

Casa de Macau no Canada (Toronto)



Newsletter

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Seasons Greetings

From the Executive



We would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for the coming year, *Boas Festas e Feliz Ano Novo*. We would also like to extend these wishes to our sister organizations.

It is hard to imagine that 2004 is coming to an end and we have been in office for three months.

Any time there is a transition, one can expect a period of adjustment but added to the 'normal' changes we had to take care of was the added burden of learning about and having to make a major decision regarding the Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses (CCM) and assuming the responsibility of the Encontro arrangements.

With regards to the CCM, we received the final revised Statutes on November 15, 2004. As for a first hand account of the formalizing of the CCM please read the following pages of the newsletter compiled from the contributions from Barbara Baptista and Helena Barradas.

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge and give credit to our past President Lourenço Conceição, who was one of a number of people who first came up with the idea of forming a "Federation of Casas de Macau" back in 1992. It was

unanimously agreed by the then Presidents of the four Casas de Macau (Dr. Antonio Braga – Australia; Arnaldo Rodrigues da Silva – Portugal; Gilberto da Silva – Brazil and Sebastião José – Toronto) and the two representatives from U.M. A. (Henrique Manhao and Peter Sousa) to form a Federation with the initial head office in Macau to facilitate coordination of members to write a Constitution and deal with other urgent matters. At the time they appointed Lourenço Conceição to be the Coordinator and each of the members would appoint a Delegate in Macau to work with the Coordinator. We recognize that the seed of an idea, planted twelve years ago, eventually blossomed into the creation of the CCM. Furthermore, it was this group who decided to formally petition the Government of Macau and the Fundação Oriente requesting assistance to hold the first convention of the Macanese Communities in Macau during the first week of December 1993. Thus was born the idea of the first Encontro and what was to become Encontros held every three years hence.

The V Encontro has now come and gone. We tried our best to keep the participants updated on the latest changes to the program, and they were numerous, but once our members started to leave Toronto, it became increasingly more difficult to

alert them of the changes that the Organizing Committee was making right up until the week the festivities began. Our special thanks are extended to Barbara Baptista, Helena Barradas and Maria Cecilia Conceição who so ably represented our Casa and who took care of things and handled the responsibilities over in Macau. Our thanks and appreciation is also extended to Regina Holden, Cacilda Ribeiro and Augusto Tang for their assistance .

In summary below are some of the observations and experiences of Helena and Barbara:

We were dealing with a rather 'messy' situation to say the least. Not only was information missing but compounding matters, we had to deal with the fact that APIM was now limiting admittance to events. We felt that the fairest way to deal with this situation was to draw lots to determine who would get tickets to attend certain events.

Once things got underway there were the dinners, meetings, more dinners and more meetings.

Generally speaking it was through chance encounters and exchanges of conversation between members of the various contingents that information was learned of at the last minute. We found it next to impossible to pass on this information let alone determine if what we were hearing were rumours or if they were indeed fact.

The one event that we were sure of happening at the appointed place and time occurred on Monday, November 29. Cecilia joined us and participated in the Official Signing of the documents of the CCM. The following day, while participants were off sight seeing, once again the

three of us attended the 1st Official CCM meeting at which time there was the appointment of the President and two Secretaries of the General Committee and nominations and elections of the four Vice-Presidents. As it stands today: Mr. Leonel Alves of APIM is the President; Sebastião da Rosa - APIM and Luiz Viseu - IIM are the Secretaries; 1st V.P. - Gabriel Azedo - Club Lusitano HK; 2nd V.P. Maria Roliz - Lusitano Club of California; 3rd V.P. Antonio de Carvalho Conceição - Casa de Macau Australia; and 4th V.P. Armando Ritchie - Casa de Macau de S. Paulo. It was unfortunate that the length of time that this meeting took caused us to miss the group photo opportunity taken at the Ruins of S. Paulo. The evening dinner was at Monte where the announcements were made as to the winners of the Cooking Competition. The winners were Isabel (Anok) Pedruco and her partner Isabel Airoso (Casa de Macau S. Paulo). First runners up, Antonio D'Assumpção and Gabriela de Senna Fernandes (APIM) and second runners up, Albertino Rosa and Rosa Tam (Casa de Macau USA).

