



MAYA PUWATH

Volume 4 Issue 4 -August 2008

EDITORIAL

Hi Everyone!

It's summer time once again, and I hope all of you are enjoying the long summer days ... Indeed, this summer has been full of excitement for me as a new member in the editorial committee, and I have been privileged to work along side Priyanka, Nazrana, and Dakshika who helped me and guided me, and most of all showed me right from wrong. A big thank you to all of you who made this issue possible...

As you start reading this issue of our Newsletter, you might notice that the funny anecdotes about Iru and Meth aren't there this time. Those were everyone's favorite articles in the Maya Puwath for the past three years as Chathuri akki welcomed all of us into her home and revealed the most embarrassing, sometimes chaotic moments of her life. Without a doubt, those lovely stories will be dearly missed, and Chathuri akki-- you'll be missed. Thank you for being the backbone of Maya Puwath, and for guiding it along its journey...

It is with great pride that the Publication Committee presented us with "The Guiding Light"—a labor of love and commitment that took two years in the making. We hope all of you would show your commitment to our Alumnae by purchasing a copy for your enjoyment. The wonderful stories that span years of "life" at Mahamaya would be a great addition to your collection of memories.

Our theme for this news letter is "weddings." We welcomed two new brides to our big family of MGCAANA: Gayathri and Hemmalika. To those of us who are single, marriage might seem a daunting task. Sure, it must be daunting, but those who are blessed with a happy marriage had other views to share with us. We thank all of you that took the time and energy to share your beautiful stories of love and commitment with all of us.

Finally, I'd like to thank each and every one of you for your love and dedication toward MGCAANA and for making the journey of MGCAANA possible.

Pamuditha Mahadiulwewa

Hi! I am Pamuditha Mahadiulwewa, the editor for the current issue of Maya Puwath. I was at Mahamaya from 1986 till 2000. I am currently a senior at California State University Fresno, majoring in Business. I am truly honored to be a part of MGCAANA and the newsletter committee. I enjoy reading, cooking, baking and watching the *George Lopez* show when I have extra time on my hands. I hope to meet all of you through future editions of Maya Puwath.

Happy Reading!



Dhammapada.....

"Like a beautiful flower, full of color, but without scent, are the fine but fruitless words of him who does not act accordingly"

Thank You Chathuri.....

To be honest I joined as an editor in the newsletter because of Chathuri. She was the one who convinced me that it would be a fun thing to do and got me on board just weeks after I arrived in the west.

And it sure has been quite an experience working with you all. Chathuri was a founding member and was a great part of what the newsletter is today. She made sure that we worked as a team right from the beginning. We were all strangers and there was a tendency to do our own thing whenever it was our turn to do the newsletter. But she used to tell us to make sure to share all ideas and get feedback from the rest of the editors. Also she was the lawyer of the team. She made sure we give the source of any of the articles that were not written by us.

It has been a pleasure working with you and I would really miss you as you were the one who helped me compile my newsletter throughout these past three years. And our readers would miss hearing about your family trivia. Those articles always brings a smile and I hope you will continue to write in often.

This is just a small thank you note for all your contributions thus far. We are hoping you will rejoin us soon and help us continue with our work in the newsletter.

- Written by Nazrana Caffoor on behalf of the editorial committee.

Strange Wedding Customs

Ceylon

In ancient Singhalese community, the couple lived together for two weeks and at the end of this period, if they were in mutual agreement that a continuance of the union was desirable, a strange ceremony was carried out. The man poured water upon the woman's head, they exchanged rings, had their little fingers tied together and were united for life.

Source: http://www.seasonsindia.com/marriage/humour_sea.htm

Arras

In Mexico, during the wedding the Groom bestows his bride a gift of 13 coins, or arras, representing Jesus and his 13 apostles. The coins are to be blessed by the priest and bear the groom's promise to care for and provide for his wife.

Source: <http://www.eventective.com/blog/weddings/2008/06/11/worlds-bizarre-wedding-customs/>

Iron, Veil, and a Shattered Vase

In Italy it was customary for the groom to carry a talisman, piece of iron, in his pocket on the day of his wedding. The talisman was believed to ward off misfortune, while the bride's veil covered and protected her from evil spirits.

Source: <http://www.eventective.com/blog/weddings/2008/06/11/worlds-bizarre-wedding-customs/>

Jumping the Broom

African Americans embrace the "Jumping the broom" ritual in which the bride and groom, either at the ceremony or at the reception, signify their entrance into a new life and their creation of a new family by symbolically "sweeping away" their former single lives, former problems and concerns, and jumping over the broom to enter upon a new adventure as wife and husband.

