

Casa de Macau no Canada (Toronto)

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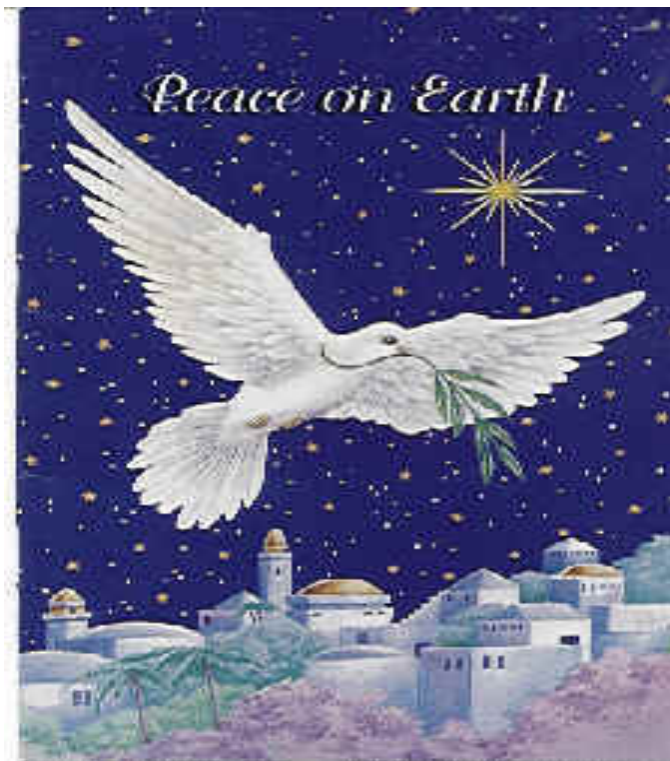
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www.casademacau.ca



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*To All our Members, Sister Organizations around the World,
And the Macanese Community at large,
We Wish You All a Blessed and safe Christmas
And All the Best for the Coming Year*



Monica Gloria Marie Barbara Helena

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As 2008 winds down it not only gives me pause to reflect on the experiences we have shared this past year but as this will be the final newsletter that I will be communicating to you as President I would like to take this opportunity to try and put into a few words what these last four years have meant to me.

First and most importantly I would like to say that it has been my honour and a privilege to have been able to represent you the members these past four years and I sincerely thank you for your support and for giving me this opportunity. When I accepted the position as your President in September 2004 I promised to dedicate my energies to the best of my abilities to follow through with our team's focus, which was "One Casa, One Goal". I hope that in your estimation we have been somewhat successful.

As I reflect over the journey taken these past four years I can't help but be amazed at all that has taken place under my Committee's watch. There have been a number of "Firsts" and some milestones which we are proud to have been a part of not the least of which was the fact that we were Casa's first all female Executive. We undertook handling the preparations of no less than two Encontros; participated in signing the protocol establishing Casa as a member with representation in the Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses and as things stand today; our Casa currently holds the position as one of the Vice Presidents of the Mesa of the Conselho Geral. Having no Social committee for our first two years in office, another first, the responsibility for organizing Social events fell on our shoulders. We tried to offer a variety of events too many to mention here suffice to say we did put on a few "new" events which we were happy were very well received such as the "*Jantar Macaenses*" and a couple of theme evenings like the "*Western Night*" and "*April in Portugal*". There were some different organized trips: "*Welcome Spring*" which took in the Botanical Gardens in Niagara-On-the-Lake; and the "*Credit Valley Train Fall Colours Trip*". We also visited the ROM (Royal Ontario Museum) to see the new Asian collection. We are very grateful for all those willing hands that helped and supported these events. In that first term, our committee also undertook to draft some resolutions to update our Constitution all of which were adopted September 17, 2005.

