

Os membros também teriam a opção de pagar os 10 anos em uma quantia de \$2.000, membros que escolheram fazer isto receberia um certificado de \$100 para o Caravela Restaurante. Esta opção podia ser selecionada até o ano 2013.

OPÇÃO N. 2: AUMENTO DE COTAS

Presentemente, os sócios pagam \$120 (individual) e \$180 (família). Tanto um como o outro, passariam a pagar mais \$50 dolares no primeiro ano e \$25 por ano, nos anos seguintes. Estes aumentos foram aprovados por a comissão de sócios.

Cotas em 2008	Projetado para 2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Individual \$120	\$170.00	\$195.00	\$220.00	\$245.00	\$270.00	\$295.00	\$320.00	\$345.00	\$370.00	\$395.00
Família \$180	\$230.00	\$255.00	\$280.00	\$305.00	\$330.00	\$355.00	\$380.00	\$405.00	\$430.00	\$455.00
Companhia \$500	\$600.00	\$650.00	\$700.00	\$750.00	\$800.00	\$850.00	\$900.00	\$950.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,050.00
Non-Profit \$250	\$300.00	\$325.00	\$350.00	\$375.00	\$400.00	\$425.00	\$450.00	\$475.00	\$500.00	\$525.00

OPÇÃO N. 3: SÓCIO POR VIDA

Os sócios, tanto individualmente como em família, poderão pagar \$5.000.00 dolares duma só vez, merecendo a designação de sócio emérito e nunca mais têm de pagar cotas mesmo que chegue aos 100 anos. Pagar 7.500.00 dolares duma só vez para companhias non-profit e \$10.000.00 dolares duma só vez para companhias (corporations).

Os membros escolhendo esta opção receberão descontos no Caravela Restaurante.

Membros individuais (individual ou família) receberão 5% desconto para sempre.

Companhias (incluindo non-profit) membros receberão 10% desconto para sempre.

Em conclusão os sócios, são livres de escolherem a opção que melhor sirva os seus interesses. Comparando com os preços correntes doutras organizações na cidade de Danbury e arredores, os do Centro Cultural são muito inferiores. A comunidade portuguesa de Danbury, é hoje uma das mais conhecidas em todo o mundo português, devido à grandeza e sumptuosidade deste magnífico edifício, que deixa de boca aberta todos aqueles que nos visitam. Na cidade de Danbury e arredores, o Centro Cultural contribuiu, para a promoção da nossa comunidade. Graças a ele a família portuguesa é hoje maior e mais unida. A adesão a este projecto, mais que um pequeno sacrifício, e sobretudo uma oportunidade, para demonstrarmos o nosso brio, o nosso espírito comunitário, a nossa lealdade aos fundadores do Portugese American Club e Sons of Portugal. Será a certeza consoladora de que o Centro Cultural continuará a ser o lar dos nossos netos, fazendo deles uma família unida a honrá-los nesta terra e a perpetuar o passado dos seu avós.

A partir do dia 20 de Julho, todos os Domingos das 10:30 da manha até à 1 da tarde, elementos da Comissão e Directores, estarão no Centro Cultural à disposição de todos os sócios, para esclarecimentos e clarificação do PLANO acima referido, agradecendo desde já o contributo de todos, através de reações e comentários. O Centro Cultural é a casa de todos nós. Ou se preferirem, é a nossa segunda casa. Por isso, todos nunca seremos demais, para participar, influenciar e enriquecer o destino da mesma. Bem hajam!

Para termos a certeza que todos os nossos membros compreenderam, completamente, o nosso plano, e que todas as duvidas esclarecidas, a comissão de angariação de fundos, apresentará o plano na reunião mensal de Setembro. A comissão continuará a estar à disposição dos sócios, todos os domingos de manhã entre as 10h30 e 1h00, para esclarecer qualquer pergunta. Os membros terão a oportunidade de votar, para a aprovação do plano na reunião mensal de Outubro.

PAY OFF THE MORTGAGE CAMPAIGN

Antonio DeMoura

In October 2007, Francisco Bahia, the president of the Portuguese Cultural Center called an extraordinary general assembly meeting to inform all the members of the financial crisis facing the Center.

