

Casa de Macau no Canada (Toronto)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Casa de Macau in Toronto received an invitation from Madame Zhu Tao Ying, Consul General of the People's Republic of China for a dinner on January 12th to celebrate the New Year at her official residence. Our Casa was represented by the President and the two Vice Presidents. Also in attendance were representatives of Macao Club Toronto and three Consuls of the People's Republic of China.

We were served a sumptuous meal consisting of dishes from different parts of China which were accompanied by Chinese wine, including the famous "Mao Toi" which President Nixon of USA drank when he visited China.

After dinner we chatted for an hour and the atmosphere was very cordial that we felt sorry we had to leave. It was a pleasant and unforgettable evening. Before leaving we took a group picture. ►

Other news:

Jerry Noronha, 2nd Vice President of the Casa, for personal reasons, has tendered his resignation. We thank Jerry for his contribution as a member of the Executive Committee.

A Casa de Macau, em Toronto, recebeu um convite da Madame Zhu Tao Ying, Consul Geral da República Popular da China para um jantar na sua residência oficial em 12 de Janeiro findo, a fim de celebrar o Ano Novo. A nossa Casa foi representada pelo Presidente e pelos dois Vice Presidentes. Estiveram também presentes, no jantar, os membros da Direcção do Macao Club Toronto e três Cônsules da República Popular da China.

Foi uma sumptuosa refeição com pratos de comida de várias partes da China e acompanhada de vinhos chineses, incluindo o célebre "Mao Toi" que foi servido ao Presidente Nixon dos Estados Unidos na sua visita à China.

Depois do jantar conversámos animadamente cerca de uma hora e o ambiente era tão cordial que tivemos pena de sair. Foi uma noite muito agradável. A seguir vai uma fotografia tirada do grupo que participou no jantar.

Outras notícias:

Jerry Noronha, 2o Vice Presidente da Casa, por razões pessoais, pediu a sua exoneração. Agradecemos ao Jerry toda a colaboração prestada no exercício das suas funções como Membro do Executivo



Taken at the residence of Madame Zhu Tao Ying, Consul General of the People's Republic of China, Toronto

CASA NEWS

ENCONTRO 2010:

Confirmation has been received from Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses (CCM) that dates for the Encontro has been set for November 28th - December 5th 2010. There will be a reception on the evening of November 27th prior to the official opening ceremonies. We will keep you updated.

ASSOCIAÇÃO PROMOTORA DA INSTRUÇÃO DOS MACANENSES (APIM)

A delegation from APIM will be in Toronto to celebrate Dia de Macau with us.

REMINDER: MID-TERM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The mid-term AGM will take place at the Clubhouse on Saturday, April 24th, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. The Notice was mailed under separate cover. There will be light refreshments after the meeting. For catering purposes, please remember to complete and return the RSVP form in the Notice of the AGM by April 10th, 2010.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS : In order to keep our records up-to-date, please advise our Secretary, Rita Ashley, of any change of address/telephone/e-mail to ensure that you receive Casa Newsletters and Notices. Thank you for your co-operation.

KITCHEN RENOVATIONS: Plans are in place for Casa's kitchen to receive a *face lift* by way of installing more cupboards on one wall, and adding an L-shaped counter with storage space at the bottom. The work is scheduled to begin shortly.

SPRING CLEANING-CLUBHOUSE: As soon as the above renovations are complete, our kitchen will need to be tidied-up. It is with this in mind that members are asked to clear any personal items; be it food containers or your favourite blend of tee/coffee etc.etc. in the kitchen, fridge or stored elsewhere in the Clubhouse. All unclaimed items that are not Casa's property will be discarded and Casa will not be held responsible for anything personal going into the garbage/recycle bin(s). If you need to retrieve anything please contact our Clubhouse Manager, Isabel Gomes da Silva at 416-228-1207 latest by April 15th. Thank you for your co-operation.

APRIL 1ST THURSDAY: Reminder: As Holy Thursday falls on April 1st, the First Thursday Afternoon Social will be held on Thursday, April 8th. An announcement was made at the March Thursday Social to this effect.

NEWSLETTER - REGULAR MAIL V. E-MAIL: As you are aware, we tried to go "Green" with mailing for the last issue (*and thank those members who took the time to reply*) as to whether they required a hard copy, or will stay with the "Green" formula. Unfortunately, some e-mail addresses from Casa's list were incorrect (it may be that members changed servers and we were not informed). The Executive have therefore decided that we have to go with "regular" mail until a solution can be found. Copies to other Casas/Organizations will still go "Green".

