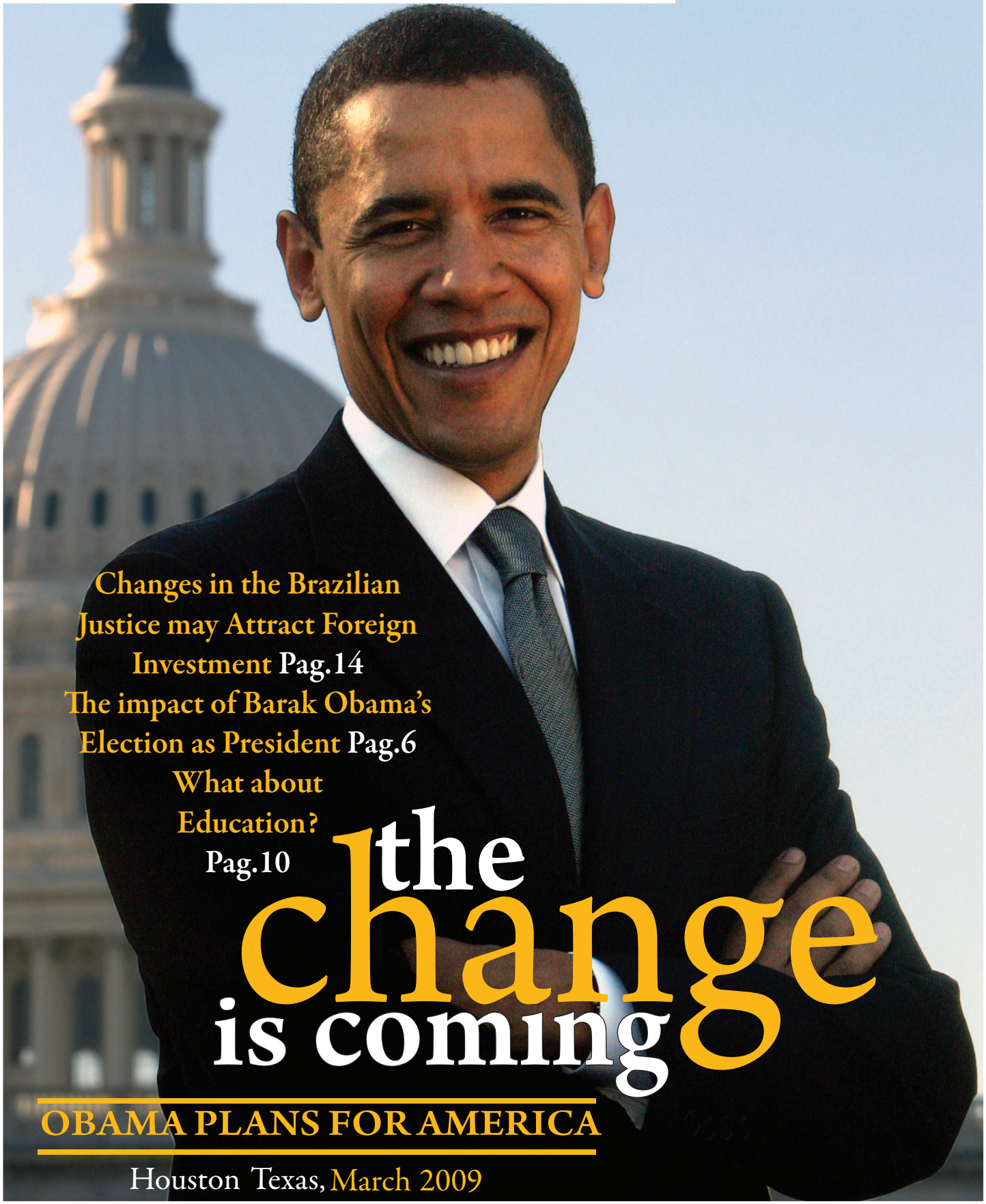
THE MAGAZINE FOR BUSINESS & POLITICS

BRAZILIAN TEXAS



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the change is coming

OBAMA PLANS FOR AMERICA

Houston Texas, March 2009

Pradaria

Steak & Churrascaria

Pradaria which means prairie in Portuguese is the characteristics of the Pampas flat land. Pampas,a vast region of Southern Brazil, most of Uruguay and Argentina, is where the gauchos herd the cattle allowing to them roam freely on the prairie.This is where the traditional gauchos developed the technique of slow roasting the meat on large sticks over a log or coal fire, flavoring only with salt and the natural flavor of the wood charcoal smoke. At Pradaria, we keep the old tradition by using only the premium meats and the same cooking technique used through generations by the gauchos. Rock salt and lump charcoal fire are used to produce authentic Churrasco is flavor. Our extensive meat option is all you can eat Rodizio with about a dozen types of meat carved at the table site,or Ao Menu(A La Carte), where patrons choose the specific meat or seafood and is cooked to order. At the main dining area, a gourmet salad bar featuring seafood cocktail,antipasti,specialty salads, cheese,and exotic vegetables are offered to our diners to ensure an unforgettable dining experience.

Mark Shim, executive chef and owner, began his culinary carrier as a sushi chef, later obtaining an apprenticeship in French cuisine from Houston's Art Institute Culinary School. Having grown up in South America, BBQ is a lifelong passion for Chef Shim.

Phone:Not yet available Temporary contact:713 682-0009

(Todai Restaurant)

Pradaria
Steak & Churrascaria

As owner and chef of another Houston landmark restaurant “Todai”,Chef Shim added churrascaria to his wildly popular sushi and seafood restaurant beginning of 2008. Although many thought it was a challenge, Mark discovered that “churrasco” has become a mainstream culinary of choice that is becoming increasingly popular with Houstonians.This convinced chef Shim that there is need in the city of authentic churrascaria that provides casual and affordable option to not only experience rodizio, but also the rich South American is culinary culture through many of the original dishes not featured in other churrascarias in town. Unlike traditional churrascarias, Pradaria offers other options along with it’s rodizio (all-you-can eat) to meet the needs of all diners. Such as “Salad Bar Only”, a-la-carte menu consisting of seafood and special cuts of steaks, and light menu items such as sandwiches and chef’s salads.

