

Maya Puwath - මායා පුවත්

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

Volume 15 – Issue 3 – June 2019



Message from the Editors

Dear readers,

It has been quite a busy time for MGCAANA since our last newsletter. MGCAANA celebrated its 15th Annual General Meeting and Dinner in Connecticut on the 25th of May 2019. The AGM was a memorable event with the presentation of the last years annual report, financial report and the appointing of the new BOD for the year 2019/2020. It was also a time of renewing old friendships and forming new ones. Many of the families of the Alumna were present and made the event a great success. There were fund raising events and generous donations were made for MGCAANA. Enjoy the photographs attached in this newsletter of the AGM!

Take care,

Maya Puwath Newsletter Committee

In this issue

- 15th AGM of MGCCAANA
- The New MGCAANA BOD
- The Interview
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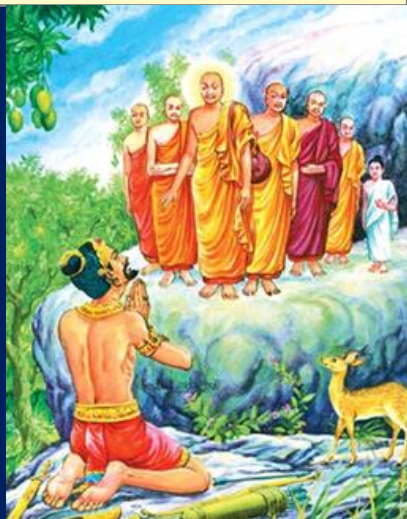
*Na paresam vilomani
na paresam katakatam
attanova avekkheyya
katani akatani ca. .*



“One should not consider the faults of others, nor their doing or not doing good or bad deeds. One should consider only whether one has done or not done good or bad deeds.”

[Dhammapada \(Verse 50\)](#)

Poson Full Moon Poya
Day
June 27, 2019



15th Annual General Meeting (AGM) & Dinner of Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association in North America

MGCAANA held its 15th AGM & Dinner in Hartford Connecticut on Saturday, May 25th, 2019. The event was a great success and a memorable experience for all who attended. There were fourteen Mayans along with their families. The meeting took place at Hartford University. A special thanks go to Dr. Hashini Mohottala and the Mayans from Connecticut for hosting and organizing both the AGM and Dinner dance and a special thanks to Hartford University for providing the venue for no charge. At the meeting, MGCAANA appointed their new BOD and executive committee.

After the meeting, all the members and their family held to the dinner venue which was decorated by Husbands of our host and fellow Mayans in Connecticut. Our lovely organizer did a great job planning the event; in fact, this year, we were accompanied by a lovely DJ and a photographer who came to the event on their own time; I thank them on behalf of MGCAANA. The dinner dance was a success with a lot of laughs, dances, and pictures.

Thank you, all our members, for a lovely year. Looking forward to another great year. Enjoy the pictures of AGM and Dinner dance.

Sincerely,
Berlini Narampanawe,
Outgoing President of MGCAANA (2018-2019)

A big thank you to the following members for attendance!!!

Amali Alawatta
Kalinka Dissanayake
Nirupa Dissanayake
Senali Dissanayake
Vajeera Dorabawila

Anjani Golpotthawela
Devi Gunsekara
Rukshika Hewawasam
Taroshini Kasturiarachchi
Hashini Mohottala

Berlini Narampanawe
Preeni Sadanayaka
Vindya Thilakarathne
Chandima Weerakkody
Savithri Weerasooriya

Annual General Meeting (AGM)



Annual General Meeting (AGM) Dinner



New Board of Directors and Officers

Board of Directors

- Amali Alawatta
- Senali Dissanayake
- Devi Gunasekara (nee Subasinghe)
- Hashini Mohottala
- Berlini Narampanawe
- Shalini Wijeratne

Officers

President: Senali Dissanayake
Vice President: Amali Alawatta
Secretary: Berlini Narampanawe
Treasurer: Devi Gunasekara
Web Master: Berlini Narampanawe

Dear Mayan community,

It has been a great honor to address you as the newly elected president of the Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association in North America (MGCAANA) for the term 2019-2020. First and foremost, I would like to thank the pioneers of our organization, past board of directors (BOD) and all the past and current members for their contribution. I would also like to specially thank all the members who attended and whose help were paramount in organizing the recent AGM which was held in Connecticut.

Since the birth of MGCAANA in 2005, we have accomplished so much in providing scholarships, donating for charity and supporting our community in numerous ways which has also led to our own personal growth and a strong bond among our Mayan sisters as well. For the new term, I and the new BOD, are looking forward to working together with all the dedicated and strong ladies of MGCAANA to reach our goals as a group. We will be committed in continuing worthy causes, doing much more for the betterment of our school and our association. In accordance with our mission "work together to benefit the society", I invite you all to be a part of that journey and continue your great Mayan legacy!

Sincerely,

Senali Dissanayake

Incoming President of MGCAANA (2019-2020)

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".

Q: Senali, congratulations on recently becoming the President of MGCAANA! Since you are fairly new to MGCAANA, tell us a bit about who you are, for fellow MGCAANA members to get to know a bit about you.

