CAPE VERDEAN MUSEUM
2024 HALL OF FAME GALA



October 26, 2024, 7pm

LeFoyer Club

Pawtucket, Rhode Island







Photos, clockwise from top: Students from Norwich Free Academy of Norwich, Connecticut visit; ""First Anniversary Ball, Cape Verde Women's Club, Sept, 27, 1939," from the museum archives; Mayor of Praia, Francisco Carvalho, September visit.

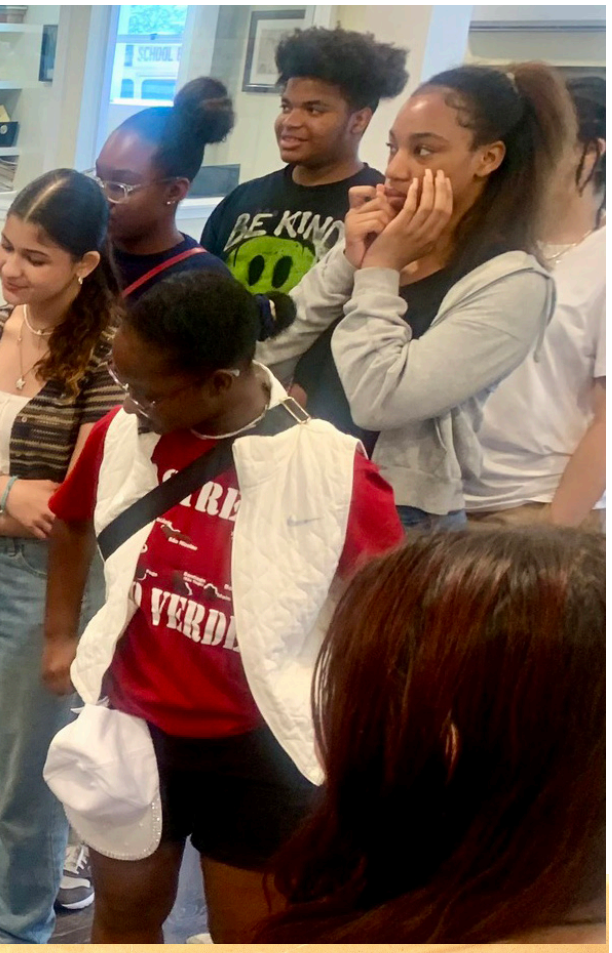




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TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

7PM: ARRIVAL AND COCKTAILS

7:45: DINNER, WITH MUSIC BY VUCA PINHEIRO

9PM: OPENING REMARKS

9:30PM: HALL OF FAME AWARDS

10PM: RAFFLE PRIZE DRAWING

10:30: ENTERTAINMENT BY MESTRE KIM ALVES AND FRIENDS





Photos, from top: Musicians from Brava, from the museum archives; Jose DaMoura and Corsino Delgado hold up the "Best Local Museum" award given to us by Rhode Island Magazine this summer; Yvonne and Gaga Ramos perform at the museum in June.






BEST OF
Rhode Island

Welcome

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we congratulate the Cape Verdean Museum Hall of Fame 2024 inductees!

Our Hall of Fame was created in 2005 by Denise Oliveira, our late founder and first president of the museum, to recognize Cape Verdean-Americans who have made significant contributions to our community in the United States. We want to honor those who not only devote their time and energy to helping others, but also raise the visibility of Cape Verdean-Americans in our culture through their exemplary achievements.

Over the years, 33 extraordinary individuals have been inducted into our Hall of Fame. They have been community leaders, activists, musicians, politicians and clergy, all pioneers who have helped break down social barriers and elevate our community. Tonight, we add 31 more worthy and deserving names to that list.

The Class of 2024 is an impressive group with a long list of accomplishments, far too many, in fact, to list on the following pages.

The mission of the Cape Verdean Museum is to celebrate and grow our culture. The Hall of Fame does just that, by recognizing these important Cape Verdeans of yesterday and today, so that the children of our children may know their stories and be inspired by their examples.

