

BOLETIM MACAENSE

A Publication of the Macau Cultural Association
(Casa de Macau) of Western Canada
"A Primeira Casa de Macau em Canada"
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The Macau Cultural Association ("A Primeira Casa de Macau em Canada") is a non-profit organization founded in the autumn of 1989 for the cultivation of Macanese culture, heritage and interest. It is the first such association established here in Canada and forms an integral part of the network of "Casas de Macau" established throughout the world. Sister organizations are located in major cities like Lisbon, Toronto, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, San Francisco, Hong Kong and Sydney.

Our Association Website is located at www.casademacau.net
Explore our website for information of activities
"Click" into our "Photo" section and view the very many photographs

April 2006

EDITORIAL

The views and opinions expressed in this and other editorials are those of the Editor alone and may not be construed as being the official position of, and/or endorsement by the Macau Cultural Association.

A letter from Casa de Macau Club has been received and, as expected, there was little or no spirit of co-operation coming from the Club. Our response has come direct from our President, Mr. Sergio Rui da Pina (See ENCLOSURE 1).

The Club's letter dated March 15 attempted to give the impression that our Association has succumbed to accepting the Club's terms for the good of the Macanese Community. A copy of the two-paged letter ostensibly written by Antonio Amante is attached (See ENCLOSURE 2) to this newsletter. It is clear however that he did not write that letter himself and had received perhaps some outside assistance. What will members of the Club think of a president who is incapable of, or was not permitted even to write his own letters?

Let us first and foremost make our position absolutely clear to everyone even remotely interested. We have made several concerted efforts to reconcile our differences but these have been made only for the sake of Rocha Vieira, the last Governor of Macau under Portuguese administration, Dra. Gabriela Cesar, former President of the Foundation for the Co-operation and Development of Macau, and more recently, Mr. Victor NG, President of Fundacao Macao. These genuine attempts at reconciliation by our Association have been rebuffed and rejected by the Club over and over again and we are just getting nowhere with our efforts at possible reconciliation. Officials of the Club have been told on numerous occasions in the past that our Association would really be better off calling the whole thing off because the Club is just not serious about any reconciliation and is still playing games with us.

Our most recent proposal was made vide our letter dated 28 February and suggested that the two Presidents should have an initial and preliminary meeting on 24 March (nearly a month's prior notice) to discuss various options for possible future meetings. Playing games again, the Club counter proposed with a specific number of conditions for any possible meeting.

One condition was also to change the date of our preliminary meeting from 24 March to Saturday or Sunday 1 or 2 April even though we gave them ample prior notice for the 24 March meeting. It seems that they must have the final say on everything.

The Club makes reference to inaccuracies in our most recent letter and to various Association newsletters in the past. What they refer to as inaccuracies are in reality **grievances we have with the Club** which, in our opinion, are fully justified. In the eleven years our two associations have been at loggerheads we have not seen nor heard anything from the Club to provide an explanation for their actions and behavior with regard to those grievances; much less apologizing for all the insults thrown at us. Over time we have expressed these grievances in a concise and logical manner but the Club has not had the decency to offer any explanation for their actions and completely irrational behavior.

To illustrate what we are driving at we repeat, for your information as follows:

