

Casa de Macau no Canada (Toronto)



Newsletter

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From the Executive

On September 19, 2004 the Annual General Meeting of Casa de Macau no Canada (Toronto) was held at The Star Walk International Buffet Restaurant for the purpose of electing a new Executive Committee. As President of the newly elected Executive Committee I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who attended the Meeting and all those who sent in their Registration of Vote Forms and Proxies thereby participating in the process. My team does not take the responsibility that you have handed to us lightly and pledge to you the members that we will work to the best of our abilities on your behalf for the good of our Casa.

As we start this new term, members will be aware that circumstances have arisen necessitating some changes as to how things will be handled in the next two years. To quote the famous Swiss psychoanalyst Carl Jung: "We cannot change anything unless we accept it. Condemnation does not liberate, it oppresses." It will be our hope that members will accept the new ideas we will be proposing, which we feel will revitalize our Casa.

We thank the outgoing Executive Committee for taking on the stewardship of the Casa these past two years.

As a team we have had to accept the fact that for far too long much of the work connected with the life

of the Casa has been carried on the shoulders of far too few. The time has now come for all of us to shoulder the responsibility of looking after and ensuring the continuity of our Casa. Some members have already accepted the challenge and have stepped up to the plate. Their names and responsibilities are written up under the article "Regular Functions at the clubhouse" found on page 3 of this newsletter.

We would like to encourage any member wishing to bring an out-of-town visitor(s) to the Casa's in-house socials - are most welcome to do so. However, if you can, it would be appreciated if you advised Isabel as to numbers; this is to comply with Government regulations as to fire safety.

A "One Time" visit will be granted to anyone residing in Toronto that is not a member, but who wishes to see what the events are all about. And again, please advise Isabel.

All non-members will be asked to sign the "Guest Book" which will be available for this purpose.

In brief, the following are the names, positions and responsibilities of my team, your new Executive. Gloria Anok and Marie-Cecile Remedios hold the positions of 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents respectively. It will be their responsibility to oversee the Social events. We have included a Survey in this newsletter in which we are giving members an opportunity to suggest events and to offer your services and talents in handling a particular event. As we stated in our platform, it stands to reason that if your help is not forthcoming then the activities offered may be reduced proportionately. Barbara Baptista is our Treasurer and Helena Barradas will be our Secretary. As for myself, I will be your President and

Co-editor along with Gloria Anok for the next two years.

You will find much information in the following pages of the newsletter. I invite you to read it thoroughly as it will be apparent through this and subsequent issues how my team hopes to realize in concrete terms the motto we adopted for our platform, "One Casa, One Goal".

Finally, on behalf of my committee I would like to once again thank you the members for your support. Looking at the broader picture, we Macaenses who are just a small part of the much larger community living in our adopted country Canada have a lot to be thankful for. In a world battered by one natural disaster after another and so many peoples suffering through daily acts of bloody violence and hatred it is our hope that on October 11, 2004 as we sit with our family and friends around our Thanksgiving table, our focus will be on all we truly can be thankful for.

*Note: Copies of the financials will be mailed, on request, to those members who did not receive same also please advise if you wish to receive a copy of the Minutes; when this is received we will mail to you.

Monica

Editorial

Briefly speaking...



(Perhaps not so briefly this "First" time around)

Yet another term begins ... this is the 9th Board of Executives to serve members of the Casa, and the "First" all female Executive.

This will be the "First" time social

events will be organized by members (not a "committee"), with Gloria and Marie-Cecile at the helm. "Firstly", let me elaborate on this aspect of re-structuring. The social committee decided to hang up their hats at the beginning of this year when they handed in their resignation after serving for six years. Call it justified burn-out.

There will be a number of "Firsts" for the Casa. We have a female, Isabel Gomes da Silva, filling the role of Clubhouse Manager. Isabel will also take on the responsibility of arranging the "First Thursday Socials". Please be positive when she approaches you, keeping in mind that volunteers are what makes, or breaks, the Casa ... EVERY member should pitch in to help, in whatever way you are able to contribute, as after all, it is YOUR Casa.

So, unless a group of members decide to get together to form a new social committee, we will operate in the manner described above.

For starters, some "Firsts" for events we will be holding for members are: "Movie Nights" on the last Friday of every month (free popcorn and snacks, tea and coffee) and then there is the "Jantar Macaenses" at the Casa, the "first" on Saturday, October 16. We hope to see the members who work and who are unable to attend the First Thursday Socials ... come and partake in this event.

