

KGA presents Goenkar

SEPTEMBER 2010

KGA Youth: Go Goa!

Encouraged by the success of the Infosys campus visit, we are now planning to send our Youth on a four-day trip to Goa, possibly over the Dassehra holiday in October.

Many of our kids know little about Goa beyond the song and dance and Carnival shindigs that we organise. Now the KGA's new ManCom aims to do something about that.

The next trip is for 20 kids, aged between 16 and 23, to go to Goa for a four days, three nights boondoggle.

Yes, they will have beach time and music time and Goan food time. But also exciting visits to places of Goan culture.

Parents, do check out the websites (listed below). Your kids will return better informed about Goa and it's culture and heritage than perhaps you are!

This will be a heavily subsidised trip. ₹1,000 per child will cover travel and lodging in the Calangute/Baga area and much of the local transportation. Mr Ralph de Souza, Chairman of The deSouza Group and President of the Goa Tourist Association, has very kindly undertaken to help us

with the local boarding & lodging arrangements.

The kids will be expected to pay for some of the local transportation and their meals. An additional `1,000 per head, or even less, should do it.

The Group will be chaperoned by Brenden Colaço, the Youth Member on our ManCom, and an equally responsible young Lady to be appointed. They will be paying their own way too.

We strongly recommend that you e-mail Brenden, with a copy to President Arun and VP Stanley, to book your child in. We cannot fit more than 20 into the group, and we believe there will be more takers than that – so it's first-come-first-in.

Send an email to
brenden.colaco@gmail.com

Locations we're likely to visit

Museum of Christian Art (in the Old Goa area)

<http://christianartmuseum.goa-india.org/>

Goa Chitra

<http://goachitra.com/>

Palacio do Deao

<http://palaciodeao.com/>

Casa Museu Figueiredo

<http://tinyurl.com/CasaMuseu>

Parents, do check out these websites

Events to be...

Mango Showers

23th October

Youth Trip

Dusshera Vacations

Annual Picnic

1st November

Football Fest: Goencho Diro

14th November

COME ONE! COME ALL!!!!
FOR THE 1ST TIME EVER!
Karnalaka Goan Association
presents
Holy Mass will precede the Match at 9.30 am at the St. Joseph's School Chapel
Goencho Dhirio
Football Fest!
A Football tournament that will have adrenaline rushing through those Goan Veins!
An un-adulterated afternoon of Football, Food & Fun!
Dis: Sunday, 15 November 2009
Vel: 10: 30 am
Zago: St Josephs European Boys High School

St. Francis Xavier Feast

5th December

Wedding Capital *by Wendell Rodricks*

How I love birthdays and weddings. Not the boring social dos where people don't know wine from vinegar, make inane conversation while flashing their latest Louis Vulgaire (Vuitton) bags, horrid music on full blast and the sexes separate like an Ottoman harem. Two hours of drinking and yawn talk later, people run like a herd of buffaloes to devour the same buffet as the last party in under ten minutes. Then they burp over dessert and flee home.

Nah! Not for me. A good old fashioned Goan birthday party is where it rocks. Interesting people (throw in the village drunks to sit beside the Parish priest, local politician or dowager spinsters for full on masala merriment). Robust feni; always from "my special supplier". Fashion that can leave Mario Miranda inspired ("You like my new pattern? Material from Dubai!"). Wholesome food; sorpotel and sannas rule. Musical instruments and singing voices magically appear after the third feni. Dancing toes are released after the fourth round. In one corner a boisterous argument breaks into a full blown rugby brawl. At that stage, listen carefully and learn colourful new Konkani phrases you have never heard before.

Living in Goa I have also begun to enjoy funerals and months minds. Funerals are as social events as weddings. Men will dress in suits and ladies pull out their mantillas. It is all very elegant and theatrical. People arrive in the same breathless anticipation as they would for a fashion show. Everything is up for comment. "You saw what Perpetine was wearing?" "That choir is damn good." "From where they brought the priest? He did not know anything to say."

When I see a cluster of black and white dresses pass under my Colvale balcao, I enquire who has passed away. "No funeral. Months Mind for Anton Braganza". That immediately conjures up visions of heavenly green chutney sandwiches, beef croquettes and plum cake that are bound to be served by the culinary blessed Mrs. Braganza. Shamelessly throw on a black shirt over my Lulu Lemon gym tracks and jog to church. With a Mom in Bombay and no one aware of my craving for home made goodies, my poor chutney starved stomach is now near ecstasy.

