



AZ Konkanis Newsletter

Dec 31, 2024, Vol 2

Compiled by Tanisha Baliga

A Warm Return

We would like to welcome everyone back to our second official AZ Konkanis newsletter.

In these newsletters, we will continue to look back at the memories made with one another each year.

Thank you to all our AZ Konkanis for your continued support and making 2024 a year filled with memorable moments.



AZ Konkanis Annual Picnic in 2024

Milestones

Thank you to all our board members for your efforts in planning each individual event for our AZ Konkanis to enjoy. The events would not have generated such triumphant successes had it was not for all of your valuable contributions! We are eager to see what 2025 has in store for us!

2024-2026 Executive Committee

President(s): Shreeja & Guru Baliga

Treasurer: Sasikala Kamath

Deputy Treasurer: Hema Prabhu

Director, Food Coordination: Gopika Pai

Deputy Directors, Food Coordination: Pavithra & Shirish Kamath

Cultural Activity & Entertainment Associate: Vyshali Mallya

Cultural Activity & Choodi Puja Associate: Preeti Kamat

Website Manager: Nithin Jakrebet

PR Specialist: Tanisha Baliga

Announcements

The Executive Committee has made internal changes to help streamline events for 2025.

President(s): Shreeja & Guru Baliga

Treasurer: Hema Pandu

Deputy Treasurer: Durga Nayak

Director, Food Coordination: Preeti Kamat

Deputy Directors, Food Coordination: Gopika Pai, Vasudeva Kamath

Director, Cultural Activity and Entertainment: Veena Nerurkar

Cultural Activity & Entertainment Associate: Pavitra Kamat

Cultural Activity & Choodi Puja Associate: Vyshali Mallya

Website Manager: Nithin Jakrebet

PR Specialist: Tanisha Baliga

Community spotlights



Annual AZ Konkanis Spring Picnic 2024, March 2nd

AZ Konkanis Annual Spring Picnic

Picnic at Eldorado Park in Scottsdale.

We had over 110 people in attendance, Food was carefully selected by the committee from across various restaurants in the valley and some additional items cooked by the committee members themselves. The picnic was filled with panchadik and gammat as always!

We were glad to welcome some of our newest families and AZ Konkanis members and it was nice to put a face to the names. Our first event every year starts with our Annual spring picnic and the committee is glad to announce that our 2025 picnic will be taking place on February 23 rd from 10-4 at Kiwanis Park in Tempe!

Spring Hike at Papago Park

2025 was for new and exciting beginnings. First time ever, On March 16 th , our AZ Konkanis members, about 45 of us, came together for a family hike at Papago Park. The hike was light but the fun was immense. The breakfast spread had rullav, goli bhajjo, sheera, coffee, tea, and donut holes for our little ones. Special shout out to Harish Bhat and Gurudath Baliga for their amazing culinary skills. The morning was spent with sun, joy, and delicious Amchi food!



Papago Park, March 16 th



Feed My Starving Children, May 3rd

Volunteering with Feed My Starving Children

This year was the start of many new annual traditions! One of which is volunteering with Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)! FMSC is a national organization with the aim of ending hunger and malnutrition in children around the world. AZ Konkanis volunteered with the organization in May and September of this past year. Our volunteers contributed to the 50,000+ meals that were packed in these two sessions, feeding over 150 kids in need!

Our next FMSC Event will be February 7th , more information will be sent out closer to the date. Don't miss out on the opportunity to give back to our local community.



Choodi Puja & Bhajan Gathering, August 25th

Choodi Puja & SVK Fundraiser

The special Konkani tradition of Choodi Puja was performed at the Sri Venkata Krishna Kshetra (SVK) Temple in Tempe on August 25th. This year for the first time, our ladies of the AZ Konkanis were accompanied by their better halves in their annual ritual. We had an amazing attendance of 60 people. Not only did we capture great pictures but the event was followed by devotional bhajans. We had adults and kids participate in the Bhajan and the temple associates requested to hear our Bhajan Mandali more often. Something we should consider in 2025 From August to October 2024, 30 of our AZ Konkanis families contributed to our annual fundraiser for SVK and were able to raise an extraordinary amount of over \$2000!

We thank our AZ Konkanis families for their kindness and generosity on behalf of the SVK Temple.

Let us continue this momentum in 2025.

