

Casa de Macau no Canada (Toronto)



Newsletter

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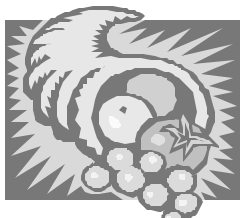
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*Give thanks for the
bountiful harvest...*

From the Executive



We would like to thank all the members who attended the Annual General Meeting and the Meeting for the Amendment of the Constitution on September 17, 2005. To those members who could not attend, we also thank you for mailing in your proxies, thereby enabling you to participate in the democratic process and contributing to the success of both meetings.

To those members who could not attend and who would like to receive a copy of the Interim Financial Statement which was presented and passed at the Annual General Meeting, kindly contact Barbara Baptista and she will mail a copy to you.

A copy of the "President's Welcome" has been attached to this newsletter. A brief report on what transpired at the Meeting for the Amendment of the Constitution follows.

At the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, we broke for lunch, enjoying the sandwiches, fruits and cookies which were beautifully presented on the buffet tables.

The floor was opened for discussions and a number of members came forward with their views and suggestions.

Abiding to the procedure as stated in our Constitution, Article 8, 'Constitutional Amendments', page 7 whereby it states: "...the proposed amendments will become effective at the conclusion of such meeting if it is approved by no less than sixty (60%) of the Full members present at such meeting" your Executive decided that since the majority had already voted and had placed their ballots in the baskets prior to the discussions, in the spirit of fairness, it was felt that those present should be given an opportunity to vote again on the specific further amendments suggested by those members who came forward with their views. Each amendment proposed from the floor was read to those present and a show of hands vote was taken on each resulting in some changes which are detailed below:

The results of a show of hands majority are as follows:

Resolution B – did not pass so Article 1, Section 2 remains as written in the Constitution.

Resolution C – Article 3 "Membership shall consist of three (3) categories: Full; Associate; Honorary. The Executive shall decide by a majority of sixty percent (60%) of vote on the admission of any Full Member and Associate Member."

Resolution E – Article 3, Section 4 – Add to the end of the proposed amendment in "the Chart" the sen-

tence: "An Honorary member shall not be entitled to vote."

Resolution J – Article 9 – Removal of the word "net" from the proposed amendment in "the Chart".

Proposed "new" amendments that came from the floor:

To add another requirement of any new Full and Associate member, under Article 3, Sections 1 and 2 respectively that he/she must be someone in good standing.

All the other Resolutions A, D, F, G, H and I as proposed in "the Chart" passed by a majority vote according to the tabulation of the ballots.

We would like to thank all those who took the floor. It shows that you care about our Casa and the collaborative effort has resulted in a Constitution that is reflective of the wishes of the majority of the members.

In the following weeks, we will be reproducing the Constitution to include the adopted amendments that were passed at the meeting. Any member interested in having a copy of the amended Constitution is requested to contact Helena Barradas and a copy will be sent to you.

We also would like to acknowledge the generosity of those members who brought non-perishable items to contribute to our Food Drive. We collected four full boxes, which will be delivered to a local Food Bank. (Visit Casa's website and click on the Gallery to view some photos)

Clothing Order Reminder
Due to interest expressed by members to re-order some Golf shirts and jackets with the Casa logo, your Executive have made enquiries with the same clothing company. For those who have given us their deposits we will keep you informed as to the status of placing the order. The company has

certain minimum numbers that we are required to meet, which as yet have not been reached. Listed below are the items that are available and their respective prices. Should you be interested, please contact either Gloria Anok or Monica Alves. All prices include Logo and tax

- Golf Shirts (Black or White)
- XS,S,M,L,XL.....\$22
- Blue Nylon Jacket
- S, M, L..... \$40
- Women's Fleece Jacket (Black)
- XS, S, M, L, XL..... \$61
- Men's Fleece Jacket (Black)
- XS, S, M, L, XL.....\$61

Happy Thanksgiving Wishes
Your Executive would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a very Happy Thanksgiving.

As we gather around the table with our families this October 11, 2005, let us indeed give thanks for all our blessings. We do not have to look far to see all the misery and hardship that our fellow man has had to endure these past weeks and months.

