



VOZ DOS MACAENSES DE VANCOUVER

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I wish all Macanese and their families all over the world, Peace and Joy, Prosperity and Health.

Let us join together in prayer to Our Lady Patroness of Macaenses Communities to help us remain united.

God bless us all and give His blessing to the world.

Antonio Amante

President of Casa de Macau Club, Vancouver, and
President of the Association of Macanese
Businessmen of Western Canada

Feliz Ano Novo

Happy New Year



2006 came to a close with a casa New Year's Eve dinner and dance as it usually does. As well, this past year closed with two birthdays extraordinary, one in November and the other in December - Humberto Pires turned 106, and Antina Archer 95.

Our warmest wishes to these very respected and cherished members of our casa.

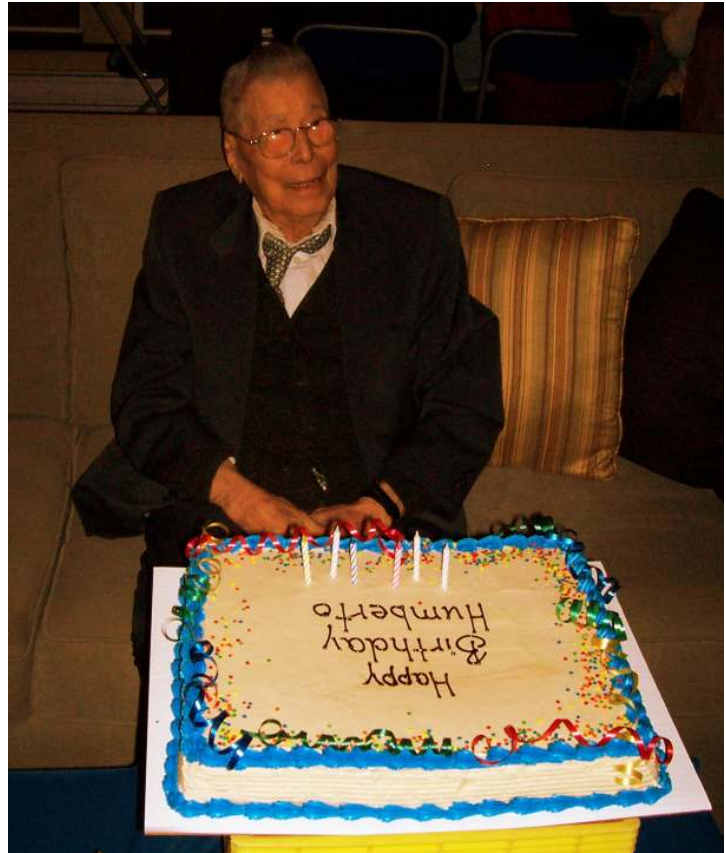
Voz funding from Fundação Oriente is gratefully acknowledged

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HUMBERTO PIRES!

by Margie Rozario

A Grand Young Man? Mr. Humberto Pires

A gentleman at all times. Always dressed in a suit even on the hottest day in summer. With a smile and a nod he will greet you. Such is the man who celebrated his birthday surrounded by three daughters - Pricilla, Doreen and Diana, sons Sonny and wife Shelley (from Monroe, Washington), Reggie and wife Carole (from Salinas, California), grand and great-grand children and friends, as he blew the 106 candles to the merry voices of Happy Birthday and He's a Jolly Good Fellow. There were kisses, hugs and many memories exchanged.



His grandson Bert made an excellent speech intermixed with Portuguese (not Macanese lingo but good old Portuguese spoken just like Grandpa) with some amusing anecdotes of Grandpa, as everyone joined in a toast for this great man.

He is one of the strongest supporter and oldest pillar of our Casa, never missing a meeting or social event if he could help it. He walked a mile every day when he could and attributed his longevity to a nip of brandy after dinner

No party is without a buffet and a grand one it was, with Macanese dishes and desserts. It was a great day and he was happy.

We join in wishing him HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANTINA ARCHER!

by Monica de Carvalho



this memorable day. To look and talk to Cha Cha you would never guess that she was 95 - what a milestone!

It was a most enjoyable afternoon and to top it off, Gracie wowed us with a couple of tunes.

All I can say to you Cha Cha is 'YOU KEEP ON TICKING SHORTIE! LUV YA!



