

Maya Puwath - මායා පුවත්

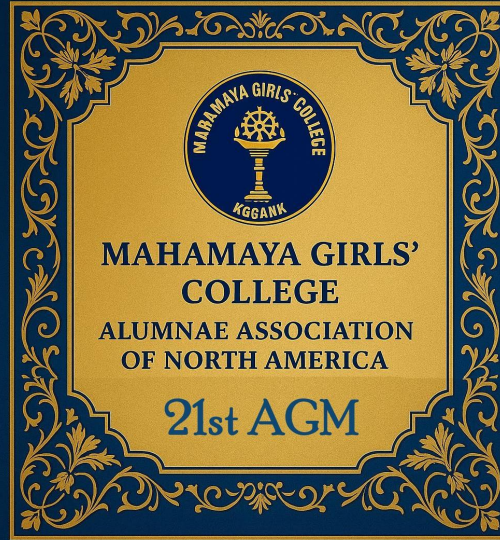
Quarterly Newsletter of Mahamaya Girls' College
Alumnae Association of North America (MGCAANA)
Volume 21– Issue 3 - July 2025



Message from the Editors

In this issue

*Congratulations to
MGCAANA celebrating
the completion of
20 years!*



- Editor's note
- New and past BOD
- 21st AGM highlights
- Past and new President's notes
- Art Corner
- MGCAANA news and more

Dear valued readers,

This year marks a significant milestone for MGCAANA as we proudly celebrate the completion of 20 incredible years—a true testament to the dedication, perseverance, and unwavering commitment of our members and office bearers throughout the organization's history. Over the years, we've navigated challenges, embraced opportunities, and accomplished meaningful goals together.

We are pleased to share with you the third issue of *Maya Puwath* for 2025—and the first issue under the new term of 2025-2026, following the election of our new Board of Directors. Inside, you'll find highlights from the 21st Annual General Meeting, held virtually on July 6, 2025.

The Newsletter Committee extends its heartfelt appreciation to the outgoing Board of Directors (2024–2025) for their dedication and hard work, which have been instrumental in furthering MGCAANA's mission. At the same time, we warmly welcome the newly elected Board of Directors and Executive Committee for 2025–2026. We look forward to the fresh perspectives and innovative ideas they will bring.

Here's to another year of growth, connection, and continued success for MGCAANA. We hope you enjoy this issue!

Warm Regards,

Newsletter committee

*Selo yathā ekaghano,
vātena na samīrati;
Evaṃ nindāpasamsāsu,
na samīñjanti paṇḍitā.*

As a solid mass of rock is not
shaken by a storm, so too the
wise are not moved by praise
or blame.

*Dhammapada
Verse 81
Paṇḍita Vagga*

21st Annual General Meeting

The 21st Annual General Meeting of MGCAANA was successfully conducted on July 6th, 2025. The event was a virtual Zoom meeting, featuring participation from the 2024-2025 Board of Directors (BOD), the executive committee, honorary members, and guest members.

Following the conclusion of the voting process, which had online ballots, the new Board of Directors and Executive Committee members for the 2025-2026 term were elected.

New Executive Committee for 2025-2026;

President – Veroni Nadeesha Jayawardana

Secretary – Anuththara Lokubandara

Treasurer – Ayanthi Fernando

BOD Member – Himashinie Diyabalanage

MGCAANA BOD 2025/2026



Nadeesha Jayawardana

President



Anuththara Lokubandara

Secretary



Ayanthi Fernando

Treasurer



Himashinie Diyabalanage

BOD Member

21st Annual General Meeting

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing Board of Directors and Executive Committee members for their dedicated service over the past year. Your invaluable contributions and unwavering commitment have had a meaningful and lasting impact on our organization.

