



Dhammapada ;

"He repents here, repents hereafter, the evildoer repents in both worlds. "Evil has been committed by me," thinking thus he repents. Having taken the path of evil he repents even more."

"He rejoices here, he rejoices hereafter, the doer of wholesome deeds rejoices in both worlds. "Good has been committed by me," thinking thus he rejoices. Having taken the celestial path, he rejoices exceedingly."



"The grand essentials of happiness are: something to do, something to love, and something to hope for."

~~ Allan K. Chalmers~~

"Mistakes are part of the dues that one pays for a full Life".

~~ Sophia Loren~~

"Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising which tempt you to believe that your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires courage".

~~ Ralph Waldo Emerson~~



Dear Reader's,

Spring is in the calendar & summer is in the air. Hope all our readers are looking forward to a joyful summer with vacations & road trips already in the planning. As many of you are aware MGCAANA is also planning the 2011 Annual General Meeting to be held on the 2nd of July .

This AGM is indeed a special get together for all MGCAANA members as we are welcoming an honored guest, Mrs.N.K.Pilapitiya as chief guest of the Annual General Meeting. This is the first time that an AGM of MGCAANA is hosting a meeting with a chief guest in attendance. We are excited about having a chance to show our former principal some of the great values & good manners that she made sure we learned during our short stay at her prestigious school. Indeed, she was always making sure we behaved like good little girls with proper decorum , not too noisy or loud. And specially no running down the hallways .

We hope that many of you will join us in making this AGM a resounding success. As most gatherings , the more the merrier and we hope we see and meet many of you at this AGM.

All details about the AGM can be found in this newsletter. And if any of you have any questions or requests about attending the AGM please feel free to email MGCAANA at mahamya_alumnae@yahoo.com. We would be glad to help you in anyway we can and make sure that you have a great time if you decide to attend the AGM.

The AGM heralds a new Board of Directors and thus we have to bid farewell to the ladies who held these positions for the past year. We hope, that along with all the responsibility & work that these positions brought in to your life , you also enjoyed meeting & working with the rest of the MGCAANA members. We also wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to each & everyone of you for your hard work and dedication. And we hope that you will continue to give us your support in any which way you can.

As many of us are aware MGCAANA is a society with a limited number of members and that creates a need for members to re-volunteer their time on behalf of the society. We need your help to continue with the projects that this society has initiated.

Editor Nazrana Caffoor.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES



Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America

2417 NE 20th Street, Renton, Washington 98056, U.S.A.

Website: www.mahamayaalumnina.org E-mail: Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com

June 6, 2011

Dear Member ,

Please find here the following documents:

1. The Notice of the Seventh Annual General Meeting of MGCAANA and the agenda.
2. Brief descriptions of the nominees for the Board of Directors for the year 2011-2012.
3. The proxy ballot form – please complete the form* according to the instructions and mail it promptly to the MGCAANA Office. It has to be received before Tuesday, June 28, 2011.
4. For your convenience, we have also included a stamped and addressed envelope. We hope that it will expedite your response in mailing the ballot form to us.

**** If you prefer to vote electronically, you may access the ballot form at
<http://www.mahamayaalumnina.org/ballot1112.php>***

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.

Accommodation and Transportation:

If you are planning to attend the Seventh Annual General Meeting and need further information about accommodation and/or transportation, please visit our website at www.mahamayaalumnina.org or e-mail us at mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com.

Dinner after the AGM:

Following the meeting, Erandi Suriyaarachchi and her husband Ravi Suriyaarachchi 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.

A map and directions to the Suriyaarachchi residence will be provided at the AGM.

Thank you much for your cooperation.

Best regards,

Board of Directors and the Executive Committee

Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America

It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life, that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.

~~Ralph Waldo~~





Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America

2417 NE 20th Street, Renton, Washington 98056, U.S.A.

Website: www.mahamayaalumna.org E-mail: Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com

Notice for the 7th Annual General Meeting

June 06, 2011

Dear Member ,

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

Saturday, July 2nd, 2011 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

at

The Hampton Inn, 160 Fairchild Street, Charleston, SC 29492

Chief Guest: Mrs. N. K. Pilapitiya, Former Principal of Mahamaya Girls' College (1981-1990)

The Agenda of the Meeting

Welcome speech by the President

Speech by Mrs. N. K. Pilapitiya, the Chief Guest

Speeches by the Board of Directors and Officers

Presentation of the Annual Report by the Secretary

Presentation of the Accounting Report by the Treasurer

Announcing the auditor for the year 2011-2012 for MGCAANA

Election of new Directors for the year 2011-2012

Election of members for various committees

Raffle drawing by Mrs. Pilapitiya, the Chief Guest

Any other matter

Vote of thanks

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 20th Street, Renton, WA - 98056, U.S.A. If you will be present at the AGM, you may vote in person instead of by proxy.

