



GOENKAR

Newsletter of Karnataka Goan Association - Bangalore

For private circulation

Mhojea pritichea bhavam bhoinnino, tumkam soglleank mhozo mayemogacho nomoskar!

As we exit the year 2020, we have to sigh and hope that the worst of the pandemic Covid 19, is over. While we look forward to the vaccines, we realize that the last year has taught us many lessons. We stayed home, partied less, spent a lot more time as a family, prayed more and valued technology a lot more, since that's what kept us in touch. From the KGA side, the AGM could not be held and hence the team which was elected in June 2019, was compelled to continue to hold the fort (a few members exited due to personal reasons). Warmest thanks to the outgoing MC members of Samantha Pasha, Tanya Rosario, Shanon Caldeira & Aldrin D'Souza who have contributed greatly to the success of events organized during the year. We welcome the new KGA Secretary Wilma Pereira (not really new though, she has already served more than 3 terms as KGA Secretary), Elaine D'Souza as Lady Rep & Joanne Louzado as Youth Rep.

After the video "Locked up in a Lockdown" by the MC members dedicating it to the families and to all members who supported us in every Event we took up, the Global Goan Virtual Choir made waves. All 19 who sent in audio clips of their singing in Konkani and playing instruments were selected for the GGVC. The winners from the KGA were awarded prizes.

The 'Then & Now' Photo Contest surprised us with the number of entries, each one more innovative than the other. However, there could only be 3 winners, which perhaps made the job of the Judge Perry Goes all the more tougher! The 3 Prize winning Photographs won handsome Prizes.

The Community Quiz which was initiated during the Lockdown, with the objective of increasing interaction between members turned out to be slightly difficult and hence the closing date was extended twice until finally the winners were announced during the SFX Feast celebrations.

Francisco Saldanha was the judge for the Community Quiz.

Konkani Classes for adults had 2 batches, the Saturday batch & the Sunday batch. The enthusiasm & participation was absolutely unbelievable. The teachers Belinda D' Souza & Cyril D'Souza made the learning interesting & fun. A debate with the topic for Group A from the Sunday Batch "Kazari bailani kamank vochunk uch zai" & the topic for Group B "Kazari bailani ghorantunch kam korunk zai" saw Group A & Group B vying with each other to win the Debate, with Group B dressed in costumes depicting the character they were playing (on zoom!) & all this in Konkani! Who said learning had to be drudgery?!! The kids Batches, however, was the icing on the cake. They learnt prayers, songs & conversational Konkani with elan! The teacher Svetlana Rodrigues, an RJ from Anjuna Goa, was as thrilled to teach the young ones as they were to learn!

We decided to have the Rosary & Ladainha online and I have to thank Brian D'Lima for giving me the idea to do so. It was the first time ever & we were happy to see the response of families gathered around in each home to participate in it.

The St Francis Xavier Feast Celebration was the next Event and the Konkani Mass with the KGA Choir was telecast live. Thanks to Perry Goes for the live telecast. This was followed by the Excellence Awards



announcement. This year 7 of our students received the Citation & Cash prize. The Youth performed 2 dances, Oscar Menezes, Stanley Pinto & Carlton Braganza performed & also a small snippet of entertainment from Succorine Bai! A truly enjoyable evening. Sitting in the comfort of your home & enjoying a well put together Show, who knows, may become the new normal in days to come!

We have a slew of Online Competitions coming up, 3 of which are being featured in this Newsletter. We look forward to your participation. We have a lovely surprise coming up in June. Our broadcasts will carry details of it shortly.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families that lost their loved ones over the last half year. Mr Leonard Royan, Rev Fr Francis Pinto CSsR, Dr Cyprian D'Costa and Fr Gerard Campos CSsR passed away. May their souls Rest in Peace.

All of you by now, should be in receipt of the Annual Report for the year 2019-2020. Please contact the Secretary Wilma Pereira, if by some chance you haven't received it or you would like to receive a hard copy for your perusal. The MC thanks Brian D'Lima for his invaluable help in this regard.

Deo Borem Korun

Adele Britto
President

Photography Competition

A promotional poster for the Photography Competition. The top section features the KGA logo (Karnataka Goan Association, 46 Years) and the text 'KARNATAKA GOAN ASSOCIATION Presents'. The middle section shows a close-up of a camera lens (24-105mm 1:4) on a blue background, with the words 'PHOTOGRAPHY Competition' in large white and blue text. Below this, the theme is 'THEME: BEAUTY IN EVERYDAY THINGS' and the deadline is 'ENTRIES TO BE SENT IN BY 14TH MARCH 2021'. A table lists prizes: 1st Prize (RS 3000), 2nd Prize (RS 2000), and 3rd Prize (RS 1000). The contact email is 'kgasecretary@gmail.com'. The bottom section contains 'BASIC SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHS' and 'JUDGING & PRIZES' with detailed rules and prize information.

