

Goan Connection

GOAN ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.
Established in 1991

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The Goan Connection is a publication of the Goan Association of New Jersey, Inc., a non-profit organization established in 1991.

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Email: committee@goanj.com
Phone No: 201 64 GOANJ (46265)
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Flyer Designed by: Louella Menezes



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Wilma Martins
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Secretary



Allan D'Guerra
Treasurer



Cleta Lobo
Membership Coord.



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Association Corner

My Dear Friends,

At the onset I want to thank you for ushering in the New Executive Committee, with a warm welcome to a New Face in the Exec. Committee—Mavis DaCruz a very inspiring, motivated and hardworking individual. Mavis, welcome to your second family, GOANJ. We are constantly looking for new talent and faces to join our Planning and Executive teams. I urge you all to come and join these very successful teams that are now well on the road to GOANJ's next milestone—beyond 25 years. Along with our more mature Committees, we are now focusing on our Young Goans. I met some very enthusiastic group of millennials at our picnic and was very encouraged with their thoughts and willingness to be part of the YOUNG GOAN group. We certainly want to mobilize them to a close knit working group that will meet more often, engage in career networking and have many more activities than what we typically open up for our general membership. So please reach out to us with your thoughts and ideas, and let's gallop forward.

Our Editorial team is working hard on sprucing up our now eagerly awaited newsletter with interesting articles, jokes, etc.; focusing on our young school going youth. We plan to showcase and display the immense talent within our community. We cherish our younger generation and will make every effort to highlight their success and achievements. Please keep us posted so we can share your children's successes. We want these articles to circulate among other kids in our community so that it can motivate and inspire each one of us to greater heights and aspirations.

Well, we are now close to fall, when



days are getting cooler and I am sure you are looking for some fun activity to engage in as the leaves fall off trees. GOANJ has heard your suggestions and hence for the first time we have planned a HALLOWEEN DANCE with you in mind. Our Editor Elvis, has described it so eloquently in the email that was recently sent out to you. We have a NEW 5-piece band in attendance for your dancing and listening pleasure, buffet dinner, prizes and much more. So before it is too late, please book your tickets as we have a limited number of tickets available. We are expecting to sell out fast as we have heavily subsidized this event; being our first Halloween Dance.

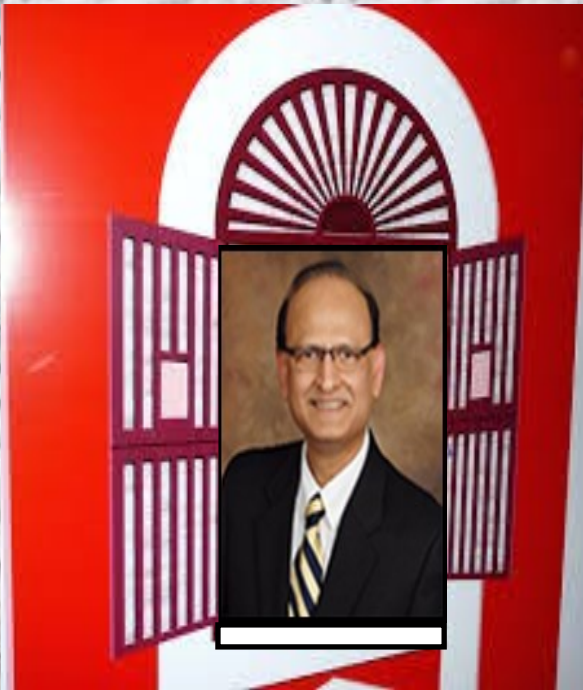
As we enjoy the tail end of summer and prepare for fall, I look forward to seeing you all, first at the Halloween Dance and then, on December 9th for our biggest event of the year. Please, please mark your calendars for October 28th and December 9th for GOANJ dances. For you Konkani Tiatr lovers, don't forget there is a live tiatr performance coming to town, all the way from Goa, it will be held in Peekskill, NY on October 8th.

Till we meet again..... I wish all you hard working GOANS - A Very Relaxing and Enjoyable Labor Day weekend.

Viva Goa !! Viva GOANJ !!!

