



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Season's Greetings from all of us on the Managing Committee.

We have reached the half year mark of the Golden Jubilee Year of the KGA.

Happy that our events have gone well, and were well attended... specially the SFX celebration where we had the Cardinal honour us with his eminent presence and his warm heart. I personally thought that he really is a fabulous person who understands human nature and is always there for his people. I really wish that all our leaders were people and organization focused. It was great for me to take some valid learning touch points from our Cardinal.

One area that we were a little surprised by, was the participation in the Tiatr... where the attendance was way below what we expected. Luckily, we had some generous members who contributed and we were able to cover the expenses of the programme. From those who attended, we had many positive comments... and we took those and felt good that at least the attendee members were benefited. Much gratitude to Tomazinho and the troupe for their stellar performance. Great job done by our Committee to facilitate the event.

The SFX was surely one of our best events... and we are happy that the one factor that made it stand out is that His Eminence, Philip Neri Cardinal Ferrao was the chief celebrant. Thanks to Brian for being the initiator for inviting the Cardinal to be with us to celebrate the SFX feast. Aldrin and Elaine did a tremendous job on getting the Choir to do a marvelous praise and worship session for the SFX Mass. This was then followed up with a super Mando Singing session with a demo from four of our young members who danced to live renditions of the Mando Dulpods. We had a good meal of Goan Food and some Feni cocktails and all in all... we capped off the most exciting session of the year for the Goans in Bangalore. Having an opportunity to meet our members, we also had the Annual Awards Ceremony which is done to encourage our students and youth. Congrats to our winners. Well done, and keep the Goan Flag flying high. We were also honoured to hand out tokens of our appreciation to our available Past Presidents for their unstinted service to the KGA.

We will start the next year with a bang. A session on demand from two of my family members... Nicole and Anita... doing a special session on Making an Impression and Creating Impact using Makeup, Dress Sense, Comportment... and Creating one's own Style and Brand. This will be on Saturday the 6th of Jan 2024 at the Catholic Club.

As all of you are aware, we are still awaiting the Carnival. Be ready for something special again in the first week of February 2024. We will also have Goa's best band in attendance. This again will be in collaboration with the Catholic Club.

As we sign off this calendar year... we are also wanting to honour one of our Senior Members - Al Fernandes as we have a discussion and launch his latest book. Please do your best to attend it. It will be a treat, and a great way to honour one of our luminaries in the KGA.

Ian Faria

President
(2023-2024)

Think Goa Live Goa

by Adele Britto

The KGA Managing Committee pulled out all stops for a truly novel Goan extravaganza at the Think Goa Live Goa Event on the 10th Sept 2023, at the Catholic Club. The Goan vibe was exhilarating as we stepped into the Club, with XaniCroy on stage entertaining the crowd with fabulous music. TGLG had 2 Bands in attendance, with XaniCroy kicking off the first session. Suffice it to say, that Croydon D'Souza and Xanisha Fernandes, kept the crowd on the floor wanting more of the Konkani repertoire of songs, their fantastic stage presence and their awesome voices which has made them favorites in Goa and elsewhere, as well as Internationally. It set the stage for TGLG.

When the 2nd band, UZO came on, we were already prepped and in the mood. The Band from Panjim took us on a musical roller coaster, belting out all our favourite Konkani and English songs. They wound up the night with a few Bollywood tracks, making them the versatile and talented group that is making waves in the music circle. Their explosive, high energy on stage was truly a delight.

Any KGA Event always comes with a lot of preparation, hardwork and commitment behind the scenes. What was undoubtedly the piece de resistance of the Event, was the Fashion Show put together by the KGA Managing Committee which highlighted the two Goan traditional pieces of clothing, the 9-yard silk saree and the kunbi kapod.

The KGA is in its Golden Jubilee year and over the last 5 decades, the kunbi dance has been performed at different events.



