

IN RIGHT EARNEST

Come March...the mercury is steadily rising as summer is upon us. The heat is being felt all over the country especially in the news rooms of TV channels with the general elections around the corner. But it is more so in the examination hall where our children are straining every sinew to fulfill their aspirations.

For the committee with the advent of March, the financial year end is staring at us. The accounts for the year must be finalised and we should come back to you members with our progress report! As a step in this direction the interim audit is already in progress.

At the club, it is heartening to note that bucking the normal trend February has been a good month in terms of sales. All

our efforts in training our staff on the hospitality and culinary fronts have paid rich dividends with a surge in the parties being hosted at the club. The various options of set menu being offered has been a game changer.

The Punjabi Food Festival has already taken off as this edition goes to print. The reviews from the members for all the dishes has been encouraging. Some of our staff members donned Punjabi attire adding to the ambience. As a part of standardisation, we have started to document our recipes in our menu. Our admin manager Mr. Kiran has been briefed about his duties and responsibilities and he will be at your service to address issues if any. Our entire staff lead by our Manager Mr. Prasad Monappa has been working hard to give us all an enjoyable experience. It is time to express our gratitude by contributing to the annual staff gift by 31st March. With the IPL set to take centre stage, MC is the place to be - sit back, sip on your favourite beverage and enjoy the cricket!

Ganesh Kamath

Honorary Secretary



The Living Room at the 199 year old 'Belmont House'

THE EDITOR'S DESK

"Beware the ides of March" said a soothsayer to Julius Caesar. Fortunately, in sleepy Mangalore club, March is Humdrum to say the least. No boardroom intrigues here, merely a constant effort by the committee and club staff to maintain high standards and keep members happy.

I was called to a committee meeting as a special invitee. I was astonished at the way in which the committee members considered tiny details. They visited rooms to scrutinize the maintenance and sampled various options for the new sound

system at the gym. The commitment to excellence was clear to see. I hope members reciprocate and use the facilities more.

The March Issue, one of Mangalore's successful entrepreneurs is interviewed by Rajni Patrao, we have a member's vivid description of her visit to Greece and Isaac Vas calls out to Mangaloreans to add value to their city by preserving its unique and beautiful 'Identity'.

Dr. Siddarth Shetty

Editor, MC Live

TRAVEL BUG - GREECE



Travelling to Greece was always on my wish list, so when we landed, I hoped that all that I'd read and heard about the place wasn't just hype... I wasn't disappointed. In fact, some of the views were simply breathtaking and hard to capture on any lens!

Athens, the Greek capital city with its ancient monuments that date back to 7000 BC is a landmark city with stories to tell of wars with the Persians, Romans, Turks, pirates... stories of gods and goddesses and the quintessential Olive tree! One realizes that it was here, thousands of years ago, great thinkers, writers and artists like Socrates, Aristotle, Plato and Hippocrates lived and enriched the world with their legacies. And undoubtedly, the Acropolis and the Parthenon are a sight to behold. As students of architecture many years ago, we had indeed studied the Greek style of architecture, but nothing prepared us for the sheer scale of the built forms and their detailing. As Greece battles an economic slowdown today, these ancient landmarks remind us of the glorious era that Greece witnessed thousands of years ago!

No trip to Greece is complete without visiting some of its islands... there are so many and each with its own beauty; but time was too short and we had to shortlist just a couple-Santorini and Mykonos, which are the most popular. Santorini with its beautiful white washed buildings and blue domes was "just out of a post card"! It's a volcanic island with dramatically steep cliffs which are a result of one of the largest volcanic eruptions in recorded history. Apparently, in 1600 BC, the volcano erupted and a part of the island sank to the bottom of the sea. There are

several interesting villages here on the edge of the cliffs... Fira, Imerovigli, Oia..Pirgos.. Our favourite was Oia (pronounced Eea) with meandering pedestrian walkways along the cliff edge with restaurants, churches, hotels and shops alongside. The sunsets were awesome and we could just sit at a restaurant and gaze into the horizon waiting for the red sphere to slowly disappear out of sight! What a feeling it was!

Talking of restaurants, Greek food is simply divine... the souvlakis, moussakas, meat balls, gyros ... just to name a few! The local drinks like Ouzo (pronounced oozo) and Tsipouro (pronounced chiporu) are nice... the latter is quite potent! And of course, their wines with traditional music in the background will transport you into a different world!

Mykonos, world famous for its party atmosphere, with beach clubs where the party starts every evening and goes up to dawn the next day, was our last stop! There were all that and so much more! The main town of Mykonos reminded us of our very own Jaisalmer... with paved streets lined with houses, cafes and shops. Except that in Mykonos, it's all white with splashes of blue, red and green windows... and squeaky clean! It's wonderful to just lose yourself in these alleys... no map will be of any help here!! The iconic landmarks- the 16th century windmills and the small waterfront that resembles Venice...are beautiful, especially at sunset. Mykonos, for us, was really the icing on the cake that was Greece!

