



REACHING OUT

April 2005

“You must be the change you want to see in the world”

..... Mahatma Gandhi

At a Special General Body Meeting, following the AGM, held on the 13th of February, 2005, the members passed a motion by 2/3 majority approving the following action by the Executive.

Applied and obtained from the Registrar of Societies, approval of the new name GOAN OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION' OR "G.O.A.- VANCOUVER"

Incorporated GOA as a Society under the Society Act with the seven (7) members of the Executive as Directors.

Included in the incorporation is the present CGA Constitution only, since the bylaws are not required at the moment. The CGA bylaws will be retained and revised as required in the future.

The association will henceforth be referred to as the Goan Overseas Association - Vancouver (formerly known as the Canadian Goan Association established in 1976)

A new name, a new team, new endeavors.....

The Goan Overseas Association (GOA) Vancouver, formerly known as the Canadian Goan Association has undergone a radical change not only in name and structure but also in its objectives. The Association continues with a team of new people to give the GOA a different flavor, in the hope that this will be savored by the community at large. At this juncture it would be appropriate to commend those who started this Association years ago in a new land, thereby nurturing the goan heritage in a home away from home, Goa n Vancouver!

The GOA now looks forward to strengthening its membership, to all members of the community. For more information visit our website www.goavancouver.com or call any of the directors.

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POSTAL ADDRESS:

GOAN OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION

**P. O. Box 97064,
Main P.O., Richmond, BC V6Y 4H4**



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Website

www.goavancouver.com

We are looking for volunteers to work on our site. If you are in that field and would like to share your creativity with the community please contact, Caroline D'Sa at cdsa@interchange.ubc.ca.

The community cannot survive without it's volunteers and we thank our volunteers.



This is a general reminder for those members who have not submitted their dues for 2005, please send it to the address on the first page of this news letter.

Kindly send your feedback/contributions on this news letter to

Freda Moraes/Caroline D'Sa
c/o GOA Vancouver

Upcoming Social Events for the Year

Upcoming Events(2005)

April 17 th	Easter Mission—Downtown Eastside
May 7	May Ball – Appreciation Nite & Mothers Day
June	GOA Golf Tournament - Date to be announced
June	Date to be announced—Talent Show
July 17	Picnic – details will be announced shortly
August 14	Picnic – Details will be announced shortly
October 8	Indoor Sports – Sacred Heart Clubhouse – Ladner
November 5	Nite in Goa
December 4	St. Francis Xavier Feast and Children's Christmas Party
December 17	Variety Entertainment Program
December 31	New Years Eve Dance

Please continue to check the website for updates

Notice to all Members:

Anyone interested in reserving a spot for a stall for the upcoming picnics please contact Ivor Moraes at 604-2777401 or email sports@goavancouver.com.

You will have to bring your own table and chairs.

Cost for Members is \$20 for non-members \$30 per table





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**GOAN OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION,
VANCOUVER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005**

PRESIDENT Willie Lobo
604 244 7487
president@goavancouver.com

VICE PRESIDENT Caroline D'Sa
604 279 0876
vpresident@goavancouver.com

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SPORTS DIRECTOR
Ivor Moraes
604 277 7401
sports@goavancouver.com

YOUTH DIRECTOR
Felix Saldanha
604 433 5152
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President's Message

As we enter the year of 2005, our Association has a newly elected Executive and we look forward to the challenges that await us.

We are pleased with the many achievements and successes accomplished in 2004. All our planned functions were very successful. The 'Nite in Goa' was a high profile occasion which not only saw our local talent perform but in addition we had internationally acclaimed Shiamak Davar and his dance troupe from Bombay put on a spectacular show. This was followed by some great performances by our very own Leslie Travas, Paul Pereira and Vancouver's own 'Lorna' Doris Amaral along-with Lisa Rodrigues.

At our New Year's Eve Gala Dance we were able to raise \$6000 towards the Tsunami Fund. With the doubling of our donation by the Federal Government, our Association's effort was recognized by the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace.

Other functions held during the year were Bunny Hop, picnics, a golf tournament, a sports indoor tournament in carom, darts, checkers, St. Francis Xavier's Feast and Children's Xmas show.

It is truly gratifying to note that our membership generously supported all our events and we thank them for the successes achieved by the Association. Our effort in 2005 will be to increase our membership by way of a membership drive.

