



Goan Association Of New Jersey

Spring



Save the Date

SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH 2025

GOANJ ANNUAL PICNIC

ROSEDALE PARK,
PENNINGTON NEW JERSEY

The Goan Association of New Jersey, Inc.
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The Association Corner



My Dear Friends,

I hope you have had a great start to this New Year and that it is filled with happiness, prosperity, and good health. Although we have stepped into spring, the air is still crisp. The buds may be slowly emerging on the trees but our Planning Committee has been blossoming with ideas and designs for our upcoming events for the year!

A big shout out to all those who attended the Christmas Ball at the new Royal Grand Ballroom which was grand indeed with the spacious dance floor (yes! we heard your requests). Prism and DJ Brian spiked the dance floor with their music and you could feel the energy from the youngest dancers to the expert jivers. Even Santa made a trip to greet our little ones while they participated in organized games. Thanks to all the gracious donors who made this event even more special. To usher in the new year DJ Gladdy rocked the house at our New Year's Eve Bash. There was an overflow of food, fun and music. This was made possible by the unwavering efforts of our Executive and Planning Committee Members. We goans really know how to party!

Our annual picnic will be held on Saturday, June 28th at the scenic Rosedale Park in Pennington, New Jersey. If you would like to volunteer in any way at this event please contact us. For those in Middle or High School who need community service hours you will receive a certificate for your time volunteered. Keep a look out for the flyer to be released soon.

As we are in the heart of the Lenten season, I hope we can spare time from our hectic lives and reflect on our spiritual well being. If you need support, our Prayer Warriors are here to guide you and intercede for you.

I pray that during this Lenten season, God may guide our spirit, give us strength and bring us peace.

With Love and Faith,

Louella Menezes



from the Editor



Dear GOANJ family,

I cannot believe Spring has magically sprung upon us. It seems like just yesterday, we were braving the frigid winter. Look around now, and the place is abounding in beauty. Spring represents new beginnings, new life, hope.

We are also in the holiest of seasons, Lent. Lent in middle English means “Spring” It is a new beginning for us indeed. Lord Jesus gives us new life, by sacrificing his own. How blessed we are to have such a loving father.

We are also thankful to have a wonderful GOANJ community. A family with whom we can celebrate our joys, share moments of grief, pray, laugh, cry, dance and lean on one another.

This issue captures the memories of Christmas, eloquently written by Lovell Pinto, a heartfelt poem by Adrian Lobo. We welcome our newest little members, Ava and Lily. Do not forget to brush up on your Konkani vocabulary, prepared by our Effie Tavares, A hearty congrats to Ria Gandhi. You will also relive memories of our Christmas gala in our Christmas and New Year’s Eve collage; a picture does speak a thousand words!

Please continue sending in your contributions. This is our way of staying connected.

Wish you all a holy Lenten season and a Blessed Easter.

Joyfully
Brenda



Executive Committee



Louella Menezes
President



Rui Gomes
Vice President



Allan De Guerra
Treasurer



Marvin Fernandes
Membership
Coordinator



Floyd Faria
Secretary

Save the Date

Picnic - June 28th

Whist Drive - October 4th or 18th

Christmas Ball - December 13th





Congratulations

READY OR NOT, H...

It started on the 4th of December,
A day we will always remember.
Rachael left Mia with us at 'a.m. nine,'
And drove to work, feeling 'not fine.'

So, for another gynaec appointment, Rachael di
A gynaec recently told Rachael "You don't have to worry,
'Cos Braxton-Hicks contractions are false, don't hurry!"
But this had unusual symptoms of the 'real thing d ring.

Later in the day, Rachael told Dre,
"Leave work now," I'm on my way.
Like most of 'us good husbands,' he did as he was told,
And perhaps broke out into a sweat, which we call 'cold!'

As the frequency and intensity of pain did grow,
She drove to the gynaec, with a colleague in tow!
During her entire 30-minute drive she was in a terrible bind,
So, Kathryn remotely tracked her contractions, for peace of mind.

At the gynaec's office this was a unique event,
As in 8 years, this situation was never present.
However, staff professionalism did prevail,
And through it all, Rachael never did pale.

As Dre was over an hour's drive away,
Checked later, his hair had not turned gray!
We had no idea of Rachael's emergency condition,
Until Dre called with his shocked/excited rendition.

At the gynaec's, the baby could not wait,
Baby's choice was 'soon, rather than late!'
Did not expect an infant with a determined will,
Not a problem for Rachael who knew the drill.

