



GOA VANCOUVER
 SPRING
 NEWSLETTER
 MAY 2007



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GALLERY

Want to see pictures from the various events organized by the GOA?

Charmaine Rozario has created a yahoo e-album for your viewing pleasure

<http://photos.yahoo.com/goavancouver>

Goa...ings on for 2006

The GOA Vancouver had an extremely successful year, meeting and surpassing all it's social and community objectives beyond expectation, thanks in large part to our energetic and enthusiastic Executive, our loyal membership and committed volunteers, who go the extra mile to make every event an outstanding success and are also ambassadors for the GOA when they represent the association at community and charitable events.

Some highlights of the various events organized in 2006...

The **Talent Show**, although a resounding success as far as participation and array of talent, fell short when it came to attendance.

The GOA organized a farewell lunch for outgoing Indian Consul **Mr. Yogesh Narang**. This was a combined event put on by the GOA and the Canada-India Business Council of BC. and was well attended by many from the business community and also a few politicians.

The annual "**Nite in Goa**" Dinner Dance was well received and well attended. It not only showcased local talent but also displayed our goan culture and heritage. The entertainment for the evening included performances by some of our youth (hip-hop), a local dance troupe performing the "Marche", the soulful renderings of our very own songstress Doris Amaral, who along with DJ Paul provided us with authentic goan dance music, and last but not least, a performance by "Truly Tina", which was a showstopper.



The Association would like to thank all of the above and especially our donors and sponsors without whose support and generous contributions we could not have achieved this success.

Dec. 2006 marked the 500th anniversary of the birth of **St. Francis Xavier**, our patron saint. We commemorated this occasion with mass celebrated by Fr. Jack Dias, followed by a Christmas play and a sumptuous and authentic "goan" dinner, catered by Debbie D'Souza followed by a dance, with music provided by Take 5, a local band fast gaining popularity in our community.



We rounded up the year with the **New Year's Eve Ball** held at the Day's Inn in Surrey. After a delicious dinner, the show got underway thanks in large part to DJ Paul Pereira and the Take 5 Band who provided the entertainment. In spite of a packed dance floor, the dance was a huge success and attracted the largest crowd to date.

Meet your new Executive

Villa Pinto—President

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This is Villa's 2nd twirl around the "Presidential" dance floor, having been President back in the early 1990s. Villa and her debonair consort Joe, long time residents of Richmond, are also long standing members of the GOA and staunch supporters of Goan causes. A project close to her heart these days is "The Cookbook". Be nice to her folks; please give her your grandmother's cherished, secret, sorpatel recipe. Villa's other passion right now is promoting Covenant House Vancouver, an organization serving street youth. If you have spare change or time to donate, Villa encourages you to help or lend this deserving group a hand. Joe & Villa have two lovely children James and Genevieve—both lawyers. What does Villa say when things don't quite go her way—SUE ME! We think not!



Louella Mathias—Vice President

vpresident@goavancouver.com

Louella is new on the GOA Executive block. She and hubby Kevin moved to Vancouver from Toronto back in 2001 with their two boys Ryan, a science major at UBC and Andrew, Grade 12. The Mathias' are a self-described "Sports" family (Avril you have competition). They play it, they coach it, they watch it, they love it, especially soccer. Unfortunately Andrew is still a Leafs fan. Now don't hold it against him people, he is still young and can be converted to a Canucks fan with some coaxing, or if all else fails—strong arming. Besides being a working Mom (public sector), Louella in her free time (what little she has) likes to indulge in cryptic crosswords and doing stained glass. Certainly a lady without "Vices".



Karen Fernandes—Treasurer

treasurer@goavancouver.com

Karen is also a newfie to the GOA and the Executive, so be patient as she tries to get a hang of the GOA Abacus. She and "spouse de resistance" Albert have resided in the sleepy little village of Ladner for the last 19 years. Before that they called Kuwait home. Karen is a self-described feminist and her passions include her family, shopping, chocolates and organizing (everything from shoes to shows). Albert & Karen have bragging rights over their son Christian (13) a 1st Degree Black Belt and Assistant Instructor. You don't want to scrap with her on a bad hair day or you just might hear her say, "Do you wanna piece of me???"