Felix Menezes
President

*New Executive Committee
(July 2017-2019)*



*Felix Menezes
(President)*

Aldona, Bardez, Goa—that is where my roots lie. I always miss and reminisce family trips to Goa as a kid. A staple part of my summer vacation, was our holiday in GOA! I still try to keep that tradition by visiting Goa once a year, though I must admit the Goa of today looks a lot different from the years we grew up as kids, that pristine rich rural beauty is fast being concretized.

I joined in 1993 just hoping to meet some fellow Goans in a faraway land. I started as a Planning Committee Member, then after a few months became part of the Executive Committee and had the honor of serving first as Secretary, then Treasurer, followed by Vice President and eventually President. This is my fifth (nonconsecutive) term of serving as President. As much as I have given to GOANJ in time, talent and treasure, we have received much more in return. This Association has been a wellspring of friends becoming like family as we share our culture and also love of feni, seven hands, three-card poker and Goa!

We are well on our way to GOANJ's next milestone—to 50 years! Our GOANJ Membership is vibrant, giving and a talented community. It is my distinct honor to be part of this rich heritage and culture.

Viva GOA !



*Wilma Martins
(Vice President)*

I am one of the Founding Members of the Goan Association of New Jersey. I served two terms as a secretary of the association. I enjoy passing the message of Jesus to young people at church through word, song, and dance. I am also interested in helping prolife groups.

Over 25 years ago, a few of us came together and organized a dance for Goans. Today we reference that as the GOANJ's 1st dance. As years rolled by, that first group of friends blossomed into a community of Goans which became our second family where we shared our culture, music and food. The different activities of the association later became an integral part of our lives. Our children learned a lot about our Goan culture through socializing, and through various interactions with their Goan peers.

Eighteen years ago when Bambino was critically ill, this second family was around with an outpouring of prayers, calls, visits, food, and even financial assistance. It's now awesome to see GOANJ do the same to all the members of the association, to special causes in Goa, and to our community here in the USA.

LONG LIVE GOANJ !

New Executive Committee (July 2017-2019)



*Mavis DaCruz
(Secretary)*

I am originally from Saligao, Goa and have two grown boys Jason and Kevin. The first time I met folks from GOANJ was in 2015, when Archbishop Filipe Nerri (my cousin) visited St. Cecilia's church in Monmouth Junction. I met Felix and several other Goans who were very kind and welcomed me at the reception for the Archbishop. Felix told me about the upcoming Whist Drive which I attended and met several Goans. At that time I knew I wanted to join this lovely group made up of fine Goans who were so proud of their heritage and culture. Next, I went to the Christmas dance and had a great time. Last year, Felix asked if I would like to be a part of the planning committee to which I instantly agreed. Although I have been a member of GOANJ for a short while, I feel I have known this family for a long time. It is great working with the members of the executive and planning committees.

I love singing and dancing which I think is in the blood of every Goan, so when I hear Konkani / Portuguese music it reminds me of my days growing up in sweet GOA!!! Even though we live thousands of miles away from our homes in Goa, it is always nice to attend events organized by GOANJ and feel at home with the rest of our Goan community. God bless the past executive and planning committees for making this possible for us.



*Alan D'Guerra
(Treasurer)*

Allan came to the Goan Association with open arms! Right from the get-go, he was ready, willing and able to lend a hand. He was a member of the Goan Association in Florida before he came to New Jersey, and was full of ideas and enthusiasm. He quickly filled the spot of Treasurer, and has been doing the association's number crunching ever since. You might also recognize Allan in a white suit (visions of American Idol???) being our MC at various events. With his booming voice and looming presence, Allan is a vibrant member of our GOANJ Executive Committee and family.



*Clea Lobo
(Membership Coordinator)*

After hearing about this small group getting together to share their history and culture, I joined the newly formed Goan Association. This 'group of Goans' brought back the feeling of family as we formed a loving bond with shared common interests. Working to get this new group going, I took on the responsibility of secretary for several years followed by membership coordinator. This last position keeps me on my toes in keeping track of who is new to the association and whose memberships need to be renewed. You can usually find me at the front desk for all our functions greeting you and welcoming you to our events! I love being part of this extended family and seeing it grow and flourish.

Your Donation @ work Accomplished: School Renovations

4-July-2017

Dear Chris,

Greetings from Caritas Goa.