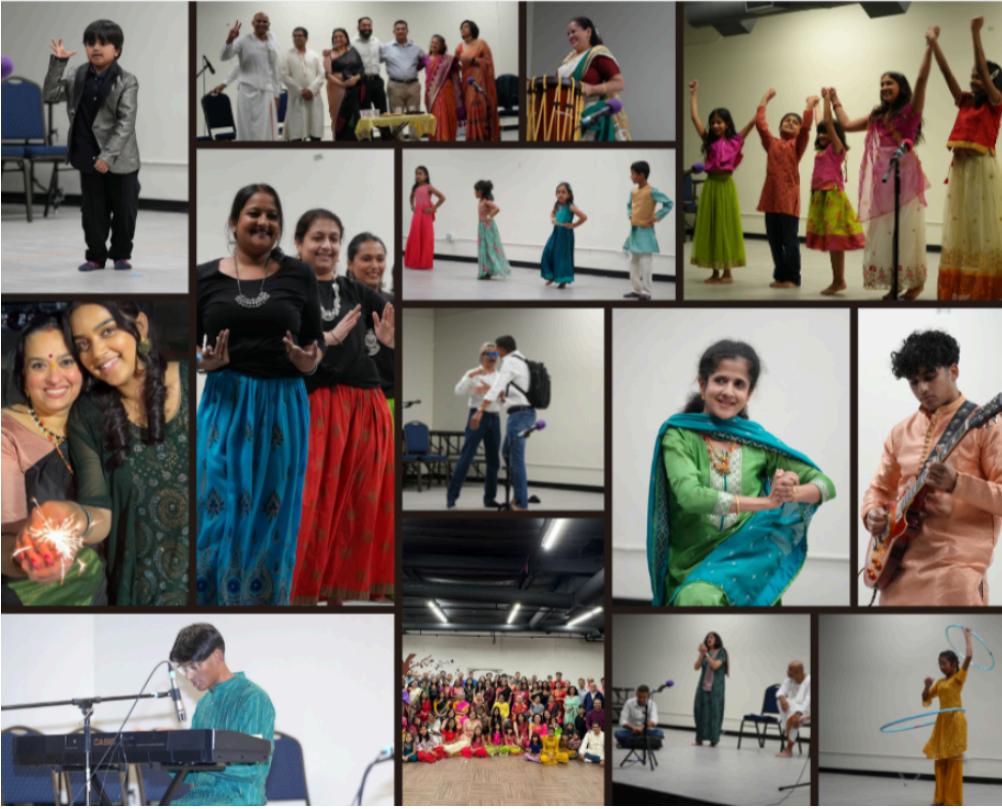


Hike at South Mountain, October 26th

Fall Hike at South Mountain

On October 26th, 60 of our AZ Konkanis members gathered to hike the Pima Canyon Trail at South Mountain. The breakfast spread consisted of idly sambar, chutney, biscuit ambado, coffee, tea, pineapple sheera, and donut holes.

The food was all made by the Executive Committee members and the group were left wanting more. The joy on the kids faces was a treat to watch. It was a great way to spend the morning filled with laughs, sun, and good food!



AZ Konkanis Diwali Celebration at Chinmaya Mission, November 17th

Diwali Celebration

This year, AZ Konkanis held their first community-wide Diwali celebration at Chinmaya Mission on Nov 17 th . This was our first ever showcase of talent. We thank everyone who worked so hard to create such a wonderful production! We had so many talented youths perform wonderfully as well as our instrumentalists of the evening, and our dancing ladies. There were two plays which were performed and adapted by some of our skilled aspiring actors!

Thank you to the Executive Committee who helped meticulously plan the event from start to finish, and our sponsors of the evening: Save The Soil, Sangeeta Kalle Cakes, Brijwasi Sweets, and AZ Bounce Logic.

Lastly, we would like to thank Rajesh Nayak and Rajesh Gadiyar for capturing all of these heartfelt moments! We hope to have more people attend next year to make some more memorable moments!



Sewa Diwali Event at Tumbleweed Park, December 6th

SewaDiwali Fundraiser

Following the AZ Konkanis SVK Fundraiser, our members also partnered with the SewaDiwali organization from November to December 2024, to gather food and provide items to assist those in need residing in the Navajo Nation in Flagstaff. Through our efforts, we were able to contribute a total of 200 lbs in food donations and warm clothing to the Sewa Diwali fundraiser. Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke attended the Sewa Diwali event on December 6 th at Tumbleweed Park.

We would like to thank Sudesh Nayak and Priya Nayak for their coordination and support.

