



## **Dhammapada.**

### **The Happiness:**

Victory begets enmity; the defeated dwell in pain. Happily the peaceful live, discarding both victory and defeat.

Health is the most precious gain and contentment the greatest wealth. A trustworthy person is the best kinsman, Nibbana the highest bliss.

People hold dear him who embodies virtue and insight, who is principled, has realized the truth, and who himself does what he ought to be doing.

Happy indeed we live, friendly amidst the hostile. Amidst hostile men we dwell free from hatred.

There is no fire like lust and no crime like hatred. There is no ill like the aggregates (of existence) and no bliss higher than the peace (of Nibbana).

## **Fulbright program offers students who are citizens opportunities for funded travel abroad**

Are you currently a junior, senior, graduate student or a recent bachelor's or master's graduate looking for a fully-funded abroad experience during the 2013-14 academic year? Consider the Fulbright U.S. Student Program (<http://us.fulbrightonline.org/home.html>).

This program is designed to give students, artists, and other professionals opportunities to pursue research, graduate study or English teaching experience in over 155 nations worldwide.

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Dear Members,

It is with great merriment and pride that I pen the editorial for the June issue of Maya Puwath. MGCAANA heralds into another exciting year with a new Board of Directors and Officers. MGCAANA celebrated her 8th Annual General Meeting in Farmington Hills, MI, on 27th of May, with about 20 members which hosted by Mrs. Deepthi Weerappuli and Dr. Parakrama Weerappuli. It was the AGM with the largest number of participants so far. Stepping into her 8th year, our alumnae association is sailing proudly, accomplishing many successful projects for the betterment of our Alma Mater and also bringing many benefits to alumnae in USA and Canada.

Beaconed by the four advisors, MGCAANA is moving forward smoothly and efficiently with her committees. Membership Drive Committee has been able to allure more new members to our Association this year, and the Scholarship committee endowed this year's scholarship to another aspiring graduate student.

Board of Trustees are working tirelessly to grant scholarships to financially disadvantaged students at Mahamaya. Newsletter committee toils on sustaining the link between MGCAANA and its membership, and is being published regularly bi-monthly for the past 8 years. While working on existing projects, Board of Directors and the Officers of the year 2011/2012 have launched new projects for the betterment of our Association. A welcome package enclosed with a fridge magnet and a welcome card has been created to be sent to the alumnae who arrive in USA and Canada. A new outlook and new features have been added to the MGCAANA website during this year. Also an interactive web page, "Maya-Alumnae-Dhamma-School," was initiated under Wikispaces with the view of helping the families and children of Mahamaya

Alumnae in USA & Canada.

The Newsletter Committee and MGCAANA warmly welcome the newly elected Board of Directors and the Executive Officers elected for the year 2012/2013.

On behalf of the Editorial committee and MGCAANA, I would like to extend heart-felt gratitude to the hosts of the 8th AGM, Mrs. Deepthi Weerappuli, her husband Dr. Prakrama Weerappuli and the musical group Pahansilu, for their unconditional support offered to our organization and for the wonderful gala time.

Further, our thanks go to the outgoing President and the Board of Directors for their excellent work during their term. On behalf of the Editorial Committee I would like to emphasize the encouragement and support given by our readers.

"The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual."

Vincent Lombardi

Wish you all joy and success till we meet in our next issue.

Prabodani Samarakoon

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MGCAANA ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES



NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear MGCAANA members,

I am greatly honored and humbled to be elected as the President for the year 2012/2013. It is with great pleasure that I extend my gratitude to all of you for bestowing me such an honored office and for keeping faith in me. I vow to serve to my utmost for the great cause that all of us have flocked in.

Also I would like to extend my heartiest gratitude to the outgoing president Geetha Eragoda, the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and all other active Committees within MGCAANA for their dedication, hard work, the ultimate team spirit that they shared and for accomplishing a very productive year. MGCAANA completed her 7th year and is blossoming elegantly yet invigoratingly.

