CAPE VERDEAN MUSEUM
HALL OF FAME
2023 FUNDRAISING GALA



Saturday, October 7th, 7pm

55 Memorial Drive, Pawtucket, Rhode Island

We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors. We borrow it from our children, and the Cape Verdean Museum is a debt we owe to the children of our children.



CAPE VERDEAN MUSEUM
617 PROSPECT STREET
PAWTUCKET, RI 02860
www.capeverdeanmuseum.org

Table of Contents

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM ~ P.3

WELCOME ~ P.5

MARIA FATIMA BARROS ~ P.6

Tireless healthcare advocate and entrepreneur

VALDIR ALVES ~ P.8

A voice of integrity in Cape Verdean media

RAYMOND A. ALMEIDA ~ P.10

Champion of Cape Verdean independence

JOHN V. BRITTO. ~ P.12

Community leader who inspired through athletics

BELMIRA NUNES LOPES~ P.14

Early pioneer in the field of education

AT THE MUSEUM ~ P.16

Some recent photos and happenings

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ~ P.18

DEDICATION CEREMONY ~ P.19

Tomorrow's special event at the museum



From the museum archives: Cape Verdean Quincentennial Dinner Dance Celebration, Oct. 29, 1960.

Tonight's Program

7PM ~ ARRIVAL AND COCKTAILS

8PM ~ DINNER

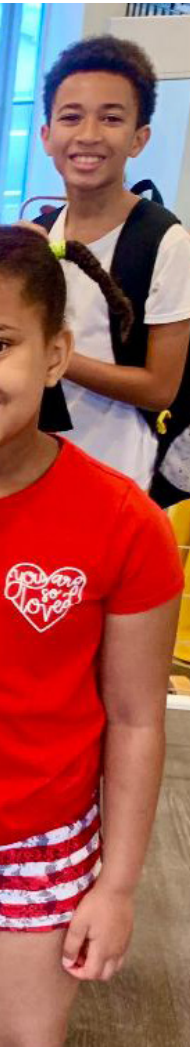
9PM ~ PRESENTATIONS

10:30PM ~ ENTERTAINMENT

With performances by Princezito, Maribel Veiga, Benvindo Cruz and the Harmony Band



July 2023 visit to the museum by a children's group from the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Pawtucket.



Bem-vindo

The Cape Verdean Museum Hall of Fame was begun in 2005 by Denise Oliveira, who was founder and 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, 28 extraordinary people have been inducted in 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 five more names to that list. They are 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!

- Jose DaMoura, President, Cape Verdean Museum



Maria Fatima Barros

An entrepreneur in the field of health care, Maria Fatima Barros has never shied away from helping others and encouraging those in the community to do the same.

Known by most as Fatima, Maria arrived in the United States from Cape Verde at the age of five. She overcame the culture shock and navigated the racial tensions of the 50s and 60s to graduate from the Community College of Rhode Island with an Associate's Degree in Nursing and from Rhode Island College with both a Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree in Nursing. In addition, she has earned numerous advanced professional certifications from Brown University,

the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Centers for Disease Control, to name a few.

In 1976, she formed a partnership with Marcia Bigney and founded what has evolved to become Home Health & Hospice Care of Nursing Placement, a vital part of Rhode Island's growing health care industry. Her agency has made a broad impact by providing skilled nursing, in-home and outpatient therapy, companion assistance and hospice care to those who need it most throughout the state.

Understanding patient care and creating opportunities for improvement have always been a part of Maria's daily mission. This has led her to be an advocate in the political sphere, taking on public roles and contributing to legislation that aims to fill the gaps in our health care system. She is a member of the Cape Verdean Nursing Association and has been named to committees at the Cape Verdean Medical Society, the Brown University, Lifespan Cape Verdean HIV/AIDS Project and an advocacy team in Blackstone Valley and Mount Hope.

Always generous with her time, Maria has presented at various palliative hospice panels at Brown University, Mass General Hospital and other organizations. She has also volunteered for medical missions to Cape Verde to provide nursing assessments, exams and health education, often contributing to those in need out of her own pocket.

For her tireless work, Maria Barros has received a long list of awards from the State of Rhode Island, the City of Pawtucket, the Minister of Culture in Cape Verde, the Minority Elder Task Program and the Minority Health Advisory Committee, among others. In 2023, she was recognized for her humanitarian advocacy by Rhode Island Cape Verdean Heritage organization.



Valdir Alves

A strong voice in Cape Verdean television, radio, print and online media, Valdir Alves dedicated his life to telling the important stories of our community with honesty and integrity.

Valdir was born in Galinheiro, Fogo, Cabo Verde. He attended journalism school in both Cabo Verde and Russia and began working for Radio National de Cabo Verde in 1985. In 1989, he emigrated to the United States and settled in the Brockton, Massachusetts area.

