



# **MAHAMAYA GIRLS' COLLEGE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA (MGCAANA)**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2017/2018**



# Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America (MGCAANA)

## The Association

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- ❖ 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.

## The Purpose

- ❖ To build, foster and promote goodwill and fellowship among former students of Mahamaya Girls' College residing in North America, and individuals closely associated with Mahamaya Girls' College.
- ❖ To promote excellence in academic and non-academic activities of current students of Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy, Sri Lanka



# Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America (MGCAANA)

## ADVISORY BOARD

- ❖ Himashinie Diyabalanage
- ❖ Geetha Eragoda
- ❖ Dharshani Nanayakkara

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2018

- ❖ Vihara Dharmaratne
- ❖ Devi Gunasekera
- ❖ Subhashinie Kariyawasam
- ❖ Taroshani Kasturiarachchi
- ❖ Lilika Molligoda
- ❖ Berlini Narampanawe
- ❖ Aloka Paragodaarachchi
- ❖ Upamali Ratnayake
- ❖ Shalini Wijeratne

## Executive Committee 2017-2018

- **President** – Vihara Dharmaratne
- **Vice President** – Shalini Wijeratne
- **Secretary** – Berlini Narampanawe
- **Treasurer** – Devi Gunasekera
- **Webmaster** – Taroshani Kasturiarachchi



Mahamaya Girls' College  
Alumnae Association of North America (MGCAANA)

## **Committees Functioning Under MGCAANA**

- ❖ Newsletter Committee
- ❖ Fundraising Committee
- ❖ Membership Drive Committee
- ❖ Website Organizing Committee
- ❖ Endowment Committee
- ❖ Scholarship Committee
- ❖ Nanda Pussegoda Leula Memorial Scholarship Committee
- ❖ Social Welfare Committee



## Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America (MGCAANA)

### Vidya Scholarship Trust Fund (VSTF)

- ❖ VSTF was initiated in 2009 and is one of the oldest projects carried out by MGCAANA.
- ❖ VSTF is a legal trust registered in Sri Lanka and created by MGCAANA. It provides financial aid to economically disadvantaged students at Mahamaya Girls' College.
- ❖ The report of VSTF will be presented later.

At the beginning of 2017-2018, Directors of the newly-elected Board of Directors committed to raise \$100 each during the year 2017-2018; at the time of the 14th AGM the BOD was able to raise and get pledges worth \$700 toward VSTF



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**MGCAANA Undergraduate & Graduate**  
**Scholarship Program**

- ❖ This scholarship is awarded to one to two Mahamaya Girls' College alumnae pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in the US and Canada.
  
- ❖ This year, two scholarship were awarded to:
  1. **Anushka Kumarihamy Palipana (USA)**
  2. **Charithri Nanayakkara Yapa (Canada)**



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## Annual Charity Donation for a Local Charity

- ❖ In 2017-2018, the Board of Directors made a decision to start making two (2) donations, one to a charity in the USA and one to a charity in Canada.
- ❖ The Board engaged MGCAANA in the process by asking members to vote to select 2 charities.
- ❖ MGCAANA therefore made donations of \$100 each to:
  1. **America Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)**
  2. **The Canadian Cancer Society**



Canadian  
Cancer  
Society











# Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America (MGCAANA)

## Maya Puwath Bi-Monthly Newsletter

❖ 6 “Maya Puwath” newsletters were published in 2017-2018

❖ The Newsletter Committee changed the format of the newsletter, giving it a “new look”, as well as added new segments like ‘Pause-Rewind-Play’ and ‘The Interview’