Our community responded by showing up in great numbers and promised solidarity and support. The most influential directors, starting with Attorney Agostinho Ribeiro and Ray Boa, assumed the great responsibility of becoming personally involved to do all that was within their power to resolve the problems facing the Center. They surrounded themselves with many other competent volunteers and after many hours, days and months of extraordinary dedication and work, seen through all aspects at the Center, from the cleanliness and visual appearance to the restaurant and banquet hall, they were able to stabilize the Center's finances. And to all of those people we want to extend our sincere appreciation and thanks.

Although the Center has been able to reach this great achievement, certain facts still exist that we cannot ignore if we want to avoid another financial crisis like the one we experienced in October 2007:

1. The monthly mortgage payment of \$14,500 to Union Savings Bank. This monthly debt leaves very little margin for error in the Center's income. Although the Center's finances are currently stabilized, the Center is not in the financial position to ensure that this payment will be made without a problem each month.
2. Thanks to the hard work of the many VOLUNTEERS, the Center's financial situation is currently stabilized, but we cannot expect all of these people to continue to volunteer their time and efforts and carry our community's burden on their shoulders alone.
3. Finally, it is important to remember that the owners of the magnificent building that is the Center are its members. It is the members, through their votes, that make the important decisions pertaining to the Center. Therefore, the right and duty to assume some of the responsibility as to the Center's future success also falls to the members.

Recognizing all of these issues, Attorney Agostinho Ribeiro launched a campaign to pay off the mortgage. To that end he created a committee to address this issue and come up with a viable plan to pay off the mortgage. The options, which were tailored to meet everyone's needs and allow each member the flexibility to pick what makes most financial sense to them, are as follows:

OPTION 1: MORTGAGE VALUATION CHARGE

Annual Mortgage Valuation of \$200 a year for a period of 10 years. Members choosing this option would lock in their current dues (\$120 for single and \$180 for family) so that at the end of the ten year plan their dues would never be increased and they would continue to pay the \$120 for single or \$180 for family. Members would also have the option of paying the 10 year valuation in one lump sum payment of \$2,000. Members who chose to do this would receive a \$100 gift certificate to the Caravela Restaurant. Members could lock into this plan until 2013.

OPTION 2: RAISE DUES

Currently, members pay \$120 per single membership and \$180 per family membership. In the first year of this plan dues would increase \$50 for single and family memberships and \$100 for corporate and non-profit memberships. Every year thereafter, single, family, and non-profit members would see their dues increase \$25 per year and corporate members would see an increase of \$50 per year.

	Dues in 2008	Projected for 2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Individual	\$120	\$170.00	\$195.00	\$220.00	\$245.00	\$270.00	\$295.00	\$320.00	\$345.00	\$370.00	\$395.00
Familia	\$180	\$230.00	\$255.00	\$280.00	\$305.00	\$330.00	\$355.00	\$380.00	\$405.00	\$430.00	\$455.00
Companhia	\$500	\$600.00	\$650.00	\$700.00	\$750.00	\$800.00	\$850.00	\$900.00	\$950.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,050.00
Non-Profit	\$250	\$300.00	\$325.00	\$350.00	\$375.00	\$400.00	\$425.00	\$450.00	\$475.00	\$500.00	\$525.00

If the vote of the general assembly regarding the approval of this 3-option plan fails, these annual increases will be applied to all members.

OPTION 3: LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

\$5,000 contribution would buy single and family members a Lifetime Family Membership.

\$7,500 contribution would buy a non-profit member a Lifetime Membership.

\$10,000 contribution would buy a corporate member a Lifetime Membership.

Members choosing this option would enjoy discounts at the PCC’s Caravela Restaurant. Individual members (single or family) would enjoy a 5% discount for life, and corporate (including non-profit) members would enjoy a 10% discount for life.