Thank you to everyone who has given so much back to our community!

Sincerely,
Corsino Delgado, Chairman of the Board,
Cape Verdean Museum











Photos, from top: Famous Cape Verdean whaling captain, Valentin da Roza and wife Anna, 1910; Students from Shea High School, Pawtucket, toured the museum, April, 2024; "Gentlemen From Boa Vista," from our archives; The Women of Ubuntu Cabral Group..


CAPE VERDEANS-1980 CENSUS
We must be counted!
write on Line 13-CAPE VERDEAN

MANUEL A. LOPES

Founder, Cape Verdean Recognition Committee

Manuel A. Lopes dedicated his life to the expression and preservation of Cape Verdean and Cape Verdean-American history and culture.

As Salah Matteos once said of him, “He was, in his own quiet way, a revolutionary.”

Born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, in 1922 to immigrants from São Nicolau, Cabo Verde, Lopes grew up on a farm in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, as the eldest of ten siblings. His leadership qualities emerged early; during high school, he led the Future Farmers of America and was named the State Milking champion in his senior year.

Lopes served in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II, training as an airplane mechanic alongside the Tuskegee Airmen in Alabama. Post-war, he returned to Massachusetts and married Matilda Costa. They raised four children, all of whom pursued higher education and earned college degrees.

For over five decades, Manuel was an active member of the Cape Verdean American Veterans Association, serving in various leadership roles, including Commander. He was instrumental in establishing the Cape Verdean Vets Educational Foundation, which recognized accomplished Cape Verdean-Americans through annual Achievement and Scholarship Awards.

In 1972, Manuel Lopes became the inaugural chairperson of the Cape Verdean Recognition Committee in New Bedford, Massachusetts, a position he held for over two decades. The committee, which evolved from the Cape Verdean Census Committee, aimed to increase awareness of Cape Verdean culture and identity. Their efforts led to the first Cape Verdean Recognition Day Celebration in the United States on July 8, 1973, an event that continues annually to this day.

Lopes’ advocacy extended to successfully lobbying for the identification of Cape Verdeans in both Massachusetts and Federal censuses, as well as increasing the annual quota for Cape Verdean emigrant visas from 200 to 600 per year.

For more than 20 years, he also served as a Director and Treasurer of the ***Schooner Ernestina*** Commission.

Manuel A. Lopes passed away on October 3, 2006. His quiet yet revolutionary approach to cultural preservation and advocacy has left an indelible mark on the Cape Verdean-American community that will last for generations to come.

JUDGE GEORGE N. LEIGHTON

Pioneering Judge and Civil Rights Leader

Judge George Neves Leighton, born George Neves Leitão on October 22, 1912, in New Bedford, Massachusetts, was a pioneering jurist and civil rights advocate. The son of immigrants from Brava, Leighton overcame significant obstacles to become one of the most highly respected figures in American law.

Despite leaving school after sixth grade to work in the cranberry bogs, Leighton's passion for learning led him to Howard University, which he paid for with $200 from the Cape Verdean Memorial Scholarship Fund. He graduated ***magna cum laude*** from the university in 1940. He next served as a Captain in the U.S. Army during World War II, earning several medals for his service. After the war, he completed his law degree at Harvard Law School in 1946.

