

Casa de Macau no Canada (Toronto)

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www.casademacau.ca



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President's Message

The Proverb: "Time and tide wait for no man", comes to mind as I sit at my computer preparing this message and can see the top leaves of the maple trees in the backyard having already changed to orange. It is hard not to think of autumn approaching with sights such as these and yet wishing summer to linger on a few weeks more. I hope members had a good summer and for those who took the opportunity to travel, hope they have returned home safe and sound. I imagine like many of you; I spent the better part of August tuned into the televised coverage of the Olympics in Beijing. From an outside observer's perspective the Opening Ceremony was truly an awesome display of Chinese precision and perfection. Our Canadian athletes also gave us some thrilling moments to cheer about. As exciting and thrilling as it was watching the Olympics unfold on television, it must have been an unbelievable experience to actually be "on the ground" so to speak. Such an opportunity was experienced by one of our members, Arlete do Serro Lui, who travelled to Beijing as part of the Canadian Olympic support staff. Members can read of her experience in the following pages of the newsletter.

With time marching on, members should be asking themselves now in what capacity will they be able to volunteer in the life of the Casa. Having served two consecutive terms by the time of the Annual General Meeting in February 2009, your Executive will have been working for you for four years and five months. We need a rest. To quote poet, writer and philosopher, Henry David Thoreau: "*One is not born into the world to do everything but to do something...*" If we all do *something*, much can be accomplished.

Although typically things slow down over the summer months that's not to say that nothing happens. Quite the contrary...the clock keeps on ticking and so there are a number of updates I would like to bring to your attention.

"Encontro da Nova Geração"

Members will be aware that there is a Youth Encontro being planned for 2009 in Macau. Our two Youth Representatives, Joanne and Jonathan Barradas have communicated as much in their last report printed in the June newsletter. Furthermore, our two representatives have sent their preliminary suggestions to the Organizing Committee in Macau outlining their ideas around which a program could be designed. Since the initial determination of the year for the Encontro was reached, the Organizing Committee in Macau has sent the Casas several communications informing us of the progress of the planning namely:

- It has been decided to call this gathering of youth in 2009, "*Encontro da Nova Geração*";
- On July 11, 2008 we were informed that Dr. José Manuel de Oliveira Rodrigues, (President of APIM and CCM) along with Henrique Manhao (President of Casa de Macau USA Inc.) presented a proposed budget for the *Encontro*

da Nova Geração to the Chief Executive Officer of RAEM Dr. Edmund Ho. To date, they and in turn we have not heard if the budget proposal has been accepted or not. Our last communication from the Organizers have indicated that most of the RAEM Officials were in Beijing attending the Olympics and it was hoped that a response will be forthcoming sometime in September. Suffice to say, although the Organizing Committee has proposed to invite ten youth per Casa to attend the *Encontro da Nova Geração* until such time as they know if their budget has been approved, they will have to work within its confines;

- After determining that the *Encontro da Nova Geração* would be held sometime in July or August of 2009, there has been a subsequent suggestion circulated by the Organizers to perhaps move it to the Easter break due to the fact that the weather in Macau in July and August will in all likelihood be uncomfortably warm with a high possibility of typhoons. Our Casa was not alone in voicing our concerns that should this *Encontro da Nova Geração* be held at Easter it could prove problematic for any students who might wish to participate as this would be right when Exams are scheduled. Furthermore, getting time off over the Easter period, when in Canada only Good Friday is a statutory holiday, could also prove difficult for those who might be working. We have not heard as yet if the Organizers will go ahead with holding the Encontro over Easter or if they will leave things for the summer break.

In the meantime, Joanne and Jonathan have been trying their level best to rally our youth. Unfortunately it has been a bit of an uphill battle. It is our and their fervent hope that once things get moving with the organizing of the *Encontro da Nova Geração* that more of our youth will get involved. To take an analogy from the Olympics, let's keep the torch burning, encourage your children and grandchildren to get involved in their Casa. Only through getting involved can they affect any changes and only through getting involved and helping in making suggestions for the program can they tailor things to their liking.

Henry d'Assumpção's website

While the *Encontro da Nova Geração* will focus on our youth who are the future of the Macanese, Henry d'Assumpção has taken the tact of looking into our past and has undertaken a major project to amass the genealogical information of many Macanese families. He has converted all this information into an electronic database so that those members who are connected to the internet can access it. Henry has written me the following:

“For many years, I have been entering all the basic information in Forjaz' *Familias Macaenses* into an electronic database, in English, and updating with inputs from people all over the world. The database now has about 44,500 names.

