

BOLETIM MACAENSE

A Publication of the Macau Cultural Association
(Casa de Macau) of Western Canada
"A Casa de Macau PRINCIPAL 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

DECEMBER 2006

MENSAGEM DE NATAL FELIZ NATAL E PROSPERO ANO NOVO BOAS FETAS

A Embaixada de Portugal em Otava apresenta os seus melhores cumprimentos a todas os Organos de Comunicacao Social de Lingua Portuguesa e tem prazer de junto remeter a mensagem de Natal do Embaixador de Portugal para a Comunidade Luo-Canadiana, muito agradecimentos a sua habitual divulgacao.

Reiterados agradecimentos e votos de umas Boas Festas.

The Executive Council and members of this Association join the Ambassador in Ottawa in sending our warmest regards and best wishes; and Christmas and New Year greetings to each and every Portuguese-speaking community around the world.

CONFIRMATION OF MCA EXECUTIVE FOR 2007/08

The Macau Cultural Association (Casa de Macau) of Western Canada wishes to announce the appointments of the following individuals to serve on our Executive Council for 2007/08:-

President	Sergo Rui de Pina
Vice President	Luiz M. Souza, MBE AE
Secretary	Josefina do Rosario
Treasurer	Helena M. Xavier



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OBITUARY

Vincent Britto passed away after a short illness in Concord, California, U.S.A. on 27 November 2006. He is survived by his widow, Mimi (Garcia), and children, Vincent (Christine), Elizabeth (Irwin Turner), Denise (David Turner), Robert (Nita), eight grandchildren; a sister, Helen Xavier (Vancouver, B.C.), and brother Carlos de Britto (Oregon, U.S.A.)

Angelina dos Remedios passed away peacefully on 9 December 2006 in Richmond Hospital, B.C. at the age of 92. She would have been 93 on 14 December 2006. She will be mourned and missed by her nieces and nephews, Filomena de Pinna, Francisco, and Eduardo dos Remedios, all from Oregon, U.S.A. and by another niece, Therese Alonco (nee Guterres) from Australia and a very large number of friends.

By a strange coincidence Vincent and Angelina were both employed for many years with China Light & Power Company Limited at the intersection of Waterloo Road/Argyle Street in Kowloon, Hong Kong.

To the next-of-kin and relatives we offer our most sincere condolences and deepest sympathy.

Birthday Greetings

This particular month we extend our congratulations and birthday wishes to a fairly large number of our members whose birthdays fall in December and they include the following:-

Maria do Rosario, Luiz Souza, Mary Killeen, Natalie Santos, Cynthia Vieira, Antonio Cordeiro, Catarina Dorothea MA, Archibald Rodrigues, Mercedes Martins, Paulina Brown, Rudy Smit. Daniel Cunha, John Reinaldo de Rosario, LI (Lily) Yan Ping. We have asked all our members to annotate their birthdays on their membership renewal forms for 2007 and hope we have a more complete list of birthdays.

RECENT CCM GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

In his report on the above meeting Sergio Rui da Pina was perhaps overzealous in his reporting and consequently made an error as reported in last month's newsletter and he has been taken to task for his inadvertent mistake. As far as we are aware the Minutes of that Meeting has yet to be issued by the Macau Government. Be it as it may Sergio has since responded to his critics by apologizing for his article on the meeting. We hereby quote his letter of apology in its entirety as follows: -

“Monica,

I am in receipt of your e-mail dated 1 December, 2006 and in reply, I would wish to inform you that I have been trying to refresh my memory about the events that took place in October 2006. Upon reflection, I now remember clearly that you had chosen to remain silent throughout the General Assembly Meeting of the C.C.M. held in Macau on 13th October 2006.

I stand corrected and therefore, I am presenting to you my sincere apology for the incorrect statement that was attributed to you, and by association, to Casa de Macau, Toronto and which was published in the Boletim Macaense in the November 2006 issue, and is hereby retracted with apologies.