WEBSITE: Casa is in need of an individual(s) to come forward as a *volunteer* to maintain (not create) Casa's existing website. If you feel you can help, please contact our Treasurer Eddie Cruz either by phone (416-321-5218) or e-mail (treasurer.casa@gmail.com). Our contract with the company affiliated with a member will be expiring and, if you can volunteer your time to help out please do so by April 15th. We would like to clarify that there will be no remuneration for this volunteer position and, should no volunteer come forward we will need to outsource.

SKI TRIP: A subsidized ski trip for Casa youth was held on January 30th at Lakeridge Resort. Casa youth were contacted via e-mail but only a handful took part: Cameron and Julian Barradas, Armanda, Adam and Alex (da Rocha) Lee, Jeffrey Ashley, Anthony da Rocha and Christina (da Rocha) Steinhauser. Parents who accompanied the children were Christopher and Joanne Barradas, and Basil and Fernanda Lee. A good time was had by all and snow conditions, we were told, were excellent ... best of all, no spills or broken bones.

THE NEXT GENERATION OF MACANESE

With the 2010 Vancouver Olympics still fresh in our minds, I decided to track down the younger Macanese generation of Casa/Toronto who I knew were linked, one way or another, to this great event. After some gentle persuasion and prodding, here are their stories, and what they are working at.

Also included is a young Macanese lady whose career in teaching has taken her to Nairobi, Kenya. I wish I could include all the interesting photos she sent, but space is always the issue.



Arlete do Serro attended the Vancouver 2010 Olympics as mission staff and was there as team support personnel, in charge of both Finance and Administration. She is with the Canadian Olympic Committee in Toronto.

Before the games began she traveled to Vancouver in September, 2009 for an orientation seminar; then again in December to deal with events tickets. During the Games she was in Whistler from Feb 4th to March 2nd, returning to Toronto when the Games wound down.

At Whistler Arlete did administrative work and stayed in the Athletes Village, dealing primarily with the Sports Team leaders and the athletes. During this time she had a chance to interact with many athletes. Even with her very busy work schedule she managed to attend some events; Ski Jumping, Alpine Ski, Biathlon and Ice Hockey during her free time.

Arlete said it was with great pride and honour to have marched with Team Canada at both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. It was a feeling she could not put in words, other than *it was just awesome!!* She felt proud to be Canadian and able to cheer our athletes on.



Beijing Olympics 2008 – Some members might recall that Arlete was at the Beijing Olympics as the Finance Officer of the Canadian Olympic Committee and was there for three weeks. As the Finance Officer she was responsible for all monetary transactions concerning the Canadian contingent.



Albert Hsu - Kirran Shoaib - Jeremy Cruz
The Winners



Crowds lined the streets when the Olympic Torch, carried by Jeremy Cruz, passed through Ontario on its way to Vancouver

On January 9th, 2010, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario held its annual competition to give teams of university students considering a career as a Chartered Accountant the opportunity to compete, have fun and earn some cash prizes.

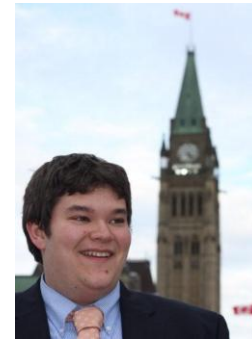
The Institute holds this intercollegiate showdown to highlight the importance of the soft skills that are necessary to becoming a well-rounded Chartered Accountant. 35 teams, representing university programs from across Ontario pitted against each other in friendly competition, while students were challenged in a variety of areas, including: teamwork, leadership, communication, negotiation and relationship building.

This year's winners were the University of Toronto at Mississauga lead by Jeremy Cruz and his teammates, Albert Hsu and Kirran Shoaib, selected by their accounting/business societies. They took home the \$3,000 grand prize, \$1,500 for their accounting society and the coveted CASH Cup. Teams from the other two U of T campuses – St. George and Scarborough – captured the 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively. Well done, Jeremy!



◀ One of the most memorable events here so far was in December when the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay came to Parliament Hill. I was on hand to witness Barbara Ann Scott (the first Canadian to win the figure skating gold medal) bringing the flame onto the floor of the House of Commons. Witnessing all parties in the House coming together to cheer on our athletes was nothing short of Olympic sized inspiration. I got a chance to hold the torch before it was ignited. Very cool !

