




Goan Overseas Association, Vancouver  
New Year's Eve Gala 31 December 2025



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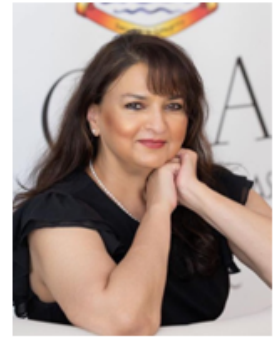
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# Goan Overseas Association Vancouver, Canada



## President's Message

Since assuming the office of President, I have made it a principal priority to uphold the Mission of GOA Vancouver — a mission grounded in service to the community, the preservation and celebration of Goan heritage and traditions, and the fostering of a caring and inclusive society. Guided by a background in leadership and special events planning, I remain committed to ensuring that the Association's initiatives and programs are delivered with excellence and in alignment with GOA's values and objectives.

Under this stewardship, GOA Vancouver has continued to promote meaningful social | engagement through cultural, traditional, and community-focused events, while extending its outreach to support and collaborate with other communities, thereby strengthening unity and shared purpose. The remarkable response and unwavering support from our members has been both humbling and inspiring. Consistent, full attendance at our events, along with generous sponsorships and donations of essential goods, have enabled the Association to deliver its programs with care, dignity, and prudent stewardship of resources.

As GOA Vancouver prepares to commemorate its 50th Anniversary in 2026, and as a founding member of the Association, I remain deeply committed to carrying forward its proud legacy of Goan heritage, culture, traditions, and history. It is an honor to serve this community with integrity and dedication, as we celebrate five decades of achievement and look ahead with confidence and purpose.

***Anne DaSilva***  
**President, GOA Vancouver**



Here's to a joyous Christmas and a thrilling  
2026!

Let's raise a toast 🍷 to our Goa,  
Golden Jubilee celebration in beautiful  
Vancouver !

Executive Committee President: Anne Da Silva

Vice President: Vinnie Antao

Treasurer: Crystal Ann Lobo Fernandes

Social & Cultural Director: Ashney Rebello

Executive Administrative Director: Joanita Pinto



## **Goan Overseas Association**

### **Vancouver, Canada**



### **Greetings, Members & Friends of GOA Vancouver!**

**Joyful congratulations on the Association's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary!** Abundant gratitude to the many elected officials, volunteers, and supportive members who have kept this wonderful organization flourishing for the past half-century!

All through this time, the Goan diaspora and their descendants now living in the Greater Vancouver area, have been supported by the GOA through the recognition and celebration of the many traditions of our ancestors and their homeland - its music, dance, sporting activities, culinary specialties, as well as strong family life, Faith and religious traditions.

I continue to be very grateful for the privilege of serving as Spiritual Director of the GOA Vancouver! On behalf of the Association, I liaise with Goan and other priests in the Archdiocese of Vancouver; help arrange Mass liturgies for the annual celebrations of the Feasts of St. Francis Xavier and St. Joseph Vaz (the latter alongside the Sri Lankan community); lead the praying of our monthly Zoom Rosary, coupled with short teachings on topics of faith and religious practice; and devotional Stations of the Cross during Lent. I also provide help with preparations for, and the conducting of Sacraments as may be needed by members of our community. I am able to do all this only with the abundant support and direction from the GOA's dedicated President and Executive Committee.

Please feel free to contact me directly or through the Association with any spiritual or pastoral need with which you may feel I could help.

As we say goodbye to 2025 and welcome a new year, we give thanks to our almighty and loving God for all his many blessings. We are ever-grateful for new life, growing relationships, good health, and prosperity as individuals and as a community. We remember and pray for the souls of all those who have left us this past year, that they may enjoy eternal peace in heaven and that their grieving families and friends may be mercifully consoled. We likewise pray for all our community members who have been struggling in one way or another, that they may experience a change in their fortunes in 2026.

We continue to especially pray to Saint Francis Xavier & Saint Joseph Vaz for their example, guidance and intercession for whatever is best for our personal lives and for our Association.

Heartfelt thanks and God's blessings to all in the new year ahead.

