

Casa de Macau no Canada (Toronto)



Newsletter

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4168 Finch Avenue East, P.H. #39
Scarborough, Ont. CANADA
M1S 5H6
Tel: 416-299-6947
www.casademacau.ca

Board of Executives

President and Editor
Monica Alves 905-887-9408
1monman@rogers.com

1st Vice-President and Editor
Gloria Soares Anok 416-284-9095
Theanoks@hotmail.com

2nd Vice-President
Marie-Cecile Remedios 416-383-0327
Marie_Remedios@msn.com

Treasurer
Barbara J. Baptista 416-283-7937
Baptistabj@rogers.com

Secretary
Helena Barradas 905-201-7155
helena.tony.barradas@rogers.com

Clubhouse Manager
Isabel Gomes da Silva 416-228-1207

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*...for unto us a child is
born*

From the Executive



The Executive would like to extend to all members many blessings for a very Merry Christmas and peace, health and happiness in the New Year, *Boas Festas e Feliz Ano Novo*. Our good wishes also are sent to the Macanese Diaspora and sister Casas throughout the world.

As 2005 draws to a close, it would be no exaggeration to say that the world and many people suffered through unprecedented natural disasters and devastation. To coin a phrase, it was quite an *annus horribilis*. Even through the darkest days, however, there were many examples of kindness and generosity of spirit that shone through.

Your Executive has planned for events to cover the period of the first quarter of 2006. Particulars can be found in the Upcoming Events column of the newsletter. Sign up early and be assured of a spot at the event. We remind members that we cannot do this alone and would appreciate suggestions of events you the members would like to see Casa put on and to volunteer your services.

Regarding subsidized events members please take note that, if you cannot attend any event that you signed up and paid for at the last minute, and wish a non-member to take your place, the following will

apply.

Your replacement will be required to pay the difference in price, i.e. the price charged to non-members. The Casa, in fairness to its members, will not subsidize a non-member.

We would like to report that in a fax sent to Casa, the Macau Government Tourist Office, (MGTO) has expressed an interest in establishing: "a closer cooperation with all the 'Casas de Macau' in the different countries and regions." The MGTO has requested that we provide them with some general information about the number of members and activities organized by Casa. They hope to use this information as the basis for an in-depth analysis in providing a view of the unique characteristics of each "Casa", and the potential to define different forms of cooperation uniquely based on a per Casa basis. Members will be kept apprised of any further developments on this matter when same becomes available.

Your Executive also received from the Director of the Department for Consulate and Portuguese Communities Affairs in Portugal, a notice on the establishment of a program entitled "Medida". In brief, this is a program of "Professional Training in Portugal" open to youth 18 – 30

years of age of Portuguese descent. Unfortunately by the time the particulars reached us, there was not enough time to pass on the information to the membership as the deadline for submissions was December 15, 2005. Should anyone be interested to find out more details, they can log onto <http://www.secomunidades.pt> and follow the links or contact the Consulate. The address of the Consulado Geral de Portugal is 438 University Ave., Suite 1400.

An invitation was received from the Consul General of Portugal, Toronto, Dr. Maria Amelia Paiva, to attend an organ recital on Friday, December 9, 2005. We replied in the affirmative as Monica and Gloria agreed to attend. However, if you remember, Toronto was dumped with its first load of snow earlier that day. Therefore, we decided not to chance driving downtown on the tricky slippery roads.

It is that time of year once again when Membership renewals are due. The 2006 Membership form has been included and we would appreciate their return as soon as possible. Remember that as a member you will be entitled to sign up for events open only to members and furthermore enjoy the special subsidy accorded to members for the various events. A special reminder to our over 80 Senior members, although your membership dues are waived, we still require that you fill in the form so that your names will be recorded on our membership list and you will continue to receive our newsletters. We thank those Seniors who continue to pay their fees regardless of the waiver. For those young adults who turned 18 in 2005, we remind you that you have two options. Either renew your membership as an Associate at the Student price of \$12 or you may register as a Full Member by paying \$24.

