

Goan Connection

GOAN ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.
Established in 1991



AT A GLANCE

SPRING - 2022

Welcome to the Spring
edition
Meet the Team
Upcoming Events-2022
GOANJ Christmas Gala
A look back into GOA
Konkani Uloi
Musical Ensemble
In Memoriam
Prayer Team/Bible Study
He is Risen!
Amazing Sponsors

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The Editor's Desk

Welcome to
Goan Connection!



As I look around, I'm
struck by the presence of life.

The flowers, the birds, the bees. What
looked dead and lifeless, just a few
months ago, has sprung to life. Spring is
indeed the season of new life, new
beginnings!

As we prepare for the holiest of seasons,
our savior's death and his glorious
resurrection, May we experience the
peace, joy and love of our Lord.
A Happy Easter from all of us at GOANJ.

We are excited to bring you the first
issue of 2022. We give you a look back
into Goa, a lesson in Konkani, a musical
ensemble, personal reflections,
remembering our loved ones, and a
Thank you to all our Sponsors.

It is you, that make this connection
possible. I encourage you to continue
sending your contributions. We love to
hear from you.

My thanks to our talented editorial
team, Dianne Nunes, Wilma Martins,
Suzette Barreto, Carmeline Barreto
Chantelle Faria, Marissa Gomes.

A glorious Easter, from our family to
yours

Joyfully
Brenda

Goan Association of New Jersey, Inc.
Website: www.goanj.com

The Association Corner



Greetings everyone!

We wish you a blessed, reflective, and grace-filled Lenten Season. We would like to thank you all for your continued support over the past year. The association is in good stead and continues to assist those in need.

As we put together our calendar for the rest of the year, we want to have the Whist drive in June. The hugely popular whist drive had been a staple in our calendar in the past years, but we had to cancel the last 2 years along with some of our other indoor events. Based on member feedback, it's back on our calendar this year. The annual picnic has been scheduled for August 21st. Our Marquee event, the Christmas ball will be on Dec 10th.

As we continue to observe the solemn religious season of lent, we hope that you are attending the virtual Lenten retreats and healing services organized by our GOANJ member, Bob Vaz on 7 Saturdays during the Lenten season. He has put in a lot of effort to pick renowned spiritual preachers who have consented to preach. Other Bible studies are also being conducted every other Sunday, and in case anyone is interested, please drop us a note and we will provide you with the details.

As we look forward to having regular events this year, we are looking for volunteers to help out, and also those who may want to join our planning committee. If you are interested, please send your details to committee@goanj.com.

If you have received renewal notices, please renew your GOANJ membership. Lastly, as always, please support our sponsors and advertisers.

Thank you, everyone!

Stay safe, and healthy, and together let's *Spring* forward.

Mog Assum

M. Fernandes

Marvin Fernandes

President





UPCOMING EVENTS 2022!

WHIST
DRIVE
June 4 or
June 11

PICNIC
AUGUST, 21

CHRISTMAS GALA
DECEMBER, 10
BAND— PRISM

Your Window to Look Back into GOA



Hede House – Shiroda

"Old Goan Portuguese house", "Portuguese houses in Goa", "Goan houses with Portuguese architecture " are some of the titles given to old Goan heritage houses.

However, this picture puts this debate to rest on how to describe a Goan Heritage house. At first glance, this window surely has a European architectural style. But if you look closely, you notice the Indianess in the design, with elements of wooden balusters in Indian architectural style as was the requirement of the home owner who got it done with the expertise of the local carpenters/craftsmen. In conclusion, the correct description for Goan Heritage houses is "Indo - Portuguese styled Goan houses " These Goan houses of Indo - Portuguese architecture are unique to the Globe, as they exist only in Goa.... not even in Portugal.

The four-poster beds draped with cloth canopies were initially made with the intent to protect the user from insects and provide warmth to the person using this. However, over a period it has evolved into symbols of status, romance, and privacy. Be it a king-size bed or a bed for a single person the four-poster beds are very common in Goan heritage houses. The headboards of these are high so that one could sit on the bed and use it as a back-rest.



Figueirido House - Loutolim



Cota House - Panjim

This piece of furniture in the bedroom, I would call a vanity table. This was intended to make the bedroom a self-contained room which evolved, as a status symbol in the bedrooms of Goan houses. This is now looked upon as the bedroom table, displayed with artifacts.

