



## Casa de Macau Cultural and Recreational Centre in Ontario

**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**

**Boas Festas do Natal e Feliz Ano Novo**



Monica Alves  
President  
905-887-9408  
[2M.M.Alves@gmail.com](mailto:2M.M.Alves@gmail.com)

Marie-Cecile Remedios  
1st Vice-President  
416-383-0327  
[2mcremedios@gmail.com](mailto:2mcremedios@gmail.com)

Bernardine Vieira  
2nd Vice-President  
905-201-1529  
[berns.vieira@gmail.com](mailto:berns.vieira@gmail.com)

Barbara J. Baptista  
Treasurer  
416-283-7937  
[casa.babs@gmail.com](mailto:casa.babs@gmail.com)

Marie Louise Rocha Chang  
Secretary  
905-889-3298  
[mcaloha23@gmail.com](mailto:mcaloha23@gmail.com)

Isabel Gomes da Silva  
Clubhouse Manager  
416-228-1207

**Editor:**  
Gloria Soares Anok  
416-284-9095  
[theanoks@hotmail.com](mailto:theanoks@hotmail.com)

**Clubhouse Address**

4168 Finch Avenue East, P.H. #39, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, M1S 5H6  
Tel. 416-299-6947 [www.casademacau.ca](http://www.casademacau.ca)

## President's Report

Finally the end of the year is here. A time to reflect, assess and evaluate what has transpired this past year. To sum it all up in a few words I would have to say it was an event filled year to say the least, a year when our metal was truly tested. Having said this I firmly believe having "survived" the trials and tribulations set in front of us, what could have strained the bonds of the committee and our working relationship had just the opposite effect. What tested our resolve just strengthened our "sisterly" bond and commitment to each other and to the Casa. It is my sincere hope that we will not have to face any curve balls in 2012 but rather will be able to sail on calmer waters, continuing to offer a variety of events that will appeal to members. In this regard I would like to specially thank all those members who have consistently supported our events. You know who you are. It is you that we are committed to serving.

While the Board went through the process of re-writing the Constitution, there were a number of things we learned. The whole process was an eye opener and quite a learning experience to say the least. At times we felt we were taking a crash course in Corporate Law 101! There is one thing that we now would like to ask for your co-operation. Most members might be aware that in April 1990, the founding Board registered our name with the Ministry as "Casa de Macau Cultural and Recreational Centre in Ontario". Over the years, we have been known by the more familiar name of Casa de Macau no Canada (Toronto) however, with the event of 9/11 and the resulting security concerns there are stricter regulations governing banking transactions and the like. In order to facilitate matters, we are asking that from January 2012, all cheques written to Casa be addressed "Casa de Macau Cultural and Recreational Centre in Ontario". Although there has been no problem depositing your cheques in the past, we feel we should follow standard practices now, beginning with the New Year.

Speaking of starting things off afresh in the New Year, the Membership Renewal forms for 2012 were included with the General Notice mailed to all members December 1<sup>st</sup>. Please fill in and return the forms **NOW if you have not done so already**. Time is of the essence because unless and until we receive your membership renewal forms for 2012, you will not be sent the FINAL Notice for the Annual General/Extraordinary General Meeting on January 16, 2012. Only current members for 2012 will be allowed to attend.

Members will note that we have maintained the membership fees the same as last year despite the fact that prices of things are on the increase. We have made some calculations and thought members would like to know what the total benefit was if they had chosen to attend all of Casa's fully sponsored and partially sponsored events for 2011. Just strictly looking at the cash return this figure is \$243.14, which does not account for the fun and good times we hope you all got out of either going on a trip together with your fellow members, sharing a meal together or celebrating our heritage together. You certainly got a good rate of return for your \$36 or even \$45 membership dues.

Members will remember that on your behalf we petitioned Fundação Oriente to assist us in some measure to offset the kitchen updates, water tank replacement and newsletter costs. I am happy to report that they have seen fit to help us out with the newsletter costs for 2012. If you would like to see what projects and programs Fundação Oriente offers you can visit their site Museu do Oriente ([www.museudoorientep.pt](http://www.museudoorientep.pt)).

