



Casa de Macau Cultural and Recreational Centre in Ontario

4168 Finch Ave East PH39, Scarborough, Ontario, M1S 5H6, CANADA

www.casademacau.ca

Newsletter No. 5/2024

June 9, 2024

CASA DE MACAU 35TH ANNIVERSARY

& 402ND DIA DE MACAU CELEBRATION

Submitted by Regina Chan

On June 1, 2024, 132 Casa de Macau (Toronto) members came together to celebrate the 402nd anniversary of Dia de Macau, and more importantly the 35th anniversary of our own club.

The event was held at NKS Banquet Hall in Markham. Our members were so excited to get together that many arrived early, so that they could meet up with old friends for a big hug and loud chatter.

The opening remarks were given by Jose Cordeiro, our President, and followed by Zito Rodrigues who led us in prayer before the meal.

While enjoying a sumptuous 10 course Chinese banquet style meal, we were entertained by our fellow members, who demonstrated what they learnt during the various social activities held regularly at the Casa Clubhouse. There was Karaoke singing, followed by line dancing led by Jenny Rozario, and Tai Chi demonstrations taught by Sifu Antonio Almeida.

Certificates were handed out to the winners of our Mah Jong Tournament. Our "back-to-back" winner was Telma Brito. Johnny Cheung was in 2nd place, Jerry Noronha in 3rd and Lydia Ozorio was 4th. Congratulations to all of our winners and participants.

So many prizes were given out in our raffle draw that nearly every table had a winner or two. Special thanks to members who provided prizes; the Brander family donated many bottles of wine, and Antonio Almeida gave a hand and body cream set.

There was a very sweet moment when it came to our attention that our oldest member, Lydia Ozorio, who recently reached the wonderful age of 99, met her name counterpart and youngest member, Lydia Shin, 2 months old. Lydia Shin is the daughter of Alison Little and John Shin, and granddaughter of Linda da Rocha and Robert Little. Her great grandparents, Therese and Octavio da Rocha were also best friends with Lydia Ozorio and her late husband, Abet.

The party ended around 4 pm, and members went home with full stomachs and brimming with prizes and commemorative gifts of either a tote bag or pen, both imprinted with the club's crest.

I am sure all the members will join me in thanking our very dedicated Board members, Jose Cordeiro, Fernanda da Rocha, Ivone Carion, Zito Sanchez and Robert Chan, for the fantastic job they did in hosting this celebration. We only had to turn up and enjoy the festivities, but the Board spent many countless hours planning the party and setting up the venue. We are now looking forward to our next event when we can enjoy each other's company again.

Souvenir Totes and Pens

At our 35th anniversary celebration, attendees were gifted Souvenir totes and pens. We have a limited quantity of items remaining and members who were not in attendance, but would like to have a pen or tote, please contact Jose Cordeiro at cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com in July.



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Encontro 2024

We have 69 members registered for the upcoming Encontro scheduled for November 30 to December 6. on June 2, All registration forms were forwarded to the organizing committee in Macau. When further communications are received, they will be shared with all registrants.

Portuguese Language Course

Fundacao Oriente continues to support any members who are interested in learning Portuguese online. If you wish to attend, please contact Jose Cordeiro (cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com) by July 31, 2024.

There are 2 available courses: **A1** with a start date in October 2024 and **A2** with a start in April 2025.

The A1 Portuguese Course

Submitted by Andrea Steinhauser

LAST FALL I APPLIED TO REGISTER FOR THE PORTUGUESE AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE A1 COURSE OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA AND RECEIVE A BURSARY FROM FUNDAÇÃO ORIENTE UPON ITS COMPLETION.

THE COURSE RAN FROM OCTOBER 19, 2023 TO FEBRUARY 12, 2024 AND WAS ESTIMATED TO TAKE 108 HOURS. IT WAS DIVIDED INTO 9 THEMATIC UNITS, AND INCLUDED ACTIVITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF READING, WRITING, SPEAKING AND LISTENING SKILLS, FOR CREATING AWARENESS OF SEMANTIC AND FORMAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN WORDS, AND FOR LEARNING GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURES. THE UNITS COVERED TOPICS LIKE PERSONAL INFORMATION, HOME, FOOD AND DRINK, TRAVEL, AND SHOPPING AND INCLUDED USEFUL VOCABULARY.

STUDENTS WERE EXPECTED TO SPEND 6 TO 8 HOURS A WEEK WITH COURSE ACTIVITIES, WORKING BOTH AUTONOMOUSLY (READING, LISTENING AND COMPLETING THE TASKS INCLUDED IN EACH UNIT), AND ASSISTED BY AN INSTRUCTOR (ORAL AND WRITTEN INTERACTION).

EVALUATION WAS IN THE FORM OF COMPLETING ACTIVITIES AND SUBMITTING THEM ONLINE TO BE REVIEWED BY THE INSTRUCTORS, WHO PROVIDED VALUABLE FEEDBACK. THESE ACTIVITIES COVERED VOCABULARY, GRAMMAR, AND ORAL AND LISTENING SKILLS.

PERSONALLY, I FOUND PORTUGUESE DIFFICULT TO LEARN, ESPECIALLY THE LISTENING AND SPEAKING! HOWEVER, WITH PERSISTENCE IT STARTED COMING TOGETHER. I SOON LEARNED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO WORK AT A STEADY PACE TO NOT FALL BEHIND. ALL THE MATERIALS WERE AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD AND I PLAN TO REVIEW THEM AT A LEISURELY PACE TO STRENGTHEN MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE LANGUAGE. I HOPE TO CONTINUE TO THE A2 COURSE WHEN IT IS NEXT AVAILABLE.

I CAN'T WAIT TO PRACTICE ALL I'VE LEARNED THE NEXT TIME I VISIT MACAU OR PORTUGAL!



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University Bursary

Our Casa continues to support our full-time, post-secondary student members. If you are registering at a post-secondary institution this coming school year and wish to apply for the Fundacao Oriente bursary, please contact Jose Cordeiro (cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com).

The Board of Directors wishes all of our members a truly safe and fun-filled summer! May we be blessed with the joys of summer sunshine as we gather with family and friends. Enjoy!!!!

Regards,

The Board of Directors