Plans are underway for holding different events in the hope of making it interesting for all members, so please fill in the attached Survey and let us have an idea of what you would like. Fill in your suggestions and comments ... you choose, we'll try our best to organize, with your help.

Monica and I feel strongly that a

member(s) of the Executive should hold the role of co-editor(s) so that all news concerning the Casa and its members can best be imparted to the membership at large. In the days to come, important decisions will have to be made and input from the general membership will be required.

However, as in the past, we cannot do it alone ... please keep sending your articles, recipes etc. as this makes it interesting for everyone.

So folks, we've got a pile of work ahead of us, as you will appreciate when you go through this Newsletter. We'll need your support and co-operation ... so please be forthcoming.

Gloria

Feedback

“One satisfied customer”

This email was received by Gloria

Casa de Macau Newsletter:

Just to let you know that Casa de Macau's newsletter and editor (Gloria Anok) were instrumental in bringing long lost friends together after 36 years.

New York - One day in 2003, Casa member Alda da Silva had dinner with her cousin Danny Souza. She pulled out her Casa newsletter and said “I think you know these people”. That issue contained an article written by George and Doreen Remedios respectively. Danny excitedly ran home and contacted Gloria who promptly reunited us after three decades plus. We were over the moon to have found our long lost friend.

Toronto - On September 3-7, 2004 we held our joyful reunion. It was more than words can express the bond of childhood friendships that

came back in an instant. It would not have been complete without inviting Gloria and Joe Anok to celebrate with us. Gloria then arranged for the visitors to tour the clubhouse.

Our thanks to Gloria and Casa de Macau's newsletter, both did what it was founded to do, *i.e.* to bring ‘nossa gente’ (our people) together. It did just that!

Doreen Remedios

Casa events news



Regular Functions at the Clubhouse

As the new Executive we have a number of new ideas, which we hope to implement thereby revitalizing the Casa. However there are a number of the tried and true “regular functions” which will in essence remain the same.

Isabel Gomes da Silva has agreed to look after the First Thursday Socials, which will continue to be held every first Thursday of the month. Isabel would like to inform members that the clubhouse will be open from 2 pm – 10 pm. Members should make a note that the only exception will be for the month of December. There will be no Thursday Social for December as many of the ‘regulars’ will still be in Macau attending the Encontro.

Marie-Cecile Remedios along with Cecilia Conceição will be in charge of the 3rd Thursday Card Drives. Once again, it has been decided that the December Card Drive will be cancelled due to it falling too close to Christmas, a busy time for all.

It is this Executive's hope that another way our clubhouse can be utilized is by holding “Movie Nights” there. The 4th Friday of the

next few months will be called “Movie Night” at which time we will be showing a movie each month. It is hoped that members will come and share some popcorn, tea, coffee or pop while enjoying a good movie. The movies will not be limited only to recent releases but also we will be showing some of the classics. Please refer to the “Calendar of Events” to see what movies will be shown in October and November. A short synopsis has been included with each title as well as a rating so parents can judge the appropriateness of the movies if they wish to bring their children. The December “Movie Night” will also be cancelled since it falls on December 24, 2004. The members will be informed in the next newsletter if the “Movie Nights” will be continued in the New Year. It will be dependant on the response demonstrated over the next few months. If we have a positive response, this will become another “Regular Function”.

David Tavares along with José Anok will keep the clubhouse open every Wednesday between 2 pm and 5 pm so there is yet another opportunity for members to drop in and have a chin wagging session.

It is self evident that there is a core of members who regularly come out and support the efforts of those organizing the regular functions. We invite members who still have not attended, volunteered, supported nor joined in on any of the above functions to get involved. Get to know your fellow members and have great fun at the same time.

Tai Chi

After a brief hiatus over the summer, Tai Chi classes have resumed. There are twelve dedicated members who have committed to attending classes every Monday and Wednesday. Without exception,

they all feel the benefits of mind and body that this form of exercise provides.

Wednesday Exercise Classes

If stretching, breathing and some cardio work is your cup of tea, every Wednesday evening at the clubhouse classes are conducted by Karen Shuster. If you are interested to find out more particulars call Lucille da Luz at 416-441-6222 (at her office) or 416-298-8938 (at home). You can also email Lucille at lucille.daluz@fourseasons.com. Ms. Shuster has indicated that she will be willing to conduct a daytime class if there is enough interest. The cost is \$5 per person per class for a minimum of 8 classes per session. There will be a minimum requirement of 10 participants signed up to start a session.