When the grave blessing is done, I am

delirious with joy. Chomp through three sandwiches, ignoring the beef and cake. I even steal some in a paper napkin. Lucy spots the act and cries out loud for all to hear "What men Wendell, not taking the croquettes and cake or what?"

Goan weddings are sheer orgasmic experiences, from the feasting to the dancing. Unlike other cities who do not know how



to party, a Goan wedding is about fun, fun and more fun. The bands play till illegal hours. The bar is the main spot. The dancing is athletic. Sometimes things get out of hand. I attended a wedding two months ago and regret the short 'appearance' I made. Next day I heard about a massive row between the newly wedded couple who were so sloshed in the early morning that among all the many abuses for the entire village to hear, they loudly proclaimed that they wanted a divorce. Missed the tiatr!

Since then, I was eagerly waiting for the next wedding invite. It appeared via a phone call. Vikram from IMG/Lakme Fashion Week was getting married. "Keep July third free!" he commanded.

I was excited. A Bombay wedding party in Goa. With a Hyatt room thrown in for the night! Jackpot! However as the week drew near, I panicked at the thought of the big, fat, fake fashion crowd that was bound to follow. In fact the guest list was an intimate eighty people.

On D day, I was almost out the door when it dawned on me that the ride would be long and its best to go to the happy room for a leak, just in case. My cell rang. It was the groom. "Hello, have you left?" "On our way", I half lied. "Liar, I can hear your voice bouncing off bathroom tiles!"

Geez, a man can't pee and lie in peace thanks to a Motorola over-efficient handset. I changed tracks... "Vikram, it's your wedding day. Don't you have like a wedding planner or a relative to handle your cell? Just chill!"

Barely a minute in the car and my brother Chester calls from Dubai "Are you on your way to the Hyatt for a wedding?"

What the hell is this? Have they put the FBI on my case? "My friend Siddharth is in charge of rooms at the Hyatt and he saw your name on the guest list". At that I brightened up. "Tell him to upgrade me to a suite", I told my brother who is now immune to me milking my celeb status. We did get a lush suite.

Hindu weddings are so informal that I almost died when the groom turns around and says hello when we are seated. The power players of fashion are here. A couple of newbie designers and one sole but sexy stylist, Junelia Aguiar. She wears a low-slung sari with a superbly draped paloo to show off her curves; easily winning the most-sexy-woman-in-the-room crown. I am such a slave for beautiful women. Mercifully they gravitate towards me. Junelia did just that... like a well honed missile.

Some city slicker saunters up to me and asks a stoopid question "What are you drinking?"

"Vodka. What are you drinking?" I ask, eyeing his pink beer with suspicion. "Bacardi Raspberry Breezer" urban cool replies.

Instead of keeping quiet...

(continued on page 7)

WORLD GOA DAY:

10 not out! *by Gavin D'Lima in Karachi*

Goans are drawn to a party like a swarm of bees make a free-for-all to the honey jar. On 14th August 2010 members and guests of the Goinkars Own Academy (GOA) celebrated a new milestone – 10th Anniversary of WORLD GOA DAY celebrations in Karachi, Pakistan. Three buses and a coaster arrived at a secluded picturesque farm with swimming pools, lush green gardens laden with coconut palm trees, mini zoo, mini lake, which brought back memories of our very own villages and country sides in Goa.

The morning commenced with the hoisting of the Pakistan flag as it was our Independence Day, followed by the World Goa Day Flag. A one minute silence was observed for the deceased members of the Goinkars Own Academy, followed by a welcome address by the Emcees Marshall Fernandes and Deborah Santamaria (President - Goinkars Own Academy).

A Cricket tournament commenced at 1 pm. The matches were played by five mixed teams (boys and girls) and had their moments of laughter and tension. Runs were hit, wide and no balls were bowled and catches were dropped. Finally, the winning team "King Fishers" was awarded Wrist Watches while the runner ups "Pedros" received leather wallets. Other events that took place were Table Tennis, Badminton, Snooker and Fishing from a lake, which were thoroughly enjoyed by the junior and senior participants.

A typical Pakistani lunch of Biryani, Shami Kebabs, salad, raita and Cold Drinks was served at 2 pm.