Contributed by **Manjari Saldanha**



MEET – JOSSIE D'SOUZA



Jossie D'Souza is a man who needs no introduction. Being the proprietor of renowned businesses such as, 'The Village' Restaurant and 'Wines & Spiritz', he is practically a household name. Apart from being a successful and ethical businessman, he is also a loving husband, caring father and doting grandfather. He is highly respected, admired and loved by his family, friends and associates. This month 'MC live' has a light-hearted interview with him.

1) The public wants to know...which dishes does Jossie D'Souza order when he dines at 'The Village' restaurant?

Peri-peri chicken, prawn butter garlic and masala crab are my favourites.

2) What have been the building blocks of your life?

Discipline, Dedication and Determination.

3) What is your recipe for success?

It starts with an idea. Add a spoonful of passion and belief. Mix heaps of hard work and finally blend it all together in a bowl full of ethics and values.

4) If someone were to make a cocktail inspired by Jossie D'Souza, what would be in it and what would it be called?

"The Real King of Good Times" (laughs) is what I would call it. And as for what would go into it...well, that I leave to your imagination!

5) Your most treasured possession in the world?

My family.

6) Roti, Daaru aur Makaan...rank in the order of importance to you.

Ha ha...as long as all 3 are there, my life is fantastic!

7) If you could re-live a particular moment of your life, which would it be?

My courtship days with my darling wife.

8) A day in the life of Jossie D'Souza comprises of...

It usually is a late start with a keen eye on our business. Evenings are mostly relaxing at home with a chilled glass of beer, a movie playing in the background while I spend time with my grandchildren.

9) When You're not working in the office, where can one mostly find you?

Without any doubt...Mangalore club!

10) Your message to the younger generation...

Be happy. Believe in yourself. Follow your passion and finally Drink responsibly!

Interviewed by Rajni Lobo Patrao

EVENTS

- 23.03.2019, Saturday – Bumper Housie
- 23.03.2019, Saturday – Bar Night
- 31.03.2019, Sunday – Rummy Knockout

DUES

In view of the annual closing of accounts on 31st March, members are requested to clear their dues, if any, early and co-operate. If the payment has already been done, please ignore this.

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When you are young and travel all over the world you turn out to be an international person. But as you grow older you seek to know where you began or where you came from. Our roots give us a sense of belonging wherever we go and bind us to our culture. I am sure this is what brings a number of our family members settled all over the world, back to their home town, during Christmas.

One of the distinct elements that bind us to our roots is the fast disappearing Mangalore style houses. Until the late 80's the City had a number of these beautiful mansions. 'Albert Mansion' on Sturrock Road where Peter and Paul Mascarenhas live and 'Belmont House' belonging to the Peres family have got worldwide recognition and attract regular visitors to study their architecture which is essentially Mangalorean.

From the late 90's, the skyline of Mangalore changed dramatically. Until then the common refrain from anyone visiting from abroad was "Mangalore hasn't changed..." Mangalorean houses relied on tiles for roofing and it is from this they got their identity. A few decades back there were more than 40 tile factories functioning which today are reduced to just a handful. Many factors have led to the dwindling of this once thriving industry. A shift in our habits, availability of new modern building materials and the idea that apartments come with less hassles for security, water supply and power has brought about this change. Though this heritage of Mangalore is quickly vanishing, the discerning eye can still find many such houses standing tall.

Recently, I chanced to strike a conversation with our Honorary Member the Deputy Commissioner Mr. Sasikanth Senthil. He

remarked that Mangalore is one city that is eligible for being a city state. It has a long drawn history, culture, language, cuisine, geography and way of life. People today are looking at cities that have developed organically rather than ones that are monotonous in their planning. When we widen roads we encourage people to buy bigger cars which bring in scant benefit to the city, he added.

I asked an architect friend of mine if it was inevitable to have high rise buildings in the city. He remarked that over a period of time Mangalore has developed a cultural fabric of its own. When you suddenly place a high rise building in the midst of this, a way of life is disturbed. He further added that Car street was essentially a pedestrian street with a complete cultural ecosystem. We abruptly widened the road and demolished what was an identity and now when one walks around, the disruption is obvious. We should be more sensitive in developing specific areas to maintain what is essentially part of its culture. High rise buildings are essential but are to be placed around the city or at locations where there was no development earlier, he concluded.

Mangalore has a charm of its own. It is still the most beautiful place to live. Is it not time that we think in terms of making Mangalore into a city state and claim its rightful place under the sun? Our culture, our identity our religious practices, our sports will be preserved and with it the magnificent Mangalore bungalows. Sometimes we need someone like Mr. Sasikanth Senthil who has come from a distant land to help us find ourselves.

By Isaac Vas

Editors Note: In line with this article we will be covering some of the traditional Mangalore style houses in the coming issues of MC Live including some lesser known heritage houses.