KARNATAKA GOAN ASSOCIATION
Presents

PHOTOGRAPHY
Competition

THEME: BEAUTY IN EVERYDAY THINGS
ENTRIES TO BE SENT IN BY 14TH MARCH 2021
MOBILE PHONE & DSLR PICTURES ALLOWED

1ST PRIZE	RS 3000
2ND PRIZE	RS 2000
3RD PRIZE	RS 1000

(Entries to be sent to kgasecretary@gmail.com)

BASIC SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1) The contest is open to KGA members only
- 2) Submissions will not be accepted once the deadline lapses
- 3) Photos must be in JPEG format, having a significant resolution without blur or pixellation
- 4) Only 1 entry is permitted per user
- 5) Participants are required to provide a unique title & description for the image submitted
- 6) Photos are to be clicked during the contest duration only
- 7) There must be no border, logo, copyright marks, identifying marks, or any other visible references and/or marks on the image.
- 8) Basic editing, including colour enhancement, the use of filters, and cropping of the Photo is acceptable, provided any such editing does not affect the authenticity and/or genuineness of the Photo
- 9) Photos must be shot by the participant themselves

JUDGING & PRIZES

- 1) The entries will be judged by professional photographers in accordance with the theme. Their decision is final
- 2) The results and the winners will be announced by email / whatsapp
- 3) A total of 3 Prizes will be awarded;
 - 1st Prize : Rs 3000
 - 2nd Prize : Rs 2000
 - 3rd Prize : Rs 1000

All entries to be sent to: kgasecretary@gmail.com
Last Date for submission of photographs: 14th Mar 2021



Karnataka Goan Association

Presents

Konkani Classes

For Adults

*Mhaka mhoji Mai bhas Konkani
xinkonk zai.....
Tuka Konkani ulounk
yeta?*



*Anchea barabhor nau ani
turui Konkani xink!*

Contact : KGA SECRETARY

9972345164

12 online Classes

**Starting from
March 2021**

Fee: Rs750/

An Ode to the Unsung Warriors

by Monica Robinson

Everything's been said, discussed, written, debated upon or sent on social media, it's already all been done,

About the virus, pandemic and the year 2020, which gave "normal" a new meaning, made each day, a battle to be won!!!

Gratitude is what it's all about, You can count your blessings or you can pout!!!

So here is a riddle, a quiz, something to ponder on, possibly a test!

When the pandemic stole your normal, your usual, your routine

Did you still muster up your best?

When it was just a few hours to a total lockdown, when there would be no going about the town,

Did you call half the world or send messages telling everyone to hurry, shop for essentials and groceries, so they wouldn't have to worry?

Did you follow every rule, every protocol, wash, rinse, wear a mask, sanitise,

Were you scared and nervous for your loved ones, but never failed to smile and advise?

Did you feel lonely, or were out of a job or had your salary slashed in half,

When someone needed cheering, did you go ahead and make them laugh?

Did you keep in touch with family, friends, neighbours and sneak food to stray pups?

Did you ache, but continue to work, cook, knit, paint, stitch, grow seedlings in small cups?

So many people's normal banking and manual payments, changed suddenly to online

Did you help, someone pay their bills, order food and essential medicines, or did you think my only care is, to look after mine?

Did you post a hundred messages, on every group you're on, keeping people cheerful, late night and early morn?

Did you go that extra mile, some shopping or an errand, though you were shaking in your shoes?

Yet, gave your place in line to one more needy, and joined one of the longer queues.

Did you connect on the net, or form any online portal, organise some games or a meeting on Zoom?

Caring enough, though you couldn't step out, to spread cheer even from your room.

Did you check continuously with one and all if they needed anything to cope?

Well, if they did or if they didn't, at least you planted a seed of hope.

Did you reach breaking point, it was just too much to bear? Yet offered courage, faith and sometimes, at least a little prayer?

Did you bother to bridge the "electronic" generation gap, for those who are not on social media, Signal or WhatsApp?

There's millions of other things, each one needed, the year 2020 to just come through

No one could have managed alone, so was it because of people like you?