Finally, as we look forward to the coming year we cannot avoid facing the looming cloud of what the scientists have termed the inevitability of a Bird Flu Pandemic. Our hope is that effective vaccines will be developed and the various measures taken by countries worldwide will be effective in mitigating the terrible effects when the outbreak occurs. Take all precautions. Stay safe.

May he rest in
peace



On November 11, 2005, Casa lost a long time member, a “gentle man” in every respect of the word and great supporter, Leo Vieira. The Executive would like to extend on behalf of the Casa “family” our heartfelt sympathy to Lilia, Bernardine, Patricia, Antonia and Leonardo and their respective families. A donation has been made in Leo’s name to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Casa - Social Events



Bazaar

The Bazaar held at the clubhouse October 23, 2005, was attended by a moderate number of members, yet the generosity of spirit and kind was heartfelt. Our thanks to Nancy Barradas who helped in the organization of the event and to our “vendors”: Monica Alves; Barbara Baptista; Nancy Barradas; Lucila Carion and Mafalda Tam; Lulu Prata; Clara Soares and Lilia Vieira, we could not have done it without you. Thanks also to the contribution of Virginia Sanchez who prepared noodles and Lo Bak Goh and Marie-Cecile Remedios for her baking which was for sale at the food table. Joyce Barros donated a lovely basket of goodies, which was raffled off with Ange Malig ending

up being the lucky winner. All in all, a total of \$534.85 was raised and which Casa has donated to the Shepherd’s Trust, which takes care of our elderly and disabled priests. *(Photos available on our website)*

Christmas Lights Tour

A busload of thirty-five members and guests went on an outing November 26, 2005. The first stop was Niagara-on-the-Lake, which was decked out with festive lights. Members enjoyed strolling along the main street and stopping in at the shops to do some Christmas shopping. Next, our bus took the scenic route, skirting the Niagara River, ending up at Fallsview Casino. While twenty-two members got off to try their luck at the machines, the rest were taken to the Niagara Greenhouses. Unfortunately, the Christmas displays were not ready, I suppose we can’t fool Mother Nature nor apparently can we rush Mother Nature, nonetheless, there were beautiful displays of numerous varieties of Chrysanthemums to feast our eyes on. Next stop was “Betty’s Restaurant” where there was a choice of either roast beef or roast chicken with the trimmings or their specialty, fish and chips. Finishing off the sumptuous meal was a delectable choice of pies. Judging from the rather quiet bus as we toured the Christmas Lights around the Falls, it would be safe to say that dinner was very satisfying. Our thanks and appreciation is extended to Marie Camille Gonsalves who made the arrangements with the tour company.

(Photos available on our website)

Christmas Dinner/Dance

The Casa “family” and friends gathered for a joyous Christmas celebration December 11, 2005 at the Crystal Fountain Banquet Hall. Each table was festively decorated with a pot of poinsettia and chocolates for everyone. DJ

Jim Divine had everyone play along with a game, which resulted in the winner taking home the table poinsettia. After Meno Larcina lead us in a prayer of thanks we all tucked into a scrumptious dinner.

Thanks to the generosity of Clara Soares, Lilia Vieira, David Brander and Mike Rose, there were lots of prizes given away throughout the evening. Even with his busy schedule, "Santa" managed to drop off some gifts for the little people who attended the party. Once again we enlisted the help of Stephanie Law and Francesco Angeloni to sell tickets for the ever-popular 50/30/20 draw. The lucky three members who will have a bit more "change" in their wallets to spend at Christmas are: Joanne Barradas; David Tavares and Carlos de Lemos.

A big thank you to all who attended and made the evening as special as it was.

(Photos available on our website)

Regular Functions for 2006

After taking a Christmas break, the regular events held at the clubhouse will be resuming.

- First Thursday Social – Isabel advises that the first Thursday Social of 2006 will be January 5. Due to the unpredictability of our Canadian winters, it would be prudent if in doubt to call Isabel before heading to the Socials in case it has been cancelled due to weather conditions.
- Tai Chi – Monica advises that class will resume Monday, January 9, 2006 at 10 am.
- Line Dance – Naomi Baltazar advises that classes will resume Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at 7:30 pm. Cost to members for the 10 lesson session is \$30. If you are interested, please call Helena at 905-201-7155

- Osteo Exercise classes – If you are interested, classes will resume January 11, 2006. Please call Lucille da Luz either at work 416-441-6222 or home 416-298-8938 for particulars.