Andrew on Parliament Hill, Ottawa ▶



Andrew is the son of David and Anne (Alves) Brander, brother of Adam, grandson of Elfrida (Pereira) Alves of Toronto, and nephew of Monica Alves, Casa's former President. Andrew was born in Toronto and is 24 years of age; he is very much into the field of Canadian politics. At the young age of 14 he bought his first membership as a junior member of one of our political parties, since then he has never looked back. He worked hard and ascended up the ladder to where he is now. In November of 2009, at the age of 23, he moved up to Ottawa and became the Executive Assistant to a Minister of the Crown overseeing the operations of her Parliament Hill and Constituency Offices; yes, Andrew has an office in Ottawa, on Parliament Hill.

When I asked him why "politics", he said that his passion "*isn't in politics*" as much as it is rooted in an urge to make a difference. *What kid doesn't dream about becoming a superhero of sorts? I like to help people, and once reality sets in, politics emerges as the more practical way to create meaningful change. Regardless of your political stripe, I believe that most people involved in politics in all parties are contributing for the right reasons, because they all want to make our communities, our towns, provinces and our country a better place.* "

Andrew is thoroughly enjoying his job on the Hill and said that: "*Though it is at times not the most glamorous, the satisfaction I feel every day when I get home knowing that I have made the difference that I set out to create satisfies me greatly. Though it often takes little effort on our side, it often makes a world of difference to people. I think of a woman who called recently who had been laid off due to the economic downturn and had yet to receive her Employment*

Insurance. Without it she would have not been able to afford groceries for her family. These are the types of problems we solve daily. Hopefully most people never need to contact their Member of Parliament, but the system is not perfect, and we are here to assist these people who fall through the cracks' ”

On a normal day work begins at 8 a.m. and usually stretches for at least 12 hours a day, there is no “daily routine” as every day is different. Andrew is responsible for the daily operations of the office and assisting the Federal Government Minister with her constituent affairs as a Member of Parliament; this also involves travel with the Minister.

I quote the following from Andrew: “ *My biggest accomplishment came in 2006. In 2006 I ran my first major municipal campaign effort, running one of my classmates for Mayor of Toronto. In a project to influence democracy this experiment was an eye-opener for me, noticing how much change you can create by doing something crazy, and putting your ideas out there. Though we were the youngest candidate in the race, we achieved a decent result placing in 9th out of 39 candidates, but along the way pressuring frontrunner David Miller (Toronto’s current Mayor) to make commitments to students of Toronto, and being credited by David Miller as a major influence in his campaign. This campaign was the biggest success in my life so far. Winning a “Laurel of the Year” from the Toronto Star (one of Toronto’s daily newspapers), an Achieving Communications Excellence (ACE) award from the Canadian Public Relations Society and a “Gold Quill” award from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) presented to us in New Orleans.*

But my journey in politics hasn’t all been successful. And what would a career in politics be without a little bit of scandal. In 2008 John Tory was going through a leadership review, a process where members of the party vote on your continued leadership after electoral defeat. In the days leading up to the convention, I launched a series of challenges to 81 delegates to get them removed from the convention due to breach of the convention rules. This resulted in these delegates being ejected from the convention centre, a move that has been credited with saving Tory’s career. But I paid the political price for the challenges, and narrowly lost the position I was running for as the party’s sixth vice president. However this experience taught me a lot about politics, who to trust and who my friends are. The set back did not stop me and I landed on my feet as the Party’s Director of Communications.’ “

My final question to Andrew was: *What are you aiming for?* His answer: *“I’ll let history be the judge of that”*

In closing, my personal best wishes for the road ahead Andrew, and thank you for agreeing to do this article with me.



Large annual migration

NAIROBI, KENYA



Lion with its prize



Kikuyu women



(Esmeralda) Teachers’ Halloween Party



Pupils in their classroom

Esmeralda Marina da Conceição is the daughter of our Clubhouse Manager, Isabel Gomes da Silva. I met her last summer when she was visiting her Mother and was pleasantly surprised with the career path she took. It was only recently that I thought about her again; I had a feeling that it would be an interesting and unusual story for our members if I could persuade her to share her teaching experiences away from Toronto, she agreed.