If you were accused of being kind, could you plead guilty? is a very quirky question,

'Tis sure that whoever's reading this is guilty of kindness and affection!!!

So cheers to all the warriors, you deserve your due

Thanks for helping us cope with the new normal and a big God bless you!!!



Karnataka Goan Association

FOR THE FIRST TIME PRESENTS

The KGA Cook Book

A wide range of recipes on
authentic goan cuisine by KGA's
talented Home Chefs

If you want your recipe along with
your photograph to be a part of
the KGA Cook Book, send in your
entries to

kgasecretary@gmail.com
(+91 99723 45164)

Last Date for entries:
30th April 2021



Categories:

- a) Quench your thirst:
Cocktails and Mocktails
- b) Soups to warm your soul
- c) Build your appetite:
Appetizers : veg / non veg
- d) Mains to share
 - veg/non veg gravies
 - veg/non veg dry dishes
- e) Rice and breads to complete a meal -
veg/non veg
- d) Satisfy your sweet craving

Rules:

1. The Recipe should be original. Copying of existing recipes will not be accepted.
2. In case of multiple entries for the same dish, only the most authentic will be selected.
3. Photographs of the Dish and the Chef should accompany the Recipe.
4. Final collection of recipes will be collated by an expert panel of Chefs.
5. Measurements should be in Gms/ Kgs/ Tsp/ Tbsp/ Cup.
6. All recipes should contain the temperature & timing instructions.
7. The Sub - Committee can request for explanations for the recipe when required.
8. The Sub - Committee's decisions are final.



Locked up in the lockdown

by *Denzil Robert Pereira*

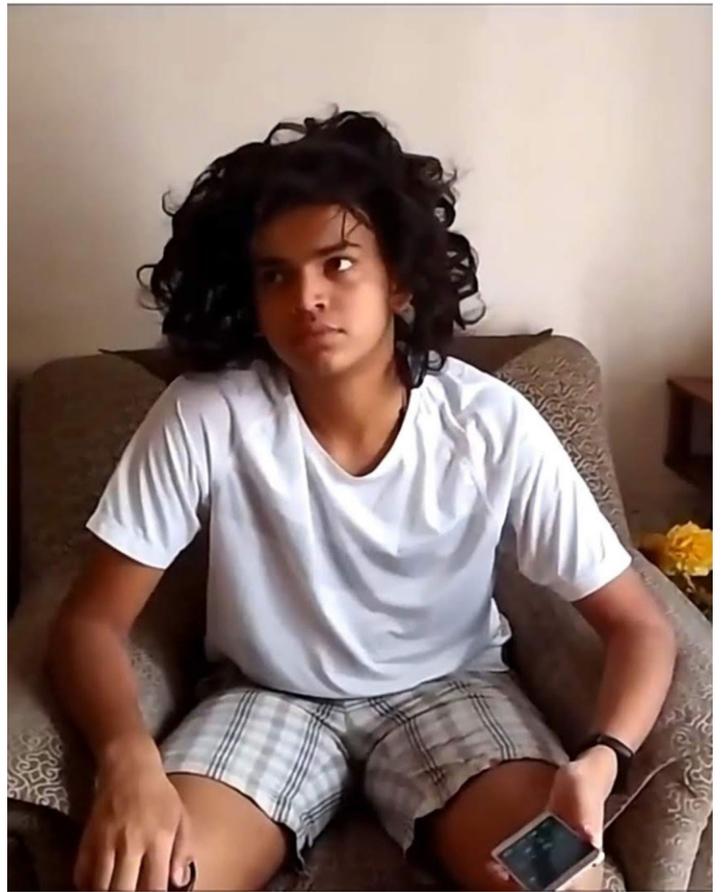
The Managing Committee had arranged to create a tribute to their loving families who have supported them throughout the year and even contributed to the responsibilities and duties that come with being a part of the Managing Committee. With the latest song "Locked Up in the Lockdown" released by Jordindian, being perfectly apt for the situation we are all a part of, the Committee decided to make a quirky yet meaningful video that involved their families in a skit or dance which was well strung together by Romario D'Monte. The message was that living on lockdown has given us time to reflect and a chance to go back to the days when family time was

the most important time of the day.

All the MC members were allotted small snippets from the song, which they could enact along with their families to create a bouncy and meaningful representation of the changed times to the lyrics of the song 'Locked up in a Lockdown'.