On the 10th of December 2006, Gracie Johnston and family threw a wonderful feast for Aunty Tina (often referred to as Shortie by moi). More than eighty family members and friends came to celebrate her 95 th birthday with her. Charles Curry presented her with a delicious Mocha Birthday Cake.

Cha Cha (as she is referred to by the family and friends) was thrilled to see all the family and friends. Her nephew Albert Castilho and wife Lydia came from Torrance, California to join in the festivities and be with Cha Cha on

A FESTA FOR THE SENSES

by Alex King

Every week, my grandmother held weekly dinners for her family with a wide variety of dishes to choose from. These dinners always provided fond memories of my childhood and helped keep Macanese traditions alive. I've always remembered that regardless of what was on the table, one dish would always be there, served with rice—"minchi". Sure, it didn't seem like much compared to the other dishes, but in retrospect, the minchi seemed to represent the omnipresent and quintessential "everyman" side of Macanese culture and a constant reminder of my heritage.

On Saturday, October 21st, members and guests of the Casa de Macau celebrated that very same culture and heritage with the Macanese Festa, held at Holy Family Church. The event featured a wide variety of Macanese treats and an impressive roster of minchi dishes. I was particularly surprised with the different variations of minchi provided by our generous Casa members. It was interesting to see how a relatively basic dish could be customized and personalized with an inventive use of ingredients and garnishes. Of course, the night couldn't end without



Mickey da Roza & Reggie Olaes



Jocelyn
Cunha,
Avery
Bachert &
Tiara
Shuster

dessert, and with thanks once again to our generous Casa members, there were more than enough Macanese delights to sample from. A bit of dancing followed by a 50/50 draw for a few lucky winners capped off another excellent Casa function.

What I found interesting from the Macanese Festa was how a minchi dish symbolizes the reality of Macanese culture. Though a mark of our heritage, it's always there and different for each person, who add their own specific and unique changes to the recipe and pass it on to future generations. And, in the same way, our culture is something we all hold in common yet it also shows the individuality of each member from our community.

A FESTA FOR THE SENSES (CONT'D)



A casa party is never complete without Macanese dessert and dancing



Rose Marie Gill & Mac Roza

PATRONESS MASS

by Monica de Carvalho

The Mass for Our Lady of the Macaenses was held on December 9, 2006 at Holy Name Parish in Vancouver, attended by many from the Macanese community. Father had a hard time saying the word 'Macanese' but we understood.

Our thanks to Marlene Pereira who made a generous donation in Phillip's name. Marlene was on vacation and could not be with us, but she was in our thoughts and prayers.

After the Mass, 26 of us enjoyed a sumptuous dinner at White Swan restaurant. A lovely end to a very fulfilling day.



**PRAYER TO OUR LADY
PATRONESS OF MACAENSES
COMMUNITIES**

Blessed Virgin Mary our Mother
Protectress of Macaenses
Prostrate at Thy feet
Proclaiming You our Patroness
We implore You
Be our Way,our Light and our Guide
Protect us and our families
wherever life takes us
Keep us united with one another
and be the link of our Unity
Today and Forever

Queen of the World
Patroness of Macaenses
Pray for us
(Recite" Hail Holy Queen")

IN MACAU

These photos were taken in Macau during the Macau International Trade Fair in September 2006 and the first Lusofonia Games in October 2006.

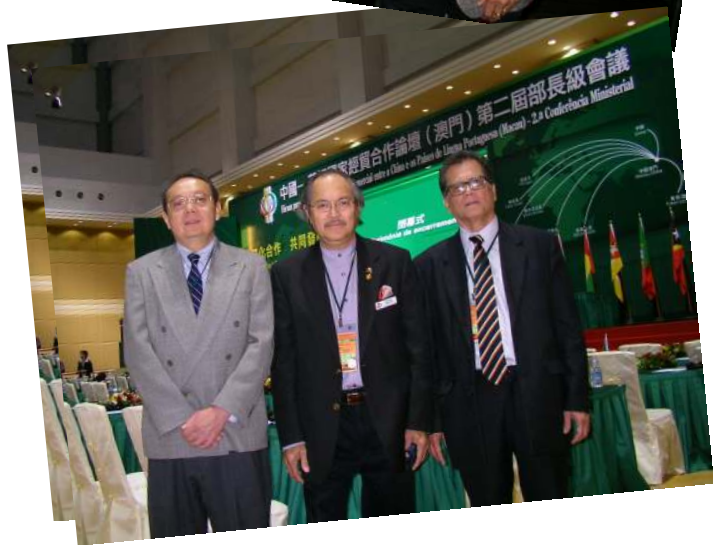
Dr. Jose Rodrigues also held a CCM (Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses) meeting on October 13, 2006, with 12 Presidents from Casas around the world and top Macau officials in attendance.

