



Goan Overseas Association, Vancouver - Newsletter, Spring 2008

Turning a new page, *The Goan Overseas Association, Vancouver* surges ahead with its ongoing mission of promoting the Goan culture and fostering a caring community as we progress into 2008. Last year we witnessed a flurry of activity including the integration of Goans from Edmonton and Vancouver. Let us hope the camaraderie, the energy and spirit associative with Goans spills on to make 2008 memorable.

Whilst Goans in Goa are trying to beat the heat, their counterparts in Vancouver are delighting in the joy of a much awaited spring and looking forward to their seasons in the sun. The new Executive and sub committees are now in place, brainstorming for a successful year ahead. Check out what the GOA, Vancouver has in store for you this summer, fall and winter and block these dates well ahead of time. These events also present an opportunity to hone your entrepreneurship skills in different fields – be it catering, music, sports and the rest. Apart from fun and games, there is food for the soul in the form of community service to the poor and down trodden sections of our society be it in Vancouver or Goa. And last but not the least, our special genre of people- the youth and the seniors, we would love to keep pampering you, so what's holding you back?

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Tentative Dates for main events for 2008

July 27th

Picnic at Memorial Park Ladner (to include celebration of World Goa Day and Sports Day)

October 18th

Nite in Goa

November 15th

Seniors' Appreciation Day

December 7th

SFX feast/Christmas party

December 31st

New Year's Party

Organization Structure

At the epicenter of the organization we have volunteers, comprising of the Executive and ably aided by various sub committees. Thank you to those who did such a great job last year and welcome to the new team, once again headed by Villa Pinto. Villa works with a dedicated and dynamic team of people, a perfect blend of old and new, experience mixed with new found enthusiasm. We wish Villa and her team another successful year. Furthermore, to enhance its effectiveness and increase connectivity with Goans in Vancouver, the organization is now outsourcing its *Event Management* to enthusiastic GOA volunteers.

2008 COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE

Villa Pinto	President
Kevin Mathias	Vice President
Debbie D'Mello	Treasurer
Sally Mascarenhas	Events Director
Avril Carey	Cultural Director
Godwin D'Souza	Sports Director
Cornell Pereira	Communications Director
Elsa D'lima	Secretary



*Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.
Elizabeth Andrew.*

SUB-COMMITTEES

Sports- Willie Lobo
 Communications- Freda Moraes
 Youth- Godwin D'Souza
 Amrith Fernandes
 Seniors Outreach- Valerie Carasco
 Scholarship Committee –
 Maurice Fernandes,
 Maura D'Cruz, Villa Pinto
 Community Outreach –
 Cleto Dos Remedios

PHONING COMMITTEE

Liban Da Silva
 604 275 5051
 Freda D'Souza
 604-524-6977
 Gerry Mendes
 604 734 7034
 Amy Pai
 604 -277-9047
 Olga Vaz
 604 589 0844
 Annette Rodrigues
 778-297-1037
 Rose Desa
 604 436 9216

Volunteers:

Night in Goa

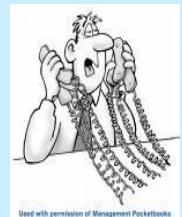
Anne Da Silva, Willie Lobo, Nery Santos, Joe Pinto, Carol D'Sa Phillip D'Sa, Maura D'Cruz, Rey D'Cunha, Charmaine Rozario, Judy Braganza

Sfx Feast/Children's Christmas party

Paul Pereira, Helga Pereira, Norysca De Souza, Maura D'Cruz

New Years Party

Rey D'Cunha, Charmaine Rozario, Brenda D'souza



A century and more to go! May 29th 2008

Happy Birthday Joachim Figueiredo



TOAST TO A TRUE GOAN



THE EXECUTIVE AND MEMBERS OF THE GOAN OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION WISH YOU, MR. JOACHIM DE FIGUEIREDO, A VERY HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY. WE ARE PROUD AND HONORED THAT YOU ARE A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY AND A LONG STANDING ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE GOAN OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION.

IT DIFFICULT TO FATHOM TIME AND WHAT IT MEANS TO US UNLESS WE LOOK AT HISTORICAL EVENTS AND HOW THEY RELATE TO OUR LIVES. MR. FIGUEIREDO, IT WAS IN 1908, THE YEAR OF YOUR BIRTH THAT THE FIRST WIRELESS MESSAGE WAS SENT OUT FROM THE EIFFEL TOWER IN FRANCE. TODAY WIRELESS MESSAGES ARE COMMON PLACE AND WE CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT THEM. YOUR BIRTH CAN BE ASSOCIATED WITH THAT OF FAMOUS PEOPLE LIKE BETTE DAVIS, JAMES STEWART AND IAN FLEMING THE AUTHOR OF JAMES BOND. YOU HAVE WITNESSED TWO WORLD WARS, THE BIRTH OF INDIA AS A NATION AND THE LIBERATION OF GOA FROM THE PORTUGUESE AND THE START OF THE COMPUTER REVOLUTION JUST TO NAME A FEW.