I welcome our newly elected Board of Directors, Executive Committee members and all other committee members for another great year. MGCAANA thrives on enhancing the sense of belonging, sisterhood as daughters of Mother Mahamaya even though we are leagues away from our country and our Alma mater. MGCAANA always believes on sustaining an efficacious network. In MGCAANA we believe that our membership is the indispensable element to our success and that their support helps us to flourish in each and every accomplishment that we obtain.

As the incoming President, I believe that, with the rest of my colleagues at the Board of Directors and Executive Committee we would be able to serve and fortify MGCAANA further.

I look forward for your ideas, suggestions and comments to ameliorate our service.

Thank you for all the care and support you all proffer on our Association.

Sincerely,

Prabodani Samarakoon

President ( 2012/2013)



Welcome, the Newly Elected Board of Directors and the Executive Committee for the Year 2012/2013

- President and Director ..... Prabodani Samarakoon
- Vice President and Director ..... Lakmini Widanapathirana
- Secretary and Director ..... Nimalka Wathupola
- Treasurer and Director ..... Ayanthi Fernando
- Web Master and Director ..... Deepani Waidyaratne
- Director ..... Dulanjalie Dhanapala
- Director ..... Geetha Eragoda
- Director ..... Upeksha Thilakawardana

Thank You to the Outgoing Board of Directors and the Executive Committee for the Job Well done

- President and Director..... Geetha Eragoda
- Vice President and Director..... Nimalka Wathupola
- Secretary and Director..... Prabodani Samarakoon
- Treasurer and Director ..... Lakmini Widanapathirana
- Web Master and Director ..... Samantha Abeyrathna
- Director ..... Inoka Amarakoon
- Director ..... Hashini Mohottala

Congratulations !!!!!!!

Mahamaya Alumnae Who Graduated in the Academic Year 2011/2012

- Samanthi Abeyrathna  
B.Sc. in Chemistry. Georgia College & State University.
- Dakshika Bandaranayake  
Ph.D. Graduated from University of Cincinnati, Ohio. Speech-Language Pathology. Currently Speech-Language Pathologist, Cincinnati Children's Hospital.
- Dulanjalie Dhanapala  
Ph.D. Electrical and Computer Engineering, Colorado State University, Utah.
- Vihara Dharmaratne  
B.A. in Spanish. B.A. in International Studies: Both with summa cum laude  
University of Mississippi
- Shalini Eragoda  
B.A. Major in Public Health, minor in Global Poverty and Practice  
University of California, Berkeley.
- Deepa Dharshani Nanayakkara  
M.D. University of Nevada, School of Medicine. Outstanding student in Internal Medicine Award and Global Health Award  
Residency in Southern California State University, Los Angeles
- Maheshinie Rajapaksha  
PH.D. Wichita State University, Wichita, KS  
Post-doctoral research scientist at memorial Health University Medical Center.
- Chandani Deepika Dissanayke  
M.Sc Texas Tech University



# A Day to Remember.....

## "MAGCAANA's 8th Annual General Meeting and Dinner in Detroit"

Through out the world, May is considered as rejuvenating, vibrant, splendors, and a florid month, as the mother nature unravels all her beauty. So was it for all of us in MGCAANA this year. On 27th of May, all of us in MGCAANA too were over-poured with joyousness, love, laughter as we all gathered in Farmington Hills, in Michigan to celebrate our 8th AGM. It was the time for all of us to mesmerize our vibrant school days with our inmates and to be amused with all new friendships. Mrs. Deepthie Weerappuli and Dr. Parakrama Weerappuli proffered their love, kindness and care and volunteered to host our 8th AGM in Michigan. Their altruism, devotion, benignity made our AGM an extravaganza, that all who attended left with appraisals of how wonderful the evening had been.