There were discussions to establishing an 'Institute Ade', whose purpose is to promote the Patua dialect, Macanese Cuisine and Encontro 2007.

Antonio Amante with Dr. Rita dos Santos



Empresarios from California & Vancouver - Nuno Da Cruz, Antonio Amante & Henrique Manhão



Macau is about 60 km directly west of Hong Kong, and consists of the Macau Peninsula (attached to mainland China) and the small islands of Taipa and Coloane; all connected by bridge or causeway.

Macau was colonized by the Portuguese in the 16th century, and became the first European settlement in the Far East. Its geographic position and excellent inland port quickly made it a vital base for regional merchants, and for international commerce between China and the western world.

In December of 1999, Portugal officially returned control of Macau to China, and it became a Special Administrative Region (or SAR). China agreed that until 2037, Macau will maintain a high degree of autonomy in all matters, except foreign and defence.

IN MACAU (CONT'D)



Antonio Amante with Dr. Deng Qiong, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Consular Affairs



Dr. Francis Tam, Secretary for Economy Finances (third from left) with members from Associação dos Empresarios Macaenses (L-R) Dr. Jose Rodrigues, Alex Airosa, Toto Branco (Brasil), Dr. Rita Botelho dos Santos, Henrique Manhão (USA) & Antonio Amante (Canada)

MORE MACAU PHOTOS



Antonio Amante & Macau Ambassador Dr. Pedro Moitinho de Almeida attending a reception at the Bella Vista, the Portuguese Consul's residence



Antonio Amante with Dr. Manuel Silverio, who received the 'Order of Sport Merit' at the reception

A SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S EVE

by Bill Renfro

After a one year hiatus the Casa had a New Year's Eve party which in years past was held at the Richmond Inn. It was very disappointing that last year the club was unable to arrange our annual dinner and dance. This year, even though it was held in a smaller room than before it was very warm and intimate; I believe that over 50 people attended. As such, this year's celebration was even more festive and special.

The food was excellent as usual and the desserts were great. We were even asking for extra repeats of the cheese-cake and tiramisu. Even though it was a small turnout, we would like to thank Pat Albuquerque for all her hard work and all the volunteers who helped her, as well as those who donated prizes. The venue was perfect for the size of our group, the company delightful, and the event well coordinated.

The highlight for me was that my mother, who was visiting from San Francisco, was able to attend. My mother, Lilian Renfro, is 82 years old and was born in Beijing in 1925. She has not been feeling very well the last few years, and it was a very special treat for her to make it out to our New Year's Dinner / Dance. She was even able to have a few twirls around the dance floor with me!

Even though my mother was born in China, she was educated as a teenager in Switzerland, and as a result speaks excellent English and French. It might be of interest to our members that my mother has a very unusual connection with Vancouver dating way back to 1949 when she lived in Hong Kong.



Bill Renfro & his mum Lilian



Monica de Carvalho & Pat de Albuquerque



Standing: Hercia Delgado, Rowena Tan, Rebecca Amante, Teresa Shuster

Seated: Gracie Johnston, Tessie Delgado

A SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S EVE (CONT'D)

In 1949 Canadian Pacific Airlines had just started flying from Vancouver to Hong Kong via Yokohama and Anchorage, Alaska. At that time they were recruiting Air Stewardess who spoke English, French and Chinese. With her qualifications Lillian got the job and still has a newspaper clipping dating back to 1949 of her and her fellow Air Stewardess at the old Vancouver Airport, which is now the South Terminal that is used by small planes and private aircraft. To this day Lillian will always have found memories of Vancouver; it is nice that our Casa's New Year's Dinner and Dance could be added to the list.

