

Maya Puwath - මායා පුවත්

quarterly Newsletter of Mahamaya Girls' College
Alumnae Association of North America (MGCAANA)
Volume 19- Issue 3 – July 2023



Message from the Editors

Dear Valued Members,

It's a great pride to write on our 3rd issue of Maya Puwath 2023. MGCAANA completed another year and entered the 20th milestone in 2023- 2024.

MGCAANA celebrated the 19th AGM virtually on 28th May with most of the BOD members, Officials, Advisory Committee, and well-wishers of the MGCANA members.

We are entering our 20th year with our newly elected BOD members and Predeepa Bobby Purasinghe as our newly elected President for the year 2023-2024.

The newsletter committee greatly appreciated the valuable contribution made by outgoing BOD members and warmly welcomed the newly elected BOD and Executive officials for the year 2023-2024

We as a team, plan to accomplish our goals with tremendous enthusiasm.

New BOD member for 2023-2024

President - Pradeepa Bobby Purasinghe

Secretary - Nadeeka Ranasinghe

Treasurer - Ayanthi Fernando

BOD / Webmaster - Pavithra Wijayapala

BOD / Newsletter - Ruvani Dissanayake

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Udakam hi nayanti nettika
usukara namayanti tejanam
darum namayanti tacchaka
attanam damayanti pandita.



“Just as farmers channel the water to their paddy field, fletchers straighten arrows , carpenters craft wood work from timber, a wise person tames oneself.”

<http://www.tipitaka.net> verse=080

19th Annual General Meeting

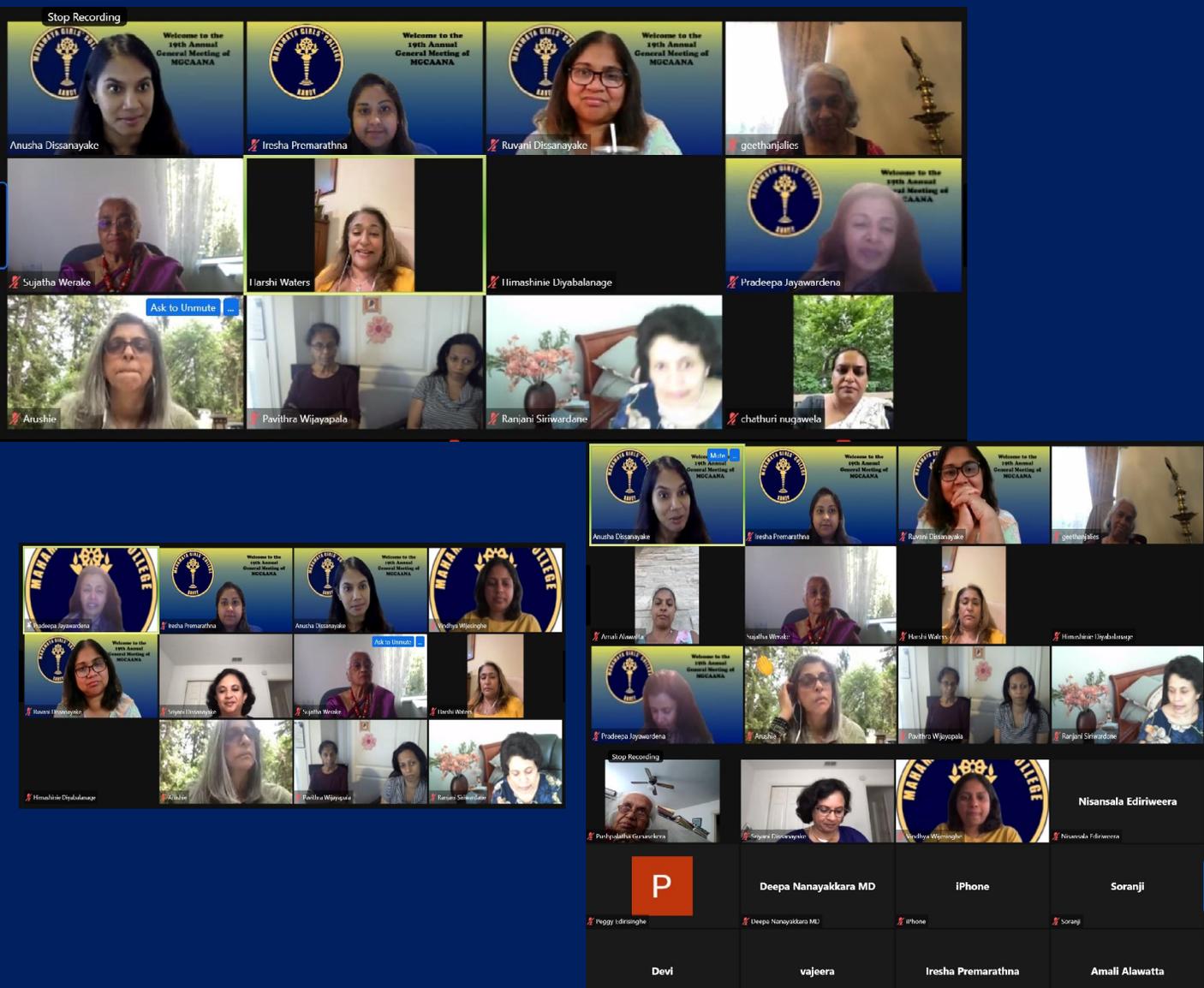
MGCAANA held their 19th Annual General meeting successfully on May 28th 2023. It was a virtual meeting held through zoom with the participation of the 2022-2023 Board of directors (BOD) and the Executive committee, honorary members, and guest members. The new Board of Directors and the Executive committee members for the year 2023-2024 were elected on that day.

