



Goa Vancouver Newsletter

GOA VANCOUVER – the immigrant journey

As British Columbia celebrates 150 years, Vancouver Goans delight in their new homeland-beautiful, diverse, fulfilling, an immigrant haven. For hundreds of years people have moved from one place to another in search of a better life, the Goan immigrant likewise.

The Goan Diaspora in Vancouver is a product that stems from diverse roots. Goans have migrated from different countries - India, Pakistan, East Africa and Middle East to a visible homogeneity in Vancouver.

Goa itself is a small state on the Indian landscape, succulently hybrid and resolutely individual. Boasting of a horizon outlined with golden sands and swaying palms, the state is indeed a tourist paradise. Goa has an amazingly cosmopolitan attitude and is more urbane than its relaxed, village-filled landscape lets you imagine. Four centuries of Portuguese rule have left their mark on Goan soil and life.

Goans- vibrant, colourful, genuine, enterprising, artistic, tolerant, volatile, intellectuals, environmentalists, sports lovers. Though not much in the public eye are great contributors to any community they live in, they foster a lively context for intellectual and social practices.

The Goan Overseas Association, Vancouver emerges from all of the above to promote the Goan culture in Vancouver whilst encompassing its societal obligations towards the land which is now home. It provides a solid base for a vibrant, intellectual atmosphere, artistic fulfillment and passionate ideologues and classical minds. Inventing an identity that nurtures and imbibes from more diverse cultures - a rare privilege!



Upcoming Events for 2008

The feast of St. Francis Xavier will be celebrated at Our Lady of Mercy parish hall on December 7th, 2008. Mass will be at 3 pm followed by a social get-together

**New Years Eve dance - 31st night at Executive Airport Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre
7311 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC**

From the Newsdesk!



Last time we buzzed around it was Spring, green leaves and flowers, then summer sped by faster than Ussain Bolt – soon the leaves will be turning into pretty colours before they bid us goodbye and winter will be here again. The GOA Executive and committee members have scheduled a few events to help us brighten our fall and winter evenings. As you read this, Goans will be congregating for their annual cultural nite at the Riverside Banquet Hall, Richmond – a window to the world of Goans.

World Goa Day, July 27th 2008

The World Goa Day is an occasion for Goans to celebrate their identity and connect with fellow Goans. Vancouver Goans celebrated World Goa Day at their picnic in Ladner with an excellent turnout, yummy food stalls and happy vendors. The happiest vendor of them all – 10 year old Daniel Pereira, son of D J Paul and Helga. Kids enjoyed the games organized by Felix and company and even got a couple of chances to hit the Piñata filled with candy. The youth were visibly engrossed in games of volley ball and soccer. BINGO and sing song Goans, the tradition continues.



Cleto Dos Remedios represented GOA, Vancouver at the International Goan Convention, Toronto, July 23 to 26, 2008

The Theme G.I.A.N.T.: ‘Goan Identity And Networking Today.’

The Convention was organized and held at the Mississauga Campus of the University of Toronto from July 23 to July 26. The chair of the Committee was Dr. Kevin Saldanha. The Hon’ble Eduardo Faleiro, Commissioner for Non Resident Indians with the Government of India, officially opened the Convention.

“For me the highlights of the Convention were (i) the reading of the poems and literature by the various authors and actually meeting the authors (ii) the talk by Dean D’Cruz, a well-known architect from Goa, on the environment – the present devastation caused by mining and the proposed actions to stop this. Dean is the Chair of the Indian Institute of Architects and Vice-Chair of the Heritage Group of Goa. He is passionately involved in keeping Goa “green”. (iii) A talk given by Lea Ribeiro about the tug-of-war between her past and present identity and heritage. She was the Principal of the United Nations International School in New York for 32 years. A great speaker. (vi) The talk by a very talented young speaker Christine Pinto on the “Goan Identity Crisis” that so many young people go through here in Canada and throughout the world. She recounted her personal experiences and conducted a workshop for the young people that attended the Convention.