More recently, I produced a restricted website with this genealogical information and other miscellaneous items. It has been very well received and over 100 people have been sending in updates, photos and articles. Some of the information in the website might be considered sensitive, which is why I arranged for the site to be protected by a password. Until now, all that has been necessary to access the site is a simple userid and password. I invite you to browse through the website and look up your own page and those of your friends and relatives:

Click on <http://www.macaneseamilies.com/mft/FamTree/MacaneseFamilies-o/index.htm> or copy and paste the address to the top of your web browser. You will be asked for a user ID and password. The userID is macanese and the password is minchi.

You may be asked whether you approve the use of a program called ActiveX. If in any doubt, say NO. You can always change your mind later. Only the so-called "Pop-up Pedigree" and music are affected.

However, this single password has been relayed to many people. While most people are responsible, there is always the possibility of someone abusing the system, so I am now planning to tighten the password control by cancelling the existing single password and issuing different passwords to each registered user. For this I seek the help of Casa de Macau Toronto and all the other Macanese Associations.

Specifically, what I ask is that if any of your members wishes to gain access to the site, he or she will send an application to your Casa. Toronto forwards the application to me, stating whether or not the applicant is a financial member. I will automatically issue a password to all financial members. I might also give access to non-financial members, but not automatically.

Anyone who abuses the system will be denied access in future. There is no cost to your Casa for this -- I have borne all costs myself. What I need is help in handling applications.

PORTUGUESE CLASSES

After commencing our first class in July, our Portuguese teacher took seriously ill and had to terminate the classes indefinitely. We have just heard from her and she advises that she will be able to resume in October. Members who signed up have been advised. If you feel you would like to join, please contact Gloria. You've only missed one class and we will very probably revise the first lesson.

NEWS FROM OTHER CASAS

Macau Club Inc.

We would like to let members know that our neighbours have a new Board of Directors for 2008-2010. President - Joseph A. Chen; Vice Presidents – Christopher Yiu-Wing Chan and Patti Yuk-Ching Lam; Secretary – Anita Sio-Hong Un; and Treasurer - Raymond Wai-Shing Lo. A congratulatory message was sent to Joseph Chen wishing him and his Board all the best.

Casa de Macau Club (Vancouver) Sede

We have sent on your behalf, a congratulatory message and gift to our sister Casa de Macau Club (Vancouver) on the happy occasion of the inauguration of their Sede, September 6, 2008. Both Gloria and Monica received an invitation to attend the opening ceremony but unfortunately had to decline.

Macau Cultural Association (Casa de Macau) of Western Canada

The latest news published in our sister Casa's August 2008 Boletim Macaense is that their clubhouse is ready. In fact, apparently their intention was to hold the first General Meeting there on August 17th. On behalf of members, a belated congratulatory message has been sent to President Sergio Rui de Pina; we received an acknowledgment.

Casa de Macau Inc. Australia

At the 14th Annual General Meeting, held on Saturday 20th September 2008 in Sydney, the following were elected:

President: Yvonne Maria Vieira Ribeiro Cruz Herrero

V-President: Marcus Gutierrez

Secretary: Mary Basto Rigby

Treasurer: Edward Rozario

A/Deputy Secretary: Lizette Viana Akouri

Committee Members: Henrique Barros, Mariazinha Callaghan, Brenda Chavez, Rogerio Fernandes

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Members who attended the Dia de Macau celebrations might recall that the collection basket was passed around during the Mass. A total of \$350 was sent on your behalf to Carmel of the Infant Jesus. We have received a letter from the Prioress, Sr. Therese thanking

us for our donation and letting us know that we are being remembered in the community's daily prayers.

Aos Presidentes das Casas :

Venho por este informar do passamento do nosso consócio e Confrade, Sr. José Martins Achiam, membro da Direcção da APIM, co-fundador e membro do Conselho Permanente do Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses, co-fundador da Confraria da Gastronomia Macaense, e membro dos Corpos Sociais, além de membro do Conselho do Desporto do Governo da RAEM.