The AGM was scheduled to be held from 2pm through 5pm on Sunday, May 27th, and Dinner starting at 6 pm. Geetha, and Himashini akkis had arrived in Detroit on Friday, 25th. The whole day Saturday they had been doing shopping and getting the needed material for the arrangements. Mrs. Werake and Harshi akki had flown to Detroit on Saturday. Neranjika akki and Lakmini drove from Iowa to our house on Saturday. My husband Ayesh and I joined them and we drove to Detroit together. It was late in the evening on Saturday when we arrived to our destination. By the evening, most of the Mayans from different parts of US and Canada had reached Detroit. From early hours of Sunday all of us from the BOD and the advisors, along with Dr. and Mrs. Weerappuli, their son Priyan and other Mayans from Michigan took-off with decorations, and other arrangements to the hall where the AGM and Dinner was going to be. By the afternoon many Mayans and their families started coming. They were from Florida, California, West Virginia, Iowa, Oregon, Washington, Illinois, Boston, Oklahoma, and from Provinces of Canada. That was the largest gathering we ever had with around 20 alumnae and their families varying from the class of 1958 to the class of 2010. The AGM commenced by singing the National Anthems, and our school song. President of MGCAANA Geetha Eragoda welcomed all the participants and she steered the meeting. Mrs Werake gave a speech about our Association. Financial Report was presented by the Treasurer Lakmini Widanapathirana. Secretary Prabodani Samarakoon presented the Annual Report. Himashini Diyabalanage presented the report of the Vidya Scholarship Trust Fund on behalf of the Endowment committee. Meeting was paused for refreshments, while a former teacher of Mahamaya, Mrs. Punya Thalagala counted the ballots as the returning officer, to name the next BOD. The spread of snacks were adorned with many a delectable provisions by the Weerappuli family and other Mayans from Michigan and Canada. With so many intimate chats and socializing the AGM was concluded.

### The Dinner

The evening was a gala time all due to the arrangements of our dearest hosts Mrs.Deepthie Weerappuli and Dr. Parakrama Weerappuli along with the musical group “Pahansilu”. They had graciously organized a dinner dance for the families of the Mahamaya Alumnae and other Sri Lankan families in and around Michigan. The soiree commenced after singing the national anthems and the school song of Mahamaya. President Geetha Eragoda Welcomed the gathering and Mrs.Sujatha Werake gave a speech on the history of Mahamaya and about MGCAANA. Himashinie Diyabalanage elucidated about the Vidya Scholarship Trust Fund. Weerappuli family had arranged a grand dinner with many Sri Lankan style dishes. After dinner, the talented band Pahansilu started their performance. Then with the music, singing and dancing began which we all anticipated. We all had a wonderful time participating in the event. A raffle was drawn as the last fold of the event, and prizes were presented. The Dinner Dance was truly magnificent.

I would like to extend my heartiest gratitude to Mrs. Deepthi Weerappuli, Dr. Prakrama Werrapuli, and their son Priyan Weerappuli for all their graciousness and amicability proffered to us, and for Deepthi akki's never fading smiles that she had through out, on behalf of MGCAANA family. Also I would like to thank all the attendees of the 8th AGM and the Dinner Dance. They truly helped to make it a memorable event.

### Attendees

- |                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1) Mrs. Sujatha Werake         | 11). Vineetha Niyangoda     |
| 2) Harshi Waters               | 12) Punya Thalagala         |
| 3) Neranjika Dissanayake       | 13) Dhammika Jayawardena    |
| 4) Mrs. Pushpalatha Gunasekara | 14) Nayana Fernando         |
| 5) Himashinie Diyabalanage     | 15) Nanda Gamage            |
| 6) Ranjani Siriwardena         | 16) Samudrika Amarakoon     |
| 7) Dakshika Bandaranayake      | 17) Geethanjalie Selvendran |
| 8) Geetha Eragoda              | 18) Prabodani Samarakoon    |
| 9) Deepthi Weerappuli          | 19) Lakmini Widanapathirana |
| 10)Dharshani Weerakoon         | 20) Samanthi Abeyrathne     |
|                                | 21) Ayeshanie Weerakkody    |

By: Prabodani Samarakoon

### Thank you !!!!!!!

Thank you Dr. Parakrama Weerappuli, Mrs. Deepthi Weerappuli, lead musician Priyan Weerappuli, and their talented Musical Group "Pahansilu" for everything you did to make MGCAANA's AGM and the Annual Dinner such a great success!!!

