

Touchstone

International Ladies' Club of Macau

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We hope you like our new newsletter format and updated image. This is just the beginning.....

If you have any comments or suggestions, please email Georgie at crd@macau.ctm.net

President's Corner

Dear Members,

Welcome back – to members who have returned to Macau from your homes in faraway lands. Now that summer is almost over, the ILCM year starts afresh and activities get into full swing again. Members can participate in all the functions that interest them, and we welcome friends, visitors and newcomers to join in as well. You can take part in all of our activities, or choose just a few – it is up to you.

Our first lunch of the year is appropriately a Macanese lunch the Restaurante Litoral – one of Macau's most well known Macanese restaurants. Several of our Macanese members have kindly offered to give a brief talk during lunch on the history and uniqueness of Macau cuisine.

We are always interested in hearing about what interests our members, so please feel free to contact me if you have suggestions for activities that you would like us to offer. Planning for future events is ongoing and any member who is keen to be involved in the organization of any event – please inform a committee member, your help would be greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you in the weeks ahead.

Warm wishes,

Fran Thomas



ILCM President, Fran Thomas

September Lunch is Not to be Missed

This month's luncheon will be of particular interest to newcomers—and to those of us who have never had a proper introduction to Macau's famous, local cuisine. Dina Leitao Ho and Catarina Canavarro Ramos will be introducing us

to their favorite Macanese dishes and they will tell us a little about the preparation and the history of Macanese cuisine. This will be a lot of fun, but don't miss out—numbers are limited.

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Community Services Report

Missionaries of Charity birthday party for children in crèche will be on the 30th of September at 3pm.

August is traditionally a quiet month with many ILCM members returning to their home countries, or taking holidays, so any visits made to the charities in the summertime are truly appreciated. In addition, the care centers for children are particularly busy, as schools close for the summer break and staff work hard to keep the children happy and amused.

Fran and Mel took six children from Fountain of Hope out for an afternoon of great fun. We also visited the Penha Home for Handicapped Children where physiotherapists from Hope Clinic are continuing their voluntary work, along with students who are on summer break from studies in Taiwan. The children have also



Children from Fountain of Hope home for abandoned children go out for a day of fun.

gone to Sao Luis Home in Taipa to use the multi-sensory room that ILCM helped fund. The use of this room has had a marked effect on the children that use it.

If you would like to know more about the charities that ILCM supports, or would like to visit, please contact:

**Melanie 684 1718
Dora 682 7017**

Community Highlights

The Sisters of the Order of St. Anne celebrated their feast day on July 26. ILCM members also attended the celebrations at Asilo de Betania home for elderly men and the Sao Luis Home for handicapped men. Spring of Light celebrated their third anniversary on August 14 and their new committee was established.

It is with great sadness we bid John Kwong farewell, as he goes to Taiwan for further studies. He has been an inspirational leader to the children at the center, and has done much to raise awareness of the difficulties many under-privileged children in Macau face.

Spring of Light Association thank Lyn Gardaz for the donation of an AppleMac computer, which will be used by the children. Also thanks to Peter Ruston, for his generous donation of a motorbike to the staff.

ILCM is very grateful to members for cash donations to Cradle of Hope and our general charity fund. Many thanks to Karren Smith and her husband, for sponsoring two children from Centro Areia Preta for their trip to Hong Kong.



Kevin (left), now 15 years old, entertained the meeting with a song, while being proudly watched by John Kwong.

ILCM is pleased to offer a University Scholarship of MOPI0,000 this year. The criteria were based on academic achievement and financial need, and the scholarship will be awarded to a 3rd year female student studying psychology.

As Macau expands and changes, this brings new challenges. We know from visiting many of the centers that they need professionally trained staff, and it is good to know that this training is now becoming available in Macau.

Charity of the Month

Fatima Parish Church day center for the elderly caters to over 300 men and women. As well as providing a place for the elderly to gather daily, the staff organizes many events, such as trips to China, croquet matches with local teams, and visits to other organizations in Macau.

Many of our members are familiar with Sr. Annie, who

has worked at Fatima Parish for many years. She has decided the time has come for her to give up some of her duties, and so Lisa Tong has joined the Center as a Social Worker. We look forward to working with Lisa, who has already identified some of their needs.

They have videos, but no VCR player. And they need

stackable chairs, a rattan sofa and cabinets for storage.