O Presidente da Comissão Directora
José Manuel de Oliveira Rodrigues

(This serves to inform you that Mr. Jose Martins Achiam, member of the Executive of APIM, member of the Standing Committee of the Macanese Community Council, co-founder of the Macanese Confraria da Gastronomia and member of the Sport Council of the Special Administrative Region of the Macau Government has passed away.)

KEEPING PATUÁ ALIVE

The Casa Songbirds have regrouped after a short summer break and are back at work learning new Patuá songs, expanding their repertoire. Thanks to the enthusiasm of the group and the generosity of Armando Santos for supplying us with the material to work with, and guiding us at rehearsals when time permits, it looks like our Casa in a small way is walking the walk and talking the talk when it comes to preserving this part of our heritage, the patuá language. When the group started out preparing for their performance in Macau at the 2007 Encontro, most found it a daunting task to master the pronunciation and musicality. However, although we have by no means mastered both aspects at this point in time, nevertheless with practice and having a couple of performances under our belts there has come a certain confidence with our ability and a willingness to stretch our capabilities. If you would like to join our "flock", please let Monica know. Although our aim is to have fun, we still expect a commitment from all the Songbirds to come to the practices. Being part of a group means that each depends on the other for the whole to be successful. Although we could use a few more male voices, anyone who has been sitting on the fence to this point, why not let your voice take flight and join in the chorus!

"UNCLE" RAY CORDEIRO The 2008 Honours List was published in the Hong Kong Government Gazette on July 1st. The legendary DJ, was awarded the BBS (Bronze Bauhinia Star) in recognition of his life-long contribution to the promotion of popular music. "Uncle" Ray is now 83 and still in great demand ... way to go!!!

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

For those members who did not make it to the Open House held at the Casa on June 27, 2008 to celebrate ten years since our inauguration missed a wonderful event. The sixty plus members who did drop by were treated to a wide selection of savoury and sweet platters. While members socialized, Monica played a DVD slide presentation that she had put together showing pictures taken at all the major Casa events since 2002. A copy of this DVD is now part of our library collection. If members would like to borrow it, ask David Tavares. The old photo albums were also brought out and members delighted in looking at the old pictures and reminiscing about the 'old days'. Some of the photos date back to the early 1980's! It was wonderful that all the past Presidents, since the inauguration of the clubhouse, were there for the celebration. From Carlos de Lemos, (1996-1998) who was instrumental in securing a place for us and during whose term it was that Casa inked the agreement with Fundação Oriente, on through Lourenço Conceição, (1998-2002) to Michael Barros (2002-2004) up to the present. Also in attendance were several of the past Executive committee members who have selflessly given of their time and talents to Casa. We owe each and every one of these volunteers a debt of thanks. Everyone was enjoying themselves so much that time just flew and were it not for the fact that the building would be locked up, the party would have continued much longer. (*More photos on the website*)



Presidents & Members of Past & Present Committees



Carlos & Gloria



Presidents, Mike Carlos Monica & Lourenço



Members socializing

A SUCCESS STORY

While I was scanning the July issue of Canadian Immigrant an article in the business section caught my eye ... in the first paragraph the name Dayaram jumped out at me. Didn't take me long to connect Jamma with one of our members, her brother Lal.

Born in India and raised in Hong Kong, she immigrated to Canada some 30 years ago. At that time she applied to some real estate firms but was turned down. Perhaps that was a blessing in disguise as after a few years Jamma decided to start her own company. Since 1998, she has been extremely successful in the luxury real estate market with listings in Yorkdale, Rosedale, Harbourfront, Richmond Hill and Markham.

Her track record reflects the high-end properties she successfully moved in the market. Jamma was the first woman ever to close a deal for a penthouse in Toronto for \$1 million. Some of her more prominent sales include a 3,380 square-foot property at the Windsor Arms which was listed at \$3,649,000 and a 2,455

square-foot parcel in the new Four Seasons at \$3,175,000 ... the list goes on. Currently, her favourite property is a Yorkville Penthouse listed at \$4,200,000.

Jamma's story took up a whole page of Canadian Immigrant. As space is limited in our newsletter, I'd be glad to send you a photocopy of the article, just let me know. In the meantime, thank you, Jamma, for allowing me to share your story with our members; our wishes for continued success as it is always good to hear that someone from *heung-ha* (the old country) made good in their adopted country.