Thanks to the generosity of the Instituto Internacional de Macau (IIM), Casa received a number of copies of a booklet written by Antonio M. Pacheco Jorge da Silva entitled "*The Portuguese Community in Hong Kong*" as well as a couple of other booklets they have published on different topics. If you are interested in borrowing any of them or if we still have extra copies and you would like to take one home, just let a member of the Board know.

I invite you to browse through the pages of the newsletter and see what we are offering in the first

quarter of 2012. I also invite members who might have ideas on events they would like to see repeated or if you have an idea for a new event to let us know. The next newsletter will be out in March so if you would like to plan something for the next quarter (April - June), make sure we will have time to plan it so that a notice can be ready for the March issue.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, *Boas Festas e Feliz Ano and Joyeux Noël*. Also *Kung Hei Fat Choy* and all the very best for the Year of the Dragon, the most auspicious animal as per the Chinese zodiac.

### **Cintia do Serro Cookbook – “O Livro de Receitas da minha Tia/Mãe Albertina”**

Casa's very own Gastronomia Representative, Cintia do Serro, has been hard at work over the summer putting together her very own cookbook. Those who attended the last Encontro in 2010 and the Gastronomia seminar that was part of the program know that Cintia was one of the guest speakers who did a Power Point presentation which was very well received. She spoke of the strong influence her aunt, Dona Albertina Borges had on her learning to cook and her appreciation of the uniqueness that identifies our Macanese cooking. I have no doubt that Cintia's talk was the seed that germinated into the idea that perhaps she should produce a cookbook which would encompass some of the many recipes from her aunt's recipe collection. These old recipes which have been passed down over the years no doubt were handed down to Dona Albertina in her day. Now through Cintia's cookbook they will be shared and preserved for posterity.

With the encouragement of Dr. Rangel, President of the Instituto Internacional de Macau (IIM) and backing of IIM, Cintia started on the difficult task of making a selection of dishes from the vast collection of recipes from her aunt. Luckily for Cintia, her aunt is still alive and living in Lagos, Portugal and could be called upon to answer any questions she might have had. Dona Albertina is amazing at 92 years of age. As a personal aside, I fondly recall when I along with my sister Anne, brother-in-law David and friends Mike and Chris were fortunate to have spent a few days with her in the summer of 2009 when we toured Portugal. Even at that time, at 90 years, Dona Albertina was amazing and ever the gracious hostess. Frankly we had a hard time keeping up with her! How she managed to negotiate the cobblestone and mosaic sidewalks in her heels and impeccably dressed boggled our minds. She insisted on showing us Lagos and treating us to the delectable Algarve “sweets” and even after spending time in the ‘old town’ of Lagos she would be ahead of us, striding confidently up the rather steep inclined streets back to her place, leaving us in her wake.

In preparation of producing this cookbook, Cintia's kitchen was transformed into a veritable “test kitchen”. Those of us who have ever had a chance to read some of the original old recipes of our parents or grandparents know the challenge we face when we try and replicate the dishes. Empirical measurements were rare in those days and sometimes the method was not even written down. Measurements of ingredients were sometimes stated in terms of monetary value, for example, a recipe might call for *5 avos pimenta* (5 cents worth of pepper) or a condensed milk tin's worth of coconut milk (in those days who knew what size the tin of milk was!). This book has been a true labour of love and ‘family’ endeavour. Assisting Cintia both in the deciphering of recipes, the calibrating of the amounts of the ingredients and taking the photographs of the finished dishes were Antonio, her daughter Arlete and son-in-law Cedric. Also assisting in the compilation of the information was Aurea and João. No doubt there were the lucky friends too that enjoyed the best part of all this...the tasting!

Cintia left Toronto at the end of October headed for Portugal. She was part of a delegation of the Confraria da Gastronomia Macaense attending a Gastronomia Conference held in Algarve November 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>. It is at this Conference that she officially handed off her completed cookbook to Dr. Rangel. It is hoped that in early 2012, her cookbook will be published. On behalf of our members, I would like to congratulate Cintia and look forward to having a signed copy of her book in our Library! Members interested can log onto our Casa website, go to the “Links” page and click the *Jornal Tribuna de Macau* link (JTM). In the issue published November 14, 2011 there is an article written by Dr. Rangel describing the Conference. If you also look at the November 30, 2011 issue of the *Jornal Tribuna de*

*Macau* you will see a piece written on Cintia and her book.