We also dedicated this video to our members to continue to stay safe and to always cherish their families who will help them overcome this crisis. The video released on 31st May 2020 and received more than 1000 views in the first 3 days on Youtube and Instagram. We would like to also give a shout out to Jordindian for allowing us to use their song for this tribute.







KGA Community Quiz

The KGA Community Quiz proved to be quite a challenge! It was launched in March 2020, when the country was in a lockdown but the last date was extended twice. The questions were put together by Perry Goes, Francisco Saldanha & Adele Britto. The MC thanks them for this innovative challenging Quiz. The Judge for the Competition was Francisco Saldanha.



Pamela Pinto
1st Prize



Nikita Pereira
2nd Prize



Louisa Rodrigues
3rd Prize

Konkani Classes

by Vivien Da Gama Rose

2020 was a year different from any other. So too, the KGA embarked on a voyage of discovery, though for many it was a voyage of rediscovery. Discovering a language is one of the most exciting adventures to embark upon. And rediscovering your mother tongue must surely be one of the most emotional journeys.

KGA provided a gainful distraction to those members looking for something to engage with during the confinement of 2020, the opportunity for Bangalore Goans to reconnect with Konkani through virtual classes.

The first batch was filled! KGA quickly offered a second batch. Two batches ran with Cyril and Belinda as the patient instructors.

Pupils were kept engaged with Mandos and Konkani songs which were both a learning and entertainment. The morning puzzles or crosswords, an interesting way to remember vocabulary. Friday night movie-date, a Konkani documentary or YouTube clip helped keep in touch with the language.

Here are some personal experiences:

"Hanv konkani xitat" was a phrase chanted often. Grammar, sentence-making, homework and a positive feedback helped provide a basic knowledge of Konkani in an enjoyable way."

"Our teacher often corrected the anglicised pronunciation we were prone to."

"We had an enthusiastic group. Our teacher built interest with interactive sessions. Very often we ended the class singing a Konkani song"

"Listening to my mother speak to her siblings in Konkani, I related to what was being taught in the Konkani classes. Deo borem korum KGA!"

For sure, there was another side to the experience! Reciting homework at the beginning of class while on mute, worse still shouting instructions to family while not realizing you haven't muted yourself ... All of it was part of a wonderful experience! Indeed, Deo borem korum KGA!



Online Konkani Classes For Kids

by Elaine D'Souza (mother of Aiden & Eva)

A lot of kids and people learnt new skills, took up new hobbies etc. But learning one's own mother tongue, I would think very few people ventured to do so. But the KGA, as always promotes our Goan culture and now decided to promote our language. Starting Konkani Classes was always in the pipeline, but due to everybody's different schedule, it could never take off. And thanks to the pandemic, Konkani classes was online. How wonderful it was to see kids from different parts of the world attend these classes.

I do not know about the others, but my kid's grandparents were thrilled to hear my kids speak a few words in Konkani to them. Though believe me, it sounded like Spanish sometimes, still they made the attempt to speak it. They learnt numbers, greeting people, a few sentences and a mando. To get children to learn something new, you also need a fantastic teacher, Svetlana, was amazing, she made learning Konkani fun for the kids. Besides the online class, the recordings of the pronunciations of the words were shared in the whats app group.

We ended the classes, with a special video of the recordings of the kids saying a few sentences in Konkani. Some of them even sang and the musically gifted kids even played a Goan Mando on their instruments. This video was also screened for the World Goa Day celebrations 2020. If the KGA were to restart the Konkani classes again, there would definitely be many takers for it.



My Konkani Classes

by Evaan Rebello (Kuwait)

Mhojem nanv Evaan. Hanv Kuwait rautam. Mhaka panch vorsam.

I really enjoyed my Konkani classes. My teacher Miss Svetlana taught us many things. We learnt Konkani songs, how to say Good Morning, evening & Night and how to speak simple sentences. I also learnt how to sing Happy Birthday in Konkani. She also taught us the Our Father and Hail Mary in Konkani.



Last month at my friend's birthday party, his mother asked us to sing a song in our own language. Nearly all my friend's except Denis & Nikita sang a song in Arabic. I sang this song in Konkani:

Undra mhojea Mama, anik hanv sangtam tukam

Undra mhojea Mama, anik hanv sangtam tukam

Tea majorichea pillea lagim khell mari naka

Undhir mama ielo , anik khatti pondak liplo,

Undhir mama ielo, anik khatti pondak liplo,

Tea majorichea pillean taka ek ghasak khielo.

All my friends asked me what it means. I told them what I knew and now they call me rat uncle!! I was so happy to tell them and to sing a song which others were hearing for the first time.