CASA GOES TO CASINO RAMA AND DINNER CRUISE by George Remedios

On Saturday July 26, 2008 about 50 members and friends of Casa de Macau, the cream of the Macanese community, gathered at the parking lot of Igreja de Nossa Senhora do Rosario on Midland Avenue to catch the bus to Casino Rama and after that a dinner cruise on

the "Serendipity Princess" on Kempenfelt Bay near Barrie.

As we left "que ramede" (que medonho) it started to rain. Without any instructions from the organizers every filho and filha de Macau knew what to do. They sat in silent prayer and bombarded their favourite Macanese saints with prayers. "Chuva ja parar ya" (the rain stopped ya). Moses parting the Red Sea was nothing compared to this

AT THE CASINO - No sooner had the "jogador" and "jogadora" (gamblers) arrived at CASINO RAMA than we rushed in looking for the "dado farinha" table. (Macanese dice game in which there is a number only on one side of the dice. This game is unique to the Macanese). Alas nao tem dado farinha aqui. But there was Pai Gow and "Dai Sai" (Grande Pequeno, Big Small) just like in Macau casinos. "Where is the mah jong room" asked Senhor Inocente. Senhor Juizo gently scolded him "Are you "toc toc" (crazy) or what? This is a casino not a gambling den in Chinatown."

I wondered why the General Manager of Rama did not come out and greet our bus considering that we are from Macau, the city that surpasses even Las Vegas as the gambling capital of the world. Gambling is in our blood and in a casino we are in our natural habitat, like "bacalhau" in water. As "gente de Macau" we should have been given the royal treatment. After all Stanley Ho is our "Uncle" (in Macanese society an "Uncle" is not necessarily a relative by blood)

No one among us was too "janota" (well dressed) because when you go to a casino you should not look like you "tem pataca" (have money) otherwise the casino will take advantage of you. Even our own Senhorita Fashionista from Casa had to "feenjee" (fingir = to pretend) that she was "pobre pobre". All those people you see looking like amahs and waiters and "koo lei lo" (coolies) from Chinatown are in fact millionaires from Hong Kong.

Some of us do not gamble as we consider it a vice and addiction. Senhora Devocao, Senhora Piedade, Senhora Santidade (Devotion, Piety, Holiness) and many others, including myself, spent the afternoon in intelligent and "sze mun" (Cantonese = elegant and refined) conversation.

Auntie Santa Santa was at a slot machine. Her lips "tremer" (tremble). Only a filho de Macau would know what she was doing. She was praying in Maquista to Saint Antonio to help her win ("Sao Antonio, adjudar eu ganhar ya. Amen"). Or perhaps she was praying for her "pecado" (sin) of gambling.

"Look, I have a rosary and holy pictures in my handbag as my good luck charms" Auntie Santa Santa confided to her best friend Auntie Budista (a recent convert to

Buddhism), who sarcastically replied "Do you want me to "siu heung" (burn Chinese incense joss sticks) for you and maybe "pai sunn" (make offerings to the gods) for you? Or maybe even get a padre to bless the slot machine for you."

Senhor Confuso, obviously a beginner, was at the slot machines. His hands "tremer", his knees "tremer". Senhor Sabe-Tudo tried to help him pull. "That is not how you pooshah (puxar = to pull). You must pooshah not with "forca" but with "jeito" meh (skill and style). Olhar, como eu assim (Look, just like me)"

When Senhor Sabe-Tudo was losing at the slot machine he became rather "mau genio" (bad temper) and started to pull and pull very hard and even "dali" (hit) the slot machine. Senhor Confuso came over and reminded him "Remember, "pooshah" (puxar) with "jeito" not "forca" pa"

The Three Amigos, Uncle Malandro, Uncle Nervoso and Uncle Tung Tung (Macanese love nicknames) went to play poker, loudly exclaiming for all to hear "Real men play poker not slot machines". When the dealer dealt cards that were not favourable Uncle Malandro mumbled to himself "Merda". The Cantonese-speaking dealer asked "Mut yeah?" (What?). Uncle Malandro kept it up and the dealer figured "Merda" meant "Don't bother me".

