

BOLETIM MACAENSE

A Publication of the Macau Cultural Association
(Casa de Macau) of Western Canada
A Casa de Macau PRINCIPAL em Vancouver
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Casa de Macau – Vancouver (Macau Cultural Association) is a non-profit organization founded in the autumn of 1989 for the cultivation of Macanese culture, heritage and interest. It is the very first such association established in Vancouver 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
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JUNE 2006

EDITORIAL

For this month we are going back to the formation of our roots in Vancouver. Originally the Orient Foundation (Fundacao Oriente) in Lisbon started the “ball” rolling by addressing a letter through the Portuguese Consul in Vancouver to Mr. Carlos Cordeiro (one of the Founding Members and later to become the first President) at Casa de Macau – Vancouver, to suggest the creation of a club for residents from Macau. The letter was addressed as follows: - Senor Carlos Cordeiro, Presidente de “Casa de Macau em Vancouver”.

Although we were registered in Victoria as the Macau Cultural Association, we were well known as “Casa de Macau – Vancouver” by a number of departments of the Macau Government; by the Orient Foundation in Lisbon, Portugal, and by other institutions and bodies worldwide and we have been addressed by that name for a number of years prior to that time. It seems strange that some of the troublemakers, who were previously members of the Executive of Casa de Macau - Vancouver (Macau Cultural Association), have chosen to deny or to ignore the fact a name change was initiated in February 2003.

At an international meeting of the Macanese communities from around the world held in Macau in November 1993 Casa de Macau em Vancouver (Macau Cultural Association) participated in the discussions, seminars and forums. We were given the floor to speak as representatives of Casa de Macau – Vancouver (Macau Cultural Association).

For the first four years of our existence we did not have much in the way of funds except from the small membership dues and other monies generated from within the Casa de Macau – Vancouver. Despite this we were a happy and united little community of Macanese individuals living in Vancouver and the rest of the Lower Mainland.

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At the 1st Encontro held in Macau in November 1993 Casa de Macau – Vancouver (Macau Cultural Association) was lead by Rene Ozorio and Laura Cordeiro, President and Vice President respectively. In all the discussions, seminars, and forums that took place we were recognized and referred to as Casa de Macau – Vancouver (Macau Cultural Association)

In early 1994, for the first time ever Casa de Macau – Vancouver (Macau Cultural Association) received a monetary grant from the Macau Government. Then in May of that same year Fundacao Oriente in Lisbon, Portugal offered financial support and sponsorship to a number of Macanese associations around the world.

Casa de Macau – Vancouver (Macau Cultural Association) were also promised funds to plan and develop a Macanese Community Center or a clubhouse. Mr. Carlos Monjardino, Executive Chairman of the Orient Foundation stated: - "Equal funds will be granted by STDM and the Orient Foundation for two "sede social" in Canada; one for the Casa de Macau - Vancouver (Macau Cultural Association) in Vancouver and the other for Casa de Macau in Toronto. Our Association even commissioned a local architect "Cairns Architect Planner" to produce a site concept plan for a club house to be named "Casa de Macau" in anticipation of a possible visit by the Executive Chairman of the Orient Foundation to Vancouver in the summer of 1994. However, the visit by Dr. Monjardino failed to materialize.

Meanwhile we continued to receive numerous correspondence addressed to 'Casa de Macau de Vancouver' In January 1995, for example, we received a letter from "Governor de Macau – Gabinete do Governador" in Macau addressed to "Casa de Macau em Vancouver – Macau Cultural Association" There is therefore no doubt in our minds that we have represented, acted and spoken as "Casa de Macau em Vancouver (Macau Cultural Association)" for a number of years.

The granting of a subsidy from the Macau Government and the promise of financial support by the Orient Foundation to finance a clubhouse seemed to signal and trigger the breakdown of the unity that had prevailed in Vancouver and lead to a power struggle culminating in a hotly contested election that took place in November 1994. Is it not a great coincidence that the subsidy from Macau and the promise of a "sede social" from Fundacao Oriente, both involving money for our Association **brought about a conspiracy and a hostile takeover bid by a bunch of troublemakers lead principally by Margie Rozario, and some of whom had previously shown little or no interest in the affairs of our institution.** These are all covered in great detail vide Casa de Macau – Vancouver (Macau Cultural Association's "OPEN LETTER" and "OPEN LETTER No. 2", both published recently.

