



Commemorating 75 years 1932-2007

MAYA PUWATH

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DHAMMAPADA

Death is not to be feared so much by one who has lived wisely.- Lord Buddha

EDITORIAL

It's a privilege and pleasure to write this editorial which marks the third annual general meeting of the MGCAANA. This highlights the hard work of all our members & non members. The fact that we have made it this far & made great achievements in the process is a tribute to all the Mayans who have given of their free time selflessly to make a success of this organization.

The AGM which was held on June 2nd heralds in a new board of directors. We have all read their credentials and chosen them from among ourselves. And we have no doubt at all that the new board of directors would do their best to take the MGCAANA to better & greater achievements. We thank the outgoing BOD for their hard work & dedication. And hope that their experience as the BOD was a happy & cordial one. We would like to Thank Devi Subasinghe, our co-editor who is leaving the newsletter committee. Thank you for all the hard work and support you gave to the committee. Your contributions in the medical field was greatly appreciated and looked forward to by many a reader. Your medical articles will be significantly missed and we hope you will continue to write in when time permits. We would also like to welcome our new editor Dakshika Bandaranayake. We look forward to working with you.

This is an opportunity for all of us to bring out our inner talents. We can all learn as we grow & expand our organization. The greatness of this society is that we are among friends all with the same ideals & ideas. All from our great Alma mater Mahamaya. All those budding writers have the Newsletter to show off their talents. So make use of it, contribute in any small way time permits. Take the opportunity and make the most of it. On this third year that has dawned we have to understand that we are what makes the organization. It is what we can make it together. And each and every member is important. Only a handful of members can be office bearers. But the organizations is not exclusive to them. And with out the rest of the member there will be no organization. So make your mark, send in your ideas for what MGCAANA can do in the coming year and how we can help contribute to our society. An organization open to new ideas and projects is a successful one. It is what will give motivation to keep us moving forward.

So while we congratulate and welcome our new BOD we would also like to invite all members to join us to make the up coming year a successful one.

Nazrana Caffoor—Editor in Chief for current edition.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

First of all, I would like to welcome the new Board of Directors and the new Executive Committee of MGCAANA. In addition, I would like to thank the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee who served during the year of 2006-2007 for doing an amazing job and working so hard to make our alma mater's 75th anniversary celebrations a success and successfully completing many projects such as sponsoring 20 disadvantaged students at Mahamaya, Donating money to buy sports equipment, scholarship program for undergraduate and graduate students living in U.S etc.....

As we enter the year of 2007-2008, we have many exciting projects planned such as establishing an endowment in Sri Lanka to sponsor the disadvantaged students, Publishing the 75th anniversary Commemorative Volume, donating books to the library and many more. I would encourage you to read our newsletter "Maya Puwath" and minutes from Board of Directors meeting, which is published, in our web for information regarding these projects and future events. If you have any suggestions, comments or new ideas, please let us know about it by emailing to : mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com. We would love to hear from you.

Let's get together, get involved, serve our alma mater and the society and make a difference.

Sincerely yours,

Erandi Suriyaarachchi (Ranaweera)

President- MGCAANA

MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Thank you from the Bottom of My Heart!

First of all, it is with great pleasure that I send my best wishes to the new President Erandi Ranaweera and the new Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of MGCAANA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2006-2007 Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, members of various committees including the Newsletter Committee, Fundraising Committee, Commemorative Volume Publication Committee, Membership Committee, Host and Travel Club, Sponsorship Program Committee and the Scholarship Selection Committee for enthusiastically devoting your time to make the 2006-2007 year extraordinary. I am profoundly grateful for all your support and unconditional love. My dear members, I sincerely thank all of you for being our inspiration, courage, and strength. I truly value your friendship and help. Any contribution that I have made as the President last year certainly pales in comparison to what you all have done. MGCAANA could not have reached this far without the perseverance and determination of each of you.

I am delighted to say that the 3rd Annual General Meeting and the Mahamaya Girls' College 75th anniversary commemorative almsgiving were extremely successful. Members from different parts of the country gladly participated in these events. Some flew in from far away states and some drove from nearby states. We all experienced the joy and excitement of meeting old friends and making new friends. At the meeting we celebrated our accomplishments, sense of community and expressed our appreciation to all our members who contributed to making MGCAANA a fantastic organization. Our meeting went on from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Our beautiful school flag and a banner displaying "75 Years of Excellence" were hanging in the meeting hall. Five of us were dressed in saris. I welcomed everyone and spoke about our organization, what we have achieved so far and our plans for the future. Secretary Erandi Ranaweera presented the annual report and Director Harshi Waters (on behalf of Treasurer Tamara Dorabawila) presented the accounts for the year. Director Mrs. Sujatha Werake spoke about the progress of the MGCAANA Sponsorship Program and introduced the idea of establishing an endowment in Sri Lanka for this cause. Vice President and Director Kishani Martin spoke about the Mahamaya Girls' College 75th Anniversary Commemorative Volume: A Guiding Light. Our in-house-attorney Harshi Waters further spoke about the importance of maintaining our IRS non-profit status and the purpose of our organization.

