

Maya Puwath - මායා පුවත්

*Bi-Monthly Newsletter of Mahamaya Girls' College
Alumnae Association of North America (MGCAANA)*

Volume 15 – Issue 2 – April 2019



Message from the Editors

Dear readers,

As winter has hopefully come to an end for most of us across North America, April has no doubt seen its ups and downs. While early to mid-April was filled with exciting New Year celebrations for most of us, all Sri Lankans, including our MGCAANA family were saddened and shocked to see so many innocent lives lost due to recent attacks. As we all grieve together, we hope that you take good care of yourselves and those around you.

In this issue, you will find more information about the upcoming 15th Annual General Meeting of MGCAANA that is slated to take place on May 25, 2019 in West Hartford, Connecticut. We hope to see most of our Maya Puwath readers there. The Board of Directors and our hosts from Connecticut are working hard to organize the AGM and the dinner as we speak.

We interviewed one of our former MGCAANA Presidents Geetha Eragoda for our interview segment, and we hope especially our non-MGCAANA members will read it. Her experience with both Mahamaya and MGCAANA is truly inspiring, and she has some encouraging words for Mayans in North America who have not yet joined MGCAANA.

We are also featuring a tasty recipe by one of our MGCAANA members: Easy coffee cake. Do let us know if you try it out. We have also shared links to albums from a couple of events that have taken place at Mahamaya this year, beautifully-captured by our sisters from the Mahamaya Girls' College Photographic Society. Hope you enjoy them and reminisce good times we have all had while attending Mahamaya.

Take care,

Maya Puwath Newsletter Committee

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- Info - 15th AGM of MGCCAANA
- The Interview
- Recipe Corner
- Mahamaya News
- MGCAANA News
- MGCAANA Fundraising



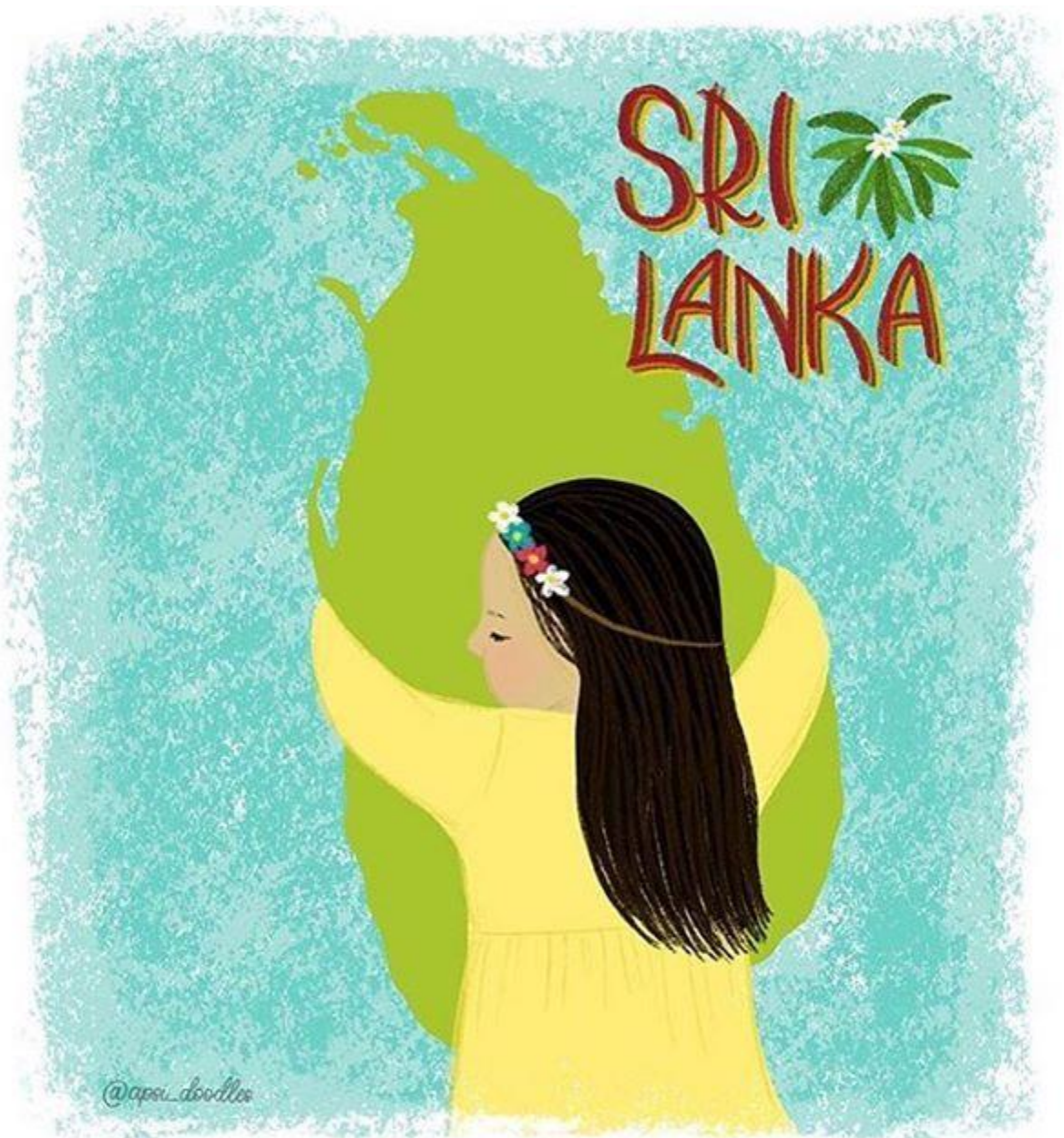
***Idha socati pecca socati
papakari ubhayattha socati
so socati so vihannati
disva kammakilitthamattano.***