After a bit of relaxation, selection for Mother, Father and Family of the Year 2010 took place, Cathy Fernandes was crowned GOA Mother of the Year, while Sabby D'Silva was GOA Father of the Year. The GOA Family of the year was Steven Fernandes & family. This was followed by a round of Tambola and the winners were issued cash prizes/lunch/dinner/ vouchers.

An announcement was made for members and their guests to generously donate towards the recent floods that have devastated our country. This amount

collected was doubled by the Goinkars Own Academy and handed over to the organizers of Flood Relief Camp set up at St Anthony's Parish..

After Tambola, a lucky draw session was



Melbourne

World Goa Day was celebrated in Melbourne with a class and finesse befitting the occasion. The Springvale City Hall was once again the venue for the occasion which was held on Saturday 28th August, and proudly presented by the Goan Association of Australia Inc. for the first time.

A record 400-plus guests welcomed our Chief Guest the Indian Vice Consul, Mr. Rakesh V. Kawra, and his wife Mona. We also had the pleasure of the presence of the Chief Commissioner of Police, Mr. Simon Overland. He commended the President, Raul Fernandes for the interest the Association had taken in the Youth of the Community and was extremely impressed by what was being done.

The entertainment featured a live band 'CODA MIX' and McBers' DJ - disco music. This kept the youth and the 'young at heart' continuously dancing on the floor. The popular beat of the music was contagious because it brought everybody on to the floor 'thrashing' about from end to end and gyrating to every move. This was followed by a sumptuous dinner, featuring the delights of Goan cuisine and also noticeably appreciated by the many non-Goan guests who attended the celebration.

President Raul Fernandes in a short speech emphasized the significance of

held for all, around 70 gifts items were distributed.

At 7 pm, the President of the GOINKARS OWN ACADEMY announced the close of the day's event, thanking the members, guests and participants for making the event an enjoyable successful one. Some members even made advance bookings for the next year's World Goa Day celebration.

Viva World Goa Day !! Viva Goinkars Own Academy VIVA GOA!!!

World Goa Day, to Goans, when he said:

"Goa symbolizes a lot of things to a lot of people - to some it is the unique culture developed over centuries of Portuguese rule; to others it is the Konkani language which is now recognised as an official language in the Indian constitution; and to others it is the exquisite Goan dishes and the beautiful beaches that have attracted tourists from around the world... but for whatever reasons we may love Goa there is one common thread that binds all Goans... it is our Motherland and we love Goa."

"By the same token we accept Australia as our adopted country and respect Australian culture and values and we have successfully integrated and assimilated with our Aussie brothers and sisters."

The MC interrupted the occasion to announce the winners of the raffle for half a dozen expensive prizes that were on display. The evening ended in the early hours of the morning, with pleasant memories of an eventful World Goa Day.



THE BANGALORE BLAST!

The celebration of World Goa Day in Bangalore has become something of a tradition already. This year, some 200-odd members and their guests got together at Carlton Braganza's wonderful Opus In The Creek.

The fun and games this year were predictably Goan, with music, and dancing, and liquidity in full flow and a brilliant lunch buffet in the style to which we have become accustomed from Opus.

A special treat was the arrival of Miss India Earth 2010, our own Nicole Faria, on the arm of proud papa Ian. Nicole was feted and awarded a scroll from the KGA, and gifted diamond jewellery by the city's most prominent Jeweller and our generous sponsor of the day, K Krishnaiah Chetty.

What was special, and indeed a first, was that some of the prominent newspapers of the city covered the function and the celebration of World Goa Day.

A good time was had by all.



THE GOAN DIASPORA HERITAGE

The publishing house Goa, 1556 launched its latest book, "Into the Diaspora Wilderness" by Selma Carvalho on August 29 in Margao, Goa. The descriptor on the front cover of the book calls it "Goa's untold migration stories from the British Empire to the New World".



Some of the chapters in the book deal with:

- Adventure stories of tarvottis
- Explorer Sir Richard Burton and his Goan lads
- Colonial East Africa
- The Gulf'kar
- East African Goans arrive in England America and the Goan

There are eight pages of rare photographs from Goa, 1900. Also, never before told stories including:

- The Expulsion from Malawi
- The East Africa Goan National Association
- Bombing of the MV Dara, Dubai 1961
- The Gulf War
- Freedom fighters in London, 1950
- Goans of Swindon
- Victor Rangel-Ribeiro in fifties' America
- Benegal Pereira, the political American-Goan

"Carvalho is a grand story teller" opines the UK newspaper Goan Voice.