1. The troublemakers in the Club attempted to bring in new members just prior to the elections in November 1994 for the sole purpose of getting themselves elected into office. Will the Club please explain how their irrational behavior can be construed as being helpful to the concept of "ONE UNITED MACANESE COMMUNITY"? AND be beneficial for the good of the Macanese Community?
2. Having failed in (1) above the troublemakers then attempted to have our By-Laws changed ON THE SPOT to permit their friends and supporters to be accepted immediately as members of the Association AND to be permitted immediately to vote in the elections that were actually taking place at the time. Will the Club please explain how these By-Laws can be changed to allow their friends and supporters to take part in the elections AND how such behavior can be construed as being helpful to the concept of "ONE UNITED MACANESE COMMUNITY"?
3. Having failed in (1) and (2) above these troublemakers then attempted to have the elections declared null and void. Will the Club please explain how such action would be for the good of the Macanese Community?
4. These troublemakers then refused to accept the democratic results of the elections and started to misbehave in an attempt to disrupt the meeting. Will the Club please explain how such behavior would be for the good of the Macanese Community?
5. These troublemakers refused to accept established rules of law that "changes" can only come about in a democratic society under the provision of established rules and By-Laws. Will the Club please explain how their behavior and action would have been for the good of the Macanese Community?
6. The troublemakers then decided, without any justification, to break away from our Association and to establish their own club. In a relatively small city as Vancouver, there is absolutely no reason or justification for a second club to be established. Will the Club please explain their reasons for their ill-conceived decision for going ahead to form their own club? AND how such action would have been for the good of the Macanese Community and support the "ONE UNITED MACANESE COMMUNITY" concept?
7. Following their decision to form their own club they proceeded to "borrow" (?) the Association's membership list and use it to poach and to persuade our members into joining their club. (We are fully aware that this practice of "poaching" is still going on to this very day). Will Casa de Macau Club please provide some justification for doing this? AND to explain how such action can be construed as being for the good of the Macanese Community?
8. The troublemakers attempted to justify their actions by claiming that they were unable to agree with the "focus and direction" that the Macau Cultural Association was taking. Is the Club not aware that there are processes within each and every organization for "changes" to be made in a democratic manner? Was it really necessary to break away or was there some other reason, such as possibly wanting to lay their hands on the money, behind their actions? Will the Club also explain how their ill-conceived action in breaking away, has

contributed in any way to the unity of the Macanese Community? AND would have been for the good of the concept of "ONE UNITED MACANESE COMMUNITY"?

9. Following its "break away", activities initiated by the Club were no different from those offered by our own Association. Even the Club's own By-Laws are, in essence, similar to those of our Association. From our observation, the Club has merely parroted the very same activities conducted by our Association. Will the Club please explain how their duplicated activities have been for the good of the Macanese Community? AND how they contributed to the concept of "ONE UNITED MACANESE COMMUNITY"?
10. These same troublemakers threatened to sue the Macau Cultural Association over its use of the words "Casa de Macau em Vancouver". Casa de Macau Club has the legal and propriety rights ONLY to the name under which the Club is officially registered. The Macau Cultural Association's official name included the generic words "Casa de Macau" and the Club threatened to deny us the use of our own name, a name used by the Association long before the Casa de Macau Club even came into existence. What makes this action strange is the fact that the threat to sue the Association was initiated and came from a former Club President who is a "notary public" by profession and who really should have known better. Will the Club please explain the reasons behind the Club's action in threatening to sue our Association over this matter? Will the Club also explain how their actions helped the concept of "ONE UNITED MACANESE COMMUNITY"?
11. The Editor of the Club's newsletter published a highly insulting editorial on its webpage in January 1998 for the whole world to view and read his extremely disparaging remarks. He referred to members of the Association as "dumb donkeys" and "mere puppets who have no minds of their own". Remarks of a personal nature have no place in a civilized society and we understand that quite a few members of the Club also voiced their strong objections to the Club's editorial being published. But the author of that editorial has flatly and stubbornly refused to offer an apology or to issue a formal retraction on the club's webpage. Just quietly removing the offending article from the webpage is just not enough. However, we cannot help but note now that those disparaging remarks also applied to Antonio Amante who at that time was a member of our Association. So now we have conceivably a "dumb donkey" as President of the Casa de Macau Club? We are not calling Antonio Amante a "dumb donkey"; we are merely quoting one Michael Guterres, the Club's Webmaster on this one. Despite this Antonio Amante became a "turn coat" to later join the Club for personal reasons. In any case, will the Club please explain how such behavior and action in producing the offending editorial can be construed as being helpful to the cause of "ONE UNITED MACANESE COMMUNITY" so widely bandied about by the Club?
12. Casa de Macau Club keeps declaring to everyone worldwide that they are in favor of the concept "ONE UNITED MACANESE COMMUNITY". WILL THE CLUB please explain to all of us worldwide and offer some reasonable explanation as to why the Club does not practice what they preach?
13. We could go on and on but honestly there is just no point to continue with all this nonsense. Each and every time Casa de Macau Club responds to our overtures they are simply playing games in attempting to dictate **their** terms for any contemplated settlement and meeting with our Association. This has got to stop and Casa de Macau Club must, first of all, answer all the questions posed to them under (1) to (12) above OR face the possibility that there will be just be no further meetings between our two organizations.