Jantar Macaenses

With the cooler weather many people think of "comfort food". So why not come and join us for a Macanese dinner on Saturday, October 16 at 7 pm at the Clubhouse. Jantar Macaenses will be open to the first 50 members that register so fill in the attached form at the back of the newsletter and mail it ASAP to the Casa address. If you have any questions please contact Barbara at 416 - 283 - 7937. Looking forward to seeing you.

Christmas "goodie" bag

This year we hope to revive something that was done once many years ago but has since not been repeated. Your Executive will be organizing a Christmas "goodie" bag drive. We will be approaching members to help bake some cookies and cakes, which we hope to deliver to our Senior members. As can be imagined, this will require a num-

ber of volunteers from the bakers, to those who can help make up the baskets to those who can also spare some time delivering the baskets to our Senior members. Ideally, we would like to try and involve our young adult members with the packaging, delivering and yes, even baking, as it is our hope that much can be gained on both sides through this effort. If you would like to help in this "goodie" bag drive, please call Monica at 905-887-9408 otherwise, you might just receive a call from her requesting your assistance. Christmas is undeniably a very hectic time of year. Christmas is also a time of giving so what better opportunity can there be to give of your talents and time for a Senior member of our community.

Casa Christmas Dinner Dance

Your Executive has booked a lovely venue, the Crystal Fountain Banquet Hall, for the Casa Christmas Dinner Dance to be held Sunday, December 19. We invite members and their families to come and celebrate the festive season together with us. For the very reasonable price of \$30, you will be treated to a lovely sit down dinner of mixed salad, chicken in mushroom and peppercorn sauce with all the trimmings ending with a dessert of Baked Alaska. There will be music provided by a D.J. as well as spot dance prizes. Furthermore, everyone who attends the dinner will be given a ticket, which will give them a chance to win a number of great door prizes. Once you have worked off some of the dinner on the dance floor, you will be able to help yourselves to sample the offerings of a delectable array of cakes, pastries and fruits at a sweet table.

Your Executive would also like to take this opportunity to encourage former members who have over the years let their memberships lapse

for whatever personal reasons to rejoin our Casa family. In this bid, we are offering former members a ticket to our Dinner Dance at a price of \$40. We will be sending out special invitations to former members, informing them of the Dinner Dance and inviting them to come and rekindle old friendships and to establish new ones.

The price for non-members is \$50. We feel that this is great value for the money. You will dine on a delicious sit down dinner in a lovely venue, enjoy the music, dancing and socializing with the added bonus of perhaps walking away with a lovely prize.

We encourage members, their family and friends to fill in the form at the back of the newsletter and join in the fun and festivities. We look forward to seeing you all on December 19, 2004.

We will not refuse any show of your generosity in donating a gift that could be awarded as a prize.

Casa news



Encontro update

As luck will have it, most of the participants who have already registered to attend the Encontro were present at the AGM so they managed to get first hand information from Jerry who, until now handled this file. For the benefit of those who did not attend and for the general membership who might be interested in having some information about the Encontro and a list of our members who will be attending, we have provided some information in point form below.

- According to APIM, the organizing committee of the Encontro, anyone who attends the Encontro who is a member

AND has registered through the Casa will be entitled to receive the subsidy. Anyone who is not a member will not.

- The total amount of the subsidy, which is still to be determined, will be based on the total number of people who have registered with APIM by the deadline, September 30, 2004 then divided between the Casas according to the number of members attending. Every person registered through his or her respective Casas worldwide will receive the same amount in subsidy. The only exception APIM has made is in the case of Brazil. Because of the distance their members must travel, they will be awarded an extra subsidy. Dr. Rodrigues, President of APIM, has indicated however that the amount each registered member should receive will be no less than what was given at the last Encontro, which our records show was CDN\$447.74
- It will be the responsibility of the individual Casas to distribute the subsidy to the members
- There will be a “lai see” or “gift package” given to registrants upon their arrival in Macau. No details of how this “lai see” will be distributed has been provided. The amount would be about US\$100 (or approximately 800 patacas)
- The Organizing Committee will not be monitoring attendance at the various events. It will be left to the conscience of the individual members whether they attend the events they have signed up for or not. Suffice to say we are all adults and as such the courtesy should be extended to the Organizing Committee, which is generously providing the subsidy so that the effort should be made to attend as many if

not all events offered.

