



# VOZ DOS MACAENSES DE VANCOUVER

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

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VOLUME 8 NUMBER 3

JULY 2007

## LINE DANCING ANYONE?



Casa members have been enjoying line dancing lessons Saturday afternoons - given by Maria King.

So far we've learnt the Cha-Cha, Mambo, Waltz, Tango, and even the Rock & Roll.



Drop-in fee is \$2.00.

Come join the fun!

For details call or e-mail

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Voz funding from Fundação Oriente is gratefully acknowledged

## FOND MEMORIES OF DAD ON FATHERS DAY

by Margie Rozario

My father - Jose Maria Xavier was born in Macau. He was the 1<sup>st</sup> Engineer on board the ship 'Fat Shan', first sailing the China Coast and eventually settling on a regular route between Hong Kong and Macau. He married Alice Brown and made his home in Hong Kong. My best times were when the ship docked and Mom would take me on board to see him. I loved to jump on his bunk and he would order food and drinks for us. He would introduce us to his Mates and I was so proud to be the Chief Engineer's daughter. He was kind and generous but very strict. Everyone had to be present for dinner, even my brothers who were already working.

Whenever he returned home

from a trip, he would bring us gifts. I particularly remember a pretty white fur cape he bought for me when I was four years old, I loved the feeling of the soft fur around my neck. He would take the whole family out for dinner when he was in town, it was a great treat, and I was so happy holding his hand as we walked to a nearby restaurant.

I remember waking up one night during a typhoon - it was raining hard and the wind was howling - dad was sailing and I saw mom praying at the altar, with all the candles lit. I knew she was praying for dad's safety, and certain that her prayers would be answered and nothing would harm him. I felt so peaceful and fell back to sleep.

At Christmas he would build a 'presepio' (Macanese for Baby

Jesus Crib with Mary and Joseph) nativity scene on a table approximately 4' x 2'. The scene had a mountain built with thick brown paper coated with a mixture of tar, a barn for Baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph, plus a wheel going round and round by the action of running water into a pool. It also included shepherds tending their sheep and the three Kings bearing gifts. There were lights all around, and what a pretty sight it was. Everyone who visited us had only admiration for his work.

There is so much more I can say about my father, but suffice it to say 'HAPPY FATHERS DAY and thank you for leaving me with such fond memories.

### 2007 Encontro Update

The dates for the 2007 Encontro in Macau are November 26<sup>th</sup> to December 2<sup>nd</sup>, with a reception hosted by APIM (Associação Promotora Instituto Macaenses) the day before, on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

Cathy Fung will be organizing the trip (air, hotel, etc.) for casa members. If you are interested in attending this year's Encontro and would like your travel arrangements (air and / or hotel) made by Cathy, please contact her at (604) 263-0180 as soon as possible and no later than July 31<sup>st</sup>.

If you would like a copy of the hotels and prices in Macau, call Antonio Amante at (604) 218-1115.

## MACANESE IN SHANGHAI - 1930'S

These photos belonged to Leonard Rivero's mother, Alys Ferras-Rivero. Leonard can name only some of the people in this photo.

Do you see any-  
one you know? ➡



Ferras, Gaan and daSilva family - includes Leonard's Avo daSilva, mother Alys Ferras-Rivero, father Joe Rivero and Leonard (7 or 8 years old).

The young man laying down is Leonard's uncle (his mum's youngest brother) Mickey Ferras. Also in this photo are his uncles Manuel and Mario Ferras, aunts Bessie Ferras and Alice Gaan, as well as family friends Eddie & Connie Endyer, Francis & Marie Guterres.



Recognize anyone in  
this photo? ➡

Thanks for sharing  
these with us Leonard!

**APRIL ROCK N' ROLL**

Rocking and rolling at the April dinner / dance.

