



Goan Connection

Summer Edition



Connect with the Goan Association
of New Jersey for an enriching
experience in culture, community,
and fellowship.

Sign up today to remain engaged
and become a valued member of
our Goan community!

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

Participation welcomed by sending
events and articles to
goanconnectionnj@gmail.com
Inquiries, membership, and
feedback sent to
Committee@goanj.com

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The sky is blue,
a beautiful hue.
Summer is in
full swing,
With it joy,
laughter and
great outdoor
fun it brings



Executive Committee



Louella Menezes
President



Rui Gomes
Vice President



Allan De Guerra
Treasurer



Marvin Fernandes
Membership
Coordinator



Floyd Faria
Secretary



The Association Corner

My Dear Friends,

Hope you are enjoying your summer keeping cool with trips to the beach or dips in the pool or some ice-cold drinks. It almost feels like the summers back in Goa - Hot! Hot! Hot! It brought back fond memories for me eating mangoes on the porch and drinking lime soda from the marble bottles.

Grateful that we had some wonderful weather for our Picnic on June 28th. It was good to see a lot of new faces amongst the familiar ones. It was a packed day filled with games and activities for the young and the old. I would like to thank you for your vote of confidence by voting the Executive Committee back into office for another 2 years. Thanks to Evette who kept us entertained with her wide variety of music from Konkani, Hindi, to the tunes that are dear to our heart. To all the Karaoke participants who displayed their talented voices. Thanks to all the teenagers who stepped up to volunteer. A shout out to Chelsea Fernandes who volunteered to MC the event and to Ria who taught the kids and some adults to make slime! Congratulations to team 'Xacuti' for winning the Cricket Match and a big heartfelt thanks to all those who donated towards the collection for The Seminary. Thanks to everyone who supported this event whether it was playing soccer, throwing balloons, tugging at the rope, helping with the food or relaxing in the shade of the trees. Your presence made this event a success.

As we look forward to the hustle and bustle of schools and colleges beginning in September we ask you to mark your calendars for 2 important dates - **October 4th** for our Whist Drive where you can come and enjoy a relaxed evening and **December 13th** for our much-anticipated Christmas Dance to be held at Royal Albert Palace in Fords, New Jersey. Look out for the early bird special deal.

We are always looking for good folks to come and be part of our planning committee or help out at our events. So if you have the Goan spirit and would like to keep our culture alive come and become part of our planning community at The Goan Association of New Jersey.

Deo Borem Koru,

Louella Menezes



A Note from the Editor



Hello from the Sunshine state!

I never imagined, I would ever leave the Garden State. I remember whining every frigid winter, that by the following winter, I would be basking in sunny Florida. Wishful thinking! When it actually happened, I did get cold feet.

Finding a church, integrating into a new community, making new friends, “Bloom where you are planted”, I reminded myself. Change can be unsettling, but I can tell you, it can also be refreshing. Our Goan spirit, and I’m not talking of just Feni, well that too, has allowed me to adapt and develop new friendships, create new memories, chart my own path. So, when life gives you lemons, make it a refreshing lemonade!

I do miss our GOANJ family, our events, our planning committee meetings onsite, the excitement of organizing our events. The GOANJ picnic was a great success. If a picture speaks a 1000 words, well ours have spoken over 10,000. Thank you, friends, for sending in your contributions to this summer issue. You have shared with us your moments of joy, successes, moments when we grieve the loss of a loved one. We are blessed to belong to such a vibrant community.

So, no matter where we live, this state or out of state, this Goan Connection brings us together, as one community, one family.

Thank you once again and hope to see you soon.

Viva
Brenda



SPEAK KONKANI KONKANI ULOI -18

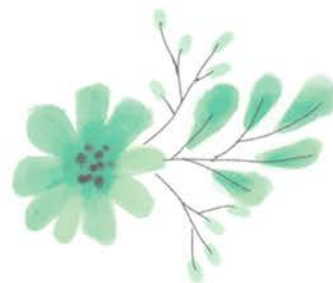
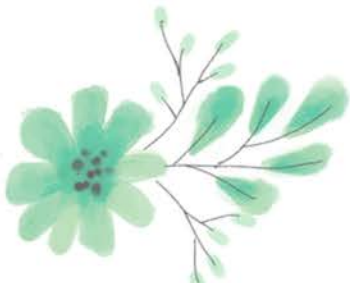
XIKSAN – LESSON



Effie Tavares



Amcho Pap Saib – Our Pope
Baptism - Baptism
Kristanv – Catholic
Xinkop - Study
Seminar – Seminary
Padriponn – Priesthood
Vevasta - Ordain
Bism - Bishop
Mahattam – Cardinal
Elesao - Election
Vinch – Elect
Voth – Vote
Jurar – Oath
Dhovo duvor – White Smoke
Pap Saib – Pope



Finding Home Away From Home

My Experience at the Goa NJ Community Picnic 2025



Jonathan Barreto

As the morning sun streamed into my apartment in Broadway Astoria, I felt a ripple of excitement. It was the day of the Goa NJ Community Picnic at Rosedale Park in Pennington, NJ, a day I had been looking forward to with equal parts curiosity and nostalgia. Growing up surrounded by the warmth of Goan gatherings, I was eager to see if this picnic, miles away from home, could bring even a slice of that feeling back.

