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MCA-EC

Mangalorean Catholic Association of East Coast, USA.

Quarterly

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Voices of Outgoing Board Members

Beloved MCA-EC Members:

It was truly an honor and privilege to serve you as the President of the MCA-EC for the last 12 months. During the year, the organization set direction by crafting its vision/mission, organized events to advance towards that vision, connected people and communicated through quarterly newsletter/websites and most importantly provided a platform for all of us to connect, exchange ideas and fulfill our personal/professional needs. With over 15 new families registering with MCA-EC at the summer picnic venue yesterday shows that MCA-EC has propelled itself as a vibrant organization in the East Coast for fellow Mangaloreans. On one hand, organizations such as KE Global (Kanara Enterprise Global), an organization of very successful Mangalorean entrepreneurs shown interest in partnering with MCA-EC and on the other hand, our young adults have found life partners through MCA-EC connections. We all should be proud that we are part of this great organization. My special thanks to the executive board for putting together great programs and executing them flawlessly as well as those who worked tirelessly under the hot sun to take this organization to the next level. With tears of joy and welling with emotions, I am writing this to you and I have no words to express my heartfelt gratitude.

The time has come to pass the baton to the incoming board. As you saw yesterday, we have a great team of very talented, energetic new Executive Board of MCA-EC for year 2011-12.

During the election at the summer picnic, the nominations were accepted for all the positions and the new executive board members were elected unopposed (see below). You will get to know about them very soon.

President: Gladwin D'souza
VP-Programs: Steven Aranha
VP-Membership: Jaison Banji
VP-Public Relations: Diana Lewis
Treasurer: John D'souza
Immediate Past President: Mark Mendonca

Web Masters: Sharlet Misquit
Arine Aranha

Mentors: Rowena D'souza (NJ)
Paul Quadros (NY)
Fredrick Fernandes (MA)

Spiritual Director: Fr. Arun Lobo (NY)

Thank you once again for your love, support and well wishes during my presidency. I urge you to continue the same support, if not better, to the new executive board. Together, we can make it better!

Mog Asondhi.

- Mark Lancy Mendonca, President, 2010-11

Mangaloreans Come Aboard and Experience Camaraderie

This in short, has been my experience since I joined the MCA-EC. I do not have to enlist all the various achievements and events we've had in the past 2 years since this organization's inception, but most of all I would like to dwell on the meaningful relationships we've built as being a part of it. By holding the position of VP of public relations, I had the wonderful opportunity to communicate with you and I truly appreciate for being so gracious with your correspondence. In the US, which is our home away from home, these are the kind of organizations which not only nurture a sense of belonging but also convey our cultural values to our children.

"Long Live the MCA-EC".

- Bernie D'Souza, Past Vice President, Public Relations, 2010-11

Thank you MCA-EC for your love, support and well wishes during my term as VP, Programs. It was an amazing year for me. Your cooperation and participation made all the events very successful. It was a good learning experience for me. My special thanks to the executive board for being the pillars of the organization and helping me organize the overwhelmingly successful events during our term. Over the past year we have organized Monthi Fest, Christmas gala, Faith formation for the youth, Salsa lessons and Summer picnic. We hope you enjoyed the events as much as we did organizing them. As Mark mentioned, KE (Kanara Entrepreneurs) has reached out to us to partner with them. This is an organization focusing on Networking & personal growth with investment opportunities. You can find more information here: www.keglobal.org. We will have a KE chapter meeting in July. Please send me an email

(vanitha.furtado@gmail.com) if you are interested in finding out what KE offers.

- Vanita Furtado, VP Programs, 2010-11

MCA-EC: A BLESSING IN DISGUISE

The following write-up is from Caroline Lobo, a student from Pittsburgh, PA who attended MCA-EC for the first

As a kid I remember mom teaching me the importance of culture. She made every effort to teach my sister and me the very basic values of our traditions. Dad and Mom practiced every festival/event with enthusiasm. Having grown up in a cosmopolitan city like Mumbai I was exposed to a mixture of cultures and for me being 'Indian' was important than identifying myself as a belonging to any particular culture. That does matter even today, but there has been a slight change. My recent experiences have changed my perceptions of our very basic Mangalorean traditions, beliefs, faith and values.

