

Volume 12

Issue 3
June 2016

Maya Puwath

BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF MGCAANA



In This Issue

- Page 1: Greetings from the Editor
- Pages 2: Message from the President
- Page 3-7 : Annual General Meeting Photos
- Pages 8: Note from past President
- Pages 9: Scholarship Recipients
- Page 10: Get together Announcement
- Page 11: Note from Mrs. Werake



Mahamaya Girls' College
Alumnae Association of North
America

Dear Members,

This is MGAANA's 12th anniversary. We had yet another exciting Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 28, 2016 in Maryland. Our Washington DC area members did a great job organizing a fabulous event. Food was delicious and company was entertaining. I hope everyone had an opportunity to rekindle old friendships and make new friends. In my case, I had the opportunity to see a classmate I had not seen since I did my Advanced Level Examinations in 1988.

This issue is dedicated to our AGM and its proceedings which include the election the new Board of Directors (BOD) and Officers. I have included thoughts from past presidents and a note from the incoming president.

Introducing our new Executive Committee and the Board Of Directors (2016-2017)

Indrani Gunawardana (President and Director)
Supipi Auwardt (Secretary and Director)
Nelum Dorabawila (Vice president and Director)
Subhashinie Kariyawasam (Treasurer and Director)
Tharoshani Kasthuriarachchi (Web Master and Director)
Sriyani Dissanayake (Director)
Vihara Dharmaratne (Director)
Sudharma Upamali Ratnayake (Director)
Geethanjali Wickramanayake (Director)

I wish them all a successful term.

Wishing everyone safe and fun travels this Summer,

Vajeera Dorabawila, Ph.D. Issue Editor

Message from the President of MGCAANA

I am honored to serve you as the President of the MGCAANA for the year 2016/2017. I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for giving me this opportunity. The Mayans before me have navigated this organization for the past 12 years with exceptional dedication and I intend to keep that spirit alive and vibrant. I look forward to work with all of you for the advancement of the organization and to help the young Mahamaya students in need. I firmly believe that a good education is the key to the world in many ways.

Few words about myself....

My name is Indrani Gunawardana (nee Tennakoon). I studied at Mahamaya Girls' College from 1965 to 1972. I entered The University of Peradeniya in 1972 to pursue a degree in Biological Science and graduated with top honors in 1975. During my freshman year at Peradeniya campus I met my husband Geewa and we got married in the summer of 1976. Soon after that we went to the University of Tasmania, Australia to pursue graduate studies in Chemistry.

Upon completion of our studies we came to USA in 1983 and made our home first in Chicago (University of Illinois), then in Libertyville Illinois where I worked at the Abbott Labs as a Senior Research Chemist. In 2001 we moved to Colorado and made our home in Boulder. Since then I have been working at Array BioPharma (a biotech company) as a Research Investigator in the Medicinal Chemistry Division. My husband and I have one son and currently we live with our beloved Main Coon cats, Wolfgang and Hermes in the foot hills of the beautiful Rocky Mountains. Geewa and I have 3 sponsored daughters in Sri Lanka. We want to give them a good education, dignity for life and hope for a better future. We have been helping our sponsored daughters for the past 7 years. This experience has enriched our lives so much. I am also a passionate advocate for the conservation and protection of wildlife. I am a President's Council member for the Defenders of Wildlife. My hope is to give a human voice to the voiceless and make the world a better place for all of us. My hobbies are classical piano, fiber arts, gardening and hiking.

I have been a member of MGCAANA for the past 4 years. Past year I served as a BOD and took an active role in fundraising. I also organized a silent auction for the AGM held in May 28th 2016 in Maryland. We raised \$535.00 for the Vidhya Scholarship Trust Fund during this drive. I am grateful for the support I received and I thank all of you for your contributions and the participation in the silent auction.

I thank the Maryland organizing committee for organizing the 12th AGM. Thank you so much for all the hard work on your part to make that a memorable occasion. I also thank all the Mayans who contributed to the success of the AGM. Without you we would not have accomplished any of this. I could not have asked for a team more gracious than you. Thank you for everything. I wish you happiness, peace and contentment for the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Indrani Gunawardana
President, 2016/2017

Photos from the 12th AGM in Maryland, USA

Main Organizing Committee: These ladies did a fabulous job.
Tamara (nee Dorabawila) Jayasundara, Ishani Herath, Inoka Tennekoon, Sudarma Ratnayake, Aloma Hettiarachchi and Nelum Dorabawila



Attendees: These ladies came from all over USA and Canada



Photos from the AGM continued:



Photos from the AGM continued:



Photos from the AGM continued:



Two of the past presidents: Sujatha Werake and Sriyani Dissanayake



Children making friends with each other in the background.

Photos from the AGM continued:



Twelfth Annual General Meeting

by

Sriyani Dissanayake

Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America (MGCAANA) celebrated its twelfth year in Maryland on Saturday 28th, May 2016.

It has been another successful year for MGCAANA in every way. We have reached our set goals. Our fund raising activities were in good shape for various scholarships we do in MGCAANA. All our annual reports are in the MGCAANA web page for everyone to see.