Casa - Social Events



Dia de Macau
From proceeds of ticket sales of a 50/50 Draw a cheque in the amount of \$234 was forwarded to the Sisters of Carmel of the Infant Jesus in Toronto on behalf of members of Casa.

(Visit Casa's website and click on the Gallery to view some photos)

Fun and Games Afternoon
Living up to the its billing, the Fun and Games Afternoon held at the clubhouse on July 16, 2005 was truly an afternoon filled with plenty of fun and games. A great big thank you is due to Elizabeth and David Tavares for planning this event and the many helpers who assisted on the day. All who attended were good sports and joined in all the games from the youngest

member, Cameron Barradas, to one of our most senior members, Mercedes Sousa. As it turned out age had no bearing on the outcome of the games as it was Mercedes, who just recently turned 90 years young, held the winning bingo card.



Mercedes Sousa with Elizabeth Tavares

The Ring Toss game brought out some most unusual throwing "styles" and body contortions ever before seen. It is not as easy as it looks. The winning team was:



Christopher Barradas, "Zito" Rodrigues; Marie Camille Gonsalves and Lourenço Conceição.

Wishing that everyone come away with a 'prize', Elizabeth had a lucky pull game where every number drawn corresponded to a gift. Thanks also go to the many cooks who prepared dishes for the enjoyment of all. (More photos available on our site)

Woodbine Races
Casa's annual day at the races was on August 27, 2005. Yet again, a lovely buffet spread was

offered at the restaurant. As far as anyone was willing to admit, small damage was done. Unfortunately no one picked the right outsiders that eventually won the last race otherwise there would have been a rather handsome payoff. Ah well, if we could all pick the winners every-time, what would be the challenge? Our thanks to Celsa Larcina and Marie-Cecile Remedios for taking on the reins of this event.

September Thursday Social

It was decided that the September Thursday Social would offer something different from the usual home cooking and from the positive feedback, it will be repeated from time to time. It falls inevitably on the shoulders of the faithful few cooks whose services are repeatedly called upon to provide the food for all the attendees at the Socials. Needless to say, over time this has added a burden on some. In an effort to give all the cooks a break, it was decided that we would provide the buns, bread, cold cuts, and salads and dinner would be a light affair. I think it safe to say that the most appreciative members for the change were the cooks. Long time members will recall that in the early days of the Socials, it was tea, coffee and sandwiches, which were served at these gatherings. Somewhere along the line it evolved into the elaborate spreads that have been offered at the Socials. Mind you, all members are very appreciative of the opportunity to sample the Macanese dishes presented, however, on the other hand, we should never forget the effort and hard work that the cooks put into preparing the food month after month.

Regular Functions

The summer holidays are over, the kids are back at school and things are slowly returning to routine.

- Line Dance classes resumed as

of Tuesday, September 6 at 7:30 pm. Anyone interested in joining, please contact Naomi Baltazar at (416) 937-9102. As Naomi is regularly teaching new dances, don't feel that if you are a beginner you will be behind the rest of the regulars. She reviews steps even of the 'old' dances. Come out and have fun! The cost is \$30 for 10 lessons.

- Tai Chi resumed Mondays and Wednesdays commencing September 12, 2005 at 10 am.
- Wednesday Osteo Exercise classes resumed September 21 at 6:45 pm. The cost is \$7 per lesson and the session will run for 10 weeks. If you are interested in joining, kindly contact Lucille Da Luz either at (work) 416 - 441-6222 or (home) 416-298-8938.
- Please note that until further notice due to personal reasons, David Tavares will not be available to open the clubhouse for Library/Drop-In Wednesdays. Should you want to borrow a book, kindly contact David at (416) 282-7738 to make an appointment.