Outgoing 2024-2025 Board of Directors and Executive committee,

President - Dasmanthie De Silva,

Secretary - Wijesinghe "Bobbie" Purasinghe (Pradeepa Jayawardena),

Treasurer - Ayanthi Fernando,

Webmaster - Anuththara Lokubandara

Newsletter Committee - Veroni Nadeesha Jayawardana



Highlights of the 21st AGM

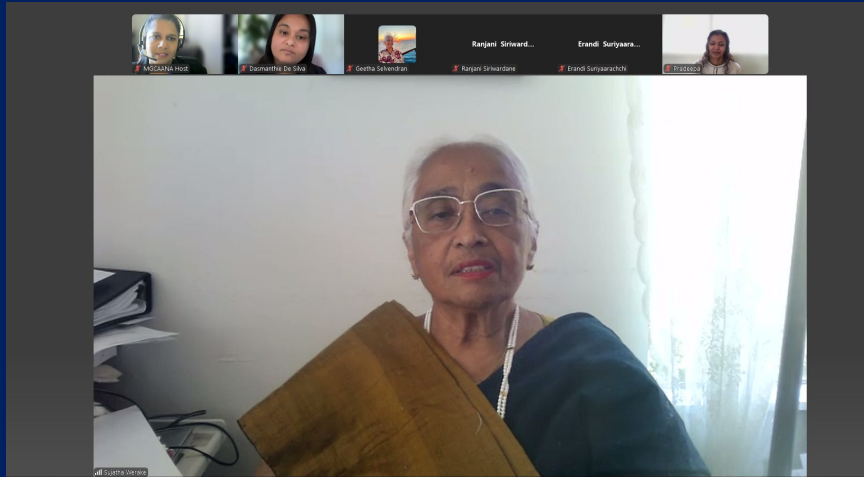
VIRTUAL AGM ATTENDEES

Mrs. Sujatha Werake
Ms. Harshi Waters
Ms. Ranjani Siriwardane

Mrs. Sujatha Werake
Ms. Geetha Selvendran

Ms. Dasmanthie De Silva
Ms. Pradeepa Jayawardena

Highlights of the 21st AGM



VIRTUAL AGM ATTENDEES

Mrs. Sujatha Werake

Ms. Pradeepa Jayawardena

Ms. Dasmanthie De Silva

Ms. Ayanthi Fernando

Mrs. Sujatha Werake

Ms. Harshi Waters

Ms. Himashinie Diyabalanage

Ms. Nadeesha Jayawardana

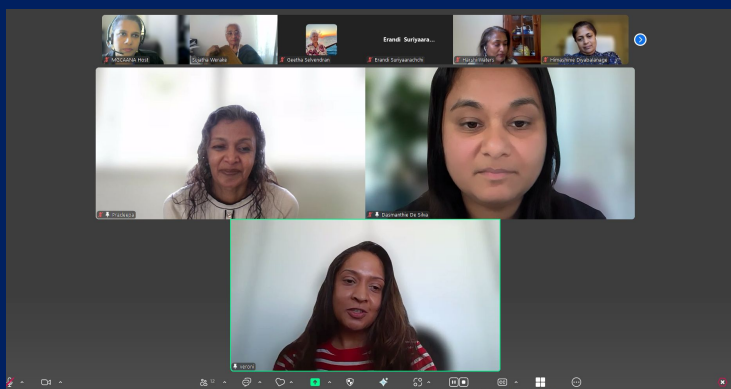
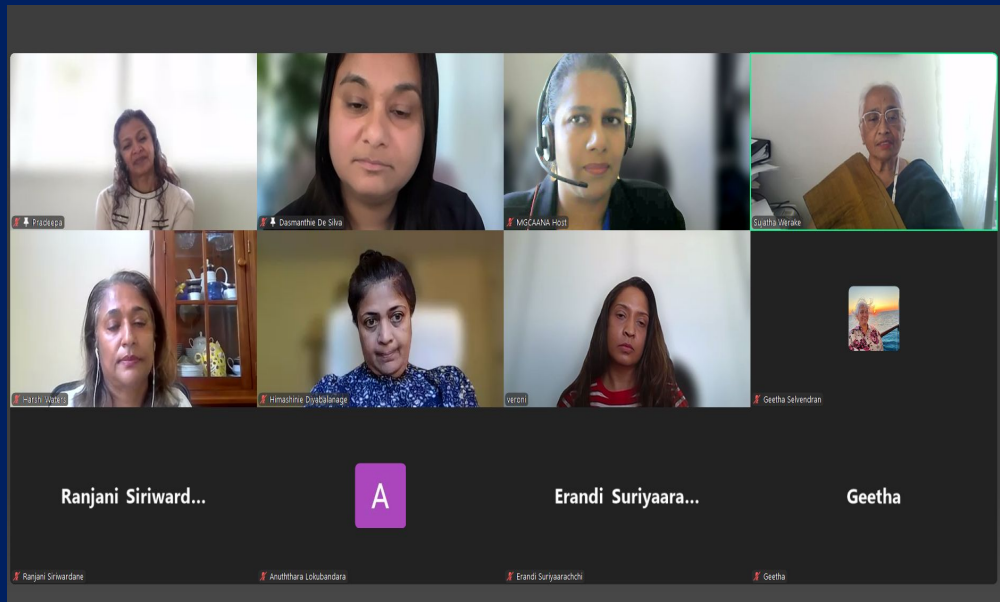
Ms. Geetha Selvendran