For our second term, there were a few changes introduced not the least of which was we had a Social Committee headed so capably by Marie Louise who kindly took over the responsibility of organizing events. Without missing a beat Social stepped right into getting volunteers to help take on the Thursday Socials and started brain storming to come up with ideas for events. Once again there were some "firsts" that they organized like: the "*Family Picnic at Centre Island*"; a "*New Year's Gala*" which combined the celebration of New Years and Chinese New Year and "*Mass for Remembrance*" to name a few. Throw in bus trips with dinner cruises, Minchi and Bingo nights, Dia celebrations and other events too many to mention here, I think members will agree that we had a wide variety of events we could choose to participate in.

Stemming from the 6th Encontro the Executive followed up with a number of "new" events and projects: holding our two very successful *Gastronomia Cooking Demos*; and establishing a core group of members as Casa's *Songbirds* who have been learning to sing and perform songs adapted to Patuá. Also something that holds promise is the establishment of a youth group, which I hope will continue and flourish over the years to come. Our youth after all are our hope for the future of our Macanese heritage and culture.

As the mantle is passed to the next committee I hope that you the members will also support them in any way you can. It is human nature to become complacent when things are going smoothly but remember behind the scenes there always is work that needs to get done. The fact that we have a place that is welcoming and presentable is in no small measure due to the diligence and care shown by our Clubhouse Manager, Isabel. Having celebrated our 10th Anniversary of the acquisition of the clubhouse premises this past June brought to my mind how lucky we have been to have had the dedicated volunteers we have had all these past years. This is OUR Casa and we all need to do our part and take responsibility for looking after it.

In closing I would like to say a sincere and heartfelt thank you to Gloria, Marie, Barbara and Helena. You each have taught me so much these four years for which I will be eternally grateful. Indeed you all have left your handprints on my heart.



Monica

IMPORTANT ENCLOSURES

1. ELECTION MATERIAL

General Notice of the Annual General Meeting and Elections

Sunday, February 15th, 2009 at the Empire Oriental Cuisine, 3600-3608 Victoria Park Avenue (formerly New World Restaurant), Scarborough commencing at 5:30 pm followed by Dinner.

Article 4, Section 1 (b) of our Constitution states:

Nominations for the election of the Board of the Executives (hereinafter “the Executives”) shall be accepted from any Full member in good standing twenty (20) days prior to the general meeting called specifically for the purpose of election.

Therefore, please ensure that the standing Executives receive your intentions to run for office no later than **Monday, January 19, 2009**. Submissions should be mailed to the Casa.

A **final** mailing will be sent to members on January 20, 2009 pertaining to the Annual General Meeting and Elections

2. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORMS FOR 2009

Please ensure that these are returned as soon as possible as only paid-up registered members, Full and Associate are welcome to attend the dinner.

The meeting, which will precede the dinner, is open to all paid-up members.

Senior Members (80 and over) are required to fill in the form to be registered as members. Though exempt from paying dues, Seniors are welcome to do so.

Please note too that if your child is **18 years or older on January 1, 2009 and is still attending full-time school**, he/she is eligible to pay the Student Membership fee of \$12 and will be registered as an Associate member. Ask Helena for an Associate membership form if one was not enclosed in this mailing.

To facilitate a smooth transition, we are in the process of putting together a package which will include up-to-date information for the incoming Executive on all Casa’s on-going matters. Most importantly, documents containing current information on membership/addresses and phone numbers, banking contacts, access code and current password, investment records and all other pertinent information will be included in this package.

January 2009– First Thursday Social

Please make a note on your calendar that the First Thursday Social for January will be held on **January 8th**. Members need to thank Isabel Gomes da Silva who has offered to take charge of this event.