For those lucky members who attended our fourth Gastronomía event on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, we got a sneak peak at preparing and tasting a couple of the dishes whose recipes are in Cintia's book. Read the report on our Gastronomía event.



Cintia and Tia Albertina



Cintia flanked by Luis Machado (CGM) and Jorge Rangel (IIM)

### **Second Youth Encontro**

We received the good news from the Secretario do Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses on October 13, 2011 that they have the go ahead to start planning for the Youth Encontro. They asked of each Casa to send back suggestions as to when in 2012 they would like the meeting to take place and also asked for suggestions as to input for the program. The Conselho also indicated that the Organizing Committee is willing to sponsor a maximum of 3 youth candidates from each Casa as they did the last time. They also indicated that should more youth want to join, they would be most welcome and would be included in the program. We solicited feedback from our three candidates, Jeffrey, Andrew and Jeremy and they all responded with ideas which were forwarded to Macau. Although at the time of printing this newsletter we have not heard definitively as to when the Organizers are planning to hold the Encontro, they have intimated it might be the week after Easter. All three of our candidates have been informed that in the meantime we expect them to get involved in their Casa.

### **Office Makeover**

We are truly lucky not only to have some talented members but who are willing to offer their time and services to Casa. The long overdue office makeover has begun. Thanks to Mike and Chris Rose we have the walls freshly painted in the Office. We have ordered and are waiting delivery of some comfortable furniture and another filing cabinet in which to store our ever growing number of files. Part of the makeover process also involved paring down the voluminous collection of magazines and books. To this end we have set aside any duplicate books and magazines that we have found and are offering it to any member if they would like to take them off Casa's hands. At the January and February Socials, these books will be on display and for the taking. As well, there might be more items that we will be disposing of to make room for the new furniture. After the February Social whatever has not been picked up by the members will be put in the "Blue bin" for recycling. On behalf of the members I would like to thank both Mike and Chris for their tremendous help, consistent support and their giving spirit.

## **SOCIAL CORNER**

### **Woodbine Races**

We could not have asked for a better day at the races. Before the first race was run, we enjoyed a sumptuous spread at the buffet stations of the Favourite's Restaurant. During the course of the afternoon, some members decided to try their luck at the Casino while others stayed with the horses. There were no major gains or losses but it was a most enjoyable afternoon over all. A big thank you to Celsa for organizing this event.

## **Thursday Social**

At Casa's October Social there was a special acknowledgement and presentation made to our most senior member, Maria Pompeia ("Pompey") Alves Mackintosh who turned 100 years old October 1<sup>st</sup>. Along with her niece, Michol Beltrão Levitt who came into town from Florida, the members joined in with the Board to wish Maria a very Happy Birthday. Casa's young man in Ottawa, Andrew Alves Brander, made requests to the Prime Minister's Office, the Office of the Governor General and Buckingham Palace and succeeded in obtaining on Casa's behalf congratulatory messages for Maria from the Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, the Rt. Hon. David Johnston and Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth respectively. Gustavo Roza Jr. also made a request of the Ambassador of Portugal in Ottawa, Sr. Pedro Moitinho de Almeida, who also sent his congratulatory wishes to Maria. All the messages were read out to the birthday "girl" and members. On behalf of all the members, Casa also presented Maria with a bouquet of roses and a framed self portrait photograph which will be hung in a place of honour at our Casa acknowledging her as Casa's second centenarian. We thank Maria for allowing the Board to "make a fuss" over her as those who know her, know that because of her unassuming and shy nature she would much rather have let her special day pass as any other day of the year and would have preferred no attention to be drawn to herself.

As a matter of fact, Casa's celebration was not the only opportunity friends had to toast the lady of honour. On October 1<sup>st</sup> a surprise dinner was hosted by Michol and her two children Scott and Michele Beltrão Levitt who flew in from Florida especially for their Grand-Aunt Pompey. Friends gathered at Star Walk Buffet Restaurant and when Pompey came in she was truly surprised to see everyone there. When it came time to sing, all the patrons and servers joined in a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday.