Looking ahead in 2005 our mission will be to promote our Goan culture and foster a caring community. In addition, our continuing effort will be the establishment of a Youth and Seniors sub-committees. With a new beginning for our Goan Community, we have registered our Association under a new name, now known as the Goan Overseas Association, Vancouver. We look forward to the prosperity and well being of our new Association.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the outgoing Executive members, Shona Lobo, Heather Martin, Eustace DeSouza, Maurice Fernandes, past Executives Christopher D'Souza and Brenda D'Souza whose dedication and hard work have been instrumental in the strides made by the Goan Overseas Association.

My best wishes for the year 2005!

Willie Lobo



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GOAN OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION, VANCOUVER 2005 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

General Information:

In 2005, the G.O.A. will be awarding 3 scholarships of \$200.00 each. To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must be enrolled at any legally recognized BC post secondary institute of learning (after Grade 12). Applications should be mailed to the G.O.A. c/o The Education Chair. Applications will be kept confidential and will not be returned to the applicant.

Applications must be postmarked no later than midnight on July 1, 2005.

The Goan Overseas Association 2005 scholarship is available to student members and dependents of members in good standing only.

The award winner will be determined on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Academic proficiency
2. Extra-curricular activities
3. Social and community involvement (including involvement in the G.O.A. community)

To be eligible, applicants must submit:

1. A self-composed cover letter stating their intention to be considered for this award.
2. Their parent's names.
3. An official copy of their most recent transcript (photocopy is acceptable).
4. A resume.
6. A minimum of two reference letters.
7. Evidence of participation in extracurricular activities and community involvement, including participation in G.O.A. activities.

DONATIONS:

Yes, I would like to support the Goan Overseas Association

Name:

Address:

• I would like to make a donation of \$____, which will be directed to Scholarships & Awards. (Please make cheque payable to "Goan Overseas Association - Vancouver")

• I would like my gift to be directed to a specific program.

I would like my gift to remain anonymous.

Please return to:

Goan Overseas Association _ Vancouver

**P. O. Box 97064, Main
P.O., Richmond, BC V6Y
4H4**



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Making news, Aaron Martin!

At the age of 11, Aaron Martin, an avid book reader, won the Chapters *Junior Booklover* for the BC Region at the Chapters Book Review competition held in September 2004 for his review of the book "Millions" by Frank Cottrell Boyce. This competition is held for children in the age group of 10 to 16 yrs. He received the following as his prize: A \$1,000.00 gift certificate from Chapters / Indigo \$500.00 in books (at wholesale) for his school, a place on the Junior Advisory Board (JAB), a three day trip to Toronto with one parent to receive his prize. As part of the JAB, Aaron appeared on Breakfast Television, where they were interviewed by the press. Articles on the contest appeared in the National Post, Vancouver Sun, Globe and Mail and in local papers like the Leader.

Aaron was also involved in the *Kids for Kids Fund Raiser* organised to help the Tsunami victims, the proceeds of which went to the Unicef.

This is what Aaron had to say

" I was very very excited and surprised when I heard that I had been chosen as the Junior Booklover for BC. Love to read and so getting to read advance copies of novels was the best part of the prize for me. Going to Toronto and meeting the Chapters CEO Heather Reisman was an amazing experience.

My plans in the near future involve the second junior booklover contest that the rest of the junior booklovers and myself will be judging. I plan to take opportunities as they come and work on my reviewing skills. *Kids for Kids* Fundraisers are planning to hold a garage sale in May to benefit the Vancouver Childrens Hospital. We would like to help children here in BC as well as in other parts of the world."

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RECENT NEWS:

- Congratulations Dileep!!! The G.O.A. wishes you every success for having won the NDP nomination for your Riding.
- Congratulations to the Saldanha family, the scrabble family from Richmond. You'll have done it again.
- Following up on our earlier article where the GOA sponsored two of our youth Rhys Lobo and Roger Martin who were selected among young people from around the world to attend the Third Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas held in Mumbai. During their 18 days stay in India they were the guests of the Government of India and were groomed in Indian culture and business ethics.



REACHING OUT

Thank you letter from Rhys Lobo
 To: The Executive Committee
 Goa Vancouver

I would like to thank you for your financial support of my trip to India as it was greatly appreciated.

As a result of your generosity I was able to experience a once in a life time opportunity to experience India as a guest of the Indian government. During my stay in India I was able to get a first hand view of how people live in India and how the government and institutions such as the RBI and Reliance InfoTech are trying to help India reach its vast potential. During the trip we were also able to visit different parts of India and not only stay in the city of Mumbai. The trips to Goa and Pune were excellent as they showed us much of the countryside that India is generally not known to have.. In Pune we were able to visit the managing institute of Symbiosis which is soon to become a world leader in its field. When we got back to India we participated in the actual festival where we

heard the Prime Minister and President speak about India and its possibilities for the future. More importantly we saw the change in plans about the Dual citizenships from originally only 13 countries to all countries that allow dual citizenships. On the second and third day I helped out at the speeches that involved Sam Pitroda about the need for volunteers as well as rural development in the outskirts of India. The discussion involved many aspects such as the development of villages and how any help should also include the villagers so as to not give them a fish but rather to teach them how to fish. In Goa we were taken to relax after a harrowing 20 days

Announcements

April 2005

New Members

Welcome and Congratulations to our new members.....