The camphor chest is one of the most revered pieces of furniture in Goan houses. However, these camphor chests arrived in Goa as packaging boxes for crockery from Macao. Yes, the most loved blue and white crockery. After unpacking the crockery from these camphor chests, the chests were tucked away in a corner of the storeroom of Goan houses. Goans soon realized that the fragrance from these chests was pleasant, and these chests could be used to store clothes and important documents so that they are protected from insects like white ants. Camphor chests were normally carved with depictions of Chinese and Japanese art forms. These carvings added further glamour to these camphor chests which are displayed with pride in the main halls of Goan heritage houses and even in newly built apartments



Sousa Monteiro House - Siolim



Palacio De Deao - Quepem

Houses in yesteryears were built by Goans who were well off. However, they developed a yardstick to measure the status and power of the Goan families.

The yardstick was the height of the floor level of the house from the ground level outside. If a Goan house was built with a plinth two feet above the ground and the next Goan family building, their house felt they were higher in status and power, and hence ensured that the plinth was more than two feet from the ground.

Power was defined based on important positions held in the governance of the village and neighboring areas. Status was normally equated to the number of landholdings owned by the family. Goan houses have plinths that even go up to six to seven feet above ground level.

Higher the plinth meant greater the status, power, and wealth of these Goan families.

About the Author

Alinto Coelho is passionate about preserving our Goan Heritage. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Goa College of Engineering.

He provides Professional Consultancy Civil Engineering Services in Goa, which includes Restoration of Heritage Structures. He has initiated a process to document Heritage Structures across Goa.

The pictures in this article are taken personally by him.

Email: heritage.goa@coelhosolutions.com



Speak Konkani
KONKANIM
ULOI -7



XIKSAN -LESSON

Amkam songita-cho chodd mog

We love music very much

Mhaka soglim songit avodta

I love all kinds of music



- | | |
|---------------|----------|
| SONGIT | SONG |
| SONGITKAR | MUSICIAN |
| GITKAR | LYRICIST |
| GHAUPI | SINGER |
| BOROINAR | WRITER |
| DIGDORSPI | DIRECTOR |
| SONGIT GHODPI | COMPOSER |
| ATHPADAK | PRODUCER |
| PARTIST | ACTOR |
| NOTHI | ACTRESS |
| INDRIA | ORGAN |

Music, the soul of life!



Our Musicians!

T.H. Rogers is a K - 8 magnet school in the Houston public school district. It's music department features several chamber ensembles and orchestras on all levels, and is well known throughout the district for its strong music program. Ryan Nunes' two children, Adrienne and Riley attend T.H. Rogers, and wanted to also be a part of a band that played contemporary rock music, since that was not an option the school offered.

With the approval of the school, Ryan was given a small room, off one of the hallways and permission to meet after school every Friday afternoon.

The group drew about eight or nine dedicated students. Ryan purchased some guitars, donated some of his sound equipment and they were, ready to rock and roll!

Started in 2019, prior to the pandemic, they met regularly and were invited to perform at different city wide and school functions. After a 'Covid hiatus' they are now back in full swing!

Click the link below to enjoy this awesome band. **Way to go Ryan!**

<https://youtu.be/b4qEoig9s5U>



Meet the Rebello family

Everyone in the family plays an instrument. Dad, Celsius is a cantor, plays the guitar, violin, harmonica and is learning the clarinet. All three kids, Rachel, Sage and Nathan play the piano, and sing in the choir.

Nathan also runs a volunteer piano program at Millbrook School. He teaches piano and looks forward to holding a rehearsal for his students.

This could have been our very own von Trapp family, except, mom, Brenda plays the radio! (LOL)

Click on the link to hear the Rebello's in action!

<https://youtu.be/ObEtcVIIUaQ>

<https://youtu.be/IFd5UCXaBQo>

<https://youtu.be/OL9uo5RQdF8>

<https://youtu.be/LkzXb-PKbLg>

“I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.” Isaiah 45:3

Hi, my name is Francisco Mascarenhas, and I am from the beautiful town of Ponda, Goa. From a young age, I was always actively involved in the church. As a small child I started altar serving. At 12, I joined the minor seminary of Pilar to discern my vocation. I experienced some of the best years of my life during my time at Pilar. Some of the things I learned during my 3 years there which I've carried throughout my adult life were faith, discipline, camaraderie, and much more. I was inspired by my prefect there, now a priest, Fr. Nicholas Dias. From him, I learned how to play the guitar, how to be a public speaker, and how to sing. As a teenager, I was part of the youth group at my parish, Mount Carmel Chapel, and was the youth president for one year. I volunteered in the Youth Day Programs and helped our priests in their Youth Ministry. I also played the guitar and sang with our choir.