Ms. Ranjani Siriwardane

Ms. Anuththara Lokubandara

Ms. Erandi Suriyaarachchi

Ms. Geetha



Ms. Ayanthi Fernando,
Ms. Anuththara Lokubandara
and Ms. Nadeesha Jayawardana

Thank you note from the Past President



Dasmanthie De Silva

2024-2025 MGCAANA President.

Dear MGCAANA Members,

On behalf of the MGCAANA Executive Committee, I want to sincerely thank each of you who attended our 21st Annual General Meeting on July 6, 2025. It was truly a pleasure to connect with so many of you and to reflect on our shared accomplishments and goals for the future.

We are also delighted to officially announce the newly appointed Board Members for the upcoming term (2025/2026). Please join me in welcoming the following individuals to the Board of Directors:

- Nadeesha Jayawardana - President
- Anuththara Lokubandara – Secretary
- Ayanthi Fernando – Treasurer
- Himashinie Diyabalanage – Executive committee

We are grateful to these members for stepping up to serve and contribute their time, ideas, and leadership to MGCAANA's continued growth.

As always, thank you for being part of this vibrant and supportive community. We look forward to an exciting year ahead!

Best regards,
Dasmanthie De Silva

President,
MGCAANA 2024/2025

Letter from the incoming President

Veroni Nadeesha Jayawardana 2025-2026 MGCAANA President

Nadeesha currently serves as a Data Scientist at Merck & Co., where she leverages her expertise in statistics and data analysis to advance innovation within the pharmaceutical industry. She resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Prior to her professional career, she earned both her Ph.D. and Master's degrees in Statistics from Clarkson University, New York, following the completion of her Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from the University of Peradeniya. Nadeesha is an alumna of Mahamaya Girls' College (1995-2004), where she demonstrated strong leadership and a commitment to extracurricular engagement—holding the position of Vice President of the Literature, Music, and Dance Society, participating in the Girl Guides. Additionally, she took part of swimming competitions and pursued her passion for music by completing Grade 8 in Piano through the Trinity College London examinations.



Dear Members,

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of responsibility that I address you as the newly appointed President of MGCAANA for the 2025–2026 term. I consider it a true privilege to serve this vibrant and inspiring community, and I look forward to working together for the continued growth and benefit of our association.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we are excited to share that several projects and initiatives have been planned to further the mission of MGCAANA. A key focus for this term will be to enhance member engagement and increase participation across the association's activities. We believe that by fostering a stronger sense of community and encouraging active involvement, we can create more meaningful opportunities for connection, collaboration, and impact.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the outgoing Board of Directors for their dedicated service and contributions to the association. Their commitment has been invaluable, and I look forward to building upon their work with the newly appointed Board.

As we embark on this new chapter, I warmly invite all members to actively engage with the association—share your ideas, offer your perspectives, and contribute your talents. Together, let us strengthen MGCAANA and ensure its continued relevance and impact in our community.

Warm Regards,

Nadeesha Jayawardana

President, MGCAANA(2025-2026)

MGCCANA member Ayanthi Fernando's daughter Lahini won the Grand Prize in the poster competition by the Los Angeles County Inter Agency Council on Child abuse and Neglect (ICAN Associates) - May 2025



The theme of the poster was
“Keep Our Children Safe, Secure
and Protected”



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 **\$51,306** as of July 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

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

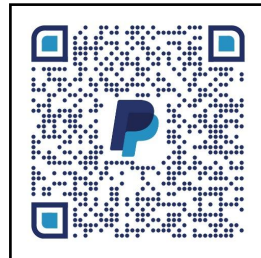
Renewing MGCAANA Membership for the Year 2025

Thank you to members who already renewed their membership for the year 2024/2025. 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.mahamayaalumnina.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 (October 2025)
- Member-led 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 Jayawardena 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