In the U.S., Alves quickly established himself in the field of communications, providing a pivotal connection between the diaspora and the Republic of Cape Verde. He was the producer and host of the television program *Cabo Video* and of the radio program *Porton de Nos Ilha* from 1996 to 2015. He was an animator on the program *Saudades de Cabo Verde* on Radio Voz de Emigrante and a collaborator of radio program *Nha Terra* in Boston. He was editor of the online newspaper Caboverdeonline.com. He was one of the founders and an editor of the newspapers *Correio de Imigrante* and *Nos Jornal* and a collaborator of Radio de Cabo Verde, Televisao de Cabo Verde and Radio France Internacional. Many will also remember Alves as an entertaining sportscaster who covered countless games.

Valdir was well-known in the Cape Verdean-American community and was often asked to present or host at many events. In his personal life, Alves was a sports enthusiast who coached and played soccer and loved the beach.

For a lifetime committed to the highest ideals of journalism, Alves was honored at the Cape Verdean Journalist Association's Press Freedom Gala.

Jose Maria Neves, President of the Republica de Cabo Verde, decorated Alves with a Presidential Decree that stated he was a man of communication who ultimately helped the Cape Verdean community learn more about themselves.

Valdir Alves passed away in 2023.

Raymond A. Almeida

Raymond Almeida was a true champion of Cape Verdean independence and African development.

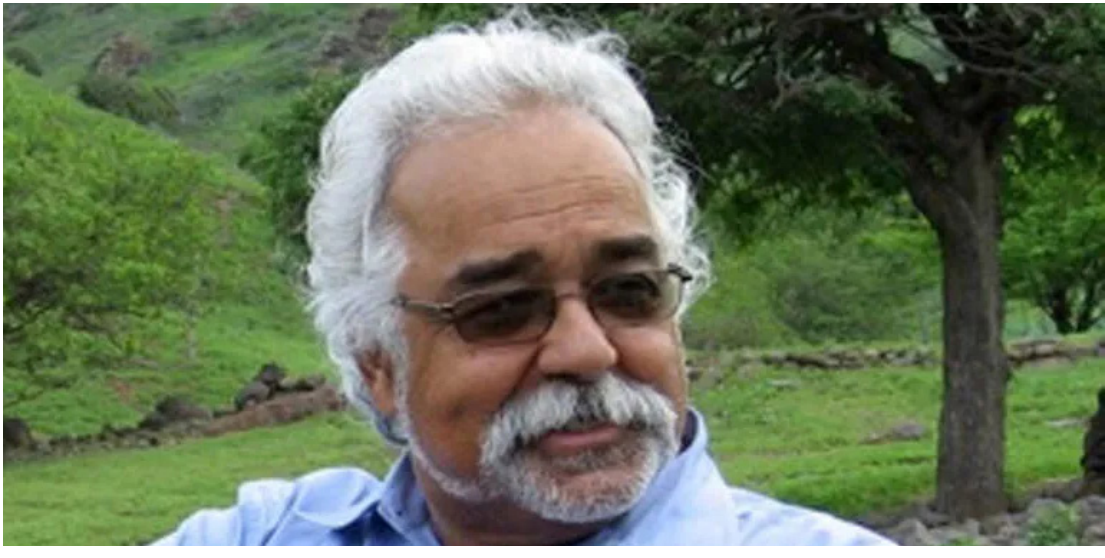
Born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, in 1943, Ray's intellectual energy propelled him early on. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Stonehill College and a Master's in Education from Harvard. He was also a Community Fellow in Urban Studies and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Almeida quickly discovered a passion for service that became a driving force in his life.

During the Vietnam War, he served in the Army as a medic at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

In 1975, he founded Tchuba -The American Committee for Cape Verde, which worked to support the newly independent Republic of Cape Verde, including developing projects in wind energy for agriculture and a technical library. As part of this effort, Ray was most proud of his contribution to Cape Verdean history when he published the book, *Cape Verdeans in America: Our Story.*

One of Ray's passions was the education of Cape Verdean children. In the United States, he helped form the Cape Verdean Educators' Collaborative which was responsible for having the Commonwealth of Massachusetts recognize Cape Verdean Kriolu as a "living foreign language."





Ray and Arlinda, at a 10th-anniversary Independence celebration in Cape Verde, 1985.

Almeida's many positions in public service included working on the staffs of U.S. Congressmen Barney Frank and Charles Rangel and serving as the Congressional liaison for government affairs for the Africa Development Foundation, as well as a consultant to the government of Cape Verde.

In 1995, Ray was the Senior Program Advisor for "The Cape Verdean Connection," the centerpiece of the Smithsonian Institution's Festival of American Folklife. He was also an important supporter of preserving and bringing the *Ernestina*, the famed Cape Verdean packet ship. to New Bedford.