Thanks to my grandma Adele, who organized the classes my mama & dada Gill & Romel and of course to my teacher Miss Svetlana for making me like my Konkani classes.

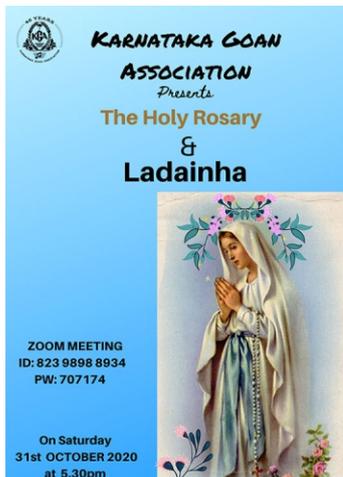
Rosary and Ladainha

by Marlene D'Costa

Every year in the month of October, the members of the KGA get together in St Josephs Boys High School to pray the ladainha and honour our blessed Mother. This year the pandemic didn't dampen the spirit and tradition of the goans and to commemorate the month of the rosary the KGA organised a ladianha on the 31st October 2020.



Many Goan families in Bangalore and abroad joined in the rosary. The rosary was offered for all those affected by Covid and for safety and intentions of the members of the KGA. A beautiful altar of Our Lady was decorated by Mr. Peter Coutinho. The welcome address was given by Mrs. Paula Ravishankar and Mrs. Sharmila Rosario lead us into prayer.



The opening prayers of the rosary were recited by the students of this years konkani class, Aaron Vaz, Theresa D'Costa and Aiden D'Souza. Tanya Rosario started with the opening Prayer.

Each decade of the rosary was recited by five KGA members along with their families. Wilma Pereira & family, Brian D'Lima & family, Marlene D'Costa & family, Aiona Goes & family and Elaine D'Souza & family led us with the 5 decades of the Rosary. It was so beautiful to experience the Rosary even if it meant using technology for the purpose.

The ladainha was sung in Latin by Mr. Aldrin and Mrs. Elaine D'Souza and a beautiful rendition of the Ave Maria was sung by Mr. Oscar Menezes. The concluding prayer was said by our dearest president of the KGA Mrs. Adele Britto and Mr. Bosco gave the vote of thanks. It was a wonderful evening of prayer and thanksgiving. We thank our Blessed Mother and pray for her intercession.

St Francis Xavier's Feast Celebration

by Aiona Goes

The Corona virus may have brought life and activities to a standstill, but our KGA MC did not let that get them down.. the feast of our Goencho Saib, St. Francis Xavier was celebrated with the usual joie de vivre and enthusiasm!

Adele and her team painstakingly pushed envelope to get everything set and just right. Right from the Mass, celebrated online at the Redemptorist Media Centre, the hour long program we enjoyed put together by members and even the excellence awards being announced, it had something for everyone.. and a lot for most!

As part of the SFX konkani choir, I was witness to the fun and fellowship we shared when we met for the hymn & carols recording. Under the able leadership of Aldrin DSouza, the choir efficiently recorded all the hymns double quick and we then had a bit of fun with the caroling portion.

A team of youth got together to learn and recorded 2 dances - the currently popular Jerusalem and a peppy number Dura which were awesome. We had our evergreen Stanley Pinto and Oscar Menezes record short segments that we enjoyed. Our talented Carlton Braganza also regaled us with his wonderful voice, having taken song requests from members.

Our first virtual experience seemed to represent around 40 families watching which is more or less our usual SFX crowd. Also, it is being viewed since, as well, and our MC can indeed pat themselves on the back. As Adele says, this is a good start and we can only move forward from here on. I applaud our enthusiastic MC and our never-say-die President and look forward to more virtual experiences to keep our KGA alive and vibrant!

Mog Assum!



