



# Voz dos Macaenses de Vancouver

Volume 5 • Number 2 • July 2004

Casa de Macau • Suite 102-2511 East Hastings Street • Vancouver • BC • V5K 1Z2

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## Voz dos Macaenses de Vancouver

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## President's Report

During my last visit to Macau for the Encontro planning sessions, discussions were held on the setup of a new council (Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses) whose aim is to incorporate the interests and wishes of the Macanese community in the diaspora, and foundations based in Macau. It would be a non-governmental organization of Macanese in the Special Administrative Region in Macau. It's other goals are the maintainance, deepening and developing ties with Macau, to further promote our heritage & culture. In my opinion, the basic intent of the Conselho is to obtain funding for the activities of the Casa's: overseas and in Macau. There was initial dissatisfaction with the byaws as presented as it did not allow each Casa an equal vote in the affairs of the Conselho. However after much exchange of letters and emails, a compromise was reached and agreed to by all parties. I am pleased to advise that this compromise now allows all Casa's and member organizations in the Conselho to have an equal vote which is the correct way to have it.

As for Encontro 2004, I am pleased to advise that it is a definite GO! and all roads will lead to Macau for this event.

We have received the program, which will officially run from Nov 29th to Dec 5th 2004, with an informal reception to be held on Nov 28th at APIM's clubhouse. This Encontro will be slightly different from previous ones, as "everyone has to be a member" of a Casa, and be registered with them. The Casa in turn will register with APIM. It also requires that all participants indicate which particular event they would like to attend. (so that APIM can know approximately how many will attend a certain event.) There has been no mention of subsidies yet but we will let you know when we find out. APIM has also put out a competition regarding a logo for the "Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses". This competition is open for all residents of Macau and Casa members. Contest closes on July 21st 2004. Prizes are (First) MOP\$ 10,000, (Second) MOP\$ 5,000 & (Third) MOP\$ 3,000.

Our elections are now over and it gives me great pleasure to welcome "Monica de Carvalho" to the position of First VP. Welcome aboard Mon !! I would also like to thank Anthony Leung for his term of service which ended this year. Thank you also to all who have helped me for the 1st year of my term and I looking forward to your continuing help and assistance during my 2nd year, muito obrigado !!!!!

Mickey

# UMA BATISADO A LA MACAENSE NO CANADA

*By Boca Tanto*

The Macanese Community is a Roman Catholic community, and thus, the very first sacrament, the Sacrament of Baptism is duly received by all newborn babies. We seldom wait until the baby is more than a year old.

In the past, a newborn baby was usually baptized within a month or two at most, and this made it possible for the same baptismal gown to be worn by each newborn of the same family. However, this practice is not always possible now, because babies are baptized at different times, some within the “normal” two months, some even when the baby is close to its first birthday – it just depends! “Normally speaking”, however, as soon as the baby is born, the “family bakers” begin their work. They bake the fruitcake, yes, that very same fruitcake for Christmas, weddings, first communion and confirmation, and they cure it with brandy until about a week before the celebration. The family will get together and usually form an assembly line to slice the fruitcake and then wrap each slice, complete with “doilee and lassu”. Doilees are always white (probably because we never had any other colour in the good old days and probably also because white is the colour of purity) and the colour of the lassus is almost always indicative of the occasion, ie. for a baby boy’s baptism, lassus will be baby blue.....of course! (you get the drift!)



Busy hands making decorations

The cortadinhas are cut from the finest tissue paper with extra sharp “tizoras” and assembled with glue, skewers and usually coconut macaroons or sometimes even Ferrero Rochers. We used to make our own coconut candy, but nowadays, we “make do” with the macaroons and the Ferrero Rochers, the next best thing (in our opinion, anyway!). We re-wrap store-bought coconut candy (“yeh-gee-tong”) or the “white rabbit” milk candy with tissue paper; again, the real thing is rebusado, a special kind of candy made by the Macanese for special occasions. The rebusado is hard to come by, so we settle for the next best thing. The outward appearance of the cortadinhas and the rebusados, however, is the same so that when we “aruma” the main Baptismal table, the traditional look is maintained. Ask any Macanese “mulher” and she will tell you that she has a special “Army and Navy” linen table cloth to be brought out and used only on special occasions like a Christening party. (No, you cannot buy it from your local Army and Navy store!)

We also have “Jesus pictures”, and for Baptism, we distribute baptismal “Jesus pictures”. The term “Jesus pictures” is more than likely only understood by the Macanese. I called at a certain religious store here in Vancouver and asked for “Jesus pictures”. In reply, all I got was a blank stare! Hey, “Jesus pictures” are such normal stuff! But no, I got nowhere, until I explained, and explained, what I was looking for. “Oh yes, you mean those little cards! Of course, we carry them!”