It was during the year when she took a break from corporate life to travel that she discovered her love for teaching when

she was in Taiwan. This is a direct quote: *“No matter how old you are, you can always make a choice to change your life. I went back to school at 35. To be happy, you really should work in a field that you have a passion for. Learning is a life-long journey.”*

Before she left to take up her posting in Taiwan which lasted for four years, she enrolled for a TESOL course. TESOL or EFL is the acronym for Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. By receiving this certificate it is a passport to a world of travel and adventure teaching English abroad. There is a great demand for TESOL qualified teachers worldwide with job opportunities in just about every country. Esmeralda holds a degree for teaching from Toronto.

For the time being, she is happy abroad and enjoys the flexibility, benefits and teaching quality of international schools. She chose international teaching because she thought she might go into the field of development and specializing in education within that field. In Taiwan Esmeralda taught different levels, both children and adults. She says that teaching at an international school is very different because there is more room to explore different teaching methods. The elementary division works very much in collaboration to improve student learning. In 2008 she moved on to Nairobi, Kenya after teaching in Taiwan for 4 years. She enjoys teaching at the International School of Kenya.

For the first 6 months after she arrived, she did not have any help and ended up spending her weekends cleaning. She decided to employ a house girl to work twice a week. It took a while to get used to having this help but Esmeralda said that not only does it lighten her house chores, she knows she is also providing an income for a family and ensuring a livelihood for Gladys, her maid.

When I put the question to Esmeralda about her *daily routine*, she said that every day is different. She begins her day at 7.45 a.m. ending between 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., depending on the workload for planning, working and assessments. She teaches literacy (reading and writing), math, social studies, sciences, and technology at the Grade 2 level. Work habits and life skills, although not required in the curriculum, are important values Esmeralda instills in all her students. Like most schools, teachers get at least 1½ months in the summer as part of their vacation time. Through this particular international school she receives 5 days in the Fall, 5 days in Spring and 15 days during Winter holidays. The calendar changes every year, depending on the cycle the school might be in. For example, during accreditation year, there are more holidays because of the extra work they did for analyzing the status of their school based on international standards

Last year, Esmeralda traveled around Kenya’s coast and also to Dubai to visit her best friend from university whom she has not seen in 6 years. This year she went to the coast again, then went to Rwanda over the winter holidays to see the mountain gorillas (once in a lifetime experience), visit historical genocide sites and experience the view of “le pays de mille collines”, the country of a thousands hills. It has a rich landscape and seeing hills after hills was a speechless delight. Rwanda is also deemed as the safest African country at the moment. In Nairobi the temperature is quite temperate ranging from 15 to 27 degrees Celsius on average depending on whether it is their rainy. or dry season. During the rainy season they experience drops in temperatures at night and in the summer months, it can get as hot as 35.

Kenya is a beautiful country with a wonderful variety of landscape, from the Savanna to the Rift Valley to mountains, forests and of course the sandy beaches of the coast. In the city we are fortunate to have the National Nairobi Park where there are lions, ostriches, cheetahs, and many species of birds. On safari one can often spot the big 5, lion, elephants, rhino, leopard and buffalo.

When asked if she felt threatened at any time, she replied *“Crime in Nairobi is one of the most difficult aspects to live with. Carjacking is common and you must be alert at all times in case you need to practice defensive maneuvers when driving. You can’t ever let your guard down and must be constantly alert. For example, I choose different routes to go to school or home. I avoid driving alone and if I have to be in my car alone, I follow a convoy of cars. I avoid roads that are isolated with no houses in sight, where carjackers can hide behind bushes. In Kenya, stopping to help someone in need is a high risk as there are many tricks used to get you to stop or slow down. This alertness also applies to my home. I have 24 hours security. Two guards that take 12 hours shift with relief guards to take over from my regular guards. When they slack slightly I have to remind them because they jeopardize my safety when they fall asleep or are not particularly attentive of the changes in the neighborhood. I also have 3 push alarm buttons in my house, a portable push alarm that I keep beside my bed and padlocked grilles for all my major entrances. At first it was very eerie to know that there was a person outside all the time that can look into my house but after you hear of all that can happen, it becomes reassuring that there is a guard outside at all times. After a while, one gets used to the precautions and it just becomes routine.*

Thank you Esmeralda for sharing your experiences with us. I wish I could have included all your beautiful pictures.