***Deacon Dileep Athaide***

## ***Installation and Blessing of the Newly Elected Committee of G.O.A. Vancouver***



(Crystal Ann Lobo Fernandes, Joanita Pinto, Vinnie Antao, Anne DaSilva and Ashney Rebello)

### **Rooted in Faith, Guided by Service: G.O.A. Vancouver's New Chapter!**

On Sunday, July 13, 2025, Father Cannio Cardozo presided over the *Installation and Blessing of the Newly Elected Committee of G.O.A. Vancouver* during a solemn Mass at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish, 2725 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Father Cannio for his meaningful leadership, to Ashney Rebello for her dedicated coordination, and to all who joined us in celebration. Your presence and participation embodied the spirit of faith, unity, and fellowship, making this occasion a significant milestone in the life of our community.

*INTRODUCING THE GOA VANCOUVER  
50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY STEERING COMMITTEE - 2026*



**Caroline D'Sa**  
*Chair*

Caroline joined the Goan Overseas Association in 2004 and has since served the organization in several leadership capacities, including **President, Vice President, and Advisor**. She currently serves on the GOA Board as an **Advisor**. Having previously served as **Chair of the GOA 40th Anniversary Celebrations**, Caroline is honored to once again lead this historic milestone as **Chair of the GOA 50th Anniversary Steering Committee**, providing direction and oversight for the Golden Jubilee year. Her commitment to the Goan community and to **GOA Vancouver** has remained steadfast throughout her many years of service.

Beyond GOA, Caroline has an extensive record of volunteer service in the **City of Richmond**, where she has contributed to the **Emergency Program** and the **London Heritage Farm**. She has also spearheaded community support and fundraising initiatives, notably mobilizing assistance for **two newly arrived immigrants courageously facing cancer**, reflecting her deep commitment to service, compassion, and community leadership.



**Villa Pinto**  
*Chair*

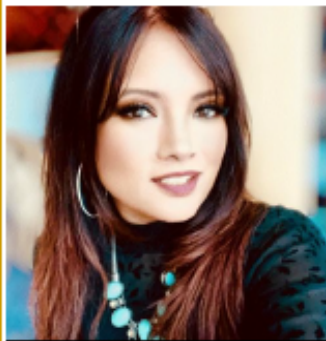
Villa Pinto has been a **strong supporter** of the Goan Overseas Association (GOA) since its establishment in 1976. Throughout the years, she has held various leadership positions, including **President, Vice President, and Advisor**. Leveraging both her Masters and her career in Education, she has been offering guidance to the Scholarship Committee contributing her expertise to support and offer her invaluable guidance to the **Scholarship Committee** and contributing her vision, wisdom, and expertise to support countless **students**, coaching them on their journey in being the best version of themselves and nurturing their leadership skills. With the support of a strong team, she authored **Feasting For Everyone**, G.O.A Vancouver's 2012 Cookbook.

Previously, Villa served as **Chair of the GOA 40th Anniversary Steering Committee and it's Legacy Project.**, and now, with her extensive experience and unwavering commitment, she leads the **GOA 50th Anniversary Steering Committee**. As Chair of this Golden Jubilee event, she continues to steer the celebrations with a deep dedication to the Goan community and GOA Vancouver.



**Clifford Faleiro**  
*Director, Events & Sponsorships*

Clifford takes great pride in his **Goan heritage** and has been a devoted member of the Goan Overseas Association of Vancouver for over **25 years**. Known for building **strong community partnerships**, securing sponsorships, and driving effective publicity, he brings passion and precision to event leadership. Volunteer service is close to his heart, and he serves as **Vice Chair of the Chamber of Shipping and Board Member of the Canadian National Seafarers Welfare Association** in Vancouver and **Chair of Public Relations & Publicity** for the **Knights of Columbus, BC & Yukon**. Clifford has helped raise an estimated **\$100,000 for charities** including Coast Mental Health, the Canadian Wheelchair Association, and the Diabetes Foundation. He is a sailor at heart, a Mariner by profession, he is proud to serve on the GOA Vancouver 50th Anniversary Steering Committee.