The dealer dealt 4 aces to Uncle Nervoso, who suddenly became "excitado" and "niu kup" (Cantonese = urgent urge to pee) and had to immediately run to the washroom as he was going to "meesar no calsung" (calcao, calcoes = shorts) (meesar = mijar) (pee in his shorts)

Senhora Generosa, at the roulette table promised "If I win I will share with all my friends". Well, heaven rewarded her good intentions. She did win and suddenly she had so many friends: Senhora Boa-Sorte, Senhorita Sympatica, Senhora Bom-Coracao, Senhor Mesquinho, Senhor Glorioso et al. all coming to offer her "abraco" and "beijo" (hugs and kisses)

Uncle Jar Tai (Cantonese nickname) moaned "Aiyaaa, ja perder tudo pataca ya" (lost all my money). He only "jar tai" (Cantonese = pretend). He was waiting for someone to say "Que coitado" (Oh poor thing). Auntie Enganada almost in tears said "Que coitado. Never mind ya. I will stand (treat) you dinner. Ving jantar ya tomorrow. I make minchi"

In a casino no one will admit to "perder dinheiro" (lose money). Everyone claims to have won. "Ja ganhar cinco patacas" (won 5 dollars) or "cinquenta patacas" (50 dollars). The ultimate in exaggeration is "Listen everyone, ooi di sortee hoje, ja ganhar yut cheen mun"

(... so lucky today, I won a thousand dollars) (This sentence mixes English, Maquista and Cantonese, the way many tri-lingual Macanese from Hong Kong speak)

When someone tells you that he or she won money then your reply is the diplomatic and classic phrase in Maquista "FALAR SAO YA" (If you say so, whatever you say...). You must have "maneira" and not say "mentira" (a lie). (The word "sao" in Maquista in this context means "yes").

All afternoon at all the slot machines and gambling tables (Blackjack, Spanish 21, Baccarat, Roulette, Pai Gow poker, 3 card poker etc.) you could hear "filhos e filhas de Macau" moaning and groaning non-stop "KEE SAI YUNG" (Que saiao, Que saiam, Que sayao, however you spell it). This is not translated as "What a pity" (Que pena) but as "Aiyaaa! What a pity" (Aiyaaa! Que pena). It is an Asian kind of pity. (If the winning number is 59642 and you have 59641 then it is Kee Sai Yung. If you have 98650 it is not a case of Kee Sai Yung). The security people at the Casino were concerned that "Kee sai yung" was a secret code for gangsters trying to cheat the casino.

Lunch at the Casino - compliments of the Casino buffet lunch was free, "numceesa pagar" as we say. Some chose the Chinese buffet and others chose the Western buffet, which had roast beef, Southern chicken, salmon, salads, pasta etc. and desserts like bread pudding. (The food at Dia de Macau this year was better in particular the roast beef and the Macanese desserts) For those who did not gamble this was the highlight of the afternoon.

Dinner Cruise On The "Serendipity Princess" On Kempenfelt Bay - after 5 hours at the Casino (the minimum required to get the free lunch) we took the bus to Kempenfelt Bay and boarded the "Serendipity Princess". We imagined we were on the ferry to Macau. It was quite "romantico" if you used your imagination. The cruise included a light dinner. At the casino you could eat "como porco" but on the cruise you could eat only "como gato".

Acknowledgement - Three cheers to Joyce Barros, Marie Camille Gonsalves and Marie Louise Chang for organizing this wonderful trip. They were absolutely "magnifica". For \$28 (subsidized by Casa) we all agreed that it was "Kee valee" (vale a pena = it's worth it). For those who did not go "Que coitado. Next time ya



CASA DE MACAU (TORONTO) OUTING – JULY 26, 2008



Antonio Jose Zito Lourenço



George Mario Anne Doreen Marilou

The second Gastronomía cooking demo was a huge success and drew close to 60 members. The cooks were headed by Cintia do Serro who was our Casa's representative at the 2007 Encontro in Macau. Gloria Anok organized the event.

Cintia, assisted by daughter Arlete, demonstrated how to prepare "Capela", as well, she baked a Christmas cake. The cooks/bakers for this event were: Monica Alves (Tacho "Chau-chau Pele"), José Anok (Bife de Alho a moda de Macau), Lourenço Conceição (Cabidela Chicken), Virginia Sanchez and José "Zito" Rodrigues (Ha To Si "Shrimp Toast Macau style), and Lilia Vieira (Bebinga).

Our thanks also go to Sabina Almeida, Isabel Gomes da Silva, Antonio do Serro, Cedric Lui and others who were more than willing to lend a helping hand ... apologies if I missed anyone.