Dancing the old year out and the new year in



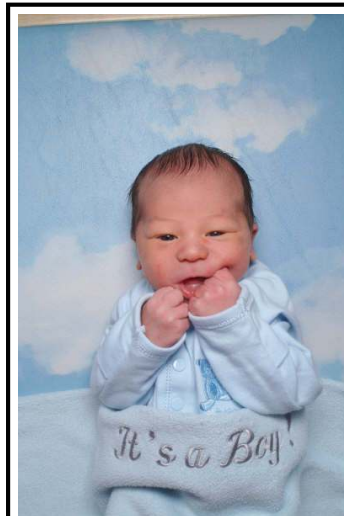
Standing: Alex & Maria King, Michael Remedios

Seated: Cathy Fung, Linda Achiam, Norie Isono, Frederico Gordo



Welcome to New Members

- Antonio F.S. Carvalho & Elena Drummond
- Joao Maria dos S. Carvalho & Seng Lai Cim
- Leonel H.C. Couto & Deolinda Carvalho
- Gurnam & Marsha Huns & children (Ram Kaur , Jane, Charan, Brandon, David)
- Danional and Cindy Lai
- Balwant and Louisa Pannu
- Maria Lenor dos Santos Carvalho Sorbotten



A special welcome to our newest member:

Xavier Stonehouse, born November 28, 2006 to casa members Jeanine and Paul Stonehouse.

Proud grandparents are John and Monica de Carvalho.

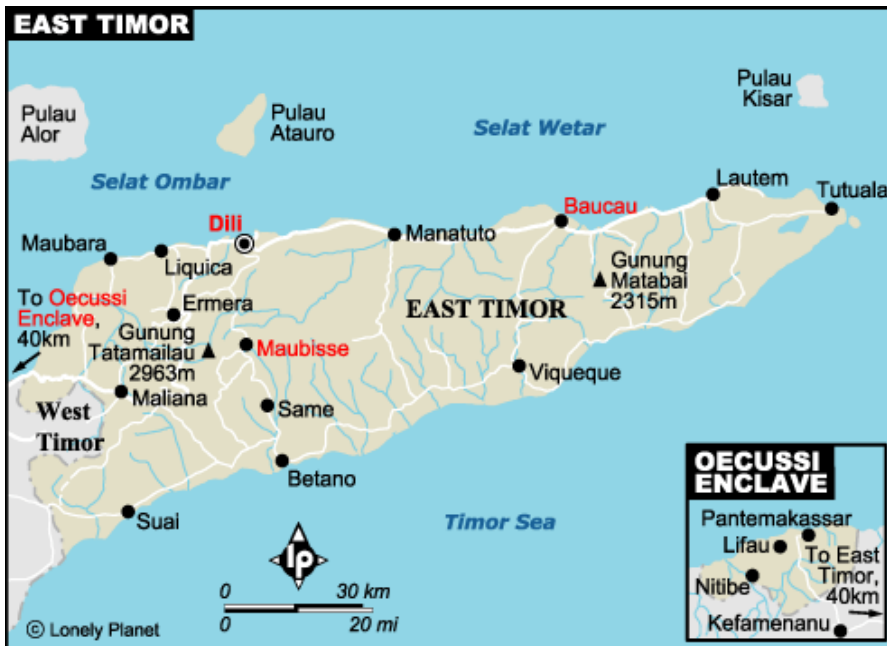
GIFT OF WATER

Frank and Vivi Correa (vivfrank@bigpond.net.au) sent the following letter to Mike Guterres, requesting that we could assist by publishing it in our newsletter to encourage the fund-raising effort to help this orphanage in East Timor. Frank and Vivi, originally from Hong Kong, currently reside in Melbourne, Australia, and are members of the local Casa. The following is a short introductory note from Frank:

“Sister Pinto, an East Timorese nun visited our home when she was in Australia and sought help for the orphanages from the Macanese diaspora. Your members may be aware that East Timor has strong historical connections with Macau being Portuguese colonies for many centuries. It is one of the poorest nations in the world, their language, food and culture has strong Portuguese influence, and you may be interested to learn that Portuguese is now the official language since independence was gained in 2000. The majority of the population are Catholics who bravely fought to maintain their Faith during the Indonesian occupation. Vivi and I have been very encouraged by the generous donations received so far from our global community and it would be wonderful if your Casa club in Vancouver could join hands to support this very worthy project of ‘the gift of water,’ a commodity we take for granted in our secure world. “

A copy of the donation form is included with this issue of the Voz, and the budget summary mentioned in the text below can be requested from Frank Correa.

Website: www.lifelovehealth.com



Dear Friends of Timor-Leste,

Thank you for considering our request for assistance to provide water for the 124 orphaned girls at the Laura Vicuna Orphanage at Laga, Timor-Leste.

