

GOA VANCOUVER – Newsletter

Dear Members,

2014 was another busy year for the Executive. Our calendar of social & sports events began in February with the 'Red & Black' Masquerade Ball held at the Riverside Banquet Hall in Richmond. It was planned and organized by the YGoa. 190 people attended a night filled with colour & fun. Congratulations to the YGOA committee on a job well done.

In March, the 5-on-5 indoor soccer tournament was held at IC Delta Parish Gym coordinated by Roger Martin. 7 teams participated in the event. Thanks to the supporters who came out to cheer the teams.

On May 18th 2014, the 10K 'Run for Kibera' was organized by the YGOA at Bear Creek Park in Surrey. It was a fund raising event to support a kindergarten in Kenyas largest slum. The run is a global event involving 7 cities around the world. The YGOA represented Canada and the logo of the association was on the T-shirt worn by runners. \$2000 was raised for this worthy cause.

In June, our first Family Day and Talent Show was held at IC Delta parish hall. The event was a great success with over 145 attendees and 26 participants in both vocal and instrumental, age groups ranging from 4-70 years. We had 3 accomplished musicians judging the competition.

Our annual picnic was held in July at Memorial Park in Ladner. This was well attended despite the rainy weather. Tents were set up for the food vendors and the park gazebo provided shelter until the clouds passed. We were then able to play soccer, volleyball, bingo, sing and dance in the park.

Nite in Goa was held in October at the Riverside Banquet Hall in Richmond. 200 people attended the function. Our sincere thanks to the sponsors who supported us by advertising in our NIG Brochure. Kudos to members of the YGOA who performed the Corridinho.

On December 7th, we celebrated the Feast of St. Francis Xavier at IC Delta Hall. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Nixon. This was followed by the Children's Christmas tree party and a catered dinner. 152 adults and 36 children attended this event.

The New Year's Eve ball was the final event of 2014, held at the Executive Airport Plaza Hotel in Richmond. Our attendance was 172 and the buffet dinner was excellent. The after party continued well into the early hours of the morning.

According to our records, there were 246 paid up members for 2014. This includes 17 new members who joined the Association. A friendly reminder to please pay your dues if you haven't already done



Goan Overseas Association, Vancouver

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www.goavancouver.com

2015 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT:
Celina Fernandes
(president@goavancouver.com)

VICE-PRESIDENT:
Ernie Fernandes

TREASURER:
Bonaventure D'Sa

GENERAL SECRETARY:
Shona Lobo

SOCIAL DIRECTOR:
Vacant

COMMUNICATIONS:
Chelsy Lobo

YOUTH DIRECTOR:
Paolo Lobo

The new website is up and running. It was set up by Mike Sequeira and our host is provided by Wild Apricot. Please check regularly for updates and events.

Our AGM was held on March 29th 2015 and was well attended. The new Executive Committee was selected as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| President: Celina Fernandes | Vice President: Ernie Fernandes |
| Secretary: Shona Lobo | Treasurer: Bon D'Sa |
| Communications: Chelsy Lobo | Social Secretary: Vacant |

Please consider joining the Executive Committee as the Social Secretary. Your time and contribution would be great appreciated. There is a lot of help available from sub-committees.

Thank You for your support.

Sincerely,

The 2015 GOA Executive Committee

Calendar of Events:

July 12th, 2015
GOA Annual Picnic

October 24th, 2015
Night in Goa

December 6th, 2015
**St. Francis Xavier Feast
& Christmas Tree**

December 31st, 2015
New Year's Eve Ball

*Please Come Join Us
at these events!*

ST. JOSEPH VAZ

The Goan community is blessed to have the first Goan saint - Joseph Vaz. The new saint was a missionary priest born on April 21st 1651, in Goa. He died on January 16th 1711 in Sri Lanka. He was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II, on 21st January 1995 and Blessed Joseph Vaz was canonized on January 14th 2015.

As a Goan community here in Vancouver, we would like to honor the saint with a mass. Please join us at the regular Indo-Canadian mass, on Saturday, May 9th 2015 at Our Lady of Good Counsel School Auditorium, 10460 139th St. Surrey.--

The Indo-Canadian mass is held on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 5.30pm, followed by fellowship and Pot-Luck.

If you are attending, please bring a dish enough for your family and to share.



Did you know?



Our GOA members, Douglas and Alison Nazareth had every reason to be proud of their daughter, Ashleigh, who achieved professional status as a Bharata Natyam performer at her Arangetram on October 5, 2014. It was a fabulous day for the youngster who has been training for this celebratory performance since she was 4 years old. It was an evening of triumph and one that will long be remembered by all who enjoyed Ashleigh's remarkable interpretation of classical Bharata Natyam and its spiritual and mythical traditional stories.