Upcoming events



Chinese New Year Dinner

A Chinese New Year Dinner is being planned for Wednesday, January 18, 2006. Come join your fellow members for a lovely banquet held at Oriental Century Palace Restaurant. The Restaurant is located at the North East corner of Brimley and Sheppard. There is ample underground parking; take the elevator to the 2nd floor. *(Refer to the Calendar of Events.)*

Joint party in February

Tentative arrangements are in the making for a joint party at our respective Casa premises for Saturday, February 4, 2006. As the two Casas have not yet met to discuss details, and not likely to meet until early in the new year, there is very little we can pass on at the moment, other than the date.

The suggestion was put forth by Carlos de Lemos, who informs us that the Ecos de Macau will be playing.

If you are interested to have final details once plans are finalized, please call Gloria. The next newsletter will be out in March, so we will only contact interested members by phone. Thank you.

March Minchi Madness

Got the winter "blahs"? Why not come out and enjoy some good Macanese soul food. Once again, Casa is putting on an evening of minchi madness. If you have a particular combination of spices that

results in your own family's uniquely tasting Minchi, why not share it with your fellow members. Please indicate on your form if you would like to contribute a Minchi, vegetable or dessert dish towards this evening. Joyce Barros who has graciously agreed to help organize this event will be contacting you and will explain reimbursement particulars.

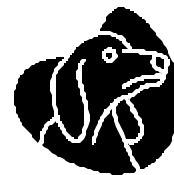
(Refer to the Calendar of Events.)

April in Portugal

How about joining us for April in Portugal at the clubhouse? Have we peaked your interest? While feasting on genuine Portuguese dishes enjoy the strains of Portuguese music. Particulars will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

Did you know?

Chinese New Year falls on Sunday, January 29, 2006 – year 4704 in the Chinese calendar and this year is the Year of the Dog. Individuals born in the Year of the Dog are loyal and honest and make good leaders. They are compatible with people born in the years of the Horse, Tiger and Rabbit.



The new Consul General of Portugal in Toronto is Dr. Maria Amélia Paiva.

Other Casas news

- **From Australia** – Our congratulations were sent to the new Board elected in October: Yvonne Herrero – President; Therese Alonco – Vice-President; Mary Rigby – Secretary; Mariazinha Callaghan – Treasurer; Antonieta Manolakis – Deputy Secretary.

- **Status of the Community Center**

Updated November 13, 2005

(Reproduced from A Diaspora Macaense na America : <http://www.diasporamacaense.org/>)

In the just-released Fall 2005 edition of the Lusitano Bulletin, the following further information on the Fremont building has been gleaned: The building was acquired for \$1,339,209.90 including fees and other charges. There was a shortage of \$135,000 to purchase it. José Manuel Rodrigues, President of APIM, "stepped up to the plate" and "most generously committed to provide us with the needed amount..." He also "expressed interest in leasing the ground floor of the new M.C.C. building for use as offices for the Macau-U.S.A. Chamber of Commerce..." [See Item 3 in article President of APIM in Joint Session with North America Casas above]. The building is located at 37695 Niles Boulevard. "The M.C.C. will undertake the renovation of this old building to bring it up to a desirable condition for cultural and social use, and will manage its day-to-day operations. The previous owner has already retrofitted the building for seismic safety, eliminating a major expense we would otherwise have had to incur to meet city safety codes...." Bids have been requested for some repairs such as fixing up leaks in the roof before the rainy season. "We look forward to having the building up and running sometime in 2006..."

- **Fundação Macau Provides Refurbishing Funds**

Fundação Macau has made feasible the work of refurbishing and fitting out the building in which will be located the Macau Cultural Center of California, the Director-Treasurer of Casa de Macau (USA) revealed to *Jornal Tribuna de Macau*.