It was one-of-a-kind, grand celebration with close to 200 people attending! We will never forget the wonderful time we had. Thank you for your grand planning, looking into every detail, the best cooking, feeding 200 people, giving publicity to MGCAANA's good work and finding donors for the Vidya Scholarship Trust Fund, and providing the best Sri Lankan musical evening until late into the night. There was not a single soul who did not dance that night for your music. Thank you for your generosity and boundless love and care. Both of you are such an asset to MGCAANA! Thank you!!!







## "MAGCAANA's 8th Annual General Meeting and Dinner in Detroit"









## MRS. NANDA LEULA

**WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, AND GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS IN THE COMING YEARS**

Mrs. Nanda Leula nee Pussegoda Our precious Oldest Alumna in MGCAANA is celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Los Angeles with her two daughters and son and their families. She is a grand mother and a great grand mother.

Mrs. Leula is still beautiful inside and out, active, loving and kind. She constantly supports and encourages MGCAANA's activities, and already participated in two annual general meetings and gave a generous donation to our Vidya Scholarship Trust Fund. She is like a mother to us MGCAANA members who know her.

Mrs. Leula is an artist who held several exhibitions in Los Angeles. She is still busy with her art work. She has her own artist's studio set up in the house that she likes to give a tour when we visit her. See some of her work here. Art became a passion in her life from her school days and to this day she continues to paint portraits and landscapes without the use of eyeglasses.

She joined Mahamaya Girls' College in 1933, one year after the school opened its doors, when Mrs. Bertha Rogers was the Principal. She has wonderful memories of her school days that she shared with us in a previous Maya Puwath (Volume 4 Issue 5– October 2008)

We the Mayans wish Mrs. Leula the best of health and happiness in the coming years. You are a wonderful asset to our Organization! We would like to see your continuous active participation.

By Sujatha Werake



***Birth of Prince Siddhartha  
By Mrs. Nanda Leula***





**“ ඇය ගැන කිවයුතු දේ බොහෝය. මෙය වැයමක් පමණි ”**

1929 දෙසැම්බර් මස 12 වැනි දින උපත ලැබූ ලලනාවති රත්වත්තේ පානබොක්කේ මැතිනිය, මහාමායා බාලිකා විදුහල ආරම්භ කළ ආදි කෘතීන් වූ ශ්‍රීමත් කුඩා රත්වත්තේ මැතිතුමා හා රත්වත්තේ අය්නිවගේ දෙවැනි දියණිය වූවාය. වැවිලි ව්‍යාපාරික හා මහවැලි රිච් හෝටල් සංකීර්ණ ව්‍යාපාරයේ නිර්මාතෘවූ අනාවප්‍රාප්ත අතුල් පානබොක්කේ මැතිතුමා හා විවාහ වී සිටි අතර , ජයන්ත , මොහාන් හා ගිහාන් යන පුතුන් තිදෙනෙකුගේ දයාබර මව වූවාය. එතුමිය මහවැලි රිච් හෝටල සංකීර්ණ ව්‍යාපාරයේ සහාතිනියද වූවාය.