And so our eldest daughter, Rachael,
Gave us an early and blessed thrill.
With the spontaneous arrival of Ava Doreen,
Who arrived in 12 minutes at the gynaec scene.

As Ava and Rachael needed Emergency 911 care,
The fire truck arrived first with its distinct blare.
The ambulance came next and gave them a ride,
All part of the game, they took it in stride.

Rachael's calm demeanor struck a chord,
With all the staff in the Maternity ward.
Ava and Rachael are at home doing well,
Did Rachael just deliver? You never could tell!!!

Love from Aunt Kathryn & Grandparents Doreen & Adrian
Written on December 6, 2024



Congratulations

God Bless
Baby: Lily Sophia
Born on 30th December 2024

Congrats proud parents, Gaywonn
and Sydney Tavares



Prayer Warriors

Sometimes we call upon the Lord for His gracious blessings and mercy. The Prayer Team has been praying for the needs of others for over thirty years - faithfully and with great hope. If you have a need, or know of someone who could use the backing of a spiritual army, then email us yilmalfmartins@gmail.com or dianneenunes@gmail.com and your request will be placed before our prayer warriors (anonymously if preferred). The Lord will answer, as He has been rewarding our faithfulness to Him through our trust in prayer.

If you would like to pray for the needs of others, we would be so happy to have you join our spiritual army of prayer warriors.

God bless and keep you close to Him, always.



SPEAK KONKANI

KONKANI ULOL. -17

XIKSAN – LESSON

BABY – BALLOK

CHILD – BURGHEM

BOY – CHEDDO

GIRL -CHEDDUM

MAN - DADLO

WOMAN – BAIL

FATHER -PAI

MOTHER - MAIM

GRAND FATHER - AZO

GRAND MOTHER - AJI

BROTHER -BHAV

SISTER – BHOIN

SIBLINGS - BHAVNAM

PARENTS – AVOIBHAPUI

FAMILY -KHUTUMB

I LOVE MY FAMILY –

HANV MOJEA

KHUTUMBACHO MOG

KORTAM.



Effie Tavares



(Dedicated to my grandchild,
Lily Sophia Tavares)

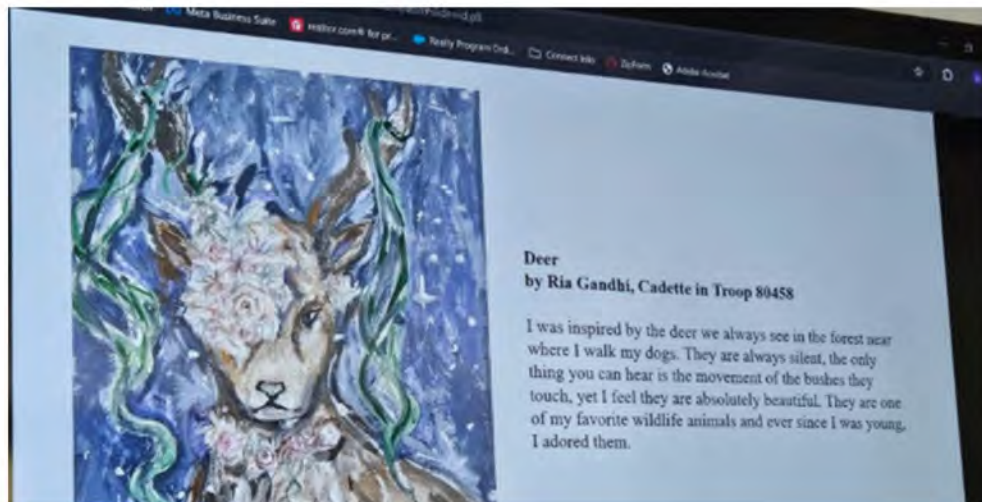
Ria Gandhi had her artwork displayed for public viewing, at the Windows of Berkshire Hathaway, across Seemore appliance Metuchen. The unveiling took place on Feb 22, 2025.

Congrats!



"Taking Care of Our Planet and Each Other"

al and scientific investigation of the unique and diverse ecosystems in our region
by the Girl Scouts of Central and Southern N.J.



The GOANJ Christmas Dance--a memorable extravaganza!!

By, Lovell Pinto



“Why on earth did I wait nearly two decades???” That’s a question I have been asking myself since the first weekend in December 2024. The GOANJ held their annual Christmas Dance on December 7th, and it was the first time that my wife, Lea, and I attended. And indeed, what a fantastic experience it was.