This ballot form is also available at <http://www.mahamayaalumna.org/ballot1112.php>

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

Sincerely yours,

Vihara Dharmaratne

Secretary, MGCAANA



It's not what you do once in a while, it's what you do day in and day out that makes the difference.

~~Jenny Craig~~



Mahamaya Girls’ College Alumnae Association of North America
2417 NE 20th Street, Renton, Washington 98056, U.S.A.

Election of the Board of Directors for the Year 2011-2012

The 7th Annual General Meeting of MGCAANA will be held on

Saturday, July 2nd, 2011 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
at
The Hampton Inn, 160 Fairchild Street, Charleston, SC 29492

As a member of record, you are entitled to elect **eight (8) members** for the 2011 - 2012 Board of Directors.

Following are the voting guidelines:

Each member of MGCAANA has **eight (8) votes** and may **only vote for a total of eight (8) nominees**.

A single member cannot cast more than one (1) vote per nominee.

After reading the attached bios of all the nominees, please indicate your vote by placing an **“X”** in the box next to the candidate’s name on this form.

After marking the ballot, please **sign** and **date** in the spaces provided below.

Enclose the ballot form in the stamped envelope provided in this packet, including your **name** and **return address**, and mail it to:
MGCAANA
2417 NE 20th Street,
Renton, Washington - 98056,
U.S.A.

The completed ballot form* should reach us by **Tuesday, June 28, 2011**.
*All the ballot papers will be opened and counted by an appointed official at the AGM.

Cast your vote ONLINE! For your convenience, this ballot form is also available at
<http://www.mahamayaalumna.org/ballot1112.php>

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.

Ballot Paper for the 2011 – 2012 Board of Directors

Please cast your vote, sign, date, and return this page to MGCAANA office in the stamped envelopes provided.

- c Samanthi Abeyrathne
- c Inoka Amarakoon
- c Dasmanthie Chin
- c Geetha Eragoda
- c Hashini Mohottala
- c Probodani Samarakoon
- c Nimalka Wathupola
- c Lakmini Widanapathirana

Signature: _____ Date: _____ We thank you very much for your participation in the election of the 2011 - 2012 Board of Directors. Your vote is very important to us.



Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

~~~Will Rogers~~~

Nominees for the MGCAANA Board of Directors 2011- 2012

Samanthi Abeyrathne

Samanthi Abeyrathne studied at Mahamaya Girls’ College from 1993-2004. She was a prefect in primary school and played badminton. She was also a member of the Astronomical society, Media club and the Science Society. At Mahamaya, she received a Special Progress Certificate for continuously maintaining excellent grades and passed G.C.E Ordinary Level Examination with all distinctions. After successfully completing the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination in biological science in 2004, she got accepted to study agriculture at the Wayamba University. She later decided to come to the U.S. for higher education. She was awarded both Deerpath Academic Scholarship and the Lake Forest College Grant from Lake Forest College, a private liberal arts college in Illinois. She later decided to transfer to a university in southern part of USA where she was again awarded the full International Student Scholarship (ISS). She graduated from Georgia College and State University (GCSU) with a bachelor’s degree in Chemistry. At GCSU, she was a Chemistry Scholar recipient and was awarded a four-year research stipend from the Department of Chemistry and Physics. She was also a member of the American National Chemical Society and presented her research on organic chemistry in the 241st ACS National Meeting & Exposition held in Anaheim,CA. Samanthi was an active member of the International Club at the GCSU and has represented Sri Lanka on several occasions. She was a member of the Catalyst Network, a club for underrepresented minorities in science. She has also participated in many events organized by ANGELS (AIDS Now Grasps Every Living Soul), such as the World’s AIDS Day and AIDS Awareness Week. Through the YES (Youth Enrichment Services) Program, conducted by GCSU, Samanthi tutors math and science to school children. YES seeks to increase graduation rates, nurture and inspire curiosity, and realize deeper levels of literacy in Baldwin county schools. She has also spent time rehabilitating homes damaged by tropical storms and hurricanes in New Orleans and Mississippi through the American Democracy Project at GCSU. She has also worked part-time as a Computer Lab Assistant at the Lake Forest College and GCSU. She got a great opportunity to help students, faculty and staff with both hardware and software issues for four years while working as a computer lab assistant. As soon as she graduated, she was offered a Research Internship position at the Technology Center in Imerys Inc. Currently she is working with COMSOL Multiphysics finite element analysis simulation software to model transport of oxygen, water or oil through pigmented barrier coatings and to model rod-metered paper based coating. She is also developing measurement protocol for a stepped-speed peel test using tensile tester. Upon completing her internship, Samanthi plans to go to graduate school for higher studies in computational chemistry and organic chemistry. Her main goal is to teach and conduct research at a university. She wishes to go back to Sri Lanka in the future and share her knowledge and skills with students there. She loves to travel and read books.

Samanthi is a proud member of the MGCAANA family for two years now and is thrilled to extend her services to MGCAANA by becoming part of the BOD, serving as the new webmaster in the Website Organizing Committee and also to get actively involved in the Membership Drive Committee.

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Inoka Amarakoon

Inoka attended Mahamaya Girls’ College from 1993 to 2001. She was a school monitor, assistant prefect and a senior prefect. Inoka was a member of Girl Guides Movement and also a member of Girl Guides band. After the completion of her secondary education at Mahamaya, she entered University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and completed a bachelor’s degree in Agriculture in 2006. Following year, Inoka completed a course work master’s degree in environmental soil science. In 2010, she completed her research master’s degree in soil science from the Department of Soil Science, University of Manitoba, Canada. Currently she is pursuing her PhD degree in soil science and working on the environmental fate of veterinary antimicrobials (antibiotics). She is soon going to be mother of a baby boy. Inoka enjoys music and dancing of many different styles and loves traveling.

Inoka is in debt for mother Maya for all the great things she has given to her.

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Dasmantie Chin

Dasmanthie Chin attended Mahamaya Girls’ College, Kandy from 1986 to 2000. During her years there, not only she was a devoted student, but also a member of the swimming team where she was awarded school colors for swimming for 3 consecutive years. Upon successful completion of the Advanced Level Examinations, Dasmanthie attended University of Peradeniya, where she was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. While at the University of Peradeniya, Dasmanthie continued her swimming career, where she held the position of Woman’s Swimming Team Captain, and became a member of the University Sports Council. Upon completion of her Bachelor’s Degree with Honors, Dasmanthie decided to further her education by relocating to the United States. She completed her master’s degree in Biology in 2010 at the University of Miami and will be attending the Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami to pursue a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences.

Dasmanthie was the Secretary of MGCAANA a few years ago, and she is looking forward to continue serving MGCAANA, so that she may express her gratitude and serve her alma mater, which has given her the foundation she needed to become a successful person.

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Geetha Eragoda

As a student at Mahamaya Girls’ College from 1976 to 1984, Geetha immersed herself in several societies as an active member and leader. She performed for the Eastern Band and participated in the award-winning Western Choir. She was elected president of the Social Science Society and served as a prefect for the Sangamitta House. After completing school, she joined the Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Peradeniya as a Technical Officer. She then completed a Postgraduate course in Plant Biotechnology and Plant Tissue Culture and its uses in Micropropagation at Wye College, University of London in 1989, which led her to contribute significantly to establishing the first plant tissue culture laboratory at the Faculty of Agriculture in 1990. She consorted with her seniors for various research programs and co-published several articles as well. She proceeded to complete a diploma in Early Childhood Development and Preschool Education at the Open University at Sri Lanka in 1993. Meanwhile, she also served as an active committee member of the OGA Kandy Branch from 1991 to 1995, and after becoming president of the youngest chapter of the OGA in 1995, she coordinated and partook in various events that benefited the school. In 1996, she became a proud parent of a Mahamayan and engrossed herself in the Parents Teachers Society at the Primary School. After moving to U.S.A. with her husband and two children in 1997, she concluded a Montessori Training program at Woodland Hills, California. She then taught elementary and pre-schools as wells as Montessori’s between the years of 1997 to 2004 and currently operates a childcare program from her home at Valencia, CA.