On the occasion of their 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary, Frances and Pedro, celebrated the happy event with their family, friends and Pedro's former colleagues at an elaborate dinner given by their two sons Patrick and Bobby, their daughters in-law Audrey and Jenny and their grandson Brandon. The dinner started off with cocktails, followed by a 13 course dinner, some karaoke and dancing along to a live band.

FRANCES AND PEDRO ROZARIO 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

The couple were married on 9 January 1960 in Hong Kong. Pedro moved to Hong Kong from Macau in May 1946 when he joined the HK Correctional Services Department and retired in 1987 after a 41½ years career with the Services. Frances joined Pedro in Hong Kong from Macau after they were married. They moved to Canada in 1992.

Frances and Pedro's sons who used to live in Canada are now working in Hong Kong and China; Patrick is a Partner of Grant Thornton in Hong Kong and Bobby is a Principal with Alpha and Leader, a Law Firm in China.



FORTY-ONE YEARS AGO, TWO HUMAN BEINGS CHANGED HISTORY BY WALKING ON THE SURFACE OF THE MOON

But, what happened before Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong exited the Lunar Module is even more amazing, if only because so few people know about it. I'm talking about the fact that Buzz Aldrin took communion on the surface of the moon.

An e-mail relating to man's first walk on the moon was sent to me back in November 2009, I found it quite interesting and forwarded to some of my friends. One of the recipients replied that it was probably another hoax. However, she was curious enough to research and retracted her original opinion. She sent me the following from the Washington Post:

"In the radio blackout," Aldrin wrote in **Guideposts** magazine in 1970, "I opened the little plastic packages which contained the bread and the wine. I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, the wine slowly curled and gracefully came up the side of the cup. Then I read the Scripture, 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whosoever abides in me will bring forth much fruit.'

"I ate the tiny Host and swallowed the wine. I gave thanks for the intelligence and spirit that had brought two young pilots to the Sea of Tranquility. It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements." One small sip for man, one giant leap of faith for mankind.

The small chalice Aldrin used for the wine went back to Webster Church. Each year on the Sunday closest to July 20, the congregation celebrates Lunar Communion. "**Communion can be celebrated anywhere,**" senior pastor Mark Cooper said Sunday. "Even cramped up in a lunar module on the moon."

Aldrin wasn't the only person to bring his faith to the moon that day. The astronauts left behind a tiny silicon chip containing a **message of peace from four U.S. presidents and 73 other world leaders**. Seven of them made references to God -- the presidents of Brazil, Ireland, South Vietnam and Malagasy, the king of Belgium, Pope Paul VI -- and Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the Shah of Iran, who wrote: "On this occasion when Mr. Neil Armstrong and Colonel Edwin Aldrin set foot for the first time on the surface of the Moon from the Earth, we pray the Almighty God to guide mankind towards ever increasing success in the establishment of peace and the progress of culture, knowledge and human civilization."

You can access all the messages of peace, including that of Canada (Pierre Elliott-Trudeau), Portugal (Americo Deus Rodrigues Thomaz), and China (Chiang Kai-Shek) by accessing :
http://history.nasa.gov/Ap11-35ann/goodwill/Apollo_11_material.pdf

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS (Of the Hong Kong born Filhomacs baby boomers) - By Doreen Remedios

PRIDE Pride goes before a fall and any Filhomac with his 'nariz alto' (nose up in the air) deserves to trip over the sidewalk. FM males take great pride in their grooming and are especially preoccupied with their hair. In their youth, it was the Brylcream fad, the greasier the better. FM youth had a knack for imitating Bobby Darrin or Bill Haley, but mostly they were Elvis impersonators with their slick back hair or ducktails and tight low waist pants. From LaSalle to St. Francis, the Macanese schoolboys did not leave home without a black comb in their back pockets. Strutting down Nathan Road they would rake through their hair whether they needed combing or not. Similarly in the baseball field, after each home run, out came the comb. Today some of these baby boomers are trying to salvage what's left of their mane from over combing.

Practically all the females had teased hair in big piles resembling beehives. Often they were hair sprayed to the point that even a typhoon could not ruffle or topple their hairstyles. Our girls never went out without matching shoes and purse and would never be caught casually dressed downtown. The FM working girl had outfits in the latest style for each season of the year. None of this 'one size fits all', as they preferred tailored made clothing. Our FM girls always took pride in looking 'muito chicque' (very chic).