There were book launchings, more receptions, more meetings and then things started to wind down by Saturday.

It was nice to meet up with old friends and to make new ones. The downside, generally speaking, was the seeming miscalculation of the Organizing Committee in anticipating the large turn out. As a result the venues were too small, space had to be limited and ultimately it was the participants who were disappointed. We hope that lessons will be learned from this Encontro and will be applied to the or-

ganizing of the VI Encontro scheduled for 2007.

For your information, our Casa joined with the Macao Club (Toronto) Inc. to purchase gifts for nine of the dignitaries in Macau. We shared in the cost and in the presentations, which took place at specific times during the Encontro. We thank José and Cristina Cordeiro with whom we liased in this regard. Our Casa also purchased 12 acrylic plaques, which we gave as gifts to our sister Casas. Your Executive also ordered Casa pins, which we distributed to each of the participants to wear during the Encontro. Should any member wish to purchase extra pins, these are now in stock at a cost of \$3 per pin.

Besides confirming our list of participants, hotel bookings, last minute changes to contest rules, to the program etc. etc. we were requested to provide articles and interviews, which were to appear in various publications in Macau. For your information, the *Revista MacaU* (November issue) is supposed to have our contribution appearing in it in Portuguese and we have been told that the English version will appear in the December *Revista MacaU* publication. We are trying to get extra copies of the above magazines to keep in our Library.

We tried to keep our Social Calendar alive throughout all this other 'business' and thanks to the volunteers who came forward to offer their help; the events were very well supported.

Without you, our first Jantar would not have been such an unqualified success!! Our Casa was packed to the rafters, and judging from offers to cook and bake for the next Jantar, we can say that everyone had a wonderful time and looking forward to the next Jantar.

Food is always an attraction at our functions, and in this respect we would like to thank all the cooks/bakers – please refer to George Remedios’ article in this newsletter.

It was great that members who had their names down to attend, but could not make it at the last moment, took the trouble to phone in. This unselfish gesture allowed those on the waiting list to move up. Thank you for thinking of others.

Speaking of ‘thinking of others’, Clare Soares has graciously agreed to take charge of sending out “get well”, “sympathy” and special celebratory cards to members. Please call any member of the Executive if you are aware of any member we should be mailing these to.

One final reminder. You will find enclosed in this newsletter the Membership Application form for 2005. Please read the instructions carefully, fill in the form completely and return it with your cheque. Understand that our records can only be as complete and correct as you have provided us with the complete and correct information. Even if you are renewing, and even if none of your information has changed, we would still appreciate it if you would fill out the form in its entirety.

A gentle reminder to our over 80 Senior members – even though Casa has waived your membership fees, please fill in your form and return it to us otherwise we will not have you on our membership list and you will not receive the newsletters.

Editorial

Briefly speaking...



Thank you to those members who took the time to fill in the Surveys

enclosed in our last newsletter. One survey suggested that food served at our in-house events be of a Macanese flavour; another survey asked for more trips to be arranged. We will act on your suggestions as best we can – the suggested trips however, will have to wait until the warmer weather returns.

Thanks to the contributors to this newsletter: George Remedios and Sonny Lemos.

Recent visitors to our Casa: Pat George from Vancouver, Michol Levitt from Florida, Thelma and “Neco” Britto - Brazil, Isabel (Anok) Pedruco - Brazil, who has joined up as a member.

We have been approached by an editor for the Jornal Tribuna de Macau, Sérgio Terra, to invite our members to write articles on the suggested topics of: “the meaning of being a Macanese; the importance of the Encontros; and the future of the Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses. etc.” These articles should be 2,500 – 3000 words in length and should contain your picture. He proposes that all the articles will eventually be compiled into a book with the help of APIM and might be published although nothing is confirmed as yet. If anyone is interested, please contact either myself, or Monica, and we will be happy to pass on his contact information.