<b>Maya Puwath - මායා පුවත්</b> Bi-Monthly Newsletter of Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America (MGCAANA) Volume 14 – Issue 2 – April 2018		 <b>Celebrating Sri Lanka's 70<sup>th</sup> Year of Independence!!!</b>		
<b>Message from the Editors</b>	<b>In this issue</b>	<b>MGCAANA Joins Amazon Smile!</b>  AmazonSmile: You shop. Amazon gives.		
Dear Readers, We hope you had a Prosperous and Happy New year celebrated with family and friends. The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of MGCAANA are busy these days getting everything finalized for the 2018 Annual General Meeting and Dinner which will take place over the Memorial Day Weekend (May 27, 2018) in the State College area in Pennsylvania. Remember to RSVP! mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com by May 1, 2018 if you and your family would like to attend! Please don't forget to renew your membership too if you haven't already done so. MGCAANA was able to successfully raise and donate \$700.00 for the computer project in order to purchase a computer for the school's computer lab. It is also a time to congratulate and send our best wishes to Luvisha Wimalawansa for coming first in the island at the 2017 GCSE Ordinary Level Examination. This issue also comprises of an interview with Gaja Samarasingha and a write up by Naniara Calfloor. There is also a delicious traditional recipe in the Recipe Corner. You will also see information on MGCAANA joining Amazon Smile so that Amazon could donate to MGCAANA every time you shop online. We hope you enjoy reading this issue of Maya Puwath! Sincerely, Maya Puwath Newsletter Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>14th MGCAANA AGM &amp; Dinner</li><li>Upcoming Election of the Next Board of Directors</li><li>The Interview</li><li>MGCAANA &amp; AmazonSmile</li><li>Pause – Rewind – Play</li><li>Update: Computer Project of Colombo Branch of Mahamaya Past Pupils' Association</li><li>Maya News</li><li>Recipe Corner</li></ul>  <b>ආරාමයේ පවත්වා ගන්නා උපකරණ වෙනත් ආරාමයේ වෙනත් දිනට පමණක් භාවිතයට ලක්වේ.</b>  <b>Dharmapada (Verse 016)</b>	<b>MGCAANA's Charitable Donations</b> The Executive Committee and the new Board of Directors (BOD) have been exploring new ways to engage our valued MGCAANA members from both Canada and the United States. As part of that, they are looking to engage you in selecting two charitable organizations of members' choice toward which MGCAANA will contribute its annual charitable donations. In the past, the Executive Committee and the BOD picked a charity, and this year, they would like MGCAANA members like you to pick a charity from each country! Please visit this <a href="#">survey link</a> to cast your vote and pick a charity of your choice to give back to the communities we live! 	<b>Pause – Rewind – Play</b> Maya Puwath has been reaching the MGCAANA membership since 2005, and "Pause – Rewind – Play" re-publishes past contributions to Maya Puwath, by MGCAANA members. <b>Karaniya Metta Sutra</b> <i>From Buddhahet.net, edited by Chathuri Nugawela-Munasinghe (December 2006)</i> <i>"I have often wondered what all the Pali stanzas meant. So I was pleased to find the following translation and thought of sharing it with you"- Chathuri</i> Universal Loving Kindness. One must be able, upright and straightforward; Pleasant in Speech, mild and not proud. Easily contented and easily supportable; Not caught up in too many "duties" and frugal in one's wants. Calm in mind, non-discriminative and courteous; avoiding any mean deeds blame worthy by the wise. Thinking always thus: "May all beings be happy and safe, May they all have tranquil minds." Whatever pulsates with the breath of life -the frail or strong, without exception, the long, the large, the medium-sized, the short, the thin or fat. Those visible, and those invisible, those living far away or nearby; beings who are already born and yet unborn. May they all be happy! May no-one deceive another, nor despise him in anyway anywhere. Let no-one wish another ill, owing to anger or provocation. Just as a mother would protect her son - her only son - with her life - even so let him cultivate this boundless love to all living beings. Radiating with a full heart loving thoughts of kindness towards all the world, free from anger, malice or anxiety - above, below and in all directions. And while standing, walking, sitting or reclining - still free from drowsiness -let him maintain this state of mindfulness - termed the "Highest Living" And living free from mere views, being virtuous, perfect in insight, free from the lust of sexual desire, never again shall he be entangled in the round of rebirth. Hate is never overcome by hate. By love alone it is quelled. This is a truth of ancient date. Today still unexcelled. Avoidance of evil, Performance of good deeds, Purification of one's thoughts is what is taught in this sutra.	
<b>Some Upcoming MGCAANA Activities</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Board Meetings (October &amp; November)</li><li>Next Newsletter (December)</li><li>MGCAANA Graduate &amp; Undergraduate Scholarship (Deadline: December 31, 2017)</li><li>Awarding Nanda Pussegoda Leula Memorial Scholarships (2018)</li><li>Awarding Vidya Scholarship Trust Fund (VSTF) Scholarships</li></ul>				





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### NANDA PUSSEGODA LEULA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (NPLMS)

- ❖ This project provides financial aid to economically-disadvantaged students at Mahamaya Girls' College, using a personal donation given by Mrs. Leula's daughter Kanthi Leula in memory of her mother who was a valued alumna of MGCAANA.
- ❖ The project originally included a portion of funding for a student-run organization at Mahamaya Girls' College to perform a community service project; however, this portion no longer exists.
- ❖ A detailed report on the progress of this project will be presented by the NPLMS Committee.



## Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America (MGCAANA)

### COLLABORATING WITH MAHAMAYA GIRLS' COLLEGE PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION (COLOMBO BRANCH)

- MGCAANA actively collaborated with the Colombo Branch of Mahamaya Girls' College Past Pupils' Association (PPA) in 2017-2018
- MGCAANA assisted the Colombo PPA with outreach for its "Computer Project" and the "Swimming Pool Project" for the Primary School of Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy, Sri Lanka
- Through donations from generous donors, MGCAANA was able to raise and donate **\$700** for the "Computer Project"





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## AMAZONSMILE

- ❖ To raise funds for MGCAANA activities, in 2017-2018, MGCAANA registered with Amazon Smile
- ❖ Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to MGCAANA whenever members choose to shop on AmazonSmile



You shop. **Amazon gives.**

- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Mahamaya Girls College Alumnae Association of North America** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

You can select a different charitable organization after signing in.

- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at **smile.amazon.com**

### Sign In

Your email address or mobile phone number:

Your Amazon password:

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Sign in using our secure server

New to Amazon? [Create an account](#)



## Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America (MGCAANA)

### **Contacting Members & Membership Renewal**

For the Year 2017-2018, the Board of Directors contacted the MGCAANA membership via e-mail requesting to:

- ❖ Renew membership
- ❖ Vote to a charity for MGCAANA's annual charitable donation
- ❖ Support the community service efforts of the Colombo Branch of Mahamaya Girls' College Past Pupils' Association
- ❖ Elect the Board of Directors for 2018-2019



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*The Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of 2017/2018 wish to extend our sincere gratitude to all our members, their families, and friends for their support throughout the year, and to those of you who are gathered here to participate in our 14th AGM and the Dinner. As always, it so wonderful to see all of you here. Thank you for your continuing support toward our Association.*

*Prepared by:*  
*Berlini Narampanawe (Secretary)*

*Thank  
you*

