NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW PLANS

As 2016 begins we think of all we’d like to accomplish in the New Year—at home, at work, and at the Portuguese Historical Museum. Foremost in our thoughts is Dia de Portugal on June 11, 2016. Every year we strive to organize and present a festival for everyone to enjoy: Portuguese natives who meet old friends from “home,” second (and third and fourth) generation folks—the “kids” and grandkids who want to better know their heritage, and the community-at-large who comes to learn about and enjoy things Portuguese. Everyone is happy on a day of music and dance entertainment, a noon parade, art and book exhibitions and information booths, activities for children, and, of course, delicious food. SAVE THE DATE, SATURDAY, JUNE 11.

But Dia de Portugal is not the only activity of the year. The Museum is open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons all year; there were 3,975 visitors last year not counting Dia de Portugal guests and schoolchildren on weekday field trips to History Park. Each year there is at least one new exhibit in the Museum. This year we focus on Santa Clara Valley’s Portuguese pioneers, people of many skills and occupations who worked hard and contributed to the vitality of the area.

We plan on some physical improvements: new exterior paint and changes to the outdoor plaza and gardens. We think everyone will be pleased as the Museum prepares for its 20th anniversary in 2017. It is the tremendous generosity of the Friends of the Museum that makes all this possible. Without this financial support we could not produce exhibits or maintain and improve our facilities. We are proud to be one of the gems of History Park.

We appreciate not only your monetary support but your ideas too—what you’d like to see or do at Dia de Portugal or on weekend visits to the Museum. Write us (PO Box 18277, San Jose 95158) or e-mail (info@portuguesemuseum.org).

HAPPY NEW YEAR! FELIZ ANO NOVO!
MACAU

Macau is a tiny peninsula on China’s southern coast, only 40 miles from Hong Kong. With more than 500,000 people in an area even smaller than Milpitas or only half the size of Turlock, it is the most densely populated region in the world. And it used to be a Portuguese colony.

Fifteenth and sixteenth century Portuguese explorers were eager to find routes to the orient to take over from Arab traders who were taking spices, silks, and precious metals through the Middle East to Europe. The Portuguese went south around Africa, then northeast to India, and finally east through what is now Indonesia to China. The route was longer, more difficult, and more expensive, but the Portuguese advantage was military. They had better canons and were skillful in using them. They wanted to dominate maritime Asia. In 1533 the Portuguese obtained rights to anchor ships and carry out trade activities from the coast of China–Macau. In succeeding years they got permission to build storage buildings, then to establish a permanent settlement, and to form a senate to handle social and economic issues. The Portuguese paid an annual rent equal to the value of 41% pounds of silver.

The Dutch attacked in 1622, but their attempt to conquer Macau failed. In 1842 the British established a colony at Hong Kong. With much more area than the tiny Macau they were able to have even more commerce than Macau and thus more jobs. At this time Portuguese who needed good jobs, began settling in Hong Kong and eventually traveled to the five ports in China at Shanghai, Canton, Ningpo, Fuchow, and Amoy that were established by the Treaty of Nanking in 1842 between China and Great Britain. Especially Shanghai had a large number of Portuguese settlers. Some went to Japan and southeast Asia. These Portuguese expatriots would update their movements, passports, marriages, and new-borns to their respective Portuguese consulates as other Europeans did in those days.

By the Sino-Portuguese Treaty of Peking in 1887 the Chinese gave Portugal the right to perpetual occupation of Macau. After a 1928 change in Chinese government there was a new treaty with friendship and trade provisions but no change in the sovereignty of Portugal.

World War II had a significant impact in Macau. Japan conquered Hong Kong where so many Portuguese were living. The Portuguese government–neutral throughout the war–gave refuge to the Portuguese by bringing them to Macau, providing housing, jobs, and schooling for children. For some of these people born in Hong Kong this was their first contact with Macau, maybe even their first time to use the Portuguese language. After the war all these Hong Kong Portuguese went back to their homes and jobs in the less crowded Hong Kong. During the Chinese revolution of 1949 and with the retreat of the nationalist government to Taiwan, the Portuguese government of Macau once again gave refuge to the Portuguese living in China who did not want to live under the Chinese communist regime. However, some settled in Hong Kong. In the early fifties a majority of the Portuguese living in Hong Kong began to leave for Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, and the U.S.