Rebecca & Antonio Amante



Isabel & Roy Ma



Lois Lim & Daniel Wong



Edwina Shuster & Ken Hayman



Francis & Marge da Costa

## ROCK N' ROLL (CONT'D)

After enjoying appetizers (tortilla chips kindly donated by Que Pasa), followed by a hearty meal, we still had room for dessert.

Not surprising, since dessert was an assortment of tasty home-made Macanese treats - a casa party is not complete without them.



The yummy desserts included:

Gummy Gummy Cakes - Marge da Costa & Gilly Marshall

Bagi - Maria King

Strawberry Pudding / Strawberries,  
Split Pea Coconut Pudding (ma dou ko),  
Pão de Leite - Rebecca Amante

Marble/Walnut Cakes, Coqueira,  
Bebinca de Leite, Chocolate Agar (tai  
choi ko) - Pat de Albuquerque

Hercia Delgado, Rebecca Amante & Pat de Albuquerque - three of our many hard-working volunteers.

Members sampling the various Macanese treats after dinner and some dancing.



## A PORTUGUESE/JAPANESES CONNECTION

by Frederico Gordo

I was born and educated in Japan, and speak Japanese fluently. I came to Canada in 1968, and remembered it to be a nice summer day. In 1993 I met Norie and we got married that same year.

The Gordos arrived in Japan about mid - 1800's from Portugal on the way to Macau. My grandfather on my father's side worked for the Hong Kong-Shanghai Bank in Yokohama and when a huge earthquake hit Yokohama in 1923 he was transferred to Kobe.

The Portuguese were the first westerners to land in Japan and they left their legacy in both the Japanese language and cuisine.

There are many ties and similarities between the Portuguese and Japanese that, as a Portuguese born and bred in Japan, I would like to share with you.

### 'The Tanegashima Rifle'

During the civil war in Japan in 1543, a Chinese ship that was carrying Portuguese, was shipwrecked on Tanegashima Island. Tanegashima Tokitaka bought two rifles from the Portuguese and had a blacksmith make more, using the two as models. This new weapon spread quickly all over the country, and at the famous battle of Nagashino in 1575 near Nagoya, Oda Nobunaga destroyed Takeda's troops with 1000 of these rifles.

### 'The origin of Castella (Sponge Cake)'

One of my favourite snack or dessert was kasutera or castella, a light sponge cake flavoured with honey - which is now a common dessert eaten by Japanese people today

### 'Japanese words of Portuguese Origin'

The Japanese adopted words from several countries, including Portugal, and especially

during the Muromachi Period (15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> century). For example, the very common word 'arigato' comes from the Portuguese 'obrigado' meaning 'thank you'.

### A Partial List of 'Loan Words'

<u>Japanese</u>	<u>Portuguese</u>	<u>English</u>
Arukoru	Alcool	Alcohol
Bateren	Padre	Priest
Biidoro	Vidro	Glass
Botan	Botão	Button
Buranko	Balanço	Swing
Furasuko	Frasco	Flask
Jouro	Jarro	Watering Can
Juban/Jiban	Jibão	Underwear
Kappa	Capa	Raincoat
Karuta	Carta	Playing Cards
Kirisuto	Christo	Christ
Kompeito	Confeito	Star-shaped candy
Pan	Pão	Bread
Pandoro	Pãodelo	Portuguese cake
Rozario	Rosario	Rosary
Tabako	Tobaco	Tobacco

The List of 'Loan Words' from: Wikipedia The Free Encyclopedia - Japanese words of Portuguese origin

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese\\_words\\_of\\_Portuguese\\_origin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_words_of_Portuguese_origin)

## THE LOST GENERATION OF MACANESE IN SHANGHAI

by Leonard Rivero

This article is a continuation of 'My Father and the Portuguese & Jewish Community in Shanghai' that appeared in the April issue of the Voz. Editor

With my father's increased prestige, he got involved in several business investments which increased our family's wealth to afford moving to an upscale apartment on Rue Pichon in French Town. Life was good until 1949 when the Communist took over Shanghai and made life difficult for all foreigners. Again, the British bosses left and all foreign owned businesses were nationalized by the new government. Not knowing what was going to happen, my father encouraged my mother to take me to Macau and wait for him until he could leave. We waited two years in Macau for my father who was not allowed to leave until he settled all business affairs for Dodwell & Co. and paid off the staff. When he finally was

allowed to leave, we met my father in Hong Kong. We then boarded a freighter to Japan where my father had been promised a job as a civilian working for the US Military as a Field Auditor during the Korean war.

