



# VOZ DOS MACAENSES DE VANCOUVER

Official Newsletter of the **Casa de Macau (Vancouver)** since 1995

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## CASA DE MACAU VANCOUVER INTERVIEWED ON CLUBHOUSE FUNDS

Despite the President of Casa de Macau in Vancouver, António Amante, having reported a slight rapprochement between the two Vancouver clubs in the sixth most populous city in Canada, the truth is that the two Casas de Macau have not arrived at a basic agreement on the application of the 7 million Macau patacas [about US\$1 million] presently in the custody of the Fundação Macau [for the purchase of a clubhouse]. Without an agreement, the decision should be to divide the funds, a solution that even so would probably please neither “Greeks nor Trojans.” So opined Pedro Manuel Ribeiro and Tiago Azevedo in an editorial in the Jornal Tribuna de Macau dated October 31, 2006.

The seven million patacas were made available at the time of Governor Rocha Vieira, but never left Macau due to a lack of consensus between the two Casas. According to António Amante, whenever the clubs attempted to reach agreement on the use of the funds – which was for the acquisition of a clubhouse in common– the negotiations “always failed.” “They wanted 70 percent of the funds, leaving us only 30 percent,” added Amante, who is also the President of the Associação de Empresários Macaenses do Canadá (Association of Macanese Businessmen of Canada), stressing that that

was a discriminatory attitude because Macau recognized both clubs.”

At this moment, and because the deadline for releasing the funds – fixed for November – is fast approaching, Casa de Macau Vancouver says it had reached an agreement with Fundação Macau for half of the frozen funds. “As soon as the final details are worked out we will receive 3.5 million patacas, which corresponds to half of the funds in the custody of Fundação Macau,” António Amante said to Jornal Tribuna de Macau, adding that the agreement was reached with the President himself, Victor Ng.

That way, there will be no common clubhouse for the two associations, because their executive managements did not arrive at an accord. Nevertheless, António Amante gives his assurance that the funds will not be lost. “It is clear that I accepted the suggestion of Victor Ng on the division of the funds, promising that I would acquire a site for the new club, which cannot be sold, he emphasized. However, the position of the executive committee of the Macau Cultural Association of Western Canada is not known, António Amante affirming that possibly they would disagree with the division.

see page 2

*Voz funding from Fundação Oriente is gratefully acknowledged*

INTERVIEW (CONT'D)

On the fact that this measure might divide the Macanese community in Vancouver, the President of Casa de Macau refutes any negative scenario, saying

that, despite the existence of two Casas in Vancouver, which even have different forms of activities, the truth is that there are Macaenses who are members of

both clubs, and if there exists any divisiveness it is between the managements of the two Casas and not in the hearts of the members of the community.

**PROJECT SUPPORT BY CONSELHO DAS COMUNIDADES MACAENSES**

The Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses (CCM), of which all the Casas de Macau form a part, associated itself recently with other institutions to accomplish diverse projects, such as the candidacy of Patuá as worldwide intangible heritage, the creation of a Fraternity of Macanese Gastronomy, and Youth Centers, projects that António Amante considers very valid because, as he stressed, they “permit community unity around common objectives.”

But, in the context of actuality, the President of Casa de Macau of Vancouver does not foresee any facilities. “All these plans are important, but probably require some time for them to materialize,” he said, exemplifying the case of Patuá. “The original people who know how to speak Patuá are now not many. And the younger generation who

almost don’t even speak Portuguese,” how are they going to learn Patuá?” he questioned. “It’s a very good idea to promote it, but it is not easy because very few are the people who speak the dialect. Nevertheless we have to wait and see how the project progresses,” he said.

One of the problems which Casa de Macau of Vancouver continues to contend with is the dearth of young people, an issue shared by the remaining clubs. “Many young people do not wish to participate in our activities, except if we did something special,” commented the leader, identifying the lack of funds as one of the principal difficulties. According to António Amante, projects developed in the sporting area could be the solution to bringing in the young people and guaranteeing the future of the club.

The above two articles appeared recently in the Club News of ‘A Diaspora Macaense na America’ - they were translated from an editorial dated October 31, 2006, in the Jornal Tribuna de Macau.

**2007 Election**

Nominations for the three positions on the Executive (President, 2nd Vice-President and Secretary) closed on April 2, 2007. The members currently holding these positions were the only nominees; they have agreed to a second term and will be declared elected by acclamation at our Annual General Meeting on May 12, 2007. They are: Antonio Amante (President), Edwina Shuster (2nd Vice-President), Cathy Fung (Secretary).