I was wanting to send the report before you could ask for it. However you beat me as the workers, as always, never turn up though they promise. We have finished the work only the sinks have to be set which is not ready.

I am glad to share with you photographs of the area **before, during and after the work** was completed. The children when they returned from holidays had an AHH...Ahh experience after they saw the change over of the hostel. It really looks beautiful and energising.

I am attaching the photos in three mails in succession as I cannot attach the folders.

I really do not know how to thank you more for the assistance, cooperation and encouragement. It means a lot to the children and their future.

Please inform me if I have to send a formal letter of thanks and to whom I have to address it.

Please note that photographs of during and after work will be sent in my next email.

Thanking you once again and God's blessings on you and your beloved families.

Yours Gratefully,

Fr. Maverick Fernandes

Director, Caritas-Goa

One of the projects of Caritas-Goa includes **St. Francis Xavier Academy**—a special school providing education to the hearing impaired, mentally challenged, autistic and learning disabled children. The school focuses on holistic and overall development of special children.



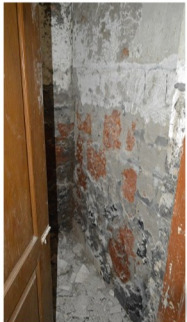
(After GOANJ received this communication, the sinks have been installed and the work on renovations has been completed, as you will see through pictures on the following page.)

St. Francis Xavier Academy

Stage 1: Before the work began



Stage 2: During the transformation



Stage 3: After the work is done!





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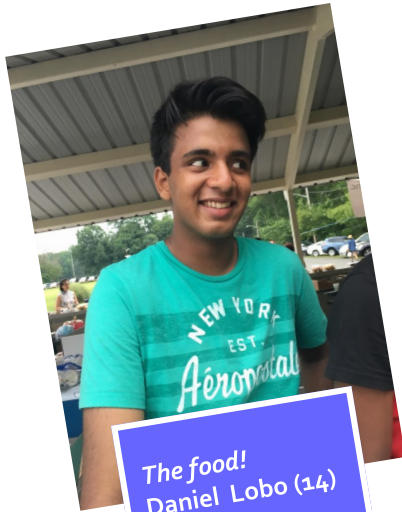
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GOANJ Picnic



What was *your* favorite part of the GOANJ Picnic?



The food!
Daniel Lobo (14)



The water balloon toss!
Emma Desa (7)



Playing soccer!
Cayden Allen (9)



The balloon toss
Joshua Menezes (14)



The Mass! Sage Rebello (14)
Editor's note - Sage did a reading at the picnic Mass and was eloquent.



Soccer and playing on the field!
Nathan Rebello (13)



Goan Association Picnic!

Dale (9) and Shannon (9) Dcunha

When you first arrive

At the Goan Association Picnic we played many different kinds of games for the kids and the adults. When you first come in, you have to say your last name to the people who are working there. Next, you have to write your name on a name tag. Then, you get to pick your color for a wristband, which was either green or red.



Games

We played *dodgeball*, but a little differently than how we actually play the game. First, the teams get together either on the inside of the circle, or on the outside of the circle. The outside team gets three balls. They have to throw it at the inside team, but it has to be waist and below.

They had a game for kids only, it was a *water balloon toss*. First, you need to find a partner. Then you need to get a balloon and stand right across from each other. Next, you need to toss the balloon to your partner carefully. Finally you need to step back some steps and see how far you and your partner can survive without being splashed or your balloon getting burst.

They had a *Konkani quiz* for kids. First, they gave us time to see the posters around the picnic, it says the English and Konkani words. Next, we were given the quiz after lunch to see how much we remembered. Then, they gave the English word and we had to say the Konkani word. Finally, we ended up with points and the judge tallied them up.

Meeting New Friends

Dale met a new friend named Aaron. Shannon met a new friend named Chelsea. Chelsea, Shannon, Dale and Aaron were playing with water balloons. We made the water balloons huge. Shannon and Chelsea buried them up in the playground but, this kid named Jason dug them all up and popped them. But, Dale and Aaron kept them on the grass. Jason popped all six of Aaron's water balloons but, he only popped two of Dale's water balloons.



