

Konkani Express

April 2015



Photo:

Neena Pai

KONKANI EXPRESS



KONKANI EXPRESS EDITION 3

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

Hi Everyone

The next issue of Konkani Express is now available for your perusal. The success of our e-magazine would not be possible without your sustained support. I am indeed impressed by the abundance of talent that exists in our community. Kudos to our junior correspondents for their forthright interviews and thought provoking articles. Thanks for sending your fabulous photos . They make great cover pictures. The poems sent are indeed a pleasure to read and digest. This month we even have a marathi poem,

Do keep it coming!

Wishing you all an awesome summer !

Ramkrishna Prabhu

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THE COMMITTEE 2015/2016:

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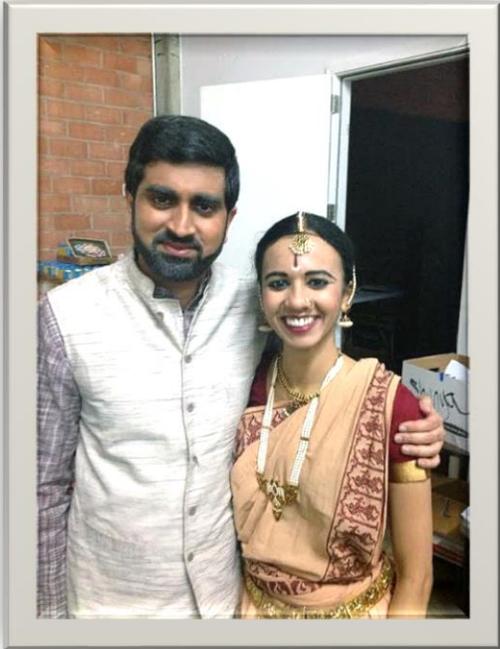


Surekha Pai: Co- Secretary



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Bhopal: Dynamic Houston Konkans give dazzling performances



Houston area Konkans are proud to recognize Mrs. Bhageshri and Mr. Prateek Karkal who gave stellar performances in the theatrical presentation of Rahul Varma's "Bhopal". It is a poignant presentation in memory of, as director Dianne K. Webb aptly describes it, "real men, women and children of 1984 Bhopal who went to bed one night to be awakened into a world of someone else's making and of their own dying."

The play starts off with Mrs. Bhageshri Karkal performing the "Zahreeli Hawa Dance" or the Poisoned Gas Dance--- A suspenseful, lilting dance full of expressions portending the ominous times. Then unfolds in front of one's eyes, the story of one of the world's worst industrial accidents wherein toxic gas leaks at the Union Carbide Pesticide plant in Bhopal, India to awaken villagers into a new world of death, disability and emotional pain!

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While making her debut with Shunya Theater in Houston, Bhageshri is no novice to dance or theater. She has learned Bharatanatyam from age eight. She is currently also part of the Rhythm India Bollywood Dance Company.

Mr. Prateek Karkal who portrays Chief Minister, Mr. Jaganlal Bhandari was one of the main characters. He researched his character well and even grew a full beard to look and act the part. The audience could not but help admiring this young actor's talent that seems to eclipse each previous performance. Prateek can indeed be remembered from his previous plays with Shunya. His performances have ranged from Everyone Loves a good Tsunami (2009), 1-888-Dial-India (2011), Art (2012) and Widow of No Importance (2014).

Equally impressive and no less important was the assistance they received from another Houston Konkani: Behind the scenes, Mrs. Kanchan Kabad provided support with costume design to make the actors appear period sensitive and culturally genuine. She has provided costume design expertise many times before, most recently for "A Widow of No Importance". After getting her degree in clothing and textiles from India, she worked for the Drama Department at University Of Houston. Since then she joined Jaykay Wealth Advisors, Inc. as V.P. of Operations.



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World Peace

By: Lily Shenoy



Have you ever seen a war?
A battle filled with blur
Or perhaps you have seen
An act of violence
That broke the silence
A place filled with harm
Let out with indignant emotions
A dripping dark fear
The wrong direction has been steered

So let's all steady our hearts
And close our eyes
And gentle the motion
With the magic of a potion
We will wipe our minds
And dust them clean
Of the malicious destruction
We could have foreseen

And then we open our eyes
We stop to see
A tranquil place

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That is filled with glee
Joy spirals throughout the air
High and low
Hand in hand
Everywhere we go
Laughter, kindness, peace for all
Maybe this is our wakeup call

The next time you quarrel
Don't make a big fuss
Just stop and smile
And then discuss
We can all be calm
Serene all around
And turn our backs
To the mess that has become of us
Someday we can
Join together
No fights, no wickedness
Unconditional love for all and forever

--By Lilly Shenoy, Katy, Texas

Editor's Note: This poem "World Peace" submitted to the PTA Reflections Program for KISD advanced to State Level!



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Keeping Up with the Konkans:
Varadraj Rao



Business Data Analyst at Nalsak:

“Experienced and qualified Software Professional with Significant record of Achievement in the field of software Industry via the use of SDLC”

Varadraj Rao came to this country in 1997 from India. Currently residing in Katy, TX.

“Vardu ”is a proud husband and father of one son. He enjoys his work and still finds time to volunteer and spend time with his family. He currently works at Apache Co, near the galleria area as a data analyst. However, his true passion lies in the event planning industry. He successfully opened his own company to continue this passion of his.