**Thank You from Lyce Rozario**

Thank you to the Casa Executives and members for their kind thoughts and prayers when I was in hospital undergoing emergency major surgery. I received Mass cards, get well cards, flowers, even a lovely angel bear! The visits, kindness, concern, friendship and especially the prayers were all deeply appreciated.



## THE GIFT OF WATER – LAURA VICUNA ORPHANAGE, TIMOR-LESTE

Below is a follow-up to the article published in the January issue of the Voz regarding the fund-raising efforts for the orphanage in East Timor.

East Timor, a predominantly Catholic country destroyed by years of violence and instability is bravely struggling to emerge as a vibrant nation with its rich culture and colonial history.

The Gift of Water Christmas Appeal launched in November 2006 to provide water to an orphanage at Laga has reached its target and the project is shortly to commence under the management of a team of engineers.

The encouraging news is that through the collective generosity of several individuals, and especially Casa de Macau and their members, both in Australia and overseas, just under \$18,000 has been raised.

This project brings sustainable development to an entire community at Laga. Spring water will be piped not only to the orphanage but to 20 families in the hillside area thereby benefiting over 500 people, making a significant difference to their daily lives.

Luke Gosling OAM, Country Director of Life, Love and Health, was recently in East Timor visiting the orphanage and reported that 'the girls have been living under terrible conditions for the past five



years without adequate water supplies and it was wonderful to see the disbelief and joy on their faces when told that fresh water would be available upon completion of the project.' He added that 'the current drought has made the situation desperate. The Sisters have had to resort to paying for a tanker to bring water weekly and during my visit a temporary pump for the water tanker was installed to provide some relief until the project is completed.'

Our involvement to assist the East Timorese in their quest for democracy and survival has challenged us into action. It has provided an opportunity for us to contribute both as individuals and as a community for "we make a living by what we get, we

make a life by what we give - something beyond self interest shapes our lives and guides our actions."

Sincere thanks are extended to the Casa de Macau Committees in Australia, Canada and the United States, and to their members, for their compassionate interest and financial contribution which has enabled 'the gift of water' to be a reality at Laga.

We hope to identify ONE project per annum to support and invite our members to continue their commitment to this impoverished country, enabling us to tangibly assist those who endure daily suffering and hardship. Our compadres, the East Timorese, people of a former Portuguese colony like Macau, are very much part of our shared humanity.

Please contact Vivienne and Frank Correa at email [vivfrank@bigpond.net.au](mailto:vivfrank@bigpond.net.au) or [luke@lifelovehealth.com](mailto:luke@lifelovehealth.com) for further information or if you would like to assist in any capacity.

**YUN YAT DINNER**

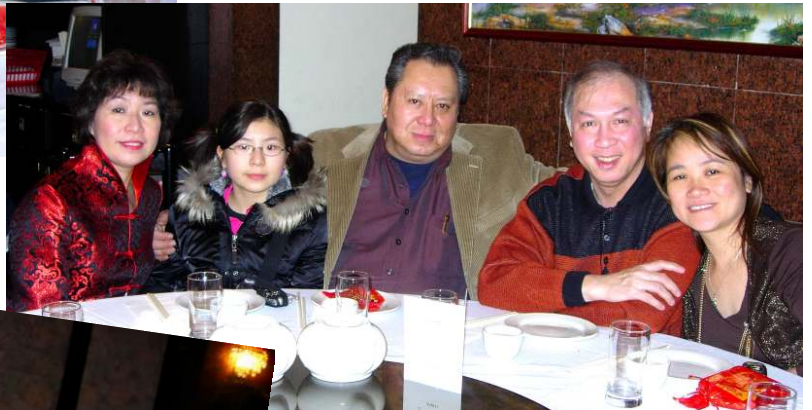
These photos show a few of the members and guests anticipating what turned out to be a sumptuous Chinese banquet to celebrate “everyone’s birthday” and welcome in the year of the pig.