I (Shannon) won this bronze medal, at the Goan Association picnic. It was from the water balloon toss, I won the medal with my friend Emma. Emma and I just met each other from the water balloon toss, when we were partners. Then, we were beginning to be good friends and got to know each other better.

Dale won this sketchbook and markers for the Konkani words with 9 points. Each word you get correct is worth one point but, Dale, Tyler, Aaron, and Chelsea ended up with a very high score which was 9 points.



Our Picnic!

Lysandra Pinto (11)

This year's picnic was truly awesome. There was dancing, games, great food and music. I liked this year's music and the bands. They played some great hits in Konkani, English and Portuguese. A lot of people were dancing. The games were fun, even though the only competition I participated in was the kids' balloon toss. This year the food was different, too. They did not have hamburgers at past picnics. I especially enjoyed the mango ice cream, which was delicious! I really like the place that they hold the picnic at: Princeton Country Club. They even have a Mass, so I don't have to wake up early on Sunday morning. Usually, they have a wide selection of drinks and sodas, but this year there was only lemonade, iced tea, and water. For me, the only disappointment about this picnic was with the drinks (I love soda!). Overall, I think this year's picnic was a great one.



Our experiences at the GOANJ Picnic

Nicole (13) and Melissa (12) Vital

Throughout the years that we have been part of the Goan Association, we have had many exciting and delightful experiences. Each summer we look forward to the annual GOANJ picnic, which we have been attending ever since we were born. We always make sure to participate in the games, which are more fun every year. The water balloon toss definitely stands out as one of the favorites. There is always the extra thrill in getting soaked by your partner on a hot day! We love meeting all of our Goan friends and family, this event brings us together as most of them live far away. This year, the Goan Association planned a Konkani game that helped us learn



words in Konkani in a very fun way. Along with the friendly competition of the games, there is also singing, a live band and dancing that all of us love, being Goan. All this definitely works up an appetite, however, there is always a constant supply of food, starting with delicious appetizers, lunch, dessert, and ending with pastries and watermelon.

Every picnic bonds us with our heritage and strengthens our relationships with our friends and family. We can't wait until next year! Thank you GOANJ!

GOANJ Picnic



GOANJ thanks
its photographer:
Melanie Martins

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Missionaries of Charity Soup Kitchen



Olinda Gomes

Sr. Frances Lily accepted the excess food from the GOANJ picnic. Hotdogs, condiments and desserts were donated to the Missionaries of Charity soup kitchen in Asbury Park, NJ. (The cookies and brownies are in the brown bag).

The sisters would like to thank the GOANJ for their generous donation of the food.

All the food is being served for the summer camp held by the nuns for underprivileged kids.



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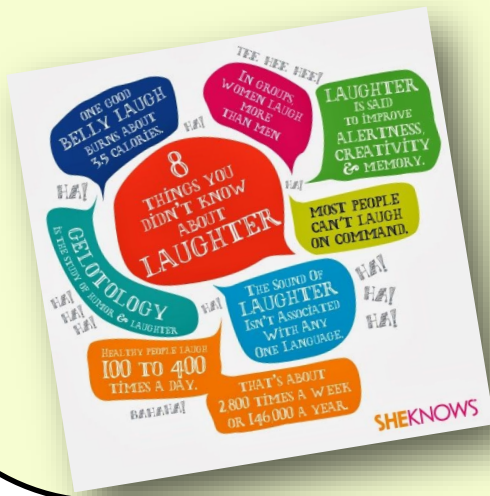


Goan Giggles

Pedro Pereira was appointed as a salesperson at the local store in Panjim, Goa. While on one of his shifts a lady approached him and asked if they had any peach jam to which he bluntly replied "Out of stock"

At this the lady immediately turned to leave the shop disgruntled. It was then that the shopkeeper who had been looking on called Pedro aside and told him "When a customer asks for a product that is out of stock, you apologize for its unavailability and then offer other types of the same product. For instance, in this case it was peach jam that was asked for, you offer other types of jam like mango jam or guava jam"

The next day, in came a lady who asked for toilet paper and Pedro politely replied "I'm sorry madam, we do not have any toilet paper right now but you could try some carbon paper or sandpaper"!!!