In order to offer an authentic churrascaria experience, Chef Shim assembled a team of Brazilian Chefs with expertise in the fields of Churrasco,Authentic Brazilian Dishes,and Modern Fusion dishes that will be featured in our a la carte menu.Scheduled to open^{h} March 27, 2009,Pradaria March 9th s conveniently located at 10694 Westheimer Rd ,Houston, TX 77042 near beltway 8.

Contact email: houston@pradaria.com
Website: www.pradaria.com (under construction)

BT

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THE FIGHT CONTINUES

And once again, we are here with you, navigating in the right direction, and bringing a world of information.I am sure the information that I bring will be very valuable and extremely important. Several obstacles came our way trying to stop us from publishing any more editions of our magazine. However, we did not give up! We continued strong and we didn't get scared or disturbed by any criticism we heard about our last edition. We are here to develop new,ideas,introduce you to the existence of several businesses, ideas, publish articles by qualified professionals,and recognize the great people in our community. Our goal is to be the liaison between the two countries U.S. and Brazil. We want to extend our hands to all people interested in building relationships between these two nations.In pointing our arrow in the right direction and doing a good job, we received excellent feedback from professionals in all areas, areas; professionals that are extremely successful in their businesses but also feel the need to support the cause and extend their hands to continue helping us in the ladder of success with our magazine. We must always give back the respect and confidence that these professionals have in us. We hope that in reading this new edition you enjoy our interviews and articles,and we hope that you will become our new partner in the Brazilian Texas Magazine.

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The Impact of Barak Obama's Election as President

Growing up in the South Suburbs of Chicago, most of the young black men looked toward the day when they would graduate from High School. We would all talk about our future and the jobs that we would have.For most it was going to work in the local factories that our dad or uncle was working at.That was the hope of young black men to become manual laborers while their more affluent counterparts were being taught to become Business Men or Owners of Business. Even with outstanding grades the school counselors would prepare us for trade school rather than give us hope to attend Universities. I think it is very admirable to work as laborers and it teaches good old fashion hard work. It just became systematically a way of thinking that we were not just good enough to be in the board room or even in the same office. At that time the models we had for success were either athletes or entertainers.

Over time as society, and people tolerance for change began to loosen,I started to see hope in young men that had been absent from theirs and their fathers childhood. However bright that hope was, change was still slow to come. It was slow for a variety o f reasons, but for me it was slow because I had not allowed myself to see beyond the limitations others placed before me. It wasn't until I entered my thirties that I armed myself with the knowledge of God's word that I can do all things thru Christ who gives me strength, I began to denounce the years of hearing "You can never become" or "This is all you can qualify for" and started opening my mind to possibilities and began to use the hard work principles my father demonstrated in the factories of Ford Automotives.

Today I am a Lead Clinical Analyst for the largest non-profit Hospital System in the state of Texas. Through the progression of Equal Rights and more positive representatives in the community black men have made great progress over the past few years with leaders in position of CEO's of fortune 500 companies such as James Bell, Interim CEO of Boeing and also it's Chief Financial Officer, there's also Richard Parson CEO of Time Warner, and Former Merrill Lynch CEO Stanley O'neil. And now we know there should be no limitations for my children or anybody's child since we have just sworn in our 44th President Barak Obama, a person of color who represent the culmination of years of marching, years of protesting, years of struggling, years of mentoring and years of believing …..yes we can !!!!

By Mr. Tracy *Glasper,* MCSE

BT Vip

DIPLOMACY

AMBASSADOR

PROFILE

Ambassador Antônio José Rezende de Castro and Mrs. Carita Rezende De Castro

ANTÔNIO JOSÉ REZENDE DE CASTRO BRAZILIAN CONSUL GENERAL IN HOUSTON

Ambassador Rezende de Castro was born in Rio de Janeiro on June 12, 1948. After having earned a diploma in Public Administration from the Getulio Vargas Foundation, in Brasilia, he graduate in 1971 from Brazil's diplomatic academy, the Rio Branco Institute. At the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Relations, in Brasilia, he worked as an Advisor to the Director of the Communications Department, 1971-1974, as Deputy Head of the Trade Fairs Division, 1983-84, and as Head of the Southern Africa Division, 1989-1993. Overseas, he served in Latin America (Ecuador, Venezuela and Paraguay, as Head of the Political Section of the respective Embassies), Europe (Italy, Rome and Milan, as Head of the Commercial Section) and Asia (as Minister-Counsellor in Tokyo).He earned a Master's Degree in Political Science in 1996, with a thesis on the Relations between Brazil and Paraguay after the War of the Triple Alliance. He took up his first responsibilitie as Head of Mission as Consul-General in Ciudad del Este, 2000-2004. He was promoted to the rank of Ambassador in December 2004 and served as Brazilian Ambassador to the Republic of Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Program, in Nairobi, from 2004 to 2007, when he was designated Brazilian Consul General in Houston, with jurisdiction over the States of Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and, naturally, Texas. Ambassador Rezende de Castro is married to Carita Rezende de Castro and they have three children.

12th Annual Brazilian International Press Award

The Biggest Celebration of Brazilian Culture in the US

Started in 1997, the **Brazilian International Press Award** is the most important and recognized event highlighting the promotion of Brazilian culture and community in the United States.

Not only Brazilians, but people, institutions and events of many nationalities have received the **"Newspaper Boy"** award for their great contributions to the positive image of Brazil. In its ninth year of realization, the "Press Award" increasingly attracting the attention of U.S. and international media. It is also recognized as a strong bridge between North-American and Brazilian cultures.

The **Brazilian International Press Award** is produced by **PMM-Plus Media & Marketing** with support from the **Broward Center for the Performing Arts**, **TAM-Brazilian Airlines**, **EMBRAER** and **Banco do Brasil,**

Thousands of votes are casted by the general public through the official web-site **www.pressaward.com**. Those votes define the nominees in several categories, which range from US-Brazil Relations, Music to Sports, Community Affairs, Portuguese Idiom, Events, Philanthropy, Fine Arts and other Brazilian Cultural activities.

