

April 2004



KHOBOR

The Goan Overseas Association's Quarterly Communique

Volume 4, Issue 4

Dear Friends,

It is springtime in the tri-state area when the ground is greeted by the rising sun and the barren trees await spring showers to be laminated with green foliage. It is that time of the year when our capital celebrates the cherry blossom festival (a pretty sight to see and marvel at the white, cherry and light pink blossoms around the Tidal Basin). It is the time to have your garden hoed and sprinkled with manure to plant flowers and watch them bloom. Also, it is the time to be circumspect and ponder the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ eventually culminating in the Easter celebration. On behalf of the committee, I wish you and your families A Happy Easter and all the joys the Risen Lord has to offer. Please remember the less fortunate ones as you gather around the dining table with family and friends to enjoy the Easter meal.



We are getting ready to host our first event of the year 2004. Our spring dance will be held on May 08 at the Cherry Hill Community center from 6.00PM to 11.00PM. We will have Goan food and a local band to shake off your winter blues and celebrate the rite of spring. Some of us have not seen each other during the winter, therefore let us come together and celebrate our friendships and even invest in new ones. We want everyone to participate in this event, so bring out your dancing shoes and come to have a good time. Bring your friends along and enjoy a sumptuous dinner, a lively conversation and revel to a medley of music. So send in your entries as soon as you receive them and **please** do not wait until the last moment. We want you to be there. The flyer for the May Ball is attached.

As always, we thank you for your support to the organization. Take care and in the meantime keep us in your hearts. Rosario.

Inside this issue:

<i>Focus on Goa</i>	2
<i>Rise and Fall of the Mando</i>	3
<i>School Achievements</i>	3

*Contributions to this issue
Lavinia Fernandes
And Roque Veigas*

Published and Edited by:

*Claudette Brito
Please e-mail your contributions to:*

Goa_khobor@yahoo.com

Honorable Mention: Sr. Taurina Vaz (Franciscan Missionaries of Mary), Principal of Mater Dei School, New Delhi, former Principal of Rosary School, Panjim, Goa, sister of Juliana Fernandes, Rockville, has been awarded the "2003 World Human Rights Promotion Award" on the occasion of the 5th World Human Rights Congress held in New Delhi by the Indian Institute of Human Rights. She has also been recognized with these awards— "Dr. Radhakrishnan Memorial Award" for the Best Teacher, "Bharat Gaurav Award" for her outstanding services in the field of education, "Best Citizens of India Award" for her achievements and sterling contributions in the field of education, "Shiksha Shiromani Puruskar Award" and Certificate of Excellence for her Institution, and "Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award" for her extended service to the poor. Congratulations to Sr. Taurina Vaz, sister Julie, and her family.

FOCUS ON GOA (Old Goa)

Old Goa, or Velha Goa, once the capital of Goa, was often referred to as the “Rome of the East” with its beautifully constructed churches, convents and public buildings. It was conquered by the Portuguese in 1510, and became the glory that developed under the Portuguese rule. Construction activity was at its peak. Palaces, mansions, public buildings, convents and monasteries were built. It was busy and bustling with activity, providing the necessary hub between far away Portuguese factories in Macao, Malacca, Malaysia and the Imperial center of Lisbon. The Portuguese have been credited not only with their talent in building but also for choosing the right places to build, leaving behind a rich testimonial of Portuguese baroque architecture intermingled with Indian motifs.



Among the holy monuments still standing in Velha Goa, the Sé (Portuguese for Cathedral) is the largest church in Asia, it houses the largest bell in the world – called *Sino d'Ouro* or Golden Bell famous for the splendor of the sound it resonates. Near by, is the Basilica of Bom Jesus, built in 1605 of red laterite stone and enshrines the preserved body of St. Francis Xavier, Apostle of India. This young Spanish nobleman, turned Jesuit, arrived in Goa in 1542. St. Francis Xavier was of a brilliant academic background, and expressed a strong compassion for the poor. His tomb was a gift of Cosimo III, Grand Duke of Tuscany, and the work of a Florentine Sculptor, Giovanni Balista Foggini. Also in Old Goa is the beautiful St. Cajetan's Church, a Portuguese translation of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. A little away are the Convent of Santa Monica, the Chapel of Our Lady of the Rosary and the poignant remains of the tower of the Church of St. Augustine.