February 2009 – First Thursday Social

If anyone wishes to volunteer to take charge of the First Thursday Social for February 5th, please come forward NOW as this information will be circulated with our January 20th mailing. **In the event no volunteer comes forward, the February event will NOT take place.** Please call or e-mail any one of the Executive Committee to volunteer, before January 20th 2009

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – October, 2008

Our special volunteers who have selflessly given of their time and talents to our Casa these past two years were invited to attend a dinner held in their honour on October 6, 2008. To coin a term in our Canadian political “lingo”, we are truly a “have Casa”. I am not speaking here monetarily but rather I am referring to the richness found in the generosity of our Casa volunteers. There is such a spirit of co-operation, a willingness to share, help and serve their fellow members. Casa cannot function without our loyal volunteers and we all are indebted to their tireless efforts to organize, run and in general, keep our Casa ALIVE. Special mention must be given in particular to the following: Marie Louise; Joyce; Marie Camille; Tony; Regina; Celsa; Cleo; Cacilda; Virginia – Our Social Committee; Peter – Our accountant; Isabel – Clubhouse Manager; David – Librarian; Cintia – Gastronomica representative; Joanne and Jonathan – Youth representatives. Although these individuals have spearheaded the various projects and have taken on their various

responsibilities, we cannot forget all the other volunteers who when called upon have stepped up to the plate. A huge thank you to you all. *(More pictures available on the website)*



Peter Monica Elfrida



Regina David



Marie-Louise Cacilda Tony

Bowling and Chinese Dinner – October 2008

Casa’s 2008 Bowling Tournament was held on Sunday October 19th, 2008 at Club 300 in Markham. There were 22 bowlers who participated. Our sincere thanks go to Susana de Costa, who in spite of illness came to the bowling alley to help set up the teams and who also donated the prizes for our winners. Also at the bowling alley were some Casa members who did not bowl but were active participants cheering on the teams. Marie and Ryan Chang carefully jotted down the individual and team scores. This year some “dark horses” emerged as winners. The highest individual male score was achieved by Julius Holm and the highest score by a lady was Aurea Meyer. The team that had the highest cumulative score was made up of Aurea Meyer, Gerry Chow and Robert Sanguinetti. Congratulations to all our winners.

The evening ended with a sumptuous banquet dinner attended by 30 members at the Honey and Garlic Cuisine Restaurant. *(More pictures on the website)*



Aurea and Julius
Ladies/Men High Scorers



Gerry Aurea Robert
High Score Team



Members enjoying dinner after Bowling

Mass for the Deceased – November, 2008

In the busy lives we all lead it is good to take time to pause and remember friends and family who have touched our lives in many ways and who have journeyed ahead of us to rest in the peace of our Lord. On November 8, 2008 many members gathered at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church to participate in a moving Mass of Remembrance. This is the second year Casa has honoured members whom we have lost this past year. The surviving relatives were invited to bring a rose up to the altar as the Prayers of the Faithful and their loved one’s names were read out. This year: Carlos brought a rose up in remembrance of his father, Victor de Lemos; Jerry, Anne and Lucille brought a rose in memory of their sister, Maria Helena Noronha Yen; Anne for her aunt Angela Teresa Alves; and Cacilda in memory of Isabella

Oliveira; Virginia brought a bunch of roses for all deceased past members of our Casa; Celsa for all deceased family members of our Casa; and Marie Camille for all deceased Casa members worldwide.

Following the mass, members congregated at the clubhouse to partake in a wonderful spread of all home-made sweet and savoury dishes prepared by our ever hard working Social Committee and Annie Barradas. (*More pictures available on the website*)



Anne Jerry Lucille
For their sister, Maria Helena Yen



Marie-Camille & Virginia
For all deceased Members



Carlos
For his father, Victor de Lemos



Anne
For her aunt, Angela Alves

Youth Connected: October – December, 2008

Written by Joanne and Jonathan Barradas

In the past few months, we held two youth-only events plus we mingled at an event open to all members. A youth reception was held in October at the Casa, where we shared with the youth information about the upcoming Youth Encontro and our experiences from the last Encontro as youth representatives. Everyone who attended is looking forward to knowing even more about the Youth Encontro once more details are available in the coming months. The youth were also eager to participate in more events, and so we planned our next event and even talked about the upcoming Christmas party, both of which have now taken place.

First was the youth event in November: Laser tag and pizza. A friendly competition ensued amongst the record number of youth we've ever had at any youth event. Laser tag is a non-contact sport and can be played by anyone, any age. Some of our younger members who are related to the youth also came out to this event. The award for the most consistent top player goes to *Colossus*. Good effort from all!