As a young adult, I would accompany our parish priest, Fr. Francis Rosario, OFM to different colleges and lead the music and give my experiences inspiring the youth.

I occasionally played with the Pilar Choir with Fr. Peter Cardoso, SFX and was part of his musical orchestras. I also taught guitar at Pilar Music School. During this time, I was also part of the Goa Charismatic Music Ministry under Winston Colaco and Cajetan Fernandes. Through this, I had the opportunity to help with music during their Leader Camps and National Conventions.

Growing up, my parents were not musically inclined, however music was always playing in our house. I remember coming home from school and listening to the English music program from 1-2PM and then Konkani music from 2-2:30PM. My brother Elvis Mascarenhas is also a renowned singer, actor, and artist.

My life in Goa was pretty busy. I worked as a production officer for different pharmaceutical companies and eventually entered the teaching field. I taught at Vidya Vikas, Margao and later on at Guardian Angel High School, Sanvordem. Aside from my music ministry, I also played in several music bands; my last band being “The Four Seasons”.

After moving to New Jersey, I taught Catechism for a few years and played in the choir at Mass. I am a teacher in the public school system teaching General and AP Chemistry. I also cantor and play the organ at church. I lead praise and worship at healing Masses and at a Retreat Center. Apart from that, I also love Emceeing.

Over the years, the Lord had blessed us with five children; two girls and three boys; the eldest being 10 years old and the youngest 6 months. It is not an easy task for us to manage the kids with work, school, and all of their other activities. But as they say, when God gives children, He also gives the grace and strength to take care of them. Our daily family prayer keeps us all sailing and we take it one day at a time.

Our kids also love playing instruments and singing so as you can tell, there is never a dull moment in our house. Our eldest son and daughter are learning both the violin and piano and our middle son is just starting to learn the violin. All three boys like to bang on the drums. Practice times can be crazy with music blaring out of all the rooms. My wife jokes that I am training them to be like the children from “The Sound of Music” but right now they look more like the kids from “The Little Rascals”. These days they are accompanying me at church singing and playing the violin.

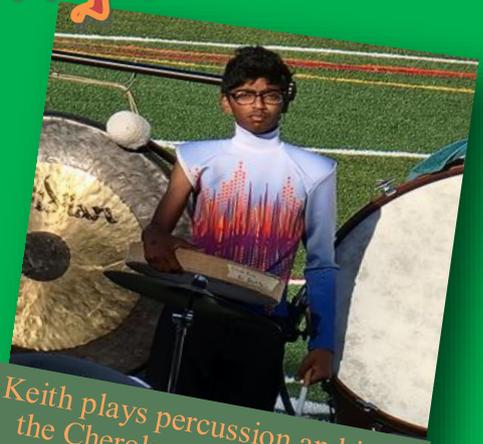
The parable of the talents in the Gospel of Matthew comes to mind, when I reflect upon my journey. God gives all of us talents and special gifts. In our life, God gives us opportunities to grow these talents and to use them to help others and to glorify Him. Now I see how God had a special and unique plan designed especially for me. Praise be to God, I can't wait to see what else God has in store for me on this journey of life.



Our's Musically!



Bradley strumming away
And
Zulekha & Ryan enjoying
every moment!



Keith plays percussion and is in
the Cherokee marching band



Bradley has a captive
audience



Nathan, trying
out his new
guitar!



Jason loves playing the
violin



Tyler DeBellis with Mr. Jim at
the School of Music and Drama

Adrienne Nunes plays multiple
instruments
Hear her on the piano

<https://youtu.be/Je0dEHGuA8U>



The Fernandes Family



Riley Nunes on the
drums and piano.

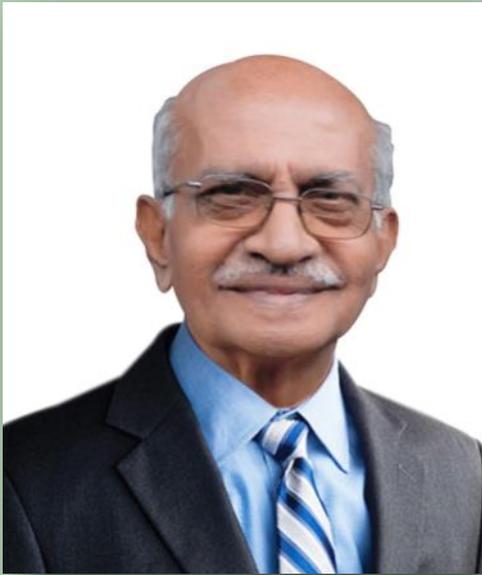
Click on the link to hear him

<https://youtu.be/pGQHrQ8Wt4>





Rest in Peace



Patrick Sequeira

Loving dad of Lydia D'souza,
Son in law, Stephen and grand
children, Brandon and Caroline
(GOANJ members)

Abba always told us “don't be so insistent on your own path that you make yourself blind to God's plan.” These words could not be truer today as with a heavy heart the Lord Jesus called Abba home after 88 years.