1936 වසරේ මහාමයා බාලිකා විදුහලේ පළමුවන ශ්‍රේණියට ඇතුළත් වූ පානබොක්කේ මැතිණිය ද්විතීක අධ්‍යාපනය සඳහා වෙනත් විදුහලකට සම්බන්ධ වුවද, පසුව මහාමයාවේ අදි ශිෂ්‍යාවක් වශයෙන් අඛණ්ඩ සම්බන්ධයක් පවත්වා ගත්තාය. මහාමයා බාලිකා විදුහලේ ආදිශිෂ්‍ය මව් සංගමයේ “ගූන පතන සමාපිකාවක් ” වූ එතුමිය, සංගමයට ලබා දුන් අසීමිත අනුග්‍රහය සංගමයට විශාල ධේය්‍යියක් විය. පානබොක්කේ මැතිණිය අති විශේෂ පෞරුෂ ලක්ෂණයන් ගෙන් යුත් කාන්තාවක් වූවාය. ධනය, කුලය, මෙන්ම බලයද උපතින්ම උරුම වූ ඇයට අසිරිමත් ජීවන පැවැත්මක් හිමිවුවද, එතුමිය ඒ සම්පත් තනිවම භුක්ති වින්දේ නැත. මෙන් ගුණය, කරුණාව, දයාව හා මුසු වූ පරෝපකාරය ද එතුමිය සහජයෙන් ලබා තිබූ උතුම් අධ්‍යාත්මික ගුණාංග බව අපට හැඟි ගියේ ඇගේ පරිත්‍යාගශීලී ක්‍රියා පරිපාටිය තුළින්ය. නිරන්තරව, සුහද හසරුල්ලකින් ඔපවත් වූ ඇගේ ඉතා ප්‍රසන්න මුව කමළ අඳ සතු වූ අධ්‍යාත්මික මානව හිතවාදි භාවයේ කැඩපතක් බදුය. බාහිර සම්පත් හා ආරෝපයෙන් ඉදිමෙන සාමාන්‍ය සමාජයෙන් එතුමිය, සුවිශේෂීවූයේ ඇගේ අතිශය නිහතමානි ගති ලක්ෂණ නිසාය . කිසිවිට පුද්ගල උස් මට්ටමේ නොතැකූ ඇය අවශ්‍ය කාට වුවත් දයාබර හිතීන් උපකාර කිරීමට ඉදිරිපත් වූයේ උතුම් “මනුස්සකම” පිළිඹිබු කරමිනි. කිසිම විටක කෙනෙකුගේ සිතක් නොරිද්ද වූ එතුමිය කාගෙන් සිත් ඇද බැද ගත්තේ ආචාරශීලී භාවයෙන් හා මුදු මොලොක්, සුහද කථා විලාසයෙන්ය. එතුමිය, ඇගේ කායයි බහුල ජීවිතයේ ප්‍රමුඛස්ථානයක් මහාමයාව සඳහා කැපකර තිබුණි. මහාමයාවේ සෑම වැදගත් උත්සවයකම ආරාධිත අමුත්තන්ගේ ඉදිරි අසුන් පෙළේ හෝ වේදිකාවේ අසුන් ආරා සිටි. එතුමිය එම අවස්ථාවලට එක්වූයේ අලංකාරයක් හා අභිමානවත් බවක් මුසු කරමිනි.