This was a time when trade and commerce flourished under the Portuguese rule. Gold and silver were exchanged for spices, textiles and local produce. Social life was also at its peak. The ladies were decked in the latest fashions and the men were fidalgos. The foundation for a good Christian culture was laid and Hindus and Muslims were being converted. Marriages between the Portuguese and the converted Goans were encouraged, creating a new class of people called “mestiços”. In keeping with the belief that the religion of the King, Dom João III, had to be the religion of the subjects, missionaries were introduced to spread the Christian faith and conversions began in earnest. The early missionaries went out of hand favoring converts with official positions, prestige and material gain. Temples were destroyed and churches were built in their place. Social interaction between Hindus and Christians was banned.

With the arrival of St Francis Xavier, conversions grew even more. It is even said that he converted a million souls. He created a tremendous impact on Goa and his dynamic zeal enlightened many. As a missionary, he covered immense distances, accomplished all sorts of miracles, founded churches and colleges and achieved apostolic successes which have become legendary. He was blessed with the gift of tongues; raised several people from the dead, calmed tempests, often foretold the future, and healed countless persons. With the exposition of his body, commencing late November and into December, pilgrims from all over the world, will once again be flocking to Goa for this much awaited event.



Rise and fall of the Mando

Excerpt from the book by Dr. Jose Pereira , Submitted by Roque Viegas

The Mando arose during a time of great political consciousness, sometime around the 1820s when elections were just being mandated all over the Portuguese Empire. The natives began to express their views of the Government and politics in the lyrics of these Mandos'. This was an age of turmoil, with events like the British attempts to annex Goa during the years 1799-1813, the Portuguese colonial wars in Africa, and the great exodus of emigrants towards the early part of the 19th century. With the elections, came an age of freedom for the Goans, which hastened the process of their westernization. (Westernization of the non-western world, now a global phenomenon, was initiated on Goan soil.)

The Goans very skillfully adopted the European culture and interwove it into their own. They began to build sophisticated mansions and imitated more closely, their dress and social habits; one of these was social dancing which was in vogue in Goa from the 1830s. Dancing became a craze in Goa's ballrooms and continues until today. There was no type of dance that the Goans' were not eager to learn. During the reign of Louis XIV, the Baroque Minuet, the Rococo Contradanse, the Waltz, Mazurka and the Polka were most popular. Devoted as they were to European dance, Goans' were eager to have a dance of their own, and they created one, around 1840, the Mando. A version of the Contradanse (really, "country dance") is still seen on modern dance floors. It has two forms, the circle, where men and women alternate and the double file, where they face each other (as in the Mando). The Contradanse was just a tapping of feet and the tossing, twisting and turning of the body to a two-four or six-eight time beat.

When and where was the Mando dance performed? Usually, in the grand hall of an aristocrat's residence, at a wedding ceremony, or an evening get-to-gather. The Goan nobility had been erecting palatial mansions from the 18th century, some of which rivaled those of the Portuguese aristocrats they sought to imitate. Crystal chandeliers, hanging from fretwork ceilings, illuminated the hall adorned with furniture intricately carved of rosewood, and porcelain vases on tables and windowsills, exuding perfume of Chrysanthemums and Jasmines.

The world of the Mando has disappeared. There are still some alive, who were able to witness it while it was making its last exit into history. Europeans and Indians can aid in recreating it in films and on stage, but Goa seems to lack the resources: cultural, human and financial, that is required to achieve that end.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Jonathan Francis (6th Grade) of Earle B. Wood MS won 3rd place at the Rockville Art Show. His art was titled "Shar Pei Pup". Parents Gabe and Iggy Francis are extremely proud of this budding artist!



Jessica M. Brito (4th Grade) of St.Catherine Labouré was among the Washington Post Winners in the Kids Post Section wherein Jessica had 100% Correct Answers in the End-of-Year News Quiz.

Parents Tony & Claudette Brito are very proud of her achievement.

The Goan Overseas Association's Quarterly Communique

Goan Overseas Association
313 Fleece Flower Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Phone: 240-631-2726
Email: goa_khobor@yahoo.com

We're on the Web!

Goakhobor.com



Does anyone
remember their
voyage from Bombay
to Goa and seeing
the beautiful oil
tankers?



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOLLOWING UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY - PICNIC (DETAILS TO FOLLOW)

DECEMBER 5TH - FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

The Association wishes its
members A Happy Easter!

Goan Overseas Association
313 Fleece Flower Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878