



MAHAMAYA GIRLS' COLLEGE
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT
2012/2013



Mahamaya Girls' College

Alumnae Association of North America

About the Association

Mahamaya Girl's College Alumnae Association of North America (MGCAANA) is a voluntarily led, non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Washington in March, 2005. The association received the federal non-profit organization status retroactively in August 4, 2006.

Our mission

Our mission is to build, foster, and promote the unique and total growth of each individual alumna and students of Mahamaya Girls' College by providing a network of social, professional, educational, and cultural opportunities.

Our vision

Our vision is to create a future where inspired, well-rounded, and successful alumnae, in North America, and students of Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy, Sri Lanka to work together for the benefit of the society.



Mahamaya Girls' College

Alumnae Association of North America

Board of Advisors

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mrs. Sujatha Werake | Neranjika Dissanayake |
| Harshi Waters | Himashinie Diyabalanage |
| Dharshani Nanayakkara | Gayathri Gankanda |

Board of Directors 2012/2013

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Geetha Eragoda | Dulanjalie Dhanapala |
| Nimalka Wathupola | Prabodani Samarakoon |
| Lakmini Widanapathirana | Ayanthi Fernando |
| Deepani Waidyaratne | |
| Upeksha Thilakawardana | |

Executive Committee 2012/2013

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| President: | Geetha Eragoda | Treasurer: | Lakmini Widanapathirana |
| Vice President: | Lakmini Widanapathirana | Master: | Deepani Waidyarathne |
| Secretary: | Nimalka Wathupola | | |



Mahamaya Girls' College

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Other Committees functioning under MGCAANA

Fund Raising Committee

Newsletter Committee

Membership Drive Committee

Website Organizing Committee

Scholarship Committee

Endowment Committee



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Vidya Scholarship Trust Fund

Vidya Scholarship Trust Fund, is one of the oldest projects carried out by MGCAANA. Initiated in 2006, Vidya Trust Fund is a legal trust which focuses on supporting economically disadvantaged current students of Mahamaya Girls' College. The report of VSTF will be presented later.





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Flash Back on 2012-2013

- Bumper Sticker Project
- Charity Donation
- Annual MGCAANA Scholarship
- Resource Page
- Newsletter
- New and Improved MGCAANA Website
- Contacting Members & Membership Renewal



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Bumper Sticker Project

This project was initiated as a fundraising project for the society by printing 100 stickers with the school logo. A competition was held amongst the members to select a design for the sticker, thus selecting the winning design for this project.





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Charity Donation

This year's Charity donation of **\$100** was made to the **Community Food Bank of New Jersey**; who were contributing for the Sandy Relief Programme.



January 4, 2013

Ms. Lakmini Widanapathirana
Mahamaya Girls College Alumnae Association of North America
1612 24th St
Ames, IA 50010-4452

Dear Ms. Widanapathirana:

On behalf of the many who will receive comfort and hope through your kindness, thank you for your gift of \$100.00 which was received in December, 2012. While the immediate crisis of Hurricane Sandy is behind us, the enormous hardships wrought by the storm will be felt for many months to come. We could not assist our friends and neighbors in crisis without the support of the many organizations and individuals like you. As a result, throughout the months of November and December we delivered record-setting amounts of food to crisis centers and our partner agencies throughout the state.

Hurricane Sandy dealt a huge blow to many of the poor and low-income. Losing a refrigerator or freezer full of food and losing one or two weeks' worth of wages is a crisis to those living on the margin. In addition, many of those affected by the storm lost their home or apartment.

The FoodBank is committed to easing the burden of hunger throughout New Jersey and your contribution allows us to face the challenges of tomorrow and to help those who are struggling to meet their basic needs today. Thank you and best wishes for a happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Kathleen DiChiara
President and CEO

IN ACCORDANCE WITH IRS REGULATIONS I CERTIFY NO GIFTS OR SERVICES
WERE RECEIVED IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS GIFT



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Annual MGCAANA Scholarship Programme for Graduate and Undergraduate students

The Scholarship for the year 2012-2013 for a sum of \$500 was endowed to Lakmini Widanapathirana and Taniya Pathiranage.

Lakmini Widanapathirana is a Doctoral Student at the Iowa State University of Science and Technology in Organic chemistry.

Taniya Pathiranage is a Doctoral Student at the University of Texas at Dallas in Chemistry.





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Resource Page

A web page, "Useful Resources by MGCAANA" was initiated by Harshi Waters and developed by Deepani Waidyarathne, as an enhancement to the current MGCAANA website.

Useful Resources by **MGCAANA**

FEDERAL & STATE RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS OF MAHAMAYA GIRLS' COLLEGE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

Immigration Resources

Employment: Affirmative Action & Equal Employment Opportunity Resources

Women Rights/Women Empowerment/Domestic Abuse Resources

South Asian Women Organizations in US and Canada

Immigration Resources

US Department of Homeland Security: www.uscis.gov
Citizenship: <http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Resources/B1en.pdf>
Case status: <https://egov.uscis.gov/crs/Dashboard/CaseStatus.do>
Sponsor your family:
Permanent resident: <http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Resources/B1en.pdf>
Citizen: <http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Resources/A1en.pdf>
Case Processing Time: <https://egov.uscis.gov/crs/processTimesDisplayInt.do>

US Department of State: www.state.gov
Visa information: http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html
Student and Exchange visitors: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1270.html
Monthly Visa Bulletin: http://travel.state.gov/visa/bulletin/bulletin_1360.html
Passport information: http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html



Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America

Newsletter

All the 6 bi-monthly Newsletters were published during this year.