Source: <http://www.eventective.com/blog/weddings/2008/06/11/worlds-bizarre-wedding-customs/>

Log Sawing

Log sawing is just another tradition that seems to really test the bride and groom's physical skills. After the couple is married, a log is positioned between two sawhorses where both the newlyweds must saw in half working together. This is supposedly a sign of how they will handle things together once they are married. Germans also wear their matching wedding bands on their right hands not their left.

Source: <http://www.eventective.com/blog/weddings/2008/06/11/worlds-bizarre-wedding-customs/>

Blackening the Bride

In the Scottish pre-wedding tradition of "Blackening the Bride," The bride is taken by surprise and covered with foul substances, such as eggs, various sauces, feathers, and well you name it...

Source: <http://www.eventective.com/blog/weddings/2008/06/11/worlds-bizarre-wedding-customs/>

Broken Dishes

A rather interesting German tradition involves shattering a large number of dishes before the wedding and having the bride and groom clean it up. It is believed that the action of cleaning up the mass collection of broken dishes, which the family and friends have worked so hard to make, will help prepare the couple for their new lives together.

Source: <http://www.eventective.com/blog/weddings/2008/06/11/worlds-bizarre-wedding-customs/>

Marriage

Kahlil Gibran

You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore.
You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter
your days.

Ay, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God.
But let there be spaces in your togetherness,
And let the winds of the heavens dance between you.

Love one another, but make not a bond of love:
Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.
Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup.
Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf
Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you
be alone,
Even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with
the same music.

Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping.
For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.
And stand together yet not too near together:
For the pillars of the temple stand apart,
And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's
shadow.



Muslim Weddings in Sri Lanka

Weddings in Islam are basically the same in any part of the world. The religious side of it does not change whether it is in Saudi Arabia or in Sri Lanka. For most of you who are not familiar with Islamic weddings let me bring you up to speed.

The most important religious act in a marriage is called the "nikaah" ceremony. This is when the groom's party proposes and the bride's family accepts.

This generally takes place in the groom's house or at the mosque. The bride is not present for this function. The father of the bride or the "wali" a representative of the bride will answer and sign on behalf of the bride. The groom represents himself. The groom has to give a "mahar" (a nuptial gift) to the bride. This is any thing within his means: money, property, jewelry etc. The marriage is registered by the clergy or any person with a good understanding of the proceedings. In many mosques they have marriage officials who are responsible in registering the marriage as per the law of the country. And this basically concludes the marriage ceremony.

The celebrations of the marriage are where things differ. In Sri Lanka we have adapted rituals from the Indian culture as well as the Christian and Buddhist cultures. From the Indian culture we get the practice of putting a gold necklace (sawadi or thali) on the bride by the groom. Exchanging rings are an adaptation from the Christian faith. Dressing in white is another adaptation. The washing of the groom's feet by the bride's younger brother was practiced in the past. This is (was) a Buddhist ritual.

After the wedding we have a "valimah" or homecoming. This is a reception hosted by the groom's family. It is an occasion that brings to together two families.

- Nazrana Caffoor

Against All Odds

Born and raised as the only child to Buddhist parents, I had the privilege to live as a simple Buddhist girl in 1970's. My parents are strong Buddhists by practice and taught me to live a simple life according to teachings of Lord Buddha. As their only child they must have dreamt about giving my hand to a young man with similar religious faith. No! It didn't happen according to their plans. I met this wonderful young man who is a strong Catholic and whose uncle is a prominent catholic priest in the country. We fell in love (love is blind as we all know- our religions were not in any of our conversations) and decided to get married.

Many questions and challenges arose from both parties. Which faith the couple will practice in the future? How will you raise the children; which religion will they belong to? How will you respond to extended family members? With all these uncertainties we were fortunate enough to have an extraordinary traditional Kandyan style wedding.

22 years later....my interfaith marriage gets stronger and beautiful with every passing day with many countless blessings. As any other family, in-between hectic work schedules, chauffeuring our children back and forth from many activities we still manage to celebrate Wesak, go to the Buddhist temple on special days, and to Sunday masses, celebrate Easter and Christmas with our extended families and friends. It became a routine of our family life.

When I look back I could say "those obstacles actually led to an exciting journey of love and marriage"

- Priyanka Jayakody

Congratulations!!!



*Hemmalika Karunaratna
& Sachith Abeysundara tied
the knot on June 13th, 2008
at Earl's Regency, Kandy.*



*Warm wishes and congratulations
to Harshi and Curt Waters!
Baby Tariqa Harini Waters was
born on July 10th 2008, in Portland,
Oregon.*



*Menaka Gayathri Samarasinghe
wedded Prasad Gankanda on
July 9th, 2008 at the Hilton
Grand Ballroom.*

Reminiscing Wedding moments of

Neranjika & Sanjaya



Erandi & Ravi



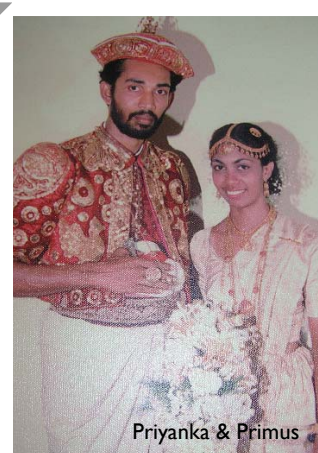
Nazrana & Effam



Dakshika & Sanjeeva



Priyanka & Primus





A Message from the Editorial Committee.....