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Great Goin' (Goan) : ADRIENNE NUNES

Ryan Nunes



Adrienne Nunes (daughter of GOANJ members Ryan and Avril Nunes, from Houston) was invited by her piano teacher, Professor Courtney Crappell, to the 2017 National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy (NCKP) in Chicago, Illinois on July 28. Mr. Courtney is head of Piano Pedagogy at the University of Houston where he is in charge of teaching teachers, how to teach piano. Adrienne has been playing piano for about four years and working with Mr. Courtney for about one year. The professor invited her to do a live teaching demonstration in front of an audience of over 1000 music educators, researchers and industry

leaders from the US and over a dozen other nations!

Adrienne played Burgmuller's "Ballade" (an upbeat classical piece with quick changing dynamics) while Courtney provided some guidance and practice tips on accenting certain sections, balancing the right and left hand volumes and improving overall dynamics. As this was one of the first years the NCKP had a live teaching demonstration that provided an "inside view" of how a teacher teaches, the audience greatly appreciated the pedagogical suggestions and ideas to attain results with their students quickly and efficiently. Adrienne is seven years old and will be starting second grade this school year and loves playing the piano! It was an amazing trip and an unforgettable experience for both Adrienne and her Dad!



We invite you to share achievements by our members—let us know what's 'GOAN' on!!!

~ The Editorial team

Great Goin' (Goan) : CRAIG NAZARETH

Merlyn & Joey Nazareth

Craig Nazareth enlisted in the United States Army after graduating from high school in 1994 and completed Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina to complete his Army enlistment training in 1995. While an enlistee, he completed his application to the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point and was accepted.



From 1996 to 2000, Craig completed officer training at West Point and pinned on his fresh Lieutenant rank as he took the oath of office as an Officer in the United States Army. He proceeded to his 1st duty station in Arizona to begin his professional career. Craig was blessed, because although he initially had orders to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, he was diverted to the 2nd Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea in 2002, where he met his future wife, then 2nd Lieutenant Isabel Kwon, who also graduated from the Academy and was assigned to the same unit and post in Korea- the 102nd Military Intelligence Battalion at Camp Essayons in Uijongbu, just 1 hour north of Seoul. They spent many months training among the mountains and rice paddies with their soldiers, just miles away from Pyongyang, North Korea and the Demilitarized Zone bristling with North Korean weaponry.

After multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, and a tour of duty with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Craig and Isabel both returned to Korea in September 2016, but this time, with two beautiful children Craig Micah (4) and Gabrielle (5). On a warm summer day in June at the new Eighth Army Headquarters in



Pyeongtaek, South Korea, Craig's supervisor and mentor, Colonel Greg Ford, his wife Isabel, and his children, participated in promoting him to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Craig completed 19 years of service and will proceed to his next duty station in August 2018. Craig greatly appreciates the support from the Goan Association. In fact, Craig recollects receiving a very endearing card in 2005 when he was deployed to Afghanistan, that kept his spirits up while away from family. Craig remarks, "The Association is more than just a social outlet, it is a venue where families and friends can find spiritual growth and make long-term relationships that last through thick and thin. He is proud of his heritage, and wishes all in the Goan Association the very best!"



"Police Officer" Konkani Tiatr / October 8, 2017

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Around 20,000 men, women, young adults, couples and families make retreats at Malvern every year. The cost is about \$240 but the retreat house has a policy that each man can contribute according to what he can afford.

Executive Committee:

Felix Menezes, Wilma Martins, Mavis DaCruz, Allan D'Guerra, Clea Lobo

Planning Committee:

Vera Menezes, Bambino Martins, Martinha Gracias, Elvis and Lorraine Proença, Rui and Giselle Gomes, Marvin and Connie Fernandes, Chris and Dianne Nunes, Wanda Gomes, Bromin and Louella Menezes, Michael Alvares