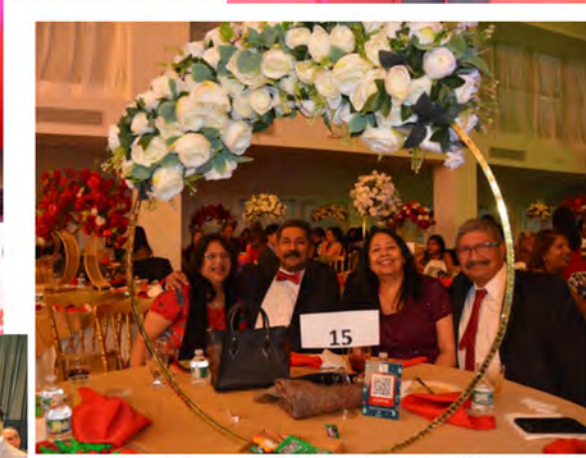
Every year for the last two decades, despite my wife’s dogged urging to attend the event, I offered the perennial excuse of being endowed with “two left feet”. “Dancing is simply not for your hubby”, was my flat and vociferous protest. Dare I say, my persistent resistance over the years succeeded in convincing her that those words of remonstrance were perhaps not far from the truth. Not one to relent easily, she signed us up for ballroom dance lessons last year. Those sessions helped persuade me that I was indeed blessed with two “normal” feet. The bottom line is we finally made it to the 2024 GOANJ Dance at the Royal Albert Palace in Fords, NJ on December 7th.

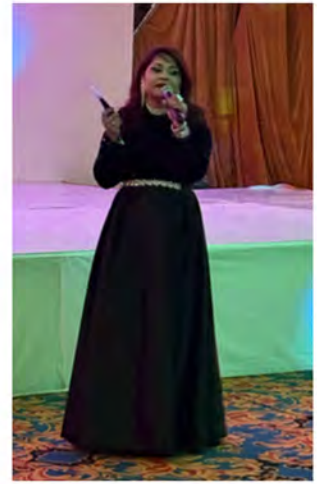
As a newcomer to this event, I was unsure of what to expect. However, I was floored, both literally and figuratively. The ‘PRISM’ band kept everyone on their toes, belting out recent hits along with some old classics in English, Konkani and even Hindi. The crowd’s response could be gauged by the number of feet tapping and rocking on the dance floor, including the once dance-shy yours truly. What’s more, there were prizes (and surprises) to boot! It was a great occasion to mix and mingle with old friends and make new acquaintances. Undoubtedly, the evening was well spent, building new bonds with Goans (and some non-Goans) from far and near, and rekindling old relationships. I was thrilled to meet some folks I had not seen for several years.

Don’t get me wrong, by no means was this event a mere opportunity to tap one’s feet and burn some calories. On the contrary, it was accompanied by a lavish buffet dinner, fittingly including some Goan delicacies. The dinner was preceded by an extravagant spread of appetizers, which were too varied and delicious to be justly described with my limited vocabulary. Simply glancing at the array of dishes laid out was enough to satisfy one’s senses and made me wonder how it was humanly possible to try, let alone consume, all the gastronomic delights on display. Nevertheless, to be honest, I did try. Oh, and did I not mention all many delectable desserts that were served after dinner? How could one forget to taste the icing on the cake? Suffice it to say that all the sweet teeth (and others too) at the venue were certainly satisfied. Even more surprising to me as a newcomer was the open bar that continued to bring good cheer during the evening, serving everyone with a smile well into the late hours.

After returning home that night, and in the weeks thereafter, I have been reminiscing about this event, thinking what a great experience it was for me and the better half. And all this for a terrific and incredibly reasonable fee! Which again begs the opening question: Why on earth did I wait nearly two decades? The answer, my friends, is blowing in the Jersey Shore wind...









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Cafreal **\$8**, Vindaloo **\$8**, Orange Coconut Curry **\$9**, Recharido **\$10**, Xacuti **\$12**

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Babco Foods International LLC, is an Importer and Distributor of high quality Indian Snacks, Masalas, Pickle, Specialty Flours and rice with a main focus on South India. We are headquartered in the State of New Jersey with three distribution locations - in Piscataway, NJ; in Hayward, California and in Dallas, Texas. Our distribution network currently covers over 45 States in the US. Our flagship brand ANAND comprises of over 130 unique food products, ranging from various types of snacks, such as chips and mixtures, to dinner table accompaniments, such as pickles and papads. All ANAND products are manufactured at locations in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra, Karnataka and Mumbai, India, as per our specifications in order to provide our customers in the USA, the authentic taste you desire and the superior quality you deserve. We also represent a number of reputed companies from India and distribute their products in the USA.

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Thank you so much!




HE
IS
RISE
N

Happy Easter!