



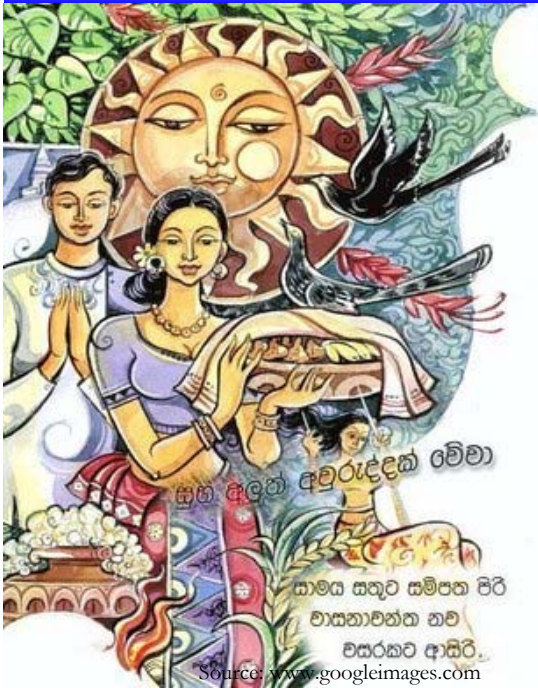
MAYA PUWATH

Volume 4 Issue 2 April 2008

DHAMMAPADA

Do not follow a life of evil; do not live heedlessly; do not have false views; do not value worldly things. In this way one can get rid of suffering. —The Buddha

EDITORIAL



We wish our readers a **very happy and a prosperous Sinhala and Tamil New Year!** We hope that you get to spend more time with your loved ones and enjoy this joyous season. May you always be surrounded by love, prosperity and good health!

Before moving on to the theme of this edition, let us remind you that **the fourth AGM of MGCAANA is to be held on May 24th, 2008 in Boston, MA.** That is the *Memorial-Day weekend*, and therefore, we hope that most of you can and do plan to attend the AGM this year. It is going to be a wonderful event and we hope to see many of you there. For more details about the AGM, please refer to later pages of this issue.

In this season of cherry blossoms, Erabadu flowers, and cuckoo calls, we decided to dedicate this month's issue to a topic that is, or should be, important to all of us; a better world. *A better world...* how does one even begin to describe these three words that carry a very large meaning? It seems fair to think that a better world would be a one where there is no poverty; no person or no child should die in this world because they do not have enough to eat, no

safe water to drink or no access to basic health care. May be, in a better world, every child or person will receive a good education so that he can achieve his dreams for a brighter future. In a better world, everyone will receive equal opportunity regardless of gender, race, color or man-made social barriers. Everyone will do exactly the right thing to protect their environment. In a better world, everybody will realize that all religions are equal and worthy of highest respect of all. Peace and compassion will overflow among people in a better world.

What else can we do to make this world a better place? We leave it to you readers to give more meaning to these *very large* three little words. Yet, it is fitting to add just another thought toward the meaning of "a better world." May be, a better world is not just made of all good things said above or otherwise. Every one of us can become responsible for making this place a better world by making ourselves better persons. That betterment, be it the hardest of all to do, might be the stepping-stone to making the world we live in a better place. That way, each one of us can be responsible for making sure that we do our best to leave behind a better world for our sons and daughters who are the future of this beautiful planet.

Dakshika Bandaranayake— Editor —Mayapuwath—Current Edition

You are invited to the **4th Annual General Meeting of MGCAANA** on May 24th 2008!

See page 2 & 3 for details on the **AGM** and the **ELECTIONS**.



Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America

2417 NE 20th Street, Renton, Washington 98056, U.S.A.

Website: www.mahamayaalumnina.org

E-mail: Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com

Fourth Annual General Meeting (AGM)

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

Saturday, May 24th, 2008 at 2.00 p.m. (EST) at

The Babson College - Glavin Chapel

Babson Park, MA - 02457

The Agenda of the Meeting

1. Welcome speech by the President
2. Speeches by the Board of Directors and Officers
3. Presentation of the Annual Report by the Secretary
4. Presentation of the Accounting Report by the Treasurer
5. Introduction of the Mahamaya Girls' College 75th Anniversary Commemorative Volume: *A Guiding Light*
6. Election of new Directors for the year 2008-2009
7. Election of members for various committees
8. Any other matter
9. Vote of thanks

AGM Dinner

Priyadharshani (Preeni) Sandanayake (nee Navaratna) and her husband Dr. Vincent Sandanayake will host the dinner for Mahamaya alumnae and their families at their residence, on Saturday, May 24th after the AGM. All the attendees, their spouses/fiancés, children, and families are cordially invited for this social gathering. More information will be provided at the meeting.