If anyone can help, with secondhand goods or with a financial donation, please contact Melie at 684 1718 or Dora at 682 7017.

Following is Sr. Annie's report (abridged) of what is happening at the Parish and an interesting insight into the history and customs of Macau. Our apologies for the small print.

Sr. Annie's Report

Dear All,

July started out with a welcome party for Miss Tong, who began working as a Social Worker in our elderly center that day and congratulations to Ms Pang who celebrated 10 years of service with the Center on the same day. The elderly were very happy to see Miss Tong back as they knew her from 3 years ago when she took my place while I went to the States for renewal. Since I am still at my old desk, it has not hit them that I am "retired". Actually, in order to give me some "authority" if both Miss Tong and Ms Pang are out, I am still officially on the books but as a non paid staff member. In my new post, I am in charge of blood pressures, foot care, handicrafts and Friday Bingo. This is just enough to give me a reason to be there. Trying to be nearby with a helping hand but not interfering with their plans is quite a challenge but I work at it daily.

Before I continue with the saga of the funeral of my friend and nemesis Miss Peggy, a bit of historical background on Portuguese Macau is essential. When the Portuguese began settling in Macau there were a few religious rules that applied to residents. Among them: No non-Christian was allowed to remain in the enclave over night. This rule applied mostly to the Chinese who overlooked the rule and slept in the basements of the homes of those who hired them. The second rule was more difficult. No non-Catholic was allowed to be buried within the city limits. This applied mostly to Protestants who were forced by law to bury their dead outside the walls of the city. As difficult as it is to believe, this went on for over 200 years. This changed in the early

1800's when the wife of Robert Morrison, an Anglican priest, died of cholera. Morrison refused to bury her outside the city walls. In a bit of under the table dealing with the sympathetic Bishop of Macau, Morrison purchased a small piece of land inside the city and turned it into what is now the famous Protestant cemetery of Macau. The cemetery is full and quite a beautiful tourist attraction.

Robert Morrison, by the way, was the first person to translate the bible into Chinese. The original Catholic cemetery is still here. There is also a new "western" cemetery situated not too far from the Kun lam temple where the first Sino-American treaty was signed. This cemetery is quite plebian, accepting all people no matter their ethnic background or religion. They can rest peacefully for 7 years before their bones are raised up to make room for new comers. The "Chinese" cemeteries are on the islands of Taipa and Coloane.

Now, back to Miss Peggy, her oldest son and family is Baptist by religion and live in New York. The second son will light a joss stick at the festivals of the dead but practices no formal religion. Ms Peggy gave an enthusiastic "God Bless you" at times but had no religious affiliation. The sons did not want to lower her into the grave without some ceremony. Could I possibly get a priest to come and say a prayer? Our Assistant Pastor was willing and found a prayer for non-catholic funerals in the catholic ritual book. The body was to be taken right from the morgue to the cemetery, as there would not be many mourners. Father Tang, Mdm. Kong lok Ngan, her best friend in Macau who came from Indonesia,

(where both born) and I took a taxi to the hospital. There the son from the States with his son met us. The second son with his wife and two daughters and three other friends were also there.

Miss Peggy was laid out in the morgue prayer room and covered with the white cloth with a black outline of a cross-stitched upon it. This cloth was a sign of being a Christian, "I bet she is surprised", thought I. She also had underneath the white cloth, the red cloth, which is worn when one has passed the venerable age of 80. Miss Peggy was 82. Father said some simple and beautiful prayers and we left by bus for what I thought would be the new Western cemetery. What a shock when I realized we were going to the old St. Michael's catholic cemetery. Miss Peggy is buried next to the wall but inside the catholic cemetery and with a blessed grave and all the trimmings of a catholic. I bet she is having a good laugh about it in heaven with all the other old folks whom I have sent ahead of me. (And they had all better be there to help pull me in when I get to the Pearly Gates!)

This year, Macau is celebrating Healthy Year. In all the parks and gardens, the government has placed exercise machines that are used by young and old alike. Usually the old use the machines from 5:00 am to 7:30 am until the youngsters going to school take over. They are fun to use and fun to watch other using them. Government has also started a walking campaign and those of us who have signed up are now sporting pedometers on our waistbands. Every night we faithfully record the number of steps taken daily and start from zero the next day. Those of us over

65 need only a count of 7,000 steps daily to be eligible while those 19-64 years old must count at least 10,000 steps a day.

