



# MAYA PUWATH

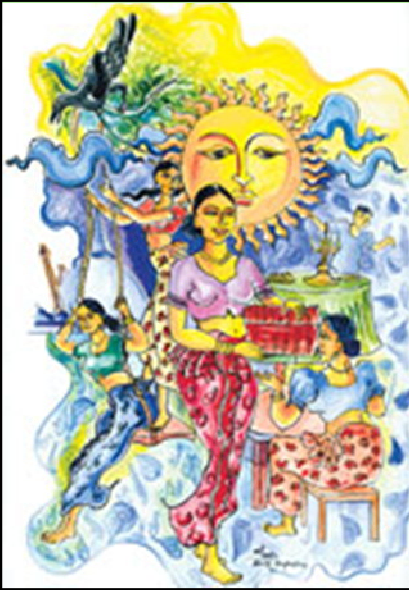
Volume 5 Issue 2 –April, 2009

Hello Everyone!

It is time again for celebration and prosperity; the time of milk rice, sweet meats, and hospitality with overflowing abundance. It is also the time to renew our friendships and relationships and be grateful for people, love and blessings in our lives; the time to look back and let go of bad tidings and look forward to taking forth the good things; the time to forgive and forget. It is time to be united and forgo the differences. It is *Aluth Avurudu* or *Puththandu* again. Here's wishing all our readers, your loved ones, family members a wonderful and a joyous, happy and a prosperous Sinhala and Tamil New Year!

## **Dhammapada :**

"This world is blind-because few are here who see within, just as few birds break free from the nest to go see the heavens."  
~ Lord Buddha



We are dedicating this month's issue of the Newsletter for the topic for *Aluth Avurudu/Puththandu*. Even though we live far away from our homeland this is a special occasion in which we have a common ground to celebrate as Sri Lankans. In these trying times it is good to hear how everyone made this time of the year special in this land away from home.

This Avurudu topic will be something that will appear every year in our Newsletters. So make sure to make a note of all the activities that took place during this festive season and share it with the rest of the Mayans in the next Avurudu issue.

In this issue, you will also see news about the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> AGM of MGCAANA, which is to be held on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 in Des Moines, Iowa.

As usual, it falls on the Memorial-Day weekend and we would be delighted to have you join us. The AGM is to be hosted by fellow Mayan Neranjika Dissanayake and her husband Sanjaya Amaratunga . We hope that many of you will make the effort to attend the AGM. It is only your presence that will make this get together a special occasion. For more details about the AGM please refer to later pages of this issue.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM and wish all our readers a Happy and a Prosperous Sinhala and Tamil New Year!

**Editorial Committee: Nazrana Cafforr, Priyanka Jayakody, Dakshika Bandaranayake, Pamuditha Mahadiulwewa**



Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America  
2417 NE 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Renton, Washington 98056, U.S.A.

Website: [www.mahamayaalumna.org](http://www.mahamayaalumna.org)

E-mail: [Mahamaya\\_alumnae@yahoo.com](mailto:Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com)

## **Notice for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

You are hereby notified that the Fifth Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America (MGCAANA) to be held on:

**Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 at 12.00 p.m. (CST)**

**At**

**Waukee Public Library  
950 Warrior Lane, Waukee, IA 50263**

### The Agenda of the Meeting

1. Welcome speech by the President
2. Speeches by the Board of Directors and Officers
3. Presentation of the Annual Report by the Secretary
4. Presentation of the Accounting Report by the Treasurer
5. Election of new Directors for the year 2009-2010
6. Election of members for various committees
7. Any other matter
8. Vote of thanks

### Accommodation and Transportation:

If you are planning to attend the Fifth Annual General Meeting and need further information about accommodation and/or transportation, please visit our website at [www.mahamayaalumna.org](http://www.mahamayaalumna.org) or e-mail us at [ma-hamaya\\_alumnae@yahoo.com](mailto:ma-hamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com).

