

Goan Connection



GOAN ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.
Established in 1991



AT A GLANCE

SUMMER - 2021

Welcome to the Summer edition
Vaccine Myths & Fears
A look back into GOA
Konkani Uloai
ROYAL TIGER making a splash
Tribute to an Urban legend
Joyous Celebrations
Prayerful Participation
Precious Memorial Tributes
COVID kindness and creativity
Robotic FLL all the way!
Shout out to GOANJ future events
Spectacular Sponsors

Goan Connection
a publication of
The Goan Association of New Jersey,
Inc.
a non-profit organization established in
1991
Participation welcomed by sending
events and articles to
goanconnectionnj@gmail.com
Inquiries, membership, and
feedback sent to
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Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section
501(c)(3)

Its Summer Time!

Enjoy the sun!
Do something fun
For Summer is almost here.

The air is full of cheer,
since COVID is out of here.

Laughter, Joy everywhere
Hooray! Even GOANJ picnic is on its way!

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The Editor's Desk

Welcome to
Goan Connection!



Happy Summer Everyone!

We've covered three seasons, Fall, Winter, Spring. This issue, "Summer", brings us full circle. We have braved the pandemic together, seen the worst of COVID, but also witnessed the best in each of us. We have learned that everyone can make a difference. Kindness comes in all sizes!

This issue celebrates our "Goan Culture & Heritage". Alinto Coelho spotlights Goan architecture and its beauty. Another Goan making quite a splash in the US, is Royal Tiger—A single malt whisky. We celebrate "Urban D'Costa" who turned 100!".

This issue dispels the vaccination myths, honors our loved ones, marks memorable events, celebrations, and so much more.

Thanks to Marissa Gomes (grade 10) for her creative artwork that has made this edition, a sight to behold!

Thank you contributors for making this a true "Goan Extravaganza".

My gratitude to our talented editorial team, Dianne Nunes, Wilma Martins, Suzette Barreto, Carmelina Barreto and Chantelle Faria. We bid farewell to Sage as she goes off to college.

Looking forward to meeting you at the GOANJ Picnic, August 1!

Joyfully
Brenda

Your Window to Look Back into GOA

Alinto Coelho



SETHU CENTRE Saligao, Goa

I begin this Journey to connect with the Goan Diaspora across the globe, straight from the heart of a Goan residing in Goa.

I pen down a few lines on the built heritage of Goa accompanied with pictures personally taken by me with my simple mobile camera. I mention this to encourage the Goan diaspora to pen down their memories during their stay in Goa and the historic linkages of their families and ancestry. It is also my earnest call to the Goan diaspora to treasure and preserve pictures you'll have of Goa and its heritage in various forms for the benefit of our younger generations.

Going back to the window seen in the picture. These were skillfully crafted out of wood by inserting the nacre of the mother of pearl oyster shells. The shells provided the much needed light to pass through the windows for the indoor areas of our heritage houses. Traditionally oysters were harvested by Goans for food and with the hope of getting a precious pearl which they often did. Looking back in hindsight this elegant shell window is an intelligently crafted by-product of the process of harvesting Oysters for food and pearls. These shell windows added to the elegance of the façade of our heritage houses both big or small.

Macau located on China's southern coast was another colony of the Portuguese just like Goa, as a result of which trade was pretty easy between the two regions. Goans got a lot of crockery and furniture from Macau. The crockery referred as the blue and white crockery or Macau crockery was used as daily tableware in the yesteryear. With the fear of this crockery being lost due to accidental breakage, this crockery found its way on to the heritage walls of Goan houses and are displayed as some most beautiful artifacts.



Rodrigues e Rebelo House – Varca, Goa

Goans exhibited their lifestyles with various elements distinctly displayed in areas of prominence within their households. The grand chandelier is one such element that hung from the ceiling of the main hall called the *sala*. The chandelier was mostly accompanied with wall mounted lights having the same pattern.

In the yesteryear, these chandeliers provided light through the wax candles sticks which were painstakingly tucked in to add to the elegance of this lighting systems in the evenings.

It is only after the advent of affordable electricity that the wax candle sticks were replaced by electric bulbs.



Gaunekar House, Bandora (Ponda Taluka), Goa



ACHIE'S GRANDEZA Celio Mascarenhas
Chandor, Goa

Originally the flooring of Goan houses was carpeted with cow dung as it had good binding properties and acted as a disinfectant. It was also a material that was easily available, as almost every household had a stable full of cows.

There were plenty of people available to apply it and refresh it fortnightly. As this needed to be applied on a regular basis, Goan houses slowly graduated to lime based red oxide flooring as an easier option.

When Goans prospered and had access to international trade, they began importing flooring tiles predominantly from Italy and other European countries. Thus began the changeover in the main halls or *salas*, foyers, entrances and bedrooms of these embellished Goan houses.

The designs and patterns seen in the Goan heritage houses are now referred in the brochures and websites of tile manufacturing companies as part of their heritage series. The history and elegance of Goa's built heritage ranging from its residential houses, churches, chapels and temples is vast, so this journey will be long but untiring and I am ending this piece with a hope that I will have, with me, your company

Alinto Coelho is passionate about preserving our Goan Heritage. He holds a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Goa College of Engineering. He provides Professional Consultancy Civil Engineering Services in Goa, which includes Restoration of Heritage Structures. He has initiated a process to document Heritage Structures across Goa.