The journey itself felt like a small adventure. As I traveled from bustling Astoria to the tranquil expanse of Rosedale Park, my mind kept wandering. Would I meet people I could connect with? Would it feel like the Goa I carry in my heart?

To my surprise, from the moment I arrived, I felt none of the awkwardness of being a stranger. I didn't know anyone in the community when I got there, yet I never felt the difference. Everyone I met, from smiling families to warm-hearted fellow Goans, welcomed me as if I had always been part of the group. It was as if the shared heritage and love for our culture instantly bridged any gaps.

The park was alive with the sounds and colors of summer. Children's laughter echoed as they darted around playing games; elders sat under shady trees exchanging stories.

As the music played, sometimes lively Konkani songs, other times performances by talented musicians, I couldn't help but clap along. I joined in a spirited game of cricket with a few others and, to my surprise, ended up on the winning team! It wasn't about who won or lost, though; it was the laughter, the friendly banter, and that wonderful sense of camaraderie that made it memorable.

I also lent a hand with some activities. It felt good to be part of the effort. It reminded me that community isn't something you attend; it's something you help create.

Later in the evening, we all came together for Mass celebrated by Fr. Johnny, a peaceful and uniting moment that beautifully closed a day filled with joy and togetherness.

What struck me most was how the picnic brought together people across generations. Young children who've only known life in America, parents sharing stories of their Goan roots, and seniors who carry with them the essence of Goa's traditions all gathered under the same sky, celebrating together. For a few precious hours, it felt like a little piece of Goa had bloomed right there in New Jersey.

As the day drew to a close, I felt immense gratitude for the organizers who had made it all possible. They didn't just plan a picnic, they created a space where everyone could become friends and where a Goan like me, far from home, could feel that familiar sense of belonging.







Congratulations Grads



Noah Lopez graduated from Mount Olive High School. He will be attending The Elliot School of International Affairs at the George Washington University to study International Diplomacy and foreign affairs. He will also be joining the Army ROTC program at Georgetown University



Neel Mascarenhas graduated from Academy of Information Technology at UCVTS, and is going to Boston College to study Finance



Tyler DeBellis graduated from Christian Brother's Academy in Lincroft, NJ and is headed to Fordham in NYC



Dale and Shannon Dcunha graduated from Montville Township High School and will both be attending Seton Hall University. Dale will be doing the accelerated Physical Therapy Program and Shannon, the accelerated BS/MD Program



Sage Rebello graduated from Cornell University, and will be doing her Master's in Design Engineering from Brown University



Meet Bradley, a prodigious 12-year-old guitarist



Bradley Fernandes, has been captivating audiences with his soulful melodies since he first picked up the instrument at the tender age of six. With a passion for country, soft rock and Konkani music, Bradley's fingers effortlessly dance across the fretboard, breathing new life into timeless classics. His performances are a testament to his dedication and innate talent, showcasing a maturity and skill far beyond his years. Whether it's the intricate rhythms of a Konkani folk tune or the heartfelt chords of an English ballad, Bradley's musical talent shines through, leaving listeners wanting more for his remarkable artistry. Check out Bradley on his YouTube channel and leave a comment or like. <https://www.youtube.com/@BradleysTunes>

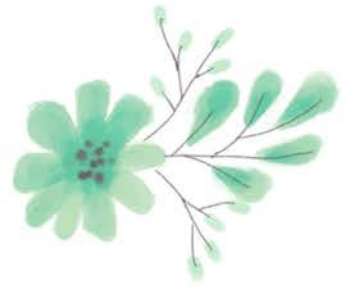
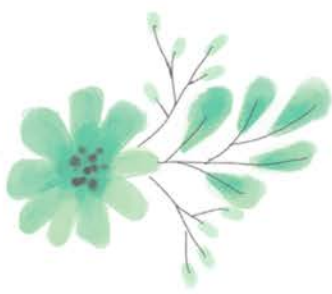


*Strength
in
Faith*

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



In Loving Memory of



Dr (Mrs) Vera Dias

Gift from God: 23-08-1935

With the Lord: 09-03-2025

*In everything I have shown you that, by
working hard, we must help the weak.*

*In this way, we remember Lord Jesus' words,
'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

Acts 20:35



A Tribute of Love from her loving children
Clifford & Nora, Melwyn & Harriet,
Iona & Joe, and Lynette, her grandchildren
Chelsea & Amol, Nikita & Gavin, Carina,
Tanishqa, Keanu, Adam & Bairavi, and
Jared, and her great grandson Lucas.