- Space is limited at the cooking contest so each Casa will be given just 10 spaces. As the Executive it will be up to us to determine who will fill these 10 spaces. It goes without saying that the immediate family members of our two contestants, Antonia (Ozorio) Tsai and Veronica (Castro) Oepen will be given tickets but should there be tickets left over we will let you know how they will be distributed. It will probably be determined by the luck of a “draw”. Members will be informed.
- In order to have local coverage of the Encontro, each Casa and/or city has been asked to submit a proposal recommending a reporter be sent to Macau to cover the events. According to the Organizing Committee, this reporter should be Portuguese and each local Casa will have to submit a cost estimate for the entire trip to have this person attend the Encontro. The Organizing Committee will review the proposals. As your new Executive has only just assumed office, although we feel we would be hard pressed to complete this ‘exercise’ we are not saying at this time that it will not get done. There are many ‘obstacles’ that we can foresee immediately facing us such as: there is so little time for us to do the research to find a Portuguese reporter we could recommend; even IF we could recommend someone, the Organizing Committee has not indicated an amount of money they would be willing to put up to bring this reporter to Macau; even if we do recommend a reporter who is released from his duties here in Toronto and agrees to go (after all who wouldn’t accept an expense

paid trip to the Far East), there are no guarantees that anything will ever get published in the local newspaper. From what little we know of the print media, the articles that appear in any newspaper are not the reporter’s decision but rather the Editor of the newspaper. Ultimately, we have too many questions and precious little time to have them answered and possibly acted upon so we might have to decline the Organizing Committee’s kind offer on this matter.

- As the common practice is to exchange gifts between the various dignitaries and the Casas at the Encontro there was a suggestion made by José Cordiero of the Macau Club that perhaps all the Casas could join forces and purchase a single gift for each dignitary. Said gift could be inscribed with the names of all the Casas who contributed towards that particular gift. Each Casa would be assigned the responsibility of purchasing a single gift for a specific dignitary and will present said gift to the individual at the Encontro on behalf of all our fellow Casas. Once again, as we have just been handed the Encontro file, we have not had time to determine how far along this suggestion has been taken or if any action or further discussions about the logistics or the feasibility of this suggestion have been determined. The idea indeed has merit since it will help in the weight of the luggage of our representatives who instead of carrying 7 gifts to Macau, would just have to carry one. We will keep members posted as to any decisions that we might arrive at.
- Hotel confirmation on first choices – Jerry reported that he has not heard anything from

the Organizing Committee on this issue but he assumes that no news is good news.

- Questions regarding how attendees will receive their "Registration package". Jerry has not as yet been informed. We will try and get a reply from the Organizers. Speaking from past experience, those who had registered at a particular hotel picked up their packages at their respective hotels. For those who will be staying with friends and family, there should be a pick-up place where you will be able to pick up your Registration packages. We will try and get this information from the Organizers. We realize that this will have to be clarified as according to Jerry's records; over 60% of the members will be staying with friends and family.
- Speaking of members who have registered, the following is a list of the names that we received from Jerry:

- 1) Barbara Baptista
- 2) Tony Barradas
- 3) Helena Barradas
- 4) Jonathan Barradas
- 5) Christopher Barradas
- 6) Joanne Barradas
- 7) Cameron Barradas
- 8) Lourenço Conceição
- 9) Maria Cecília Conceição
- 10) Millie Castro
- 11) Fatima Czerwinski
- 12) Arnaldo de Lemos
- 13) Orieta de Lemos
- 14) Isabel Dias
- 15) Luisa Do Rosario
- 16) Francisco De Rosario
- 17) Arlete Do Serro
- 18) Robert Doi
- 19) Laura (Viana) Doi
- 20) Isabel Gomes da Silva
- 21) Regina Holden
- 22) Augusto Jorge
- 23) Archer Larcina
- 24) Celsa Larcina

- 25) Cedric Lui
- 26) Gladys Maher
- 27) Angela Malig
- 28) Fernanda (Ozorio) Mak
- 29) Jack Mak
- 30) Aurea Meyer
- 31) Ken Meyer
- 32) Anne Noronha
- 33) Jerry Noronha
- 34) Margaret Noronha
- 35) Veronica Oeppen
- 36) Joe Poon
- 37) Daisy Poon
- 38) José Rodrigues
- 39) Cacilda Ribeiro
- 40) Pedro Rozario
- 41) Frances Rozario
- 42) Patrick Rozario
- 43) Audrey Rozario
- 44) Bobby Rozario
- 45) Maria Helena Ryan
- 46) Virginia Sanchez
- 47) Eugenio Sanchez
- 48) Sergio Sanchez
- 49) Arnaldo Sousa
- 50) Ana Maria Tang
- 51) Augusto Tang
- 52) Stephanie Tang
- 53) Norma Tay
- 54) Antonia Tsai
- 55) Humberto Viana
- 56) Luis Viana
- 57) Maria Wong
- 58) Luis Xavier
- 59) Bernard Yen
- 60) Marlene Yen