After Portugal’s Carnation Revolution in 1974 the new Portuguese government decided to relinquish all overseas possessions. In 1976 Macau was redefined as “Chinese territory under Portuguese administration” and gained much autonomy. In 1987 China and Portugal agreed that Macau would be a “Special Administrative Region of China,” and China acquired sovereignty on December 20, 1999. China promised that Macau’s social and economic system, lifestyle, rights, and freedoms would remain unchanged for at least 50 years, a principle of “one country, two systems.” The economy is flourishing now, but some people were apprehensive and left, looking for other opportunities. Some went to other Portuguese-speaking places–Brazil, Angola, continental Portugal and to Australia, Canada, and the U.S. Now only 2% of Macau is of Portuguese descent. Continued next page

MACAU’S PASTEIS DE NATA

If you talk about food to someone who has been in Macau, you’ll immediately hear about custard tarts, that they are wonderfully delicious. Some families have secret recipes that they won’t reveal, but we have a recipe for you to try.

Ingredients:
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/2 vanilla bean
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup milk
- 6 egg yolks
- 1 (17.5 ounce) package frozen puff pastry, thawed

Directions:
1) Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C.) Lightly grease 12 muffin cups and line bottom and sides with puff pastry.
2) In a saucepan, combine milk, cornstarch, sugar and vanilla. Cook, stirring constantly, until mixture thickens. Place egg yolks in a medium bowl. Slowly whisk 1/2 cup of hot milk mixture into egg yolks. Gradually add egg yolk mixture back to remaining milk mixture, whisking constantly. Cook, stirring constantly, for 5 minutes, or until thickened. Remove vanilla bean.
3) Fill pastry-lined muffin cups with mixture and bake in preheated oven for 20 minutes, or until crust is golden brown and filling is lightly browned on top.

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EATING OUT, PORTUGUESE STYLE

The area near Five Wounds Portuguese National Church in San Jose–East Santa Clara Street/Alum Rock Avenue at Highway 101–has long been known as Little Portugal. While there are fewer Portuguese businesses than in earlier generations, the area still has a vibrant Portuguese business community.

The new Adega restaurant is located at the same site as the 33-years-in-business Sousa’s restaurant whose owners retired in mid-2015. Adega opened in December, and its owners advise you to make reservations for their elegant dinners and lunches (closed Mondays and Tuesdays).

Almost next door to Adega is Popular Bakery with a big selection of baked goods, and a block away is Bacalhau Grill, a deli-style restaurant with generous servings of traditional foods. Café Docanto is a coffee shop that sells sandwiches. L & F Fish Market (fish, groceries), TradeRite Market (groceries, meat, fish) and Licia Imports (imports, gifts, jewelry) are the other retail locations.

Museum visitors can pick up a free statewide directory of Portuguese (and Brazilian) restaurants, bakeries, import shops, etc. If you’d like one by mail, please ask (PO Box 18277, San Jose 95158 or e-mail info@portuguesemuseum.org).

SUMMER IS TRAVEL TIME

Are you thinking of a trip to the Azores Islands of Portugal?

Azores Express has resumed the summertime flights from Oakland. They will leave on Thursdays at 2:15 p.m. and arrive in Terceira eight hours 45 minutes later or 6 a.m. Friday, Azores time.

The first flight, June 16, is already sold out. Flights are scheduled till August 11, maybe later. Prices vary (depending on departure and return dates) and start at $1450 round trip. Year-round you can fly out of Boston, but it is very convenient to board a direct flight (no east coast refueling stop) out of Oakland.

Who visits the Azores? They are Azoreans going “home” to see family or friends, Portuguese descendants wanting to trace genealogy or see where ancestors lived, and anyone who wants magnificent scenery and a somewhat slower pace of life in an “old world” setting. Ask a travel agent or Azores Express directly, (408)258-5978 in San Jose.

We give profound thanks to our supporters, to the Friends of the Portuguese Historical Museum. A remittance envelope is enclosed with this newsletter. Thank you!