As the sentiments expressed in the Governor General's message were particularly poignant and fitting I thought I would end by quoting him and adding that the Board along with all Casa members concur wholeheartedly with his expressed sentiments: "Birthdays are an occasion to reflect upon life's many joys, which inform who we are today. It is a chance to celebrate the accomplishments we have made through hard work and determination, the wisdom we have gained through experience and, most importantly, the unique people we have met along the way of this incredible journey. Over the years, you have experienced the world's many cycles and revolutions of change; your own personal history is forever woven into the tapestry of Canadian heritage. It is therefore my pleasure to join your family and friends in wishing you a very happy one hundredth birthday, as well as many more years of happiness." (More photos on Casa's website: [www.casademacau.ca](http://www.casademacau.ca))



Monica, Michol, Pompey, Elfrida

## **Gastronomia**

This time Casa's 4<sup>th</sup> Gastronomia event was conducted in a different manner than the past three events. This was a full participatory event, meaning all 36 members who signed up to attend were given a job to do. Members were broken up into groups depending on their prior requests to learn to prepare a particular dish. The old adage of there being "too many cooks" came to mind as a flurry of activities started at each work station as the groups sorted themselves out and determined amongst themselves who would be doing what. There was the: Bacalhau à Brás table, the Galinha Chau Chau Parida table; the Pudim Gelatina de Ananas table and Genete de Cornstarch table. Everyone got a copy of all the recipes to take home and all were encouraged to roam around the kitchen and see what was happening at each of the stations. When all the cooking was done and plated we all sat down to a most

scrumptious meal. Our thanks of course go to Cintia, Casa's Gastronomica Representative and Lilia who directed and advised the budding chefs through the course of the afternoon. Of great help too was Sabina who took charge of the washing up of all the pots, pans and utensils. Isabel prepared the napkins and plates and was in charge of making the rice. Another adage comes to mind as I recall the event and it is... "many hands make light work" and indeed this proved true in this case. All had a great time and from the positive comments received, we might look to doing another event such as this next year so stay tuned. (More photos on casa website: [www.casademacau.ca](http://www.casademacau.ca))



Lilia, Cintia & Maria-Louisa



Celeste Antonio Mafalda & Lucia



Celsa Anne Cacilda & Cedric



The end result: Bacalhau à Brás, Galinha Chau Chau Parida, Pudim Gelatina de Ananas Genete de Cornstarch

### **Mass for the Deceased**

November is always a sombre time of the year. The weather turns grey and cold, the hours of daylight are shorter and we know winter is on our doorstep. It is also the month that we commemorate and honour the ultimate sacrifice that our men and women have given in times of conflict for our freedom and we also remember our loved ones who have passed. Sadly this year, we lost a number of members of our Casa family. At our Annual Mass for the Deceased held November 12<sup>th</sup> we especially remembered: Artur Rosa; Louis Pomeroy; Humberto Viana; Etilvira "Maimi" Rozario, Millie Castro, Olivia and Elizabeth Silva. We invited their family and or friends: Eva, David, Isabel, Elfrida, Lydia and Francisco to bring up a rose each in their memory and place it in a vase at the foot of the altar as the names were read out. Also honoured were all Macanese community members world wide who have passed as well as the family and loved ones of our Casa community who have passed. The Coral lead the congregation in singing the hymns, while Anne did the readings. Our intentions were read by Bernie while the Offertory Gifts were brought up by Olinda and Florinda. A collection basket was passed around and the \$302.00 collected has been sent to the Sheppard's Trust. After Mass 50 members congregated at the Casa for refreshments and to socialize. (See photos on Casa's website: [www.casademacau.ca](http://www.casademacau.ca) )

### **Christmas Party**

I could not think of a better nor more wonderful way to kick off the Christmas season celebrations than with 95 fellow members of the Casa family at the Casa Christmas Party on Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Beaumont Room of the Shangri-La was festively decorated which added to the celebratory ambiance. Helping at registration was Christina and Mica. There was a record number of Seniors over eighty in attendance, fourteen in total, and Casa gave them each a small token of our appreciation for their support. Thanks to Stephanie, Christina and Marie, who did a marvellous job of selling tickets for the 20/30/50 draw, our three winners: Ange; David and Antonia got a little extra spending money for Christmas. There were two spot dances, prizes complements of Mica and David. Throughout the evening, the door prizes were drawn. Iolanda won a set of 8 Chrystal stemware, Nancy - a Garmin GPS, Augusto - a Keurig Coffee maker, Mafalda - a Kobo Touch e-reader and Lucille - a 32" Flat screen TV. Congratulations to everyone. There was a delicious selection of sweets for the Sweet table complements of: Mica (Christmas Cake); Sabina (Pizzelli); Joyce (Baji); Cecilia (Coqueira); Augusto (Panettone); Susana (Batatada); Camille (Ginger Shortbread cookies); Vitoria (Genete de Cornstarch); Maria (Crostilli); Cacilda (Bebinga); Iolanda (Mexican cookies) and Lilia (Gummy). Before you knew it, the evening of dancing and fun was over. One last thank you to Andrew who helped take photos and record these happy memories of family and friends. Obviously we could not put too many pictures in the newsletter so please visit the Casa website at [www.casademacau.ca](http://www.casademacau.ca) in the Events Gallery page to see the album.