Anne Remedios & Margie Rozario



Leonard Rivero, Margaret Fincher,  
Marie & John Abbas



Mariana, Karina & John Garcia,  
Anthony & Pamela Leung



Mabel & Rene Ozorio, Reg &  
Charlene Rocha

YUN YAT (CONT'D)



Lyce & Rick Rozario, Charles Curry & Rose Marie Gill



Lydia Rodrigues (visiting from Toronto) with daughter Linda Shuster



Maureen Mui, Cathy Fung & Isabel Ma



✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓  
 ✓ Kudos to our social ✓  
 ✓ convener, Pat Albuquerque, for ✓  
 ✓ making the arrangements, and ✓  
 ✓ thanks to all the members and ✓  
 ✓ guests who supported this event. ✓  
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## MY FATHER AND THE PORTUGUESE & JEWISH COMMUNITY IN SHANGHAI

by Leonard Rivero

In 1842, Great Britain waged war on China because the Empress opposed the illegal deliveries of opium by English trading houses to her people. It is very interesting that the drug lord, who had the influence to persuade English war ships to set fire on Shanghai, have them advance over the Yangtze River to the capital of Nanking and force the Chinese to capitulate, was an Iraqi Jew tycoon by the name of Victor Sassoon. China not only was helpless in preventing the import of opium, but was also forced to lease Hong Kong to the British and grant western trading nations sovereignty rights to a part of Shanghai.

The city of Shanghai was partitioned into districts by the western nations as the British, Americans, French and Germans established shipping and banking firms, hotel palaces and nightclubs along the waterfront promenade called The Bund. The British put out word to the Portuguese in Macau that they were offering employment positions to those who spoke English as well as Chinese. Since the Portuguese in Macau were educated in Portuguese as well as English and also spoke Chinese, they filled the needs of the British companies that were expanding faster than they could handle the business themselves with British citizens. These Portuguese from Macau who were called Macanese were paid less than the British employees but much more than the Chinese. Interestingly, the Macanese were

accepted into the British society, joined their private clubs and even became members of the infamous Shanghai Race Course (now The Peoples Square) which restricted Chinese from entering. Our family and friends was considered the Upper Class as they were paid in British Pounds, but when converted into Chinese money, were considered very rich by the local Chinese. We lived the privileged life with housemaids, nannies and cooks catering to our family needs. My ancestors were among the early settlers and my father, Joseph Antonio Rivero had a senior position with Dodwell & Co., a British shipping firm that had their offices located on the Bund in Shanghai. My father worked for Dodwell for 28 years and became Chief Accountant of the company which had several hundred employees. He was known as Uncle Joe by his relatives and friends, who used to call on him whenever they needed a job or favor for themselves or their relatives. And whenever he was able to help someone, they would show their appreciation by taking my father out for banquet dinners followed by visiting nightclubs where my father was well known. So, over time, he developed a reputation for being a kind of Godfather among the Macanese community.

It's been estimated that about 400 Portuguese from Macau went to Shanghai to work and to find a better life style - mostly

men, but some brought their families with them. The single men over time married into the Chinese population and had many children who were mostly well educated because their fathers sent them to Catholic schools where they learned English. Then around 1939 things changed. The Japanese occupied all of Shanghai and many British citizens left before the occupation and the few that stayed were put into concentration camps. This elevated my father into a senior position for Dodwell as all the British bosses were gone, and he had to work under the direction of the Japanese military until the office was finally closed around 1942. The allied nationals were all placed in camps but the Portuguese who were neutral were allowed to remain in Shanghai although most of them didn't have jobs and therefore could not earn a living. My father was fortunate in that he had friends in the Jewish community, and one family who owned "The Chocolate Shop" in Hongque District, gave him a job as their book keeper for the duration of the Japanese occupation.

I remember that my mother's elder sister was married to a British soldier, and their family was put into a concentration camp just outside the city of Shanghai. I was an infant at the time but remember my mother telling me that she use to carry me and a heavy bag of groceries on an all day trek (by train then walking miles) to deliver basic staples like sugar, powered milk and dried fish to my Aunt Marie

SHANGHAI (CONT'D)

and her family at the camp.

In the early 1940's we lived on the 8th floor of the Embankment Building. It was the largest and tallest apartment building in Shanghai at the time and which became the principal residence for Russian and German Jews who fled the Nazis. Shanghai was the only place in the world that accepted any person without restriction so there were about 10,000 new immigrants in the International Settlement of Shanghai. Because Uncle Joe had a good reputation as a person who knew important people, he was called upon to make contacts and fix problems by the Jewish community. He knew the legal procedure to start businesses and hire key personnel from the Portuguese and Chinese Nationals but more importantly, he knew where to obtain goods through the black market. I remember one particular Jewish friend of my father's who always attended parties in our house - a beautiful blond lady by the name of Nina. I realized that my mother did not like her because she suspected that Nina was a high priced prostitute using my father to meet important and rich people.