Monica Zito José



Olinda Milou Ana Celeste Augusto Isabel



Cintia with her Cooks, Helpers and Organizer

Messages from our Youth Representatives, Joanne and Jonathan Barradas

Youth Encontro 2009 (possibly April or July 2009)

We are hosting an information session about the upcoming Youth Encontro, so if you are between the ages of 15-34 years old, please join us at the Casa on Saturday, October 25th from 1 – 3pm. Note the qualifying age of the youth who will receive the subsidy for this Encontro has not yet been confirmed, although members are reminded that only fully paid up members for two consecutive years (2008 & 2009) prior to a trip, will be eligible for any subsidy.

As with our previous youth receptions, we will allow one parent to accompany the youth on October 25th, if the youth prefer not to attend on his/her own. Please RSVP by October 19th to Joanne at joanne.barradas@rogers.com so that we can arrange for food and extra seating, if necessary. If you cannot attend in person but are interested in knowing more about the Youth Encontro, please email Joanne with your name, email address, and phone #, and we will provide you with updates in between newsletter mailings.

Portuguese Lessons

This is a reminder to all members, including the youth, that beginner-level Portuguese lessons are resuming on Saturday, October 4th from 11am-12:30pm at the Casa. This is open to all members, but it is important for youth to attend as it may help them if they are interested in attending the Youth Encontro. Please RSVP to Jonathan Barradas at jonathanb@dscgroup.ca if you are a youth who would like to attend. Classes take place every Saturday, 11-12:30.

Cycling, Toronto – Montreal



James Anok successfully completed his 7th cycling marathon over as many years. The ride from Toronto to Montreal covers 600+ kilometers to raise funds for the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation. Over the years he has participated, he has raised over \$15,000.

The ride started with 342 riders from all walks of life, and included grandparents (who completed the ride !). The wheels started spinning July 26 when the riders took off from the Ontario Legislature buildings on Queens Park, and ended on August 1st in Montreal. The cyclists spent 4 nights camping, and one night at Queens University.



Erica Vertefeulle

----- The little girl who attended Casa's Christmas party back in 1994 and sat on Santa's knee, will turn 18 this October. Erica will be attending Queen's University and taking Engineering. She was an honor student at St. Joseph's College School in Toronto, graduating with an average of 97.4% this past June in her 7 courses, and is the recipient of the prestigious Dr. Iris May Marsh Memorial Award and Queen Elizabeth Grant for her four year degree. ► Along with her studies, Erica worked at a Montessori School with children and also volunteered at Mount Sinai Hospital in the Leadership Sinai Centre for Diabetes. She enjoys basketball and soccer and reads a variety of authors. She participated in an Exchange Program in Grade 11 and spent 5 months in Dijon, France where she had the opportunity to become fluent in French. Erica also traveled extensively in Asia (Macau, China, Bangkok). ► Keep up your high averages Erica, we wish you all the best for the future. Erica is the daughter of Rejean and Iolanda (nee Xavier) Vertefeulle.



Why Remember? We **MUST** remember. If we do not, the sacrifice of those one hundred thousand Canadian lives will be meaningless. They died for us, for their homes and families and friends, for a

collection of traditions they cherished and a future they believed in; they died for Canada. The meaning of their sacrifice rests with our collective national consciousness; our future is their monument.

This site shows it all: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWm_HTv4z7c

Letter to the Editor

September 4, 2008

Casa de Macau no Canada (Toronto)

Dear Editor,

As a recent member of Casa de Macau, I attended three of the excellent functions put on by Casa (Gastronomia Cooking, Dia de Macau and Casino Rama and Cruise). Due to distance, I have not been able to take full advantage of all the other wonderful events that casa has to offer, e.g. Portuguese lessons, Dai Sai, Minchi sing-along, line dancing plus various seasonal parties, etc.

Thanks to all volunteers in every capacity who work tirelessly to make Casa a special place. I witnessed such dedication, unity and team spirit and that is what keeps the flames of our past burning bright. Special thanks to everyone in the Social Committee. You folks sure know how to put on a delicious 'spread'.

Please note that I am not encouraging in any way, shape or form for an increase in the annual dues. However, with such a reasonable annual fee and so many events being subsidized we truly get a 'bang for our buck'.

Muito obrigada everyone, Doreen Remedios

ELECTIONS-2009

A formal Notice to members regarding Elections will be mailed in December. In the meantime, please mark your calendars for **Sunday, February 15th, 2009**, the date of the AGM and, if necessary, it will immediately be followed by an EGM. Time: 5.30 p.m.