Visitors

Summer time always brings visitors and this summer was no exception. It was nice to see that members brought their out of town visitors to our Thursday Socials and various other events, thus enabling them to meet old friends and acquaintances. Some visitors we had a chance to meet were: Sergio and Josefina Pina and Helen Xavier from Vancouver; Maryanne Tavares from England (David and Elizabeth's daughter); Sheila Colação and Virgie McDougall from California; Michol Levitt from

Florida (niece of Angela and Pat Alves and 'Pompy' Mackintosh); Maureen and Zoe Sequeira from Portugal; Daniel and Valerie Castro from Australia and Linda and Edward Shuster from Vancouver (married daughter of Lydia Rodrigues)

Other Casas news

From time to time we have been alerted by our sister Casas of some information that they have requested we pass onto our members. We have noted below these requests:

- Macau Cultural Association (Casa de Macau) of Western Canada – their website has been revived and updated. The address is www.casademacau.net
- Casa de Macau em Lisboa – their website is up and running and the address is www.casademacau.pt.
- Casa de Macau Inc. (Australia) – has published their July newsletter on their site www.casademacau.org.au

All the above sites can be accessed through our Casa's website via the "Links" page.

- Macau Cultural Center Building Purchased – we received a note from Maria Roliz, President of Lusitano Club of California informing us that she was: "extremely pleased to announce that our dream of having a Macau Cultural Center is finally a reality." They have acquired property in the historic Niles downtown area of Fremont and will be starting work renovating the building. Our congratulations to the committee for this accomplishment and wish them continued success in their efforts.

Upcoming events



October Bazaar

Casa will hold its Bazaar at the clubhouse on Sunday, October 23, 2005. Our thanks go to Nancy Baradas who has agreed to be “in charge” of the event. Nancy would like to let members know that there will be a “White Elephant” table and she has requested that if members have some good articles they would like to contribute to the table to please let her know. Articles can be brought to the clubhouse the next Thursday Social, October 6 or Card Drive, Thursday October 20. There will be handmade goods sold as well as food so drop in at the clubhouse and check it out. Also a hot lunch will be served for a nominal fee while quantities last. The doors will open from 11 am onwards.

We intend to donate a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the goods, as well as the lunch, to a charity to be decided on at a later date. Members will be advised.

Christmas Lights Bus Trip

Casa’s arranged bus trip is for Saturday, November 26. Please make your booking early as these popular outings always sell out. Particulars are as follows:

Noon pick up at Our Lady of the Rosary Church on Midland south of Finch

2:00 - 3:00 pm Niagara-on-the-Lake for shopping

3:30 - 4:30 Casino Niagara or Niagara Greenhouse

5:00 - 6:15 Dinner at Betty’s Restaurant

6:15 - 6:45 Niagara Falls lights tour

9:00 pm Drop off at the church

There will be no refunds.

Please send your forms/cheques to Marie Camille Gonsalves, who has kindly made all the arrangements.
(Refer to Calendar of Events)

Christmas Dinner/Dance

Last year, the Christmas Dinner Dance was attended by many members, their families and friends. Prizes were plentiful, the 50/30/20 Draws were lucrative, the food was delicious, ambience and DJ made it a great evening. Feedback was positive. This year we were able to book the same banquet hall for Sunday, December 11. Please come out and support your Casa as you did last year.
(Refer to Calendar of Events)

Did you know?

Making the World Heritage List

**Excerpts taken from Macau Travel Talk
July – August 2005**

On July 15, 2005, the news from Durban, South Africa was that the 29th Session of the World Heritage Committee had approved China’s bid – originally called “The Historical Monuments of Macau” – for inclusion in UNESCO’s prestigious World Heritage List.

Your Executive sent a congratulatory message on behalf of all our members to Chief Executive, Edmund Ho Hau Wah for his efforts, which resulted in this wonderful declaration.

Now referred to as “The Historic Centre of Macau” - composed of eight squares and twenty-two monuments around Macau - is inscribed in UNESCO’s prestigious World Heritage List.

World Heritage List is the designation for places on earth that are of outstanding universal value to humanity and as such, have according to the Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage been inscribed on

the World Heritage List by the World Heritage Committee to be protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

The Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (commonly known as the “World Heritage Convention”) was adopted at the 17th General Conference of UNESCO in Paris in November 1972, in response to growing concern about the state to the world’s cultural and natural heritage. In this unique international treaty, countries recognize that the sites located on their national territory, and which have been inscribed on the World Heritage List, constitute a world heritage “for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to co-operate”.

