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Maya Puwath

BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF MGCAANA



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Mahamaya Girls' College
Alumnae Association of North
America

Dear Members,

Suba Aluth Avurudak Wewa!!!

Living in the Northeast, in April I always feel a sense of relief. I think, no more worrying about driving to work in snow. Ok, granted during the last few winters we probably had big snows only about 2 to 3 times and on those days called in to say will be in only after the roads are clear. Regardless, the contemplation of driving in the snow is what worries me. This year, the biggest snow we had in Albany actually came at the tail end of Winter in mid-March. So the thawing was quick. Then, my 11 year old son was not interested in playing in the snow this time. Perhaps, it was the draw of the electronics or was it he is growing up? Not sure! Watching the snow fall and appreciating the beauty of snow with a cup of hot chocolate from inside the house is lovely.

I can hear the birds chirping outside as I write. The birds that come every Spring and make a nest on top of a column in our front porch already made the nest. I see the baby bird peeking out and the adult bird flying away perhaps to get food for the baby. Days are getting longer. Clothes lighter. It is with excitement, I can plan for Summer and children's school vacations.

Now to MCCAANA business: I would like to take this opportunity to recruit members for the Newsletter Committee. Your contribution is appreciated. If you are interested, please reach out to the current Board or myself.

Vajeera Dorabawila
Issue Editor

Message from the President of MGCAANA

Hello Everyone,

Hope you all had a lovely Aurudu surrounded by family and friends that treasure you. My name is Nelum Dorabawila residing in Derwood, Maryland. I was fortunate to be a Mayan and again fortunate to be part of MGCAANA and it's dreams. I have been part of MGCAANA from its initial stages.

Memories that we all can relate to, as Mayans:

Looking back at my life I would say some of the most beautiful memories I own have been at Mahamaya, with my friends, and my teachers. That school standing gracefully on that hill looking out at the lake and its beautiful surroundings with young children in pure white dresses like a flock of swans going to and fro from classes all come back to me now and my heart skips a beat and a tear escapes. I remember how we were made to take responsibility in a stride, not a big deal just part of the deal, doing all that we did in school, I am amazed at how we did it. I don't remember the tiredness or any boredom but only excitement.

What we all have gained:

Mahamaya helped me shape who and what I am today. She gave me the foundation of goodness, and building on that is never hard. When I speak to other Mayans I hear the same message. There are no age barriers or generation barriers to this message. Try to do what is good by you and by others. I suppose when this is the living atmosphere of a school you automatically adjust to that rhythm.

To stand strong, we need your help.

I have been fortunate to become the President of MGCAANA for a short while. There is much I wish I could have done and much I wish I could do, but we need the help of our membership. We need your ideas and interactions. We need you to reach out to the Mayans out there who are not part of our membership. We need you to reach inside your heart, as I know most of you feel what I feel for Mahamaya, to come together as a family united to stand strong and have a vision to take MGCAANA forward. I thank all of you who are already on board and looking forward to the others who wish to come forward with your talents and your commitments to take this journey. It will be good to give back to our Alma mater what little we can.

Thank you,
Nelum Dorabawila
Current President, MGCAANA

We Collect

By Nilmini (nee Wickramarathene) Dorabawila

We fight for land to own and build
We fight for a house to mould a home
We fight with each other and make such a scene
To hang on to something that isn't ours to dream

We live in a land beautiful and pure
Filled with the goodness nature beholds
The trees the earth the soil so rich
In this land that we dare to call our own

We uproot the forests and clear the trees
Take away the homes of so many beings
To make houses for human beings
We do the most oddest of things

Why do we not get that we are only here
For a moment in life and in eternity
All that we fight for all that we "own"
Are things that will slip from our fingers alone

We are born with a body that we call our own
One that we can't stop the aging or the mold
We think this body will last a lot more
And we do things wanting more and more

We are all sentinel beings passing through
This earth is our home for all these beings
If we have three houses or more does not mean
That we are superior that the rest of the beings

We make money, a paper which we cannot eat
We collect it in banks and multiply them as a whim
Those that have so much don't look at the rest
They don't feel the hunger or the joy within

We Collect (continued)

By Nilmini (nee Wickramarathene) Dorabawila

Why do we fight all the time for something not ours
When death takes us away we leave it all behind
And the only things that go with us for sure
Are the good and bad things that we have done