Monica has given Mr. Terra an interview, which was published in the November 27, 2004 issue of the Jornal Tribuna de Macau. If you wish to read it, log onto <http://www.jtm.com.mo/news/Hoje/BACK.HTM> and find the Directory on your left. Click “Edições Anteriores” and select Ano III-No 1681(nova serie) 2004-11-27, this will open another page. Click the word “Primeira” on the left of the page and you will see an excerpt of the interview. Scroll down to the small red arrow and

click on that. This will bring up the entire interview in Portuguese.

(If anyone is interested, we have the English version that was sent)

For your information, Casa’s web page has been updated. We will be posting new photographs periodically, so visit us at www.casademacau.ca

Just a reminder that all mail directed to the Casa should include the letters “PH #39”, (**not Unit 39**)

* *****

Encontro - view from Toronto

Monica and I would like to clarify, specifically for the attendees at the Encontro, some issues that have filtered back to us during the Encontro.

Members should be aware that any “confusion” that arose, happened only because Barbara and Helena received conflicting instructions from the organizers; to the extent that programmes gave different information on the venue/time of the same event! In fact, it was Monica who spotted some errors in material forwarded to us and other Casas; she immediately contacted Macau to alert them, and they acknowledged the error.

We received the “down sizing” on admission to events in Toronto, almost at the 11th hour - and we scrambled to relay the changes to the Executive in Macau to pass on to you. If you were one of the unfortunate ones who did not get admitted to events you signed up for, even though you had tickets, we regret the inconvenience but the fault lies with the organizers, not us.

Our Executives in Macau worked very hard - and so did we in Toronto - scrambling with the endless e-mails from Macau. It was more of a **WORKING** holiday for our

representatives. Please pause for a moment and reflect on how you would feel if you were in their place.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank Cecilia Conceição, our representative on the Conselho das Comunidades Macaense (CCM) committee, for the fine work she did on behalf of the Casa ... from rushing to pick up all the packages for the Toronto group, to attending at CCM meetings and signing the documents on Casa's behalf. By the way, at one of these meetings, Toronto was publicly commended for being so organized ... down to the proxies given to sign documentation on behalf of Monica and self in connection with the CCM committee.

So, welcome back one and all, we hope to see you at our Christmas Dinner/Dance on the 19th.

Casa news



Milestones

In this last quarter of 2004, Casa recognizes several of our most Senior members who have reached personal milestones. In October at the First Thursday Social, special recognition was given to Maria 'Pompy' Mackintosh who turned 93 and her sister Angela 'Angy' Alves who turned 90 years. Those present at the Social sang Happy Birthday to both sisters and Monica presented a plant arrangement on behalf of the Casa to them.

On December 25, yet another long-standing member will reach his 90th year. On behalf of the members, the Executive would like to extend our heartfelt *parabens* to Victor Lemos.

Something old, something new, something borrowed....

As stated in our platform: "It will be our hope that over the next two years members will accept the new ideas we will be proposing, which we feel will revitalize our Casa."

We have undertaken to put into practice several changes, reviewed and updated others, and would like this opportunity to let you know what they are.

Isabel Gomes da Silva, our Club Manager, has bought stainless steel cutlery and other items for the kitchen. She has been re-arranging and replacing items, as well as liaising with condo management for the annual cleaning of the ducts.

When you next visit the club in the new year you will notice that the walls have been painted and the floor has been redone. The last time this was undertaken was back in 1999.

With the start of the New Year we also decided to review the policy regarding clubhouse rental. Members are welcome to book the clubhouse for their private functions. We have kept basically the same rules established in 2000 regarding deposits and what portions of said deposits are fully refundable, what portions are not and under what conditions any holdbacks, if any, will apply. Simply stated, if all the guests attending the private party are members of Casa, there will be no charge for the use of the premises as the deposit is fully refundable. If the guest list for the private function includes non-members, there will be a nominal charge of \$50 for the use of the clubhouse.