We need, once again, to stress that Casa events cannot operate without a full Executive (5), therefore all activities will be curtailed immediately after the Elections if a new board is not formed.

It is not imperative that a Social Committee be formed at the same time. Your current Executives managed to run the social events for the first term with much success. It should be kept in mind that booking of halls or restaurants will have to be attended to ASAP once the new board is formed as, not only are the rentals exorbitant, they are very often not available.

I urge the incoming committee, and I am hoping there will be one, to reflect on this: remember that the two Toronto clubs (Macau Club Inc.) share premises owned by Fundação Oriente. We are the only clubs that do not hold a deed to the property; but merely granted the use of the premises through the generosity of Fundação Oriente. Through responsible spending by the current and previous committees, of the funds granted by the previous Portuguese Government of Macau and Fundação Oriente, we have maintained a healthy bank balance while at the same time providing members with generous subsidies.

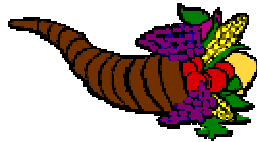
Some members "beef" about the Executive "*not spending enough*". I put this question to you: if we do not keep a healthy reserve, what happens if and when the owners decide to sell the property for whatever reason. Where would we get the funds to rent halls that cost anywhere from \$700 upwards these days, **from membership fees of \$2 per month**? Or the other scenario, how much would we have to jack-up membership fees to meet the cost of upkeep of the Casa?

Since taking possession of the bare premises, we have ► installed a full kitchen and flooring, ► bought all the appliances, ► utensils for the kitchen, ► cabinets to house the books, ► cabinets for our records, ► tables, cushions and chairs, ► a photocopier, ► t.v., also ► repainted the place twice, ► installed blinds for the windows ► the flooring in the main room was sanded and laminated twice due to wear and tear, ► a cleaning lady comes in to dust monthly, and ► other miscellaneous house keeping necessities, ► stocking the kitchen with bottled water cooler, coffee, tea, rice, etc.. ► Changing the locks on doors, and arranging to have a second lock on doors when there were break-ins at one stage. ► Newsletters/printing ► postage, ► T.V. and telephone monthly fees, ► at least one appreciative dinner for volunteers per term ► gifts for officials when attending Encontro over the years, and ► exchanging gifts with other Casas when appropriate. ► Gifts for young children at our Christmas parties; and a ► free AGM dinner every year (dinner – the cost is in the range of a few thousand dollars). Again, all this **from membership fees of \$2 per month**?

As time passes, things wear down, and eventually break down, and then need to be replaced. I don't know if members are aware of this, but "we" are responsible for maintaining - meaning "we" must pay for everything that needs fixing within our premises. That includes the ►3 heat pumps (which presently are being looked into), ►plumbing in the kitchen etc. Even though they are regularly checked and serviced, however, with the building being 13 years old, things will need attention and we are not talking about minor things. As a committee was have steadfastly maintained that whenever subsidies are applied, they are applied in the fairest of ways, meaning that all subsidized events be held over the weekend so that ALL members can attend. Even though the Thursday Socials do start at 2 pm, those who work have never been turned away should they wish to drop by after work for a meal. In fact, it is only this ONE subsidized Casa event that happens mid-week.

We urge you to come forward and fill the vacancy, remember than you can run individually, or as a block. Talk to your friends, exchange ideas as to how you would like to see the Casa managed. The reins will then be in your hands.

*In closing,
On behalf of the Executive I would like to wish all members a Happy Thanksgiving,*



Happy Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Canada

The Canadian Thanksgiving Day came about because of a combination of traditions. Before the first Europeans arrived in North America, the farmers in Europe held celebrations at harvest time. The farm workers filled a curved goat's horn with fruit and grain to give thanks for their harvest having been a good one. This horn was called a Horn of Plenty ... or a Cornucopia, and the farm workers who started a new life in Canada took this tradition with them.

In Newfoundland in 1578, the English navigator Martin Frobisher held a ceremony to give thanks for surviving the long journey. He was later knighted and had an inlet of the Atlantic Ocean in Northern Canada named after him ... Frobisher Bay. As other settlers arrived they continued these ceremonies.