Volume09
NUMBER 02
April 2013

Maya Puwath

BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF MGCAANA



In This Issue

- Page 1 : Editorial
- Page 2-3 : Announcements
- Page 4 : Sinhala & Tamil New Year
- Page 5 : Warped Banana
- Page 6 : Law of Attraction
- Page 7 : New Year in Boston
- Page 8 : Kids Corner

Resources: Google Images

Dhammapada

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Sinhala and Tamil New Year

A time to Rejoice...

The Sinhala and Tamil New Year dawns in the Month of April for Sri Lankans, bringing with it a wealth of traditional practices, filling the air with the sheer festive joy that it brings.

This is the time for love, joy and overall cheer as even the nature itself adorns itself for the dawning of another new year. It is the time to forgo old rivalries and spread goodwill all around, stepping on to a brand new era, leaving the sorrows of the yesteryear behind. Celebrated by both Sinhalese and Tamils, this festival pulsating with life is celebrated in the month of April, usually on the 13th or the 14th, marking the end of the harvest and spring.

Unlike the rest of the world who celebrate the beginning of a new year on the 1st of January, most Sri Lankans prefer to save the festivities till April when according to the astrological charts, the sun moves from the house of Aries to the house of Pisces.

Age old traditions and customs are still being practiced during this period where everything happens at an auspicious time determined by astrologers. Most people attach a great importance to the customs practiced during this time and strictly adhere to the timings and instructions given in the almanac specially prepared for the New Year.

The Sinhala and Tamil New Year is indeed the ideal time to get engrossed within the vibrant culture and the proud heritage that Sri Lanka boasts of.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Avurudu Celebration in Boston



Wishing all our readers joy and prosperity, health and wealth, in this Sinhala-Hindu new-year, here we are bringing another issue of our newsletter, the April issue, to your doorstep.

Living far away from our country, listening to the nature's rhyming call of the koel bird only through the media, recalling the cherished memories of our childhood and sharing them with our children, we are trying to celebrate the reminiscence of our cultural values and customs during this season in a foreign land. Although the traditional oil lamps are not lit the same way and the auspicious times are not met, we attempt to convey the message of unity, harmony and the uniqueness of this precious event to the world the best possible way we can.

Speaking of unity and harmony, most of our Mayans demonstrate that to the fullest extent, engaging in various social and community work within MGCAANA and outside. Modern life is busy. We work according to a timetable. Managing time is crucial and some of us are trapped in this framework and let the work run over us. We kindly invite our readers to take a short break from your routine chores and enjoy the life, while sharing your work-kids-kitchen and overall life experience with us and doing something useful to the society.

If we pause for a moment and think about the people who have helped shaping our lives for who we are today, our parents and the teachers sparkle at the top of the list. We never forget our parents as we are naturally bonded to them. But occasionally, we tend to forget the school we attended and the teachers who assisted us. It may not be an easy task to track down each teacher in our lives but as a whole, the school once sheltered us is still there at the same place we left her, just like a mother - a good mother, holding the pride and having our best interests in her heart. The best we can do today to gratify her is to help the fellow Mayans, the young ones who are most fortunate to attend the school, yet less fortunate to finance the mission. Let's get together to reach the goal of Vidya Trust Fund to shape the lives of many other women to follow us. After all, the month of April (Bak-Maha) is the beginning of the New Year for us. If each member pledges a \$10/month for this worthy cause, we will be able to make a real change at the end of this year. With this message, let me conclude the editorial wishing you a promising and fulfilling New Year!!

- Hashini Mohottala



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New and Improved MGCAANA Website

The MGCAANA website was republished with new enhancements with the help of Deepani Waidyaratne.





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Contacting Members & Membership Renewals

For the Year 2012-2013, the **BOD contacted the MGCAANA Membership twice:**

To inquire about their preferences in joining one of the committees, the Board or to become an officer in MGCAANA,

To gather their suggestions for the Association as a whole.

And to invite the Membership to the 9th AGM.

The Treasurer sent **e-mails** to the members at the beginning of each month requesting **to renew their membership** and **to send in articles for the NL**.

At the end of the year, **61 members** had **renewed** their membership.



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**TO DATE THERE ARE 123 MEMBERS AND 12
HONORARY MEMBERS IN MGCAANA. !!**



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Thank you !!!

The Board of Directors and the Executive committee of 2012/2013 extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of our members and their family members who are here today for your valuable presence at the 9th AGM and for your continued support for the growth of our Association.

Prepared by: Nimalka Wathupola
Secretary 2012/2013