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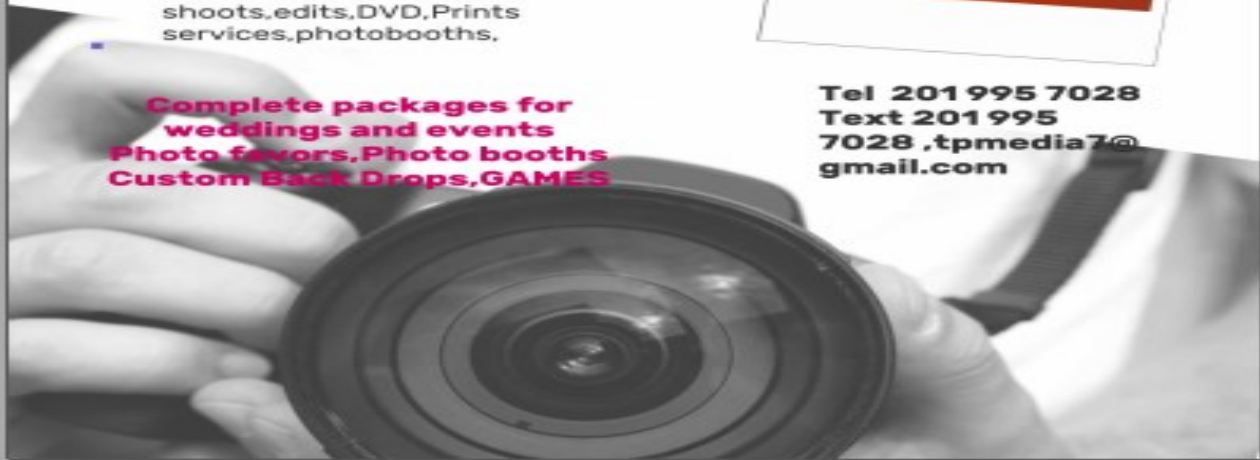
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Goan Gourmet



Kheema—Parsi Style

Lena Lobo

Ingredients

0.5 kg ground beef	3 onions chopped
1Tbsp chili powder	1 heaped tsp coriander-cumin / (dhania-jeera) powder
Pinch of turmeric	6 cloves of garlic – crushed
1 inch piece ginger, crushed	3-4 tomatoes – peeled, seeded and chopped

Method

- Sauté the onions in oil until golden brown
- Add the chili powder, coriander-cumin powder and turmeric powder
- Let it cook for 1-2 minutes
- Add the garlic and ginger and cook for 1-2 minutes until soft
- Add 1Tbsp of water and the tomatoes and cook until pulpy
- Add the mince and stir until brown
- Add a cup of water slowly and continue to stir the mince
- Cover and simmer until the water is absorbed
- Garnish with chopped cilantro and green chilies (optional)
- Serve with Indian bread (chapatti/roti/paratha)

Angelo Lobo

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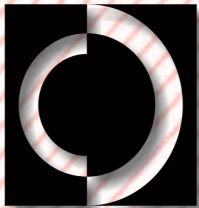
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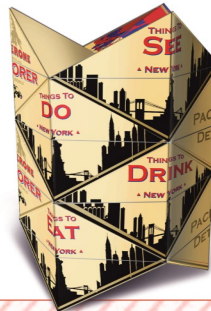
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Helga do Rosario Gomes

To learn Konkani words and phrases, go to:

<http://www.savemylanguage.org/konkani/englishtokonkani.php>

First, read this conversation.....

Sharmila: Miss Valanka, Goinchi 'Romeo ani Juliet' zoddi khonn ?

Valanka:Goinchi 'Romeo ani Juliet' zoddi? Lorna ani Chris Perry of course!

Sharmila: Lorna khonn?

Valanka: Lorna amchem Goinchem vodlem cantorist!

Sharmila: Ani Chris Perry khonn?

Valanka: Chris Perry amcho voddlo composer.

Sharmila: Ek Chris Perrichem cantar sang maka?

Valanka: Easy!! "Nachom-ia Kumpasar" of course!!!

Sharmila: 'Nachom-ia Kumpasar' munchem kitem Miss Valanka?

Valanka: 'Nachom-ia' means, 'Lets dance'. Ani 'kumpasar' means 'to the rhythm'.

Sharmila: Wow, Ok Miss Valanka. Nachom-ia Kumpasar !!!