Abba was a man of deep faith; faith in people, faith in family, and faith in God. I fondly remember the time spent with us when he visited us. As a small child, I was fond of trains and he would take me to the train stations to watch them. I used to wonder if Abba ever got bored watching trains with me, but I now realize that it was his love for us that drove him to spend time with us.

Looking back, his constant nurturing and guidance was invaluable. He always used to tell Caroline and I to be patient with people, because we do not understand their problems. Abba passed away from a heart that stopped beating, a heart that had given so much to me and our family for so many years.

The doctors say that Abba had a weak heart, but what they did not see that Abba had a heart of gold that never failed to provide and pour out love for us exponentially with no bounds. Although my eyes cannot see Abba anymore, my heart can still see him and hold on to the memory of Abba forever.

Eulogy written by Brandon D'souza
Grandson

Eternal rest grant unto him , O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.

And may all the souls of our faithful departed Rest In Peace.
Amen



Bible Study



On a Sunday evening, once every two weeks, a group of people committed to learning the Gospel of Jesus Christ and its message to empower and enrich the relationship with Him, meet on Zoom. You are invited to join this group which starts at 7 pm.

The session opens with a short topic related to a Gospel message, followed by a 40 minute teaching which introduces the Old and New Testaments to our lives and shows the interpersonal relationship between these books in the Bible and how they are related to each other. God reveals Himself in many ways and it is fascinating to unravel the mystery of our faith – to better know Him.

All are invited to attend the Zoom Bible Study. With complete confidence, we can state that you will be blessed, renewed and enlightened in your faith while sharing the Gospel message with others.

PRAYER TEAM WARRIORS

The Prayer Team is a dedicated group, faithfully praying for the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of others. We place these petitions (anonymously, if preferred) at the feet of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit on those requesting prayer.

Reach out in faith and expected hope to either, vilmalfmartins@gmail.com or dianneenunes@gmail.com to submit your request.

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10



He

is

Risen

Marissa

Alanita Travel, Going places !

Once in their 20's, young and ambitious, working together in the same restaurant in downtown Boston. A delivery guy and a hostess. Al and Anita. Unknown at the time, as the future owners of a prosperous travel company known as Alanita Travel. A company which was built on hard work, dedication and love.

Anita, the driven, diligent, detailed-orientated owner of the business grew up with much love to travel, recognizing how much of the world was unexplored and how much she yearned to make a voyage of her life. Getting out of her hometown, Chennai and expanding her wings to unfamiliar horizons. Balancing two jobs at once, working literally night and day to make a name for herself, in the rising economy of the United States of America.

In the day she worked effortlessly on her passengers who were looking to fly to India, with cheap fares. And at night working her duties as a hostess. Alongside her husband-to-be, Alan Teig who helped deliver tickets to passenger's houses, and at the airport when in an emergency. This was then, back in the 90's with a mission to survive, develop, and provide for both customers and family.

A few years later, they built up the business and expanded to more employees, new offices and better marketing tactics. Religiously, Alan would run around the states promoting through paper flyers, making sure to cover all Indian communities, restaurants and shops. Basically anything that had the word INDIA on it was his goal. Travelling around Boston, New Jersey, Atlanta, Houston, Washington and the Bay Area of San Francisco was where he made the business's presence known! Even now, their oldest daughter, Natalia, continues this tradition all over the USA !

Years later to present day, the business now stronger than ever the family growing older and wiser with two new call centers in India (Chennai and Hyderabad) and a new location in Dallas (Frisco, TX) run by family members. Marketing, even more firm than the 90's, thanks to the internet, social media, and Al and Anita's kids, Angelina, Irina, and Natalia. TV Commercials have been born and family-written with success for many years, which daughter Angelina "the star" is actively a part of. Along with Irina, Anita and Al.

If there was one word to describe the feeling of success to Anita and Al it would be "freedom". Hard work, focus and dedication is what brought good fortune to this business. And they brace that every year the business grows taller through the generations, making Alanita Travel a brand that sparkles in everyone's eyes.

