

CONVERSATION & AFTERNOON TEA WITH SAMINA AZAM

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AFTERNOON TEA

Those of you who know me, will know one of my favourite past times is enjoying afternoon tea.

The artistry, tradition, venue and food but most of all the company. This is my virtual version of having a catch up with a friend over tea & cake.

Enjoy my conversation with

Cristina Goyoaga Schneider
Executive Assistant, Microsoft
Event Manager, Fund Raiser
Coordinator, Helper, What
can I do for you?



WELCOME TO OUR TENTH EDITION FEATURING - CRISTINA GOYOAGA SCHNEIDER

What are you up to at the moment?

I am always up to something. I am currently working as Executive Assistant at Microsoft and I am loving it. I am learning a lot and I have met incredible people in the past months.

I work with a lot of charities during the year as I think it is good to be able to give back to our community. It is something everybody can do. You don't need to give money, just time and a positive attitude. Helping those in need fills my heart and brings me a lot of happiness.

Summer is a very hard time for many



OCULUS
CREATIVE
LEARNING

INSPIRED BY PASSION

communities here in Madrid, Spain. I am currently trying to raise funds to buy food and milk for more than 350 families of a very poor neighborhood from Madrid. Donations go down in the summer and families and kids still need to eat.

I also help in a non profit organization, Reyes Magos de Verdad (www.reyesmagosdeverdad.org) The aim of this association is to provide new Christmas presents to children, the elder and persons with different capacities in need. I am the Secretary of this association and coordinator. As Secretary I help with data protection, some legal matters, organize meetings, write minutes of the meetings, help with the web page, supervise procedures and communications.

As coordinator I manage to collect more than 2,200 presents. This means that there are 2,200 donors. I coordinate the companies that want to participate through their employees and that implies all the correspondence and setting up deadlines. A lot of logistics issues involved. Before the pandemic we would organise parties in which the kids would receive their presents and if we could, there would be some cake and sweets for them. We also go to nursing homes and bring them presents and do some singing with them. From September till the end of January we are really busy with the Christmas campaign. Long hours after a working day but it is so rewarding. I love it. Many volunteers come to help and I coordinate a team of more than 30 volunteers. Reyes Magos de Verdad is one of



MY BEST LOVED CAKE, TEA, COFFEE OR VENUE?

I drink one cup of Columbian coffee with almond milk in the morning. During the winter or whilst relaxing with a great book I do enjoy a cup of tea with a drop of milk. A cake of choice would be carrot cake or maybe apple pie.

I enjoy my coffee/tea and cake outdoors, in the mountains or with my family and friends.

A COUNTRY I WOULD LIKE TO VISIT

New Zealand. My husband and I can't wait to visit this country. We want to do it when we can at least take a whole month off, so it will have to wait.



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the best things that ever happened to me. I have met great people here and many of my closest friends.

I recommend everyone to volunteer somewhere as it is a great experience and it will help you meet nice people and you will feel great helping others. Giving always brings in much more than receiving.

What are you watching/listening to?

I watch all kind of medical tv shows. I like them. Also shows with lawyers, firemen, police, thrillers. And I love movies with animals as well as Disney movies.

I like to listen to all kind of music. My favourite is 80's - 90's music. Also some classical music or ethnic.

Your favourite tool/app?

This is a hard one. My favourite tool would be my cell phone. I can do almost anything from there and that is great. It saves me a lot of time.

WORDS OF WISDOM

HAPPINESS MEANS...

There are so many things that make me happy. I used to take many of them for granted until the pandemic took everything we knew away. Now I find happiness in a morning walk, smelling a flower, feeling the sun on my face or the wind in my hair. Small things that I missed a lot whilst in lock down. And they are all free!.

Happiness is waiting for the weekend to come and going to the mountains to visit my family.

Happiness is taking my parents' dog, Yeiko for a long walk, just the two of us feeling free.

Happiness is setting a foot in the sea, or in a river. Feel the coldness of the water.

Happiness is watching the stars with my husband.

Happiness is watching my nephews and nieces and my friends' kids grow up. I am so proud of them. Loving and caring for others also makes me happy.

Happiness is having someone who holds your hand or hugs you or having someone to call to tell good news or your problems.

Happiness is everywhere, you just need to want it and get it.

A FAVOURITE QUOTE

"Never give up!". I have learnt to never give up from my grandmother. She is 97 years old and still does everything on her own even though sometimes it takes a lot of time and a lot of effort. She had to raise my mom on her own after Second World War, being a 22 year old widow. Everything she did she did for us, never giving up, always moving forward.



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I love all the Microsoft Office tools and apps. In the last months I have discovered great ones such as One Note, Forms, Teams.

What are you reading?

I love books. It has been so long since I was little. When I was growing up I could read three or four books in a week. Now it is harder as I don't have so much time. I love getting up on a Sunday morning, grabbing a book and a cup of coffee or tea and read till I have to start doing things. It is so relaxing. I prefer a real book than E-Book. Opening a book and going through the paper pages, the smell of the book...

I love all kind of books: historical, thrillers, romantic ones, sagas, fantastic ones. Anything.

I am currently reading a John LeCarré book: Single and Single. Next one will be a Ken Follet one and I want to get Greenlights by Mathew Mconaughey though I still haven't been able to buy it in English.

Connect with Cristina:



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[crisgoyo](https://www.instagram.com/crisgoyo)

www.reyesmagosdeverdad.org



IN THIS MOMENT I FEEL...

I feel at peace. I used to be looking for "something" all the time, always busy, always "on" something. I have learnt to accept to take one step at a step and enjoy little things.

I feel loved by my husband, my family and friends and that is all I need right now.

It took me many years to love myself and to feel loved. I now feel happy and whole.

Thank you Cristina for your honesty, your storytelling and your passion. We are connected on so many levels. You inspire me as a friend and as a human being. Your kindness and generosity is a fabulous example of what we can achieve and the difference we can make.

#TeaWithSamina