We are in a contest with several other cities around the world but I have yet to find out which cities or countries. Although it is supposed to count only steps, I did notice when I took the bus to Coloane, that several steps had been added. I am not sure, but I think the pedometers were in terror of the Miniver Cheevy dreams of our frustrated Macau grand prix bus drivers. They careen into a bus stop for passengers and accelerate out into traffic as quickly as possible to make up for lost time just as if Macau bus stops were a pit stop. Passengers hold on for dear life and our pedometers jump a bit in sympathy with the commuters.

The International Ladies of Macau came again to give a generous donation of MOP\$40,000.00 to help the children of our poorer families with books and school fees. Miss Tong will be a great help here as we can now ask her for evaluations of those who suddenly appear for help and whose background we are not sure of when they come with their requests.

With that, I will leave you. God Bless Anne Marie

Touchstone

Social Events & Activities

All activities are open to members, their spouses, and to friends and visitors.

Macanese Lunch

<p>Thursday—Sept 29th At 12:30 pm</p>	<p>Restaurante Litoral Rua do Almirante Sérgio 261A Macau (near A-Ma Temple)</p>
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Enjoy an interesting lunch gathering that will highlight authentic Macanese cuisine.....possibly the original fusion food. This will be a very enlightening.....and delectable experience.
Price: MOP 150 per person (inclusive of Sangria, tea/coffee, dessert)

<p>Contact: Rosemary Bowie E-mail rosemarybowie@msn.com Phone 318 188</p>	<p>Kindly RSVP after Monday 19th Sept but no later than Monday 26th Sept</p>
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Please don't hesitate to attend activities if you're on your own or new in town. Just let us know and we'll be sure to introduce you to new friends.

MORNING TEA

Thursday— 8th September

10:30am to noon-ish

At Rhonda Simmons' home

Please bring your friends and newcomers, and a plate to share. Consult your directory or call Rhonda for her address.
Mob 663 4585

It's time to finish reading Sea Glass by Anita Shreve in time for the next

BOOK CLUB MEETING

Monday—12th September at 2pm

At Melanie Ruston's home

Consult your directory or contact Melanie for her address.
Mob 684 1718
melie@macau.ctm.net



Upcoming & Ongoing



It's that time again.....time for our fabulous and totally entertaining annual QUIZ NIGHT with lots of prizes and laughs.

This has historically (hysterically) been one of our most enjoyable fun-fundraising events. Individual seats or tables of 6 are available on a 1st come 1st serve basis. Space is limited and bookings are recommended. Please contact:

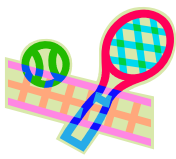
Susie Mob 656 3344 SusanHeise@aol.com
Melanie Mob 684 1718 melie@macau.ctm.net

Date: Friday — 7th October
Buffet: 7:00pm
Quiz: Starts at 8:00pm sharp
Cost: MOP 150 per person
For: Buffet & Quiz

At: NORMAN'S
 Restaurante Parque Hac Sa
 Hac Sa Beach, Coloane


There will be a shopping trip to Guangzhou on Thursday November 10th. We will go to the wholesale market for household goods in time for Xmas shopping. Details in the next newsletter.

Tuesdays & Fridays




TENNIS MORNINGS
 Members are welcome to join the social tennis morning at the Hyatt on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00 to 11:00am. The Hyatt tennis coach kindly oversees the sessions and offers supervision and advice to enable us to improve our game. The cost is MOP50 for non-Hyatt members and includes a drink after the game. This is generous of the Hyatt and the ILCM are very grateful to them. If you would like to join, please contact:
 Fran Thomas
 Mob 684 1497 Francine@macau.ctm.net

Wednesdays



MAHJONG AFTERNOON
 Meets every Wednesday at Rhonda Simmons' house from 12:30 to about 4:30pm. The cost is MOP 20 and please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea. Experience is not necessary. You can obtain further information by contacting:
 Rhonda Simmons
 Mob 663 4585

Wednesdays & Fridays



MOMS & TOTS
 Meet other mothers, babies and toddlers, and share your experiences. Join the fun at the Sheng Kung Hui School, 5th floor, Room 518, on Taipa.
 •ILCM Mums & Tots group meets on Wednesday mornings
 •Art & Craft group for toddlers meets on Friday mornings
 For more information, please contact:
 Juliet Risdon
 Mob 680-9804 jml@macau.ctm.net