Booking for private functions are handled solely by Isabel. She will give a copy of the By-Laws and further explanations of the procedures at the time of booking. Further-

more, depending on if our audio and visual equipment will be used for the private function, there also will be an additional deposit required. We feel this is a reasonable request and acts as an "insurance" against any abuse or damage that could occur through misuse of the equipment. The insurance deposit is fully refundable if at the end of the function, everything is in good working order as checked by Isabel. As there will be an exchange of cheques between Isabel and whoever is borrowing the premises, we must insist that whoever is borrowing the place deal directly with Isabel on all matters. It will be the member who is actually borrowing the premises who will be required to issue the Casa their own cheque and who assumes responsibility directly. As far as what items can be used of the clubhouse and what the borrower must supply, please contact Isabel for clarification. We feel that this policy is fair, as it will be applied to everyone without exception and is in keeping with our mandate to be responsible caretakers of the Casa and its assets.

Casa's loss is Atlanta's gain

Congratulations are in order for Joey Tavares who has accepted the position of Vice President of marketing at the U.P.S. Headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. Joey and Anna will be missed not only by David, Elizabeth and their daughter Jackie but also their Casa friends.

Casa events news



Movie Night

Movie Night, September 24, 2004 was the first event put on by the Executive. Over 30 members came and watched the very funny "Calendar Girls" movie, which was shown at the clubhouse. And yes, we had popcorn.

The second feature film shown on

October 29, 2004 was another comedy "Bend It Like Beckham". Attendance at this showing was down somewhat with 16 members showing up.

Our third Movie Night which was to be held on November 26, 2004 was cancelled due to lack of support. This was disappointing although not entirely a surprise as we knew that many of our "regulars" had left for the Encontro.

As was stated in the last newsletter, if we did not get the support to continue with this on a 'regular' basis, it would be dropped. However, the Executive has decided to give it a bit more time seeing the extenuating circumstances of the Encontro was a major factor resulting in the November showing being cancelled.

There will be a Movie Night for January 28 and February 25 after which another review will take place when it will be decided if it will continue or not. Please refer to the *Calendar of Events* to see what movies will be featured for January and February 2005.

Jantar Macaense: Ving Comeh Ya!

by George Remedios

When I opened Casa's Newsletter and saw "Jantar Macaense" on Oct 16, 2004 memories flashed in my mind of Aunties in Hong Kong saying "Ving jantar ya!" (Vem jantar), the Macanese invitation to dinner.

In my heart I know I "ving comeh" (vem comer) or come just to eat. My conscience debated the eternal Shakespearean-like question "To go or not to go, that is the question". A tempest raged in my head "What if people say 'Nao tem vergonha! Ving Comeh' " (No shame! He comes only to eat)

However, I also go to practise Maquista (Macaista), the unique patois or patua or dialect of "nossa gente" (our people) and surely that would be a motive noble enough. Do I not speak Maquista to keep it flickering because the light is going out by the next generation?

Then my amigo phoned and said "Ving comeh ya! It is like participating in Macanese culture" That settled it. I was going there to eat... er...oops...participate in Macanese culture.

For the Macanese food is not about gluttony. It is one of the things that identifies us. We are not nicknamed "balichao" (balichung) for nothing! Think of our tacho, feijoada, diabo and the merenda snacks like chilicote and appa bico.

The Babados-born Toronto writer, Austin Clarke wrote "Food. It is a word that defines my life" in the beginning of "Love and sweet food : a culinary memoir" (previously published as "Pig tails 'n Breadfruit, Love and Sweet Food")

No other ethnic group of comparable size has a cuisine to compare with the East-West "fusion cuisine" of Macau. Is this surprising? Not at all because centuries ago Macau was the centre of East-West trade, sort of the Hong Kong of that era. The Macanese in their Golden Age were an affluent and cosmopolitan people and their cuisine reflected that.

The three foundations of Macanese culture are religion, food and Maquista. On the evening of the dinner I intended to get all three. Alas, there were no prayers before the meal. No religion! Let's get to the food and the Maquista.