**Michelle Gohlan**  
*Director, Public Relations & Publicity*

Michelle has a deep and genuine passion for all things Goan, nurtured by her mentor and grandmother whose roots were firmly embedded in Goa. A **human resources professional, humanitarian, and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) ambassador**, she has served with several non-profit organizations across Canada, including the **Salvation Army and Eva's House**, a second-stage transition home for women and children. She is also proud to support **Luke 15 House**, a registered Christian non-profit recovery residence in Surrey, BC. Michelle serves on the **Board of Directors at CIM** (Chartered Managers for BC & Yukon) and enjoys **speaking engagements at universities and consulates**, using storytelling to connect hearts and minds. She is honored to oversee PR & Publicity on the GOA Vancouver 50th Anniversary Steering Committee, celebrating five decades of heritage and community.



**Avril Martin**  
*Accountant*

Avril Martin has been a **dedicated member** of the Goan Overseas Association since settling in Vancouver in **1991**. Together with her family, and under the leadership of her mother, Martha, she has played an instrumental role in spearheading **Vancouver's Carnival celebrations** over many years. A **Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA)**, Avril brings strong expertise in accounting and financial stewardship to the GOA. She previously served as **Accountant on the 40th Anniversary Committee** and will continue in this vital role as **Treasurer/Accountant for the GOA 50th Anniversary Steering Committee**, providing sound financial oversight and supporting the successful execution of the Golden Jubilee celebrations. Avril is also **passionate about volunteering**, currently serving as a **Treasurer on her Strata Council** and supports individuals experiencing **homelessness** through clothing drives and essentials.

# A Golden Journey Ignites

As the final seconds of December 31, 2025, slip into history, a powerful new chapter unfolds.

At the stroke of midnight, the Goan Overseas Association of Vancouver bursts into its Golden 50th year—five decades of culture, community, and collective pride coming alive in one unforgettable moment.

## Introducing the 50th Anniversary Steering Committee

Chair: Caroline D'Sa

Chair: Villa Pinto

Director of Events & Sponsorship: Clifford Faleiro

Director of Public Relations & Publicity: Michelle Gohlan

Accountant - Avril Martin

## A New Year, a Golden Beginning

As we cross the threshold into 2026, we extend our warmest wishes to our members, families, friends, and community partners for a *Happy New Year* filled with health, hope, and happiness.

May this new year—and this Golden Anniversary—remind us that the greatest celebrations are built not just on time passed, but on unity shared, traditions honoured, and futures imagined together.

*Happy New Year and Viva Goa!*

Thank you for being part of our journey.

The Goan Overseas Association of Vancouver

## Golden Jubilee Emblem

Golden Jubilee Emblem – 50 Years of Community Service - Honouring the Past, Embracing the Future:

The Goan Overseas Association Vancouver proudly marks its 50th anniversary with a Golden Jubilee emblem that reflects both heritage and hope. The design retains the original symbols of faith, the sea, music, and the Goan homeland, honouring the founders and the first Goan families who built this community in the 1970s.

At the centre, the bold “50” signifies five decades of culture, connection, and dedicated service. Surrounding it, the gold-rendered sun and waves pay tribute not only to Goa’s coastal spirit but also to the beauty of British Columbia, our cherished home along the Pacific.

The inclusion of maple leaves acknowledges Canada—the country that welcomed Goans and offered a place to grow, contribute, and thrive.

Elegantly composed, the emblem stands as a symbol of legacy, gratitude, and continuity, proudly upholding the Association’s enduring motto: “Service & Integrity.”

