

Volume 13

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Maya Puwath

Bimonthly Newsletter from MGCAANA



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“Even the death is not to be feared by one who has lived wisely.”



— Gautama Buddha—

"Try not to become a person of success, but rather try to become a person of value." --

Albert Einstein



From the Editor

It is with great pleasure that I write this to first Edition of 2017 Mayapuwath. While it is winter for some, here in Gainesville and also in the South, spring is in the offing. Blooming Azaleas and the sky filled with migrating Sandhill Cranes heading north are sure signs of the forthcoming spring.

2017 first task is to elect a new BOD and an Executive Committee. On behalf of MGCAANA, I take honor in inviting nominations and suggestions from the Membership.

The second task is to increase our membership and to raise funds. Again, on behalf of MCGANNA, I seek your help and active participation to achieve these goals. Best way to get new Mayans is spreading the word around.

I wish you a happy and successful 2017.

Sriyani Dissanayake

On behalf of Mayapuwath Committee



Invitation to Join the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association in North America (MGCAANA) for 2017-2018

We, the current Executive Committee and the Board of Directors would like to invite you to become part of a dynamic team of Mayans living in North America that oversee various functions of MGCAANA for the 2017-2018 year. The sisterhood that you experience as a member of MGCAANA is further enhanced when we are part of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, as we are in constant communication via e-mail and monthly teleconferences that strive to bring all Mayans in North America together ultimately seeking to create a future where inspired, well-rounded, and successful Mahamaya Girls' College alumnae and students work together to benefit the society transcending borders and barriers.

As MGCAANA's mission states, we help build, foster and promote unique and total growth of each individual alumna and student by providing a network of social, professional, educational, and cultural opportunities. We enjoy the opportunity to work up close with various MGCAANA committee members that put together the Maya Puwath that you enjoy every other month; the committee members that work hard to oversee financials and award scholarships to students at Mahamaya through the Vidya Scholarship Trust Fund (VSTF); members and well-wishers who donate time, energy, financial contributions for the continuity of the VSTF; members who volunteer their time and energy to host and organize the Association's Annual General Meetings each year; the Advisory Committee whose wisdom and corporate knowledge is always invaluable; committee members who review applications to award scholarships for academic merit to MGCAANA members pursuing undergraduate and graduate studies; those who coordinate themselves to help fellow Mayans in need, be it in North America, Sri Lanka or in any other part of the world.

Being part of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of MGCAANA has helped each of us to hone our leadership skills, become better at decision-making, foster friendships, become resilient to change, give back to where we came from, give back to where we are right now, help each other, respect each other, and ultimately benefitting the society we live in.

Therefore, we very much encourage you to run in the elections we will have in around May 2017 at the Annual General Meeting. If you are interested, please send an e-mail to mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com with a brief bio of yourself.

We hope you are interested!

Sincerely,

The MGCAANA Executive Committee & the Board of Directors, 2016-2017

Mayapuwath: <http://www.mahamayaalumnina.org/newsletter.html>

VSTF: <http://www.mahamayaalumnina.org/vstf.php>

Mission: <http://www.mahamayaalumnina.org/aboutus.html>

Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America

Congratulations to our 2016-2017 Scholarship Recipient!

We received applications from several of our alumnae who have demonstrated excellence in their academic achievements, leadership ability, and participation in extracurricular activities. We would like to thank all our applicants who took the time and effort to send in their application. Our goal is to motivate our student members to shine academically as well as personally, so we truly hope that you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity in the years to come, if you did not receive a scholarship this year. As always, if there is anything that we can do to help you, please let us know.

We are extremely proud to announce our 2016-2017 MGCAANA Scholar – **Samudani Dhanasekara**. As this year's MGCAANA scholar, Samudani will receive a \$500.00 scholarship.

Samudani Dhanasekara is currently pursuing a PhD in Nutritional Sciences at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. She holds a Master's degree in Nutritional Sciences also from Texas Tech University and a degree of Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. Before moving to Texas, she worked as a Medical Officer in several hospitals including Peradeniya Teaching Hospital, Kandy General Hospital and Colombo North Teaching Hospital. While at Mahamaya, she passed both G.C.E. Ordinary Level and Advanced Level examinations with flying colors, ranking 12th in Kandy district in the latter.

On behalf of MGCAANA, the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and the Scholarship Selection Committee would like to sincerely congratulate Samudani and wish her continued success in her academic and professional pursuits.

Best regards,
Vihara Dharmaratne
Chairperson, Selection Committee
MGCAANA Undergraduate & Graduate Scholarship Program



SAVE THE DATE!

**Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association in North
America (MGCAANA)**

**WILL HOLD ITS
13th Annual MGCAANA AGM and Dinner**

**on Sunday, May 28, 2017
In Austin, Texas**

MORE INFORMATION TO COME!

If you're a MGCAANA member or know of any Mahamaya alumnae living in Austin, TX area and would like to assist the host with organizing the event, please write to us at mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com



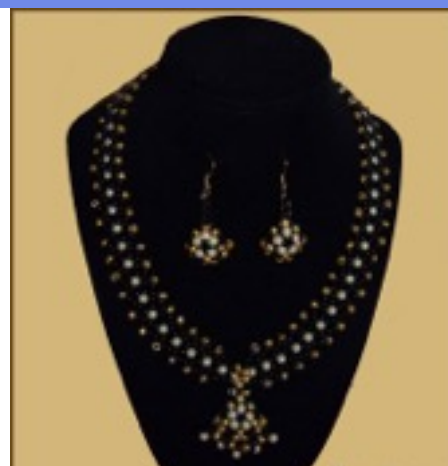
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Amala Jayasekara (nee De Silva)

- Amala was a student of Mahamaya College from 1970 to 1976 and was boarded at the school hostel. She became a Vice Captain of Sangamitta House in 1973 and was appointed as School Captain in 1974/1975. She was the President of the Buddhist Society and the Arts Circle and a member of the school choir.
- Amala graduated from the University of Peradeniya in 1976 and completed her postgraduate studies in Agricultural Engineering at Utah State University in USA. She then worked at the Department of Agricultural Engineering at the Faculty of Agriculture and the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya until 1994. Amala was elected as the first female President of the Agricultural Engineering Society of Sri Lanka.
- Once migrated to Australia with her family in 1994, Amala worked at RMIT University in Melbourne and then joined the Australian Government in 1999. In Canberra, she worked in several government portfolios, including water, environment, agriculture and education, taking up various scientific, policy, program management and regulatory roles. She also represented the Australian Government at several UN/FAO multilateral meetings on international chemicals management.
- Amala has retired from her Australian Public Service position to pursue her other interests, including creative writing.



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