This past week was the Christmas party, and you may have noticed younger members hanging out with one another at various corners of the banquet hall. Over this past year, we've had a chance to meet one another at seven events, and what a difference this has made in how we now interact with one another now that we know each other a little bit better. It's amazing what conversing over sushi (in May) or shooting one another with lasers can do!

Although the calendar year is coming to an end, it is not the end of our youth get-togethers. We have one more event scheduled for December 29th and currently have received RSVPs from some of the youth and their families, as emails went out in early December. Details are also below for your information. Let's make this a great end to a great year. For those attending, we look forward to seeing you and your families on ski day! For everyone else, Merry Christmas and see you in the New Year!

Monday, December 29th, 2008 – Ski Day - All are welcome

Lakeridge Ski Resort (905-686-3607) in Uxbridge is nearby, and we have negotiated excellent group prices for all-day (9am – 4:30pm) lift tickets plus ski/ snowboard equipment rentals if we have enough members and non-members confirming to joanne.barradas@rogers.com by no later than December 18th. Although this originally started as a youth event, all are welcome, young and not-so-young. ***For those under the age of 18 who wish to participate, at least one parent must also attend.*** The Casa is not responsible for any injuries or damages that may occur.

With a subsidy from Casa, cost for members for an ***all-day lift ticket and equipment rental*** - skis (incl. boots and poles) or snowboard (incl. boots) rental - is:

Youth (Ages 6-35) \$35

Adults (Ages 36+) \$40

Kids (Ages 5 and under) \$10

Non-Members have the benefit of our group prices for lift ticket and rentals (which is better than the ski resort's regular prices): Adults/Youth (Ages 6+) \$63 Kids (Ages 5 and under) \$21

Ski/snowboard lessons are also available from the resort directly at regular prices.

All youth who have registered their emails with Joanne Barradas have already received an invitation earlier this month to participate in the ski day and have had the chance to send in their cheques. All other members and their non-member guests must RSVP to joanne.barradas@rogers.com no later than December 18th, and cheques must be received by the 20th. Hope to see you on the slopes or in the chalet for hot chocolate!

CASA ADDED TWO WELL-RECEIVED EVENTS TO OUR BUSY CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2008 AND HOPEFULLY, THESE WILL CONTINUE

The first new addition that stands out is the creation of Casa's "*Songbirds*". This group of very enthusiastic members has come a long way since they made their first public debut in Macau at the Encontro in November of 2007. They have been stage struck ever since!! On their return from Macau the *Songbirds* have been practicing together, and adding songs to their growing repertoire ... thanks to our very talented Armando Santos, who adapts the popular songs (*Que Séra Séra, You are My Sunshine, Amor, The Saints Come Marching in*, and many more) to Patuá with a comical twist. Our unique lingua franca, Patuá, is the dialect spoken by many of our seniors,

The *Songbirds* have come a long way with help and dedication of Armando, who attends every chance he gets from his heavy schedule to coach and encourage this group; Monica, with unending patience, puts the *Songbirds* through their paces when he is unable to attend rehearsals.



Practice Sessions at Casa with Armando & Monica

The second being Cintia do Serro's two very successful Gastronomía events (cooking demonstrations). These were held in February and again in September. Cintia had ample volunteers to cook traditional Macanese cuisine which were sampled by the lucky attendees. Recipes for the dishes were distributed at the cooking demos and we have had requests from people who browsed our website. My personal thanks to Cintia who asked me to organize the events, not only was it fun, it was rewarding to receive positive feedback.



Christmas Party – December, 2008

It was a wonderful gathering of over 120 family, friends and guests who attended Casa's Christmas party on December 13, 2008 at the Qssiss Banquet Hall. The evening started off with cocktails as members mixed and mingled. The proceedings began with the singing of both the Canadian and Portuguese National Anthems followed by greetings from Marie Louise and Monica. After Grace was said by Elizabeth everyone sat down to a sumptuous dinner of Caesar salad, Veal and Salmon and all the trimmings ending up with Amaretto Tartoufo.