**Anne Da Silva**

**President, GOA VANCOUVER, BC**



# Homeless Lunch Program



## *The Door is Open, Downtown East side, Vancouver*

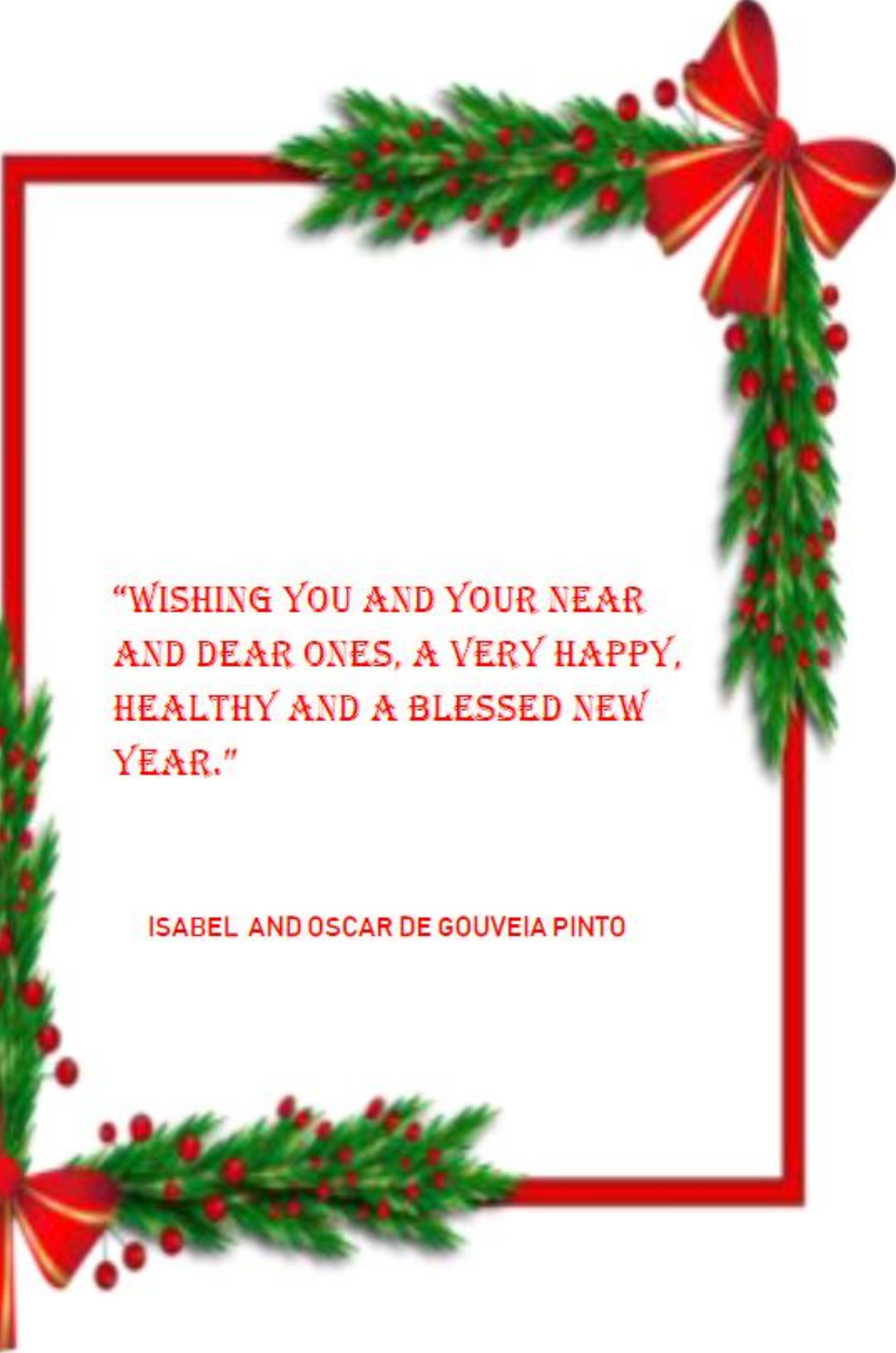
On Sunday, June 29, 2025, thanks to the dedication and compassion of our incredible volunteer team, over **200 individuals facing homelessness** were served a warm, nourishing lunch at *The Door is Open* in Vancouver's Downtown East side.

Your time, effort and generosity brought not only food but also **kindness, dignity, and hope** to those who needed it most. We are deeply grateful to each and every one of you who helped make this outreach a success.

A Special Thanks to Palmira Braganza for her thoughtful coordination.



Thanks Giving sponsored lunch by our members & community.  
Coordinated by Outreach program & Charities Ambassador: Winona Rebello



“WISHING YOU AND YOUR NEAR  
AND DEAR ONES, A VERY HAPPY,  
HEALTHY AND A BLESSED NEW  
YEAR.”