We have been receiving some last minute enquiries for registration however at the time this newsletter was sent to the printers we could not confirm names of any more members attending.

We are aware that our members will be leaving for the Encontro at different times, some much earlier than others. In the next few days it is our hope that we can contact you all to find out your departure and return dates. This information will be of great help to us in enabling us to communicate with you should more information and clarifications be forthcoming from Macau in the

weeks to come.

Our representatives who will be attending the Encontro will be Barbara Baptista and Helena Barradas. The other members of your Executive had already made prior traveling plans long before committing to run for office.

Barbara and Helena presume they will be staying at the Sintra Hotel as they have both requested this as their first choice. They will be in Macau on November 27 and November 28 respectively. They will have the list of members who will be staying in the hotels, however for those who will be staying with friends and family, we would appreciate it if you would provide us with at least a phone number in Macau where we can reach you. We ask this ONLY in case there is an emergency so that either Barbara or Helena will be able to get a hold of you during the Encontro.

It goes without saying that much goes on behind the scenes whenever there are Encontros. It does not make matters any easier that we are coming into this at the tail end of the preparations when things are rapidly developing and changing as the start date of the Encontro approaches. There is much we need to familiarize ourselves with and every cooperation you can extend to us will ease our task all the more.

Your Executive would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members who will be going to the Encontro *Boa Viagem e Feliz Regresso*.



Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses (CCM) Macanese Communities Council (MCC)

A few of you might know the whys and wherefores of the above-mentioned ‘Council’. However, we feel it would be safe to say that the majority of members, of which your Executive is a part of, have only heard distant and unclear rumors in connection with it. As your Executive we feel very strongly that all members should be made aware of:

- i) the discussions and work that has gone on before;
- ii) the stage that everyone is at now;
- iii) and where and what we can expect in the future.

Let us assure you that, as your Executive, we do not intend to take any action without first making sure WE understand fully what this Council is all about before we put our signature on any document, thereby committing our Casa to any agreements. Having said this, as you can imagine our learning curve is indeed a very steep one in that we were briefed on this matter only as recently as at our Handover meeting on September 20, 2004 with the previous Executive and are ourselves trying to come to grips with all the information imparted to us. In all, we have been handed many “balls” which we now have to run with.

We will try to provide you with an overview below so that at least you will know and be informed as to what we will be dealing with.

A brief history

The idea of forming this entity called the Macanese Communities Council was born many years ago. In fact, at the previous Encontro of 2001, our then President, Lourenço Conceição, attended the very early

discussions on the merits of forming such an organization. At that time he signed an agreement, along with our sister Casas, that he agreed “on principal” that the idea was a good one but that obviously this was just a seed of an idea on which there still needed much work.

What body is coordinating this effort to form the MCC

Associação Promotora da Instrução dos Macaenses (APIM) is organizing the Casas into creating the MCC. Dr. José Manuel de Oliveira Rodrigues, the President of APIM has been very involved and instrumental in this effort. Because APIM is based in Macau it follows that the MCC will be based in Macau SAR.

Who will make up the MCC

Basically, this would be a council whose members would be made up of: representatives from APIM; 3 representatives, who need not necessarily be from the Executive, be elected/appointed from each of the Casas worldwide. This tenure would be for a three year term; representatives from various Macau organizations and some specifically appointed Macau residents.

What would be the purpose of the MCC

Its main aim is: “the incorporation of the interests and wishes of the Macanese community in the diaspora and its articulation with their counterparts of Macau”. (Statutes of the Macanese Communities Council Article 1, 1. 8 Jun 2004)

Recent past

We were informed by the previous Executive at the Handover meeting that at the Preliminary Meeting held last November 2003, in Macau, a discussion on the merits of forming the MCC were once again raised between APIM and the Casa representatives. After these discussions, our representatives at that time,

Jerry Noronha and Nena Noronha also signed a document; in essence saying that “on principal” being a part of this ‘council’ held merit. All the Casa representatives at this Preliminary Meeting even came up with a sketchy draft of how they envisioned the make-up and responsibilities of the MCC.