As they specialize in travel to India, their decision to open-up an additional office in Dallas was perfect, as the population of Indians are vast. And that's where they target their niche. They as a business, of course need to take risks. But it's also important to Anita to be careful and cautious about all decisions she makes. She says that Al and her have been lucky and destined to be where they are and that they fully construct a plan, and only when all thought has been given, only then do they execute their plans.

Alanita Travel, 27 years, strong and proud! A family business, that will hopefully shine on and become bigger than it was in this lifetime. The future points to maybe their own airline, someday? Living big dreams, lucky, thoroughly detailed, dedicated and hardworking. This business is going places! Literally!



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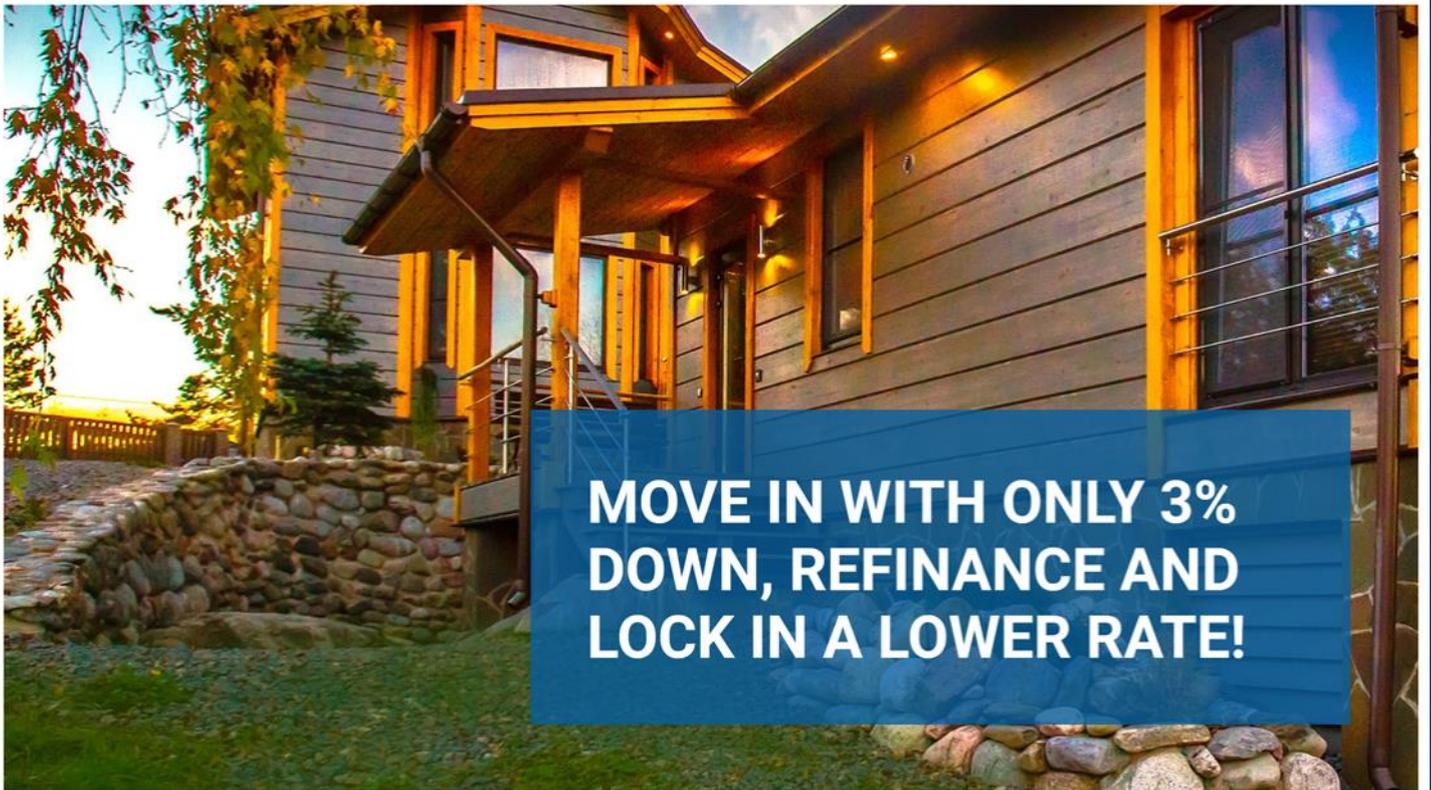
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Happy Easter



*All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The Good Lord made them all*