Ramona D'Costa & Shibu Paul	Ignatius Rozario
Noel & Doris Amaral	Kevin & Louella Mathias
Ivor & Freda Moraes	Albert & Rita D'Souza
George & Rebecca (Lulu) McKay	Godfrey Barretto
Agnelo & Susan de Sa	Merwyn Sequeira
Melissa Seager	Rhys Lobo
Darryl D'Souza	

THANKSGIVING/PETITION FROM THELMA FERNANDES

It is a year for me since my cancer diagnosis on April 15, 2005. Your generosity, support, phone calls and e-mails are greatly appreciated.. Thanks to God and Our Blessed Mother for looking after me and my family. Please continue to pray for me. Thank you to each and everyone of you from Maurice, Renee, Gina and myself. God's Blessings on you and your family.

Thelma

MARIE-THERESE FURTADO - Please say a prayer for Marie-Therese Furtado for a speedy recovery.

OBITUARY : We are sad to announce the passing away of Joy-Anne Szulc (nee Fernandes) November 29, 1969 -January 14, 2005.

Please inform any member of the executive if you are aware of any Goan in our community who is hospitalized or unwell.



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EASTER MISSION

....."the measure you give will be the measure you receive." Luke 6.38

"Just a line to thank you and all your wonderful group for coming on Sunday and for bringing such good humour, good food, lovely gifts and a warm, caring attitude to our centre. It was such a pleasure to meet you all and I'm very much looking forward to our next get-together."

Joan Drabek

Coordinator Downtown Eastside.

Gospel Mission

The Easter Mission of providing lunch and a pair of clean socks for the poor and homeless men of Downtown Eastside Vancouver was a very successful event. In keeping with our Mission Statement of fostering a caring society, we have to include all those who live in our society. The response to our appeal for donations, socks and volunteers was well received. Over 150 men were fed on Sunday, April 17 and each received a pair of clean socks.

The GOA thanks all those who made whatever contribution to this Mission. There are too many names to mention all, but we would like to single out Sandra Mascarenhas who was the spearhead behind this Mission and worked tirelessly to ensure its success.

God bless you all!

NOTE: WE WILL BE HAVING A COUPLE MORE OF THESE OCCASIONS/OPPORTUNITIES TO REACH OUT AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOU BEING A PART OF THIS MISSION. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES OR MAKE A DONATION PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF THE BOARD MEMBERS. THANK YOU.





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CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME—IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP THE PILAR SISTERS, IN OUR HOMETOWN GOA, please make out a cheque to the Goan Overseas Association and state that it is for the Pilar Sisters.

Thank you

Background About PILAR SISTERS

Pilar Sisters is a group of nuns dedicated their lives to the calling from God to work for the poor and the needy in India. They are working with Pilar Fathers in the missions in India. This Pilar Sisters Association was formed in 1988 and their main house is in Loutulim, Goa.

The founder members of Pilar Sisters are : Sr. Nina Lopes from Chinchinim, Sr. Teodolina Fernandes from Mandur, Sr. Joanita Miranda from Goa- Velha, Sr. Julie Aruj from Vasai, Mumbai. Presently they are around 60 members.

Last January when I was in Goa for my holidays, I went to visit the sisters as there are six of them who were studying with me in the college. So Sr. Nina who is the Superior asked me if the people from here could help them as the sisters need financial help to support themselves and also for their training. At present the Pilar Sisters are working in the missions of Nagar – Haveli, Shelti, Khanvel. These are remote areas on the borders of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

So, when I spoke on the feast day of St. Francis Xavier I put forward an appeal to raise donations to the good cause to support the Pilar Sisters who are really doing such a wonderful work in the missions with the poor and the needy.

THE POSITIVE SIDE OF LIFE



Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.

How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.

Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live.

Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.

Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?

We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors....but they all exist very nicely in the same box.

Summer in



We had joy, we had fun, we had seasons in the sun,

April/May and one cannot but help think of summers spent in Goa amidst the swaying palms, our beautiful beaches, rivers, and attending litanies, picnics and weddings!

Oh for some tender coconuts, fresh toddy, mangoes, jackfruits, cashews, cheeries (sausages) ?????