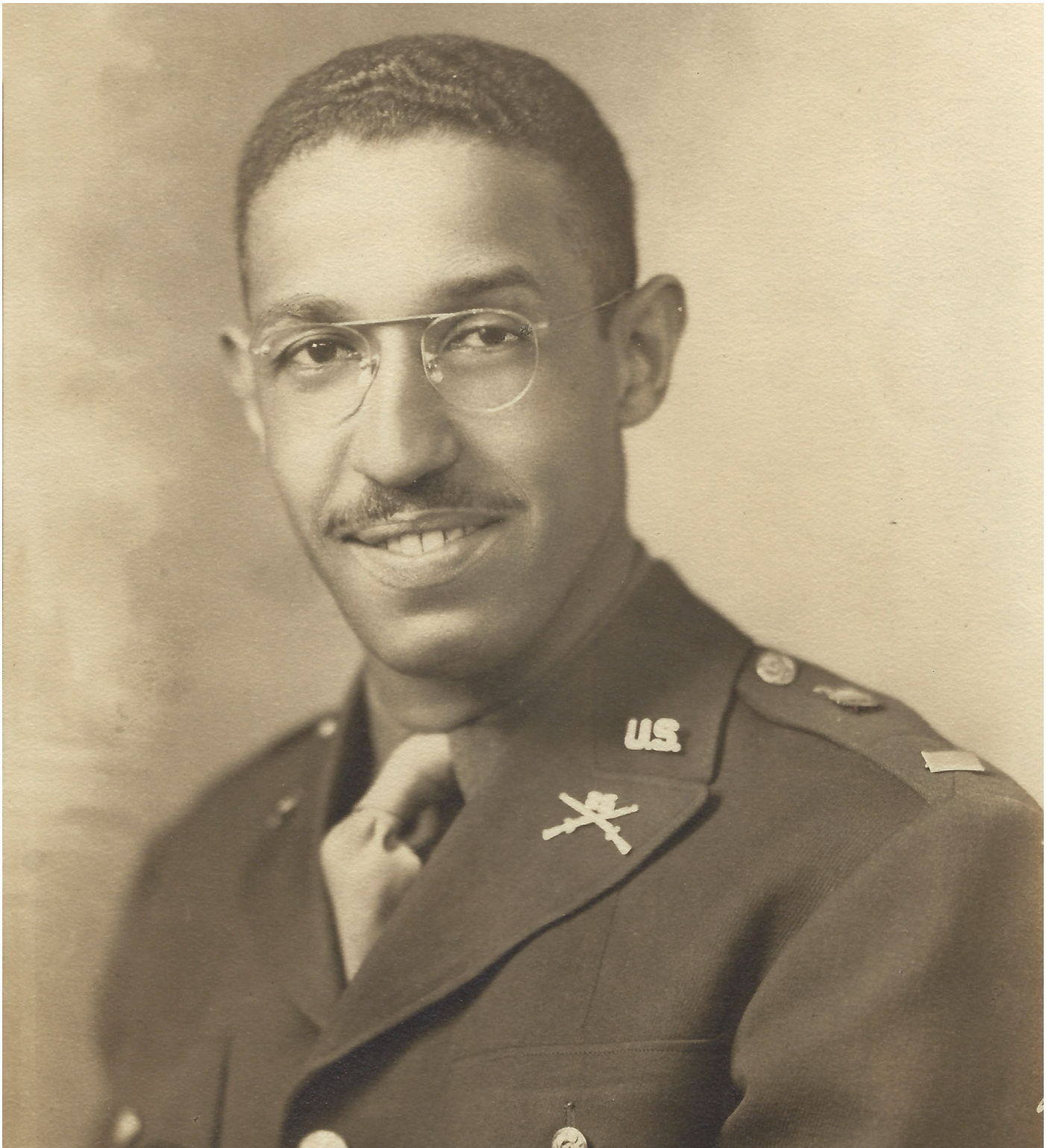
Leighton's legal career was marked by his commitment to civil rights. He served as president of the Chicago Branch NAACP and was involved in numerous landmark cases, including the Cicero race riots case of 1951. His work often brought him to the South, where he provided legal counsel on many pivotal civil rights issues.

In 1964, Leighton was elected as a Circuit Court judge in Cook County, Illinois. He later served on the Illinois Appellate Court and was appointed as a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois in 1976 by President Gerald Ford. Throughout his career, Leighton mentored many young lawyers, including Barack Obama, and at one point had Martin Luther King Jr. as a client. He was known for taking cases related to housing, voting, and racial injustice.