A Final Judge Panel, consisting of 200 prestigious and well-recognized judges, among them journalists representing more than 250 Brazilian media, cultural leaders and Brazilian community representatives from several U.S. states, choose the winners.

The Lifetime Achievement Award

Some of the past winners are Brazilian legends such as sportsman **Emerson Fittipaldi**, **Wanderley Cordeiro**, **Gil de Ferran** and **Hortência Macari**, musicians **Jorge Ben Jor**, **Joyce**, **Roberto Menescal**, **Alcione**, **Ivan Lins** and **Arthur Moreira lima**, cartoonist **Mauricio de Sousa**, writers **Ana Maria Machado**, **João Ubaldo Ribeiro** and **Nelida Piñon.**

The Brazilian International Press Awards in 2009 will present three nights of celebration.

Media Awards – May 7th, 2009 – New River Room
Media Night will honor specifically the media, press and advertisement awards. Representatives of more the 150 Brazilian media outlets throughout the U.S will gather to the New River Room at The Broward Center for The Performing Arts for an "invitation only" night.

Arts & Culture Awards – May 8th, - Amaturo Theater
The traditional Arts, Culture & Community awards ceremony will gather winners, personalities, Brazilian celebrities and media people not only from several U.S. states but also from Brazil, Europe, Africa and Japan, representing strong Brazilian communities in those parts of the world. The event will be held at the Armaturo Theater at the BCPA.

Lifetime Achievement & Brazilian Music Celebration – May 9th, - Au René Theater
Crowning the weekend long celebration, the 4 "Lifetime Achievement Awards" for PRESS AWARDS 2006 will be honored on stage at the Au René Theater (2.700 seats), following a spectacular Brazilian Music Celebration with mega Brazilian stars

12th Annual BRAZILIAN INTERNATIONAL PRESS AWARDS
May 7th to 9th, 2009

Presented by:
BROWARD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
TAM-BRAZILIAN AIRLINES
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PMM-Plus Media &Marketing
• For more information go to the web-site www.pressaward.com or call (786) 779-3072

Carlos Borges

Journalist and Producer

Born in Alagoinhas, Bahia, journalist and producer Carlos Borges, 53, had a very successful career as TV and Newspaper editor as well as TV Shows Producer in his adoptive hometown, the historical city of Salvador, capital of Bahia.

He and his wife, Andrea, a Marketing Executive, decided to move to the United States in 1989, accepting an invitation to be part of the first creative crew of Nickelodeon, in Orlando, FL.

Since then, Carlos Borges establishes himself as one of the most successful leaders of the Brazilian community in the U.S. His productions & publishing company PMM (Plus Media & Marketing) based in Fort Lauderdale, FL, is the largest of its kind working with all aspects of Brazilian Media, Culture & Arts in the United States.

He created national and international events such as “International Press Awards’, “Focus Brazil Seminar” and “Talent Brazil Showcase”. He created and directed several newspapers and magazines in its, so far, 2 decades of work in America.

His most recent venture, the record label “Green Music”, is dedicated not only to promote Brazilian music but also alternative and creative singers and songwriters.

We Love Brazil

My sister, my brother and I had loads of fun in Brazil. We saw a lot and understood things better than we did when we we’re younger. We loved the beaches, Copacabana was our favorite. The way the waves hit the shore was like something out of the movies. That quality is definitely something you can’t find in Galveston beach. We loved the culture so much.

From the vendors selling on the beach and on the streets, to the couples dancing, and the musicians playing their instruments at the street festivals. One of my favorites, was when we’re at the market places where they sold souvenirs and other amazing Brazilian items. One item that truly caught my eye, was the gorgeous jewelry they made. The cool thing about it, was that they were made of polished rocks. One of the most special natural wonders Brazil has, is their rocks. They looked like the inside of a magical crystal world. They also sold a lot of souvenirs with Rio’s main attraction,Corcovado.

The food was wow! At first, I thought it wasn’t a really a good idea to taste new things, especially ones that look different. However it turned out to be one the best decisions we ever made. The food was always home cooked and delicious. The weird part about it, was that we could eat all that we wanted to eat, like rice, beans, fish, chicken, salad, frango, you name it and not gain a lot of weight. That was my favorite part. Do you know why we never gained a pound? It was because we always walked to the next destination. That’s one thing America is lacking, walking and he althy eating.And that’s one Brazilian tradition that my sister and I plan to keep, and teach here in our hometown, Houston.In Brasilia we saw many sites, the sites were more political and religious than the sites we saw in Rio. That was expected, taking into consideration we were in the capital of Brazil, but it was still great to listen about the country works and its history. Over all everything was fun. It was an experience that I recommend to anyone. If there was one major thing that I did learn from this trip, was that Brazilians love Disney and that they are athletic and he althy! I Leonidia told my brother and sister that we are truly blessed to be Brazilians!!!! Love.

Leonidia Glasper, Louise Glasper, Trey Glasper.

What about Education?

I remember the day children went to school to read history books, write essays about their favorite memories, and learn mathematics to perhaps one day become an engineer, to have knowledge hoping for a better future. These days many children go to school and most of the time don't want to read, write, believe that learning mathematics is not so "cool". However, they are exactly what we call them "they are children" and not mature adults. But many times I hear that those same children are tired to be treated as whom they are, and they demand equality among grown ups. Nevertheless, they must be taught at an early age that everything in life must be earned, and adulthood is not about age but acceptance of responsibility.

Soccer Coach Sergio Lima

"The tongue has the power of life and death", but often we find ourselves making comments with one another to why things have turned this way, why our school system has failed our children. The question really should be, did our school system fail our children or we as responsible adults have failed to model, educate and discipline at our homes, neighborhoods, churches and communities? We hear now more than ever from school board members, administrators and even politicians that we must make our teachers more accountable. Even though I agree with keeping workers accountable for the job they are hired to perform. I disagree that teachers should take the solo consequence for a success or failure of a student. We as a society should make parents/guardians and members of the community in general also accountable for our students. But most of all, parents/guardians are the ones that hold the key for a brighter or darker future for our children. The mentality that we as educators must become the parents for thousand of children is not realistic. We can be great mentors, but the main responsibility of planting the seed in that child belongs in the household. Many will say, what about the child that doesn't have a home? That's my point, if we as a society fail to educate families, we will not be able to go the extra mile for the ones that don't have a family. As an educator I deal with situations everyday, and most of them are brought about because of the lack of discipline in the children's household. Because of that, many times we label our children with things like ED- emotionally disturbed; ADHD- attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder; LD- learning disabled, even though in some. I'm positive that in many cases the lack of discipline in the home may be the cause of many of these labels. So, what about education? In this article my intention is to really point out, that in order for us to offer a better education to our children, we must better educate their parents.