From 1996 to 2006, Almeida was the Senior International Policy Analyst at Bread for the World, a Christian citizen's movement against hunger. In that position, he co-authored the U.S. Congress' "Africa Seeds of Hope Act" in 1998 and the "Africa: Hunger to Harvest" resolution in 2001. Both designated significant American funds for African development.

On September 18, 2005, Pedro Pires, President of the Republica de Cabo Verde, presented Almeida with the, "Ordem Amilcar Cabral" for, "steadfastly fighting for the values of liberty, justice and human dignity."

Ray Almeida passed away in 2010.



John V. Britto

John V. Britto was the ultimate Fox Pointer, not only living in the neighborhood for most of his life, but also dedicating so much of his time and energy to the Cape Verdean community there.

Born in Providence, RI, to Joao and Rufina (Silva) Britto, John was a first-generation Cape-Verdean American who served in the Korean War and worked as a longshoreman and as a director of the Fox Point Drop-In Center under Progress for Providence.

Sports, however, was one of the great passions of John's life. In his early days, he proved himself an accomplished athlete playing for both the Harlem Globetrotters and the New York Yankees farm team. Later, as the Athletic Director of the Fox Point Boys and Girls Club, the gym was his domain. There, he motivated and inspired others with his love of sports and grew into a true community leader.

Today. John Britto is remembered as a mentor and father figure for generations of young people, not only from the Fox Point neighborhood, but from throughout Providence, who found their way to his gym. He was a strong advocate for good sportsmanship and a role model for community engagement.

For his incredible commitment to athletics and the people of Providence, Mr. Britto received many honors in his lifetime such as the Jefferson Award, Community Hero Award, Mr. Boys & Girls Club and induction into the R.I. Basketball Hall of Fame. Posthumously, the City of Providence proclaimed a street in Fox Point "Britto Way" in honor of John and his beloved wife Fama.

John is memorialized in Fox Point in a large mural on the side of the Fox Point Boys and Girls Club and a statue placed in front of the building.

John Britto passed away in 2021.



Belmira Nunes Lopes

Belmira Nunes Lopes was a genuine pioneer in the field of education.

She was the first woman of Cape Verdean ancestry to graduate high school in Massachusetts, and possibly the United States, and went on to become an early role model for women in education.

Belmira Nunes was born in East Harwich, Massachusetts, in 1899, from parents who hailed from Fogo and Brava. She grew up on Cape Cod, where her family worked picking strawberries, blueberries and cranberries, sometimes rising as early as 2 a.m. to go to the fields.

As a young girl, Belmira faced a great deal of prejudice. This was a time when Cape Verdean children were neither expected nor encouraged to stay in school.

Yet when Bel graduated in 1917, she had the highest grades in her Wareham High School class and even delivered the valedictory address that year. She then attended Boston University and Radcliffe College, where she graduated Cum Laude in 1924. She next pursued a Master's Degree from New York University and worked towards a Doctorate in Education at Columbia Teachers College

Over the course of her 50-year career, Belmira established herself as a first-rate educator, teaching in New York City, Puerto Rico, Portugal, Washington, D.C., and Providence, R.I.

Wherever she went, Belmira became involved in her community. She joined civic and educational groups and was one of the founders of such organizations as the Association for Cape Verdean Improvement and the Cape Verdean Scholarship Committee. She also spearheaded a Portuguese Quincentennial Celebration in 1960 and a Cape Verde History Day in 1971. In recognition of her pioneering life in education, Belmira Nunes Lopes received an honorary doctorate from Rhode Island College in 1975.

This inspirational story is told in the book, *A Portuguese Colonial in America: Belmira Nunes Lopes: The Autobiography of a Cape Verdean-American*, edited by her niece, Maria Luisa Nunes.

Belmira Nunes Lopes passed away in 1994.



Thanks to the support of our community, the new Cape Verdean Museum has been an amazing success!



Above: the main exhibition space of the new museum. Below: Dr. Ramos & Pawtucket Mayor Donald Grebien welcome the Cape Verdean Olympic Wrestling Team to the museum, May, 2023.





Above: September, 2022: The museum board hosts José Maria Neves, President of the Republic of Cape Verde, & other dignitaries at the grand opening. Below left: June, 2023: The Norbertos Band performs in the main hall.





Come visit us and see for yourself!

617 Prospect Street, Pawtucket, RI

www.capeverdeanmuseum.org

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Dedication Ceremony!

Join us tomorrow, Sunday, October 8th, at 5pm for a special naming ceremony honoring the late Denise Oliveira, the late Virginia Gonsalves and others at the Cape Verdean Museum!



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