Geetha served as the Treasurer of MGCAANA last year and she would love to devote her energy and enthusiasm to help her school by continuing her service to MGCAANA.

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Happiness is not a station you arrive at, but a manner of traveling.  
~~ Margaret B. Runbeck ~~

Hashini Mohottala

Hashini was a student at Mahamaya girls’ college from 85 to 90 (left right after O/L). During her stay, she was in the school Athlet- ics Team representing Yashodara house and in the school Badminton Team under the guidance of Mrs. Werake. Just before she left she was elected to be a prefect as well as a sports captain, unfortunately she wasn’t able to serve due to her departure. Later, she entered the University of Peradeniya to pursue a BS degree. She majored in Physics and topped the batch with a first class honors. She was offered a number of awards including university honors. She worked as a lecturer before leaving the country for a PhD at the same university. She entered University of Connecticut for graduate studies after offering the prestig- ious Charles A. Reynold fellowship. She completed her PhD in 2006. As a graduate student, she found the Physics Graduate Student Association and served as its president for three consecutive years. At the PhD graduation, she received the award for the best thesis, State of Connecticut Governor’s award for the best graduating women, and the Outstanding Academic Achievement Award by the university. Now she is working as a tenure-track professor at the Univer- sity of Hartford, and as a research associate at the University of Connecticut. She is also a very active member of the “Sri Lankans for Peace (SL4P)” group and they together extend their support to bring a better life to fellow Sri Lankan brothers and sisters.

Hashini served as the Vice President of MGCAANA last year and she would like to continue her service to MGCAANA.



Prabodani Samarakoon

Prabodani Samarakoon was admitted to Mahamaya Girls’ College on January 3, 1988 to Grade one. She attended Mahamaya till 2001. Dur- ing her school carrier she has participated in chess, badminton, and has served as a committee member in the Society of Astronomical Science. She was a member in LMDS, Interact Club and in Little Friends. After her Advanced Level Examination, Prabodani got the opportunity to pursue her higher education at the Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya in Languages Stream. Having completed her General Degree Examination with honors, she continued on ex- panding her academic horizons with Master’s Degree in Linguistics from the University of Kelaniya. Her enthusiasm in learning foreign languages drove her towards obtaining the French Diploma (Diplôme de Langues Française Niveau B2 du conseil de L’Europe) under Alliance Française de Kandy in 2005. Prabodani has served in several educational institutions in Sri Lanka; commencing from Hillwood College, Kandy, where she taught French and English for Advanced Level and Ordinary Level students. In 2007, she moved to University of Colombo to undertake her assignment as an English Instructor under the English Language Teaching Unit. Before arriving in the United States, Prabodani was teaching at the same university from which she graduated, University of Peradeniya, Faculty of Science as an Instructor in English for two years. Apart from teaching undergraduates, she was assigned to teach in the TOEFL preparation course conducted by English Language Teaching Unit for graduates and other interested parties. While attached to the University of Peradeniya, she got the opportunity to work on part-time basis at the Alliance Française de Kandy as a teacher. It is with merriment and gratification that now Prabodani recalls her school life, for it was the spring that shaped and sharpened her life. She feels fortunate of herself to associate with MGCAANA and to serve her alma mater.



Nimalka Wathupola

Nimalka Wathupola attended Mahamaya Girls' College from 1988 to 2001. During her time at Mahamaya she participated in a number of extra-curricular activities. She was the Captain of the school Swim Team. Under her captaincy Mahamaya has won several all island champion- ships in the year 2000. She has awarded school colors for the year 1998 and 2000 for her outstanding performance in swimming. Also she was the Capitan of the under 13 netball team and member of several other societies in school. Upon successful completion of the Advanced Level Examinations, Nimalka at- tended Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology. After obtaining a 2-year diploma in Computer Information Technology at Sri Lanka Institute of Infor- mation Technology she decided to complete her education in Canada. She graduated from University of The Fraser Valley in June 2009 with a Bachelor of Computer Information Systems. Then she worked at the Vancouver Coast Health as a Decision Support Advisor for 2 years.

Nimalka is looking forward to be a part of the Board of Directors of MGCAANA, so that she can pay her gratitude to her alma mater.



Lakmini Widanapathirana

Lakmini Widanapathirana attended Mahamaya Girls’ Collage from 1992 to 2001. During her years there, she was a keen student as well as an active member of a number of societies including the Environmental Club and the Science Club. Lakmini served as the Treasurer of the Astron- omy Club and was the captain of the astronomy quiz team. Upon successful completion of the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination, she entered the Univer- sity of Peradeniya and completed her bachelor’s degree in Chemistry with a first class honors. At present, Lakmini is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Ph.D. student in Organic Chemistry at Iowa State University and also works as a teaching assistant. She is an active member of the Sri Lankan Student Association at ISU and has per- formed traditional Sri Lankan dancing in many international events.

Lakmini believes that the education she gained from Mahamaya gave her strength and courage to be who she is now and she is happy to be a part of MGCAANA and serve her alma mater even if she is far away from home.



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Dear Reader's,

This is a special newsletter issue due to the upcoming Annual General Meeting . We had to make space for the mention of events & activities that are scheduled to take place during the AGM. Hence we were unable to include our usual articles.

We hope to return to our usual articles in our next edition. And we hope we will hear from our readers and members who were able to attend the Annual General Meeting . We would be thrilled to publish your articles, of your AGM experiences along with your photos that you wish to share with our readers. It would indeed be a treat to those of us who were unable to attend the AGM to be able see and share your experiences. So please take a few moments to pen your thoughts & send it to the newsletter. We sure would appreciate your efforts.

Thank You.  
Editorial Committee.