YOUR LIFE HAS TOUCHED SO MANY PEOPLE IN SO MANY COUNTRIES - INDIA, GOA, KENYA, UGANDA, SOUTH AFRICA, MOZAMBIQUE, SPAIN, AUSTRALIA, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES AND CANADA. YOUR FATHERLY ADIVSE HAS ALSO HELPED SHAPE THE LIVES OF SO MANY PEOPLE THAT HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING YOU. YOU ARE TRULY BLESSED AND WE ARE TRULY PRIVILEGED TO KNOW YOU.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU WITH US FOR MANY MORE YEARS

THE GOAN OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION, VANCOUVER

....on behalf of members of The Goan Overseas Association, Cleto Dos Remedios



Round one of 2008 goes to the sports committee which organized two major events – the Easter Dance and the games at Minoru Turf.

Hats off to Messrs. Willie Lobo & Cecil Cardoz for organizing the *Easter Bunny Hop* on behalf of the GOA sports club. The event was held as a fundraiser for sporting activities during the year. The ‘Hop’ was a huge success with Goans hop hopping to some pulsating & rhythmic music. The Easter bunny led enthused kids on an egg hunt. Bunny however had stiff competition in the form of piggy on the table, the ‘roast pigling’ dominated the menu and I’m told the Goans were literally ‘finger licking’ the mouthwatering fare. There were prizes galore, thanks to the generosity of our donors/sponsors. For a ‘first time’ event the Hop surpassed all expectations. Hopefully this trend will continue in the coming years.

Go GOANS go!

First Game at Minoru Turf on Friday May 2/08

“Let the games begin”. Our first 2008 sports event held on May 2nd at Minoru for field hockey and soccer had a great turnout of youth and seasoned players who had a great time! The feedback has been positive

from those who attended. These are not competitive games so come one and come all. All you need is a 'sporting spirit' and an added bonus for the spectators -beautiful walking parks!

For the next upcoming sport events check out our website or call **Willy Lobo, Tel # 604 2447487.**

On the Community Side

The GOA would like to thank **"The Team with a Heart "**. A total of 27 volunteers comprising youth, members, their family and friends came out on May 4 and served lunch to the homeless at our 12th downtown lunch drive. This event was sponsored by a special group of friends. They served a delicious lunch of meat sauce and pasta and garlic bread and finished off with chocolate chip cookies and brownies, juice and coffee. Thank you volunteers, through your generosity we were able to give second helpings and take away.

Please keep **July 13** free for our next event



Inorder to raise money for charitable work in Vancouver and Goa, the Association has introduced a new concept -



The initial success last year has prompted the Goa to intensify their activities on this front and we look forward to greater support from members and other sponsors in this area. So what might be old and useless for you may be new and useful for someone else.

A garage sale is being planned by Caroline D’Sa on **Sunday, June 8th**. If you have any items you would like to donate or would like to volunteer your time at the sale, please contact her at 6042790876 by June 7th.

The fragrance always remains on the hand that gives the rose – Gandhi.



Reach out

We are hoping to introduce a new project for the elderly in our community and also any other members who may be ill and requiring help in whatever way we can assist in. This project is being coordinated by Val Carrasco and Avril Carey. Some of the ways we feel we can be of assistance include:- visiting seniors in long-term care facilities or those who live on their own and are lonely and in need of companionship- lifting their spirits and cheering them up on special occasions e.g. Birthdays, Mother's/ Father's Day, Valentine's Day, etc - visiting members of our community who are sick and

infirm at home or in hospitals - as a relief to their family members- preparing meals for family members, assisting in transportation where possible, etc. For this project to work we require two things to happen; the first, is for those who need assistance to let us know of their needs, and the second is to have volunteers who are willing to give of their time generously.

Anyone willing to help out and anyone needing any assistance should contact Val Carrasco at 604-271-9102 or email: vcarrasco@hotmail.com. The success of this program is truly dependent on each one of us giving a little of our precious time to make a big difference in someone's life!

Networking/Connecting
And the right man go'eth!

Cleto Dos Remedios will represent GOA, Vancouver at the convention in Toronto. Cleto is probably the best ambassador we have to represent the Vancouver Association.

Theme is G.I.A.N.T.: 'Goan Identity And Networking Today. Welcome to the homepage of the historic 2008 Goan International Mega-Convention to be hosted at the lovely Mississauga University of Toronto (UTM), from 23 - 27 July, 2008. Goa has been a fascinating secret for 5 centuries - a Latin enigma buried in the heart of Asia.