If the good is more than the bad
We have a chance in the next life
No matter who or what we are
All we take is what we have done

We go on living as if days we have many
Fight with each other and how ever many
To collect more and much more things
Destroying nature and killing other beings

The arrogance that we human beings
Have will guarantee only one thing
If this behavior goes on much longer
We will be a race that has already "been"

Protect nature the mother of our lives
She who gives us more than we need
There is plenty to go around
Without killing another and making own

See with your heart and keep safe
Yourself and all other beings
And when you start protecting something not yours
Nature will auto protect your all



**Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae
Association in North America (MGCAANA)**
cordially invites you to the
13th Annual MGCAANA AGM and Dinner

Date: 28th May, 2017

Host: Anusha Nanayakkara family and Mayans in Texas

AGM

Venue: Little Walnut Creek
Branch,
835 W Rundberg Ln,
Austin, TX 78758

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Dinner

Venue: Residence of
Anusha Nanayakkara

*(please see e-mail sent to MGCAANA
members on March 21, 2017 for address)*

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

Attractions in Austin, Texas

Capitol Building:

Austin is the State Capital. The Capitol building was built in 1888, and it is a granite and marble structure that has a significant rotunda and dome, House and Senate chambers. Address: 1100, Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78701



(Source: Wikipedia)

Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library and Museum:

Exhibits about President Johnson; Location: The University of Texas, Address: Austin. 2313 Red River St, Austin, TX 78705



Lady Bird Lake:

It is a reservoir in the Colorado River in Downtown, Austin

Barton Spring Pool:

Spring-fed pool maintaining 68° F temperature year-round with lifeguards on.

Bullock Texas State History Museum:

Exhibits on history and culture of Texas.



Lake Travis:

Camping, parks and Jet Ski

Zilker Botanical Garden:

31-acre garden with native and exotic flowers and plants, ponds and trails, and educational programs for kids.



(Source: Google)

Blanton Museum of Art:

Art collection of University of Texas; Renaissance to 20th century American paintings, Latin American art, and Greek and Roman sculptures.

Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum of Art:

Artistic works of American sculptor Charles Umlauf. In 1985, Charles and Angeline Umlauf donated their home, studio, and 168 Umlauf sculptures to the City of Austin. Six years later, in 1991, the city built a museum to display the artwork on adjoining city property.



Austin Aquarium and Austin Zoo:



The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, Dallas: 3 hours from Austin, Texas

Comprehensive exhibits on John F. Kennedy's presidency and assassination at site of the sniper's nest. Address: 411 Elm St, Dallas, TX 75202



Space Center, Houston: 3 hours from Austin, Texas

Many exhibits, film shows, models, astronaut-related artifacts, moon rock, objects collected during the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo space programs, experience a space simulator.

Big Bend National Park: 6 hours from Austin, Texas



FRIENDS

By: Sineth Jayasundera

There are many kinds of friends,
Some are to never end.
Even with them there are ups and downs,
There are some which go off then and now.

Even so, you must not betray them.
Even when times are hard.
Even when life is fray.
When there is there is nothing to light up your way.

Your friends are people who you play with in glee.
Your friends are people like you or me.
Your friends are people who don't leave you in the dust.
Your friends are people you know you can trust.



The most memorable people in life will be those that loved you when you were not very lovable!!!

Good friends don't let you do stupid things –ALONE.

Recent Achievements by Mahamaya Students

Below are some recent ALL ISLAND victories Mahamayans have achieved back home.

- Second place at Ordinary Level Examinations: S.M. Munasinghe.
 - Crowned first place in Chartered Accountants Sri Lanka Business Plan Competition 2017: This is an effort to encourage innovation in business planning. Richmond College was first runners up and Visakha Vidyalaya was the second runner up.
 - First place in the all island swimming competition. Visaka Vidyalaya second, Museus College third and Ladies College fourth.
- Congratulations to them for these achievements!!!!



Mahamaya Swimming Team



Team's Best Swimmer: Uththama de Silva

Photos Courtesy Nilmini Ratnayake



Acknowledgement: We greatly appreciate Medha Bulumulla in compiling this issue. Medha is a Grade 10 student at Niskayuna High School, Niskayuna, New York.

A PUBLICATION OF THE MAHAMAYA GIRLS' COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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