In conclusion, the members are free to choose the option that best serves them. Compared to the membership dues at other institutions in the Greater Danbury area the Cultural Center’s prices are very low. The Portuguese community of Danbury today is one of the best known of all Portuguese communities in the world due to the grandeur of the magnificent edifice that leaves all who visit the Center with jaws ajar. In the Greater Danbury area, the Cultural Center contributes to the promotion of our community. Thanks to the Center, the Portuguese family today is larger and more unified. The dedication to this project, more than just a small sacrifice, is above all an opportunity to demonstrate our pride, our community spirit, and our loyalty to the founders of the Portuguese American Club and the Sons of Portugal Club. This is the consoling certainty that the Cultural Center will continue to be a center for our grandchildren, creating a united family and honoring them in this land and perpetuating that past of our grandparents.

Starting July 20th, every Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. members of the Membership Committee and the Board of Directors will be available at the Cultural Center to answer questions and clarify this PLAN. The Cultural Center is the home of all of us. Or, if you would rather, it is the second home of all of us. And so, none of us are ever too great to participate, influence, and enrich its destiny.

To ensure that our members fully understand this plan, and have all questions answered, the Fundraising Committee will conduct a complete presentation of the plan at the monthly members’ meeting in September. The committee will also continue to be available every Sunday morning from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to answer all questions. Members will then have the opportunity to vote on the approval of the plan at the monthly meeting in October.



By: Maria Zargo

The Arts & Entertainment Committee (A&E)/Stage Door Productions (SDP) has had a busy few months so far. We continue to do our best to bring you, our members, "Quality entertainment at an affordable price." For those who have not been able to attend one of our events yet or still have not heard about them, come join us for a fun-filled evening of great food and entertainment. Please note that there will be a monthly dinner-standup comedy show. We initiated this monthly evening of comedy beginning in January, 2008, due to a high interest level from our members and the public. The scheduled dates for the rest of the year are as follows:

September 19, October 17, November 21, December 19

If any of these dates are canceled or rescheduled, this information will be posted on the Portuguese Cultural Center website at: www.portugueseculturalcenter.com. Please go to the Arts & Entertainment link and click on the Events Calendar button at the bottom of the page to retrieve this information and updates on upcoming events. Of course, you can always call Stage Door Productions directly at (203) 470-7528 or send an email to: StageDoorCT@aol.com.

If you wish to have your email address added to our SDP email list to receive updates, please do so at any time. We will keep you apprised of all upcoming SDP entertainment.

Thank you so very much to all PCC members who attend SDP functions. Your positive feedback has been heartwarming and generous. It is my hope that you continue to support these events as you have in the past, at present and into the future.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to do something very important that I have not had the opportunity to do since I formed the Arts & Entertainment Committee just over two years ago. I'd like to list the names of those who have given assistance to this committee time and again on a regular basis. There are a few others who have helped in some other way, shape or form, but this newsletter will not allow me enough space to mention everyone's name. However, you and I know who you are, and I never forget one small act of kindness. Please know that the A&E Committee/Stage Door Productions is forever grateful for what you have contributed to its success.

A heartfelt THANK YOU goes out to my Network of Volunteers who are always there when I need them - no questions asked:

Arminda Amaral - Guest Relations/Miscellaneous

Luciano Amaral - Box Office/Miscellaneous

Chris Andrade - Technical Director

Jack Andrade - Box Office Manager/Miscellaneous

Joe Andrade - Technical Assistance

Mary Anne Andrade - Box Office Manager/Miscellaneous

Hilda Barrett - Sales Assistant/Raffle Queen/Guest Relations/Jill-Of-All-Trades

You have all been a Godsend and supported A&E/SDP from day one. Without your consistent, reliable and competent help, A&E/SDP would not be the successful committee it is today. I wear many hats for sure, but you are the ones that have made sure they never get misplaced or completely fly away. Thank you for your loyalty and patience - especially during the more stressful, demanding moments.

Thanks also go out to our inhouse catering, waitstaff and bartenders who do their best to ensure that everything runs as smoothly as possible in their realm of responsibility. Your contribution is vital in making these events professional, impressive and successful.

A very special thanks to our wonderful guests who go above and beyond by offering me their help in promoting SDP events. There are more and more of you offering support as time goes by, and I'm just sorry I can't name you one by one. Thank you for selflessly giving of your time and, of course, for attending these performances.

