



VOZ DOS MACAENSES DE VANCOUVER

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

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A MILESTONE FOR OUR CASA

by Antonio Amante

For the past six years, I have had numerous meetings and negotiations with Vitor Ng, Fundação Macau, with one mission in mind: to have a clubhouse for our Casa. After a lot of sweat and tears (literally), in June 2007, the funding for our sede was finally and officially approved.

In August 2007, Dr. Jose Rodrigues (APIM) and delegates came to Vancouver for an official visit, at which time the Protocol was signed by four

Casas in Canada, including ours. In addition to this, Dr. Rodrigues (on behalf of Fundação Macau) was to set up a legal procedure to transfer the approved funding of MOP\$7,000,000.00 to Vancouver, to be split 50/50 between the two Casas. Their visit brought a lot of joy and cherished moments to all of our members.

During their visit, our sede committee found the ideal premises for a clubhouse, and successfully made an offer. September 2007

will be remembered as a historic month and a major milestone for our Casa – **at last we have our own clubhouse.** Our dream has come true and from now on we will have a sede of our own to be filled with our fun, our laughter and our memories.

Our Casa is not only for now but also for the future and for many generations to come.

On behalf of the Sede Committee, the Executive, and the entire membership, I would like to express our sincerest and most heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Sebastião da Rosa (Secretary Finance, APIM), Ms. Patsy Hui (our Realtor), and Ms. Mimi Luk (our Lawyer), for their extraordinary support and hard work to help us overcome numerous obstacles and make the purchase of our clubhouse possible.

Our thanks and best wishes to them.

Antonio Amante

President

Voz funding from Fundação Oriente is gratefully acknowledged

APIM'S VISIT

by Rebecca Amante

APIM (Associação Promotora da Instrução dos Macaenses), made an official visit to Vancouver in August, during which Mr. Carlos Marreiros, a most distinguished architect in Macau, spoke about Heritage Buildings and Culture, at a Conference held at the Four Points Sheraton in Richmond,. He was joined by Dr. Jose Rodrigues, President of APIM, who spoke about the 'Patua' language and the need for mutual cooperation in the investigation and exchange of information and documents with the view of preserving and divulging the Macanese dialect. Both these talks preceded the signing of the Protocol with the four 'Casas de Macau' in Canada, represented by Mrs. Gloria

Anok, (Casa de Macau Toronto), Mr. Joe Chen (Macau Club Toronto), Mr. Sergio Pina (MCA), and Mr. Antonio Amante (Casa de Macau Club Vancouver). Present at the signing was Mr. João Laranjeira de Abreu, Consul Geral de Portugal.

This was followed by a buffet dinner hosted by Dr. Jose Rodrigues, and included such honorable guests as Mr. Li Baoguang, Deputy Consul-General, Republic of China and Mr. Wang Jian, Vice Consul, Republic of China.



Mrs. Rebecca Amante, Mr. Li Baoguang, Mr. Antonio Amante, Mr. Wang Jian & Mr. Carlos Marreiros



After signing the protocol - from left: Mr. Joe Chen (Macau Club Toronto), Mr. Sergio Pina (MCA), Mr. Sebastião da Rosa (APIM), Mr. Antonio Amante (Casa de Macau Club Vancouver) & Mrs. Gloria Anok (Casa de Macau Toronto)



Mr. Jose Achiam, Mr. Li Baoguang, Dr. Jose Manuel Rodrigues, Mr. Antonio Amante and our Realtor Ms. Patsy Hui

Mr. Luís Machado, Secretário-Geral, Conselho Das Comunidades Macaenses (CCM), who recently visited Vancouver with other members of the CCM and APIM (Associação Promotora Instituto Macaenses), met with a terrible car accident three days after his return to Macau. He was quite seriously injured and spent some time recuperating in hospital. However, we have just heard the good news that he has now been able to return to his home.

SUMMER FUN

by Alex King

As the summer of 2007 starts to wind down and transition into another rainy Vancouver autumn, memories of sun-filled days still like to linger with us – and one of those enjoyable days would have to be our annual Casa summer picnic & Meeting, held at Queens Park in New Westminster on July 14th.

Casa members and guests enjoyed a banquet of freshly-baked Portuguese buns, a variety of sausages, noodles, and all sorts of wonderful dishes. As always, lunch was capped off with a small ‘dessert’ of watermelon and sweets, including Pat’s delicious coconut oatmeal cookies.

Our club would like to thank all those who contributed in preparing for the picnic.

The summer weather held up for the event, and the shelter was necessary only for the line dancing and other events after the picnic lunch and meeting.

With its own casual charm to appeal to all Casa members and guests, we can only hope future annual Casa summer picnics will be equally successful.



APIM DINNER

by Pat de Albuquerque

Dr. Jose Manuel Rodrigues, President, APIM and his officials - Mr. Luís Machado, Mr. Sebastião da Rosa (accompanied by his wife Jenny), Mr. Jose Achiam, Ms. Fatima Poupinho, Mr. Daniel Ferreira, Mr. Carlos Marreiros (accompanied by his daughter Laura) were in Vancouver in early August when we feted them to a Chinese dinner in their honour.