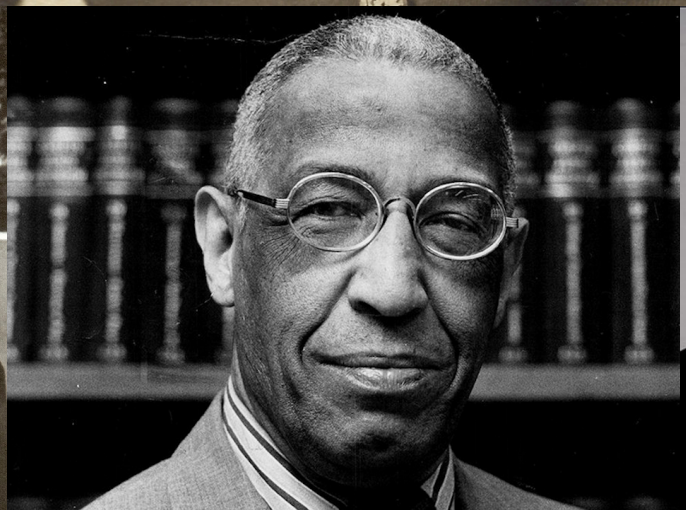
After retiring from the bench in 1987, Judge Leighton continued to practice law until he was 99 years old. He was an avid chess player and participated in tournaments across the country.

In 2012, Chicago's main criminal courthouse became the Honorable George N. Leighton Criminal Court Building. His old desk stands in the courthouse lobby, along with a description of his career.

Judge George N. Leighton passed away on June 6, 2018, at the age of 105, leaving behind a legacy of service, integrity, and commitment to justice. Today, his life's work continues to have an impact within the Cape Verdean community and beyond.