Question and Answer:

1. What made you decide to get into event planning?

- It’s a passion, although mostly a weekend hobby, it’s something I really enjoy doing.

2. What do you need to do to manage event planning?

- You must understand the requirement of the client, keep in mind their budget, want/needs, and overall deliver to their satisfaction.

3. How do you juggle two jobs, a family life and volunteering?

- Well, family is number 1. So I do everything for the family first because jobs and volunteering have flexible timings.

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4. You are very involved in the Sai Center, what other volunteer Work are you involved with?

- Other than the Sai Center, I volunteer a lot within my own company, such as Project Cure, I volunteered heavily with that. The goal of Project Cure was to ship medical supplies to war zones.

5. What is your greatest achievement and why?

- The fact that I am where I am in life because it required lots of hard work and I did it on my own.

6. Do you cater to the Indian community only? Is there any events that you don't cater to?

- No, I cater to anyone who calls and wants me to plan their event. I do weddings, engagements, parties of any kind. My team even set up for the SLAM tour in Houston at the Toyota Center! We did all the backdrops and decorations; that was really exciting.

7. What would you advise to the Konkani youth that was want to start their own business?

- Make sure to have a very big goal in life. Dream big, then only after that can one start to pursue that dream.

8. Anything extra you would like to add?

- Yes. Look for opportunities; others weaknesses are your opportunity. The world is constantly changing so fast, so don't think too much and just grab the opportunities that come your way.

Thank you Varadraj. Your insight and goals in life are so inspiring, especially from the youth's point of view. You truly are an inspiration to us all from starting your own company and all of your volunteer work to your dedication to your family and the amount of passion you put into all that you do. Thank you so much.

Tara Nayak, Katy Texas



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"संसारी लोणचे"

- > संसारी लोणच्याच्या फोडी आधी
- > करकरीत असतात,
- > नंतर कुरकुरत का होईना
- > हळूहळू मुरतात.
- >
- > हे लोणचं बाजारात मिळत नाही
- > कुटुंबानं मिळून ते घालायचं
- > असतं त्याशिवाय जगण्याला
- > चव येत नाही...
- >
- > कडवट शब्दांची मेथी जरा
- > जपूनच वापरावी
- > स्वतःच्या हातांनी कशाला
- > लोणच्याची चव घालवावी ?
- >
- > जीभेने तिखटपणा आवरला तर
- > बराच फायदा होतो
- > लोणच्याचा झणझणीतपणा
- > त्यांन जरा कमी होतो.
- >
- > "मी" पणाची मोहरी जास्त झाली
- > तर खार कोरडा होतो
- > इतरांच्या आपुलकीचा रस
- > त्यात उगाच शोषला जातो.

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- > रागाचा उग्र हिंग तसा तितकासा
- > बाधत नाही
- > लवकर शांत झाला तर
- > लोणच्याची चव बिघडत नाही.
- >
- > प्रेमाची हळद लोणच्याला खरा
- > रंग आणते
- > विकारांच्या बुरशीपासुन संरक्षण
- > ही करते.
- >
- > समृद्धीचं तेल असलं की
- > काळजीचं कारण नसतं..
- > त्या थराखाली लोणचं बरचसं
- > सुरक्षित असतं...
- >
- > लोणचं न मुरताच नासावं तसं
- > काही संसारांच होतं
- > सहनशक्तीच्या मिठाचं प्रमाण
- > बहुदा कमी पडलेल
- > Courtesy...G.G.Nadkarni

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Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

The HAAS Committee announces:



1. Thanks to all who helped make the annual KISS Picnic a success!

2. The HAAS annual picnic will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2015 at Sugar Land memorial park and Brazos River corridor, 15300 University Blvd, Sugar Land, Tx.77479. Kindly enroll early so timely arrangements can be made!

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Drumstick Leaf Fry

*Konkani Creativity & Cooking
Corner*



Ingredients:

Vegetable oil	1tsp
Mustard Seeds	1tsp
Red Pepper	2-3
Onion Medium size	1
Urad Dhal	1tsp
Drumstick leaves	1 Bunch
Salt	To taste

1. Rinse drumstick leaves well in water.
 2. Heat 1tsp oil in pan. Then add and heat mustard seeds till they pop. Next add urad Dhal and fry till the color becomes brown
 3. Add Red Peppers and cut onion and cook till onion turns golden brown.
 4. Add drumstick leaves and salt.
 5. Cook till leaves are soft
 6. Serve as side dish with rice.
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Have you checked out our website?

www.ourhaas.com

HAAS has been formed to provide a common meeting ground for the Amchigeles residing in and around the Greater Houston area.

Our mission is to

- Preserve and promote our culture, tradition and deep rooted heritage.
- Confer the values and spirit of our culture to generations after us, and
- Provide an opportunity to network socially and professionally with other Amchigeles.

Houston Area Amchigele Samaj

www.ourhaas.com

HAAS has been created to preserve and promote our culture so that we can pass it on to future generations.

We would like to hear from you on how we can help our organization have greater impact.

If you have any new ideas to encourage youth involvement or any service opportunities for our organization—we would love to hear from you.

Also, if you have any specific concerns or goals you would like addresses, we hope to hear from you as well!

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