Fast forward to June 2004

APIM drafts the Statutes of the MCC, which actually is a Second draft, and circulates it around the Casas asking for comments. The Statutes describe how the MCC will be structured, and the respective responsibilities of each ‘body’ within the organization.

Without going into all the minutia, as talks and suggested amendments are apparently still going on between the Casas and APIM as we go to print, we provide you with a brief outline below so that you might have a better idea of the make up of the MCC

The MCC will comprise of 4 ‘bodies’ – i) a General Committee; ii) a Standing Committee; iii) a Fiscal Committee; and iv) a Consultative Committee.

Time and space does not permit us to detail all the duties that each of these committees will be responsible for. However, according to the June 04 draft, this is how the representation from the Casas and various organizations is proposed:

- i) General Committee – 10 representatives from APIM; 2 representatives from each of the 12 Casas worldwide; 2 representatives each from the following 6 organizations/associations in Macau – Associação dos Macaenses – Clube Macau – Associação dos Aposentados, Reformados e Pensionistas de Macau (APOMAC) – Santa Casa da Misericórdia – the International Institute of Macau and Clube Militar; and finally 5 Macau SAR residents

of recognized merit appointed by the General Committee.

ii) Standing Committee – 7 representatives from APIM; and 1 from each Casa

iii) Fiscal Committee – 3 members appointed by the General Committee for a 3 year tenure and who are permanent residents of Macau.

iv) Consultative Committee – 11 members selected by the General Committee for a 3 year tenure and who are permanent residents of Macau.

Period June to August 2004

As far as we understand, there has been much discussion between APIM and the Casas as each voiced opinions, countered with suggested amendments regarding the set up of MCC as formulated in the June 04 Statutes draft. Each respective Casa had an opportunity to make known their concerns regarding the document as a whole. It all culminated in an impromptu meeting that was called by Dr. Rodrigues who happened to be visiting the West Coast in August. All the North American Casas were invited to each send a representative to Vancouver so that they could have a further brainstorming. Jerry went on behalf of our Casa. Dr. Rodrigues in early September met with our South American and Portuguese counterparts to hear their input. We understand that he will also probably be meeting with the Australian and Hong Kong representatives, but we have no confirmation as yet if this has even occurred. The bottom line is that apparently, after all these discussions, it was decided that a Third draft would be drawn up by APIM incorporating some of the ideas raised in the Vancouver “summit” and with the other Casas. As we go to print, we have yet to see an English version of this most recent Third draft. We were informed however by the past Executive that it is the hope of APIM that ALL the Casas will agree to sign on and be

part of MCC.

What to expect in the near future

APIM has in fact scheduled Monday, November 29, 2004 as the official signing and launch date. They have arranged this is to take place at the Macau Tower at 11 a.m. when pen will be put to paper, marking the official beginning of MCC. Furthermore, the first meeting of MCC for elections to the various positions on the various Committees of MCC is to take place Tuesday, November 30, 2004 at APIM’s clubhouse.

What you can expect from your Executive

It is our hope that you can now appreciate the magnitude of what has been passed on to us. What we have presented to you here is but a brief outline of our understanding of what MCC is all about. As stated at the beginning of this article, paramount to anything and everything that we do, particularly when it impacts directly on the members is the fact that, as members, you have the right to know what has been going on, steps and decisions that we will arrive at and the reasons why we have taken and made whatever decisions we will make in the future. We pledged to the membership at the AGM that we will work to the best of our ability for the good of our Casa so whatever decisions we make on behalf of the members, rest assured, we will ultimately have the good of the Casa first and foremost.

Our opinion on the merits of signing the yet unseen 3rd and Final draft of the MCC Statutes thereby committing Casa de Macau no Canada (Toronto) to being a part of the MCC

As your Executive we feel that at least with what information we have been given to date, it could be beneficial if we signed on to be a part of the MCC. For his part, Jerry

has voiced the opinions and concerns of his Executive regarding the document at the Vancouver “summit”. As far as we can tell, APIM has already drafted what they are calling the Third and final draft of the Statutes. Because of the point at which we are entering into this whole process, realistically speaking, we will have no input into this the final document. We do appreciate APIM’s point of view in that, as they wish this MCC to be launched at the time of the Encontro, they must set deadlines after which they cannot entertain any further suggested amendments. We will be following up the request of the past Executive that we be sent this Third and final draft ASAP so as to enable us to make an informed choice on behalf of you, the members.