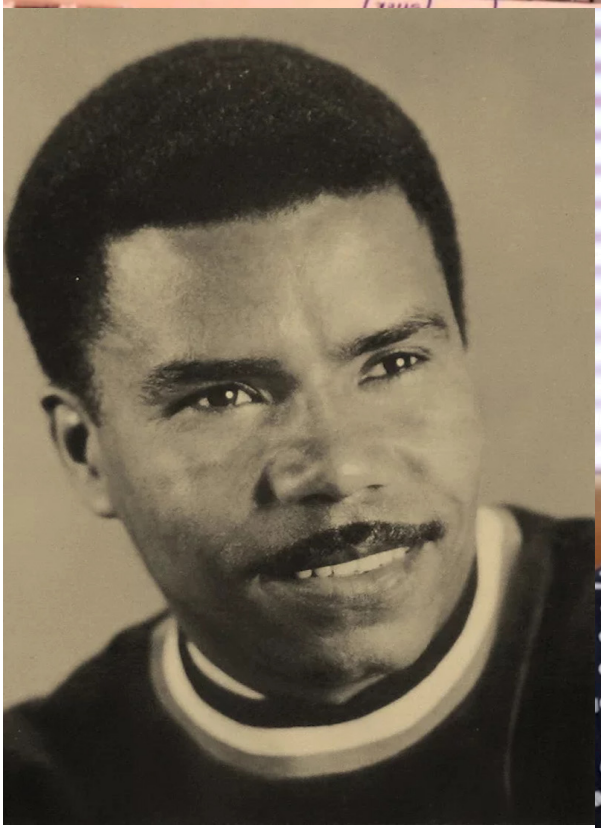

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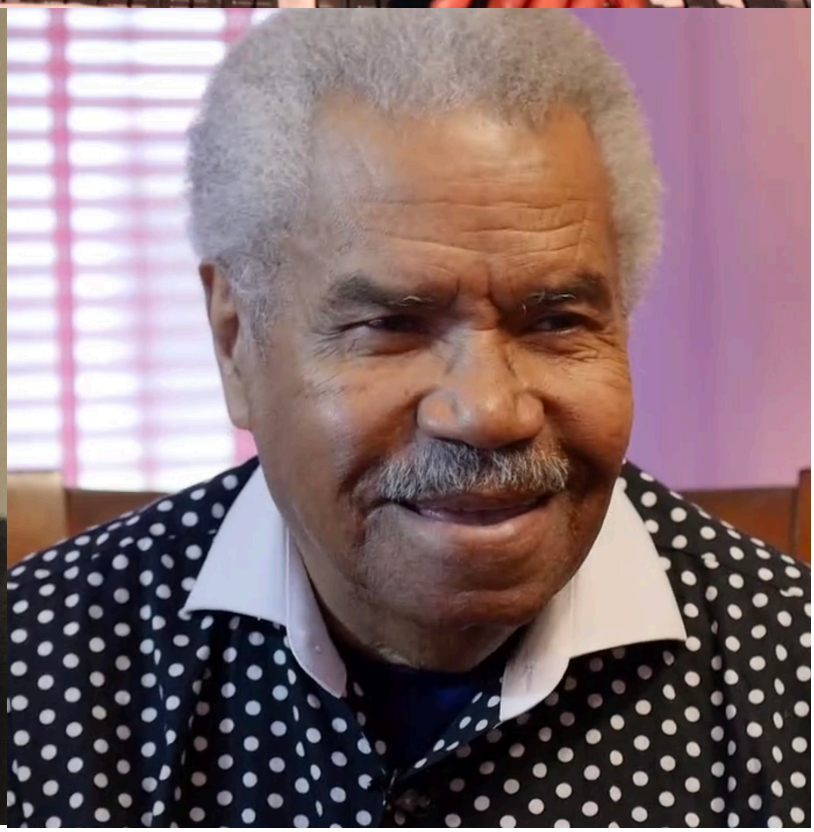












JOSÉ VIEIRA DUARTE (DJOSINHA)

Lead Singer, Voz de Cabo Verde

José Duarte, better known as Djosinha, the celebrated singer and radio host, was born in Mindelo, São Vicente, in 1934. His musical journey began at the age of 11, sparked by his childhood experiences of listening to local barbers playing batuko after work. In the 1950s, Brazilian music significantly influenced his repertoire, which would later become known for its versatility, including sambas, samba-songs, cumbias, and boleros.

Djosinha's first public performance came when he sang "Peixinhos do Mar" on Pedro Afonso Radio, earning 10 escudos. His talent was further recognized when he was chosen by B.Léza to record the morna "Luísa" for the 1955 film "Segredo de um Coração Culpado."

In the early 1960s, Djosinha traveled to Portugal with Conjunto de Cabo Verde and later worked as a seafarer. His career took a significant turn when he joined the iconic group Voz de Cabo Verde in the late 1960s, becoming their lead vocalist. With Voz de Cabo Verde, he recorded several EPs and became known for his explosive energy on stage and his signature "passo devil" dance move.

After leaving Voz de Cabo Verde in 1971, Djosinha settled in Rhode Island, where he formed the group Matchona. He has recorded close to 20 albums so far in his career, both with Voz de Cabo Verde and as a solo artist. His discography includes notable works like "Se meu coração falasse" (1972) and "Biografia d'um criolo" (1979).

In addition to his music career, Djosinha was also a talented footballer, playing for teams like Castilho and Mindelense in São Vicente. He even had a chance to try out for Benfica, but an injury cut short his football aspirations.

Djosinha's contribution to Cape Verdean culture extends beyond music. For over four decades, he hosted the radio program ***Camin pa Cabo Verde*** in the United States, holding the record for longevity in Cape Verdean radio programming. His enduring power as a versatile performer and cultural ambassador continues to inspire Cape Verdean artists and music enthusiasts worldwide.

ALCIDES VICENTE

Author, Publisher, Radio Host, Community Leader

Alcides Pina Vicente was born in Mato Grande on the Island of Brava. In 1961, he came to Pawtucket, Rhode Island, where he attended West (Shea) High School, graduating in 1974. He went on to earn a degree in Mass Communication from New Mexico State University in 1978.

Upon graduation, Vicente returned to Rhode Island and embarked on his first trip back to Cape Verde as a Representative of the Cape Verdean Delegation from the United States for the inaugural meeting of Citizens of Diaspora in 1978.