“Here he grieves, hereafter
he grieves; the evil-doer
grieves in both existences.
He grieves and he suffers
anguish when he sees the
depravity of his own deeds.”

Dhammapada (Verse 15)

MGCAANA offers its deepest sympathies to the families of the many lives lost from the recent attacks in Sri Lanka.



SAVE tHE DATE!

**15th Annual General Meeting of
Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae
Association in North America (MGCAANA)**

When: Saturday, May 25, 2019

Where: University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West
Hartford, Connecticut 06117, USA

Host: Dr. Hashini Mohottala

Nearest Airport: <http://www.bradleyairport.com/>

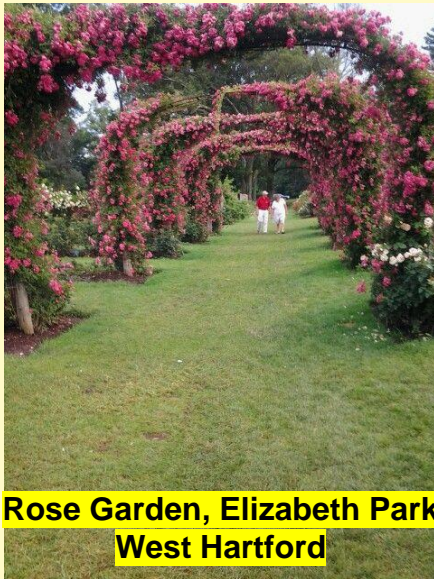
*The AGM will be followed by a dinner reception (Haveli India,
1300 S Main St, Middletown, CT 06457). For specific
inquiries, please write to us at
mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com.*



PLAN YOUR TRIP AND SEE YOU IN MAY 2019!

PLANNING YOUR AGM TRIP!

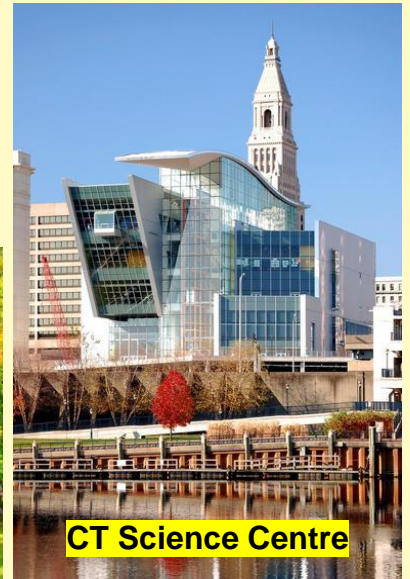
NEARBY ATTRACTIONS



**Rose Garden, Elizabeth Park
West Hartford**



Mark Twain House



CT Science Centre

OTHER ATTRACTIONS IN CONNECTICUT



Gillette Castle



Mystic Seaport



**Essex Steam Train and
Riverboat experience**



Foxwoods Highflyer

The Interview

In this segment, the Maya Puwath team sits down with a MGCAANA member to hear about what they are up to these days, their experience with MGCAANA, and any advice and tips they would like to share with our readers. E-mail mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com if you would like to be interviewed by the Maya Puwath team or if you know of a MGCAANA member you would like featured in "The Interview".

Geetha Eragoda

Q: Please tell us a bit about who you are and what you are up to these days

A: I am a proud Mayan and an alumna of the class of 1984. After Mahamaya, I joined the Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Peradeniya as a Technical Officer. Through the faculty, I received the opportunity to study Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology, a relatively new field at that time, at the University of London, Wye College in Kent. At Peradeniya, I helped setting up the laboratory, worked in research, and helped with graduate/undergraduate studies in the field of Plant Tissue Culture.