'Eempostor' and 'Eempostora' (Imposter, male and female). FM's usually tagged the extremely boastful ones with these titles. Teenage FM's of both gender usually hung around in packs and shared similar values (going to dances, sports, movies, sharing meals, etc.), therefore, when one FM leaves the pack the rest would usually brand her as an 'eempostora', meaning they are too good for the rest of the pack.

ANGER Under anger comes 'dar uma bofetada' (give a slap) and 'dar uma emporrar' (a push) and 'dar uma soco' (a punch) or simply 'dar pontape em rabo' (kick in the backside). These are usually teasing terms to chastise someone and are often used as verbal threats rather than physical action.

However, there are times when parental verbal threats are meaningless. When I was growing up as a ten-year old, the disciplinary equipment of choice when my parents got angry was the "sar tung" (rod) or "kai mo so" (feather duster). All FM kids became perfect little angels at the sight of the "kai mo so". These feather dusters left a very distinct welt on the lower leg and once I had to put on a band-aid to camouflage the evidence of being naughty.

ENVY The competition amongst our Macanese 'teddy boys' or 'fei chai' was very evident in the 1950's. Any Filhomac teenager with sideburns and a rebellious nature was the envy of the others. If you could sulk like James Dean, then you were especially "cool". This bunch was considered the ultimate in 'chistoso' (good looking) even though most parents frowned upon them.

FM schoolboys would have this nasty habit of ganging up and stepping on someone's brand new shoes. It was not so much an envious action rather an initiation ritual of the new shoe syndrome, especially Pat Boone look alike white shoes.

Oh, those layers of can-can and hoola-hoop-looking skirts. The more starch and flair the better. How I envied my friends with their 5-layers ultra-starched undergarment. I only had 3-layers and often made the excuse it was too hot to wear them in HK's hot humid summers anyway.

In our mid-teens, we envied schoolmates who would change from catholic school uniform to cheung sam (Chinese slit dress) and sneaked out after school – 'nao tem juizo' (no common sense). In the 1960's most female Filhomacs held slumber parties and often cigarettes would be the vice of choice. Some of us were not as defiant and could only envy the girls that got away with it.

LUST It was a different world in those days. It was a time when we would sneak prohibited reading materials and passed them around the classroom. If we got caught, we often would end up in "aqua quente" hot water with the nuns. Sin and hell were the favourite topics during our catholic school days and our parents often repeated 'Deus logo castigar' (God will punish).

Filhomac 'malandros' (naughty boys) would ride at the top of the Hong Kong double decker bus because they thought they would get a better view of low cut dresses. If they spotted a chesty female, they would scream "Almophada" (pillow) as if they made a great discovery.

As advised by another Filhomac, it's best not to venture further into this category. Que Mau! (how mischievous).

GLUTTONY Qui sabroso, Qui sabroso (yummy, yummy). All FM's from infancy to adulthood commit this deadly sin. However, I think FM's have special dispensation when it comes to devouring our 'comida' (food). Who can resist three helpings of tacho and minchee arroz (Macanese dishes) and then continue to stuff oneself with dessert, i.e. several slices of bagee, bebinga de leite (coconut desserts) or whatever. Doesn't matter if your 'bariga' (stomach) has room or not, eating until you feel "enjoado" (nauseating) seems to be the Macanese ritual.

SLOTH (LAZY) Sloth does not exist amongst 'nossa gente' (our people). Filhomacs have always been hard workers and much sought after from HK to our new adopted countries. Generally, we possess a work ethics that is a five-star quality handed down from generation to generation.

Being tired and bribing family members to do our share of household chores can only be equated to a venial sin.

AVARICE (GREED FOR \$) 'Eu ja tem sorti'! (I'm in luck!). Gambling was/is prevalent throughout the community. Besides the Macau casinos and Happy Valley Racetracks, marathon mahjong sessions were weekly events. Amahs (servants) would serve lunch and dinner as the players continued with only breaks for nature's calling. Those that did not have electric fans would have a young servant girl fan the players. Cold wet towels would be served to keep players awake. Clunk, clunk, bang, bang as they slammed the mahjong tiles.

Poofis! (Gosh) FM's would gamble everywhere including during Mass. Deveras! (truly!) It has been retold that a Filhomac actually had miniature cards attached to his key chain which was used to play "sam kung" (three card draw) during Church services. As far as HK Bank boys were concerned, their first pay cheque installment went to have a tailor made suit with Yim Bun. The rest went on gambling. HK Bank boys would practically gamble every night at different locations. Any local bank staff caught borrowing money from the Indian moneylenders was automatically fired.