"As a man think, so is he". Let me give you an example: a person is on a diet and spends the entire weekend at a spa, eating right and exercising. However, this person goes home on Monday to a household where they don't eat healthy foods and are not exposed to physical activities. What do you think will happen to this person's diet? They will give in to the higher power, to the one that they can associate with, the one that has more influence in their lives. In this case the person will go back to the poor eating habits, even though they were introduced to healthier eating habits. Why does that happen? Even though the spa is great, and offer awesome things, their household is a familiar place for them. It is a place of comfort (even if it's not so safe), it is a place they identify the most. This example was given to you to make an analogy, that it doesn't matter how much we try and do as educators in the public schools, when that child goes back home a lot changes. The world looks up to the public educator as their savior, but the truth in the matter is that we don't make miracles, but yet society looks up to us expecting one.

Nevertheless, I have had the pleasure of working with excellent professionals in my school district, wonderful faculty and staff that is capable, willing and very qualified to perform their duties. With that in mind I assure you that most educators work from the heart, and when you do that even the impossible becomes possible, dreams are brought to life, and reality truly starts to look as the miracle that many expect from us. In order for that to happen more often and with more success, we must work together with parents, community members, churches and any member of our society that is willing to make a difference in our children's lives. We must not lose hope, because without hope we'll not have dreams, without dreams no miracles and without miracles reality becomes sometimes broken and not so bright. We must stop pointing fingers, but we must always point the children in the right direction. We have the responsibility to walk a straight line, so the young people that are following us don't get deviated and take the wrong turn. We must model good habits so our children can grow up developing great character. We must speak good things, so they can hear and learn how to be positive and always reach for the skies. We must have high standards to all children of any race, religion, economic status and not discriminate against them but teach them the correct way. We must keep our beliefs strong and always know that there is a reason for everything. As a Christian woman I believe that God gave us all the answers in a book, and this book is called the Bible. Even though I do not impose my beliefs on others, I'm confident that God has given me the gift to coach other people to live a more satisfying and fulfilling life. Many say that our students living in economically challenged neighborhoods behave this way because of their economic status, I beg to differ. I believe that attitude is one of the most important things in ones' life. However, having a positive attitude in life is a choice that many fail to understand, and because of their lack of understanding, they fail to pass that on to their children. With that, they create a cycle of failures and lack of belief for a better life. You can only give what you have. However, I believe that anyone can be great if exposed to great things, and if the individual is willing and given the opportunity he/she can succeed.

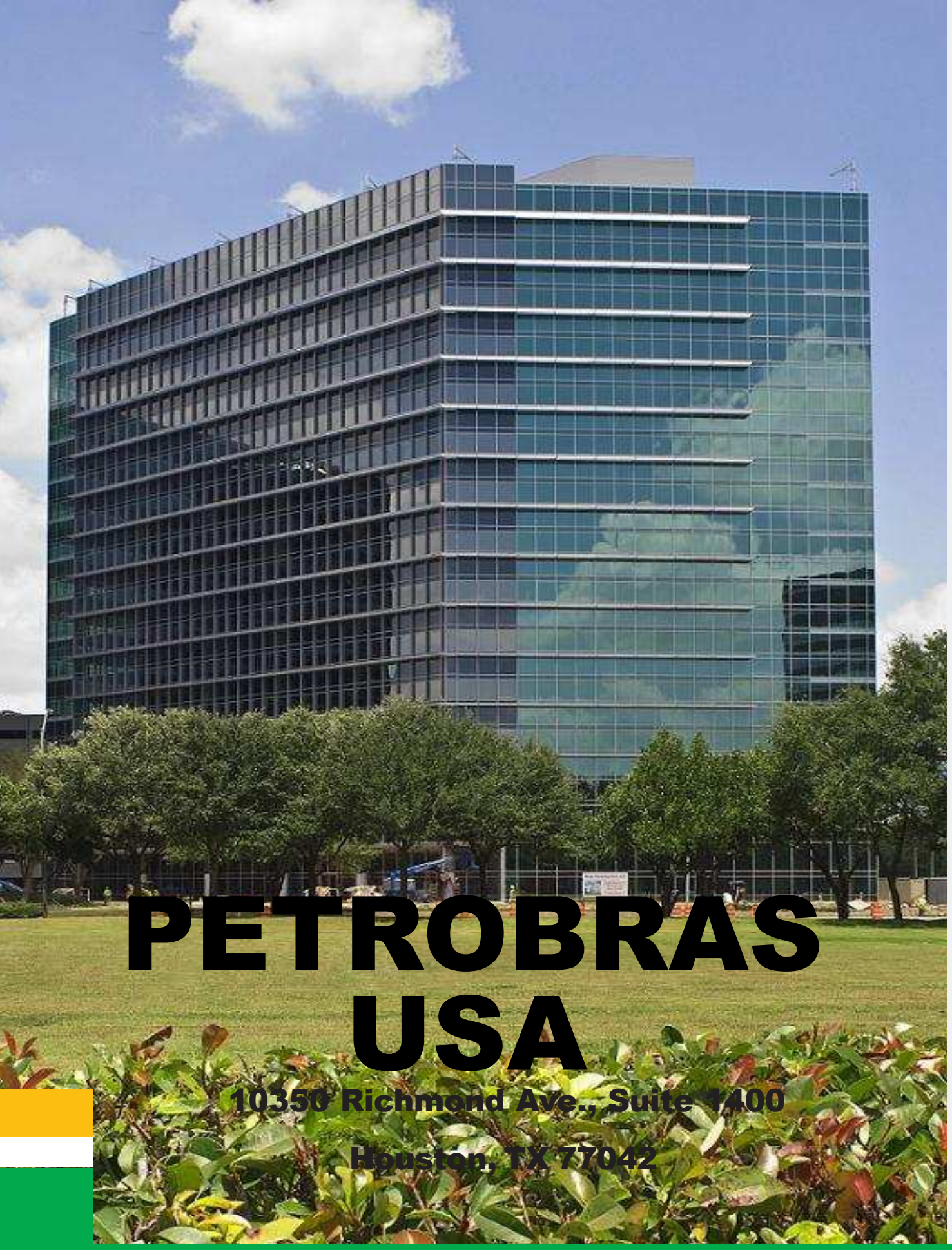
As I looked in the dictionary for the definitions of the word education, it said among many other definitions: education is the result of good upbringing. So, let's do what is right, all of us. Let's not depend on one person to raise a child in our society. To get an education is a right that every child has, to keep up with their education is a responsibility that we have as a community. Remember, "It takes a village to raise a child" and our children are our future. We must start the healing process, in our communities, neighborhoods and households." Train up a child the way he should go and as he grows, he will not depart from it".