In 1979, Vicente founded the ***CVN Newspaper*** along with Tom Lopes. He later started the ***Labanta Newspaper*** and launched ***Nhos Labanta Ku Nos*** at WICE AM 1290 in Rhode Island. The program, which aired in Krioulo every Saturday from 9 AM to noon, broadcast important news about Cape Verde and events in the Cape Verdean community. ***Nhos Labanta Ku Nos*** played a crucial role in fostering a sense of community among local Cape Verdeans, thanks in no small part to Alcides devotion and tireless work. He also had a popular Cape Verdean restaurant named Casa Verde in Pawtucket during these years.

As a community leader, Alcides served as President of the Cape Verdean Association, a precursor to the Cape Verdean American Community Development (CACD). He was also an active supporter of Tchuba - The American Committee for Cape Verde, which provided assistance to the newly independent Republic of Cape Verde.

In addition to these many pursuits, Vicente also had a long and successful career in radio broadcasting, as President and CEO of Archway Broadcasting, during which time he purchased 14 radio stations from Little Rock to Georgia.

Currently, he serves as President of the Cape Verdeans of Atlanta and as Honorary Consul for Cape Verde in Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. He organizes the annual Cape Verdeans of Atlanta Independence Festival at Piedmont Park.

Following his retirement, Vicente established Morabeza Tours, providing many Cape Verdean-Americans the opportunity to experience their ancestral homeland firsthand.

Today, Alcides resides in Atlanta with his wife Elsa, daughter Tahira, and son Nicholas. His daughter Aisha and grandson Nico live in Brava.

As a business leader and a humanitarian, Alcides Pina Vicente has dedicated his life to educating our community and celebrating our culture in the best ways possible.



THE FOUNDERS OF PROGRESSIVE

27 Women Who Created a Community Institution

Carolina Silva Amado (Nha Nuca)
Gertrude Amado (Gorda)
Aliz Braz
Amalia Braz (Nha Malia)
Amelia Candos
Rose DeBritto
Louise Duarte (Lizzie)
Maria Felix (Msre Pretinha)
Madeline Fontes
Patrunila Fontes (Tuni)
Anna Lopes Gomes
Julia Gomes
Antoinette Goncalves
Isabel Gonsalves
Julia Gonsalves
Maria Gonsalves (Nha Tchom-Tchom)
Maria P. Gonsalves (Nha Mare Puldina)
Matilda King (Tillie)
Antonia Lopes (Nha Tunga)
Arcenia Monteiro (Nha Sena)
Maria Neves (Mare Shata)
Mary Nunes
Marianna Reis (Yai-Ya)
Eugenia Santos (Nha-Genia)
Mary Fontes Silvia (Nha Mare Mulata)
Mary Lopes Smart
Mary Tabela (Kinha)

The Cape Verdean Progressive Center of East Providence, founded by the 27 pioneering women that we are honoring tonight, has long been on the forefront of preserving and promoting our culture in the United States. In doing so, these women have played a crucial role in building social bonds. And they have never shied away from mobilizing to help those in need.

The Progressive Center was incorporated on October 30, 1944 as the Cape Verdean Women's American Progressive Club, but the group can trace its origins back even further.

In 1940, members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Cape Verdean Social Club formed the Cape Verdean Women's Club and named Antoinette Gonsalves as their first President. In January of 1944, this group held a banquet at the Narragansett Hotel in downtown Providence and Mary Silva was noted as its President at the time. Special guests that evening included the educator Belmira Nunes from New York City and Manuel Q. Ledo, founder of the International Longshoremen's Association's Local 1329. Vicky Viera entertained the group with several solos.

THE CAPE VERDEAN CENTER



In 1946, they held a fundraiser at the Benefit Street Arsenal in Providence. It was attended by several notables including Governor John O. Pastore and a contingent from New Bedford. That day, a campaign was launched to raise money for a new building and the group announced that land in East Providence had been donated by Mr. Ambrose Mendes for its future site, according to an article in the November 25, 1946 issue of the ***Providence Journal.***

Even at this early stage, the women of the Cape Verdean Progressive Club set their sights on helping others. In 1948, they held a dance at What Cheer Hall on North Main Street to collect funds for food to be sent on the packet ship *Madalan* to those in need back on the islands.