The Diaspora has not dampened this fever. Now we have more choices by way of Casino Rama, Fallsview Casino and Woodbine Racetrack. Jackpot! (clank, clank, clank).

Conclusion All Filhomacs enjoy a good time, even if we risk committing all Seven Deadly Sins. Que ramede!

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CEMETERY, HONG KONG GRAVES VANDALIZED

Below are two sites that contain information about 40 graves that were vandalized last month. One of the sites actually shows some of the damaged headstones and in particular, the name and photo of a Macanese named "Filomena ... R(?)", it also shows a partial photo of the man.

This site shows the pictures <http://mytv.tvb.com/news/newsat730/104881#page-1>

A lengthier report can be found on the following site:

http://www.thestandard.com.hk/news_detail.asp?we_cat=11&art_id=95169&sid=27249212&con_type=1&d_str=20100302&fc=2

WEBSITES TO VISIT

Ladies, you will LOVE this easy way to shop: <http://www.flixxy.com/future-shopping.htm>

If you want to trace your HK roots further, now you can search, pay a fee, and get your family history online.

<http://www.gov.hk/en/residents/immigration/bdmreg/applybdm.htm>

To view and read about the world's longest bridge that will link China, Macau and HK, with its related links on the [guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk) site, go to <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/dec/15/worlds-longest-sea-bridge>

In closing,

I would like to wish all members a Blessed and Happy Easter and a great summer ahead. Stay safe and keep well. May peace and unity prevail among us – prevaleça entre nós paz e união.

Time really marches on. It has been two decades (1990-2010) since I started with doing flyers and then newsletters for Casa; and no computers in the early years!! Staples was non-existent, nor did we have the funds to outsource our printing, all done at home. At one stage a full sized used copier was donated by Humberto Viana from his office and stored in Nena Noronha's basement. She and I did the printing, sometimes into the wee hours as the old clunker would jam and get overheated, at which time we'd have to stop to let it cool down!!

There have been so many others who have volunteered their time over the years, especially the social committees - did you know, our first Social Committee (dubbed Sonny's Angels) comprised of Sonny and Deanne Gomes, Mica Airoso, Susanna da Costa and yours truly. There was no clubhouse in those days and storage was a headache - we had to ask members to bring rice cookers, coffee makers, knives, serving utensils etc. whenever we rented a hall for an event. But we always managed to pull it off.

Though we were short of funds, we survived with co-operation from members who cooked all the delicious Macanese dishes, the music was provided by our own band comprising of Armando Santos, Carlos de Lemos, Manuel da Costa, and Alfredo Badaraco. Those were the days. There were countless others who helped and I apologize for not naming all of you - yes, having a senior moment here!

One way or another, Casa has brought the Macanese community together and opened up the opportunity of making new friends, while keeping the old. I could not have done it on my own without contributors as to content, and other related areas. So thank you one and all for your continued support.

Gloria

P.S. The position as Editor is open to anyone who might be interested to take it over from me, you should contact the Executive in this respect.

REGULAR EVENTS AT CASA

Please always refer to the Contact Person for information

Mon. & Wed.	Tai Chi	10 am - 11 am	Monica (905) 887-9408
Monday	Yoga	6.30 pm - 7:30 pm	Margaret (416) 291-6015
Tuesday	Line Dance	7.30 pm - 11.00 pm	Helena (905) 201-7155
Thursday	1 st Thursday Social	2.00 pm - 9.00 pm	Celsa (416) 447-6595
Thursday	3 rd Thursday Card Drive	1.00 pm - 9.00 pm	Cecilia (905) 427-0850 Backup/Marie (416) 383-0327

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR APRIL, MAY & JUNE 2010

- One cheque per event – cheques (where applicable) are to be made payable to “Casa de Macau no Canada (Toronto) and are to be submitted with completed forms – cheques to be mailed to the Casa unless otherwise indicated.
- No refunds after cut-off dates.
- No post-dated cheques.
- After cut-off date, if response is poor, Casa reserves the right to cancel the event in which case cheques will be returned.

Future “Tentative” events

Gastronomia - Fallsview Casino and Dinner - Horse Racing at Woodbine -
Weekend Social – Remembrance Day Mass