Also, I would be remiss if I did not add and make mention that the truth of the matter on this subject of the “split of the subsidy monies received by the CCM” was brought up by Gloria Anok and you at the Vancouver Airport prior to our flight to Macau on 5th October 2006. On that occasion both of you asked us about the “split” of the subsidy monies that was granted by Fundacao Macau to the CCM. It was clearly stated by myself and MCA’s Secretary, Josefina do Rosario that to our knowledge this funding was provided by Fundacao Macau to the CCM as their “operating budget” for the current year, and not to be “split” nor is it for general distribution amongst the Casas.

With all that has been said and done, I would firmly advise you that this letter of apology would be published in its entirety in our next Boletim Macaense (Newsletter)

I consider this matter finalized and closed.

Sergio Rui de Pina

President,

Macau Cultural Association”

NOTE: The Editor would like to add also that Sergio’s letter quoted above has been copied to all the other addressees involved in this exchange of correspondence.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The last monthly meeting this year is being held on Sunday, 17 December 2006 at Centre Pointe in Richmond together with our Christmas Party for the kiddies. A Christmas Dinner Dance on Monday, 18 December 2006 at the Royal Restaurant Ballroom, #200 – 8040 Garden City Road, Richmond. For a change this meal will be in the form of an authentic Chinese dinner. Please make sure you arrive on time for the evening’s entertainment.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

At the current time most other Casas only manage to issue four to six issues of their newsletters per annum. But our MONTHLY Newsletter has reached another milestone

having been published each and every month over the past twelve years with little or no financial support. This is clearly a record a Casa as small as ours can really be proud of.

“SEDE” FOR VANCOUVER

We are pleased to report that Dr. Victor NG of Fundacao Macau has finally decided on the question of a “SEDE” for Vancouver, Canada once and for all. Vancouver is going to have two separate clubhouses and not just one to be shared by two Casas as previously anticipated and hoped for by some parties who shall remain nameless. Our own members will recall how often we have pursued the question of an entirely separate Casa for our Association here in Vancouver for reasons that have been extensively explained so very many times in the past. Suffice it to say that all those numerous and very abusive e-mails from those who call themselves “Macaense from Rua de Campo” have not worked and the Macau Government has finally heeded to our counsel. It’s time to rejoice and we are happy indeed that those shackles have been removed. Macau has decided that we, the Macau Cultural Association, will have our own “sede”. This will be done under one accountability, one ownership, one membership body without politics or restraints.

HEALTH MATTERS - DEMENTIA

As we grow older many of us may begin to suffer from a deterioration of intellectual function and other cognitive skills, leading to a decline in the ability to perform activities of daily living. Dementia is a progressive decline in cognitive function due to damage or disease in the brain beyond what is expected in normal aging. It is NOT a normal part of aging and it is NOT just memory loss. There are several types of dementia: Vascular or multi-infarct, Alzheimers, Lewy body disease, Picks disease, and Huntington’s disease. Areas of the brain that are particularly affected are memory, attention, language and problem solving. Dementia is one of the most serious disorders affecting the elderly. The main risk factor of dementia is age. The prevalence of dementia increases rapidly with age and is characterized by a gradual decrease in thought and mental activities. The most common symptom in early dementia is short-term memory loss. This progresses to intermediate memory loss and on to severe dementia, where the patient is no longer able to recognize even close family members. There is no cure for dementia, but there are treatments available to help with this disease. People who tend to age “successfully” share certain characteristics and activities that may help keep them sharp. These practices may help prevent declines in cognition and memory. What may seem to be a faltering memory may actually be a decline in the rate at which we learn and store new information. Practice these memory skills to enhance learning and to help make remembering easier.

CD – “LEMBRANDO MACAU

Alex Airoso and Armando Santos launched their CD recently “to keep the culture, customs, and memories of Macau and the Macanese communities alive. For this reason they are donating back part of the proceeds generated from the sale of the extra CDs that our Association so kindly supported. Armando has been a solid member of our Association. We wish to thank Alex and Armando for their wonderful gesture.

Until Next Month

Luiz M. Souza, MBE AE

Macau Cultural Association (Casa de Macau) of Western Canada.