

Maya Puwath - මායා පුවත්

Quarterly Newsletter of Mahamaya Girls' College
Alumnae Association of North America (MGCAANA)
Volume 22– Issue 1 - January 2026



Message from the Editors

Dear Valued Readers,

We hope you had a warm and restful winter season. As spring arrives with longer days and a sense of renewal, we are delighted to welcome this new chapter. In that spirit, this issue of *Maya Puwath* brings together reflections, gratitude, and exciting updates from our MGCAANA community.

We are especially pleased to announce the scheduled date for our 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM). This year, we are returning to Seattle, Washington—the very city where we proudly held our first AGM. It is truly meaningful to revisit this special location, and we are looking forward to celebrating this milestone together while honoring our journey and continued growth as a community.

In addition, our much-loved Christmas Bake Along event made a joyful return this past season. The event was met with wonderful enthusiasm, bringing warmth, laughter, and the delightful aroma of festive treats into homes across North America. We extend our sincere appreciation to our talented member, Maheshinie Rajapaksha, who once again shared her exceptional recipes and inspired members to come together through the joy of baking.

Within this issue, you will also find important updates and announcements regarding upcoming MGCAANA events. We encourage you to mark your calendars and stay tuned for the formal AGM invitation and further details will be shared soon. We deeply value your continued participation, support, and the sense of togetherness that makes our community so special.

Until we meet again, we wish you a safe, peaceful, and joyful spring season filled with happiness and renewal.

Warm regards,
Newsletter Committee

In this issue

- 22nd AGM
- Art Corner
- Fundraising Event - Christmas Bake along
- Scholarship Program 2025/2026
- MGCAANA news and more

Susukhaṃ vata jīvāma,
verinesu averino;
Verinesu manussesu,
vihārāma averino

Ah, so happily we live, without hate
among those with hate. Among
people who hate, we live without
hate.

Dhammapada
Verse 15
Sukha Vagga



Save the Date

22nd MGCAANA
Annual General Meeting (AGM)



Saturday, May 23, 2026



Kirkland, Washington



RSVP by March 21st 2026

More details to come!



MGCCANA member Ayanthi Fernando's daughter Lahini was a winner in the Cerritos Library "My Dream City" Art Competition 2025. Congratulations to Lahini!

Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association
of North America (MGCAANA)



Christmas Bake-Along

with Maheshinie



December 6th 2025, Saturday



1 p.m. PST, 4 p.m. EST,
3 p.m. CST, and 2 p.m. MST

Join us for a cozy, festive bake-along!
Learn to make beautiful holiday cookies

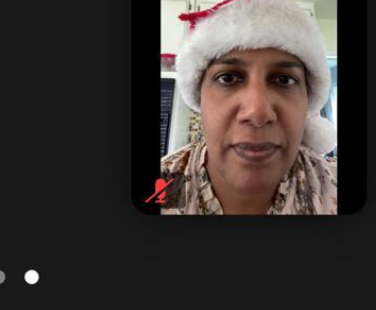
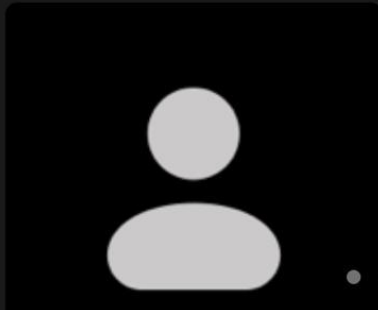
Italian Christmas Cookies



Min
Donation
\$10

Virtual
Event
via Zoom

Christmas Bake-Along



Christmas Bake-Along



MGCAANA Member families baking along....

Christmas Bake-Along



Cookies baked by MGCAANA Member Ayanthi Fernando and family



Cookies baked by MGCAANA Member Maheshinie Rajapaksha

Scholarship Program 2025/2026

MGCAANA Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarship Program 2025/2026

Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America (MGCAANA) is proud to offer a scholarship every year to a Mahamaya alumna achieve her dreams of a good education. We are pleased to continue **MGCAANA Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarship Program** to give a hand in supporting the higher education of a selected alumna this year as well.

The **MGCAANA Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarship Program** is aimed to cover cost of books and material for a semester for Mahamaya Girls' College alumna pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in the United States or Canada. It will be awarded to the candidate who demonstrates outstanding academic achievements, leadership ability, participation in extracurricular activities, and a significant level of financial need.

For 2025-2026, MGCAANA will award **\$300 scholarship to one (1)** candidate together with a free one-year student membership of MGCAANA.

If you think you are the right candidate, please take this opportunity by applying for the scholarship.

Application Deadline: April 24, 2026

The scholarship winner will be notified by April 30, 2026 via email.

Please visit our website at [Welcome to Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association North America](#) to view and download the scholarship application. Be sure to read the 'Instructions and Requirements' carefully before completing the application.

Send the completed scholarship application and all required supporting documentation together in one email to mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com. *All application information is for selection purposes only and will be kept strictly confidential.*

Inquiries about application procedures and the selection process may be directed to the Scholarship Selection Committee at

mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com.

Wishing you the best of luck!

MGCAANA Undergraduate & Graduate Scholarship Selection Committee
2025/2026



Reaching the New Goal **\$60,000** 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 \$60,000.

The total amount collected for VSTF reached **\$58,806** as of January 2026. 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

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 2025, the VSTF awarded **27 scholarships worth Rs 35,000 each**. These scholarships will support deserving students in pursuing their educational goals. Congratulations to the recipients and thank you to our sponsors and extinguish donors for making this possible.

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

Renewing MGCAANA Membership for the Year 2026

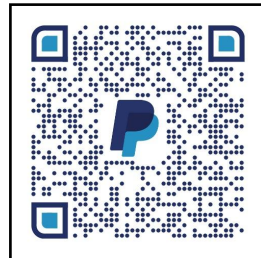
Thank you to members who already renewed their membership for the year 2025/2026. If you have not renewed your membership yet, this is a friendly reminder to renew your membership to support MGCAANA's ongoing activities.

How can you renew your membership?

By Phone: Pay by Zelle to mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com

Online: Use your credit card via PayPal account to pay your membership fee through the MGCAANA membership renewal page or this QR code, <https://www.mahamayaalumnae.org/membership.html>

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
- Next Newsletter (April 2025)
- 22nd AGM

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.mahamayaalumnae.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 and Ms. Ayanthi Fernando

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 space is available.

Thank you,

The Newsletter Committee.
MGCAANA 2025/2026