Establishing the World Heritage List presents a major challenge to the international community as to judging one site, ensemble or monument, as opposed to another and in deciding what constitutes the outstanding universal value or World Heritage value of a cultural or natural site.

The World Heritage Committee makes its selection based on ten criteria of which six are applied to the cultural heritage monuments, groups of buildings and sites that may be considered part of the World Heritage.

Cultural sites should:

- i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius; or
- ii) exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design; or
- iii) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a

cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;

- iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building or architecture or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history; or
- v) be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement or land use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change; or
- vi) be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance (the Committee considers that this criterion should justify inclusion in the List only in exceptional circumstances and in conjunction with other criteria cultural or natural).

“The Historical Centre of Macau” qualified on the basis of criteria (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi) making it the 31st designated World Heritage site in China.

“The Historic Centre of Macau” is a living representation of the city’s historic settlement, encompassing architectural legacies interwoven in the midst of the original urban fabric that includes streetscapes and piazzas, such as Barra Square, Lilau Square, St. Augustine’s Square, Senado Square, Cathedral Square, St. Dominic’s Square, Company of Jesus Square and Camões Square. These major urban squares and streetscapes provide the linkage for a succession of over twenty monuments, including A-Ma Temple, Moorish Barracks, Mandarin’s

House, St. Lawrence’s Church, St. Joseph’s Seminary and Church, Dom Pedro V Theatre, Sir Robert Ho Tung Library, St. Augustine’s Church, “Leal Senado” Building, Sam Kai Vui Kun Temple, Holy House of Mercy, Cathedral, Lou Kau Mansion, St. Dominic’s Church, Ruins of St. Paul’s, Na Tcha Temple, Section of the Old City Walls, Mount Fortress, St. Anthony’s Church, Casa Garden, the Protestant Cemetery and Guia Fortress (including Guia Chapel and Lighthouse)

In our upcoming issues of the newsletter we will be featuring write-ups on some of the various designated sites listed above.

Across the wires



Macau's boom has only just begun

By Gary LaMoshi, Asia Times, Sept.20,05

MACAU - Casino magnate Sheldon Adelson has a vision of Asia's Las Vegas on Cotai, reclaimed land joining Macau's Coloane and Taipa islands. Adelson's US\$2 billion Venetian Macau Casino Resort will anchor this new version of the Las Vegas Strip, with 20 more resorts lining the wide boulevard. Macau gambling kingpin Stanley Ho's City of Dreams complex will provide a sleek, ultramodern counterpoint to Adelson's classical Venetian. As a bonus, Vegas rival Steve Wynn will be stuck in Macau's downtown, sandwiched between a pair of the Ho family's new hotels and Adelson's Sands casino, the first to bring Las Vegas glitz to Macau.

Macau, returned to Chinese sovereignty under the "one country, two systems" principle in 1999 after nearly 450 years of Portuguese rule, has many charms. China's emperor granted Portugal this strategic out-

post at the mouth of the Pearl River in the mid-16th century in exchange for controlling piracy - the kind that intrigued Gilbert and Sullivan, not the kind that infuriates Microsoft and Disney. Macau's role as a gateway between east and west is evident from its 25 sites placed on the United Nations World Heritage List in July, including Chinese temples, Catholic churches, hilltop forts and lighthouses. Macanese cuisine brings together Portugal's sardines and China's swine to the rhythm of vinho verde. The place is a delightfully unhurried change of pace from the rat race of Hong Kong and the drab grind of southern China.

But Macau's 20 million visitors overwhelmingly come simply to gamble at the casino tables that the Portuguese legalized 158 years ago. For 40 years until 2002, Stanley Ho's Sociedade do Jogos de Macau (SJM, Portuguese for Macau Gaming Society) held a monopoly on casinos. The introduction of US operators Wynn Resorts and Adelson's Las Vegas Sands (LVS) has upped the stakes, and the revenue. Casino winnings grew 40% in 2004 and this year's projected 20% rise will push the figure beyond \$6 billion, surpassing the take in Las Vegas. LVS averages \$879,452 a day at its Venetian casino in Las Vegas. At its Sands Macau casino, opened in May 2004, it averages \$2.36 million. But that's just the beginning.