Karnataka Goan Association
Invites you to the Celebration

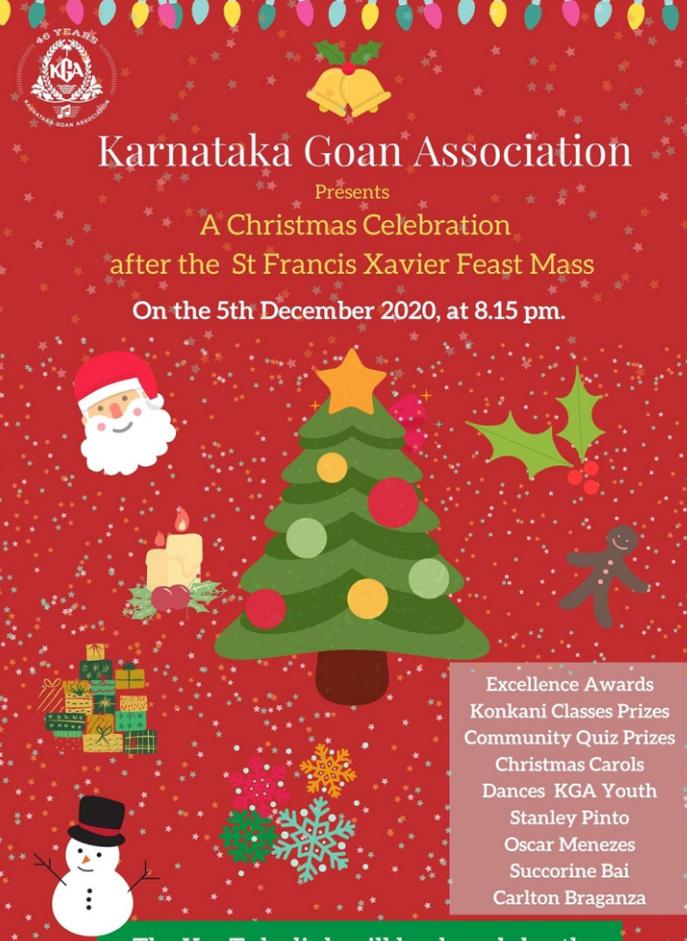
ST FRANCIS XAVIER FEAST MASS



On the 5th December 2020, at 7pm.
The You Tube link will be sent to you shortly



Karnataka Goan Association
Presents
A Christmas Celebration
after the St Francis Xavier Feast Mass
On the 5th December 2020, at 8.15 pm.



Excellence Awards
Konkani Classes Prizes
Community Quiz Prizes
Christmas Carols
Dances KGA Youth
Stanley Pinto
Oscar Menezes
Succorine Bai
Carlton Braganza

The YouTube link will be shared shortly

KGA Choir

by Eslinda Louzado

The Feast of our Patron, St. Francis Xavier is celebrated by goans all over the world and also by our own Goan Association in Bangalore, every year with great enthusiasm and fervour. This year, however, with the pandemic, things were different. However, the KGA rose to the occasion and decided to go online with the celebrations. The choir, being a big part of the celebrations had to meet atleast once to record the hymns. Thanks to Aiona, having got to know about the practice at short notice, armed with masks, sanitizers and umbrellas, it being a rainy and cold evening, we headed to the Club, dressed in Christmas colours to make the most of the evening.

Having been out of the city for the last 5 years, Joanne and I were very happy to be part of the choir this year. The warmth and happiness we felt meeting everyone was amazing. The choir didn't need much practice as everyone was aware of the hymns and their parts, we recorded in no time at all. Our kids in particular and our youngest choir member, were amazing. Adele, our president had organised everything, from the props and decoration, snacks and refreshments to make it a perfect evening. We went through the Konkani Mass Hymns with aplomb, having practised it earlier. It sounded near perfect after just one rehearsal!

Since, the St Francis Xavier Feast Celebrations would also include Christmas celebrations, we were all dressed in Christmas colours & it looked really wonderful especially the red & green balloons, the Christmas placards & of course Terence Rosario dressed as Santa Claus added to the fun of Christmas, while we sang & recorded a few Christmas carols. There were snacks to refresh us on a cold & windy day but the warmth of being together was really worth it. Happy to be back in Bangalore and be part of the KGA activities once more.!



The Big 'C'

by Neisha van der Veen

'Nithin turn your video on immediately!' 'Neisha ma'am, network issue. Sorry ma'am.' 'Guys? Can you hear me? Why is no one answering???' There's still 10 minutes more for class to finish!' I yell in exasperation.

Immediately my phone beeps a flurry of whatsapp messages from different 10th grade students. Father has to take the phone to work. Mother has to rush to the village for aunty's funeral. (The same aunty has had a funeral service at least 3 times last year) Data pack is finished. Amazon delivery man is lost. (This I can forgive) Neighbour fell from tree, I have to take him to hospital. (As there's no one else on this planet to take him) Phone broke. (How does that happen only during class-time?) Corporation water is turned on for only 20 minutes, I have to fill buckets.

My zoom class prematurely terminated, I switch to Facebook to douse my frustration. My page is filled with selfies and group pics of 10th graders. Uploaded apparently during class. Naughty moneys!