Then one night at our home, my father had invited Nina over and a Japanese officer came to the door. After a few minutes discussion, my

father told my mother he had to go out with Nina to take care of some business. My mother was not happy as she watched my father, Nina and the Japanese office get into a big sedan and drive off. When I was much older, my mother told me that my father had gone to meet a high ranking Japanese military officer who knew about my father as a fixer in the Jewish community and wanted him to provide some contact information. Following that incident, a number of Portuguese friends and relatives came to the house to talk to my father about the danger of associating with the Japanese military. Apparently it was decided that because my father was Portuguese and Portugal was neutral in the war, he should continue his friendly relationship but to be very careful. According to my mother, a time came when my father was very distressed and confided to her that he had been entertained at some nightclub by the Japanese officers, where they told him that the Nazi Germans was putting pressure on them to place all the Jews in a concentration camp for the purpose of liquidating them. My father tried to convince the Japanese not to do that and sug-

gested they contain the Jews in an area in the Hongque District, which I later learned was called the "Jewish Ghetto". The Japanese officer told my father that he should contact the Jewish leaders and impress on them not to create any trouble so that the Japanese would not have an excuse to enforce the demands of the Nazis. In order for my father to be able to cross the Garden Bridge over the Souchow River and to enter the Ghetto, he was given a special pass. It was written in Japanese characters on a small silk Japanese flag. Years later, I found the flag with a red circle in the center but did not understand what the letters spelled out.

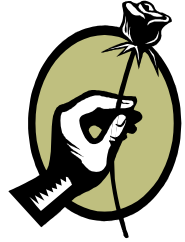
After the war, my Father got his job back at Dodwell & Co. and I remember how many people greeted him with respect on the street or when we attended Church. It puzzled me at the time that families would recognize my father and many business people would come up to shake his hand. I understand now, that my father must have done some favors for his Macanese people as well as for the Jewish community. Perhaps he even played a small part in saving some lives.

**Casa Membership Renewal Fees**

A reminder that the annual membership renewal fee for 2007 (increased this year to \$20) is now due. These fees are our main source of cash flow which allows the Casa to carry out its regular functions and activities.

**Our Sincere Thanks**

The family of the late Reggie Rocha wishes to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the many members of the Casa de Macau (Vancouver) for the outpouring of prayers, masses, donations made to the Cancer Society, the Heart & Stroke Foundation, and monetary donations to the family (which will be put towards a memorial bench), as well as the many cakes, pastries, etc, which were kindly brought for Reggie's reception - we cannot thank you enough!



We are greatly touched by everyone's generosity and kindness at a time when it is deeply appreciated. It is our parents who are fortunate to belong to such a caring community.

With our sincere thanks,

Rita, Anna-Maria, Tom, Gabriella, Reg Rocha and our families

**Remembering.....**



**Natalia Gloria Santos** passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 18, 2007 in Richmond, BC. Born in Hong Kong on December 7, 1921, Natalia is predeceased by her husband Julio and survived by her step-daughter Judy Christo (Willy), three grand children and six great grand children.

**Jacqueline Pereira (née Castro)** passed away peacefully on March 20, 2007 in Richmond, BC. One of our founding members, Jackie was born in Macao on August 8, 1946, and is survived by Fernando, her loving husband of 38 years, sister Patty, son Tony, daughter Maureen and grandchildren Gabby, Jacob and Jericho.

**Rigoberto (Rigo ) Roliz** passed away peacefully after a short illness, on March 10, 2007 in San Francisco, California. Born in Shanghai, China in 1923, Rigo immigrated to California in 1977. He travelled extensively to Macau, and has been a guest at our meetings and picnics. He is survived by his children, Roberto, Maria and Teresa.

**From Maria (Antonio) King:**

To Casa members who may know my Uncle Gabriel, I am sad to announce that he passed away in Sydney, Australia last January. The following is a short obituary written by my aunt in England, Sari Antonio Handley.

“Gabriel Manso (Gaby) Antonio passed away on 5 January 2007, in Sydney, Australia. Gabriel was born on 19 February 1928 in Hong Kong. He is survived by his wife, Esther, son, Gregory, daughter, Patricia (Andy), grandson, Haydn, and sister, Sari.

Gaby, a British Empire Medallist, was a member of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force and an employee of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation before immigrating to Australia.

A popular member of the Sydney ex Hong Kong Portuguese community, Gaby enjoyed life to the full. He was a keen bridge player, played bowls and was a gourmet cook. His favourite hobby was horse racing which he had to give up not too long ago for health reasons. Gaby will be greatly missed by his family and his friends.”

**Dates to Remember**

**Next Meeting (AGM) - May 12, 2007**

**Casa Picnic & Meeting - July 14, 2007**