Asia's Las Vegas in three years LVS is master developer for a stretch of Cotai that will have seven new resort hotels in the first phase opening in 2007. LVS chairman and chief executive officer Adelson is so excited about the concept that he's trademarked the names "Cotai Strip" and "Asia's Las Vegas." LVS chief operating officer William Weidner says, "It took 75 years for Las Vegas to emerge as an international destination. Our intention is to replicate that feat in less than

three years."

Today, Cotai is about six square kilometers of empty lots, construction fences and the Macau Dome, an elliptical dark glass and steel frame structure built for next month's East Asian Games, that looks like the shell of a giant insect fallen from outer space. But put on your bug repellent and imagine 2008.

The Venetian Macau - "Bringing the charm of Venice and the glamour of Las Vegas to you" according to the billboards surrounding its million square meter construction site - will feature 3,000 rooms in a 32-story tower. In addition to its signature canals with the gondolas, the resort will include 92,000 square meters of conference and exhibition space (Adelson made his initial fortune running the annual COMDEX technology fairs), a 2,000-seat theater, a 15,000-seat arena (at last, a home for Macau's basketball and hockey teams!), and a retail mall measuring nearly 80,000 square meters.

Venetian anchor - The Venetian will anchor a one kilometer stretch of resorts, according to the Sands' plan. Phase one includes six more branded resort hotels, including a Four Seasons, a Hilton, an Intercontinental and a Marriott, with a total of 10,000 rooms. Just beyond that, a partnership between Stanley Ho's son Lawrence and Australian Kerry Packer's Publishing and Broadcasting Limited is building "City of Dreams", including three more hotels with 2,000 rooms, plus hundreds of serviced apartments, its own shopping mall and a 4,000-seat theater. Those buildings will seem to float in a lagoon that also provides atmosphere for an underwater casino.

A bridge connecting China's Zhuhai to Cotai will include a border gate, giving the strip first crack at a large

chunk of the mainland tourist trade that comprises more than half of the visitors to Macau. Within a decade, Cotai could be the home to up to 25 resort-casinos. It could even expand to neighboring islands that belong to the mainland. That's added to the construction boom already underway in downtown Macau, the current center of gambling and business action. Wynn, MGM Mirage (in partnership with Stanley Ho's daughter Pansy), and Ho's Hotel Lisboa are all developing new projects at the southern end of Macau, near the Sands casino. Macau Fisherman's Wharf opens this month, across the road from the Sands, near the Hong Kong ferry terminal. The project includes a children's fort, and replicas of a Tang dynasty, Rome's Colosseum, 19th-century port towns, and a 40-meter-tall volcano with a thrill ride through the lava. Retailing, restaurants, and convention facilities are also part of the mix.

In all, at least \$12 billion is pouring into Macau for new hotels, facilities and attractions. There's a market of more than 100 million people within driving (and even walking) distance, a billion within two hours flying distance and three billion within five hours. Last year, China eased travel restrictions, making it possible for people from neighboring provinces Beijing and Shanghai (the highest income regions) to visit Macau individually, rather than as part of group tours.

Holistic value proposition - To attract a bigger piece of this market, Macau needs appeal beyond gambling. "The Venetian and Wynn Macau will be the first two properties developed in Macau that provide a holistic tourism value proposition," gaming industry consultant Jonathan V Galaviz explains. "When these two properties open, you will see a significant shift in the consumer profile that visits Macau. Instead of the gaming-centric visi-

tor [only], you will see the middle market tourist include Macau on their tourist agenda."

For example, shopping tops the agenda for most mainland tourists, according to surveys, and new developments will move Macau into the retail major leagues. Cartier opened a Macau branch earlier this year in the Mandarin Oriental Hotel's refurbished shopping arcade, a sign of two trends that will accelerate. Prestige brands are discovering Macau, and hotels are discovering the importance of retailing to boost revenue.