The Convention met its goals in bringing together Goans from different parts of the world to exchange views and discuss their common aspirations. It ended with a Grand Convention Ball on July 26.

I thank the Goan Overseas Association, Vancouver for giving me this opportunity to attend and experience this Convention.”

Cleto Dos Remedios

GOA Annual Scholarship Award

The Association has instituted 3 annual scholarships for post-secondary education. Award criteria include high all round achievement in academics, and community (including sports) involvement. These have to be attested to by school and community references. The deadline for applications is usually *July 1st* of that year. We invite members and patrons to be generous in donating towards this worthy cause. Donations can be commemorated for a cause or a person. The decision of the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee shall be final.

**Meet the winner for 2008 -
Alyssa D'Lima, a teenager who
inspires**



Alyssa has it all – academic excellence, sportswomen, enterprise, compassionate nature and a lovely smile. Her academic brilliance manifested itself on the honor rolls right from grade 8th to 12th at *Holy Cross Regional High School, Surrey, BC*. She has to her credit ribbons and awards in competitive swimming as a member of the *Delta Sungod Swim Club* as well the privilege of representing her school in the provincials. She also excels in track and field events and made it to the school teams. Above all don't mess with this all rounded teenager – she did Tae Kwon Do for 3 years (2000-2003) and achieved double black stripe. Alyssa also believes in giving back to the community and volunteers with youth groups and the church. Congratulations Alyssa and all the best for the future!

The GOA Community Service Award

This award was created in 1993 to commemorate the late Mr. Crispin Sequeira of Toronto. Crispin was very involved with the

GOA Toronto, the Goan Theatrical Group and the Horizons Seniors Group where his volunteerism spanned some 25 years. In 1992 he was awarded the Lt. Gov. of Ontario's Gold Medal for volunteerism.

The GOA(Vancouver) Community Service Award is presented annually to an individual who has shown great leadership in volunteerism among the membership in Vancouver and is based on nominations received by the Executive, or in the absence of nominations, is decided upon by the Board of Directors.

The winner for 2007 was Willie Lobo, one of the most dynamic and effective GOAN we have in our midst.

The youth brigade, succession planning? Introducing YGOA

The Youth Goan Overseas Association is a subcommittee established by the GOA Vancouver. Their mission is to connect, support and inspire Goan youth in Vancouver. They organize events year-round some of which in the past have included visits to the Downtown east side, camping trips, picnics, sporting events and various other youth get-togethers. The committee in keeping with the theme lends to a subtly informal environment as they try to mix work and play.



Feel free to approach any of the friendly committee members, you can also tune into their upcoming events at Y-GOA the group on facebook or email yvgoayouth@gmail.com

Goan Overseas Association, Vancouver

(in a nutshell)

Members - Goans and non Goans in Vancouver, on payment of a membership fee

Volunteers – comprising of the Executive and other committees

Sponsors, Benefactors – help GOA realize its charitable missions

Missions – Downtown Eastside, Pillar Sisters, sponsor a *family in need* in Goa, awards

Social gatherings - World Goa Day, Nite in Goa, St. Francis Xavier Feast & New Years Eve

Casual events – Casual Friday, Games at Minoru Turf, youth get-togethers, seniors functions, book launches, Konkani classes, cooking classes

Hospitality – helping new immigrants, assist youth and seniors

Communications – Website (goavancouver.com), newsletters, announcements

**THE 2008 EXECUTIVE THANKS IT VOLUNTEERS, BENEFACTORS, SPONSORS
AND MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT**

DEO BOREM KORUM, MOG ASUM DI



Goan funnies

Our Goan friend Pedro, was running late for the Ash Wednesday mass, and knew he'd have a problem finding parking outside St. Mary's, Dubai. As he waded through the jam packed parking lot, with cars stacked even on the pavement, he looked up towards heaven and said, "Lord, take pity on me. I'm here to see you and revere this holy day, and this is my plight.

If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up Feni (cashew drink), forever."

Just as he finished his prayer, miraculously, a parking place appeared.

Pedro looked up again and said, " Never mind Lord. I found one."

Amen