Let us join together to educate our children.

Written by:
Leonora Claudia Glasper, M.Ed.

Brazilian Soldier returns from Iraq.

Leonardo Brito (second from left in photo) son of Ailta Ribeiro Orfali and George M. Orfali of Houston,returned from Iraq, where he won an Army Commendation medal, in the beginning of December after nine months in combat. Leo who is a Cavalry Scout was attached to the Iraqi army as an advisor in Baghdad. His duties consisted of leading and advising Iraqi soldiers as they patrolled the streets of Bagdad, searched for and arrested terrorist and tried to keep the city streets safe for the population. Leo attended Stafford High School. He is an accomplished soccer player having played for the Eclipse Soccer club and won several championships including the Southern Texas State Championship in 2001. After spending Christmas at home Leo returned to his duty station at Fort Stewart in GA. Where his regiment is preparing for their next assignment, most likely in Afghanistan.



PETROBRAS USA

10350 Richmond Ave., Suite 1400

Houston, TX 77042

Petrobras America has a new address in Houston's Westchase District

Petrobras America has relocated to a new LEED®-certified building, the Granite Westchase II.The company had been working in two separate office buildings, both located in the Westchase area of Houston.This move puts them all under the same roof.The new address is 10350 Richmond Ave.,Suite 1400, Houston,TX 77042. Petrobras America is proud to be able to carry through one of its core values of environmental responsibility into its office space, at the same time providing a healthier work space for the staff. LEED® stands for"Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design,"and many features of the new building model environmental responsibility.Some noteworthy characteristics of Petrobras America's new office space follow: Rapidly renewable materials are incorporated into the project wherever it was feasible. Rapidly renewable materials regenerate in less than 10 years. Occupancy light sensors are included in every office,saving energy because overhead lights automatically go out when no one is in the office. Natural light enters as much of the building core space as possible, making a better working environment for employees. Materials containing recyclables are used wherever possible,including the carpet, millwork,and ceiling tiles. Air conditioning zones are plentiful, so as the sun rises and sets, separate thermostats adjust the temperature of different areas of the building for comfort, saving energy.Water-conserving faucets are installed to reduce the use of water in restrooms.Tenants–and Petrobras America–agree to recycle and plastics on a daily basis.

Changes in the Brazilian Justice May Attract Foreign Investment

By Ines Selestrim Silveira and Cid Silveira

Simple routine change can expedite many of the processes in Brazilian Courts and make the lives of hundreds of thousands of Brazilian citizens smoother.

A judicial process can change the life of a person. In Brazil the waiting time for a decision is a painstaking process and a stern agony in the lives of its citizens. INQJ – Instituto Nacional da Qualidade Judiciária (ww.inqj.org.br) for the first time completed a research where the findings show that the time frame to conclude a judicial process in the Courts can shorten from three years to only nine months just by slightly changing the routines of "Cartórios".

During a period of nearly 2 years, a group of researchers and technicians from INQJ systematically and thoroughly researched the paperwork of several processes through the Judiciary system. The results showed that the average time to conclude a process is 3 years.

During this period of 3 years, a process is actually handled by the judge for only 7 hours, and that includes transportation, analysis of the matter, preparation of dispatches, issue of mandate, indictments, and final sentence. Attorneys by their turn actually manipulate the processes 25% of the time. The rest of the time the process files sit on the shelves and cabinet files of the "Cartórios".The study points out that some changes can be done with almost zero cost. he methodology utilized by INQJ was evaluated by economists from the Ronald Coase Institute, who said the results reached by this study are considered international model for the reform of the judiciary, with practical and efficient solutions, and applicable in the short term.

For Kurt Lenhard, responsible for the group "Legislação e Justiça" of the "Project Brasil 2022" of the PNBE (www.pnbe.org.br) , "as the Economy Nobel Prize winner Dr. Douglas North once said, an efficient Judiciary System is a determinant factor for the economical a social development of a country".

With the purpose of elaborating proposals to create changes in the justice system that allow it to function in an effective way in the modern society, the PNBE (www.pnbe.org.br) , coordinated by Mario Ernest Humberg, formed a workgroup dedicated to this project since 2004.