Jayanthika Wijeweera served as the Returning Officer for the 2007-2008 Election of the Board of Directors. She handled her responsibilities with utmost confidentiality and care and revealed the results of the election to everyone present at the meeting. The new Board of Directors was elected, and it's time to move on with high spirits. Dear Members, thank you very much for casting your vote – it was very important for us. Moreover it was indeed a privilege to have had the opportunity to treat everyone who came to Las Vegas with Sri Lankan cuisine at my house. We laughed, shared old stories, met family members and relived the wonderful time spent at Mahamaya. My parents and I are truly thankful for the memorable time you all spent at our place. The 75th anniversary almsgiving was a great success as well. Dear members thank you very much for donating money for this worthy cause. We are truly blessed to have had our foundations firmly planted and nurtured at a remarkable institution such as Mahamaya. So paying tribute to all the eminent human beings who were fundamental to the advancement of the school over the years was the least we could do. It was the Poson Poya day and the temple was full of devotees who had observed sil. We offered heel dana to five Sri Lankan Buddhist priests, two of them who had come from Sri Lanka recently. In addition, we got the opportunity to offer heel dana to about 25 devotees who had observed sil that morning. The priests' sermons appropriately pointed out the value and significance of our event and the determination and courage of the founders of Mahamaya in establishing a Buddhist girls' school during the British colonial period dominated by the Christian missionary education. Harshi Waters briefly spoke about the history of Mahamaya at the end.

All in all, we had a fabulous time. Please visit our website for more information including the annual report, accounts, minutes and pictures about the meeting and the almsgiving. Lots of pictures of these events are posted at our MahamayaFriends Yahoo! Group as well. Those of you who couldn't attend the meeting and the almsgiving, you were certainly in our hearts. Together we have accomplished a lot and I am certain that you will continue to support us in our future endeavors. I encourage you to navigate our website and be informed of our activities and plans. You are invited to share your thoughts so that we can better shape our service to you, our alma mater and our society. I can't wait to see you all at our next event and look forward to a great year. May the Triple Gem bless you.

Fondest regards,

Dharshani Nanayakkara – out going President MGCAANA

APPRECIATION AND VIEWS OF THE AGM

I My trip to Las Vegas was a trip that was rich with Sri Lankan cultures and religion. What caught my heart the most was when I attended part of Mahamaya Girls' College Annual General Meeting on June 2, 2007. I am really intrigued with the leaders and members of the Mahamaya Girls' College. These women are really smart, highly educated, humble and have a willing heart to help their own people not only financially but also physically. I admire their passion to ensure that the girls from their country will receive their rightful education. I am impressed with their commitment to this organization to better the lives of the girls from Sri Lanka. And not forgetting their willingness to travel from different parts of United States just to attend the AGM for the sake of their people from back home. My hope is one day this organization will be or need to be recognized throughout the world. On a different note, coming from a totally different background it was a great experience to get to know the Sri Lankan cultures especially their religion. My knowledge of Sri Lanka was enlightened over the weekend at Las Vegas. Another thing, I surely can't deny that the food was extremely marvelous. I loved it. Recipes please!!! ---

Karen To ---From Malaysia, June 13, 2007

2 I am so happy that I had the opportunity to participate in the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Mahamaya College organized by MGCAANA at Las Vegas Nevada. We also had the 3rd annual general meeting of our organization. First of all, I like to thank the Initial Board of Directors (Neranjika Dissanayake, Arushie Nugapitiya, Harshi Waters and Sujatha Werake) for establishing MGCAANA here in North America and motivating everybody to do all the good work with the organization. Meeting the young members of our organization made it clear to me that Mahamaya daughters are smart, elegant and well-mannered and they are going to stand out anywhere in the world. It was a pleasure to note that the generations after us are following in the same paths our founders, principals and staff had laid down for us. At the meeting we connected, shared views and made plans for the future. Mr. and Mrs. Nanayakkara were our hosts and were kind enough to have the dinner at their home. We enjoyed Sri Lankan cuisine, talked, laughed and had a really good time. We thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Nanayakkara. On Sunday we offered heel dane to Nevada Buddhist Vihare to pass merit to our founders. I believe as Buddhists this was very important to us and since it was Poson Poya there were several ata sil upasaka too and dane was shared among all of them. We remembered the founders of our school, Lady Sara Soysa, Sir Benet Soysa, Mrs. Ratwatte, Emmie Jayatilaka, Mrs. Wijegunawardana etc. When I was a little child I had the good fortune to see Lady Sara Soysa and others, as my aunt was a good friend of them. Returning to our lives, we parted with great memories and peaceful thoughts.

Jayanthika Wijeweera

We Invite You to Join Our Yahoo! Group: Mahamayafriends

The Mahamayafriends Yahoo! Group is exclusively for MGCAANA members to create a discussion forum to exchange views. This will help us to hear our members' voices, view related photographs, share a calendar of events and use other benefits that Yahoo! Groups offer. We hope that this will benefit our organization to grow further. In addition to our website and our newsletter, Maya Puwath, we hope that this group will help us stay more connected. We expect that all of you will use this privilege responsibly and positively and will respect everyone's privacy by using the e-mail addresses posted here only for our own internal communication.