Talent spotlights



Art by
Advika Shenoy, Age 5

**Art by
Mahika Shenoy, Age 9**



Art by

Gopinath Konchady, Age 78

Retired IIT Madras Professor



Art by
Ayush Bhat, Age 12
Anisha Bhat, Age 6



Color Poem

Ananya -

Poem Written by
Ananya Nayak, Age 11

Pink is cotton candy, that melts in your mouth.
Blue is the ocean which travels north, east, west or south.
Pink is a rose covered in fresh morning dew.
Blue is the sky full of clouds about rain on you.
Pink is the color of sweet icecream with a cherry.
Blue is an ornament on a tree making it look merry.
Pink is a crayon stubby after being used.
Blue is the color of rain which made people feel amused.

Pink is a heart beating beat after beat.
Blue is the color of a tiny boulder seat.
Pink is the color of leaves on a cherry blossom tree.
Blue is a river rushing down a mountain you can see.
Pink is a piglet squealing & rolling in mud.
Blue is the color of petals on the flower bud.
Pink is a sunset glimmering as if its in the spotlight.
Blue is the color of bubbles you can see threw with your sight.

Konkani

Translator

Art by

Vibha Shakti Bhat, Age 13

CHRISTMAS Edition

English

English Ko

Konkani

Santa	Lights	→	Diwali Bua
Tree	Tree	→	Ruku
Ornament	Ornament	→	Alankar
Happy New Year	Happy New Year	→	Nav Varasachie Shubhashayu
Celebration	Celebration	→	Utsava

HAPPY

2025!

Jokes and riddles

Rushi Nayak, Age 8

- Why did the pie go to the dentist?
Because it needed a filling.
- Why do ducks have beaks?
Beak-ause.
- What do the Eiffel Tower and ticks have in common?
Both are Paris sites (parasites).
- What do you do when you are cold in a room?
Go to a corner cause it's always 90°.
- Why do potatoes make good spies?
They always keep their eyes peeled!
- Why did the iPhone go to the dentist?
Because it had Bluetooth.
- Why did the banana go to the doctor?
Because it wasn't peeling well!!
- Would you call a hen that does math?
A Math-ma-chicken
- What gets wetter, the more it dries?
A towel.
- I am the father of fruits. What am I?
A Papa-ya.

A Winter Wonderland!!

Prachi Shenoy Age 10

It was a cold, snowy morning in Paris. There were five kids named Prachi, Aanya, Rushi, Vibha, and Nikki, they all awoke unaware that it was snowing outside! They all went downstairs and put their shoes on. Then they went outside and Vibha said,
" Brrrr! It is so cold outside!"

So they went back inside and Nikki said," It's a snowy day! Yayyyyy!"

The five kids put boots, gloves, beanies, and thick jackets on, then they tried again.

Aanya said," It's a bit better but I need some hot chocolate." Prachi said,"Ok, there is a street full of small stores and we can go there! It's right next to the Eiffel Tower!"

Rushi said," Ok, but do they have other drinks like some warm milk and cookies?"

Anya said," If this street is half as good as Starbucks, then they will!"

Rushi said," They better have it!"

"They will! " Vibha said.

Nikki said,"Well, are we going to stand in the snow and bicker, or are we going to go get some hot chocolate?"

Prachi said," Follow me!!!"

So they all walked to the Christmas markets. After only five minutes of walking, they finally reached the street.

Luckily the first shop was a cafe, so they popped in, got four hot chocolates, a hot cup of milk and cookies to dip in the milk. They left the shop and started walking around the street.

Then, Vibha had the best idea," Why don't we do secret Santa?"

Aanya, Rushi, Prachi, and Nikki all said," That's a great idea!"

They cut some paper from the receipt and wrote their names down, Aanya got Prachi, Prachi got Nikki, Nikki got Rushi, Rushi got Vibha, and Vibha got Aanya. They were walking down the street, got all of their items, went on a few rides and then started walking home because they were freezing. They got home and opened gifts.

"Thank you so much for the beautiful necklaces!" Prachi said.

"Awwww a stuffie!" Nikki said.

"A New Jersey! Thank you" Rushi said.

Vibha said," Oh my gosh! A new book! Thank you so much Rushi!"

Aanya said," A new bracelet! It is sooooo pretty! Thank you so much!"

They all hugged each other and said," HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!"

They all lived happily ever after!

Events to Look Forward to in 2025!

Jan 25th - Tarpana, Konkani Movie Screening	Feb 7th - Volunteering at FMSC 25th - Annual Picnic	Mar	Apr Hike - TBD
May	Jun	Jul	Aug Choodi Pooja - TBD
Sep	Oct Hike - TBD	Nov Deepavali Celebration - TBD	Dec

Thank You!