



THE PULSE

Goan Overseas
Association

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Blast in to 2003...

When the executive committee began planning for New Year's 2002 we took on the project keeping in mind that we wanted to give the event a face-lift. Our aim was to get away from the traditional way of celebrating this big day and present you with a classy and new way to party. I believe we came very close to accomplishing our goal.

This year's occasion was held at Speranza Banquet Hall in Brampton. We were able to have our 4 age groups hold their own dances and stay under one roof— yes, we had 4 separate parties at the same location! A sold out crowd of adults took up Hall #1. The adults were presented with a New Hall, New Band and New Food. To top things off, Hall 1 brought in New Year's with a space ship! At the stroke of 12 am, 4 space aliens came out of a space ship bearing 2003 on their tops. An excellent idea, masterminded by Vince Gomes and his assistants, Brian Pinto and Helen Gomes. Atkar Akram and his dance troop, (also space aliens) danced to a hip song as the space ship appeared on stage.

Pave Connections and DJ Fatz entertained the crowd with non-stop music that was enjoyed by all. Our food was catered by Host Restaurant. Members/Guests were treated to three kinds of food. Portuguese, Indian and Italian food was on hand as we attempted to steer away from an exclusive "Indian" menu. Although a midnight snack was provided we found that unless the snack and desserts are served to each table, not all in attendance had the opportunity to sample both items. This issue will be addressed for next year's event. The Young Adults and Sr. Young Adults jointly hosted their New Year's party in Hall 2 at Speranza Banquet Hall. 2003 was brought in to the sounds of DJ Phantastik, spinning R 'n' B, old school, and reggae tunes, that kept everyone on the dance floor. It was a great night of celebration with friends, family and fun!

Our teenagers gathered together to create a brand new start to the year – Goan style, occupying Hall 3! With the low demand and interest in today's youth, we were still able to sell close to 100 tickets to Hall 3. The teens gathered first as they feasted on a superb meal and then danced the night away to DJ Kaya and MC BabyX – what a real treat for all who attended. Uncertainty being one of the big factors with our teenagers, we hope that the awareness of this event and a better promotion on our part will increase our numbers for next year.

Finally, Hall 4 was for our babysitting. Since this component has been added to our New Year's dance, the numbers have risen steadily. This year we had 40 children in our care. Kids were entertained with games and videos. The dinner provided included nuggets, fries and ice-cream, which they seemed to have enjoyed as most of them had seconds and some even thirds!! At 11:30 they did their march around the dance floor and then joined their parents to bring in the New Year. Kids had a special midnight snack... yes, good old chocolate milk and cookies!

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Kevin Pereira who skilfully coordinated the evening in Hall #1. Felix D'Mello, who once again pulled off an awesome raffle. Thank you for all your time and effort dedicated to coordinating the raffle. New Year's would not be complete without giving away such amazing prizes! To Helen Vaz my heartfelt thanks to you for all your efforts in taking care of Hall #4 and for your help in creating our space ship. To Danny Fernandes, I could not have managed without your help and guidance. Thank you for sharing your time, knowledge and experience with me. You were instrumental in making our New Year's event a success! On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to thank all our members and guests who attended our event. Thank you for your undying support and for your belief in our Association.

Seira Furtado, Coordinator, New Years

Calendar of Upcoming Events

3 on3 Basketball Tournament	April 12th
Tropical Delites Anniversary Dance	April 26th
AGM	April 27th
Mid-Summer Dance	July (TBA)
Family Picnic Day	June 14th
Boat Cruise	June 20th
Viva Goa '03...Land of Food, Song 'N Dance	July 26th
Career Fair Day	September (TBA)
GOA Golf Classic Tour- nament	September (TBA)
Seniors Fun Day	October (TBA)
New Year's Eve	Dec. 31st

President's Message

Once again, it is that time of year where we have an opportunity to reflect on the past and look forward to the future. I have now completed two consecutive terms as the President of the GOA and have been honored to serve both terms with Executive members from the community that are the best in class. One thing I have learned over the past four years is that the talent within our community has no boundaries.

A review of our financial performance and the annual reports for the various portfolios will reveal that we were successful in all our major undertakings over the past year. We encourage you to attend our Annual General Body meeting being held on April 27th as this will give you an opportunity to communicate with us in establishing direction for our Association.

Some of our main accomplishments during 2002 included the following:

Focus on the family,

We hosted joint events between the Young Adults and Senior Young Adults age groups and concluded that even with differences in age and music, there is a definite interest within our community to come together under one roof. The New Years dance was held at a location that allowed us to bring all ages to one location while giving us the opportunity to cater to the needs of the different groups. With the 3 dance halls and the availability of babysitting, we were able to bring families together for the night that would not have otherwise attended. Under the 'sporting' banner, we hosted many events that catered to all age groups. We have moved away from primary focus on the traditional Goan sports and this has been well received within the community.

Building equity,

For three consecutive years we have reported record profits. We consider this to be a proud achievement as that has not been at a cost to our members. A detailed review of our financial results will reveal that we have searched for and found new sources of revenue. The challenge for the future is to further strengthen our strategy to ensure these sources of revenue continue to be generated for many years to come. Why is this building equity? Well, if we continue to manage our expenses, every dollar made further strengthens our balance sheet and will provide us with opportunities to do things for our members that were never thought of before.