A Comissão de Artes e Entretenimento (A&E/Stage Door Productions (SDP), teve, até agora, uns meses ocupados. Continuamos a fazer o nosso melhor para trazer aos nossos membros, "Entretenimento com qualidade a preços convidativos". Para aqueles que ainda não puderam assistir a um dos nossos eventos, ou que ainda não ouviram acerca deles, venham, acompanhem-nos numa noite cheia de diversão, boa comida e entretenimento. Por favor, tome nota que, haverá todos os meses um espectáculo jantar-comédia. Nós iniciámos esta noite de comédia em Janeiro de 2008, devido ao elevado interesse dos nossos membros e público. O calendário para o resto do ano é o seguinte:

19 de Setembro, 17 de Outubro, 21 de Novembro, 19 de Dezembro

Se alguma destas datas for cancelada ou mudada, tal informação será anunciada no "website" do Centro Cultural Português: www.portugueseculturalcenter.com. Por favor, vá ao portal "Arts & Entertainment" use a entrada "Events Calendar" no fundo da pagina, para ter acesso a esta informação e às últimas sobre os próximos eventos. Claro, que, sempre que quiser poderá chamar, directamente, Stage Door Productions, para (203) 470-7528 ou enviar um "email" para: StageDoorCT@aol.com.

Caso deseje que o seu endereço electrónico faça parte da nossa lista "SDP email", a fim de receber as últimas sobre os nossos eventos, por favor faça-o quando quiser. Mantê-lo-mos informados de todos os futuros entretenimentos de SDP.

Muito obrigada a todos os membros do CCP que assistiram a espectáculos do SDP. Os vossos comentários positivos, têm sido carinhosos e generosos. É meu desejo que continuem a apoiar estes eventos, como o fizeram no passado, no presente e futuro.

Gostaria, também, de aproveitar esta oportunidade para fazer algo muito importante, pois ainda não tive a oportunidade de o fazer, desde que formei a Comissão de Artes e Entretenimento, há dois anos. Gostaria de enumerar os nomes daqueles que, regularmente, vêm ajudando esta comissão. Há outros que, de um a maneira ou outra, tem ajudado, mas o espaço que me foi reservado, não me permite mencioná-los a todos. No entanto, eles, e eu, sabemos quem são, e eu não esqueço um acto gentil, por mais pequeno que ele seja. Saibam que a Comissão A&E/Stage Door Productions está eternamente agradecida pelo vosso contributo, para o seu sucesso.

Um carinhoso OBRIGADA, vai para a minha Rede de Voluntários, sempre disponíveis quando eu preciso deles:

Arminda Amaral - Convidados/Diversos

Luciano Amaral - Bilheteira/Diversos

Chris Andrade -- Director Técnico

Jack Andrade - Bilheteira/Diversos

Mary Anne Andrade - Bilheteira/Diversos

Hilda Barrett - Vendas/Rainha das Rifas/Convidados /Mulher-dos-sete-oficios

Todos vós tendes sido uma benção, e apoiado A&E/SDP desde o primeiro dia. Sem a vossa contínua, segura e competente ajuda, A&E/SDP não seria a comissão com o sucesso que hoje é. Usei muitos chapéus, concerteza, mas foram vocês que fizeram com que eles fossem bem usados e não voassem. Obrigada pela vossa lealdade e paciência - especialmente durante os momentos de mais stress e exigentes.

Agradecimentos vão também para os nossos empregados (pessoal da cozinha, empregados de mesa e de bar) que tudo fizeram para assegurar que tudo correria pelo melhor. A contribuição é vital para que estes eventos possam ser profissionais, impressionantes e ter sucesso.

Um muito obrigada, especial para os nossos maravilhosos convidados, que se esforçaram ao me oferecerem ajuda na promoção dos eventos do SDP. Há muitos e muitos mais de vós a oferecerem ajuda, e eu peço imensa desculpa por não vos poder nomear um por um. Obrigados por generosamente doarem o vosso tempo e, claro, por assistirem aos espectáculos.

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