What happens next

After we have had an opportunity to read the Final Statutes and IF we decide to join the MCC we will now have to tackle the next step. We will have to arrange for nominations and elections/appointments of 3 members of our Casa to represent us in the MCC. Two will stand for the General Committee and one will be a member of the Standing Committee.

It should be apparent by now that we will most probably be sending out a second mailing dealing specifically with this issue of the MCC as we are still not privy to the Third and final draft. Once we get more information and clarifications we will let you know so stay tuned. We will not make any decisions either to sign or not sign until we understand the ramifications involved with either decision.

Across the wires



"Aiya"

Author unknown

The Editors would like to thank Vince Remedios for passing this onto us.

I had a craving for a sweet taste of childhood the other day; so I went shopping for a can of grass jelly. I was putting said treat into my cart and looking for my Ranch 99 VIP card when a woman with three kids in tow ran into my cart.

At that moment, both of us said, "Aiya." The children giggled, she apologized, and I quickly replied, "M'sai. No apology needed." Although it was a minor exchange, I later realized that Aiya is more than just two characters; it is part of the spirit of being Chinese in a moment of surprise I could've said just about anything - my reaction was to say Aiya. I was surprised that I would instinctively use my mother's tongue because I've always known that I don't speak Cantonese well. No matter how far removed I've become as an American, there something at my core that is Chinese.

I decided to conduct informal research about Aiya. First, I went to a national bookstore chain to review its Chinese language materials. I thumbed through all the Chinese language materials, but couldn't find any vocabulary drill including Aiya. Seeing that the publishers of tourist books were not going to be helpful, I decided to observe its use in the community. I clipped my cell phone to my belt, grabbed a couple of bakery pink boxes and sat around San Francisco's Portsmouth Square drinking 7-Up and eating dim sum. Lo and behold, I heard Aiya used in a variety of ways.

Based on my personal experience and this observation, I've developed a personal understanding of Aiya.

Aiya is 24-carat Chinese gold. Aiya is more than just two characters; it is part of the spirit of being Chinese and may even go back to antiquity. It is used wherever the Chinese have been in the diaspora of the last sesquicentennial.

How you say Aiya can say volumes about your state of mind. For example, when the problem is minor, I can say "Aiya" in a short/curt manner. However when I am extremely stressed, I can draw it out to nearly five seconds. (I'm planning an experiment where I get a room full of people to meditate using it as a mantra. With practice, I might get them to draw out Aiya even longer.)

To explain more deeply how to use Aiya, imagine a worker slaving on the Great Wall when he accidentally drops a brick (a quickie Aiya) on the work foreman (Aiya!!) - which gets him thrown into the wall to perish an agonizing death (AIYA!!!!)

As you read the following ways Aiya can be used, the mental image to solicit is to picture any of the mothers from Amy Tan's "The Joy Luck Club". For those who have met anyone in my family, you can picture one of my relatives instead:

Surprise: "Aiya! A surprise party for me?"

Joy: "Aiya! You got 5 out of 6 in Lotto!"

Distaste: "You expect me to drink that herbal medicine concoction of yours? Aiya!"

Doubt: "Do I have to wear that lemon yellow/lime green sweater my mother made? I wonder if she would notice if I 'accidentally' donated it to Goodwill? Aiya."

Awe: "Your son got accepted into Harvard Law School!?! Aiya!"

Irritation: "Clean your room! Aiya! Why you live like a pig?"

Large astonishment: "Aiya! She

switch majors from Business to Art History!"

Disapproval: "Report Card-5 A, 1 B? Always a B in Math. Aiya." (Actual quote from my mother when I was a sophomore in high school.)

Shock: "What? Ketchup on Yang Chow Fried Rice ... Aiya!"

Lamentation: "Aiya .. why me ... ungrateful child ...Aiya." (Probably what my mother is thinking when she reads this.)

Outrage: "Never clean your rice cooker with that steel scouring pad! Aiya!"

Verge of internal combustion: "I can't deal with the family asking when and if I'm getting married! Ai-yaaa!"

Aiya is an all-purpose phrase that comes from deep in the soul. Aiya is both simple and complex: on one hand it is a couple of Chinese characters, on the other hand it can be a whole speech describing the state you are in. Aiya says, "I'm afraid", "I'm in pain", "I don't believe it." It is an exclamation of exuberance, a shout of hurt, a cry of fear, and the reflex of being startled, and the embrace of joy.