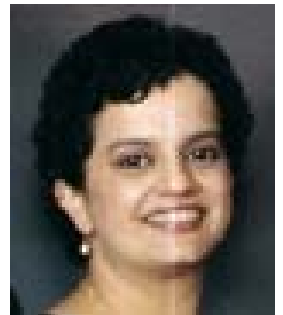


Debbie D’Mello—Secretary*secretary@goavancouver.com*

Debbie is our “GOA Administrative Professional” par excellence. Thank goodness she agreed to come back for a second term because her ability to keep the rest of us on track and on schedule, along with her gentle and friendly personality, are a great asset to the Executive. She is married to her loving husband Louis, a BCIT instructor (Marine campus), and they are the proud parents of two accomplished kids, Gavin, who lives & works (health sector) in Calgary, and Vega, a talented artist and student at Kwantlen University. Debbie is a full time Office Administrator for Catalyst Pulp & Paper Sales Inc., and in her downtime enjoys gardening, listening to music and dancing.

**Avril Carey—Socials Director***socials@goavancouver.com*

This “sociable” lady, a Banker by profession and her handsome husband Leslie, a Realtor for Remax, call Burnaby home. This duo can give “Dancing with the Stars” some serious competition when they tear up the dance floor. No doubt with her vibrant personality and friendly nature we are guaranteed some fun times ahead. They have two teenage boys—Joash (16) and Adriel (13), both athletically and musically inclined (the list of sports and instruments played are endless) and this whole family headed by Avril are “Canucks” Crazy. If you hear distant screams and shouts over the horizon during hockey season, fear not, that’s only Avril cheering her team on. Go Canucks!

**Nery Santos—Sports Director***sports@goavancouver.com*

Nery is a guy with a “sporting” sense of humour. Luckily for the GOA he also loves sports; his favourite being field and ice hockey, soccer, table tennis, darts & carom. Nery, an accountant by profession, claims to love figures (the digital kind, ladies). He and his lovely wife Wilma moved to BC in 1995 after 20 years in Dubai. These days they call Richmond home, where they live with their two daughters Andrea, 20, in university and Natasha 16, in high school. Nery’s hobbies include reading, music, gardening, and besides being passionate about Wilma, he is also very passionate about cooking. That Wilma is a lucky gal!

**Godwin D’Souza—Youth Director***culturals@goavancouver.com*

Godwin was the prime candidate for Youth Director since he directs 4 of his own at home. Godwin and Jacqueline moved to the sunny climes of Langley, BC a couple of years ago from Toronto, where they lived for 14 years. Their 4 lovely kids include Nolan (14), Calvin (11), Derek (9) and the baby of the family, Princess Chelsea (4). The D’Souzas are another sports family, headed by Godwin, who was born and raised in Tanzania, East Africa, schooled in Goa, and counts among his many sports accomplishments being awarded “Sportsman of the Year” at St. Xaviers College, Goa. These days Godwin works as an Insurance Advisor for RBC, and likes to indulge in some fishing, camping, and when time permits, traveling. He is also another foodie, only he likes to eat it, not cook it.