## Merry Christmas Everyone



Sweet Table



Bernie      Christina      Mica      Marie-Cecile



Carlos/Andrea/Vitoria &  
Bobby/Sally/"Honey"/Pedro



Dave      Antonia      Ange



Linda & Robert won prize for 1<sup>st</sup> to register for party"



Confusion: as to who won the centerpiece

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Knitting/Crochet Circle

Members are hereby notified that the Casa will be open every third Thursday of the month, starting January 19<sup>th</sup> at which time a group of members will be available to teach those interested in knitting or crocheting. Our intention is to start making some prayer shawls which when completed will be given to those who will find comfort in receiving such a gift. The group will gather from 1pm - 4pm. If you are interested in learning a new skill please let Bernie know and come by. All are welcome.

### Annual General/Extraordinary General Meeting

Having received the General Notice mailed December 1<sup>st</sup> along with the copy of "The Constitution 2012" members should by now be aware that The Shangri-La Banquet and Convention Centre has been booked **February 12, 2012** for our AGM/EGM. My apologies for the typo in the year for the AGM/EGM in the General Notice. A FINAL NOTICE will be mailed only to current 2012 members on January 16<sup>th</sup> which will include: the final draft of "The Constitution 2012" to be confirmed at the EGM; a Proxy and instructions as to how to register your vote of confirmation **ONLY** if you cannot attend in person February 12<sup>th</sup>; Agendas for the AGM and EGM and an RSVP form. Please circle **February 12<sup>th</sup>** on your calendars as we will need your participation in finalizing this important process of adopting and confirming "The Constitution 2012". After the meetings conclude, only those who

have registered and attended both meetings will be served a Dim Sum lunch. Note: There is NO Registration form in this newsletter. You will receive the RSVP form in your FINAL NOTICE.

### **Food Fair Social**

We will be holding a Food Fair Social on **March 24, 2012** at the Casa from Noon to 4 pm. If you would like to reserve a table where you can sell your home made goodies, (both sweet and/ or savoury) please let Bernardine know. As this will be held during the Lenten Season and ever mindful of the needs of others we ask that at least 10% of the proceeds from the sale of your homemade food be given to Casa. On your behalf, all the monies collected will be sent to the Good Shepherd Ministries downtown whose mission is guided by our faith in Jesus Christ, to be a leading provider of comprehensive services to the homeless, disadvantaged and marginalized people in Toronto. Besides having homemade food available for sale, there will also be other food sold by the plate so members can sit and enjoy their lunch while socializing with fellow members. As place is limited at the Casa, please fill in the Registration form included so we will better be able to plan for this event. Please note there will be no "pre-orders" for food so don't be late or you could risk the possibility of your favourite food running out. Be generous of your time and talent. The more variety of food available the better!



*Yet another year is coming to an end, and we turn the calendar to welcome a new one. Let us all, this Christmas season, in addition to the rituals that go hand-in-hand with Christmas also remember to give thanks for living in this great country of ours, Canada.*

*Also, let us not forget to pray for the sick in our community, for those who have departed, and for their families. Without a doubt, 2011 will be remembered as a sad year for many members of our Casa insofar as the loss of their loved ones and friends are concerned.*

*We have lost some staunch supporters of Casa, members who have in their younger years, and some even in their advanced years, given their loyalty to our Casa by participating in events, volunteering their time and talents whenever called upon to do so.*

*To one and all, my warmest wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year - Boas Festas do Natal e Feliz Ano Novo*



*Glória*