I came to the United States last year for pursuing Master's in Pharmacy Administration (Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA). The series of experiences that I witnessed since then have brought me closer to my culture. I don't know why but during my stay here I started experiencing a change within myself. I never bothered to listen to any Konkani song when I was India and here I was searching for Konkani hymns, songs on YouTube. I was longing to converse with someone in Konkani. I was dying to eat Mangalorean food! I never bothered to call my relatives in Mangalore. But here I was, calling them every weekend. It was a strange and unexpected change in me. I came much closer to my culture. I realized that considering yourself as 'Indian' is important but it is your culture that connects you to that spirit of Indianness.

My recent experience with the 'Mangalorean Catholic Association-East Coast' (MCA-EC) also has a huge role to play. I had to move to New Jersey for my summer internship at 'Global Health Economics and Outcomes Research, Inc (Summit)'. I had been endlessly looking for accommodation but never found a place that was closer to Summit. I did find accommodations in Jersey City but those were not only very far from my workplace but also expensive. Travelling again was an added expense. So, I was nearing my internship period and had no place to stay.

I was tensed! Then, one night I received a call from a person in response to my ads posted on one of the websites. He was an Indian and offered me to stay with him! This call terrified me! I had no accommodation and the very thought of moving to a new and unknown place scared me. If people from your own country are so strange, then who can a girl like me who does not have any family in the US trust?

At this time an idea struck me! They say God works in strange ways. He worked for me in the form of MCA-EC. I don't know why, but I felt that I could at least depend on my 'own people'. I remember having found out about an organization called MCA-EC sometime around Christmas. I decided to contact them. When I browsed through their website, I found the email id of the then president Mark Mendonca. I e-mailed him for help. He was very quick in his response. His wife Merlin and he offered me to stay at their place without any hesitation. They welcomed me with open arms and treated me like family. Not just that, they offered me to join them for the MCA-EC picnic which was scheduled for the next day. At this picnic I met so many Mangaloreans that I felt at home. I was just so comfortable! And everyone whom I contacted at this picnic helped me in every possible way to find accommodation.

It is truly said that you don't realize the value of what you have till you lose it. The very experience of moving to a foreign land and that too without a family has brought me much closer to my culture than I was ever before. I have realized the value of my culture and today I'm proud to say that I do have a family in the USA; MCA-EC is my family. I was just searching for 2-3 Konkani speaking people, but here I found 200!!! I'm really glad that I have found such a huge family and I know that they will be there for me whenever I need them.

Special thanks to Aunty Santan, Mark, Merlin, Dilip, Arine, Manesh, Mithila, Sandra, Sonia and Bruno.

- Caroline Lobo, Student (carrolinelobo@gmail.com)

MESSAGES FROM INCOMING BOARD

It is an awesome privilege for me to be elected as a new President of the MCA-EC organization. I am also excited about my newly elected fellow executive board members. With God's grace, and all your prayers, I am sure we will have a fun filled year 2011-2012. I would like to thank Mark Mendonca and his team for a fantastic year of wonderful events. During this time I have seen the organization grow and the commitment of people in organizing events and making it fun. The contribution of members coming forward to help has inspired me to be a part of this organization. It is a great environment in which our families can meet without fear or malice and grow and have fun and be connected to our roots. I am looking forward for your cooperation and participation in the upcoming year full of events and information.

- Gladwyn D'souza, President, 2011-12

It is my honor and thank you for electing me as treasurer of MCA-EC, and I look forward to serve our community in the best possible manner. I look forward to enrich my and my family's experience of our rich culture, tradition and family values.

- John D'Souza- Treasurer, 2011-12

I am grateful to support the MCA-EC with ongoing communications and marketing activities. I was born and raised in NY and have fond childhood memories of my parents, originally from Brahmavar, taking us to Mangalorean association events in Queens. My husband Roshan and I were actively involved in the DC Mangalorean Association for the last 5 years, where I served as VP. It's a blessing to be back in the Tri-State area and to continue to serve the community, particularly to provide our association's children, including my daughter Ria, insight into our motherland.

-Diana Lewis, VP-PR, 2011-12

MCA-EC's Summer Picnic Article from Mangalorean.com is available at:

<http://mangalorean.com/news.php?newstype=broadcast&broadcastid=249688>