ISABEL AND OSCAR DE GOUVEIA PINTO





Congratulations to the Goan Overseas Association on celebrating 50 glorious years in Vancouver—five decades of unity, culture, and community pride.


Your legacy continues to inspire generations, honoring Goan heritage while building strong bonds abroad.

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# GOA Annual Picnic & World Goa Day Celebrations – 2025

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped and supported our Annual 2025 Goa Vancouver Picnic and World Goa Day – 25th Anniversary Celebration.



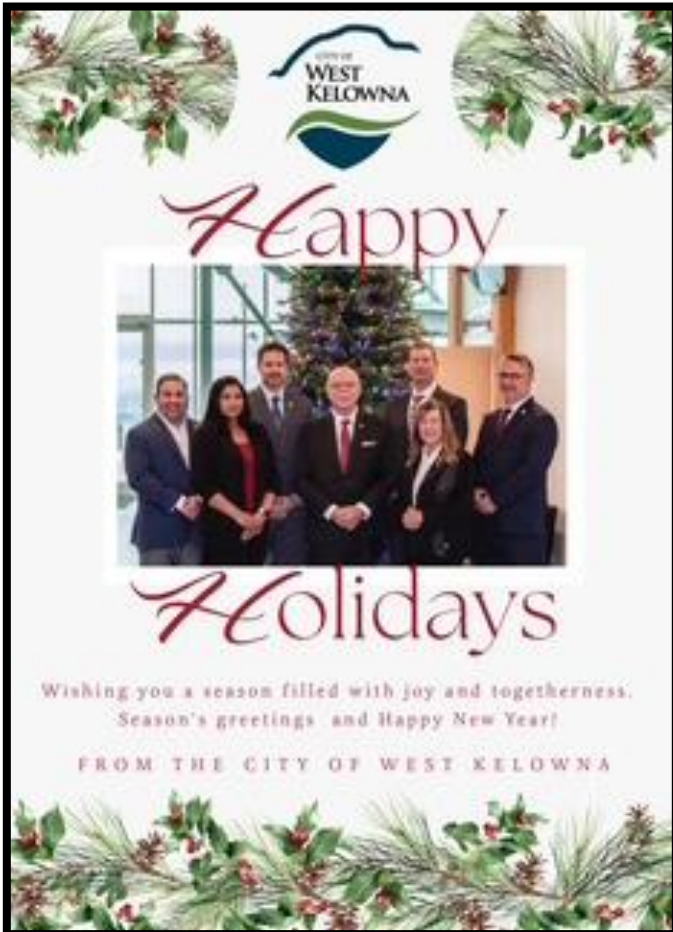
# With our Best Wishes!

*Alison + Doug Nazareth*



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The GOA Executive & 50<sup>th</sup> Committee would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to Savio Menezes, our talented Brochure Graphic Designer, for his dedication and hard work

*Our Goan Community – Feast of St. Francis Xavier 2025*



The Goan Overseas Association (GOA) Vancouver, together with our wider Goan community across the Lower Mainland, came together in faith, gratitude, and love to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, the Patron Saint of Goa and our beloved Goencho Saib. St. Francis Xavier holds a deep and cherished place in every Goan heart. For generations, he has been a symbol of hope, healing, and guidance. Even thousands of miles away from home, we feel his blessings uniting us as one family. Our celebration in Vancouver reflected this spirit so beautifully.

A Blessed and Meaningful Mass in Konkani brought the community together in prayer, song, and reflection. We are very grateful to our Goan priests from the Archdiocese of Vancouver, Fr. Nixon D'Silva, Fr. Cannio Cardoza and Fr. Jevan.

An Extraordinary Choir that Filled the Church with a Goan Spirit and the music brought our celebration to life Co-ordinated by Crystal Menezes.

A Traditional Goan Luncheon made with Love and Generosity; the meal was a true reflection of Goan tradition and hospitality. co-ordinated by Ashney Rebello.

A Heartfelt Thank You to all our Volunteers and Community Supporters.