What really irks us is the fact that the troublemakers claim that they broke away because they could not agree with the focus and direction of Casa de Macau – Vancouver (Macau Cultural Association) and yet they chose the name "Casa de Macau Club" despite the fact that we were already known as "Casa de Macau – Vancouver". **WHY DO THEY WANT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH A NAME SO CLOSELY RELATED TO AN ORGANIZATION WHOSE FOCUS AND DIRECTION THEY CLAIM THEY CANNOT AGREE WITH?**

Since the troublemakers broke away in 1995 there has been several attempts by our Association at reconciliation but without success. This is due to the confusing way these troublemakers come across in expressing their views and purposes. They have failed to express their real position and have failed to provide even a plausible explanation as to why they separated in the first place. We are still hearing about this new focus and direction but concrete examples are just not forthcoming from the Club.

And having practically usurped the name "Casa de Macau" from us, **the Club had the audacity to threaten to sue us for using a name we had been using for a number of years from around 1989 to 1995 and long before the Club was even established.** To illustrate exactly what we mean by the Club's audacity and unwarranted behavior we attach for your information a copy of Casa de Macau Club's letter dated 18 December 1997, just a week before Christmas, signed by Mrs. Fernanda A. de Pinna HO, President of Casa de Macau Club.

The latest Club fallacy comes from the prime mover of the troublemakers herself as Margie Rozario also grabs our attention this month. **She now alleges that the name "Casa de Macau" was never used by MCA before Casa de Macau Club was officially registered in March 1995!!** We simply ask our members, friends and readers to read and peruse the opening paragraphs of this Editorial and to make up their own minds as to who is stretching the truth on this relatively simple matter.

Margie also claims that she paid a personal visit to the home of Luiz Souza in early 1995. At that point in time Luiz was not even a member of the MCA Committee; he joined the executive in 1996. **Now if Margie is not the prime mover in the Club, then why did she pay that visit to him? Was it not to persuade him to change his stripes and to "stab" Laura Cordeiro in the back in the same way Margie herself did a couple of months earlier?** If Margie was really sincere should she not have approached a member of the "elected" committee? The question remains as to why she paid Luiz Souza a visit when he was just an ordinary member and NOT a member of the MCA Committee.

We can say, without any reservations, that Casa de Macau em Vancouver (Macau Cultural Association) is recognized worldwide as the principal Casa de Macau institution in Vancouver. END OF EDITORIAL.

In support of our contention that our Association is not the guilty party in this dispute we attach herewith for your information: -

1. A two-paged Editorial produced by Laura Cordeiro concerning the conspiracy lead by Margie Rozario (Madam X) in the months leading to the Elections in November 1994 and which lead to the breakaway in March 1995.
2. A recent two-paged letter addressed to the "Jornal Tribuna de Macau" responding to Antonio Amante's correspondence to Macau. We think very little of "turncoats" who seem capable of changing their allegiance at the drop of a hat.
3. Casa de Macau Club's letter dated 18 December 1997 threatening legal proceedings against our Association for making use of the words "Casa de Macau – Vancouver"; a name that our Association has been using since its very formation in 1989. It should be noted that Casa de Macau Club came into existence officially only in March 1995. Maybe our Association should have been the one to sue the Club instead.
4. A letter written by Tony da Rosa of Trade Wind Insurance Services Ltd. regarding Fernanda Pinna HO's meddling in connection with the reimbursement of the deposit made by Fundacao Oriente and related to the collapse sale of 121 Henning Drive in Burnaby, a matter strictly between the Association and Fundacao Oriente. We wonder whether the money held in trust by Fernanda Pinna Ho was ever reimbursed to Fundacao Oriente or was the latter duped to part with the deposit money to the Club. This is getting to be a habit with the Club who has been strangely silent on this issue. Perhaps Fernanda Pinna or Antonio Amante should be asked to provide an answer to this question. **Being truthful, when you know it will cost you, is the true test of honesty.**
5. Copy of a letter written on 1 February 1993 by Mr. Rene L. Ozorio, President of our Association and addressed to Mr. Joao M. Calvao, Director of Fundacao Oriente announcing our change in name to "Casa de Macau of Vancouver". Casa de Macau Club was not even established at that point in time. We attach extracts from our Newsletters indicating clearly the use of the words Casa de Macau of Vancouver, B.C. in 1993. **This is contrary to what Michael Guterres alleges in the 'cock & bull' article published by him in May 1998.**
6. An interesting "fireside chat" between Maria Luisa Amante Rosario and Sergio Rui da Pina about her experiences with Casa de Macau Club and during Encontro 2004.
7. **Margie Rozario alleges in her article published in May 2006 that the name "Casa de Macau" was never used by our Association before "Casa de Macau Club" was officially registered.** Some one is not quite telling the truth here and the facts speak for themselves.
8. Our Editor is getting really tired and bored with catching not just one but several of these troublemakers repeatedly not quite telling the truth. How many more untruths are they going to dream up in their efforts to discredit us?