Now for the first time Goa opens its doors to international visitors, scholars and groups as Goa stands at this critical cross-roads to re-examine its identity. This Convention hopes to serve as the historic instrument of change for our motherland, particularly in the areas of environment, for more details log on to <http://www.2008goanconvention.com/index.php>

Goans sure make good readers

The GOA is happy to introduce two of our very own poets:

Marinella Proenca from the Village of Calangute in Goa. Marinella Proenca's book of poems 'Heartbeat' with Paradith photographer Thomas Vaz's photo of Old Goa on the cover is definitely an eye catcher. Inside are Mario Miranda's lovely sketches and cartoons. So is artist Yoland de Souza's work. According to her daughter Reuven, a journalist by profession, this book is tribute to a Goa that no longer exists except in memories.

"For me personally, *Heartbeat* echoed memories of my own childhood, of summers spent in my beloved homeland. A 'must' for every Goan who knew and could cherish *Marinella's Goa*, and for those know not, embark on a journey to a land that once boasted of pure unadulterated joy and simplicity."

Marinella will be visiting Vancouver from the 3rd

to 10th of July, 2008 to promote and publicize her book - HEART BEAT. Villa has graciously agreed to provide poetry lovers with information regarding Marinella's itinerary in Vancouver.

Walter Menezes - another goan poet has recently published his book of poems in Romi Konknni titled, "ZOIT ani her kovita". The book is a collection of 50 poems which had earlier appeared in various newspapers and magazines like Kepemchim Kirnnam, Novem Goem, Rutu, Sunaparant, Uzvadd, V.Ixtt, etc. Noted Konknni writer and the former Speaker of Goa, Tomazinho Cardozo, in his preface has this to say about the book, "Heo kovita vachlea uprant Walter-bab aplea sorvbhontimchea somazant jem kitem ghodda tacher kitli bariksannen ani gombhirtayen nodor marta tem spoxttponnim dakoll zata.

2008 GOA Post-secondary Scholarship

The 2008 scholarship is available to student members and dependents of members in good standing only. Three awards are available, payable directly to the successful candidate towards tuition fees for post secondary education, and will be awarded on a one-time basis.

The deadline for accepting scholarship applications is midnight of July 1, 2008. Successful candidates will be notified by July 31, 2008.

The terms of reference and application form are available on the GOA website.

We invite members and patrons to be generous in donating towards this worthy cause.



Inviting Tenders for 2008 GOA events

Calling interested **caterers & DJs/Bands** to send in their quotes for our various GOA events. Caterers, for *Nite in Goa*, please submit your quotes to Kevin Mathias by email. Caterers to quote separately on a “Goan Menu” consisting of a pork, chicken and vegetable dish with dessert & salad. Quotation to include supply of tableware and plates, laying the table and clearing soiled dishes and tableware. Based on the

success of last year’s picnic, members will be able to set up stalls to sell food, condiments, pickles and other Goan foodstuffs. Please contact Kevin Mathias by email

vpresident@goavancouver.com



Don't Miss

- Check our website for updated information. For members who have no computer access feel free to contact our telephone committee for details, they keep waiting for the phone to ring.
- We welcome contributions to the Newsletter; c’mon let the other Goans know what you have been doing whilst they have not been watching.
- Want to know what’s happening in Edmonton, could they be having more fun?
visit: www.edmontongoanassociation.com or email egacommittee@gmail.com
- GOA, Vancouver Cook Book – to be launched shortly, right now our chefs headed by Villa bai are too busy trying out the recipes.
- GOA Manual – work in progress, slow and steady wins the race, we are familiar with the term ‘*susegad*’
- Applications for the GOA Post-Secondary scholarship deadline July 1, 2008 before the clock strikes twelve.
- Submitting your tenders for the various events – catering, DJs/band – equal opportunity for all, caterer selection will be based only on price, quality, quantity. DJs will have to vow our Goenkars.
- The GOA continues to report obituaries, announcements, community news, success stories on its website(www.goavancouver.com) so please contact president@goavancouver.com. Please ensure the accuracy of the information that is to be reported.
- We welcome sponsors for our main events, brochures, advertisements, you couldn’t get more famous – you will be dancing with the Goans.
- Volunteers, volunteers, and volunteers - our volunteers' generous donation of time and spirit is an important ingredient in our success, no wonder Goan food is so spicy.
- **Your membership dues over the years, never mind if you forgot to pay in 2006 and 2007, you know the saying ‘it’s never too late’ and oh yes, there is 2008. The GOA has wheels, the membership contribution keeps it moving and the gas prices aren’t helping.**

Did you know?

Gonadians is a light-hearted, if controversial, term to describe members of the expatriate community based in Canada of Goans (from Goa in India, formerly a Portuguese colony). It is a mix of the term **Goan** and **Canadian**