*Continued next page*

The family will go early to the church hall to heat (or re-heat) and “aruma” all the food, which would normally include chilicote, ababico, curry triangles, pao de leite, sandwiches, cheese toast, sausage rolls, etc. etc., others would arrange the tables and chairs, and still others would assist to “aruma” the main Baptismal table which is normally adorned with cortadinhas, rebusados, fruitcake, sugar-coated almonds, “Jesus pictures”, candles, with the centre of attraction being the Christening cake, usually professionally made and tastefully decorated.

When it is time for the baptismal ceremony, all will go to the church with the exception of one or two persons who would stay in the hall to look after the stuff and/or complete decorations, etc. The Baptismal ceremony is universal; we could be in “Timbuktu” for all we know, and the Baptismal ceremony would be no different! After the ceremony, everyone would go into the hall for the reception. Either the father or the new “kai-yeh” of the baby would deliver the speech and toast the baby (“bebe sahudi” as we say in Macanese) and then the refreshments would be brought out. However, sometimes this order is reversed – eat and drink, then at an appointed time, the speech and the toast will be made, to be continued by more eating and drinking. At any Macanese reception, food and drink is always plentiful - our “motto”? – always have more than not enough! No host wants to “perde cara”! So I dare say I challenge anyone who says that they are still hungry after a Macanese reception!

During the reception, but only after the speech and toast, family members will pass the wrapped fruitcakes, “Jesus pictures” and other party favours such as cortadinhas, rebusados and sugar-covered almonds to the guests.

It might seem strange to some, but there is never any background music of any kind. In fact, it is never even thought of, nor missed. The excitement, thus noise level, is always at its peak so no one can hear the music anyway - people are too busy having a good time!

What you have just read took place right here in Vancouver recently, and there is no doubt in the writer’s mind that our Macanese tradition remains very much alive, having been passed down from generation to generation! This celebration could very well have taken place back in Hong Kong or Macau, but there would certainly be no difference in any respect until the “party” concluded and you stepped outside to grasp your surroundings!



*Lydia & Dennis McGrann with new grandson Nicholas  
in front of Baptismal Table*

## Casa São João Picnic

Same place, same time and the same cool, damp June Saturday. However, in spite of the usual inclement weather, it was the usual fun and camaraderie at the Casa de Macau (Vancouver) annual São João picnic. We filled up with mouth-watering bife Macau and / or bratwurst in Portuguese buns, salad, raw veggies, sushi, Korean style noodles, fresh fruits and much more. Then for those with a sweet tooth (which was just about everybody!) there was an assortment of desserts.

About 55 members were at the picnic, among them three month old Tiara Shuster and 92 years young Tina Archer – a five generation span!



*Monica and John de Carvalho with California visitors: Lionel and Lucy Guterres*

Also enjoying the outing were guests Alice de Souza from Vancouver, as well as Lucy and Lionel Guterres, Terry Villacarlos and Rafael Martinez from Vallejo, California.

In addition to the plethora of food, there was music, mahjong and even a little line dancing. We ate, danced and were merry... as the saying goes. Next year will see another São João day and another picnic, and I vote we postpone the celebration by a few weeks and hold our picnic in July – when the weather is so much more predictably warmer!

Thank you to all who brought food and helped with the preparations. A special thanks to Monica de Carvalho who did much of the organizing and food preparation and her son Joseph for handling the barbeques.

*by Edwina Shuster*



## Pictures taken at the Picnic



*Mah-Jong'ers in action - an annual activity*



*Family, friends, food and fun!*



*Monica and Joseph de Carvalho - Grilling frenzy!*



*Tiara Shuster and attendants!*

## Cooking Competition for Encontro 2004 in Macau

Our Casa competition took place on April 4, 2004 in Richmond. The judges for this event were Messrs. Rene Ozorio, Reggie Rocha, Mac da Roza and Ms. Pat Albuquerque.

An abundance of excellent dishes and desserts were concocted for the judges who must have surely been hard pressed to select the winners, which they did.

The winners were Mrs. Maria Rosario and Assistant Mrs. Rebecca Amante, followed by 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up Mrs. Monica de Carvalho and Jeanine de Carvalho, 2<sup>nd</sup> runner up Miss Natscha Renfro and Mr. William Renfro.

The winning dish by Maria was Feijoada and her dessert was Cuscurnão. Maria and Rebecca will represent our Casa together with winners from all the other casas at the Grand Competition to be held in Macau on 1<sup>st</sup> Decemeber 2004.