Value in membership,

Over the past year we instituted a strict price differential policy for members and non-members. This in itself has resulted in a financial benefit to being a member. There are many other benefits in being a member that we have shared with you in previous communications. During the year, we negotiated a personal financial package with the Royal Bank that was mailed out to our members. We will continue to search for new ways to demonstrate value in membership as we have seen an increase in new members over the past two years that is a direct result of our strategy.

Development of new portfolios,

We continue to develop new portfolios to meet the many challenges we face as we move forward. Over the past year we further strengthened the Sponsorship Development portfolio, which has contributed significantly to our bottom line. We see the need to introduce two new portfolios as we move forward including a Public and Corporate Affairs and Education portfolios.

Focus on Education,

In addition to the re-introduction of the scholarship awards this year, we hosted a very successful career fair. Our members have been very supportive and have asked us to do more in this area. Under the banner of education, there are several new initiatives that we will introduce over the next two years.

The Executive Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank our membership for all the support we have had over the past two years. We would also like to thank the hundreds of volunteers that have come forward to support us. I personally would like to thank my Executive Committee for their commitment to the Association. Our future continues to look bright!

Oscar Furtado

2002 VICTOR ABREAU SCHOLARSHIP AWARD - \$500.00

This award has been won by Daniel M. Coutts of Ancaster, Ontario. Daniel, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Coutts, was also the winner of the Oscar Fonseca Award last year. Daniel has completed his 1st year Commerce and was on the Dean's Honour List. He intends to obtain an undergraduate degree in Commerce followed by graduate studies in law. Daniel has, and continues to play an active part in the affairs of the Goan community. He is also very involved with the Inroads University Organization. The G.O.A. wishes him well.



2002 OSCAR FONSECA MERIT AWARD - \$250.00

The award has been won by Emanuel Nazareth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nazareth of Mississauga. Emanuel, an Ontario scholar, will be heading to the University of Toronto in the Engineering Science Program, and is interested in Nano-Engineering, Biomedical Engineering and Computer Engineering. The G.O.A. wishes him well.



ONTARIO VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

The following G.O.A. members were recipients of these awards:

- Mr. Prazeres DeSouza - 15 years
- Mr. Alvito Fernandes - 25 years
- Mr. Neves Menezes - 25 years
- Mr. Daryn Fernandes - 10 years

The G.O.A. congratulates these members for their past and continued services to the community.

ANNUAL SPORTS MEETING

The meeting will be held at the Queensway Lions Club, 3 Lions Court, Etobicoke, at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 27th, 2003.

AGENDA

1. Election of Captains
2. Other Business

Gavin Francis, VP Sports

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2003-2005

President - Oscar Furtado	416-230-2477
VP, Administration - Felix D'Mello	416-499-4217
VP, Building - Chris Fernandes	416-368-1654
VP, Sports - Gavin Francis	416-435-9344
Acting General Secretary - Merlyn Fernandes	416-464-3798
Treasurer - Paschal D'Souza	416-543-9304
Assistant Treasurer - Dana D'Cunha	
Membership Coordinator - Natalie Dias	905-470-0852
Editor, Pulse & Webadmin - Kevin D'Costa	905-624-8638
Membership Development - Elena Mascarenhas	416-544-9714
Cultural Secretary - Jeannine Pereira	416-250-9046
Viva Goa Chairperson - Seira Furtado	416-695-3239
Sr. Young Adults Co-Chair - Natasha Andrade	905-475-7066
Sr. Young Adults Co-Chair - Clayton Fernandes	416-523-8743
Young Adults Co-Chair - Faye Aguiar	905-824-2945
Young Adults Co-Chair - Noella de Souza	416-412-2896
Youth Secretary - Helen Vaz	905-456-8972
Teenager Coordinator - Melissa Dias	905-828-1274
Member - Danny Fernandes	416-621-7942
Member - Rolfe Fernandes	905-886-0063
Member - Brian Pinto	905-602-4145
Member - Sarah Ferrao	905-569-6609
Member - Desiree Gomes	905-275-6022
Member - Pamela Borges	416-231-4414

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Chairman** - Roque Barreto
- Vice Chairperson** - Stephen De Souza
- Secretary** - Aloysius Vaz

GOAN CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

- President** - Roque Barreto 905-859-1942
- Vice President** - Stephen De Souza 905-828-0637
- Secretary/Treasurer** - Aloysius Vaz 905-624-7274

DIRECTORS

- Oscar Furtado 416-230-2477
- Felix D'Mello 416-499-4217
- Elma De Souza 905-820-6446
- Antoinete Messner 416-743-1636

Goan Charitable Organizations Donations

Any person wishing to make a charitable donation or in need of assistance should contact **Aloysius Vaz**, Secretary/Treasurer at (905)-624-7274.

Or write to the Secretary/Treasurer

THE GOAN CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION
P.O. BOX 5667, Stn "A" Toronto, Ontario M5W 1N8