



MAYA PUWATH

Volume 4 Issue 3 June 2008

Editorial

Hello Everyone,

Once again, it is with great pleasure and pride I'm writing this editorial in recognition of our 4th Annual General Meeting. My heartfelt gratitude goes to all the MGCAANA members and their families for their continuous hard work, sacrifices, dedication and selfless acts, which makes this organization a great success. Without a doubt, MGCAANA is moving towards a successful 4th year with a bright future lying ahead.

The 2008 AGM proudly elected and welcomed a new Board of Directors who are willing to reach for new accomplishments and goals to continue the Maya legacy. The editorial committee thanks the outgoing BOD for their excellent work and hopes they leave with memories which they would love to cherish.

Also, the **Mayhamaya Girls' College 75th Anniversary Commemorative Volume** was proudly released at the AGM. We would like to dedicate this issue of Maya Puwath in celebration of the AGM and the Commemorative Volume.

As you all know by now, the editorial committee is always composed with a limited number of members. Weeks before Maya Puwath reaches your home, we put our personal lives on hold (on the back burner) to create the best possible newsletters. This is never an easy task, but the love, dedication, and the commitment keeps us going.

For the last three years, the editorial committee has been pleading other Mayans to get involved and to be a part of the team. We came up with a new idea, which we thought would be helpful. Few weeks prior to publishing the news letter, you will receive a "reminder email" about the upcoming Maya Puwath topic and the deadline to send any type of inserts that you wish to publish; personal stories, recipes, poems, photos, new ideas, etc. Take this opportunity as an advantage to show your inner talents, inspire others, and to share your thoughts.

As we are heading for another milestone of MGCAANA, let's hope and pray for a beautiful year ahead where we can touch many lives as proud Mayans.

Priyanka Jayakody- Editor of current issue

Editorial Committee- Chathuri Nugawela-Munasinghe, Nazrana Caffoor, Dakshika Bandaranayake

Dhammapada.....Let a man be watchful of speech, well controlled in mind, and not commit evil in bodily action. Let him purify these three courses of action, and win the path made known by the Great Sage.

A masterpiece

Incredible masterpiece, **A Guiding Light** was created by our talented Publication Committee. My sincere tribute goes to following extraordinary people who made this possible.

Publication Committee

Co-chairs—

Vajeera Dorabawila

Nilmini Dorabawila

Principal Editor-

Kishani Martin

Other members-

Priyeshni Arambepola

Sriyani Dissanayaka

Sujatha Werake

Guest Editors-

Mrs. Visakha Wickremeratna

Mrs. P.W. G.Karunaratne

4th Annual General Meeting



The 4th AGM was held in May 2008 in Boston.

Himashinie Diyabalanage is presenting the Annual Report to the attendees.

On sale Now: A Guiding Light

MGCAANA released the Mahamaya Girls' College 75th Anniversary Commemorative Volume at the 4th Annual General Meeting held in Boston on May 24, 2008. Members of the Publication Committee are happy to announce that the Volume was well received.

The write-up on the back cover of the Volume aptly describes the book:

“A Guiding Light is published by the Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of Mahamaya Girls' College, an outstanding educational institution in Kandy, Sri Lanka, that provides elementary and secondary education for young women. Essays and photos submitted by Mahamaya alumnae living in North America, Australia and Sri Lanka, as well as former school administrators and teachers provide varied insights into the history and the philosophy of the school through personal experiences. Individual perspectives provide insight into how Mahamaya adapted to the social, cultural and economic changes that took place in pre and post-independent Sri Lanka with particular emphasis on how school officials adjusted to the educational policies of successive governments. They also emphasize the academic and co-curricular life at Mahamaya and the school's ability to produce talented and competent young women who have excelled in their respective fields and serve in national and international spheres.

The Volume also recounts the founding and growth of the Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America since its inception in 2004.

The Volume was published in Sri Lanka by Godage International Publishers (Pvt) Ltd.

This publication was the result of unconditional love and dedication, wonderful teamwork and persistent efforts by our Publication Committee, guest editors, endless support of Boards of Directors, and the Executive Committees of last 2 years, and the Newsletter Committee and our dedicated members who supported us. We would especially like to thank those of you who contributed articles, poems and photographs to the Volume.

How You Can Help Us:

We would like to invite you to buy a copy for yourself without fail, and please encourage other Mayans to buy copies as well. You also can help us by selling a few copies to your Maya friends who live around the world.

Please hurry and email vdorabawila@yahoo.com (Vajeera Dorabawila) or fronrunners4@yahoo.com (Sujatha Werake) for your copy! We are waiting to hear from you!

By check (please write check to MGCAANA) or cash: Price is \$10 + \$2.50 for shipping

If you purchase through PayPal: Price is: \$12 + \$2.50 for shipping

Any profit from the sale, will go towards MGCAANA's future activities including helping our alma mater.