That decision was communicated to

Henrique Manhão by José Manuel de Oliveira Rodrigues, President of the Conselho Permanente do Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses and of Associação Promotora da Instrução dos Macaenses (APIM) in the course of a meeting on November 25.

Fundamentally addressed were subjects relating to the recent formation of the Associação de Comerciantes Macaenses na Califórnia [Association of Macanese Businessmen in California] and the role to be played by Casa de Macau as "ambassador" of the RAEM (Região Administrativa Especial de Macau) in the area of tourism.

However, José Manuel Rodrigues took advantage of the occasion to advise that the petition signed by the Presidents of UMA, California [Lusitano] Club of California, and Casa de Macau (USA) Inc., addressed to Chief Executive, Edmund Ho, soliciting additional funds for the Macau Cultural Center in California had been approved by Fundação Macau.

To *Jornal Tribuna de Macau*, Henrique Manhão clarified that "after six years of frustrations, the Macanese associations of California had presented the problem to the President of APIM and of Conselho Permanente do Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses on the occasion of the latter's visit to California in July 2005, and to resolve the impasse, José Manuel de Oliveira Rodrigues had promised he would present the case personally to the Chief Executive of the RAEM."

According to the Director-Treasurer of Casa de Macau (USA) Inc., "thanks to his intervention and diligences the additional funds were obtained, which leaves us very happy."

He pointed out that the building in which the future Macau Cultural

Center would function was acquired for approximately eleven million [Macau] patacas. The cost of renovation and fitting it out will amount to four million patacas.

He stated that the new Macau Cultural Center of California would be situated in the city of Fremont in a commercial complex. At the request of the municipal authorities of that city, part of the ground floor will be leased to a typically European restaurant.

The first [middle] floor of the building is reserved for the offices of the Associação dos Comerciantes Macaenses da Califórnia and for the Centro de Informação de Turismo da RAEM.

*(The above is a free translation of an article in *Jornal Tribuna de Macau* dated November 28, 2005. – Ed.)*



Cook's Corner

The next best thing to actually participating in a cookie exchange is to have a cookie/cake recipe exchange. In the spirit of sharing, Marie Camille Gonsalves has graciously shared her Candied Ginger Rounds recipe and Regina Holden her Almond Cookies and a "No bake" Cheese Cake

Bom apetite.

CANDIED GINGER ROUNDS (Star)

Ingredients:

½ cup butter, at room temperature
 1/3 cup + ¼ cup granulated sugar
 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
 1 egg
 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
 ½ tsp. each baking soda, cream of tartar
 ¼ tsp. ground ginger
 1/8 tsp. salt

¼ cup finely chopped crystallized ginger

Method:

Using electric mixer at medium speed, cream together butter, 1/3 cup granulated sugar and brown sugar in medium bowl until light. Beat in egg until blended.

In small bowl, stir together flour, baking soda, cream of tartar, ground ginger and salt. Gradually beat into butter mixture until blended. Stir in crystallized ginger. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate dough 1 hour.

Put remaining ¼ cup granulated sugar on work surface or large plate.

Scoop out pieces of dough and roll into 1 to 1 ¼ inch balls. Roll each ball in sugar. Place balls on ungreased cookie sheet about 2 inches apart.

Bake in preheated 375° F oven until cookies spread out and turn golden, 10 – 12 minutes. Cool 5 minutes. Transfer to rack to cool completely.

**ALMOND COOKIES
(AMARETTI)**

Ingredients:

3 ½ cups ground almond
1 cup sugar
2 large eggs
½ bottle Almond Essence (Club House - 43 ml size)
½ cup sugar for coating cookies
Slivered almonds or cut up cherries for decorating (optional)

Method:

Beat eggs with Almond Essence. Combine and mix well the ground almond, sugar with the beaten eggs.

Use teaspoon, scoop combined dough and roll into little balls between your palms. Coat the dough shaped balls using the 1/2 cup sugar

and top with slivered almonds or cherries.

Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Bake at 375°F for 7 - 10 minutes. Be careful, cookies can burn easily. Cookies will feel soft when removed from the oven but will firm up once cooled.