I laugh and immediately feel better. Gotta hand it to these kids for being creative if not obedient. I scroll through numerous videos about babies doing cute stuff, cats and puppies, father daughter duets, masterclasses on everything including on how to conduct a successful online masterclass, medical advice on various ailments apparently more deadly than covid...I have 15 minutes more till my next zoom class, Mass Communication with my 12th graders.

I already know what to expect; Kiran sneaks off to work in the hope that I don't notice his lack of vocal participation, Reuben logs in on time but without a textbook as he's not in his own home, Gokul, tall and lanky like a coconut tree claims that his phone doesn't permit him to switch on the audio and video simultaneously, and Stanly, always looks like he's rolled out of bed, except that for almost every class, he's still in bed, messy hair, crumpled shorts, clueless about what I'm teaching. His defense: 'Neisha Ma'am, I woke up at 3am to do my milk round and I just came back.'

Covid has devastated the world and brought about chaos in many people's lives. However, for the tiny school for underprivileged kids that I'm privileged to teach in, tucked away in the deepest corner of Coxtown, Covid has been a blessing in disguise. Here's why. In the days preceding lockdown, a rival Government school set the BBMP on us to shut us down. They would've succeeded if not for the urgent lockdown imposition. BBMP temporarily forgot about us in a scramble to save their lives.



For me, lockdown was an answer to an unspoken prayer: mum had been diagnosed with terminal Cancer and was confined to a wheelchair. Her treatment and round the clock care required my full attention and I was on the verge of quitting my job, which would've been a huge mistake as even the tiny salary I earn goes a long way in our financial rollercoaster. It was music to my ears when my Principal informed me that I could take classes from home with no pay cuts.

As the new academic year started with many schools implementing online classes with technologically advanced teaching software, we were in a tough situation. Many of our students don't even have phones. Those that do have a phone (most of my senior students have a better phone than I do), have to share it with another sibling, as well as minimum data packs. Their home environment, crowded, noisy, messy, isn't conducive for online learning. Our junior teachers, also from financially unstable backgrounds, don't own computers or laptops, and network issues are a constant struggle. How would we keep up with other mainstream schools and retain our students' academic progress? Every problem really does have a solution. We managed with Zoom, free and easy to use, Googleclass and Googledocs, which we teachers had to learn how to navigate almost overnight.

Although our students were relieved that they weren't forgotten during this global insanity, many of them couldn't attend class as they had now become the sole breadwinners for their families. Still, we were all grateful that even our kids, from the other side of the proverbial tracks, could maintain some semblance of normal life. It was an interesting experience to figure out how to effectively teach teenagers that we could never see, and seldom hear. Despite this satirical frustrating journey, the bond between teacher and student grew stronger as we all sailed in the same boat of fear and uncertainty. Most of our students were hard-pressed for provisions, as their parents had lost jobs. So we helped with money and provisions. And in return, our beloved students gave us months of comic relief and a few more grey hair! For me, those 2 hours a day spent with my students was a welcome break from the harsh seriousness of dealing with another unseen enemy.

The world battled Covid and my family battled Cancer. I was hurtled overnight into Man, Woman and Child; Caregiver, Housekeeper, Budget-keeper, Provision Acquirer, Cook (on occasion), Housemaid (on every occasion), Garbage collector and disposer, Cancer-Fighting-Food Researcher, Garden-waterer...these are a few roles that I was forced into playing during the last year and now. And yet, my problems seem so insignificant compared to that of many. I am alive and healthy, whilst many, rich and poor, have lost their lives to Cancer, Covid and even China. Now my students definitely have a big problem with China as their best friend, 'PUBG' has been brutally wrested away from them. (Sweet relief for us teachers)

I have a beautiful and safe home whilst many people had overnight lost theirs. I have reasons and time to grow closer to our Almighty Creator. I have time to do things with my mother that I would never have dreamt possible before, one of them being sharing Spiritual words of comfort and hope. I have also lost a ton of weight without going to a gym or dieting, and many

clothes that I was saving for a 'thinner' day, fit once again. Halleluiah thank you Jesus! These are the wonderful things that God helped me discover about Him and myself during this turbulent wave; I call it a wave because I believe that like the waves in the ocean, this will also recede. There will be beauty from ashes. God never gives us more than what we can handle. I am stronger than I think I am; physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. God sends help and comfort through different ways and different people, including a stray dog, Brownie, who adopted my garden as her domain as soon as lockdown hit, and gives us faithful love, protection and a ton of laughter in exchange for breakfast, lunch and a ton of tummy rubs.