In 2007 and 2008 this group, formed by Kurt Lenhard - coordinator, Dr. Ines Selestrim Silveira, Cid Silveira, Dr. Antonio Augusto de Mello Ferraz – Public Prosecutor, Dr. Elizabeth Leão – Chairman of the Board of INQJ, and Dr. Rodrigo N. Santos – Executive Director of INQJ, got to a diagnostic to the problem and elaborated proposals for changes:

Diagnostic:

- Elowness
- Expectation of impunity
- Feeling of injustice
- Power of organized crime
- Obsolete mentality and archaic language

The administrative modernization proposed has the capacity to reduce the lengthy processes from 3 years to 9 months

Proposals for changes:

- Improvement of procedures in a more logic and coordinated way
- Creation of a system of motivation and commitments with socially relevant results
- Adoption of job appraisal for the workers to motivate and improve the relationship inside each department
- Transparency of all procedural actions, costs and statistics, with posting in the internet
- Full utilization of the Public Ministry and the several financial control entities
- Utilization of the “Leilão Eletrônico” (“Electronic Auction”)

The work group concluded that the reform of the judiciary system depends mainly on the improvement of the administration services provided by the “Cartórios”. The administrative modernization proposed has the capacity to reduce the lengthy processes from 3 years to 9 months.With efficient mechanisms in place, the whole system will have acquire more consistency and become more dependable for those who work in the system, and for those who need and use the system, meaning the normal citizen, the entrepreneurs and the society in general.Forforeign businessesto invest or expand their portfolio in Brazil, the judiciary system must show credibility and steadfastness, as well as levels of efficiency with clear rules, so they can perceive a market where risks are manageable. So to create such motivation among international businesses, it is essential and urgent that the reform of the judiciary is implemented.

Café BOSSA NOVA

A TASTE OF BRAZILIAN CUISINE

Open Tues. - Sat. 11 am to 9 pm
Sunday Brunch - Sun 10:30am -2 pm

CAFE BOSSA NOVA

A R K A N S A S

Little Rock AR

Café Bossa Nova was founded in March 2002 by ***Rosalia and Dan Monroe***. Rosalia, using the recipes she carried in her heart from her native Brazil, and with the support of her husband Dan, her sons Marcio and Joe, and her daughter Adriana the restaurant was born in what once was the kitchen of the old Café de Roma. In a tiny kitchen, with only a hot plate burner and a convention oven, Rosalia started serving lunch to a curious crowd who immediately acquired a taste for her now famous cheese bread and black beans and rice. In response to growing demand from her lunchtime customers, she began serving dinner as well, and in January of 2005 Bossa Nova doubled its serving space, expanded its kitchen, and its cuisine. Her patrons now enjoy Bossa Nova six days a week, including Sunday Brunch serving both Brazilian and American breakfast plates with a South American twist.

Rosalia's love of people in both Arkansas and the world translates into her wonderful dishes, soothing Bossa Nova music and an atmosphere that reflects the warmth of her Brazilian culture. "Ciranda" is the name of her new gift shop, next door to Café Bossa Nova. A great place to buy Brazilian gifts - from soccer shirts and bikinis to beautiful artwork

2701 Kavanaugh Boulevard, Suite 105 Little Rock, AR 72205

Phone: 501-614-NOVA (6682)
Fax: 501-614-NOVA (6682)
Email: Rosalia Monroe ~ Dan Monroe

BRATECC – THE BRAZIL-TEXAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Directors and Members of Bratecc

Jhon Ming, Cid Silveira, Fernado Lisboa

Ricardo Peduzzi

Rubens Gama

Gustavo Barbosa, Renato Bertani

José Orlando Melo de Azevedo

BRATECC Board of Directors Elected by acclamation José

Orlando Melo de Azevedo to serve as President until December 2009, completing the term of outgoing President Alberto da Fonseca Guimarães. Azevedo recently took office as President of Petrobras America, Inc.

The Executive Committee recognized the exceptional contribution Guimarães gave BRATECC through his energy, leadership and advice, and awarded him a plaque naming him “BRATECC President Emeritus”

BRATECC’s Board of Directors, 2008-2009

Alberto da Fonseca Guimarães
Adelaide Guimarães

Antônio José Rezende de Castro
H.E. Consul General of Brazil
Mrs.Carita Rezende De Castro

Honorary President
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Apolo Tubular

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Miguel Montenegro
JPMorgan Chase

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Renato Tadeu Bertani
Thompson & Knight Energy Services

President Emeritus Alberto da Fonseca Guimarães.

Director
Rui Luis Abrantes
Securance Corporation

Mr.João Carlos Araujo Figueira

Mr. Figueira is the President of Petrobras in Venezuela, responsible for managing the two subsidiaries of the company in the country

BT-Tell us about your time in Houston, Texas

As far as my stay in Houston, I had theopportunity to continue the works of construction on avariety of exploration projects and production of oil in theNorth American sector of the Gulf of Mexico. The works ofconstruction had been started by the geologist Renato Bertani. At that time, with the support and the dedication of a competent team of professionals in Petrobras .America,we approved the development of two important fields of oil located in ultra deep waters, in the Walker Ridge Quadrant. In this project, we are going to use Petrobras technology. Among them was the use of FPSO(Floating Production Storage and Offloading) for the processing and production, in combination with alleviating ships from transporting up to the points of delivery, along the American coast. Standing out as a pioneer, Petrobras was the first enterprise to use a system of production through FPSO in American waters, besides the production of the reservoirs of the so called Wilcox formation, however nexperienced at carrying depths of over 8 thousand meters. Moreover,it was possible to build an exploration portfolio by participating in bidding events (auction sales or lease) organized by the Minerals Management Services (MMS). Petrobras has had a strong representative participation in the most competitive two events in the history of the Gulf of Mexico American. They were the lease sales 205 and 206, made in October 2007 and March 2008 respectively. That allowed me to leave Petrobras America with the conviction that I had contributed to the construction of its future, that I am certain, will be brilliant. It was very easy for me to adapt to the city of Houston and its out skirts, being this city very well structured and with a practical and extraordinary vision.This allows us to call this beautiful city a“handy town”.If by its modern infrastru cture, or even by the mentality of the providers of goods and services, so many problems are resolved in general with a simple phone call. I also liked very much the American values, ike the religious freedom,the respect to an individual and to the family, as well as the seriousness with which the breaches are treated to the legislation.Above all, what I carried as the most positive and constructive of my experience in Houston.

Houston,Texas.

Mr. João Carlos Araujo Figueira and Mrs. Solange Figueira

BT-What is the plan for Petrobras in Venezuela?