This is one of the few places in the world where you can practise Maquista to keep the patua alive. Even if you can only speak a mixture of

Maquista-English-Cantonese that is better than not speaking at all. There is a Macanese proverb "Better half a 'chilicote' than no chilicote". To practise Maquista you must go from table to table. Usually you introduce yourself by saying "Pode sentar aqui?" (May I sit here) and then without waiting for the permission you sit and say suspensefully in perfect Maquista "Ja ouvir nunca?" (Have you heard?). Everyone will give you his/her attention.

During the course of the evening I spoke to "um homem de accao" (a man of action) and "uma senhora magra" (a thin lady) but I meant to say in my limited Maquista that she could eat more tonight. Fortunately a cavalheiro came along and clarified that she was not "magra" but "elegante". After the dinner she was still "elegante".

I noticed a handbag on my seat and I asked "Quem sa mala?" (Whose handbag?) and uma senhora replied "Yo sa" (mine) in Maquista. Later I looked up the dictionary and "mala" is "suitcase, handbag". Maquista nouns are pretty close to Portuguese. It is the verbs that are different because the verbs are not conjugated.

When I had to go to the washroom I asked "Where is the 'chave' (chave)? I have to go to the 'casa de banho' meh".

Finally, the "hora de jantar" (dinner time) arrived and I said bilingually in the way the Macanese speak "The jantar is pronto or not?". Yes we were on time otherwise the guests would be banging the tables with plastic cutlery saying "Sik faan la! Sik faan la!" (Let's eat rice already!)

The guests started to line up, not following the rules of the Titanic (Women and children first) but the rules of Darwin's "survival of the fittest" (First come, first served). In my eagerness to learn more Maquista I asked how do you say "pai

tui" (line up) and the answer was "fazer fila". OK gotcha, "Everyone, fazer fila meh!"

As I said, food is one of the foundations of Macanese culture. After we had "putt faan" (scooped some rice) a line of food servers gave us the following:

Minchi Maravilhoso (Jose Anok)

Feijoada Favorita (Michael Barros)

Magnifico Macau Stew (Linda (Rodrigues) Sanguinetti)

Curry Chicken (Frango Famoso ou Galinha Gostosa) (Dena (Marques) Hillier)

Porco Prestigioso (porco vinho de alho) (Monica Alves)

Honorario "Haam Suen Choy" (Chinese pickled veggie) (Celsa Larcina)

Ham (Regina Holden)

Did I miss anything?

As we ate amidst the Symphony of Slurp you could hear the sound of people whispering "Saboroso", sometimes a solo "saboroso", sometimes a duet, then a trio and even a humming chorus of "saboroso".

I commented on the cute little "feijao" (bean) in my feijoada. I remarked that the "chup" (gravy) in the "kar lei kai" (curry chicken) was "ho heung" (good smelling) and then with help from someone I reiterated in Macanese that the "molho" of the "galinha de curry" was "cheiroso". Enough already! Just eat already meh!..

Then after having seconds (or thirds) it came time for the desserts. Unfortunately I cannot do justice to describing the desserts as I was having a "Batalha contra Acucar" (Battle against Sugar), that is avoiding sugar.

However, I could not resist the Bonita Bebinca de Leite and Tao Fu Far (Tofu "Flower", which came in a giant bucket and was a conversation piece). I am sure the other desserts were also excellent but I was staying away from sugar.

Ja ouvir nunca? Have you heard? This writer "correr babo" (salivar = salivate = lau hau

sui) when he overheard that there may be another Jantar Macaense. There are still many more Macanese recipes with ingredients such as chu pei (pig skin), ngau toh (tripe), ngau lei (tongue), chu keuk (pork hocks), chu sau (pork trotters)...did I hear someone shout "Saboroso!"

As we were leaving I complimented the President for an evening that "tem sucesso". Don't forget the best part is that it is "um sai cheen" (no need money) or "numceesa pagar" (nao precisa pagar = no need to pay). Watch your newsletter. Come and eat...I mean... participate in Macanese culture.