This was my last year as a leader of this organization and I have had lots of duties to attend to prior to my departure from the executive committee. I believed that handing over my leadership to a new president must go through as smooth as possible so that new energy with new ideas may take place for the organization. I did my best in the past two years to this wonderful association of MGCAANA and to my Alma Mater, Mahamaya Girls College in Kandy Sri Lanka.

I must give my heartiest congratulations and appreciations to both my Board of Directors in 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 for all their support and hard work that they have done. I could not achieve what I have accomplished for the last two years without their team work and effort. My heartiest thank you goes to all who served in the BOD and executive committees, and to all MGCAANA members. I am grateful for the committees and sub committees who organized both AGM meetings 2015 in Ottawa, and 2016 in Maryland. They have done an excellent job. My hats off to those who have participated.

In both times organizing these meetings met with so many challenges and so many contrasting ideas. I always had the strong support from our MGCAANA lawyer and (former advisor) Mrs. Harshi Waters and our strongest pillar of MGCAANA, Mrs. Sujatha Werake. I was able to jump over those hurdles easily and was able to get Mayans to come together. We have discussed matters in hand and finished the fiscal years in good terms. Both times we celebrated our success with a dinner dance. I left these events with lots of contentment and happiness. I know that those who came felt the same way at the events, re-kindling their friendships and leaving with new friendships and memories. In both times what I have noticed was no matter what differences we have in ideas and opinions, at the end as Mayans we knew how to come together. These are the qualities, upbringing, and guidance that we all developed through various opportunities while studying at Mahamaya. We have always shown no matter where you go, how to take the leadership when needed, how to bring everyone together, also to have a good time together. I am very grateful for my Alma Mater for that.

So thank you Maryland for all your skills this year organizing our 12th AGM. You were an amazing group of individual with lots of energy and determination. Thank you for being there for me and holding your breath until the last minute and I know for sure everyone who came, Mayans, family members, and friends, left Maryland filled with wonderful memories.

MGCAANA Scholarship Recipients

Nadeesri Wijekoon

I attended Mahamaya Girls' College from 1996 to 2009. While I was at Mahamaya, I was an active member of the Astronomical Society and Social Science Society. After Mahamaya, in year 2009 I attended University of Peradeniya to pursue my Bachelor's degree. At the end of the second year at Pera, I was selected to do the Special degree in Statistics and I was able to complete my degree with a First class honors in 2014. During these days I met my husband and we got married in year the 2015. After I finished my degree, I joined the Department of Statistics and Computer Science as a temporary lecturer. In order to complete our graduate studies we came to USA in July 2015. Currently, both me and my husband attend University of Maryland Baltimore County.



Dilshani Ranasinghe

I am sincerely grateful to you for your generous scholarship. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor and I am deeply appreciative of your support. I am a finance and accounting major. I plan to pursue a career in academia. I obtained my B.Sc. in accounting from University of Sri Jayewardenepura and M.Sc. in Strategic finance from Indiana University. I am currently enrolled in the MBA program at the IU. By awarding me the scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help fellow Mayans achieve their goals just as you have helped me.





Let's get together to celebrate our lives with the closest to our hearts....!!

Go back to those golden years under the blue and gold flag at mother Maya....!!

Reminisce the 7 years of joy, laughter, tears and togetherness and renew our bonds of friendship for the rest of our lives...!! Get to know our families and Children to make new friends.....!!

Celebrate 50 young years of maturity.....!!!!



Date : 16.07.16

Venue: Thilanka Hotel, Kandy

Time : 9 am to 4 pm

- * Buffet lunch
- * Live music
- * sing song
- * Raffle draw
- * B'day cake
- * swimming pool for kids
- * Gifts and souvenirs

ALL MAYA 85' CLASSMATES & THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS ARE WELCOME !!!!

Please contact any one of us below for more information & to sign-up:

Malji: +94710250051 Malki: +94727460928
Preeni: +115084392198 Dilruka: +94710417288
Yassassri: +94727282920 Udeni: +94777903388
Dayani: +94716423741 Manohari: +94779221655
Sunethra: +9718480888 Vishaka: +9477 3267413
Manjula: +94772445150 Sandamali: +94716525822

Note from Mrs. Sujatha Werake, our Organization's Mentor and Primary Founder: Thoughts on AGM 2016

Annual General Meeting and Dinner Dance in Maryland! What a Fabulous Event!!!

Big thank you to the East Coast Organizing Committee, participant Mayans, their families and friends, and the outgoing President, Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors!!! Silent Auction was a great success too. Thank you!

Congratulations to the newly elected Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. Thank you for your willingness to serve the Organization.

Over 100 people gathered at the party and the joy of being together was infectious!!! Great company, wonderful food, and lots of love and friendship...

Thank you dear Mayans for being part of this great annual event. I wish to thank you all again personally. However, I am in Sri Lanka these days. Wish everyone of you peace and happiness.

Love you all.
Sujatha Werake



A PUBLICATION OF THE MAHAMAYA GIRLS' COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Vajeera Dorabawila, Sriyani Dissanayake and Dilshani Ranasinghe