Now challenge yourself (by using words from the above conversation) to fill missing words in the (left) table below:

#	Konkani	English
1		And
2	Zoddi	
3		Who
4	Amchem (feminine)	
5	Amcho (masculine)	
6	Vodlem (feminine)	
7	Voddlo (masculine)	
8		One
9	Cantorist	Singer
10		Song
11	Sang	Say
12		Me
13	Munchem	
14	Kitem	What



#	Konkani	English
1	Ani	And
2	Zoddi	Couple
3	Khonn	Who
4	Amchem (feminine)	Our
5	Amcho (masculine)	Our
6	Vodlem (feminine)	Big
7	Voddlo (masculine)	Big
8	Ek	One
9	Cantorist	Singer
10	Cantar	Song
11	Sang	Say
12	Maka	Me
13	Munchem	Means
14	Kitem	What



Congratulations



Desmond Andrew Rozario wed **Samantha Moraes** on **July 29, 2017** at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Jersey City. Proud parents David and Lorraine; Sunny and Theresa along with families from around the world, including close friends, celebrated this joyous union!

Alisha Couto (daughter of Sally and Allan Couto) married **Paul Avenoso** on **August 5, 2017**. They have moved into their new home in Montville, NJ where Alisha will continue working as a manager with Bayer pharmaceuticals and Paul as an oncology specialist at Holy Name Hospital in Bergen County.



Ian Xavier Martins and **Karen Elizabeth Whitehead** celebrated their wedding vows on **August 26, 2017** at St. Joseph's parish in Fairhaven, Massachusetts. The happy couple will reside in South Weymouth, MA. Both work in the area and will be close to Karen's extended family.



We want to welcome you

YOU!






The Executive Committee invites each and every one of its members to become involved in helping our Association chart a dynamic future. Your ideas and suggestions are crucial to enhance its chartered course and create ideas that will promote positive development. We invite you to share your comments and ideas and ask you to reach out to us by phone at 201-64-GOANJ (46265) or committee@goanj.com. We look forward to hearing from you. Your involvement benefits us all.



- Showcase your creative talents •

Join the **Goan Connection** (newsletter) team

The GOANJ Newsletter team is looking to expand its talent pool and YOU may fit the qualifications just perfectly! Check out if YOU :

	Are passionate about writing or editing articles?	YOU can come on board!
	Enjoy reaching out to others to solicit ideas for articles and story ideas?	We need YOU!
	Have an interest or a talent with computers or desktop publishing?	YOU are just the person we are looking for!!!
	Want to help take some pictures at GOANJ functions????	We will be happy to have YOU click away for us—be trigger happy!
	No prior experience necessary - just a desire to enhance the newsletter, expand the talent pool, reach out and solicit ideas for news worthy articles, have a fine eye for editing and page layouts.	YOU are exactly qualified!! YES

Please contact:
 Felix Menezes <fmenezes10@aol.com>,
 Dianne Nunes <dianneenunes@gmail.com> or
 Brenda Fernandes <brensyl@hotmail.com>
 to come on board. We welcome anyone interested or those that have questions.

Come on ...

 Join Us

Caring Corner:

Caring Committee Partners



Dianne Nunes

All are welcome to be a part of our tender hearted community within our GOANJ family. A Prayer Team partner? Praying for the needs of others by reaching out in a prayerful way to support those requesting spiritual assistance? Making phone calls to those that are either housebound due to illness or age? Sending along a card to lift someone's spirits? Three ways to be a part of the Caring Committee outreach! Likewise, if you know of anyone that would like to receive prayer or get a phone hug or a card, do let us know.

Please contact either:
Wilma Martins at vlfm@hotmail.com or
Dianne Nunes at diannenunes@verizon.net

All prayer requests are kept confidential and no names need to be used in our prayer petitions.

Go and bless others in your spiritual journey!



Adapted from a homily by
Rev. Charles T. O'Connor
(Pastor, St. Cecilia's Church,
Monmouth Junction, NJ)

Spiritual Food for Thought

*Seek the Lord's strength
in forgiveness because
"Anger not Transformed
becomes
Anger transferred"*

Upcoming Events

Halloween Dance



October 28, 2017

Christmas Ball

December 9, 2017



PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain continues to provide powerful intercession on behalf of those who are suffering for a variety of reasons. Our faithful prayer members are a great source of comfort to those in need. If you wish to have this wonderful group intercede on your behalf, or if you wish to be a part of this prayerful team, please don't hesitate to contact us.