We take this opportunity to thank and appreciate our former BOD members and Executive committee members for their valuable service and dedication in the previous year. Congratulations and a warm welcome to the new BOD members and Executive committee,

Pradeepa Jayawardena (President),
Nadeeka Ranasinghe (Secretary),
Ayanthi Fernando (Treasurer),
Directors :
Ruvini Dissanayake(Newsletter Committee) and
Pavithra Wijayapala (Webmaster)

Looking forward to new ideas and valuable contributions from the new BOD in the coming year.

By: Ayanthi Fernando



Congratulations

Mahamaya won the match by 4 wickets thanks to their captain Isiri Meegamma who played a captain's knock of unbeaten 71 runs. She was proud to receive the winning trophy from the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games silver medallist in 200 m Susanthika Jayasinghe.

The new coach Praba Udawatta, former Sri Lanka Women's cricketer, has done well in guiding the team since they went as underdogs.

Mahamaya College started cricket in 1982 under the former principal Nita Pilapitiya. The writer was the cricket coach. Then they had two teams under the captaincy of Thusara Tennakoon, sister of Thilina Tennakoon, former skipper of Dharmaraja College

cricket. The other team was captained by Manjula Kalpage the sister of former Sri Lanka Cricketer Ruwan Kalpage.

Mahamaya College continued cricket all these years up to date under the guidance of former principals like Indra Withanachchi.

Once, their team came third at the inter-district women's cricket tournament, organized by Gwen Herat, then president of women's cricket association of Sri Lanka.

Under The patronage of former principal Indra Withanachchi, the school organized an annual match between Mahamaya Golds and Mahamya Blues. Furthermore, yearly matches were organized with Palinks womens' cricket club Colombo. These matches were co-sponsored by S Muttiah, the father of Muttiah Muralitharan, the famous off-spinner, and Leslie & Ralph Sharrats.

Present Principal Shahikala Senadheera, former Sri Lanka schools' hockey captain, continues support to the upliftment of cricket in school.

Upananda Jayasundera - Kandy Sports Special Corr.

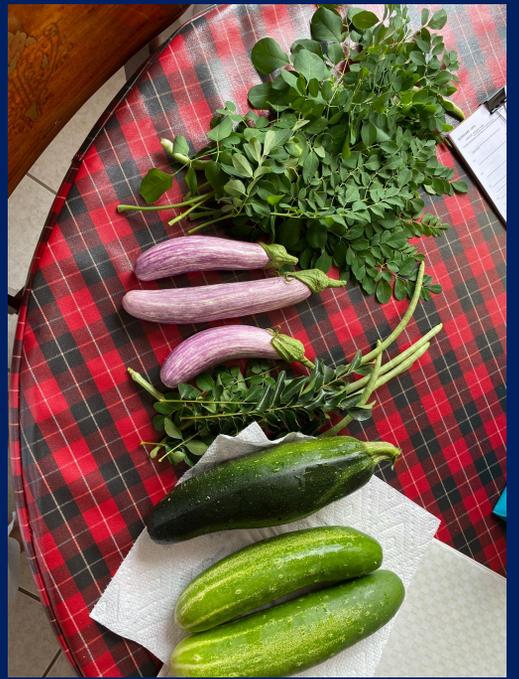


Summer Gardening in Gainesville Florida

I live in Gainesville, Florida. Summers are very hot and humid during the months from March until late October and then it cools down. Winter is not that harsh. This long perfect weather in early Spring, hot summers, and late cooling down weather in the Fall gives us ample time to grow vegetables. Especially vegetables mostly grow well in tropical climate such as Snake Gourd (Pathola), Ridge Gourd (Watakolu), different types of Squash, winter squash and Gold Hybrid Squash, zucchini (both green and yellow), Sri Lankan Eggplant, long green Beans (Mekaral), Banana, Orange, lemon, collard Green, Kale, Moringa (Murunga), Curry leaves, and I do get lots of banana blossoms during this time. This year I received a very good harvest of all these vegetables which I shared with my friends here Sri Lankans and American friends. Especially with my American friends, I showed them how to prepare salads out of Snake Gourd, and Ridge Gourd which they truly enjoyed. I grew wildflowers among the vegetables too. Even in my vegetable plot I have grown flowers. I have noticed doing that helps tremendously during pollination since my garden is always filled with lots of butterflies and bees. Growing vegetables is my hobby during the season, and I truly enjoyed growing, looking at the plants, sharing the crop with my friends and eating well and healthy.

Sriyani Dissanayake

(continue next page for wonderful photos)



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Thoughts.....