Arangetram" literally means "ascending the stage", and at this debut performance, Ashleigh enthralled her audience as she performed intricate Bharata Natyam dance routines involving complex steps and body poses, stylized hand gestures, and eloquent facial expressions, accompanied by rhythmic Carnatic music and vocals. Particularly riveting was her interpretation of the six days of Diwali with its joyous festivities, its lighting of diyas, and the dances honouring the goddess Lakshmi, Lord Krishna, and other mythological gods and goddesses. The first half of the performance stretched for the better part of an hour, demanding an amazing degree of stamina and concentration, and Ashleigh rose to the occasion splendidly.

Carnival Fiesta 2015

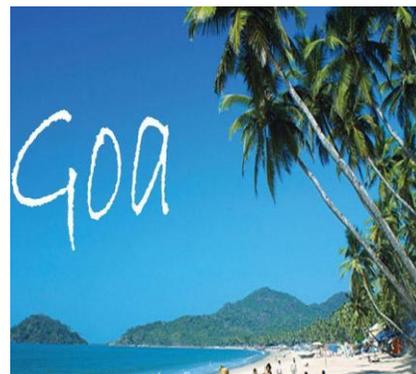
The Carnival Fiesta 2015 was held by the Nazareth family on February 14, 2015 and was a huge success. It occurs bi-annually and recently celebrated its 20th Anniversary at the Royal Palace Banquet Hall. Harry Bains, MLA of Surrey-Newton, said "This past Saturday I attended a Mardi Gras celebration by the Goan community. What a vibrant community. I mean, you would think that when you talk about the South Asian community or the Indian community in B.C., largely speaking, you talk about Sikhs. You talk about Pakistanis. You talk about a number of those who are clearly in big numbers. But there are many other communities within that community, and the community from Goa is another one. It was such a tremendous opportunity to be with them and celebrate in their celebration. I want to say thank you to Edwina Nazareth, Shauna Lobo, Heather Martin and Avril Martin for putting such a remarkable show of talent and bringing their community festivities, all the traditions, the dances, the songs that they have there, the singing. I say thank you very much. I really, really loved it. My colleague from Surrey-Whalley was also with me, and he tells me that he enjoyed it just as much."

Run for Kibera – May 10th 2015

For the second year running, Y-GOA Vancouver is hosting a Run for Kibera which raises money for a kindergarten in the largest slum in Africa on May 10th at Bear Creek Park, Surrey. Sign up here <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/volunteers-foundation-3321029608> or donate here: <https://www.justgiving.com/VF-10KMRUN2015/>

REMINDERS:

The Indo-Canadian Mass is held every 2nd Saturday at 5: 30pm at the OLCG **AUDITORIUM** in Surrey (10460 139th St.)



AWARD WINNERS:

GOA Scholarship Awards
- Post Secondary
**Alison D'Sa and
Austin Vaz**

Realtor Glen Shcolarship
Award - Elementary
school
Dwayne Lemos

Community service
award **Desiree
Nazareth**

SUBCOMMITTEES:

Charitable Donations:
Louis D'Mello

Seniors: Vacant

Website: Caroline D'Sa

Membership:
Cynthia Bonamis & Paulo
Lobo

Website Update (goavancouver.com)

The GOA website is up and running. You can apply for membership, renew memberships and register for events. Please visit goavancouver.com for more information.

Among other features, it will:

- Give you latest information and updates
- Allow you to manage and renew your membership including any changes in contact info etc
- Send you an automated notice when a new Event has been created, allowing you to purchase event tickets on line and even register for events where a ticket purchase is not required.
- Allow you to View Pictures, stories and other relevant material
- Enable you to Start, contribute or respond to an open Forum.

As with any new technology, there is a small learning curve.

1. When you go to the site at www.GOAVancouver.com, please navigate to the top right corner where you will see a yellow login box:

- Enter your email address.
- Then click on the "Forgot Password" link.

Check your mailbox for an automated message to reset your password.

Go back to the site, enter your email address and the password you have just created. When you are logged in, CLICK the "View Profile" link which will take you to the records we have for you. Here you may edit any of the information and update your Names, address, phone #s etc. You can even upload a picture if you wish. When you are done, please remember to SAVE your changes.



2. You may navigate any of the links in the LEFT panel of the site's pages including pictures, news and updates.

We hope you like the new site and will come back to it often. Navigate to the Forum page and feel free to enter your comments and suggestions there.

If you have any issues with your login and have any other questions related to the site, please hit your REPLY button and we will attempt to respond as soon as possible.

Please Note:

Only 1 member can be associated with an account and email address. Each family member must have their own email address to log in. Other family members have been given pseudo-email addresses. Please contact Paulo Lobo at membership@goavancouver.com for your pseudo-email and password to log in.