Background

Timor-Leste, a former Portuguese colony, assisted Australian troops during WW2 during which 40,000 were killed or died of disease or starvation. In 1975 Timor-Leste proclaimed itself independent from Portugal and Indonesia invaded and occupied Timor-Leste until 1999. During this time one third of the population perished. An international intervention in 1999, INTERFET,

GIFT OF WATER (CONT'D)

restored order after a scorched earth campaign had left virtually all infrastructure destroyed. Successive UN mandates attempted to prepare and support the now free Timorese people and the restoration of independence was internationally recognised on 20th May 2002. Four years later in Apr/May 2006, serious factional fighting and unrest led to the redeployment of an international military force and the reengagement of the United Nations. In all this time the living standards of the ordinary Timorese had deteriorated further. In the 1999 violence many children were left orphaned. Timor-Leste's violent past has left many children orphaned or with a widowed parent that is often suffering from mental illness due to years of deprivation and torture.

Laura Vicuna Orphanage

The Laura Vicuna orphanage is located on a hill in the town of Laga in the District of Baucau. The orphanage has been serving the region since 1986 and was taken over by the Salesians sisters in 1995. The orphanage presently holds 124 girls that are cared for by five staff.

The main difficulty facing the orphanage is a lack of water. Historically the orphanage received water from one of the

villages higher in the mountains to the south. This water came down to the orphanage in steel pipes and was stored in two water tanks at the orphanage. Recently these pipes were broken and the higher villages decided not to allow water to flow to the orphanage, stating that they needed all of the water. The girls were then forced to use the water from a well some distance from the orphanage that was near the sea and salty to drink.

Twice a day the girls would have to walk to the well and wait patiently to fill up their personal buckets to carry out washing of clothes and basic hygiene as well as carry water back up the hill to the orphanage. This situation is difficult and with a lack of water in the orphanage the girls are forced to go elsewhere for their toilet needs and this could have serious health implications if it was to continue.

Water Project

Life, Love and Health water project specialist Antonio Amaral conducted an initial and later a detailed survey to assess the possibility of piping another mountain spring to the orphanage. The owners of this spring agreed and are supportive, as they will provide the labour for the project. The spring water will have to be

pipied approximately one kilometre under gravity and will fill the two large tanks at the orphanage.

The Engineering Survey included a detailed budget that includes a drinking pool for cattle and goats owned by the village and a supplementary pipe to provide water to a smaller village of 20 families near the orphanage. These two aspects of the project are essential to ensure that the social support of the project continues into the future. A budget summary is attached for your information.

Donations

Donations to this project are tax-free using the attached form. The budget summary is also attached. We need to raise AUD\$15,451 to enable water to run to the orphanage and we appreciate your efforts in seeing this project through to become a reality for the girls of Laura Vicuna Orphanage as well as providing an employment opportunity for some of the youth in the nearby villages.

Yours sincerely,
Luke Gosling OAM
Country Director
Life, Love and Health
Timor-Leste

WHAT'S COOKING

Editor



On November 18, 2006, a cooking class was held prior to our sched-

uled casa meeting. It was very popular as it had been a long while since the last one.

Rowena Tan demonstrated how to make two dishes, and with helpers Rebecca Amante and Charles Curry, she prepared Tofu Fa and Pancit Vermicelli (Filipino style Fried Rice Noodles).

The attendees had the chance to sample the results, and later after the meeting, during tea, those who could not make it to the class also had the same opportunity.

Unfortunately I could not make it to either the cooking class or the meeting. I did hear, however, that both the Tofu Fa and Pancit Vermicelli were delicious.

What will the next cooking class hold for us? I can hardly wait.

Dates to Remember



Events

Yun Yat Dinner
February 24, 2007

April Festa
April 21, 2007

Next Meeting
March 10, 2007

Remembering A True Gentleman

The death of Reginaldo Rocha on January 3, 2007, has greatly saddened all members of our community. Reggie, as he was popularly known, leaves behind his wife Rita, their four children, Anna Maria (Jamie), Tom (Patty), Gabriella and Reginaldo Jr. (Charlene), and 10 grand children.

Reggie was born in Shanghai and his family subsequently moved to Hong Kong, where he was educated. Anyone who has come into contact with Reggie has only praise for him – he was a gentleman in the fullest meaning of the word. Kindness and dependability were two of Reggie's many fine characteristics.

We are proud and fortunate to have known such a person and will miss him very much.

Gilly Marshall