Contact telephone numbers for this event are on our website and in the letters sent to you.

Accommodation

Information about hotel accommodation is on MGCAANA's website

(www.mahamayaalumnina.org).

Elections

Ballot forms and information about the AGM have been mailed to all our members. If you have not received them for some unforeseen reason, please go to our website and use the electronic ballot for voting. The information about the AGM is on our website. Ballot is available here: <http://www.mahamayaalumina.org/ballot0809.php>

Proxy Ballot

If you **do not** plan to attend the Annual General Meeting in person, please cast your proxy vote, sign, and date the enclosed proxy ballot form and return it promptly to *MGCAANA, 2417 NE 20th Street, Renton, WA - 98056, U.S.A.* before May 17, 2008.

If you will be present at the AGM, you may vote in person, instead of by proxy.

All the ballot forms will be opened and counted at the Annual General Meeting by an appointed official. We assure you that utmost confidentiality will be observed in the voting process whether you vote online, using the ballot form, or in person at the AGM.

If you have any questions please email us at: mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com.

We, the Board of Directors and Officers of MGCAANA, thank you very much for your continuous support and hope to see you at the Fourth Annual General Meeting.

**Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, 2007/2008
MGCAANA**

Correction

I would like to correct an error that occurred in the last newsletter. An article sent in by Priyanka Jayakody, "TEENAGES AND FOOD" was mistakenly published under another name. I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to Priyanka for the error.

- Editor for the last newsletter Nazrana Caffoor.

A Message from the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee

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Wishing you all a Very Happy New Year!

May this year be filled with peace, prosperity, and happiness for you

Batik for MGCAANA!

The Fundraising committee of MGCAANA, organized to sell a collection of **Sri Lankan Batik wall hangings** to raise funds for the organization.

If you'd like to buy any of the wall hangings, please go to <http://www.mahamayaalumina.org/batiks.html>

Renew your Membership!

Dear Member,

We will be thankful to you if you could please take a moment and renew your membership. It is very important to us to get your membership renewed, because of two reasons.

1. We would like to know if you are willing to be nominated to become a director of the Board, or a member of the Executive Committee. If you would like to be a nominee we need to have a brief description about yourself to be circulated among the members.
2. We are getting ready to send you the ballot paper to vote and we are sending it only to the members, since only the members have the right to vote.

Who need to renew their membership?

The members of 2007/2008 who have paid the membership fee BEFORE December 31, 2007. The members who paid after January 1, 2008, DO NOT HAVE TO PAY for the year 2008/2009. If you have any questions, please call: 425-228-0988, or, email Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com

How to renew your membership:

Two methods are available for you to choose from.

1. Online: Go to our website <http://www.mahamayaalumnina.org> and fill in the Renewal of Membership Form and pay online by using PayPal.
2. Mail the Renewal of Membership Form with your check, or renew membership online and send your check by mail for \$25.00 (students \$15.00).

How to pay:

All checks payable to: MGCAANA.

1. By mailing a check to: MGCAANA, 2417, NE 20th Street , Renton , WA 98056
2. By paying online using PayPal.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT FORMATIVE YEARS! IT GAVE US SO MUCH STRENGTH.

Affectionately,

Board of Directors and the Executive Committee

The World of Today the Good and the Bad

Everyone is talking about environmental pollution and the green house effect that is destroying our world. And yes, now it is "our world " where a mere 10 years ago it was your country or my country. We are finally on the correct path in finding solutions to the global problems of pollution, poverty, child abuse, illiteracy ,war, etc..

Before we start on all that is bad in our world, let's mention the good. In the last 50 years or so, we have seen unprecedented development in our world. From bullock carts to cars, buses, trains, planes and now, space shuttles. The medical field has progressed in leaps and bounds. This has given the sick relief and given rise to better quality of life. And life has on the whole become more comfortable with water in taps, heated houses and many more inventions to meet our everyday needs. The world has become small and when disaster hits one country it is now everyone's problem. This could happen only because of all the progress in technology and science .

But with all this good progress, there are many bad effects that are slowly polluting our world. And we the citizens of the world have a pivotal role to play in making a better tomorrow. It is said that every individual does make a difference. Sometimes we feel like our efforts don't make much of a difference to a world so big. How can my proper ways of disposing garbage solve the green house effect? Why should you do it when you see your neighbor not bothering with all the extra effort? The individual effort does make a big difference. If we reduce, recycle and reuse we will make a difference. Reduce or stop buying disposable products. Take your own bag to the store . This really makes a big difference .You could literally see the difference in the reduction of plastic bag accumulation in your home. Take the bottles, cartons, cans and other plastic products for recycling. These small actions play a big role in making a difference .