*The family thanks you all for the love,
prayers and care you have showered
on them and on their beloved mother*

Doctor (Mrs) Vera Dias (89 yrs), mother of long-time members Clifford and Nora Dias, passed away peacefully at her home in Mumbai on 9th March, 2025. Dr. Dias along with her husband the late Mr. Abilio Dias spent several years in NJ and NY where they visited their children and grandchildren and were a familiar presence at the NJ events over the years.

Dr. Dias, the second of five children was born in Kericho, Kenya in 1935. She completed her medical studies from the prestigious GS Medical College and KEM Hospital in 1960 and was a gold medalist in Obstetrics & Gynecology. Medicine to her was not a profession but a vocation and a calling. She was a social worker and community organizer with an unlimited capacity to help those less well off in society.

In her youth, she was thinking of joining Mother Theresa's medical missions to help the poor and the downtrodden. Dr. Dias is survived by her children: Clifford & Nora, Melwyn & Harriet, Iona & Joe, and Lynette; her grandchildren: Chelsea & Amol, Nikita & Gavin, Carina, Tanishqa, Keanu, Adam & Bairavi and Jared; and her great grandson Lucas. She will be missed by her family and friends who take solace in the difference she has made to so many lives and to the inspiration that she was for all of us.





thank you
so much

*We appreciate your
support!*



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Alice's Fish Cutlets

Shallow fried spicy-tangy tuna fish cutlets. **\$20/1 dozen**.

Mai' Chicken Cafreal

Fragrant concoction of spices and fresh green herbs cooked to form a thick sauce. **\$18/lb.**

Prisca's Bombil Balchao

Lightly fried dried Bombay ducks, cooked in a rich sauce. **\$25/lb.**

EZ' Beef Tongue Roast

Slow-cooked with fresh warm spices to maintain a perfect tender juicy bite. **\$28/lb.**

EZ' Pork Roast

Warm blend of aromatic spices, softened onions, and ginger-garlic. **\$20/lb.**

Aunt Joyce' Pork Sorpotel

Cured to perfect tanginess, heat and sweetness. **\$24/lb.**



Niquela' Brinjal Pickle

A burst of sweet and tangy flavors in every spoon. Bardez style summer pickle.

\$8/0.5 lb.

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Lean ground beef in secret spice blend.

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EZ' Chicken Jeerem Meerem

Exotic flavors of warm spices, caramelized onions & chillies.

\$20/lb.

Bittu's Prawn Balchao

Spicy-sweet tangy, made with large shrimps. **\$23/lb.**

Beryl's Vindaloo

Rich and thick vinegar-based chilli curry.

Chicken **\$18/lb.** Pork **\$19/lb.**

Mai' Fresh Curry Paste (0.5 lb)

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

WE ENJOY COOKING AS A PASSION AND BASE OUR RECIPES ON TRADITIONAL GOAN CUISINE LEARNED THROUGH OUR FAMILIES & FRIENDS

Reach out via WhatsApp: 434-806-4758

OR

Email us: ezrygoandelights@gmail.com

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WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR SHIPPING DELAYS OR DAMAGES.

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Desiring a delight not listed here
such as Fish Curries, Pan Rolls,
Pork Chilly, Xacuti, Xéc-Xéc?
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Please review any allergies with us before confirming your orders.
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Prices indicate minimum order.



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- Xacuti Masala
- Racheado Masala
- Cafreal Masal
- vindaloo Masala
- fish curry Masala

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YOU ARE UP
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Rejoin the membership and become an active member of the
Goan Association of New Jersey.

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Featuring DJ Brian 732 317 2621



Anand Food Products



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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 120 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.

Importers & distributors of:



CORPORATE OFFICE:

Babco Foods International, LLC.
220 Jackson Street, Bridgewater, NJ 08807, USA
Phone: (732) 667-7577 | Fax: (732) 667-7578
email: sales@babcofoods.com | Web: www.babcofoods.com

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Our yearly rates (for 4 inserts, spread over 4 issues) are as follows:

2 inch * 1 column \$20

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Full page \$250

Contact Marvin Fernandes at 973 495 6298 for all your advertising needs.

Stay Connected



thank you