We must remember to thank the Bakers:

Rita Ashley - Anne Brander - Elfrida Alves - Christine Rose - Barbara Baptista - Isabel Gomes da Silva - Orieta de Lemos and Virginia Sanchez

If we have left any names out we apologise as this was unintentional.

Senior Goodie Bag

We mentioned in our last newsletter that we hope to resume this practice, which was initiated by Isabel Gomes da Silva back in 1992. We have put together a goodie bag with tasty Christmas treats for our over 80 Senior members. Our thanks to: Monica Alves; Susana da Costa; Marie Camille Gonsalves; Cleo and Frisca Ozorio; Maria Prochilo; Marie-Cecile Remedios; and Lilia Vieira who volunteered their time to supply a scrumptious variety of home baked cookies and cake. Thanks also go to our volunteer "elves": Elfrida and Monica Alves; Helena Barradas; Marie Camille Gonsalves; Celsa Larcina; Frisca Ozorio; Marie-Cecile Remedios; and Christine Rose who offered to help make up the seventeen parcels that will be handed out to our Seniors.

Christmas Dinner/Dance

The Christmas Dinner/Dance promises to be a grand evening with great door prizes, spot dances plus a 50/50 draw. For your information at the time of going to print **185** have signed up.

Casa events for 2005

Regular Events

- Tai Chi – Monica advises that classes will resume on Monday, January 10, 2005.
- Line Dance – Naomi has agreed to resume Tuesday evening classes on January 11, 2005 at 7:30 pm. The session will be for 10 lessons at a cost of \$30 for members. If you are going to the Christmas Dinner/Dance you will see what a lot of fun it is to Line Dance. Come and join us. If you would like to sign up for the classes, please call Naomi Baltazar at 416-937-9102 to register
- Library/Drop-In — David advises that he will resume his duties Wednesday, January 12, 2005. A note however, February 9, 2005 Casa will be closed due to it being Ash Wednesday and Chinese New Year.
- Osteo Exercise classes will resume in the new year. The classes are held Wednesday evenings at a cost of \$5 a lesson. The session will be for 12 classes and the instructor asks that she receive your payment of \$60 at the first lesson. Interested members should call Lucille Da Luz either at (work) 416-441-6222 or (home) 416-298-8938

Events for the next quarter

Bingo

A Bingo night is planned for Saturday, January 22, 2005. Do come out and support your club...it could prove 'profitable' for you. Please refer to the *Calendar of Events* for the particulars.

Minchi/Karaoke

Why not come to the clubhouse Saturday, February 5, 2005, and try out your voices at Karaoke. Join us first for supper. We hope to have a variety of Minchi dishes and then put any inhibitions aside and sing, sing, sing. Please refer to the *Calendar of Events* for the particulars.

Jantar Macaenses

Due to the overwhelming response and resounding success of our first Jantar, we will be holding another on Saturday, March 19, 2005. If a lesson is to be learned from the last Jantar, send in your forms and have your name on the list early. We will continue to follow a first come first serve policy due to the space limitations of the Casa. We will be calling on those who offered to help where cooking is concerned. Please refer to the *Calendar of Events* for the particulars.

Did you know?

Casa received a letter from the Portuguese Consulate in Toronto informing us that the new Consul General, Dr. Emidio da Veiga Domingos, began his term on November 2, 2004.

Chinese New Year falls on February 9, 2005. It is the year of the Rooster.

ROOSTER  FACTS

People born in the Year of the Rooster share certain characteristics Brave, Romantic, Motivated, Proud, Blunt, Resentful, Boastful
Rooster years: 1909*1921*1933*1945*1957*1969*1981*1993*2005

Across the wires



Patuá

The following are excerpts from an article by Harald Brunning recently circulating on the web.

Patuá is the now nearly extinct original mother tongue of Macau's Eurasian minority, which is customarily known as Macanese, and that presently comprises some 8,000 residents in Macau, or two per cent of the special administrative's region's population, and an estimated 20,000 emigrants and their offspring elsewhere such as in Hong Kong, California, Canada, Brazil, Australia, and Portugal.