Meanwhile, back in Shanghai most of the Portuguese men from Macau left for all parts of the world. Many Macanese families immigrated to San Francisco in the USA, some went to Vancouver and Toronto in Canada, and others went to Australia, Brazil and Portugal. However, there were many children and their unmarried mothers that were not permitted to leave so these Portuguese descendants blended into the Chinese society. Especially between 1966 to 1976, during Mao's Cultural Revolution, these children and grandchildren of Portuguese fathers were prejudiced

against by the Chinese population so they tended to hide their heritage by using their mother's family name and speaking only Chinese. Over the last 50 plus years, most of the descendants, their children and now many grandchildren have lost contact with their Portuguese ancestors and their heritage. I found several Portuguese descendants in Shanghai who knew little of their heritage, spoke only Chinese and had no contact whatsoever with their Portuguese ancestors. It was estimated that there may be as many as 1,000 Portuguese descendants living in Shanghai today. This story is not unique just for the Portuguese descendants as the same scenario applies to the British, French, Italian, German, Japanese and Americans that occupied Shanghai since the Boxer Rebellion of the early 1800.

## MARYKNOLL CONVENT SCHOOL REUNION



Happy cruising to Maryknoll Convent School alumni and casa members, Marge da Costa, Fernanda de Pinna Ho (accompanied by Humphrey and daughter Michelle), Hercia Delgado, Maria King, Teresa Shuster and Edwina Shuster. They are off to Los Angeles on August 3<sup>rd</sup> to attend the school's 6<sup>th</sup> World Wide Reunion, this time to be held aboard the Royal Caribbean cruise ship 'The Monarch of the Seas'. While sailing from Los Angeles to Ensenada, Mexico and back, they will be enjoying time with old friends, classmates, nuns and teachers (and undoubtedly some who are members of other casas from around the world).

Dear Members,

Due to lack of mobility and energy, I have regretfully declined to continue another term as 'Seniors' Representative for the Casa. I have been amiss in my duties during the past two years, due to an accident in 2005 thus failing to support the Seniors, especially at the picnics, and organizing the celebration for Mothers Day - my 'pet project' for many years.

Thank you all for your help and support during the past years.

Without a doubt you shall continue to have my support within my capability, consequently, I have joined the Phoning Committee, a task I can undertake from my present home.

A belated wish to Mothers in all the Casas de Macau - Good Health, Peace and Joy for many more years to come.

Sincerely,

Margie Rozario



### Dates to Remember

#### Next Meeting

- September 8, 2007

#### Fall Dinner / Dance

- October 13, 2007



### Casa Membership Renewal Fees

A reminder that the annual membership renewal fee for 2007 (which was increased this year to \$20) is now due.

The three month grace period ends on July 30, at which time the fee will increase to \$30 (\$20 plus the \$10 new member initiation fee).

### Welcome to Our New Members

Mr. João Leonel Dos Santos Heterland and Mrs. Anita Mak Dos Santos Heterland

Mr. Danny Leung and Mrs. Gabriella Dos Santos Heterland Leung

Mr. Steve Wong and Mrs. Antoinette Dos Santos Heterland Wong



This sad news was received just prior to press time:

Our long time member and good friend, Mr. Humberto Pires, at age 106, passed away peacefully on Sunday afternoon, July 8, 2007. Our sincerest condolences to the Pires family.

An obituary will appear in the next issue of the Voz.