

Maya Puwath - මායා පුවත්

**Quarterly Newsletter of Mahamaya Girls' College
Alumnae Association of North America (MGCAANA)
Volume 21– Issue 1 - January 2025**



Message from the Editor

Dear valued readers,

As we welcome the New Year 2025 with our first issue of the year, Volume 21 of Maya Puwath, we extend our warmest wishes for a peaceful start to 2025. This marks the 21st anniversary of the Mahamaya Girls College Alumnae Association of North America and Canada. Our success over the past twenty-one years is a testament to the dedication of our office bearers, committee members, and all our members and honorary members. Our organization thrives because of the commitment of members like you who generously devote their time to our mission.

As we reflect on the recent festive season, including Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the arrival of the New Year, we hope you enjoyed wonderful moments with family and friends. We would love to hear about your experiences and adventures during this time!

We also want to express our heartfelt support for those affected by the Palisades wildfire earlier this year. Please remember that MGCAANA is here to assist any members in need—don't hesitate to reach out.

In this issue, we will share updates on changes to our Board of Directors and highlight the upcoming fundraising events we have planned.

Happy reading!

Newsletter committee

In this issue

- Editor's note
- President's note - Palisades Wildfire
- Change of BOD

*Appamādo amatapadam,
pamādo maccuno padam;
Appamattā na mīyanti,
ye pamattā yathā matā.*

*The one who develops virtue,
concentration, and wisdom
diligently reaches the deathless,
Nibbāna. The negligent, one
who is intoxicated by sense
pleasures, repeatedly dies. The
diligent Dhamma practitioner
goes beyond death. The
negligent are as if already dead.*

Dhammapada

Verse 21

Dhp 2 Appamada Vagga

Diligence

President's Note - Palisades Wildfire

Dear Valued MGCAANA Members,

As we step into a new year, I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you a very Happy New Year. May this year bring you good health, happiness, and success in all your endeavors.

I also want to acknowledge the recent devastating fires in the Los Angeles area. Our thoughts are with everyone affected by these events. If any of our members or Mahamaya alumni are in the impacted areas, please know that we are deeply concerned for your safety and well-being. If there is any way we can support you, do not hesitate to reach out.

Let us continue to stay connected and support one another as a community. Thank you for all the hard work and dedication you bring to our shared mission.

Wishing you a safe and fulfilling year ahead.

Warm regards,
BOD MGCAANA
2024/2025

Change of BOD

We wish to convey our heartfelt appreciation to the former Board of Directors members, Asantha U. Attanayake (Barborich) (President) and Anoma Mudannayake (Director-Programs), for their outstanding contributions over the past few months. Additionally, we would like to congratulate Board member Dasmanthie Chin on her new appointment as President.

Former BOD Members



Asantha U Attanayake
(Barborich)



Anoma Mudannayake

New President



Dasmanthie Chin

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 disadvantaged students at Mahamaya Girls' College. Scholarships from VSTF pay for educational expenses and boarding fees of students attending Mahamaya. "Vidya," a Sanskrit word, means knowledge or wisdom. Our initial goal was to raise \$20,000, which we achieved in 2018; The current goal is \$50,000.

The total amount collected for VSTF reached **\$51,006** as of January 2025. Currently, we have reached the new goal.

To donate online or by cheque, please visit:

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

We value your donations - fulfilling our purpose of MGCAANA

The updates are according to Ms. Himashinie Diyabalanage (Co-chair, VSTF) - on behalf of the endowment committee and the VSTF Board of Trustees. *VSTF Announcements:* We are excited to share that in 2024, the VSTF awarded **24 scholarships worth Rs 20,000 each**. These scholarships will support deserving students in pursuing their educational goals. Congratulations to the recipients! And thank you to our sponsors and distinguish donors for making this possible!

https://www.mahamayaalumnina.org/VidyaTrustFund/MGCAANA_Vidya_Scholarship_Trust_Fund_Brochure.pdf

Renewing MGCAANA Membership for the Year 2025/2026

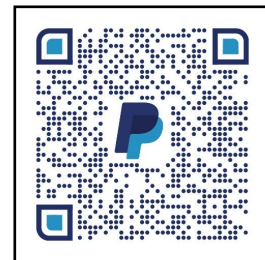
Thank you to members who already renewed their membership for the year 2024. If you have not renewed your membership yet, this is a friendly reminder to renew your membership to support MGCAANA's ongoing activities.

How can you renew your membership?

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

<https://www.mahamayaalumnina.org/membership.html>

or using the MGCAANA PayPal QR code



By Mail: Please mail a check payable to MGCAANA (Annual membership: \$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.

Upcoming MGCAANA Activities

- Board meetings (Monthly)
- Next Newsletter (April 2025)
- Webinars - Stay tuned.

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, suggestions etc. to improve MGCAANA and to find out how it operates, please feel free to connect with the BOD through email:

Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com

Newsletter Committee :

Ms. Veroni Nadeesha Jayawardana

Proofread by: BOD members

Dear valued members,

Please send your articles, pictures and artistic creations for the MGCAANA Newsletter to its official email account of MGCAANA, which is mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com

Send in any personal success stories, recipes or even old memories that you would like to share with our fellow Mayans. Kids and family members are most welcome to share their artistry with us. The Newsletter committee will retain your original work of art and will publish your work as the availability of space.

Thank you,

The Newsletter Committee.
MGCAANA 2024/2025