Watch your thoughts, for they become words.

Watch your words, for they become actions.

Watch your actions, for they become habits.

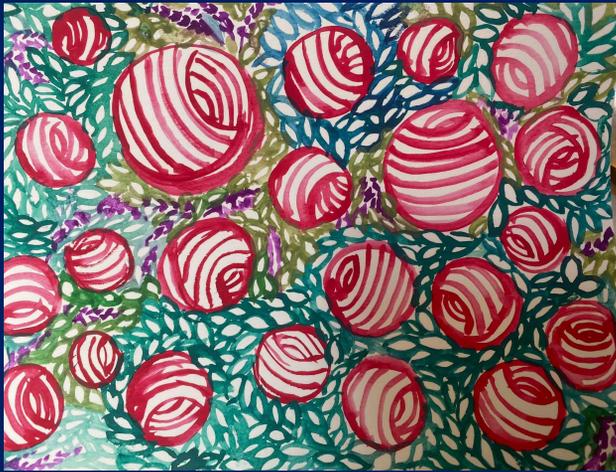
Watch your habits, for they become character.

Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.



~~~ Author Unknown~~~

**Arts by Pradeepa "Bobbie" Purasinghe, President, MGCAANA**



# Trifles

I'm on a roll from the time I roll off the bed  
Actually, even before I am fully awake,  
My mind making a list of things to do prioritizing  
and re-prioritizing  
Jobs to get done  
at work and at home  
for kids and myself  
It's a good thing breathing itself is on auto-pilot  
same as sleep,  
and come to think of it everything about this body  
that we rush here and there doing our bidding.  
Now that I am thinking, I really did not know  
what my kids would look like, or the persons  
they would grow up to be before they ended up with  
me...

Forget the kids -  
no one asked for my input on what kind of person I  
wanted to be  
outwardly or inwardly  
before I found myself living the life that by and large  
seems to be flowing without much of a say on my part.

*My priorities?*

*My choices?*

Biggest decisions already made in an incessant flow  
that sweeps across all life forms

A zillion stars look down on me

A grain of sand

A tiny ant

In a vast universe...

by Priyantha Srivijayasri (Priyanthi Chandrasekara 88)

## Reaching the New Goal **50,000** Set for Vidya Scholarship Trust Fund (VSTF)

The Vidya Scholarship Trust Fund (VSTF) set up by MGCAANA provides financial aid to financially-disadvantaged students at Mahamaya Girls' College. Scholarships from VSTF pay for educational expenses and/or boarding fees of students attending Mahamaya. "Vidya," a Sanskrit word, means knowledge or wisdom. Our initial goal was to raise at least \$20,000. We reached this goal in 2019.



The total amount collected for VSTF reached \$43,606 in last APRIL 2023. The goal was \$40000 at that time. As we passed the goal, the BOD increased the new goal to \$50,000. Currently, we are at 87 of the new goal.

To donate online or by cheque, please visit:

<http://mahamayaalumnina.org/vstf.php>

### Want to know what your Board of Directors (BOD) is up to?

Please read the minutes of the BOD's monthly meetings posted on MGCAANA website:

<http://www.mahamayaalumnina.org/minutes.php>

If you have new ideas, concerns, or suggestions to improve how MGCAANA operates etc. please feel free to connect with the BOD through email: [Mahamaya\\_alumnae@yahoo.com](mailto:Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com)

### Upcoming MGCAANA Activities

- Board Meetings (Every 3rd, Friday)
- Next Newsletter (October 2023)

### Newsletter Committee:

Ruvani Dissanayake

### JOIN US!

**MGCAANA Newsletter Committee is looking to recruit new committee members to work on "Maya Puwath," quarterly publishing newsletter of MGCAANA. As part of the Newsletter Committee, you'll be able to develop these useful skills: communication; writing; graphic design; team work; creative thinking; time management; leadership etc.**

**If you are interested, please reach out to the Committee through:**

[Mayamaya\\_alumnae@yahoo.com](mailto:Mayamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com)

## We value your donations - fulfilling our purpose of MGCAANA

An important message from Ms Himashanie Diyabalange - on behalf of the endowment committee and the VSTF Board of trustees..

VSTF Announcements : **18** scholarships were awarded for the year 2022-2023 ( each Rs 20, 000).

## Renewing MGCAANA Membership for the Year 2023

Thank you to members that already renewed their membership for the year 2023. If you have not renewed your membership yet, this is a friendly reminder to renew your membership to support MGCAANA's ongoing activities. How you can renew your membership:

**Online:** Use your credit card or PayPal account to pay your membership fee through the MGCAANA membership renewal page.

**By Mail:** Please mail a check payable to MGCAANA (\$ 15 - Students; \$ 25 - Regular). Address: Treasurer, MGCAANA, 2417 NE 20th, Renton, WA 98056

**Note:** If you wish, you can also renew your membership for 3, 5, or 10 years by paying US\$70.00, US\$115.00 and US \$230.00 respectively. Your support helps MGCAANA continue its legacy in helping Mayans and their communities in North America as well as current students at Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy, Sri Lanka.