“NO BAKE” CHEESE CAKE

Ingredients:

1½ cups Graham Cracker Crumbs
¼ lb butter
1½ pkg Philadelphia Cream Cheese
1 container Cool Whip (small size)
½ cup icing sugar
2 tsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. Vanilla essence (optional)

Topping options:

Blueberry or Cherry Pie filling
Fresh strawberries and kiwis.

Method:

Melt butter and mix well with cracker crumbs. Grease a pie dish and press the prepared cracker crumbs into pie dish, spreading it up the sides too. Put this in the fridge for 1/2 hour.

Bring the cream cheese to room temperature so it will be soft. You can soften using the microwave but make sure it does NOT melt. Add the Cool whip, icing sugar, lemon juice and vanilla essence and blend well with mixer.

Put this into the cooled cracker crumb base and decorate with “Topping”. Leave in fridge for at least a few hours to set before serving.

Across the wires



**Marching for change
After tens of thousands take to the streets, Donald Tsang hints of limited amendments on reform**

The South China Morning Post,
Hong Kong
Monday, December 5, 2005

Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen last night indicated that limited changes may be possible to the government's reform package after more than 80,000 people took to the streets calling for universal suffrage.

Mr Tsang pledged to "perfect" the electoral reform package but stressed that the scope for change was very limited. He also ruled out any introduction of a timetable for universal suffrage at this stage. Mr Tsang said he shared the marchers' desire for universal suffrage and expected to see it during his lifetime. "I am 60 years of age now. But definitely I will be able to witness the Birth of universal suffrage," he said at a media briefing at Government House as angry protesters demanded to meet him face to face at nearby Central Government Offices.

Between 81,000 to 98,000 people took part in yesterday's march, according to an independent count co-sponsored by the South China Morning Post and conducted by the University of Hong Kong's Public Opinion Programme. Organisers said more than 250,000 marched. Shortly after 3pm, police said the march set off with a crowd of 40,000, but they revised the figure to 63,000 at the end of the five-hour march.

Pro-democracy lawmakers last night dismissed Mr Tsang's response to the march as "rubbish" and vowed to veto the reform package if it is tabled unchanged for a vote on December 21. Some warned of more mass protests if demands for a timetable on universal suffrage were not met.

But members of the pro-Beijing camp said the higher-than-expected

turnout was unlikely to prompt any promises from the central government.

In a scene resembling the July 1 protest in 2003 that drew half a million people, Victoria Park was turned into a sea of black as demonstrators - most of whom were dressed in the colour to show their discontent - rapidly filled up the football pitches. Outside the park, more people flocked to join the procession snaking its way through Causeway Bay to the Central Government Offices. As they headed towards Central, the crowd took up three traffic lanes, paralysing tram services.

Many of the protesters staged a sit-in outside the headquarters, calling for Mr Tsang to speak to them. A

few dozen continued the sit-in overnight, in an attempt to put their case for universal suffrage to Mr Tsang on his return to his office today.

Instead of meeting the protesters, the chief executive met the media. Looking worried, Mr Tsang sought to put a positive spin on the larger-than-expected turnout, saying it showed people's passion for democracy.

"Let's not focus on the numbers. I think it's a strong show of people's love for Hong Kong and enthusiasm for democracy," he said. "I hear your voice and I share your feelings." Mr Tsang assured people that Beijing did not reject universal suffrage as such.

In Beijing, Basic Law expert Xu

Chongde said there was no point in trying to pressure Beijing as the National People's Congress Standing Committee had already made its decision ruling out universal suffrage in 2007 and 2008.

"If what you do is not the truth, no matter if it is tens of thousands of people, or even hundreds of thousands of people, it's still not the truth," he said.

In a rare dispatch, Xinhua reported that some citizens joined a march which organizers said was to express discontent over the constitutional reform. But the report noted that the aspirations of the participants were not unified.



Bazaar Bake Table
L to R: Monica and Effie Alves and Lilia Vieira



Christmas Lights Group in Niagara -On-The-Lake



The Vieira family at Casa's Christmas party



The Executive