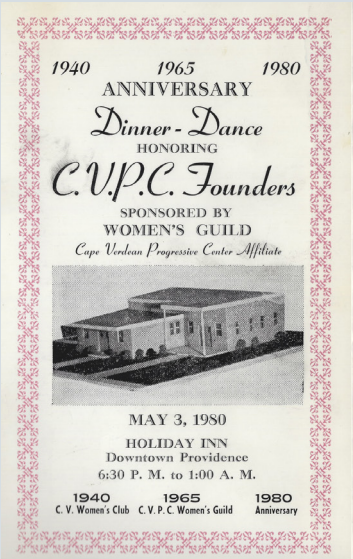
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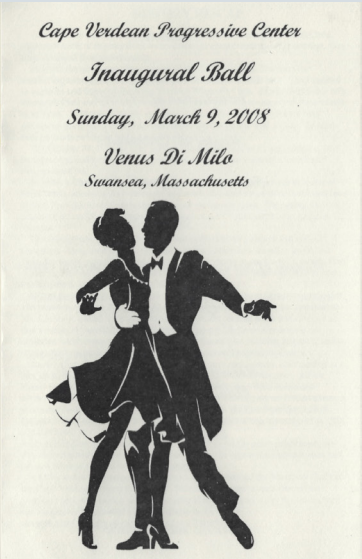
Men joined the building campaign and were admitted as members in 1951. With their combined efforts, a new structure at 329 Grosvenor Avenue in East Providence was constructed. It opened on New Year's Eve in 1952 and was named the Cape Verdean Progressive Center, with its official dedication taking place a month later, on January 31, 1953.

In 1964 the club's women reasserted their identity by founding the Cape Verdean Women's Guild of the Progressive Center.

Since the very beginning, the Progressive Center has hosted a number of wedding receptions, memorial ceremonies, fundraisers, fashion shows, graduation parties, political rallies, voter registration drives, Christmas celebrations, and other types of dances and dinners. They've also sponsored athletic and youth groups.

Thanks to the hard work of the 27 founders of the Progressive Center, the organization has endured to play a vital role in defining Cape Verdean-American identity in Rhode Island and beyond for well over eighty years. Today, it stands as a testament to the dedication and vision of its founding members.









A very special thank you to our volunteers of the year!



SHEILA CONWAY



GABBY SANTOS

At the Cape Verdean Museum this year







Photos, clockwise from top left: Nha Balila, living legend of Batuko, visited the museum and performed; Dr. Terza A. Silva Lima-Neves book presentation in June; Cabo Verdean American Medical Society Town Hall in July; Cardinal Dom Arlindo Gomes Furtado blessed the museum in March; Group from Pedro Pires Institute at Bridgewater State University tours the museum.







Photos, from top: CACD Youth Group visit on July 19, 2024; Dr̄. Silas Pinto leads Kriolu classes in the second floor conference room at the museum; Dr. Fernando Elisio Freire, Minister of State, Family, Inclusion and Social Development, and other dignitaries visit.







Photos, from top: Cape Verdean Students Association of the University of Rhode Island; Rare posters donated to the museum in honor of Independence Day, July 2024; Kali Reis, world champion boxer and now an acclaimed actress, celebrates the museum's mission.









Photos, from top left: Corsino Delgado, Chairman of the museum board, and Dr. Isadore Ramos welcome Providence Mayor Brett Smiley; Cape Verdean Museum's Youth Music Program led by Kim Alves; Danny Tavares Jr. shows us how to use a cranberry scoop; Dr. Isadore Ramos, Steve Bento and Corsino Delgado attend a ceremony where the museum was awarded the Medal of Cultural Merit 1st Degree by the Government of Cabo Verde; Mr. Ulisses Correia e Silva, Prime Minister of Cabo Verde, arrives for a July visit.







CAPE VERDEAN MUSEUM



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