Patuá started gradually to evolve in Macau, in the late 16th and early 17th centuries, namely among Portuguese settlers and their mixed-race descendants from Malacca and Macau.

Origin of term: The Portuguese term Patuá is derived from the French word "patois", which, according to the New Oxford Dictionary of English, means "rough speech". In its present-day usage in the English and other European languages, "patois" denotes the tongue of the common people of a region, differing in various aspects from the standard language of the rest of that country.

Patuá enjoyed its peak time as the main language of communication among Macau's Eurasian residents between the 17th and 19th centuries. However, even during that period the total number of speakers was relatively small, probably always amounting to just thousands, not tens of thousands of people.

Over the centuries, in the same way as any other language or dialect, Patuá underwent changes in usage, grammar, syntax and vocabulary.

Cantonese has strongly influenced Patuá since the late 19th century, when more and more Macanese men started to marry Chinese women from Macau and its hinterland in the Pearl River Delta. Patuá words derived from Cantonese include amui ("girl") and laissi (gift of cash).

In the late 19th and early 20 century, Patuá was still spoken by several thousand of people in Macau, Hong Kong and elsewhere as their mother tongue. At that time, Patuá was consciously differentiated by its users from the "metropolitan" Portuguese standard language. In the early 20th century, Patuá was also used in a "satirical" way, such as in humorous sketches poking fun at figures of authority, such as colonial government officials from Portugal.

Even though Patuá has a history of four centuries, relatively little research into one of the world's most interesting hybrid languages has so far been done. The most notable exception is Macau's late educationalist and philologist Graciete Nogueira Batalha, who published an impressive number of studies on Patuá, which she described as the Macanese dialect. Ms. Batalha died a decade ago. Dr. Alan Baxter, an Australian linguist who says he is fluent in Malacca's Portuguese-Malay Creole, Papiá Kristang, researches Patuá as one of the facets of his work at the Department of Portuguese of the University of Macau. As a matter of fact, Patuá has never been taught as a full subject by any education establishment in Macau. The Macanese customarily learned to speak Patuá from their parents, namely their mothers. Literally speaking, Patuá genuinely functioned as the Macanese community's mother tongue. In other words, during its long history Patuá has always been a basically family-based language that never enjoyed

official recognition by the authorities. In fact, some teachers from Portugal tried hard to “erase” Patuá that they discarded as “badly spoken Portuguese.” Unfortunately, they almost succeeded.

According to UNESCO’s definition, intangible cultural heritage, which is also called “living cultural heritage,” is manifested, inter alia, in oral traditions, expressions and language – such as Patuá. The intangible cultural heritage provides people and communities with a sense of identity and continuity. The safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage sustains, develops and promotes cultural diversity and human creativity, the Paris-based organization points out.

Macau should take great pride in the fact that it has got its very own local language, something that, for instance, Hong Kong does not have. Macau’s status as a city of culture and one of the world’s oldest existing meeting places of the Orient and the Occident calls for the vigorous “cultivation” of its Macanese language: Patuá. Patuá deserves, of course, to be included in the UNESCO Red Book of Endangered Languages as a tool of raising public awareness of its threatened existence. Moreover, Patuá is one more reason why Macau is such a unique place. That’s why we should all make sure that Patuá will never join the world’s sad list of dead languages.

Forgive and Let Live

By Jordana Lewis and Jerry Adler,
Newsweek - Sept. 27, 2004

Revenge is sweet, but letting go of anger at those who wronged you is a smart route to good health

Of all the extraordinary events in the life of John Paul II, few can compare with the 21 minutes he spent in a white-walled cell in

Rome's Rebibia prison. Just after Christmas, 1983, the Pope visited Mehmet Ali Agca, the man who 30 months earlier had shot him in St. Peter's Square. He presented Agca with a silver rosary, and something else as well: his forgiveness.

