors, have endless dinner parties, and rendezvous at landmarks. Such stories are my only link to Macau. Subsequently, it would be an empowering experience to understand and appreciate those stories in the context they were told.

While growing up in a multicultural Canada has been a wonderful experience, there is a sense of distance between myself and Macau, a predicament I desire to rectify. As part of my professional development, my 2007 Ottawa internship with Citizenship and Immigration Canada has also provided me with the necessary insight to understand the importance of preserving the Macanese heritage and the need for increased public awareness.

To conclude, I sincerely hope that this opportunity will not only benefit me, but to the rest of the Filhomacau community through continued engagement.

MACAU YOUTH ENCONTRO: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING CULTURE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

by Amanda King Wolniewicz



Given the opportunity to attend the Youth Encontro in Macau this summer, I would become more connected with my Macanese roots by meeting other Macanese youth, and learning more about Macanese history, language, and culture. In addition, attending this upcoming Youth Encontro and visiting heritage sites and museums in Macau, would help put me in touch with Macanese archaeologists, historians, and other cultural experts. This will allow me to gain insight on what should be done to share and protect Macanese culture and heritage for present and future generations, especially for those within our own Casa.

Growing up, I sometimes did not feel like I fit into a distinct culture. When asked what my ethnicity was, I would state that I came from a mixed background. How-

ever, through spending time with my elders and other family members on my mother's side, including enjoying their Macanese cooking, and attending numerous Casa events, I have developed a greater appreciation for my Macanese heritage. Participating in cultural experiences with other Macanese youth, visiting local heritage sites, and learning about the history of my ancestors, would further establish my cultural identity. I would be honoured to experience Macau, especially considering that it would be my first time in Asia. I have always had an interest in culture and heritage, particularly understanding how we can protect and promote cultures, especially those that are endangered through the effects of colonization. For my Masters, I spoke with First Nations and municipal representatives regarding their perspectives on archaeology and taking care of local heritage. I have also worked in museums and excavated archaeological sites in British Columbia, and run outreach programs for youth and the public, to share information about local cultures and heritage. In my current position as a researcher for the Stó:lō First Nations, I have coordinated large-scale projects where I have interviewed Elders about their tradi-

At our Sede opening last September, Mr. Luis Machado seemed interested in my background in archaeology and heri-

tage management, and indicated that if I was able to come to Macau for the upcoming Youth Encontro, he may be able to connect me with local heritage experts, such as archaeologists, historians, and museum curators. Networking with these professionals would be an incredible opportunity for me, and to prepare myself, I would conduct some research on Macanese history before my travels. I would love to share these potential experiences with our Casa at home, especially the younger generations.

Engaging youth in their Macanese heritage is central to maintaining our culture and bringing it into the future. We value the cultural knowledge of our Macanese Elders, and for them to be able to share that knowledge, especially with our youth, is essential. This opportunity to attend the Youth Encontro, could help inspire a number of potential programs to engage youth about their rich Macanese heritage at our Casa, ensuring that the Casa can provide a place where all generations can connect to, and be proud of, our strong Macanese roots.

(see following page for the third essay)

ENCOUNTERS OF CULTURE

by Alex King



In November of 2007, for the first time in my life, I set foot in Macau – the land of my heritage and the place where my ancestors lived. And for once, I saw the deep cultural significance of all those generations – the proud, colonial-style buildings, the true mingling of cultures of such differing qualities, and a unique *patua* tongue nearly silenced by the passage of time. It was a lot to take in, considering I only had ten days to do so, but thanks to the excellent program put together by the people of APIM, Macau's culture seemed so accessible – and for something with such historical significance, so alive in the eyes of Macanese youth from across the globe.

During the last Encontro, I chose to represent our Casa as one of three youth representatives – and, initially, I wasn't sure

if I was completely up to the task. Eventually, though, I realized it wasn't a responsibility to shoulder, but an honour – and it wasn't something solely on my shoulders, but on the shoulders of a generation with backgrounds akin to mine; Macanese from different countries and of all walks of life, with little connection to Macau other than their families. In fact, during a conference between the youth at the previous Encontro, I helped push for the idea of a Youth Encontro – for the hope that more Macanese youth could share in this connection to Macau.

This is the reason I hope to return to Macau for the Youth Encontro in July 2009. Being there in 2007 and meeting Macanese youth from the United States, Australia, Brazil and Portugal showed all of us that our culture was alive and healthy – and helped build lasting connections to this day. Returning to Macau and meeting up with these friends

again strengthens the cultural ties by our social bonds – and, as a social club, these connections are paramount. Our culture should be celebrated instead of mothballed, and our experiences shared with one another – and, in time, passed on to a new generation. Getting together with friends and companions gives us stories we want to share – the kind of stories that will make events like the 2009 Youth Encontro such a success, drawing more and more participants of Encontros for years to come.

I hope that, as an active youth member in our Casa, I would make a proper youth representative to other Macanese social clubs worldwide and provide an example to younger members of our club to be more involved in our group's inner workings, using the Encontro as a stepping stone to encourage them that we aren't the only club of our type – that being Macanese is something to have pride in.