ආදි ශිෂ්‍යා සංගමයෙන් විදුහලෙන් සෑම උත්සව අවස්ථාවල, සියළු සංග්‍රහ කටයුතු , ප්‍රතිභ ලෙසත් , සම්මානීය ලෙසත් ඉටුකර දුන්නාය. විදුහලේ 75ස් වසර හා 80 වසර පූර්ණ වූ අවස්ථා උදෙසා පැවැත්වූ ආගමික කටයුතු වලදි මහා දනමය කටයුතු අප වෙනුවෙන් ඉටු කර දුන්නේ ඉමහත් කැප වීමෙනි. ආර්ථික දුෂ්කරතා තිබුණු විදුහලේ සිසු දරුවන් රාශියක් එතුමියගේ ආධාර නිසා අධ්‍යාපනයේ ඉහලම සාර්ථකත්වයක් ලබා අද සමාජයේ ඉහළින්ම වැජඹෙති. පානබොක්කේ මැතිණිය මහාමයාවට ලබා දුන් අනුග්‍රහය අසීමිතය. කෙටියෙන් කිම උගහටය. මහාමයාවේ පින්බර නිර්මාතෘන්ගේ අන්තිම පුරුක වූ එතුමිය විදුහලේ පරිපාලක හවතුන් සමගත් ගුරුමණ්ඩලය හා සිසු දරුවන් සමගත් ආදි ශිෂ්‍යාවන් සමගත් ඉතා සුහදව සිටියාය. අඩ සිය වසකට ආසන්න කාලයක් මහාමයාව සමග ඉතා ලැබැදිව, සමීප සබැඳියාවකින් සිටි ඒ “ගාමිහිරි සොදුරු පෞරුෂය” අද අප අතරින් වියෝවී ගොසිනි. 2012.04.28 වැනි දින අප හැර ගිය මෙම උත්කෘෂ්ඨ ප්‍රභූවරියකගේ අභාවයෙන් ඇති වූ ‘හිඬැස’ නැවත කිසිදු පිරවිය නොහැකි බව අවංකව ප්‍රකාශ කරමි. පානබොක්කේ මැතිණියට නිවන් සුව පතමි.

එස් වන්සේකර මිය



Kids’ Corner

*The Red, White and Blue*

Flag Day

The celebration of a symbol  
Of a symbol of a discovery

Flag Day

The celebration of our pride  
Our soul  
Our heart

Flag Day

The celebration of the greatest of people  
People who love their country

Flag Day

The celebration of our freedom  
The readiness to defend the freedom  
The brave heart of people  
Willing to sacrifice their life

For their country

Flag Day is a

Celebration of our symbol  
The Flag

The Red, White and Blue

Flag Day is about the symbol

That in fifty stars and thirteen stripes  
Shows the greatness of

America

By: *Thisara Jayasinghe*

*5<sup>th</sup> Grade*

*Sanborn Elementary School, Andover, MA*

Mrs. Panabokke



May you attain Nibbana !!!!!

IN APPRECIATION

Mr. Anfai Chin

Mr. Anfai Chin, father of Dasmanthie Chin Purandhari de Silva and Girisha Durrel de Silva and husband of Mrs. Kamani de Silva passed away in May at the age of 69 years, after being diagnosed with liver cancer 12 months earlier. Mr. Chin worked for the University of Peradeniya in technical positions for 35 years until his retirement. He had a wonderful technical knowledge in many areas. Mr. Chin was born and bread in Kandy, studied at Sylvester's College, and was well known at Peradeniya as a great friend of many. He would help, anyone who sought his advice without any hesitation. His kind and happy demeanor attracted many friends.

Dasmanthi is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Miami, Florida. She served as a member of the Board of Directors and Secretary of MGCAANA in 2009/10. Girisha is a Ph.D. Candidate in Computer Science at National University of Singapore.

Mr. Chin will be sadly missed by his family and friends. May he attain the Bliss of Nibbana!

Appreciation

Mrs. Anoma Kumari Jayasinghe (nee Abeysinghe)

Mrs. Anoma Jayasinghe, wife of Mr. L.B. Jayasinghe, Mother-in-law of our new President, Prabodani Samarakoon, mother of our honorary member Ayesh Jayasinghe, and daughter Shanika Rukmali Jayasinghe, passed away in June, at the age of 56, after suffering from Cancer for a while. Mrs. Jayasinghe was an alumna of Girls’ High School, Kandy, and a retired science teacher. Mrs. Jayasinghe was a very kind and loving person. In Prabodani’s words, her mother-in-law was the most caring and loving person she has met. Prabodani and Ayesh were able to attend the funeral and dana of their mother.

Ayesh is a Ph.D. student in Physics and Astronomy at the University of Oklahoma. Shanika is a lecturer at the Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya.

Mrs. Jayasinghe will be sorely missed by her family and friends.

May she attain the bliss of Nibbana!