## **Dinner after the AGM:**

Following the meeting, Neranjika Dissanayaka and her husband Sanjaya Amarathunga will be hosting a dinner at their residence. All the attendees, their spouses/fiancés, children, and family are cordially invited for this social gathering. More information will be provided at the meeting.

Address of the Amarathunga residence:

16437, Oakbrook Dr,

Clive, Iowa 50325

• 515-987-3139 (Home) • 515-988-2875(Cell)

## **Elections**

Ballot forms and information about the AGM have been mailed to all our members. If you have not received them for some unforeseen reason, please go to our website and use the electronic ballot for voting. The information about the AGM is on our website. Ballot is available here:

<http://www.mahamayaalumnina.org/ballot0910.php>

## **Proxy Ballot**

If you **do not** plan to attend the Annual General Meeting in person, please cast your proxy vote, sign, and date the enclosed proxy ballot form and return it promptly to *MGCAANA, 2417 NE 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Renton, WA - 98056, U.S.A.* before May 18, 2009. If you will be present at the AGM, you may vote in person, instead of by proxy.

All the ballot forms will be opened and counted at the Annual General Meeting by an appointed official. We assure you that utmost confidentiality will be observed in the voting process whether you vote online, using the ballot form, or in person at the AGM.

If you have any questions please email us at: [mahamaya\\_alumnae@yahoo.com](mailto:mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com).

We, the Board of Directors and Officers of MGCAANA, thank you very much for your continuous support and hope to see you at the Fourth Annual General Meeting.

**Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, 2008/2009**

**MGCAANA**

## My first new year in USA

I was excited to know that Sri Lankans in Lubbock were organizing "Aluth Avurudu" celebrations every year in April. I came to USA in January 2008 and I was floating in thoughts between Sri Lanka and USA at that time. Hearing about this event therefore, made me extremely delightful. We are going to celebrate our new year!!!!

I had thousand and one questions about it. But the answers for my questions made me very sad....may be because I was new to this land and couldn't figure out the way things were done.

"Are we going to have *kotta pora* game?" That was my first question. Oh yes! They told me. "But how are we going to make those bars to play on?" That's me again. "Well, we use a small bench to play". What? A bench? But that's not high enough! "Hmmm, but we don't have any other way.

Then, "Are we playing *Kana mutti*?" Yes of course. "Do we have a place to buy a *mutti*"?

Are you crazy? They looked at me madly. "We buy a piñata from Wal-Mart". Then, can we put muddy water or colored water inside it? That was me again. Oh no. It's already filled with candy. Hmmm.... *Kana mutti* with candy. That sounds weird to me.

I went to see another friend to know more about the event. "Where are we making the fire with the traditional three stone stove to boil milk?" Her answer made me scared. "Come on... you have to learn the law in USA. We can't light a fire. They will sue us for attempting to make a wild fire. It's prohibited to light fires outside".

I came back to my apartment wondering how there can be a New Year celebration without boiling milk or without fire crackers. Lubbock is like a semi desert. You can hardly find a tree here. Then what about this wild fire?

Anyway we can do it in our apartment! I told my roommate about my idea. "ARE YOU NUTS?" The fire alarm will go on and everybody will dial 911. The ambulance, the fire brigade and the police will be here in a minute with their sirens screaming. Do you need such a mess here on New Year's day?"

And one more time I asked myself, "Why did I leave Sri Lanka and come to this strange land?" If only I could fly back to my motherland to have fun during the New Year, and with that dream, wishing you all a **Happy and Prosperous Sinhala and Hindu New Year!!!**

~ Hemalika Karunaratne



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## French Book Project Phase II: Heartwarming Efforts

In last month's issue we told you the story of the French book donations and the efforts of Kishani Martin and her husband to take over two hundred books to Sri Lanka. Here are some pictures that we missed from last time. Enjoy !



Himashinie Diyabalanage, long-time member and BOD of MGCAANA visited the college during her visit to Sri Lanka in 2008



A few of the French books that were taken to Sri Lanka by our dedicated MGCAANA member Kishani Martin and her husband.

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