After dinner, there was the presentation of the gifts to the young children and Seniors followed by the first of many lucky draws that happened throughout the evening. Members were then treated to a performance by Casa's very own *Songbirds*. Everyone was invited first to join in the singing of a couple of carols and then the *Songbirds* sang a selection of Patuá songs adapted by Armando: "*Chistosa com Chistoso*"; "*Cusa Lôgo Acontecê*" and "*Amor*". At each table, copies of the lyrics were provided so that everyone could enjoy the songs and even could sing along if they so chose. Shouts of "encore" were enthusiastically called out from the appreciative audience at the end of the final number. The *Songbirds* gladly obliged by closing with Armando's toe tapping adaptation of "*Dia de Festa*" much to everyone's delight. Our DJ then started the dancing for the evening.

Thanks to the many donors, there were many prizes drawn throughout the evening. Special acknowledgement must be given to: Nancy Barradas who made the beautiful table centerpieces; Dave Brander and Mike Rose who came through once again with their very generous donation of 24 bottles of wine; other donors were Marie Louise Chang, Marie Camille Gonsalves, Cleo Ozorio, Linda Sanguinetti and Lilia Vieira. As a gift from Casa to all who attended, a glass tumbler etched with Casa's logo and with the date, Christmas 2008 commemorating the occasion was placed at each person's setting.

Throughout the evening, tickets for the 20/30/50 draw were sold by Stephanie and Christina and the eventual winners were: Bernadine, Zito and Lucille. Capping off the evening was a wonderful Sweet table and the final draw for the three grand prizes of a rice cooker, a toaster oven and a portable DVD were won by Rita Barradas, Tony Gutterres and Christina Angeloni respectively.

A lovely surprise message was delivered to the *Songbirds* by Mica from her brother Alex Airoso, President of Casa de Macau Brazil, who has generously invited all the choir members out for a meal in celebration of their performance at the party. The *Songbirds* were thrilled and touched by this wonderful gesture.

A final and very appreciative thank you to all the Social Committee who outdid themselves on this the last event of the year and the last event under their direction. What a way to end the year! (*More pictures available on the website*)



L to R: Marie Louise, Helena, Barbara, Monica and Marie-Cecile



Welcoming Registrars: Cleo, Tony and Virginia



Fernanda, Linda, Alison, Amanda and Basil



Members

Not the Mormon Tabernacle Choir but just as good, and some say even better the Casa *Songbirds*



Marie-Cecile, Elfrida, Bernie, Lilia,



Regina, Marie Louise, Barbara, Isabel, Virginia,



Lydia, Virginia, Cecilia, Mica and Lourenço



Casa's very own Famous Three Tenors
Zito Armando and Deniz



"Come Dasher and Dancer and
Prancer and Vixen !!!!!!"



Watch out...somebody catch Dancer!



Outgoing Executive reacting to announcement of a public enquiry...



Executive: Helena - Marie - Monica - Gloria - Barbara
Social Committee: L-R Celsa-Joyce-Cleo-Camille-Tony-Marie Louise-Regina-Virginia-Cacilda



In closing,

My heartfelt thanks to everyone, members and non-members alike, for your encouragement and support over the years, as well, for your contributions and suggestions regarding contents for the newsletter; all of which made it a two-way street and added to a variety of articles. And, thank you too for meeting deadlines!

Casa, with the continued support of ALL members, will thrive and survive. "Our" Casa, yours and mine, owe our success to members who step forward to offer their time and patience, be it as executives, or in any other capacity. These volunteers work tirelessly to make our Casa a special place and it would be fitting if we showed them some appreciation and encouragement.

And finally, may I remind you that bricks and mortar do not make a 'club'; it's the collective members that make it a "Casa".



Gloria, editor

*Boas Festas do Natal e Feliz Ano Novo
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*