The Petrobras Energy Venezuela, that is a partner of the PDVSA(to state-owned Venezuelan)in thecompanies Petroritupano,with 22% of participation;Petrowayú, with 36%; Petroven-Bras, with 34,49%; and Petrokariña, with 34,49%. The present total output of those companies is of 62 thousand daily barrels, of which around 16 thousand barrels correspond to the installment of participation at Petrobras-The Petrobras Venezuela Inversiones y Servicios, that isa company that shelters a group of experienced professionals. Their specialties are applied in the several operational units of the corporation Petrobras in Venezuela, in Brazil, in the U.S.A., in Colombia, in Argentina, in Nigeria, in Angola and in Turkey. Between others, wherever those competences can contribute value to the activities of the company.

The Avila

Ambassador Oto Maia and Ambassador Antônio José Rezende de Castro, Meeting the Brazilian Community In Houston after Seminar for World Brazilian In Rio De Janeiro

Sergio Lima, Editor Brazilian Texas Magazine, Ambassador,Oto Maia, Ambassador, Antônio José Rezende de Castro and Sergio Santos

Sergio Lima,Mario Araujo,Rosalia Monroe,Owner and Chef,Cafe Bossa Nova in Little Rock,Arkansas ,Valter Aleixo Manager of Operations for International Services Departamento Of Methodista Hospital,Ambassador Antônio José Rezende de Castro,Ambassador Oto Maia, Doris Santos e Sergio Santos,owner Sergio &Doris Travel, Marcelo Meira, Executivo and Classic Musition, Moises Ribeiro owner the Brudda Granites.

The Gentleman

Claudio Teixeira

Claudio Teixeira was born in Rio de Janeiro, on February 7, 1956, and was raised, as of the age of 9 years old, in Brasília, Brazil's Capital. In 1974, at the age of 18 years old, Claudio started his ties with the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations - MRE, first as a local employee hired by the Brazilian Embassy in Moscow, city where he lived for 7 years. Later, in 1978, after participating, in Brasília, of a public governmental test, he officially joined the MRE. In 1981, back to Brasília, Claudio worked at the Communications Department (1981-1984).Then,as a Chancellery Officer(Oficial de Chancelaria)he worked at the Technical Cooperation Department (1984-1986)and at the Press Secretariat (1987). He was,then, transferred to the Consulate General of Brazil in New York (1988-1992), where he served as a Vice Consul. In March of 1992,he was sent to the Consulate General of Brazil in Houston, to serve also as a Vice Consul, and was appointed Head of Administration. During his stay in Houston,where he made lots of friends, Claudio was one of the founders of the Brazilian music group The "Atravessados",helping the Brazilian community to promote the Brazilian music in Houston, in Dallas, in Austin and in other cities nearby. In November of 1997, he was transferred to the Brazilian Embassy in Bridgetown,Barbados, where he served as a Vice Consul,Head of Administration and Head of the Consular Service of the embassy.

In September of 2000, Claudio was called back to Brasília, where he worked in the MRE as supervisor in the Personnel Department (2000-2002). In February of 2003, he served at the General Secretariat, and in November of that same year he was invited to work at the "Alexandre de Gusmão Foundation" (2003-2006) – which is a Governmental agency linked to the MRE – first as the Finance and Administration Coordinator, than as the General Coordinator for Financial and Administrative Affairs, and last as the Director, substitute, of the General Administration Department. In 2006, it was offered to Claudio the opportunity to go overseas again. Because of his strong ties with Houston, he chose to serve, once more, at the Consulate in Houston. Claudio arrived in Houston, for the second time, in October of 2006, and he was nominated Vice Consul again. He was sent to work at the Visa Department, and later was appointed Head of the department.In August of 2008 he was appointed Head of Administration, position that he holds until now.

Claudio Teixeira earned a diploma in Administration from the Catholic University of Brasília, and has three children from his first marriage. Presently he is married to Sandra Santos, who is also an officer of the Brazilian Government. She serves,likewise, at the Consulate General of Brazil in Houston, and they live in Houston with Santos' four children.

Brazilian Prayer Group

Neiva, Regiane, Ailta, Regina, Celina, Ana Beatriz e Marilza

This Brazilian Prayer Group is located on the west part of Houston.They get together on Wednesdays night at Sj.John Vianney Catholic Church.They do somecommunity services,like helping with the food bank drive,feeding and clothing people in the streets,revamping some houses for people in need. They recently hosted a Brazilian Coffee at the St.John Vianney parish where 500+people had breakfast and had a chance to eat Brazilian food.They have been organizing some Masses in Portuguese, bringing priests from other towns.For contacts and questions:just send and email to:

missa@pobox.com

About Houston Expat Brazilian and Portuguese Speaking Meetup Group

Lessons from the Heart

In that city of hard-working, straight-talking citizens, young Michael DeBakey stood out. In gardening contests, he took top prize. In school, he was known as a scholar. He enjoyed sports and played in the band. But what he remembered best were the books and the love of learning. Those were gifts from his parents, Shaker Morris and Raheeja Zorba DeBakey.

DeBakey's parents emigrated from Lebanon to the United States, where they had four exceptional children of whom Michael Ellis DeBakey was the first. "Both my father and mother were almost selfeducated," DeBakey said. While both had formal schooling, neither went to college. But they wanted the best education for their children.

Our parents were very much concerned about their children. They gave us everything we wanted." But, with wealth went obligation every Sunday, Shaker Morris DeBakey and his family packed their car with clothes and food for children who lived in an orphanage on the outskirts of town.

"

Once, young DeBakey's favorite cap went into one of those bundles, and he objected. "My mother sat him down and said, "'You have a lot of caps. These children have none,'" remembered Lois DeBakey. "Our parents were always teaching us about life and principles.

" Selma DeBakey remembered the Lake Charles of their youth as peaceful and pristine. In the warm afternoons, the children and their friends would enjoy milk and cookies on the family porch while they read.

DeBakey's parents required that their children check a book out each week from the public library. We could read anything we wanted and DeBakey recalled a wonderful book in the library they would not lend out. You had to stay in the library and read it. Shaker Morris DeBakey did not hesitate and purchased it for the family. By the time they entered college, each of the DeBakey children had read the entire "book" — the Encyclopedia Britannica.

But, while he fostered such intellectual experiences, DeBakey's father was very much planted in the real world. He expected his children to learn the skills needed to take them into adulthood. For example, before young DeBakey entered Tulane University in New Orleans, he had learned to keep the books in his father's drugstore. It taught him to manage money.