A: Hi, thank you for nominating me and trusting me on this responsibility! I was so excited when I first heard about MGCAANA and now that being able to actively participate, I'm feeling very lucky and humbly honored. I was fortunate and blessed to be a daughter of mother Mahamaya for my entire school life. After leaving my alma mater, I got selected to University of Peradeniya (UOP) where I specialized in physics. After graduation I worked as a teaching assistant at UOP and then as a temporary lecturer in Uva wellassa university. Then I received a fellowship to pursue my higher studies in the USA and I have been here for almost 3 years. I am currently a graduate student in the department of physics at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. As a physicist, I'm working on terahertz spectroscopy to characterize semiconductors in order to enhance the efficiency of solar cells.



Q: Please tell us a bit about your experience while at Mahamaya. How was it like, and what kind of activities were you involved in while studying there?

A: In my time at Mahamaya Girl's college, I have been serving as a Little Friend, a Guide and a Senior Guide respectively until I graduated. I was a member of the chess team, primary western band and many societies under the shade of my alma mater. Moreover, during my school life, I won certificates in Olympiad Mathematics competition and Australian National Chemistry quiz. I'm proud to say that as a Mayan, I have hoisted her banner in both educational and extracurricular aspects.

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".

Senali Dissanayake (contd.)

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

A: During my spare time, I like to travel, hike and do nature photography. I also like to watch movies and read novels whenever the time permits. Moreover, listening to music is my all-time favorite.

Q: 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: As the newest president, I would like to make a friendly request to join us and feel the warmth and beauty of this sisterhood. This will be a great opportunity for you to create bonds, contribute back to your community and alma mater. One of the major give-backs is the scholarships for our Mayan sisters who are still studying in Mahamaya. I find this especially rewarding as you realize how our small contributions could hugely impact a life. We are also a support system where anyone can seek personal and professional help. The number of Mayan sisters residing in North America is increasing in every year without a doubt and yet, most of them are still not MGCAANA members. Imagine what we can achieve if everyone of us support for the same cause. Therefore, I take this opportunity to invite new members to our MGCAANA family.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to share with us, as the newest President of MGCAANA?

A: I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude towards the founders for giving the thought to form this organization and then actually working towards that goal until it became a reality. You all have proved that if one has the will power, nothing is impossible. I find the history of the organization itself as an inspiring story! With the initiation in 2005, the organization has grown rapidly and strongly by today, thanks to all the members who believed in this from day one and invested their effort and love throughout the MGCAANA journey. I appreciate the work of all the dedicated members – you all are our pillars of success! I'm more than proud to be a part of it and I'm very grateful that I have an awesome support team! I'm open to any suggestions, proposals that you may have, to serve MGCAANA and I'm looking forward to working together with all the wonderful Mayans!

Thank you so much Senali for your valuable time! It's been a pleasure interviewing you and we look forward to your leadership in MGCAANA!

Thank you, my pleasure!

Broken glass pudding- Super easy Jello pudding By Sureni Ranasinghe

Recipe Corner

Easy & a cooling dessert for summertime!

Ingredients:

- 2 Packs of Jello- Red & Blue (or any other color as preferred)
- 2 Cup Cold water
- 2 Cups hot water

For the Custard:

- 1 can condensed milk
- 1/2 cup of cold water
- 4 tsps of gelatin
- 1 1/2 cups of hot water



Two separate dishes, using 2 (15*10) pyrex dishes to make the jello
Separate dish to, (little bigger than 15*10) to assemble the pudding, (if assembling the whole thing in one)
Butter the dishes, or apply non stick spray & wipe off the excess oil

How to make:

To make the jello,

- Take one jello packet at a time and pour the pack into a container
- Add one cup of hot water and dissolve
- Add one cup of cold water and stir
- Pour the mixture to 15*10 dish and chill in the fridge for about 4-5 hours until set

Do the same to the other color jello pack..

When both jello are set & firm, cut them into squares. Run a knife through the jello pudding to make squares

For the custard:

- Add gelatin to a medium size bowl
- Add cold water & stir until gelatin is dissolved
- Add hot water
- Pour condensed milk & stir to combine everything

Assembly:

- Transfer both color of jello squares to one dish, make sure to spread them around gently while mixing both colors evenly
- Carefully pour the custard mix on top to cover all jello
- Set again in the fridge until firm, for 4-5 hours or overnight.

Enjoy as is OR with whip cream OR with Ice cream!

Link for the recipe: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJVdIYpXilU>

Want to know what your new 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

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

Interested in joining the Maya Puwath Newsletter Committee?

The Maya Puwath Newsletter Committee has been one of the most active MGCAANA committees since the beginning of our Association. Many active MGCAANA members have worked hard over the years to connect MGCAANA members and well-wishers to the latest news about MGCAANA activities as well as Mahamaya.

Working as part of this Committee, you will gain and hone many skills, including writing, graphic design, communication, research, just to name a few. You will also get an opportunity to work more closely with a few fellow Mayans in the Committee.

If interested, please contact the current Maya Puwath Newsletter Committee at:

Mayamaya_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)