Priced at a modest Rs 295, the book is available at Broadway Book Centre, near

Caculo Traffic Island on 18th June Road, Panjim. But more appropriately for us in Bangalore it is also available via mail order. Send a demand draft/local cheque/money order favouring "Goa, 1556" and mail it to Frederick Noronha, 784, Near Lourdes Convent, Saligao 403511 Bardez Goa India).

"an absolutely fascinating work . . . a wide collection of important oral histories from around the world set against good and thorough research . . . written in a style that itself clearly reflects the rich strands of Goan Christian Diaspora heritage".

Cliff Pereira
Author of View From Shooters Hill

Incidentally, the name of the publishing house celebrates the year 1556, when the first printing press in Asia was set up... in Goa!

You can check the book's cover and other details on:
<http://selmacarvalho.squarespace.com/>

Patricia Rosario
was here!



Patricia Rosario, the celebrated soprano, was in Bangalore recently and gave an impromptu private concert for the Redemptorist priests' congregation of which her uncle is a member. A few friends managed to crash the concert, and at the close, your Editor, speaking on behalf of the Goans of Bangalore, thanked her for a performance deserving of a wider audience.

Supported by composer/arranger/accompanist husband Mark, Patricia has very kindly agreed to give us the opportunity to showcase her talent to the audiences of Bangalore, very soon.

A Goan who was born and educated in Bombay, Patricia went to London on a music scholarship, and never looked back. She now performs all over the world, has made and participated in several recordings, and was awarded the OBE by Queen Elizabeth for her contributions to the classical music world.

Patricia now returns to India several times a year to train and discover young talent – in Bombay, Delhi and Goa. She hopes to include Bangalore in her net – and we will make sure she performs for us.

Here is a link to the *YouTube* recording of an interview she gave in Goa recently.

<http://tinyurl.com/RosarioGoa>

The One-eyed Ogre & Other Stories

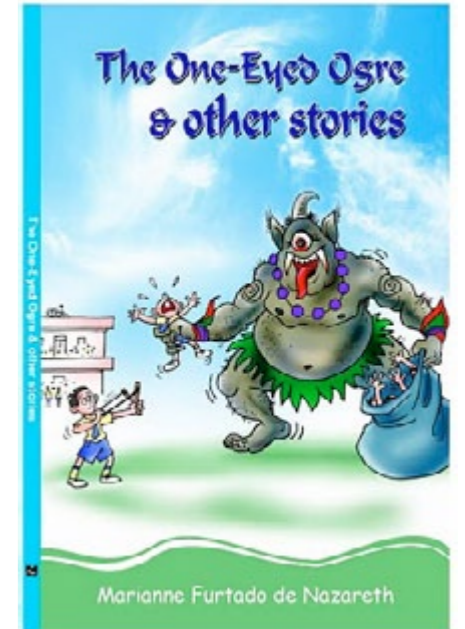
by our very own Marianne de Nazareth

Ah! The bitter-sweet memories of childhood! The charm, the simplicity and the innocence that we associate this bygone era with is reflected wonderfully in "The One-Eyed Ogre & Other Stories" by Marianne Furtado de Nazareth. When little things were all that mattered and the larger, so-called important aspects of life seemed so trivial. When reading was a coveted leisure activity during holidays, vacations meant fun, learning meant joyfully dirtying your hands in the garden with your parents, and playing meant hide-and-seek, or scampering around in the spacious environs of your grandparents' home. Oh . . . this sweet little book made me all nostalgic and fuzzy, the same warm feeling that used to engulf me when I listened to my grandma's stories as a child, enraptured.

This book is a collection of very sweet and succinct anecdotal stories about the world as seen through the eyes of children. In fact, I could relate many of the stories with my childhood memories, as would many other readers too. While the stories are delightfully enjoyable, they also carry a subtle message, woven brilliantly into them, underscoring the fact that learning through stories is naturally appealing for children. An amazing facet of this book is its cross-cultural, global appeal- stories spanning diverse nations, communities, as well as livelihood patterns. I strongly feel that this is really one

of the distinctive uniqueness about this book, there is always something different to look forward to- akin to an inviting box of assorted chocolates. Flavours galore.