We invite you to enjoy the many pictures of the 3rd Annual General Meeting and the 75th anniversary commemorative almsgiving held in Las Vegas that are posted here. Also we invite you to post pictures from your school-time and of your family, trips and visits to Sri Lanka.

To join the Mahamayafriends Yahoo! Group please accept the invitation that was sent to you recently. If you didn't receive the invitation or are having trouble joining the group please e-mail us at Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com.

Thank you for joining the Mahamayafriends Yahoo! Group. We look forward to hearing from you.

Message from Ms. Sujatha Werake

Thank you!!!

Dear members, thank you for casting your vote. We successfully elected the new Board of Directors for the year 2007/08. The Board of Directors nominated the Executive Committee. We are delighted that we have a wonderful team to lead MGCAANA for the year 2007/08.

We are grateful to the outgoing Board of Directors and the Executive Committee for their outstanding contribution. A big thank you to all the members of the Committees for their dedication and hard work. We are indeed proud of our last year's achievements.

The Annual General Meeting, the dinner and the Dana in commemoration of Mahamaya's 75th anniversary were hosted by our former President Dharshani Nanayakkara and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. Nanayakkara in Las Vegas. The events were lined up back to back. Three of them had put a great deal of work into organizing these events. On behalf of MGCAANA I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Nanayakkara family for all the hard work they did without any hesitation to make these events a great success. We had a most successful AGM and a delicious dinner together with our Maya families on Saturday, June 2nd, and a well organized Heel Dana at the Nevada Buddhist Temple in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Mahamaya Girls' College on Sunday, June 3rd. We are thankful to the Buddhist clergy for their support given to us. Thank you very much to all the attendees: our alumnae, their families and friends. Our members and their families came to participate in these events from California, Arizona, Philadelphia, Washington, Texas, Oregon and Utah. We had two special, enthusiastic participants worth mentioning: Mrs. Nanda Leule who was a student of Mahamaya in 1940 and Mrs. Senanayake who studied at Mahamaya in the late 1940s. They drove to Las Vegas with their families from California to participate in our events. It was a great joy to meet each and every one of our alumnae and their families who came. Thank you all for your support.

Please see more pictures of these events at www.Mahamayafriends@yahoo.com. If you find it difficult to log in please email us at mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com.

AGM 2007 IN PICTURES



New Board Members (Present at the AGM) L to R: Director/Secretary Menaka Samarasinghe, Director Dharshani Nanayakkara, Director/President Erandi Ranaweera



Mrs. Werake Speaking about the Sponsorship Program/ Endowment (L to R: Harshi, Erandi, Dharshani, Kishani, Mrs. Werake)



Jayanthika Wijeweera



06-07 Board (missing Neranjika, Tamara) L to R: Secretary Erandi, VP Kishani, President



All the members who attended the 3rd annual general meeting in Las Vegas



Mrs. Werake Speaking about the Endowment



Welcome Speech by Dharshani Nanayakkara



Harshi Speaking about IRS Status/Purpose



Kishani Speaking about the Comm. Volume

AT THE PARTY @ DHARSHANI'S



The Cake



Mrs Pushpa Gunasekera

Out going and in coming Presidents

Dinner



Champika Luela



Harshi & Curt Waters



Kishani and James Martin



Jayanthika Wijeweera



Mr & Ms. Werake

L to R Mrs. Waliwita, Mrs. Werake Ms. Leula



Gayathri Samarasinghe

Deepika, her son and Shyama

Ravi, Erandi, Menaka and Prasad

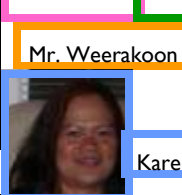


Varuna



Mr. Senanayake

Karen, Jayanthika, Ms. Werake, Ms. Leula



Mr. Weerakoon

Karen



M. Werake & S Nanayakkara

Champika Luela's daughter and husband



AT THE ALMS GIVING



Dhammarathana Thero, Wabole Sumana Thero, Ambanpola Seelarathana Thero, Alawala Subhuthi Thero, Waliwitiye Sumana Thero



DONATING COMPUTERS TO MAHAMAYA

YOUNG TALENT



L to R: Dharshani N., Nilmini D. Mrs. S. Werake, Principal Mrs. I. Withanachchi, Vice Principal Mrs. Visakha Herath



Oneli and Ranali Ranatunge— daughters of Nadheeka and Mangala Ranasinghe performing at Ranga Tharanga at New York Buddhist Temple

Our lives are not determined by what happens to us but by how we react to what happens, not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events, and outcomes. It is a catalyst, a spark that creates extraordinary results. **Anon**

Editorial Committee : Nazrana Caffoor (chief editor), Chathuri Nugawela– Munasinghe, Priyanka Jayakody and Dakshika Bandaranayake.

A PUBLICATION OF MAHAMAYA GIRL'S COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA