

Konkani Youth Convention – An Update

Dear Vasanthmaam,

I hope you are doing well.

We had recently set up an e-mail account for the upcoming Konkani Youth Convention; the purpose of this was for attendees to e-mail us with any questions. In the newsletter we sent, we had listed this e-mail as konkaniyouth2019@gmail.com. However, we recently realized that this account may become obsolete after 2019. To facilitate use of the account for future conventions as well, we have made a new e-mail address: konkaniyouthgroup@gmail.com

We have our settings configured so that any e-mail sent to the old account is automatically forwarded to the new account, but we just wanted to let you know. We have attached here an updated version of the newsletter with the new e-mail address.

Thanks again for all the support.
Regards,

Priya and Aditya
sorabpt@mail.uc.edu and adityakoppikar@gmail.com

Updated version of the Konkani Youth Convention – 2018 newsletter

The 2018 Konkani Youth Convention was a great success with almost 40 attendees from New York, Texas, California, Ohio and many parts of the country gathering in New York City for a three-day event to celebrate our heritage and spend time with fellow Konkanis. The Holiday Inn Express in Midtown served as home base for the convention, providing a comfortable place to stay and easy access to the best attractions of the city.

Attendees first arrived on the evening of June 29th to meet new people and reconnect with friends from previous Konkani Sammelans. Thanks to the generosity of the North American Konkani Association (NAKA), the attendees were able to enjoy a great dinner at Darbar Grill in New York City. The attendees enjoyed meeting fellow Konkanis and having a sense of shared heritage and common culture. This was a great start to the rest of the convention.

On Saturday June 30th, attendees ventured around Manhattan to see iconic landmarks, from the scenic Battery Park and Skyline, to the grandiose Wall Street and Charging Bull. Local Amchigeles took great delight in showing the city to newcomers. Attendees then went to Chelsea Market, a collection specialty shops selling the tastiest cuisines from around the city, for a delicious lunch. After recharging its batteries, the group travelled to the famed American Natural History Museum, where we explored the mysteries of the universe during a show at the Hayden Planetarium, and learned about the development of the world's cultures in the Hall of Human Origins. The daytime activities concluded with a stop for gelato in Columbus Circle, and some time to rest at the hotel.

The group kicked off the evening activities with a trip to The Press Lounge to enjoy the sunset one of NYC's most scenic rooftops as well as to take a few pictures before dinner. Afterwards, attendees went to Cara Mia for a more formal dinner which was a chance to talk in an intimate setting. We discussed opportunities for future gatherings and how to encourage Konkanis to get more involved in the community while closing the geographic gap that separates many of us, allowing us to remain in touch.

On the last day of the meetup, we had a farewell brunch at Pio Pio, a great Peruvian restaurant in Midtown, to reflect on the convention and send off those who came from other parts of the country. The locals and those who chose to stay a few extra days then explored Central Park and enjoyed a beautiful afternoon walking through the gardens and climbing the rock formations. Finally, the youth convention concluded with a celebratory dinner.

While this convention allowed us to explore one of the greatest cities in the country, its real impact was to build a sense of community and pride in our language. Throughout the three days of the event, we expanded our knowledge of Konkani culture and tradition. Since our community is not as large as those of other Indian ethnic groups, being able to spend time with other Konkanis in the same age group is a relatively rare opportunity, making the Youth Sammelan experience much more valuable. Even before the convention ended, there was talk about when and where to host the next one.

The success of this convention and the excitement for future conventions demonstrated that the convention created a close-knit group of Konkani who are excited to host more events and meet others in the community. We have created a networking spreadsheet to foster the potential creation of mentor-mentee relationships. The networking spreadsheet currently contains information and contact information of individuals from multiple professions, such as medicine, engineering and law. Several members of the Konkani Youth Group have continued to remain in touch even months after the convention. As the conventions continue, we hope that it will become easier to create relationship with our peers who are from all parts of the country!

If you have any questions or are interested in joining, please join our Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1776963575921210/>

You can also e-mail us at konkaniyouthgroup@gmail.com

We estimate that planning for the next convention will begin in January of 2019.