In 1621, in what is now the United States of America, the Pilgrims celebrated their harvest in the New World. By the 1750's settlers moving to Canada from America had taken this celebration to Nova Scotia. At the same time, French settlers arriving in Canada with the explorer Samuel de Champlain held thanksgiving feasts and shared their food with their Indian neighbours. After the seven years war ended in 1763 the citizens of Halifax held a special day of Thanksgiving.

At the time of the American Revolution, the people who remained loyal to the Government in England moved to Canada and spread the Thanksgiving celebration to other parts of the country. Other English settlers were also used to having a harvest celebration in their churches every Autumn.

In 1879 the Canadian Parliament declared the 6th November as a day of Thanksgiving and a national holiday. Over the years the date has changed with the third Monday in October being the most popular time. Finally, on the 31st January 1957 the Canadian Parliament proclaimed that ...

*' A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God
for the bountiful harvest which Canada has been blessed ...
to be observed on the second Monday in October '*

Gloria, editor



REGULAR EVENTS AT THE CASA

1 ST Thursday of Each Month	Thursday Social	2 – 9:30 p.m.	Contact Person: Marie Louise (Rocha) Chang Cacilda Ribeiro Regina Holden	905-889-3298 905-737-0530 416-200-9623
3 rd Thursday of Each Month	Card Drive	1 - 9:30 p.m.	Marie-Cecile Remedios or Cecilia Conceição	416-383-0327 905-427-0850
Monday and Wednesday	Tai Chi	10 – 11 a.m.	Monica Alves	905-887-9408
Monday	Yoga	7 – 8 p.m.	Margaret Noronha	416-291-6015
Tuesday	Line Dance	7:30 - 9 p.m.	Helena Barradas	905-201-7155

REPORT FROM THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We are approaching the last quarter for 2008. The Social Committee has operated for almost two years. During this time we have organized a variety of events and are very pleased that they have been very well attended. We have attempted to have events that interest the largest number of our members. We sincerely hope we have had an event that met your interest.

As we approach the end of our term, we thank the members for your encouragement and support. We especially thank the planners and cooks for all the delicious meals at the Thursday Socials and the many generous donors of desserts. We cannot name you all, but you have our deep felt gratitude and appreciation.

October 19th, 2008 – An Afternoon of Bowling followed by a Chinese Dinner

Club 300, a Bowling Alley located at 146 Old Kennedy Road, Markham, (Old Kennedy and Steeles Ave. E.) has been booked for 3:30 p.m. Sunday Oct. 19th for Casa members. Depending on the number of registrants, generally teams of 3 will be formed. Participants will bowl 3 games and the price you pay, which is partially subsidized by Casa, includes the rental of shoes. Get your family and friends together and come out to join fellow members for an afternoon of exercise, excitement and fun. Try and win some of the prizes or have your name engraved on our plaque.

To complete the day some members have decided to congregate at Honey and Garlic Restaurant for a Chinese meal. The restaurant is located at 1661 Denison St. Unit 1, Markham, (Kennedy Rd. and Denison St.), close to the bowling alley. The dinner is not subsidized. Cost is \$20.00 per person. A non-refundable deposit of \$10.00 will be required.

November 8th, 2008 – Mass for Deceased Members followed by Cha Gordo

Our annual Mass for deceased members will take place on Saturday, November 8th at 11:00 am, at our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church located 2950 Midland Ave. Scarborough. Following the Mass, Cha Gordo lunch will be served at the Club House where members will have time to mingle and chat with fellow members. This event was very well attended last year. Attendance is limited to 60 people because of fire regulations. So register early.

December 13th, 2008 – Christmas Party

This year Casa's Christmas Party will be held at Qssiss Banquet Hall located at 3474 Kingston Road, Scarborough (Kingston Road and Markham Road). Registration will commence at 5:00 p.m. Cash bar with hors d'oeuvres will be available from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be at 7:00 p.m. Dancing will follow and a sweet table will be available at 9:30 p.m. There will be many prize draws as well as 3 grand prizes, available to all in attendance. Your Social Committee has negotiated an excellent menu and has kept the price the same for the last 2 years. With a subsidy from Casa, cost for adult members is \$35.00 and member children, 12 and under, \$18.00. Adult non-members who wish to attend will pay \$50.00 and non-member children 12 and under will pay \$25.00. The evening promises to be fun filled with good food and foot tapping music. Come join your fellow members and celebrate Christmas early.