When my daughter turned one, I joined the OGA committee in Kandy, hoping to see my daughter become a proud Mayan too. At the time, due to the demand and volume of work, the OGA divided the main committee into 3 sub-committees. I was honored to become the president of the youngest committee. We were able to carry out various projects for the school and the community. I was a proud Mayan parent for two years. Then, in 1997, I moved to California with my two children and husband. When my daughter was born, I had completed an Open University Diploma on Early Childhood Education for fun. In Los Angeles, I was able to continue in this field of early childhood development and become a primary/pre-school teacher. As a mother of a six-year old and a two-year old at the time, teaching was the best option for me. In 2004, I started my own childcare program and have continued it to date.

Q: Can you talk a bit about your experience with MGCAANA?

A: In 2010, I received a call from one of our founding members, Neranjika Dissanayake. She asked me to host the AGM in Los Angeles that year, and I agreed. I then went on to become a member and treasurer that year. I was compelled to join due to the beauty of the sisterhood and the warmth in that initial conversation with Neranjika. Becoming the treasurer that first year gave me the opportunity to learn about the history, vision, and mission of MGCAANA. I gave a hard time to Neranjika Dissanayake, Himashinie Diyabalanage, and Mrs. Werake, questioning everything to learn about what had been done so far at MGCAANA. They were very kind and supportive. I was very impressed with all the good work being carried out by MGCAANA and its outcomes. I am so glad and thankful that Mrs. Werake, Neranjika Dissanayake, Harshi Ehalepola, and Arushie Nugapitiya spent their time and energy to have MGCAANA registered as a non-profit organization here. I have been lucky and humbly honored to serve in committees as a VSTF co-chair, president for two terms, and now as an advisor. I simply enjoy being involved with MGCAANA, and I treasure the friendships that have been built along the way.

The Interview (contd.)

In this segment, the Maya Puwath team sits down with a MGCAANA member to hear about what they are up to these days, their experience with MGCAANA, and any advice and tips they would like to share with our readers. E-mail mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com if you would like to be interviewed by the Maya Puwath team or if you know of a MGCAANA member you would like featured in "The Interview".

Geetha Eragoda (contd.)

Q: You have helped out MGCAANA significantly in your role as a member of the Advisory Committee. For those new to MGCAANA, can you speak to what your role entails?

A: As a member of the Advisory Committee, I strive to help find balance between established MGCAANA traditions and new ideas, which will pave the way for the growth of our organization. This role can be challenging at times. With the experience that I have gained so far, I am trying my best to help move forward MGCAANA's vision and mission with that balance. It is similar to raising a child and helping her grow wings to fly, while holding onto important roots.

Q: What do you do for fun? What are your hobbies?

A: I love reading and traveling a lot. I find it exciting to learn about different customs and ways of life in various regions of the world. I love trying different types of authentic cuisine too. Also, learning how to cook these dishes is fun. I enjoy getting together with extended family and friends, watching foreign films, and listening to music and dancing.

Q: You are definitely one of the most active MGCAANA members we are lucky to have. We have readers who are not yet members of MGCAANA. What's your message to them, to encourage them to become members of our great organization?

A: MGCAANA is not only a place, where we can contribute back to our alma mater, but it is also a place, where we create bonds with our sisterhood that can last a lifetime. We learn to respect our similarities and differences and work as a team on common goals. We are a support system that help each other during the good times and bad. You can receive and give professional or personal advice here. Most importantly, there are volunteer work opportunities that come in many forms at MGCAANA. Volunteering not only leads to personal growth, but it is also a way to give back to your community. It is humbling and rewarding to know that your small actions are helping to improve the lives of many children. I would like to specifically invite our younger generation to become involved, as I think they would find MGCAANA to be personally and professionally engaging.

Thank you so much Geetha for your valuable time and also for providing us with a couple of wonderful photos from your time at Mahamaya! It's been a pleasure interviewing you!

Thank you, my pleasure!

Coffee Cake- Easy Coffee Cake Recipe

By Suren Ranasinghe

Recipe Corner

INGREDIENTS

For the Cake:

- 180g Soften butter, using salted (at room temperature)
- 180g Sugar
- 180g All purpose flour, sifted
- 3 Eggs (room temperature)
- 2 tbsp of coffee (any ground coffee)
- 2 1/2 tbsp of hot water to dissolve coffee
- 1 tsp Brandy (optional)
- 1 1/2 tsp Baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 Cup of Walnuts chopped (can substitute with cashews, almonds)

STEPS

** Bake in 350F degrees for 35 minutes or until a skewer inserted comes out clean (Time might change with different ovens)*