There is simply no point in arranging further meetings as the Club just refuses point

blank to co-operate with our Association on any possible joint acquisition of a club house, **Besides, and this is very important, sharing a clubhouse jointly under these circumstances will only serve to perpetuate the problems we have had with the Club over the past eleven years.** We are no longer prepared to do this. We refuse to be drawn into any attempt by Casa de Macau Club to try and make a fool of Fundacao Macau and the Macau S.A.R. into believing that all is tranquil and peaceful in Vancouver and which would then permit the Club to get their hands on the money set aside for a Macau Cultural Center. That is not the case as, in our minds, there is simply no unity in Vancouver. As a consequence the Macanese Community in Vancouver perhaps does not deserve to have a Macau Cultural Center and we are saying this BLUNTLY. It would perhaps be far better if the funds earmarked for the Center in Vancouver be withdrawn and used for more worthwhile projects in Macau BUT not anywhere else.

It may not be well known but these troublemakers who initiated the “break away” have been responsible for all of the troubles that have plagued Vancouver since the end of 1994. They are what we, in our Association, refer to sometimes as the “old guard”. They are made up of troublemakers who all came from three or possibly four families forming an unholy “nepotism” at its very worst. We attach at ENCLOSURE 3 a one-paged list of the Club’s official office bearers (as issued by the Club in early 1995) to stress our point.

It should be obvious by now to Fundacao Macau, A.P.I.M. and other institutions in Macau and most of the Casas established throughout the world that the two organizations in Vancouver will not be able to reach consensus on the acquisition of a clubhouse amicably. We know that the Macanese community overseas is an invaluable asset and treasure to Macau. We know this fact because we have played our part as an unofficial Ambassador in promoting Macau continuously through our monthly newsletters and our Association is the only Casa de Macau worldwide to produce a monthly newsletter. We use that vehicle to promote Macau in the eyes of the world and to create a positive image of our beloved Macau. **We believe most strongly that one must choose interests for the good of the Macanese community over those for personal interests.**

In the final analysis our Association would dearly want a clubhouse for the Macanese Community in Vancouver but under the present circumstances, this will inevitably and undoubtedly cause the existing ill feelings between the Club and our Association to spill over into any such clubhouse. There must be a better way to resolve this. This would never have happened but for the behavior of the troublemakers who decided to break away from our Association without any reasonable justification many years ago.

What’s Been Happening?

Our Association has been around for over 16 years and our success is partially due to the fact that we aim to keep our members informed of what is going on within our own little community. Sometimes it gets a bit rough having to deal with the antics of the other club. Frankly we would prefer to be left alone and not having to contend with those antics. As we come to the end of March we would like very much to give members a brief outline of what has gone before us and what is in the cards in the coming weeks as follows: -

5 March 2006 Mahjong Social: This was attended by about 30 members, mostly mahjong players and a few camp followers, who all enjoyed an afternoon tea followed by a fabulous dinner consisting of a “chicken curry” produced by Josefina do Rosario and a less spicy “tempera pastel” produced by Luigi Souza on March 5, 2006.