The Toronto Casas' Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Gloria Anok and Mr. Joe Chen also graced us with their presence.

Despite their busy schedule, Dr. Jose Manuel Rodrigues and his Officers afforded our Casa the courtesy of accepting an invitation to dine with our Executives and members on Tuesday, August 7, 2007 at the Granville George Chinese Seafood Restaurant.

Antonio Amante, Dr. Jose Rodrigues, Mr. Carlos Marreiros, Rebecca Amante



Mrs. Jenny & Mr. Sebastião da Rosa, Aleixa Haslam, Mr. Daniel Ferreira



Ms. Fatima Poupinho, Edwina Shuster, Ms. Laura Marreiros



Mrs. Gloria Anok, Mr. Luís Machado, Monica de Carvalho



Cathy Fung, Mickey da Roza, Mr. Jose Achiam

Mr. Joe Chen, Charles Curry, Bill Renfro



APIM DINNER (CONT'D)

A few of the many members and guests enjoying the evening



The event was well attended by members who gave our honoured guests a rousing welcome. Dr. Rodrigues acknowledged with thanks and was pleased to see our members. He commented that our President, Antonio Amante, had worked very diligently towards acquiring the Clubhouse. To the members present, Dr. Rodrigues confirmed that arrangements had been made, and the funds will be here in time for the purchase of a Clubhouse. This naturally brought the 'house down' - amidst cheering and applause, it certainly made a great evening for Casa members all of whom were excited and smiling.

MAQUISTA CHAPADO

by Margie Rozario

"What is 'Patua', Grandma?" asked the little girl, and Grandma replied:

"Patua, also known as 'Maquista Chapado' is a language of Macau's Portuguese Creole. It is a most unique language widely spoken by the Macanese in days gone by, and now only understood by a few of the old timers."

Many families from Macau made their homes in Hong Kong for better work opportunities, and later anticipating the return of British Hong Kong to China, many families immigrated to Canada, America, Australia, England, and elsewhere, while some families stayed on in China and Japan.

'Filhos de Macau' are thus spread all over the world adopting the language and customs of their new world and losing their 'Maquista identity'.

In an effort to know more about this language, Mr. Mario Pinharanda

Nunes, Language Instructor, Universidade de Macau, paid a visit to our Casa to research the culture and language practiced by Macanese families, with those (above 65 years old) who originally came from Macau or Hong Kong, and who were willing to share with him their cultural and linguistic memories of their mother tongue.

Unfortunately this group of wonderful people will not be around much longer, and unless anthropologists and linguists get together soon with these communities and record their memories - a priceless part of mankind's cultural and linguistic heritage, they will be lost forever.

A group of Casa members gathered together with Mr. Nunes in an informal tête-à-tête and memories of not too genteel Macaense expressions flowed forth – exploding in hilarious laughter. Not all fun of course, with lots of time for

serious talks. Mr. Nunes interviewed several members individually and thanked everyone for their kind co-operation and was pleased and happy with the outcome of his visit.

We invited Mr. Nunes and his friend Mr. Custodio Cavaco Martins, also from Macau, to a buffet dinner at the River Rock Casino in Richmond. He was most appreciative of the hospitality and, perhaps, will make a second visit to complete his paper on the Macaense Patua. He was short of time this trip as he was visiting California before returning to Macau.

We very much enjoyed Mr. Nunes' visit and hope he will come again soon.

Website for University of Macau, Portuguese Department:

<http://www.umac.mo/fsh/dp/>



Casa members at the tête-à-tête with Mr. Nunes

Encontro Gastronomia

Congratulations to Rebecca Amante who won by a landslide vote to represent our casa at the Encontro Gastronomia.

Other nominees were:

Francis da Costa, Tessie Delgado, Cathy Fung, Angela Renfro, Angelina Rozario, Lyce Rozario and Rowena Tan.

IN HONOUR OF HUMBERTO PIRES

by Bert Dale Johnson



Humberto Pires, my grandfather, lived a long and fruitful life. He was the father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather of the members of the Pires Clan, a family group that

spanned five living generations. With his passing, the Pires Clan has lost its patriarch, and now only spans four living generations. He lived to the age of one hundred and six, and died naturally of old age.

Among Humberto's descendants are included seven children: Priscilla, Doreen, Gerardo, who passed away as a very young child, Francis, who passed away in mid-life, Reggie, Diana, and Sonny; also included among his descendants are more than sixty grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and, an ever-growing number of great-great-grandchildren.

Humberto was the man whom I most loved and admired in my life. He was loved and admired not only by me, but also by hundreds of people whom he touched during his life. To be one of his many descendants, or, to be the friend of such a man was a source of pride. To know him was to care for him.

There are so many reasons why Humberto was such a remarkable man that it is hard to decide where to begin; therefore, I will start from my point of reference, which is as his grandson.