It is unfortunate that English has no equivalent to Aiya. It saddens me that American English doesn't afford me a fun phrase to emote. "Shucks", "Darn" and the plethora of swear words cannot convey what Aiya can. So, I'm going to propose that we start an initiative for American English should grab on Aiya or the Yiddish "Oy" for our use.

So the next time you go to a tea-house for dim sum or decide to go shopping at an Asian market, listen to the lively banter as friends and families meet. It's a wonderfully vibrant, alive community out there. Who knows, you just might get caught up the lyrical rhythm of the people. Aiya! to all who knows me.

Interesting Links



“Strong Hearts, Steady Hands – The Portuguese Destiny in Canada” is a television documentary commissioned by OMNI 2 Television station documenting Portuguese Immigration and life in Canada from 1953 to 2003.

The Portuguese version (Coracoes Fortes, Maos Firmes) premiered on OMNI in February of 2004 and is being run on OMNI 2. The next air-date is not confirmed yet but it will probably run at least a half dozen times between now and December of 2004. The English version (Strong Hearts Steady Hands) premier has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 30, 2004 @ 9:00PM Eastern on OMNI-1. The English version will probably run a great many times over a period of about a year.

For those connected to the Internet if you are interested you can visit the site <http://www.stronghearts.ca/index.htm>

Thanks Horace Ozorio for passing this along

In the event that you are unaware the Club Recreio hockey section has a website as follows: http://home.graffiti.net/recreio_newsletter:graffiti.net/ Check it out as it is interesting and there are still a few familiar faces around.

Thanks Bosco Corea and Rennie Marques for passing this along.

Cook's Corner



With the long shadows of winter approaching our psyche turns to thoughts of “hibernation”, of finding comfort in warm “cozy” things and food. The Fall harvested vegetables start to gain prominence on

the Supermarket shelves. Enjoying a bowl of hot soup holds great appeal as the winter winds swirl just on the other side of the window-panes. Below are a couple of recipes that we include for your taste bud pleasure. We would like to thank Lois Alves for her recipe of Ginger Pumpkin Soup and David Brander for his Potato-Leek Soup.

Ginger Pumpkin Soup

Ingredients:

- 2 ½ tbsp. butter
- 1 large leek (use white part only finely chopped) or 1 onion
- 1 tbsp. fresh ginger finely chopped
- 2 ½ cups chicken stock
- 2 large potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 2 cups pumpkin, peeled and cubed
- 1 cup 15% cream (optional)
- salt and white pepper to taste

Method

Sauté the leeks and ginger in the butter until the leeks are tender. (About 8 minutes). Add the potatoes, pumpkin and broth to the pot and cook until tender, about 20 minutes.* Purée in a blender until smooth. Thin with cream or more stock until desired consistency is reached. Season to taste.

2 – 4 Servings

*Note: In order to make peeling the pumpkin easier and to cut down on cooking time, par-cook the pumpkin. I find using the smaller pumpkins ideal, not the big ones we carve at Halloween. Wash and pat dry the pumpkin. Using a fork or the pointed blade of a sharp knife, stab the pumpkin. Put in the microwave for about 3 – 5 minutes on High. Test by pressing. If the pumpkin is soft, it will be much easier to peel and to remove the seeds.

This soup freezes well.



Potato-Leek Soup

Ingredients:

- 450g (1 lb) white potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 3 large leeks
- 25g (1oz) butter
- 1 small onion, peeled and chopped
- 1.25 ltr. vegetable or chicken stock salt and pepper
- 150 ml semi skimmed milk (optional)
- 2 tbsp chives, fresh or dried

Method:

Peel and cube potatoes. Trim, wash and chop the leeks using both the white and green parts. Melt the butter in a large pot. Add the leeks and chopped onion. Cook gently for about 10 minutes, or until soft but NOT browned. Add the potatoes and stock. Season with salt and pepper. Bring to a boil and then simmer gently for about 15 minutes, or until potatoes are tender*. Purée soup in a blender taking care not to over mix or the soup will have a ‘gluey’ consistency. Return to the pot and add the milk. You can substitute the milk with more stock if you wish until you reach the desired consistence of the soup you like. You might have to add more salt and pepper to taste. Garnish with chopped chives.

Note* In order to cut down on cooking time, you can pre-cook potatoes in water and add to the stock. This soup can be frozen.