9 March 2006 U.B.C. Lecture: Our Association President, Sergio Rui da Pina was invited by Professor Alexandra Henriques, Lecturer at U.B.C., to give a lecture in Portuguese at her Portuguese Language Class at U.B.C. on March 9, 2006. “Macau” was the Theme of the Day and Sergio was helped by several Association members who assisted in the preparation of the class with posters etc. to reflect “Macau” as the Theme of the Day. It turned out to be a very successful and worthwhile experience for everyone who participated. ***An article produced by Alexandra Henriques about taking Portuguese classes in Vancouver is, due to space constraints this month, only available on request. However, we hope to have a copy of that article reproduced next month for more general distribution.***

Mid-March 2006 Association Webpage Update: Paulo Batalha da Conceicao, Association Webmaster, despite being down with a bout of “flu”, updated our webpage and in particular introduced a ‘printer-friendly’ version of photographs for our newsletter and the webpage. The site is back to being “useful” again and those visiting the site will have news about MCA activities and future events as well. We are grateful to Paulo for his tremendous work in updating our Webpage.

19 March 2006 - General Meeting: About 24 members turned up for our General Meeting on 19 March 2006. Professor Alexandra Henriques, Portuguese and French Language Lecturer at U.B.C. was present as our special honored guest. She even showed an interest in the game of Mahjong and indicated that she might like to attend the next Mahjong Social on 2 April 2006.

Members were informed that Metropolis Community Room has been reserved for our Association meetings in May – August 2006 but meeting times may vary slightly and members are asked to seek confirmation from our Secretary, Josefina do Rosario in due course.

Our Association Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2005 were passed and so were the accounts for the month of February 2006.

Members present were informed that Jose Santos, Odete Sousa, and David & Nancy NG have been admitted as new members into our Association.

Members were advised that there would be no monthly meeting in April because of the long Easter Break.

A “Greek Dinner” will be held instead on 19 April 2006 at the “Mad Greek Restaurant” Located on 7260 Westminster Highway in Richmond commencing at 7.00 p.m. Members who join the dinner event will pay for their own choice of food but will qualify for a \$5 members’ rebate. The list will close on Wednesday 12 April 2006 and Helen Xavier will handle the registrations.

The meeting was adjourned at 3.30 p.m. and members present had afternoon tea provided by:

Josefina do Rosario	Coconut tarts	Gemma Gillis	Sausage Rolls
Helen Xavier	Cheese Toast	Ana Tellis	Genete
Paulina Brown	Cookies	Patsy Jorge	Pasta
Delcie Souza	also Genete	Luiz Souza	Samosas & Rum Cake

We hope we have left no names out and we hope everyone enjoyed the food organized by the Association.

BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

We wish to extend birthday greetings to the following members who are celebrating their birthdays some time in April: -

Patricia Jorge
Rosalind Marie Yee-HSU
Jules Siron
Donald Gillis
Peter da Silva

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2 April 2006 – Mahjong Social: We expect about 4 or 5 mahjong tables plus a number of camp followers to raise the number of members attending this event to about 30. The main courses will be prepared by Josefina do Rosario and possibly assisted by Luiz Souza and Patsy Jorge. As customary there might be food contributions by other members as well.

We guarantee members will have a wonderful time.

19 April 2006 - “Mad Greek Dinner” at 7.00 p.m.

22-30 April 2006 – Members’ Reno Bus Trip

7 May 2006 – Mahjong Social More information to be announced later.

21 May 2006 – Monthly Meeting - Double check meeting times with Josefina do Rosario.

Until next month,
Luiz M. Souza, MBE AE
Vice President & Editor
Macau Cultural Association
(Casa de Macau) of Western Canada
“A Primeira Casa de Macau em Canada”

1 April 2006. (APRIL FOOL’S DAY)

COPY

Macau Cultural Association
ENCLOSURE 1
March 2006 Newsletter

Mr. Antonio Amante
President
Casa de Macau Club
P.O. Box 78087 Northside
Port Coquitlam, BC V3B 7H5

March 26, 2006

Dear Sir,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 15, 2006.

The disturbing tone and wording in your letter under reply reveal that you and the so called leaders of your Club, have no desire, intention nor the sincerity to hold any constructive and progressive discussions with a view of finalizing or realizing any remote possibility of acquiring a clubhouse in the Vancouver area.