Congratulations!

and Welcome Home

Monique, Amanda and Alex

We look forward to reading about your Youth Encontro experience in our next newsletter!

CASA TALENT NIGHT

by Leonard Rivero

It was a pleasure to attend the Potluck Dinner and Talent Night on Saturday, July 25th at our clubhouse. Those members who attended enjoyed the great Macanese dishes and the entertainment by our talented members. This informal event is exactly what our cultural club is supposed to be: for the benefit of our Casa members.

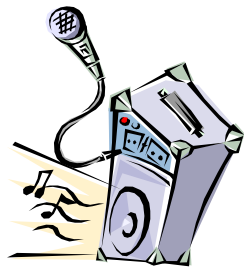
I can see that, with activities geared to all age groups, our Casa will certainly

attract more new members, especially the younger generation, and that, through more of these functions and our great Macanese Cuisine, our Casa will undoubtedly rank among the best casas around the world.

My gratitude to the volunteers who made this event the success it was.



Rick Rozario at the mike



Fred Gordo & Norie Isono singing a duet



Line dancers Diana Pires, Maria King & Edward Lau

Editor's Note:

I was out-of-town the weekend of the talent night, but heard that not only was the entertainment a success, the potluck proved to be varied and delicious - bafassa, minchi, curry, shepherd's pie, different types of noodles, roast pork, duck, cha siu, and many more. And, we must not forget the desserts!

Looks like I missed a fun evening!



Linda Wong at the keyboard, with Humphrey Ho looking on

APRIL IN PORTUGAL

'April in Portugal', held at our sede on April 25, 2009, was a very enjoyable occasion. It did not matter that we were actually in Vancouver, BC, Canada. It did not matter that we were not in Portuguese costume as suggested, (except for that brave soul Fernanda). What did matter was the friendship, camaraderie and (as usual) the scrumptious Macanese food.

There were door prizes and one Grand Prize - a large basket of Que Pasa delicacies donated by Maria (Delgado) and Joe Zallen.



Monica de Carvalho & Pat de Albuquerque welcoming members



Fernanda de Pinna Ho & Antonio Amante (Fernanda received a special prize for her traditional Portuguese outfit)



Members anticipating a delicious Macanese meal



The two youngest members present, with their special prizes



APRIL IN PORTUGAL- CONT'D



The talented chefs—Sonny Guterres, Rebecca Amante, Marie-Cecile Guterres, Cathy Fung, Mabel Ozorio, Francis da Costa, Rowena Tan & Marge da Costa

Entrees included Bacalhao, Minchi, Fejoada & Vegetables



The talented dessert specialists - Pat de Albuquerque, Violet Neo Abbas, Elga da Roza, Angelina Rozario, Monica de Carvalho (with grandson Xavier), Gilly Marshall, Tessie Delgado, Tony da Costa, Maria King, Rowena Tan & Rebecca Amante



Members enjoying dinner



A plethora of yummy Macanese desserts which included Caramel Custard, Gummy Gummy, Chocolate/Orange/Walnut cakes, Baji, Coqueira, Bebinca de Leite, Pão de Leite, Chocolate/Coffee Jellies and more!



Welcome to New Members

Violet Abbas
 Mark Carter
 Gaila Ciprut
 Colleen & Yoram Lobelsohn
 Henry & Prisca Quan
 Holly & Frank Ramcharita
 Leon Renfro
 Miguel Rodriguez
 John & Maria Elena Seifert
 Leonie Todd
 Lorelei Todd
 Lara Watt



Dates to Remember

Lazy Hazy Days of Summer Event

- August 15, 2009

First Anniversary of our Sede - Open House

- September 6, 2009

Next Meeting

- September 12, 2009

RAEM 10-year Commemoration Dinner / Dance

- December 19, 2009

AN OLD FAMILIAR MUSICAL PLAY

by Pat Cassidy, Williams Lake

In May when I was planning a shopping trip to Vancouver, I heard the Director of 'Flower Drum Song' being interviewed on the CBC. I was really intrigued by an all Asian cast and made up my mind that I would really love to see this show.

So I contacted Pat de Albuquerque and asked if she was interested and to my surprise she told me that a group of her filo Macau friends were planning to attend. I contacted my daughter in Victoria and she also wanted to come along.

The show was a wonderful surprise. The cast was well chosen for their roles. The music was great and throughout the play there was a dash of humour, especially for us who have lived in Hong Kong and know about thousand year old eggs - the demand that they be fresh was hilarious. I love live plays and have attended many festival plays in competition in the Interior and Northern Zone and I will say Flower Drum Song can proudly stand with the rest.

To add to the surprise, I was told that Edwina, Casa's own editor was in the play. I thought she only had a small choral part but lo, she was also one of the parents. Congrats, Edwina! I am sure you had as much fun as we had in watching you perform.

For those who missed this wonderful play, I hope they will have a rerun so that you may attend.