A Guiding Light

MAHAMAYA GIRLS' COLLEGE KANDY
75 YEARS (1932-2007)
COMMEMORATIVE VOLUME

A Guiding Light: 75th Anniversary Commemorative Volume published by the Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America, presents the story of Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy within the socio-cultural and political landscape of Sri Lanka during the last 75 years. Thirty-five essays presented in the Volume written by Mahamaya alumnae living in North America, Australia and Sri Lanka as well as former Administrators and teachers provide varied insights into the history and philosophy of the school. The contributors have offered their perspectives on the history of the school during their times through their personal experiences, describing how the school adapted to the social, cultural and economic changes that took place during the post-independence Sri Lanka with particular emphasis on how the school came to terms with the changes in educational policies of successive governments. They also vividly explain Mahamaya's ability to provide the country with talented, competent and efficient young women who often have been pioneers in their respective fields and held high offices both in national and international spheres. It records the successful academic and co-curricular life of the institution. The Volume also tells the story of the founding and growth of Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America since 2004. The photographs illustrate the growth of the school from the early beginnings to the present.



MAHAMAYA GIRLS' COLLEGE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

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A Guiding Light

MAHAMAYA GIRLS' COLLEGE KANDY

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75 YEARS
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COMMEMORATIVE VOLUME

A Guiding Light



MAHAMAYA GIRLS' COLLEGE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

Uniting In Boston



Back Row- L-R

Priyanka Ranawana, Priyadarshani Sandanayake, Hashini Mohottala, Taroshini Kasthuriarachchi, Chathuri Nugawela-Munasinghe, Himashini Diyabalanage, Champika Seneviratne, Thushara Abeweera, Vanoji Balasuriya, Samantha Ranaweera

Front Row- L-R

Vajeera Dorabawila, Sujatha Werake, Erandi Suriyarachchi, Ranjani Siriwardane, Pushpa Gunasekera, Geetha Selvendran



AGM group photo before the meeting

The 4th AGM- A personal Perspective

By Chathuri Munasinghe

We, the Munasinghe's decided to drive to Boston at 3.00 a.m. on the Saturday morning to be on time for the AGM at 2.00 p.m. This way we thought the kids would be asleep and we would be at least half way there before they woke up. The plan was fine except that there were road maintenance and a bit of traffic. Our plan was to go to a friend's house, change and then proceed to the AGM. This was not to be- We arrived in Boston almost just in time- so we drove straight to the AGM. No change of clothes, no nothing! The location was beautiful and peaceful.

An all glass room that made us feel that we were all outdoors and there we all sat as one - Mahamayans of all ages and from all walks of life, from different states in the US all the way to Toronto- Canada. Kumari had traveled with 2 young kids on an eight hour long journey to be there, Mr. Mrs Werake had arrived in Seattle the night before from Sri Lanka only to catch another flight within hours to be in Boston, some came with their grown children, some with friends, and some with long suffering husbands who carted luggage, arranged the venue, baby sat, took photos etc etc etc. It was indeed a beautiful moment in any Mahamaya's life- to be able to meet your fellow kinsmen thousands of miles away from home, to share a moment of our lives, to compare who we were then to who we are now and how the grounding we got at Mahamaya has made us rounded individuals.

Erandi- the president presided over the meeting and spoke of all the activities MGCAANA has undertaken- Ah the exuberance of youthful energy. She did us proud. Some Activities were elaborated by Himashinie Akka- a woman who seemed to have defied nature- after all these years she is one person who had not changed a bit. One could say the same of Vanoji Akka. The hard work of the 75th anniversary committee was duly illustrated by Vajeera Akka who also read a letter by Nilmini.

A matter close to my heart was and is the Scholarship endowment project. Ms Werake on her trip to Sri Lanka had made arrangements to incorporate this as a trust fund and we need to urge our members to donate and to find donors for this worthy cause for underprivileged kids back home.

After the AGM the attendees and their families were hosted to a sumptuous meal at Priyadharshani and Dr. Vincent Sandanayake's lovely home where we mingled and met the families of our kith and kin, sang Sri Lankan songs and generally had a grand old time. Our heartfelt thanks to the Balasuriya and the Sandanayake families for hosting us and for having spared their time and energy on our behalf. It was indeed a memorable day.

And this little article would not be complete without saying a big thank you to Mrs. Werake and the members of the founding committee who made it all possible. We really have made it to the 4th year and have taken great strides. We really do need to keep it up. I am proud to be a member of this Association and we are all the better for it. It made me happy when my kids said, Amma- you do have a lot of friends!

Long live Mahamaya!

Priyanka Ranawana from Toronto, Canada
Sujatha Werake from Seattle, WA
Erandi Suriyarachchi from Texas
Ranjani Siriwardane from West Virginia
Pushpa Gunasekera from Los Angeles, CA

Geethanjali Selvendran from Florida
Priyadarshani Sandanayake from Boston, MA

Hashini Mohottala, from Shrewsbury, MA
Taroshini Kasturiarachchi from N.Y.
Chathuri Nugawela-Munasinghe from Maryland
Himashinie Diyabalanage from New Mexico
Champika Seneviratne from Rhode Island
Thushara Abeyweera from N.Y.
Vanoji Balasuriya from Boston, MA
Samantha Ranaweera from NY
Vajeera Dorabawila from NY

They came from this far..... to the AGM....

Thank You all!!!!!!!