You and a small number of your members caused all the pain and heartaches when you broke away and separated from our Association. The Macanese Community in Vancouver continues to suffer.

Your disgraceful decision and actions are well known in the entire Macanese Community throughout the Macanese Diaspora around the world, that we feel it is completely unnecessary to go into any of the shameful and embarrassing details involving some of the actions perpetrated by some of your members or so called leaders of the past.

Having stated these facts, we now turn to the important matter at hand which is the project of the planned joint acquisition of a clubhouse.

The initial proposals made in our letter of 28 February 2006 will remain unchanged, except for the date of the meeting between the two Presidents, which will now be set for 26 April 2006. The time and venue to be arranged by the two Presidents personally.

We reiterate clearly that our past and present position which is to make a concerted effort to reconcile our differences for the sake of the former Governor General V. Rocha Vieira, under the previous Portuguese administration, Dra. Gabriela Cesar, the former President of the F.C.D.M., and more recently, Dr. Victor NG, current President of the Fundacao Macau.

These attempts at reconciliation have been rejected time and again by your Club, and frankly, by your negative behavior, we have to assume that your Club has neither the desire nor the wish to see this project of the clubhouse come to fruition.

With the poor and negative attitude displayed by you and your members, there is no point in arranging further meetings as you are not willing to co-operate with us on the joint acquisition of the clubhouse in any way, unless you place unacceptable conditions even before we sit down to meet and discuss anything. Sharing a clubhouse will merely perpetuate the problems we have encountered with your Club for over ten years. In view of this, we, at the Macau Cultural Association, are not prepared to join forces with your Casa de Macau Club in any attempt at duping the Government of Macau S.A.R., or any of its Authorities or Foundations into believing that all is well in Vancouver, and to take the money and run, as it has perhaps been the case elsewhere.

There is no unity in Vancouver, and as such, we do not deserve to have a "Macau Cultural Centre", and we should not mislead Dr. Victor NG of the Fundacao Macau, or for that matter any other Authorities in the Government of Macau S.A.R. and anyone else in the Diaposra around the world.

Yours truly,

Sergio Rui da Pina
President
Macau Cultural Association (Casa de Macau) of Western Canada

- c.c. Dr. Victor NG, President, Fundacao Macau
- c.c. Dr. Jose M. de O. Rodrigues. President of APIM & CCM
- c.c. Members of the Executive Council, Macau Cultural Association
- c.c. Mr. Luiz M. Souza, MBE AE, Editor, Boletim Macaense

COPY

Macau Cultural Association
ENCLOSURE 2
March 2006 Newsletter

Casa de Macau Club
P.O.Box 78087, Northside
Port Coquitlam, BC
Canada V3B 7H5

15 March 2006.

Macau Cultural Association
P.O. Box 97197, Station Main
Richmond B.C. V6Y 4H4

Attn: Sergio Rui da Pina, President

Re: Joint Acquisition of a clubhouse

We are glad that you are finally heeding our urges to come to terms with us for the good of our Macanese Community. We refer to your Association's letter dated February 28, 2005 on the above subject.

Your letter contained inaccuracies, and so did your Association's various newsletters, on the stance and position which the Casa de Macau Club Vancouver (hereinafter called CASA) has been taking on the subject matter. Since the CASA's stand and position and what took place between your Association and CASA are not unknown to the Macanese Community in Vancouver, the ten Casas in other countries, Dr. Jose Rodrigues (President, A.P.I.M.) and Dr. Victor NG (President, Fundacao Macau, we have no wish to correct those inaccuracies here. We trust the discriminating abilities of these gentlemen and our fellow Macanese communities.

To ensure that both sides can contribute constructively towards the matter and also to be able to see the project through to completion, we propose the following:-

1. The CASA will be represented by a "SEDE COMMITTEE" consisting of the President (the undersigned), and two Appointed Executives. We suggest the same arrangement for your Association. The SEDE COMMITTEE will attend the initial meeting and all subsequent and on-going meetings.

