



Goan Association of New York

Dear Friends,

The past year for me has been both fun and rewarding. With the help of my dedicated and enthusiastic team we have made quite a few changes for the better, which were appreciated by our members. We had a few goals when we began and I would like to make noteworthy mention of our achievements.

We continue to attract new members by the warmth and hospitality of our community. We are more online than ever with the introduction of Paypal, for convenient electronic payments, and Facebook page where you can share your ideas with us.

Our Spring Ball held at the World Fair Marina was a big success and our guests had a wonderful time. The live band “Crossroads” kept the crowd rocking, while our Compere, Ralph Dias was at his witty best. The Dance Competition was vivacious and the contestants exhibited panache. Our sincere gratitude to the sponsors and well-wishers, for their generous contributions and fabulous prizes. We even raffled an airline ticket to India, courtesy of Kuwait Airways.

The Memorial Day camp at the YMCA, was an action-packed fun-filled weekend. To promote camaraderie, the group was divided into 4 teams that participated in the Sports Carnival and Skits based on Goan themes. All teams showed great enthusiasm and gusto. They demonstrated good sportsmanship making it very competitive. Their presentation of the skits was both creative and entertaining. Team Salcetekars earned bragging rights in the Sports Carnival, while team Susegado won the prize for their hilarious performance of the Goan Wedding. The fun continued on our hiking trip, canoeing and bonfire to mention a few. At night we enjoyed delectable Goan food and dancing until the wee hours of the morning. We all went home with fond memories, while some vowed to come back the next year bringing along their friends.

Summer rolled along and the beautiful Belmont Lake State Park, was the setting for this year’s picnic. We had a large turnout in spite of the damp weather. The rain didn’t stop us from having a jolly good time. We took advantage of the grills that surrounded us and had a Cookout Contest which was a big hit!! All who participated put in a lot of effort, and creativity which made it competitive and fun for all. Kudos to all the men..!!! Ralph Dias bagged the title of “Goan Master of the Grill” with his exotic marinade on shrimp and chicken. The tug- of-war continues to be a battle of the sexes. The kids relished the hotdogs and burgers and had a rollicking time in the great outdoors.

We ended the year on a high note with a grand celebration of St. Francis Xavier’s Feast. For the first time we had a live band in attendance. The Humpen Cutters kept the folks dancing through the evening. To satisfy our taste buds, we had food catered by Chad, which featured Goan fish curry. Everyone devoured the homemade sorpotel made by our committee members and friends.

Our youth put on a magnificent dance presentation under the leadership of Lauren Dmello. It was great to see them come together and perform on short notice. The little kids were very excited to see Santa and receive their early Christmas presents. This year, we honored some of our members for their outstanding contributions and selfless service in the past and for their continued support. Life Membership Awards were presented to Mr. & Mrs. Xavier DeSouza and Basilia D'souza.

I am very proud to say that we have started a new practice of giving back to the community. We had a Luncheon for the kids at St. Catherine's orphanage. The School supply drive was donated to the Missionaries of Charity, Bronx. The Christmas Toy drive benefitted Catholic charities of NY and a Cash donation was made to Shanti Avedna Ashram. We will continue to have charitable drives in the upcoming year and look forward to your continued support and generosity.

We look forward to your continuous support and participation in our imminent events. Please save the following dates for our four main events in 2011

Spring Ball: April 29
Memorial Day Camp: May 28-30
Summer Picnic: Aug. 21
St Francis Xavier Feast: Dec. 4

My team is very passionate and committed to bringing you another exciting year full of surprises. On behalf of the committee, I wish you all have a Wonderful and Healthy 2011!!

Sincerely,

Clarissa Pereira
President