Where there is a shortage, trust, believe, and God always provides. I can forgive and let go more easily now than before this pandemic. I'm a pretty good cook. I enjoy eating what I cook. I don't mind changing diapers. I notice the birds, flowers, insects, shapes of clouds, even weeds that I never cared to notice before. I use the good underwear, sheets and towels even though no one might see them! My well of Gratitude has deepened and continues to do so.

Many people have gone through a catharsis of positive change during this global pandemic that has united the world in a fight for survival. I know that I have. I've come to believe with all my heart that our God has created this wonderful world that will withstand any weapon that the enemy might throw our way, including microscopic ones. Don't be afraid of an uncertain tomorrow. God's got our back and you only get one Today, so make it worthwhile. I was asked to write just one page but this is almost a novella, so I'll sign off. And yes, you're probably wondering what 'C' stands for...Covid? Cancer? China? Change? Clean hands?

The big 'C'- CHRIST

" When I see the spilt ink on the paper, shaping the words from within my Soul, I am grateful for the crack in my pen. I write, therefore I am."

Covid 19, has thrown the whole world upside down. The Big 'C' is a write up by our member Neisha Vanderveen on life as it was for her during the pandemic & lockdown.

We look forward to contributions to the Goenkar from our members on current topics.

Editor

The KGA Christmas Hampers

by Alison (Ally) Fernandez

It may seem surprising that a small box of Christmas goodies with your name on it, can create so much anticipation that you are remembered & loved! I had thought, that since the KGA Carollers couldn't make it this year because of the pandemic, my dad Alberto, would just accept his gift nonchalantly.

How wrong I was!

Dad was to have his picture with his Christmas Card & goody box sent by the KGA taken. He wanted to pose dressed in Christmas colours! He kept asking me as to when it would come, who would bring it etc etc. I couldn't believe his enthusiasm.

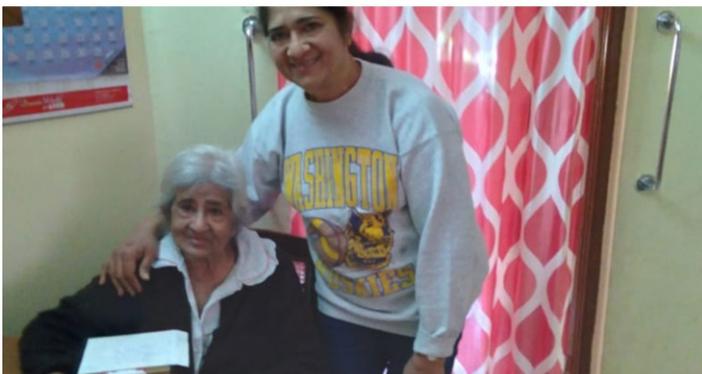
Nothing when given with love is too small! Thanks very much for making his day!!

To Our Rocking KGA Committee - Dad was super excited about receiving the Christmas Hamper! Even through the pandemic and lockdown you'll brought happiness to dad and brought the Christmas atmosphere at home. The goodies were yummy and dad thoroughly enjoyed everything! Thanks so much for adding cheer to the Christmas Spirit! You'll are Amazing



The year 2020, was a different year and though the KGA would have liked to go carol singing to our senior members' homes, it was not a great idea considering the spread of covid 19. However, we made sure, that small boxes with Christmas goodies and a personalized card reached each one of them. For 6 members who are in greater need, a big hamper of necessities was sent out, as has been the practice over the years.

Editor







KARNATAKA GOAN ASSOCIATION

Announces

SHORT STORY CONTEST

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. The Story should be in English, a piece of fiction & original. It should not be taken from any website or from any other publication or competition.
2. The Story should not exceed 1500 words
3. There should be no profanity . Please avoid topics related to religion & politics.
4. A plus point, if the story is based on life in Goa



**LAST DATE:
31st MARCH, 2021**

**WINNERS TO BE SELECTED
BY A PANEL OF WRITERS**

ALL ENTRIES TO BE SENT TO:
kgasecretary@gmail.com

1ST PRIZE: Rs 3000

2ND PRIZE: Rs 1000

OBITUARIES

Mr. Leonard Royan
Rev. Fr. Francis Pinto CSsR
Dr. Cyprian D'Costa
Rev. Fr. Gerard Campose CSsR

May their souls Rest in Peace.



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