Cotai will lead the way to make Macau a contender in the Asian MICE market - meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions. "There's nothing like Cotai in the region," Macau Business magazine founder Paulo Azevedo notes. "If you have an international operator like Venetian pushing the MICE angle, it can work."

Certainly, Sheldon Adelson, Steve Wynn and Stanley Ho have made fortunes in gambling, and they're all betting it will work.

Cook's Corner



Let's Talk Turkey!

- Choose a fresh, natural turkey. If you must buy a frozen one, allow several days for it to thaw in the refrigerator.
- Be liberal with seasoning.
- Put the bird in the oven with the legs pointing toward the back of the oven, since it's usually the hottest spot.
- Wiggling the leg to check the "doneness" is not too reliable. Stick an instant-read thermometer in the thickest part of the thigh-it should read 175° - 180°, and juices should run clear.

Happy roasting...gobble, gobble!

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome members. It is hard to imagine that twelve months has elapsed since the last Annual General Meeting and it has been 5 years since a meeting was called for the amendment of the Constitution.

When we started our term, we were immediately presented with some new challenges not the least of which was that we no longer had a Social committee per se. Although we knew this from the beginning, it nevertheless has necessitated our doing things slightly differently. We have attempted this past year to introduce a number of new events, and as well, we tried to continue to offer the popular events of the past. Needless to say, it was only because of your acceptance of the changes and the assistance of all those who have volunteered and continue to volunteer that I believe I can say with modesty that last year was pretty successful.

Our Jantars have consistently been over-subscribed, the Christmas dinner had a participation level of just over 200. The bus for Mother's Day was full and the Dia celebrations, despite the blistering heat, saw attendance at over 130 members and friends. Other events such as our Western Night, Minchi and Karaoke evening, Bingo and Fun and Games Afternoon, for which we would like to thank David and Elizabeth Tavares overseeing, were also enthusiastically supported.

With respect to our clubhouse and the Thursday Socials, we thank Isabel Gomes de Silva for doing a great job. It is a responsibility that she has embraced and is conscientious in fulfilling the various duties that comes with her title, Clubhouse Manager.

We are aware that there have been some complaints expressed, though not directly to your Executive, of the policies that we have adopted this past year, however, I ask you to stop for a moment and to think, that first of all, we are all volunteers doing the best that we can and we have put policies in place for the good of our Casa. To paraphrase an old saying, until you have walked a mile in our shoes, you cannot really appreciate what everything involves. We firmly believe in fairness and the equal treatment of all members. We take the mandate you have given us seriously. You have entrusted us with the care of our Casa and that is always our primary concern.

It is in that spirit of caring for our Casa that we have proposed a number of amendments to our Constitution. I hope you all have taken the time to look over the chart that was sent in your notices. Once the Annual General Meeting has concluded, you will be given an opportunity to discuss the amendment resolutions we have raised so I ask that you please hold your questions on the amendments until that time.

As we look forward to the second half of our term we hope we can count on your continued support. At the beginning of our term, we asked for suggestions from you the members as to what direction and events you would like our Casa to go. Unfortunately, we only received a handful of responses to our survey last year. Might I remind you that we all must take responsibility for our Casa so please get involved. It does no good to sit back and complain. If you are not happy with something, we welcome constructive criticism. Offer us your suggestions as to what you think our Casa should be doing, volunteer your services and together we will be able to work it through.

Before I pass the microphone over to our Treasurer, I would like to give a plug to our upcoming events. There will be our Bazaar, held at the clubhouse on Sunday, October 23rd. Nancy Barradas has kindly offered to look after this event so if you have any items at home that you would like to contribute to the White Elephant table, please call Nancy and let her know. If you would like to have a table yourself, call Nancy. In November, Marie Camille Gonsalves has made arrangements for a bus trip, this time to see the Christmas Lights among other stops of interest. Particulars will be in the upcoming newsletter. And lastly on Sunday December 11th we will be hosting the Casa Family Christmas Dinner at the same venue as last year, the Crystal Fountain. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Thank you once again.