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Social Calendar & Other Important Dates

September 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Tennis Moms & Tots	3
4	5	6 Tennis	7 Mahjong Moms & Tots	8 Morning Tea	9 Tennis Moms & Tots	10
11	12 Book Club	13 Tennis	14 Mahjong Moms & Tots	15	16 Tennis Moms & Tots	17
18	19	20 Tennis	21 Mahjong Moms & Tots	22	23 Tennis Moms & Tots	24
25	26	27 Tennis	28 Mahjong Moms & Tots	29 Litoral Lunch	30 Bday party Tennis Moms & Tots	



What's Up Next?

- Quiz Night Friday October 7
- Grappa's Dinner Wednesday October 19
- Trafalgar Night Saturday October 29
- Melbourne Cup Tuesday November 1
- Guangzhou shopping trip Thursday November 10
- Sunday Roast at Norman's every 3rd Sunday

September Birthdays

Gitte Seeberg (2)	Catherine Galati (15)
Arabella Spence (4)	Rhonda Simmons (19)
Dina Leitão Ho (8)	Rosemary Lindfield (21)
Joy Barthes (10)	Ulla Reinke (22)
Cheng Hui Sze (12)	Valerie Moore (26)
Cheng Hui Sze (12)	Christine Au (28)



New Members & Changes

Commercial Advertisements

Promote your business to a **captive audience** that is **highly** interested in learning about local businesses and services.

Readers include:

- **Newcomers to Macau**
- **Men & women**
- **Prospective customers with buying power**
- **Members with families**

To advertise, please:

- Provide A4 size copies of your advert to be inserted in newsletter
- Payment of MOP 300 per advert/month (MOP 250 for members)
- Deadline: 24th of each month

For details, please contact:
Emiko Pinto Marques
Mob 680 7095
emiko@wavefrontbiz.com.hk

Classifieds & Personals

FURNITURE FOR CHARITY

Do you have large items of furniture that you would like to donate to charity? If so, Stephanie Smock will arrange this for you. Please call Stephanie at 629 3511

FRENCH KINDERGARTEN

There is now a French kindergarten in Macau with a qualified French teacher. All French speaking children from ages 3 to 6 (K1 to P1) are welcome.

For more information, please contact:
Mrs Maud Wind
Tel +853 655 2286
Email jouan-jan@wanadoo.fr

Volunteers Needed

Many of the centers who are caring for children report that the children have difficulties with homework.

They are in desperate need of volunteers to supervise and help small groups.

Can you help during late afternoons, even just once a week?

If so, please call Melie at 684 1718

Non-Commercial & Member Notices

We are always pleased to include personal, community, and charitable notices in the newsletter if space allows.

- Please provide clear information and details of up to 50 words
- Deadline: 24th of each month

Please email Georgie
crd@macau.ctm.net



A non-profit organization supporting local charities

The International Ladies' Club of Macau welcomes English speaking women of all nationalities, backgrounds and interests to meet regularly to share social events and to utilize their combined experiences to aid those in need in Macau. The group assists newcomers to settle into their new environment, and organizes activities of interest to members, their husbands and families, and to friends and visitors.



ILCM engages in fund-raising projects in support of deserving Macau charities. All activities are run by volunteers, and every dollar raised goes directly to the charities. The organization was inaugurated in 1982, and formally registered as a charity in 1984. ILCM currently supports twenty charities in Macau, and since its inception, the organization has donated over MOP 4 million to Macau charities. With the continued support of members and the growing community, we look forward to the year ahead.

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ILCM Member Opens Family Friendly Restaurant

Nina & Gary Lichtenstein are pleased to announce the (soft) opening of their Le Cesar VI pizza restaurant in Nam San, Taipa. The restaurant, currently open from 11am to 11pm, is located in the triangular courtyard opposite the Jockey Club. Put more simply, it's between the Irish Bar and the Sports Bar!



Fare includes pizzas, pastas, fresh fruit juices, smoothies and desserts. They're open for dine-in, take-out and deliveries. And, the restaurant is a child/baby friendly place as well.

Got something to say?

We welcome hearing from our readers and encourage suggestions, Letters to the Editor and Member Articles. Write to the Newsletter Editor at crd@macau.ctm.net