Our next issue of the MGCAANA Newsletter will be published in October 2008. The **theme** for the next Newsletter will be **“Life as immigrants.”**

We would love to receive submissions to our newsletter from you. It is enriching and joyful to read your stories, articles, and jokes. So, if you have a story, a joke, an article, a poem, an advice or anything that you would like to share with us relating to the theme “Life as immigrants”, please share it with us and your fellow Mayans! Your submission may be a one that you wrote yourself or something that you would like to share with the members (please acknowledge the source).



Messages from the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors

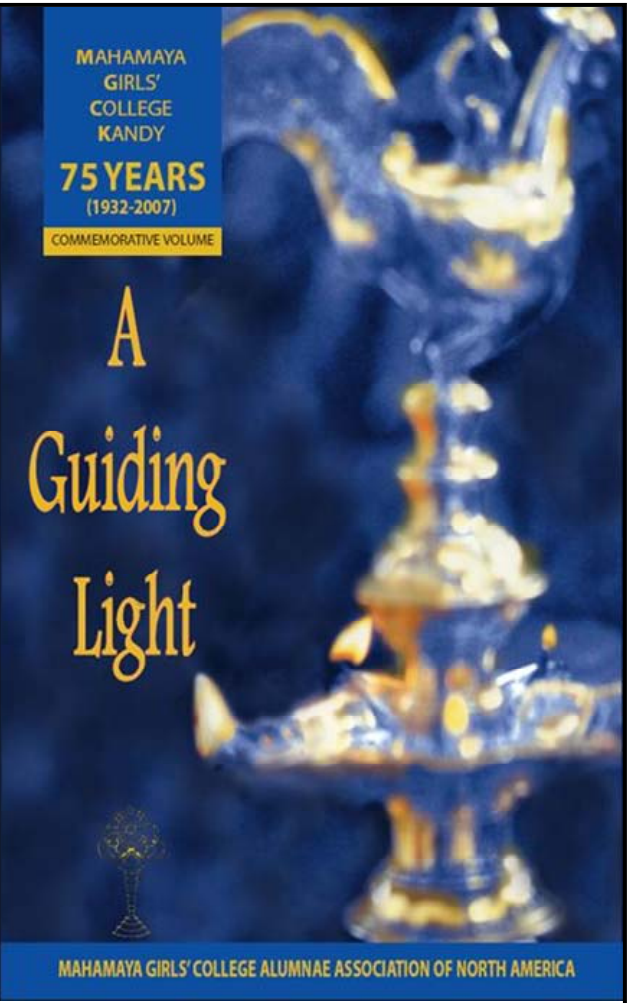
“A Guiding Light” is a unique collection of spellbinding stories that span the different eras at Mahamaya.

Travel down memory lane from humble beginnings of Mahamaya to its current splendor through the narratives of old girls, teachers, mothers, doctors, swimmers, and lawyers—

Get ready to be awed by the vivid stories and unforgettable pictures of playfulness, friendship, love and learning...be sure to get your copy today and help MGCAANA continue its journey ...

E-Mail Sujatha Werake to get your copy today!
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Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America

Undergraduate & Graduate Scholarship Program

- This scholarship is intended to provide cost of books and material for a single semester for Mahamaya Girls' College alumnae pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in the United States and Canada.
- Each scholarship award may range from \$250.00 to \$300.00, depending on the availability of funds.
- The scholarship will be awarded to (a) student(s) demonstrating outstanding academic achievements, leadership ability, participation in extracurricular activities, and a significant level of financial need.
- Incoming high school students are required to include *copies* of their school transcript(s) – G.C.E. Ordinary Level and Advanced Level Examination Certificates (if applicable).

APPLICATION PERIOD AND DEADLINE:

September 1, 2008 – October 30, 2008

Applications postmarked after the deadline will *not* be accepted.

AWARD NOTIFICATION:

On or before December 1, 2008

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

- Please visit our website at <http://www.mahamayaalumnina.org> to view and download the scholarship application.
- Be sure to read the 'Directions and Requirements' carefully before completing the application.
- If you have any questions about the MGCAANA Scholarship Program, please contact the Scholarship Selection Committee at Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com.

Thank you very much for your interest in the Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America Undergraduate & Graduate Scholarship Program, and we look forward to reading your completed application.