GOA COMMUNITY CARES

The GOA's goal of encouraging and fostering a caring community is now well into our second year and is far exceeding our expectations. We are now getting volunteers and donations not only from within our community but also from outside. Among the programs undertaken and donations received this year have been:

- **The Pilar Society** received \$1000 for the relief of poor and underprivileged families, especially women, in India.
- We donated \$400 to help a needy family in Goa through the services of Fr. Jack Dias.
- **"The Team with a Heart"** hosted lunch 4 times last year to the impoverished residents of the downtown eastside through the services of the First United Church..
- **Mark Vaz**, a long standing member of the GOA, was the recipient of the **GOA Community Service Award** for outstanding services rendered to the GOA community and to his parish community over several years.
- The City of Richmond granted us \$1000, which was spent towards the promotion of the musical talents of members' children at the Talent Show
- The **Carnival Cultural Club** donated \$2000 to the GOA at their last Carnival Fiesta.. This amount has been put into the Association's Building Fund, to help us realize our dream of building a "GOA Clubhouse"
- **Radio India 1600 AM** invited the GOA to participate in an on air program to sharing our views on our Goan heritage and social issues within our community.



For the latest news and
information on all things
GOA

check out our website
at

www.goavancouver.com



Awards & Accolades

To quote Ms. Whitney Houston, "The children are our future", teach them well and let them lead the way...", therefore we would like to congratulate the following youth who distinguished themselves academically in 2006:

- Ms. Dielle Saldanha and Mr. James Rodrigues who won the \$200.00 GOA scholarship.
- Mr. Sean Toscano who was awarded a \$200.00 bursary for his outstanding academic achievement and for his contribution to the GOA web site. Sean has been our volunteer webmaster over the last year and we are very grateful for his time and effort.

Any youth who would like to avail themselves of this scholarship, disbursed once a year, are encouraged to submit their application to the GOA.

*Talent without discipline is like
an Octopus on roller skates.
There's plenty of movement, but
you never know if its going to be
forward, backwards or side-
ways—H. Jackson Brown*



PROJECT COOKBOOK

How would you like the opportunity to see your name in PRINT? To immortalize that age old, treasured, passed-down through the ages, family recipe, so that it is not lost in family vaults but is immortalized for all time and appreciated by not just a few but by many. Or, perhaps, you just need an outlet for your creative juices to flow and a fat-free way to indulge your culinary passions?

Well, if that describes you to a T, then we have some amazing news for you!

Project Cookbook, an initiative undertaken by the GOA Vancouver and spearheaded by Villa Pinto, Dolly Aamann, Sharmila Rego and Liliana Vaz are compiling the very **first edition** of the **GOA Vancouver Cookbook**; a book of mouth-watering delicacies to tantalize even the "fussiest" of pallets. So, be a part of local history in the making!

This is no ordinary cookbook folks. This is an "all-inclusive" cookbook, not only limited to Goan recipes but inclusive of recipes from the entire "GEMA" (Goan, East-Indian, Mangalorean, Anglo-Indian) diaspora. The main objective of this venture is to promote our cuisine, to create a legacy for future generations and to introduce a culinary fusion.

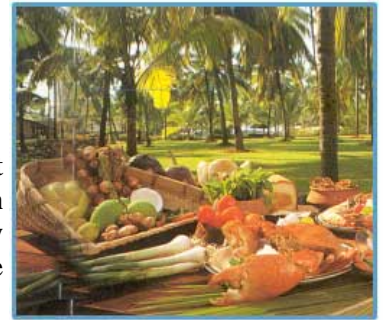
We need your favourite and most popular recipes (maximum 3 per person) emailed in (.doc) format (MS Word). Please make sure the recipe is fully detailed and that your email contains your **name** and **city/country** along with the name of the person, if any, who you wish to have credited for it, if the recipe is published. Also if you would like to share a unique story regarding your submission we will try to include as many "small" articles as possible.

We also need people who are willing to test assigned recipes and to rate them. And, finally, we need people who are willing to assist with artwork, editing, collating, publishing and distributing the recipe books.

For those who wish to advertise in the book to an international Goan audience, we will include a limited number of advertisements at a cost of \$100 to \$500. Our plan is to keep costs to a minimum, have the book ready for sale at a modest price by late 2007/2008 and to donate proceeds to support the wonderful charitable/scholarship work of the GOA.

We hope the work on this project will be lots of fun and will also enhance collaboration between Goans, our GEMA counterparts, and Goan associations around the world.

We look forward to hearing from you. Phone volunteers will be calling members in May, so be prepared and help us make this dream a reality....and PLEASE tell your friends and family, near and far.



Cookbook
Committee

Villa Pinto
Dolly Aamann
Sharmila Rego
Liliana Vaz

Please send us your
recipes TODAY

TEAM WITH A HEART

The Team with a Heart” initiative spearheaded by Sandra Sequeira, has been serving lunch to the impoverished residents of the Downtown Eastside, the poorest neighbourhood in Canada, since 2005 - 4 times a year, on a Sunday. The lunch, is primarily hosted by members of the GOA and the greater Goan community and is held at the First United Church at Hastings & Gore. This is a great community event and we encourage our youth to get more involved in it. Menu items include samosas, soup, chilli, sandwiches, cookies, and beverages. People from the various community groups (eg: Surrey, Richmond, Ladner, Vancouver etc.) take turns hosting the sandwich making at their homes. We also hold drives to collect socks, toques, shampoos, soap, and other sundry items which we hand out after the lunch. Your contribution is welcomed and appreciated. Please check out the First United Church’s website to see how much of a difference we really make.

<http://www.firstunited.ca/goan.htm>

Great opportunities to help others seldom come but small ones surround us every-



Volunteers make the world a better place



In order to meet our goals and objectives, we depend a great deal on volunteers to give the Executive help in the different areas of our programs.

The response to our call for volunteers has been unbelievable. Without the help of our volunteers none of our events would have achieved the success that they did. The Executive thanks all volunteers who provided assistance in sub-committees, preparation of newsletters and flyers, selling tickets for events, preparing sandwiches, collecting items for the poor and needy, donating and/or sponsoring and helping at various other events.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

SENIOR MOMENTS



The GOA are committed to organizing activities and programs not only for our youth but also for the more senior members of our community. Although we had to cancel a couple of events in 2006 because of lack of attendance, the GOA sponsored lunch to honour our seniors was a great success. It was well received and well attended by over 50 members. Entertainment was provided by DJ Paul Pereira and our army of volunteers were on hand to help in all capacities.

Thank you to one and all.

Newsletter composed and compiled by Karen Fernandes

“Cumin” Up for 2007—Events Calendar

These are some of the events planned for 2007.

CALGARY / EDMONTON REUNION—June 29 to July 1

We have invited the good folks from Calgary and Edmonton to come over for a short, but we hope eventful, visit on the weekend of June 29 to July 1. Some items on the itinerary for the weekend include, but are not limited to:

- Meet and Greet
- Pub Night
- Sports Day
- Dinner Dance Hoe Down (informal get together)
- Picnic (including sports)



This is our opportunity to welcome our Eastern Brethren and repay the hospitality they showered on us a few years ago.

Those who are interested in putting up a food stall are welcome to do so, at NO CHARGE. Please contact a committee member for details and to sign up.



CANADA DAY PICNIC—July 1 - Location to Follow

NITE IN GOA MASQUERADE BALL—October 27—Riverside Banquet Hall

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER’S FEAST—December 2—Our Lady of Mercy Parish

NEW YEAR’S EVE BALL—December 31— Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel

WEBSITE SERVICES

Did you know that our website has a “**NOTICE BOARD**”. Having a garage sale this weekend, have free stuff to give away (too good for the curb), selling your prized possessions, have an event you want advertised, we can offer you free space for **3 months**. **MEMBERS ONLY**. Non-members - you too can avail of this useful service, but at a nominal fee.



To report deaths, memorial masses, month’s mind masses, prayers for the sick, community news, youth accomplishments, etc. please contact **president@goavancouver.com**. Please ensure personal and family details are accurate so as not to offend anyone.

Want to advertise on our website or in our annual “Nite in Goa” brochure, our rates are extremely competitive. Our brochure ads range from \$75 (business card) to \$500 (full page—colour) and our website ads range from \$45 (monthly) to \$500 (yearly).