2. Minutes will be tape recorded for accuracies and agree on for each meeting. The CASA will appoint a Secretary to attend all meetings.
3. Both the CASA and your Association should prepare its own agenda on the proposed joint clubhouse, covering the initial acquisition, future operation and on-going supervision and management of the joint clubhouse. The 2 respective agendas will be tabled for discussion at the initial meeting.
4. Issues for discussion at the initial, subsequent, and on-going meetings will be strictly limited to those pertaining to the joint acquisition and subsequent running of the joint Clubhouse.
5. Our sede Committee is unavailable on March 24, 2006 (Friday) for the initial meeting. We would therefore propose the following Saturday April 1, 2006 or Sunday April 2, 2006, at a venue to be agreed upon by the two Presidents.

Please review the above and let us have your response soonest. We look forward to a constructive initial meeting and a mutually rewarding co-operation “FOR THE GOOD AND THE WELL BEING OF MACANESE COMMUNITY IN VANCOUVER/LOWER MAINLAND” as you quoted.

(Signed)

Antonio Alberto Carlos Amante

President, Casa de Macau Club Vancouver.

Copy:

Dr. Victor NG (President, Fundacao Macau)

Dr. Jose Rodrigues (President, A.P.I.M.)

Executives of Casa de Macau Club Vancouver

Sede Committee, CASA

Casa de Macau Club - Office Bearers - Early 1995
Nepotism Galore

Executive Committee Members

01.	President	John Carvalho	Son-in-law to (15), husband of (10), & Brother-in-law to (11)
02.	Senior V.P.	Robert Guterres	Brother to (04) & (19), & Husband to (22)
03.	2 nd V.P.	Gilberto Gomes	Brother-in-law to (18), & Husband to (13)
04.	Treasurer	Michael Guterres	Brother to (02) & (19), & Brother-in-law to (22)
05.	Secretary	Marizinha Duguay	Sister to (07) & (14), & Sister-in-law to (12)
06.	Hon. V.P.	Meno Baptista	Bosom friend to (1)
07.	Parliamentarian	Rick Rozario	Brother to (05) & (14), & Husband to (12)

Sub-Committees Representatives

08.	Youth/Sports/Rec	Leon Renfro	Related to (03)
09.	- do -	Paulo Gomes	Related to (13)
10.	Special Events	Monica Carvalho	Daughter to (15); sister to (11), & Wife of (01)
11.	Special Events	Marge da Costa	Daughter to (15); sister to (10); & Wife of (21)
12.	Social	Lyce Rozario	Sister-in-law to (05) & (14), & Wife of (07)
13.	Social	Anita Gomes	Wife of (03)
14.	Social	Angelina Rozario	Sister to (05) & (07), & Sister-in-law to (12)
15.	Seniors	Anne Remedios	Mother of (10) & (11), & Mother-in-law of (01) & (21)
16.	Seniors	Margie Rozario	Prime mover of dissident group
17.	Membership	Mickey da Roza	Brother to (20)
18.	Membership	Bill Renfro	Brother-in-law to (03)
19.	Fund Raising	George Guterres	Brother to (02) & (04), & Brother-in-law to (22)
20.	Fund Raising	Robert da Roza	Brother to (17)
21.	Culture/Education	Francis da Costa	Son-in-law to (15); husband of (11); & Brother-in-law to (10)
22.	Culture/Education	Catherine Guterres	Wife of (02); & Sister-in-law to (04) & (19)

These individuals decided to break away from the Macau Cultural Association simply because they failed, democratically or otherwise, to get elected in November 1994. AND yet they have the audacity to claim to the whole world at large that they are in favour of a "ONE UNITED MACANESE COMMUNITY". Their actions are totally inconsistent with the view they claim to uphold. Casa de Macau Club was formed and controlled by these dissidents who, as you can see, practically all come from the same three or possibly four families.