As the oldest brother, he led the way. His brother Ernest graduated from Tulane Medical School, and sisters Lois and Selma graduated from nearby Sophie Newcomb College.

When he remembered his own upbringing and compared it to what children receive today, DeBakey realized the importance of good parenting. Good parents guide and discipline their children, and it makes a difference. "You are not born with self-discipline," claimed DeBakey. "You have to develop that, and someone has to help you. They have to teach you right from wrong." As far back as he could recall, he wanted to study medicine. He wanted to be a doctor, and my parents encouraged him.

DeBakey entered medical school after only two years of college, finishing his bachelor's degree while pursuing his medical studies. Some of his professors tried to distract him along the way. His zoology professor wanted him to remain in that field, as did his physics and English literature teachers.

But his true mentor was the legendary surgeon Alton Ochsner, who took the brilliant young medical student under his wing and ushered him into the field of surgery.

At Tulane, he earned enough credits by the end of his second year to enter medical school. He combined his final undergraduate courses with medical studies. As a result, he received his B.S. in 1930, his M.D. in 1932, and a M.S. in 1935. Studies in Europe followed DeBakey's graduation from medical school. He returned to Tulane as an associate professor until World War II, when he and Dr. Gordon Holcombe, a childhood friend from Lake Charles, worked in the U.S. Army Surgeon General's office.

Holcombe, who followed DeBakey through medical school and residency at Tulane, remained close to the famous surgeon. "He has an imaginative, wonderful mind," said Holcombe.

Those who accused DeBakey of impatience did not know him well. He didn't demand any more than he should have demanded. "Surgery was not a game. We were saving people, saving people's lives."

Holcombe loved to watch DeBakey's life-saving work in the operating room. The long slender fingers move quickly without faltering. Holcombe maintained that DeBakey was the best technician he had ever seen. His movements were precise, delicate, and controlled.

At Methodist, DeBakey's days began before dawn and his surgical hours stretched until the late into the evenings. Towards the end of this unprecedented life of dedication his afternoons were filled with research and analyzing of data from 60,000 patients he had followed as long as 45 years. While he often found himself working well into the night, he never felt deprived of sleep. He could go for days on as little as four hours a night, rarely needing more than five or six. It's a schedule he developed as he learned at Alton Ochsner's side. A schedule and enthusiasm he sought to pass to another generation.

Each week, he had meetings with medical students who attend voluntarily and set their own agendas. Once they asked DeBakey to set the agenda. "Let's start off by each of you naming one of your favorite poems," DeBakey said. Not a single one could come up with a title. When DeBakey's turn came, he answered: "Thomas Gray's Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard." That reply drew blank stares.

DeBakey was disappointed and disturbed. "As doctors, you are supposed to belong to an educated class," he told them. "An educated person would know some classic poems."

NEW LATIN SENSATION

MONTSERRAT, BRINGS "BOLEROS COM BOSSA" TO TEXAS AND WEST COAST

Austin, San Antonio and Houston will see the new Spanish Diva

Fresh off a string of sold-out concerts across Europe, and after six sold out events in Miami, Orlando, Atlanta, New York, Boston and Hartford-CT, Spanish singing sensation **Montserrat** will bring her bossa nova-infused boleros to ten U.S. West Coast cities in March 2009.

The "Boleros com Bossa U.S. West Coast Tour" mark the first time the acclaimed Spanish soprano singer will visit Texas, with three events:

March 25th – *7:30 PM - AUSTIN, at the McCullough Theater (UT Performing Arts Center)*

March 26th - *8:00 PM - SAN ANTONIO, at the Josephine Theater*

March 27th – *8:00 PM, HOUSTON, at the Houston Community College Town & Country*

Before those presentations in Texas, she will also play in Salt Lake City, Denver, Portland, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle.

Montserrat's second album, Boleros com Bossa (Boleros with Bossa), reached the # 1 in Spain and # 2 in Mexico. Also made "Top Ten" in France Italy,Argentina,Japan and Brazil. With Montserrat's silky voice, legendary composer and musician, Roberto Menescal, revived the Latin American classics found in Boleros com Bossa by setting them to a bossa nova beat. "For years I searched for an authentic and unforgettable voice that would exhale femininity in order to make an album of bolero ballads with bossa nova arrangements. I could not have wished for more when I heard Montserrat."

Boleros com Bossa is Montserrat's second album. Her debut production, Añoranza (Longing)—a collection of Cuban and Mexican boleros recorded in Havana and Sao Paolo—featured performances with some of Latin music's greatest artists, including Chucho Valdés, Pablo Milanes, Pío Leiva and the "King of Bolero," Mundito González.

Originally from the Canary Islands, Montserrat was born on April 27th, the day of Our Lady of Montserrat, the patron saint of Catalunya, Spain. She's a citizen of the world who's lived on four continents, but currently, Brazil is her home. Although she began her professional career in 2003, she's been singing since the age of 12.

Boleros com Bossa features twelve new renditions of the most celebrated boleros in the world, including Tu Me Acostumbraste (You Got Me Used To), Bésame Mucho (Kiss Me Often) and Esta Tarde Ví Llover (Rainy Afternoon).

The album, which will be released stateside on October 8th was launched in Latin America last November and has sold over 40,000 copies in Mexico alone. Montserrat's "Boleros com Bossa World Tour" has made stops in Mexico, the Netherlands, Spain and other European destinations.

Other tracks on Boleros com Bossa are: El Reloj (The Clock), Sabor a Mí (A Taste of Me), No Me Platiques Mas (Don't Talk to Me Anymore), Contigo Aprendí (You Taught Me To), Tu Mi Delirio (My Delirium), La Puerta (The Door), Verdad Amarga (Bitter Truth), Contigo en la Distancia (You at a Distance), and La Mentira (The Lie). MEDIA CONTACT: 954-779-3072 **info@pmmsite.com**

MONTSERRAT

"Boleros com Bossa"

U.S. WEST COAST TOUR

Houston - March 27th, 8 PM

Houston Community College Town & Country Theater

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