Maria and Rebecca earned an all expenses paid trip to Encontro 2004 courtesy of APIM. Casa de Macau (Club) Vancouver wishes Maria and Rebecca the best of luck during the Encontro competition.

*by Antonio Amante*



*The Judges - Reggie, Pat, Mac and Rene.*



*The Winners with Mickey*



*The Task*



*Lots to eat for everyone in attendance*



## Farewell to a Good Friend

Last month we said good bye to a fellow member and good friend of our Casa. Cicero Laertius Rozario, born March 22, 1919, passed away on Thursday June 17th 2004 and is best remembered for his noticeable presence at almost all of our meetings and functions until he was no longer able to. Cicero was a strong supporter of our club and was in fact one of our founding members several years ago. He was always ready to help out in any way he could and his willingness to volunteer can certainly be an example to us all.

During World War II, Cicero showed his accomplishment as an artist as he drew many scenes of his experiences in the Shamshuipo Prisoner of War Camp in Hongkong. Two pieces of his work appears below in his memory:



Cicero is survived by his loving wife Margie, his children, Christine, Tony, Anna and Leonard, his grandchildren, Stephanie, Lourdes and Joseph and his great grand children, Brendan and Avery.

Our thought and prayers are with Margie and her family.

## ODE TO VOLUNTEERS

*(As our friend Cicero was always so willing to volunteer to help our Casa, it is timely to reprint an anonymous poem at this time as a salute to everyone who has, is and will volunteer to help in any way)*

Many will be shocked to find  
When the day of judgement nears  
that there's a special place in Heaven  
Set aside for volunteers.  
Furnished with big recliners,  
Satin couches and foot stools -  
Where there's no committee Chairman  
No group leaders or car pools.  
No eager team that needs a coach,  
No bazaar and no bake sale.  
There will be nothing to staple,  
Not one thing to fold or mail.  
Telephone lists will be outlawed,  
But a finger-snap will bring  
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners.  
And rare treats fit for a king.  
You ask, "Who'll serve these privileged few  
Who work for all they're worth?"  
Why, all those who reaped the benefits -  
And not once volunteered on Earth!

## Dues Reminder

Members who have not yet paid their membership dues for 2004 are reminded that these dues are now overdue and we would appreciate your remittance as soon as possible. Your dues enable the Casa to continue to put on all of the functions and activities year-round not to mention pay for continuing expenses such as postage for newsletters, stationary, printing costs, insurance and rentals for functions etc. Please send your cheques to the address at the top of Page 1 or call any of our Executive members who will gladly confirm the amount outstanding for the year. Your continued support is needed and appreciated. Muito obrigado!!!

## 2004 Elections

On May 8th, our annual elections were held and we are pleased to advise that Monica Remedios de Carvalho has rejoined the Executive team as 1st Vice President. She replaces Anthony Leung whose term has expired. On behalf of all our members, the Voz wishes to congratulate Monica and also thank Anthony for his two years of service as 1st Vice President.

The Voz asked for and received the following statement from Mon:

*...."As I take a run for the position of 1st Vice President, I hope to proceed on track with the aim of our membership in pursuing unity and optimism in regards to our Heritage as an Asian Bastion of the Portuguese line.*

*I am willing to work for the good of our community to retain the honor of our membership and look forward to the events in the elective year.*

*I would also wish to thank all who supported my bid and hope that this will be a year that our younger members will be more enlightened by our endeavors. I also have great hopes that Portugal wins the European Cup!....."*

(Ed. Note: We do/did too Mon, but as we went to press (after the July 4th game), Portugal had lost the game to Greece by a score of 1-0 but we are all nevertheless proud of the Team and how they played. Onto World Cup 2006.....!)



**Place:** Holy Family Parish  
4851 Beatrice Street  
Vancouver, BC

**Date:** October 23rd, 2004

**Time:** 6:30 pm

Oktoberfest is fast approaching so get your tickets soon before they are sold out. The event promises to be yet another fun-filled feeding and dancing extravaganza so be sure to mark your calendars now. More information will be coming your way soon re tickets etc.

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## The Next Issue

The success and enjoyment of any newsletter is fully dependant on the articles submitted to us. We are therefore asking for help from our members to make the Voz even better. You do not need to be a fancy writer (I'm certainly not!!) as we will attempt to dress up all submissions. The topic is entirely up to you, it can be a recipe, news, visit from friends/relatives, anything at all basically. Thank you for considering this appeal and to all who contributed to this issue.

*The Editor*