### ***Congratulations to our GOA Vancouver Scholarship Recipient - 2025***



Nashoma Rebello is the proud recipient of the GOA Vancouver Scholarship for 2025, presented at the St. Francis Xavier's community celebration.

#### *Nashoma Rebello bio:*

I'm a first-year student at Trinity Western University, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Education. My goal is to become a teacher who creates engaging, inclusive, and supportive learning environments. When I'm not focused on my studies, I enjoy expressing my creativity through doodling, nurturing my garden, and continually seeking personal growth. I'm deeply grateful to have received the GOA Vancouver Scholarship and appreciate the committee's recognition.

Sincerely,

**Nashoma Rebello**

# Seniors Christmas Luncheon – Dec 2025





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## Meeting With Senator Andrew Cardozo



We were privileged to have spent time with Honourable Senator Andrew Cardozo, from Ontario and of Goan origin, who graciously extended an invitation to meet with the Goan Vancouver Executive committee. The meeting was held at Country Meadows, Golf Course on September 2nd, 2025.

In attendance were Executive committee members:

Anne Da Silva - President

Ashney Rebello - Social & Cultural Director

Vilu Nova Carvalho - Advisor

Winona Rebello - Outreach & Charities Ambassador

Michelle Golhan - Public Relations (50th Goa Vancouver 2026 Anniversary Committee).

We valued the opportunity to hear about his experiences as a Senator and especially enjoyed sharing stories of our Goan heritage and culture. His insights were enlightening and valuable. We anticipate future opportunities for collaboration or connection.

*Congratulations to the new committee on taking over the GOA during this challenging time and for hitting the ground running.*

*We recognize the dedication and hard work you are contributing and we commend your efforts in guiding the GOA forward while looking confidently to new horizons*

*Sal Rocha*

*D.V.M., MRCVS*



# HAPPY NEW YEAR WELCOME TO 2026

*Clifford Faleiro*

Director of Operations NAM, Saga Welco  
Director, PR & Publicity,  
Knights of Columbus BC & Yukon

Wishing GOA Vancouver—our members, friends, and families—a wonderful holiday season filled with peace, joy, and happiness!

Here's to a bright and meaningful year ahead as we celebrate GOA Vancouver's 50th Anniversary together!



Sending holiday sparkle to GOA Vancouver!

Thank you for your meaningful contributions to our community. As we mark our 50th Anniversary, may we continue to celebrate our beautiful heritage, culture, and outreach, enriching lives in true Goan spirit as we celebrate the rich diversity in Canada

Wishing you and your families a joyous start to 2026!

*Michelle Gohlan*

Director, Human Resources, A.P Moller-MAERSK  
Director, PR & Publicity, CIM | Chartered Managers, BC & Yukon  
Director, PR & Publicity, GOA Vancouver, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

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**CAPTAIN'S OVEN PIZZA VANCOUVER**

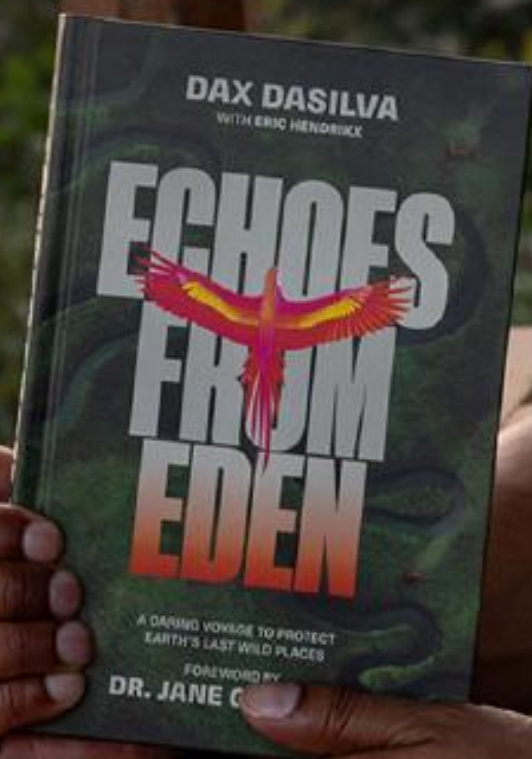
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