Cake

- Beat butter till light & smooth
- Add sugar in sections (3 section) & beat together
- Scrape the bowl occasionally to combine everything together
- Start adding one egg at a time while beating
- Combine Flour, Baking powder, Salt & sift to the batter
- Fold flour into the batter using a spatula, don't overmix the batter
- Dissolve coffee in water, mix well
- Pour the coffee mixture to the batter with brandy & fold it in
- Transfer batter to the pan, level it & tap couple times to release air bubbles
- Bake of 35 minutes or until a skewer inserted comes out clean
- When baked, leave the cake in the pan for about 1015 minutes then release the edges using a knife or a spatula & transfer to a cooling rack
- Cool completely to room temperature before frosting/icing

For Frosting:

- 113g Soften butter
- 260g Confectioners sugar(icing sugar)
- 1 tsp Nescafe/ coffee
- 11/4 tsp warm water to dissolve coffee
- 2 tsp of Cocoa powder
- Few Coffee beans for decorations



Frosting

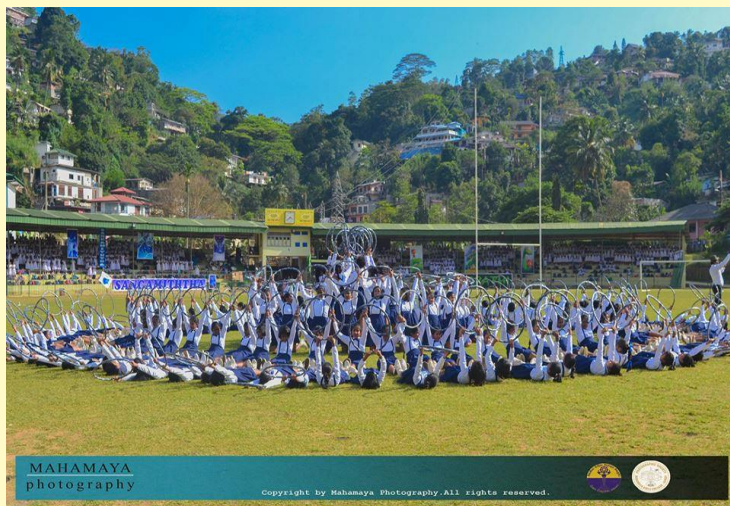
- Beat butter till light & fluffy(beat for about 5 minutes)
- To the confectioners sugar add cocoa powder, sift together & add to butter in portions
- Keep beating the frosting while adding confectioners sugar for few minutes
- Mix coffee with water & add to the frosting mixture
- Beat everything together

Assembling

- Cut the cake from the middle to separate into two sections, I am eyeballing here
- After separating into two, take the top layer invert it & apply a thin layer of frosting on to it
- Add a layer of chopped walnuts on to the frosting
- Place the bottom layer bottom side facing up, on top of the first layer
- Fill the gaps in-between the layers & frost the entire cake
- Pipe some flowers on top, decorate with coffee beans :)

PHOTOS: MAHAMAYA GIRLS' COLLEGE ANNUAL INTER HOUSE SPORTS MEET 2019

The Inter House Sports Meet of Mahamaya Girls' College Kandy was held on January 30, 2019 at the Bogambara Stadium. The house cup was won by Sangamiththa House. Follow this [link](#) to see the how Mahamaya Girls' College Photographic Society captured the annual event.



PHOTOS: MAHAMAYA GIRLS' COLLEGE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL 2019

The New Year Festival of Mahamaya Girls' College was held on 4th of April 2019. The festivities brought together teachers and students through various events. Follow this [link](#) to see the how Mahamaya Girls' College Photographic Society captured the event.



Want to know what your Board of Directors (BOD) are up to?

Please read the minutes of the BOD's monthly meetings posted on MGCAANA website:

<http://www.mahamayaalumnina.org/minutes.php>

If you have new ideas, concerns, or suggestions to improve how MGCAANA operates etc. please feel free to connect with the BOD through e-mail:

Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com

2019 MGCAANA Fundraising Project

The MGCAANA Board of Directors recently concluded its 2019 Fundraising Project, raising \$200.00! Thank you to all who participated!



MGCAANA Mug (11 oz)

OR

3 Premium ballpoint pens in black

OR



MGCAANA Notebook



Contributing to Maya Puwath

Contributing to Maya Puwath is a great and easy way you could be an active member of MGCAANA. We accept content produced by you, articles written by others with proper acknowledgement, as well as news from Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy, Sri Lanka.

No time to write an article but would still like to contribute to Maya Puwath? Not a problem! We welcome content produced by children of MGCAANA member that we will feature in the Kids' Corner of Maya Puwath.

Please send your contributions to the upcoming October issue of Maya Puwath:

Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com

Newsletter Committee: Vihara Dharmaratne, Vajeera Dorabawila, Lilika Molligoda

Maya Puwath is a publication of Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association in North America (MGCAANA)