It requires a Christ-like forbearance to pardon a would-be assassin, of course. But how many of us are ready to forgive an unfaithful lover, a scheming colleague or even the jerk who cut into the line at Krispy Kreme? Persistent unforgiveness is part of human nature, but it appears to work to the detriment not just of our spiritual well-being but our physical health as well. The subject is one of the hottest fields of research in clinical psychology today, with more than 1,200 published studies, up from just 58 as recently as 1997. It even has its own foundation—A Campaign for Forgiveness Research—which sponsored a conference last year with papers on topics like “Exploring Gender Differences in Forgiveness.” (The largest number of papers dealt with forgiveness in marital and romantic relationships, which seem to generate an inordinate amount of interpersonal resentment.) Dr. Dean Ornish, America's all-purpose lifestyle guru, regards forgiveness as the tofu of the soul, a healthful alternative to the red meat of anger and vengeance. “In a way,” Ornish says, “the most selfish thing you can do for yourself is to forgive other people.”

Research suggests that forgiveness works in at least two ways. One is by reducing the stress of the state of unforgiveness, a potent mixture of bitterness, anger, hostility, hatred, resentment and fear (of being hurt or humiliated again). These have specific physiologic consequences—such as increased blood pressure and hormonal changes—linked to cardiovascular disease, immune suppression and, possibly,

impaired neurological function and memory. One study examined 20 individuals in happy relationships, matched with 20 in troubled relationships. The latter had higher baseline levels of cortisol, a hormone associated with impaired immune function—which shot up even further when they were asked to think about their relationships. “It happens down the line, but every time you feel unforgiveness, you are more likely to develop a health problem,” says Everett Worthington, executive director of A Campaign for Forgiveness Research.

The other benefit of forgiveness is more subtle; it relates to research showing that people with strong social networks—of friends, neighbors and family—tend to be healthier than loners. Someone who nurses grudges and keeps track of every slight is obviously going to shed some relationships over the course of a lifetime. Forgiveness, says Charlotte van Oyen Witvliet, a researcher at Hope College in Holland, Mich., should be incorporated into one's personality, a way of life, not merely a response to specific insults.

In fact, forgiveness turns out to be a surprisingly complex process, according to many researchers. Worthington distinguishes what he calls “decisional forgiveness”—a commitment to reconcile with the perpetrator—from the more significant “emotional forgiveness,” an internal state of acceptance. Forgiveness does not require us to forgo justice, or to make up to people we have every right to despise. Anger has its place in the panoply of human emotions, but it shouldn't become a way of life. “When I talk about forgiveness, I mean letting go, not excusing the other person or reconciling with them or condoning the behavior,” says Ornish. “Just letting go of your own suffering.”

“It's a process, not a moment,” says

Dr. Edward M. Hallowell, a Harvard psychiatrist and the author of "Dare to Forgive." Forgiveness, he emphasizes, has to be cultivated; it goes against a natural human tendency to seek revenge and the redress of injustice. For that reason, he recommends doing it with help—of friends, a therapist or through prayer. It was from his faith that John Paul drew the strength to forgive Mehmet Agca, setting (as he no doubt intended) an example for the rest of us. The message is the same whether it's couched in the language of Christian charity, clinical psychology or the wisdom of Confucius, as quoted by Hallowell: "If you devote your life to seeking revenge, first dig two graves."



Barbara Baptista at the wreath laying ceremony at the Diaspora Monument



The Thunders with Manuel da Costa on drums performed at the closing ceremonies

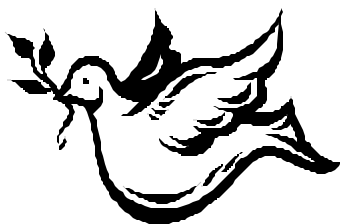


L to R: Cecilia Conceição, Helena Barradas, Joanne Barradas, Christopher Barradas; Tony Barradas; Barbara Baptista and baby Cameron Barradas



Casa "elves"

L to R: Helena Barradas; Christine Rose; Monica Alves; Marie-Cecile Remedios; Marie Camille Gon-salves; Elfrida Alves; Celsa Larcina and Frisca Ozorio



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