However, at the TGLG 2023, we discovered that it was much more than just a traditional dance performed in Goa by the Kunbi tribal community, wearing the signature kunbi saree dyed in red and black checks, that in fact, the kunbi saree is the cultural pride of Goa, an indigenous handloom, the dye for which is a compound mixture of iron ore, rice kanji and vinegar found in abundance in Goa! Likewise, the men folk wore handwoven kaxtis in the trademark colours of red and white.

The first sequence depicted the 9 yards Silk saree called the Nauvari, draped in the signature trouser style and worn primarily by the Hindu Goans at Festival times was captivating as the 13 models cat walked their way on to the stage.

What followed was the Kunbi Kapod draped on models in the next 3 sequences, which can only be described as creativity at its

finest! It was evident, that much research and effort was put in to depict the kunbi kapod in all its splendor from its traditional rustic avatar to the fashionable and futuristic garments that the models carried off with aplomb! It was heartwarming to see the mums/dads with their little sons/daughters wearing different designs and yet synchronizing effortlessly.

The Showstopper dressed in a Wendell Rodrigues white kunbi saree looked like a model on any Vogue runway! What makes us proud is that this kunbi saree, though simple and minimalistic in design has celebrities draping themselves with these exclusive designer sarees.

The young and not-so-young sashaying down the ramp to the eternal Konkani favorites with panache and almost professional like models was a telling story of the creativity and efforts put in to ensure that this Fashion Show of the kunbi kapod and the 9 yard silk saree was a truly memorable experience.

The collection from 'Shebang', designed by Goa's top designer Verma D'Mello for the NGO Sudharop, was designer wear in all its authenticity using every element of the kunbi kapod. Truly mesmerizing!

It would be remiss of me, if I do not mention the person behind this fabulous event. Elaine D'Souza who conceptualized the entire show and Gilmour Fernandes who choreographed the show wonderfully, making our members some of who, had never walked a ramp look like professional models!

Congratulations to the creative team of Elaine, Aiona, Daphne, Eslinda, Marleen, Rahila, Pamela and Vivien; the KGA Managing Committee of Ian, Aiona, Wilma, Cyrus, Brian, Elaine, Gilmour, Eslinda, Natasha, Bosco & Narita; the make-up artists of Valene, Charlene & Hannah ; Perry for his assistance and to everyone who had a hand however small, in making the Kunbi Kapod and the 9 yard silk saree Fashion Show at the Think Goa Live Goa an Event to remember for a long time to come.





Tiatr

by *Rahila Rebello*

Our memories of attending a tiatr revolve around whether after a mass in Goa, or in the ubiquitous village fields, there would be huge crowd of excited locals gathered and one could hear the beautiful lilt of Konkani emanating from the loudspeakers installed near a well-lit stage. And the energy would draw one in... and soon one was enraptured by the melodrama of a play interspersed with an event filled storyline abounding with comedy, punchlines and beautiful Konkani music.

In a city not quite so balmy - Bangalore, paddy fields a distant dream and a thing of the past in this now madly metropolitan city, the Karnataka Goan Association has organised an award-winning troop to perform a tiatr here. And for this, I have to set out. I soon find myself in St. Josephs Boys High School. I enter the auditorium to find a dignified audience seated, eagerly

waiting for the show to start. When the first notes of the 6-piece band (Yes, 6-PIECE!) burst through the air, I immediately get reminded that just as how the sun shines very differently when one crosses the border of Goa, so too music sounds very appealing when a Goan plays it! The robust, ripe and melodious sound from a live band for a big production. Time to savor it.

Tomazinho Cardozo's "Hello Uncle" is an award-winning and painstaking made production – a labour of love, I could say. The show itself was entertaining and fabulous. I will not get into details of the plot, with its numerous twists and turns that go along with its farcical storyline. Telling you more about the story about three siblings who comically take financial advantage of an uncle (and aunt) based in the UK would be giving the plot and creativity away. But I can say there they were superb actors taking on different roles, the humor, the melodrama. Terrific performance by many cast members

including the youngsters who took on multiple roles including a cross dresser, and the hilarious neighbour "Rony". What also made this tiatr special was the tasteful yet extravagant costumes, along with excellent make-up effects and props. Konkani is such an expressive and sweet-sounding language, it lends itself and completely complements the story-line and songs of a tiatr. It was a treat and privilege to the senses.