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome this month as new members Amelia Chee (AIR MACAU) from Vancouver; and Augusto Vieira Ribeiro & his wife, Kathryn who hail from Edmonton.

Casa de Macau – Vancouver (Macau Cultural Association) Vision

Our vision for a "Macau Cultural Centre" is as follows: -

1. To bring together the Macanese people living in the Lower Mainland;
2. To pursue activities of a cultural, educational, linguistic, scientific, social and philanthropic nature;
3. To promote and bring together the historical and cultural links amongst members and other Macanese institutions worldwide and to foster closer links with the Governments and other institutions in Macau, China, Canada and Portugal.
4. To encourage free and open interaction amongst members in the preservation of Macanese heritage, traditions, customs and cultural backgrounds.
5. To stimulate community service and responsible citizenry in Canada; and
6. To endorse no person or organization unless they are compatible to the common good of Macau and Macanese interests throughout the world.

Our objectives are: -

- To operate a Community Centre for the benefit of the Macanese community in the Lower Mainland.
- To showcase the accomplishments of Macau, the Macanese community, and to be the focal rallying point for the Macanese community in Western Canada.
- To provide possibly future expansion capabilities for Senior Citizens' housing, Children's Day Care Centre, temporary residences to accommodate students, visitors and new arrivals in our community.

We have developed other ideas on this subject but we are not divulging them at the present time.

OBITUARY

Philip Pereira, a member of our Association and a longtime resident of Vancouver passed away peacefully on Saturday, June 10, 2006 with his family at his side. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by his loving wife of 42 years, Marlene; son Robert; and daughters Michelle and Jill. His extended family and a great number of friends will also miss him. The funeral took place on Friday, June 16 following a funeral mass at the St. John The Apostle Catholic Church in Vancouver. The Casa de Macau – Vancouver (Macau Cultural Association) was well represented at the wake on Thursday and at the funeral mass in Friday. We offer our sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to all the family members, relatives and extended family.

HEALTHWISE

Meanwhile Theresa Pereira, after looking after her husband Ozzie for a long time, fell seriously ill herself and the latest information is that she is in a coma at Vancouver General Hospital. A special Prayer Meeting was held on Tuesday, 13 June 2006 at Our Lady of Mercy Church at 7455 10th Avenue in Burnaby attended by a huge gathering including well over a dozen members of our Association. We can only hope and pray that she will recover from her grave illness.

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

1. A General Meeting will be held on Sunday, 16 July 2006 in the Community Room at the Metropolis in Metrotown. **The time for this meeting: 12 NOON – 4.00 p.m.**
2. A General Meeting will be held on Sunday, 20 August 2006 in the Community Room at the Metropolis in Metrotown. **The time for this meeting: 1.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.**
3. There will not be any Mahjong Socials during the months of June, July and August. Our hard working organizers are taking a break.
4. There will be a Chinese Banquet on Wednesday, 21 June 2006 at the Wah Sun Restaurant, 2178 Kingsway in Vancouver. Members wishing to attend are requested to book and pay Helen Xavier no later than Sunday, 18 June 2006. (Cost: \$20 per person but a rebate of \$5 will be payable to members attending the dinner).
5. An Association Summer Dance will be held at the Royal Restaurant at 200-8040 Garden City Road in Richmond on Sunday 16 July 2006. Cost: \$35 per person less a rebate of \$10 for members attending the event. Armando Santos will again play for us. Ticket sales will be limited to make it comfortable for those attending the dance. Book your tickets early. Let us hope that we are not going to see some more “copy-cats” emerging from the Club.

Finally, due to pressing ‘family’ matters and obligations there may possibly be, for the first time in years, no newsletter next month. But we will be back for sure.

Until next month,
Luiz M. Souza
Editor, Boletim Macaense,
Casa de Macau (Macau Cultural Association)
Vancouver
18 June 2006.