The settings for the stories have a wide geographical spread ranging from the Netherlands, Denmark, Wales, Germany, the U.S. and various parts of India, reflecting the varied cultures and conventions prevalent there. These stories are interspersed with poignant and touching emotions and the colourful titbits that children revel in. Through her book, Marianne covers a wide array of themes that form an integral part of growing up- the sheer pleasure of reading and spending lazy vacations with grandparents, the engrossing grandma stories, the courage to take on challenges as well as the openness to trying out new things, the jealousies that parents inadvertently inculcate in their kids through meaningless comparisons, love for nature and animals, sibling rivalry and love, friendship and learning important lessons in life through little instances that stay with us forever. Does this ring a bell? Of course it does! Haven't we all been through some or all of this in our formative years? The book has lively and colourful illustrations that make the characters come alive and the stories even more attractive! Quite a lot packed into a slim, reader-friendly 70-page book!



In this age where the hobby of reading is fast disappearing amongst the younger generation, revealing a preference for the more techno forms of entertainment, Marianne's earthy collection of short stories truly comes as a breath of fresh air. I absolutely and wholeheartedly enjoyed this book. A thoroughly enjoyable, must-read for children. Strongly recommended for adults too for its emotional and nostalgic appeal.

(Marianne has very generously offered a 20% discount on the sale price to KGA members. You can contact her at mde.nazareth@gmail.com)

(...from page 2) Wedding Capital by Wendell Rodricks

Instead of keeping quiet, what rolls involuntarily off my tongue is "What a pansy drink!" He reacts like someone shoved an ice cube up his other end. Junelia grabs me by my sherwani and steers me away. A Goan band belts out some fine jazz and blues. When they tell me they are playing together for the first time, it confirms that Goans do possess the best musical talent this side of the Danube.

"Do you jive?" Junelia asks me. Do I not look like a Goan who can't dance? "Ok then I am going to change into jive gear. First jive is with me!" She flounces off and reappears in a black mini as high as the North Pole and a neckline cut way down to Cuba. The men's eyeballs are boinging in and out. Jiving is like a seri-

ous aerobic exercise. Huffing and puffing, later I lose my gone-to-cigar-smoke partner. get suddenly bored despite it being just 11pm, grab a glass and begin the long trek to the suite.

Vikram calls at 11 am. "Where are you?" You called my room right? Where else can I be? "Will be with you at the champagne brunch in twenty". Two dozen bubbly bottles are chilling in a big cooler. After Jaideep Sippy hits the mike and I ask Goan singer Andre to go for Konkani dulpods and dekhnis, every bubble is gone. We then take the long trip home to Colvale.

Is this what weddings in Goa mean to the rest of India? Going by the fun, the employment of local talent for everything

from flowers to taxis, the plumping of couture coffers and the killer profit from two hundred rooms per wedding, this is Goa's next big business. If Liz Hurley were to marry today she would settle for Goa instead of camel country Rajasthan.

So is Goa wedding capital of India? Bet your big fat wedding dollar on it! Let the wedding bells ring!!!

(This article appeared first in Goa Today, the monthly magazine that no Goan away from home should miss. The annual subscription costs less than a Bacardi Breezer at a local restaurant, and the range of articles and news will have you laughing, crying and falling in love with Goa all over again. For a subscription, e-mail the editor, Vinayak Naik, at vinayaknaik59@gmail.com)





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www.myopusradio.com | www.myopus.in | www.myotel.in

Presenting Madame Secretary: Adele Britto

A Banker by profession, Adele loves to live life to the fullest. From Emceeing at Weddings to Compering Financial and Business Meetings, to heading the union in her Bank and making Speeches in Kannada with a flourish! To being a runner up at the Mrs.



Bangalore Pageant a few years ago. She's done it all... Cooking is her passion, she's a voracious reader and loves to write.

Mom to Gillian and Mark & wife of Gilbert, she decided to contribute her time & energy for the KGA... to further energise the community.

It pays to learn Konkani...

A Goan farmer walking through his field notices a fellow drinking water straight from the pond with one hand. The Goan shouts, 'Arre baba, tem udaak pienaka. Tantun gorvan ani dukor hagtat!', which means, 'Don't drink the water;

the cows and the pigs crap in it!' The man shouts back, 'I don't understand your gibberish. Speak English, you idiot!.' The Goan shouts back in English, 'Use both hands, you'll get more!'



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