At the end of the show, if I have to encapsulate what the evening was like, all I can say is that I was transported to Goa for those three hours. The tiatr reminded me of our roots, our rich culture, our beautiful language, the characters we meet there - and in a lighter vein, can I dare say the play was like the cashew fruit? Fragrant, juicy, colourful, rich, sweet and bursting with flavour.



Book Launch

by *Reena Menezes*

KGA in Association with Catholic Club showcased Sunita Vaznaik's maiden book 'Once Upon a Village in Goa'.



The venue was packed with an enthusiastic audience, creating a lively and engaging atmosphere. The discussion with participation from the audience on topics revolving around the traditional elements of Goa kept everyone captivated.

The delectable Goan snacks and Kunbi themed décor worked harmoniously to create a cultural experience. Overall, was a fine celebration of Goan Literature.



Ladainha

by Joanne Louzado

The Ladainha was conducted at SJBHS on October 28, 2023 at 6pm. We started the Rosary in Konkani before moving in procession as each decade continued in English. The Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary was held in front of the grotto where the choir, led by Aldrin and Elaine D'Souza, led the congregation in Latin.

Big thanks to Monica Robinson for making candle holders for the Rosary and candy baskets for the children. Food boxes were picked up from Knowhere, a big thanks to the amazing selection of snacks. Wilma Pereira brought boiled Channa with Coconut and Aiona Goes brought Dose from Goa.

As someone who doesn't speak Konkani, being able to stay connected to the language through prayer is a great feeling. It takes time to get used to saying the prayers in Konkani and the Latin hymns aren't too easy as well. However, practicing with the Choir every week reduced my anxiety quite a bit.

All in all, I had a lovely experience being part of the choir and attending the Ladainha. It's become a tradition of sorts, that I attend every year and look forward to it. I think it's important that both adults and youngsters join in this celebration of Mother Mary. There's a lot of room for improvement to bring in more musicians and attendees and I look forward to next year's Ladainha.



St Francis Xavier's Feast

by *Natasha D'Souza*

A feather in the cap for the Karnataka Goan Association (KGA) as we had his eminence Philip Neri Cardinal Ferrao celebrate the St. Francis Xavier feast with us. We were blessed to have the mass concelebrated by Fr Joseph, Fr Sandeep, Fr Gerry, Fr Darrell and Fr Nelson.

Right from the symbolic procession into the aesthetic chapel of St. Josephs to the melodious singing of the choir the mass was one to remember. Led by Aldrin Dsouza, the choir transported us to our homeland with music and songs that were rooted in tradition and customs. The homily given by Cardinal edged people to stay true to their roots and to live the Catholic faith and its values every day.

Post mass, we were treated to some delicious snacks and traditional Goan treats all the way from Goa.

As done throughout the years, the crowd moved to the newly renovated auditorium for the excellence awards to honor our young Goan achievers for their academic and extra-curricular accomplishments. It was remarkable to have many of the past presidents of the KGA in attendance at the event. As a token of appreciation for their vision, efforts and dedicated each one was given a memento by the Cardinal. The night ended with some dancing and a sumptuous meal.

May the blessings of St Francis Xavier be upon us all.



Upcoming events in Jan/Feb'24 at The Catholic Club

- Session on Create Impressions and Generate Impact - The art of dressing and the use of make-up to confidently enhance image by Anita Faria and Nicole (January 6th, 2024)
 - Aloysius Fernandez' Book Reading (January 2024, date to be finalised)
 - Carnival (February 3rd 2024)
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