To be a grandchild of Humberto was to know that there was someone who always loved you, remembered you, who made you feel special, and would never be critical. Never once did I or my brothers and sisters go a year without receiving both birthday cards and Christmas presents. I cannot remember a single time that he was ever angry with me.

Humberto was a true 'cavalheiro', the Portuguese word for gentleman. His kindness, good humour, and his sense of fairness and compassion were as much a part of him as the body which carried him so faithfully and healthily through his many, many years of life.

I have often heard stories of when my mother, Diana, and her brothers and sisters were children, where Humberto's sense of fairness led him to be stricter with his own family than with those outside of his family, or, his compassion for others led him to take something away

from his own children in order to share it with someone less fortunate. Children do not easily understand the principles underlying such actions until they grow older, when they find themselves emulating the very same principles – much to the chagrin of their own children.

Humberto was born in the Portuguese colony of Macao, located at the mouth of the Pearl River about two hours by high-speed ferry from the former British Colony of Hong Kong, where he raised his family before and after WW II. During the war, he returned to Macao with his family.

Although he was born far from Portugal, his nationality and his mother tongue were both Portuguese. It is from this Portuguese heritage, that we of the Pires Clan get our love of Latin rhythms and hot Latin nature.

Having grown up in Macao, Humberto also spoke Macanese, which, today, is spoken by no more than several thousand people. Macanese might best be described as a Portuguese Creole – a language based on Portuguese with many words borrowed from the local Chinese dialects. When my grandmother, Evelyn, was still alive, I often heard her and my grandfather suddenly start chattering in a mixture of Macanese and Portuguese that only the two of them shared.

Having raised his family in Hong Kong, he was as fluent in English as in Portuguese, and having been a man of his place and time, he learned to speak Cantonese, the dialect of the local Chinese people of Hong Kong and Macao.

As a child, I loved to wander through the Chinatowns of Vancouver and Victoria with my grandfather and my family listening to him banter in Cantonese with the merchants, or ordering the most delicious food in Chinese restaurants.

Another thing that I loved when I was a child was visiting my grandparents. We would always visit during some important holiday of the year such as Christmas or Easter, when there would inevitably be a Pires Clan gathering, which included my aunts and uncles, cousins, and whomever of my great aunts

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HUMBERTO PIRES (CONT'D)

and uncles were still alive.

These gatherings were lively affairs with a great deal of heated discussion between the adults, and children playing with their favorite cousins. The gatherings always included a feast of fabulous cakes, curries, meat dishes, rice, cookies, hors d'oeuvres, puddings, jellied chocolate, and Baji (pronounced "Bonjee" by children), which is a sweet, moist coconut rice cake. Every one of these dishes, without fail, would be prepared perfectly by my grandfather and grandmother, who somehow magically brought them all into existence, and still managed to host the gathering with their full attention. My grandfather was the best cook I have ever known.

Within these few paragraphs, there is barely space to touch upon the wonderful qualities that my grandfather, Humberto, embodied or the accomplishments that exemplify his kind and gentlemanly character. However, it would not be possible to write of my grandfather without referring to the love of his life – his Evelyn, my grandmother.

Humberto's heart was faithful to my grandmother, Evelyn, for more than seventy years of marriage, and, after she passed away more than ten years ago, his heart remained faithful. After she passed away, he yearned everyday for the paradise where he would join her after he left his earthly life. He would

have gladly gone before her, but he was the stronger of the two. I am sure that he could not have borne the heartache that she would have suffered if she had been left alone without him.

Many people wonder what the secret to long life is, and when they hear the story of my grandfather's long life, without fail, they always remark upon the good quality of the Pires Clan genes. Nevertheless, it is not only the genes, but also the person himself or herself that ultimately determines the result.

Although my grandfather suffered a great loss with the passing of my grandmother, and grieved deeply, he never lost those qualities that were basic to his nature. He continued to love the important people in his life, he did not worry about insignificant issues, he was always courteous, always a generous host and gracious guest, maintained his good humour, and made jokes up until the last days of his life.

Even during the last few years of his life, when he would sometimes become confused, or, as his short-term memory grew weak, and he would ask the same questions over again, he was always himself. The force of his character and his kind nature still shone through. If I grow old, but possess only half the good qualities that my grandfather, Humberto Pires, embodied, I would count my life a great success.

Executive Committee Changes

Bill Renfro has been acclaimed as our new Treasurer, effective as of September 8, 2007 (at our last meeting), following the resignation of Charles Curry. Charles has provided valuable service to the club these past few years as our Treasurer, despite his busy personal schedule.

Also retiring recently, from her position as Parliamentarian, is Aleixa Haslam who has successfully been keeping us 'to order'. Her position is yet to be filled.

Our sincere thanks to both Charles and Aleixa.

A warm welcome Bill, to the Executive Committee.

Welcome New Members

- Mrs. Amelia Amante
- Mrs. Fernanda Carlos
- Mr. Bino Huns



Sede Grand Opening!
Watch for this eventful day early in 2008



Dates to Remember

Next Meeting

- November 10, 2007

Events

- New Year's Eve
 December 31, 2007