There will be no better tomorrow if we don't make the effort .

- Submitted by **Nazrana Caffoor**

“A Better World” Quotes:

"You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must work for his or her own improvement, and at the same time share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think we can be most useful."

-- **Marie Curie**

"With realization of one's own potential and self-confidence in one's ability, one can build a better world."

-- **Dalai Lama**

"We have always held to the hope, the belief, the conviction that there is a better life, a better world, beyond the horizon."

-- **Franklin D. Roosevelt**

This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.

-- **Theodore Roosevelt**

"No man should think himself a zero, and think he can do nothing about the state of the world."

-- **Bernard Baruch**

From: <http://www.cultureofpeace.org/quotes/betterworld-quotes.htm>

Submitted by **Dakshika Bandaranayake**

A New MGCAANA Project

PROPOSED MGCAANA MOBILE LIBRARY

Your ideas and proposals are welcome. Please write to us at mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com.

Mobile libraries in the world:

Mobile libraries have been in use for a long time. Before the motorized mobile libraries came into being, bicycles, horse-drawn wagons, donkey carts, were used to carry the library books to the reader. Today, motorbikes, boats, helicopters, trains, trucks, vans, and mini buses are used for this purpose. In Kenya, camel mobile libraries are still in operation. Donkeys are providing effective multi-media library services in Zimbabwe, according to the latest IFLA Professional Report. The mobile library brings the books to the reader all over the world.



One of the first bookmobiles--A wagon drawn by a two horse team. (1905) (Washington County Free Library.



A children's caravan bookmobile (1960s). (Weston, CT).



A state-of-the-art specialty vehicle mobile library offering both traditional and online library resources. (Washoe County, NV)

(Courtesy of: <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s38/news/mobpos.htm>)

What about MGCAANA's proposed mobile library? Why we need a mobile library?

We are scattered all over the continent and mobile library concept can be a good solution for our intellectual needs.

Purpose:

To promote learning and support education and professional development of our members by providing opportunity and access to educational materials.

Acquisition:

Initially the acquisition and collection development will focus on the books and non-book material (CDs, DVDs etc.) that are needed by our alumnae for standardized tests, text-preparation programs, and examinations such as GRE, USMLE, MCAT, TOEFL, SAT, LSAT, MBE, DAT, RN Licensing, etc. We will strive to provide the most recent editions of the books.

How to do the collection development:

Mainly the MGCAANA will invite the members and non-members to donate the used and new handbooks, texts, etc. on those areas that were mentioned above.

Book Lists:

The books and non-book material that we acquire in the future can be displayed in our website.

Borrowing:

We will store them in one place. The people who need them can make a request to MGCAANA and the books can be shipped to the requested location provided that they pay the postal fee.



A New MGCAANA Project, contd.

Other Possible Areas for Development:

Book discussion forums on the web. Members of MGCAANA can read a common book and participate in a book discussion forum on the web and come together to talk about reading.

Develop a Critique Group:

Members who are into creative writing (novels, short stories, poetry etc.) can come together and create their own critique groups

Create New Discussion Topics

Members who would like to express themselves in certain topics, such as cookery, handy-crafts, music etc. can make their own groups.

Support the Mobile Library by donating the books and non-book material that may help someone else in their search for knowledge. Support our alumnae.

Please contribute your creative ideas to improve the MGCAANA's mobile library.

Thank you.

Written by **Sujatha Werake**

Family Trivia

It was birthday time. Iru wanted a pink castle cake. I tried to convince her that perhaps the castle should be ivory color- but no, the little miss was adamant that it had to be pink. Jeeva said to me that I better back off and let her have her pink castle- otherwise all she will remember is that she did not have a pink cake as opposed to having a cake that was simply a labor of love on my part. Meth had a Ben-10 cake- he helped me decorate it too, which was fun. Later, Iru asked to take some cake to her friends at her pre school in a zip-Clocked bag.

Recently a friend of mine visited me with her parents- sadly my kids not having any biological grandparents are not used to older Sri Lankan parents and kept telling this nice gentleman, "some people are really really old you know." As if that was not enough, she said it again when he had brought his grandson to Karate and we met him there. On the third time we met this gentleman - Iru said - "Amma said it is rude to tell people they are old. But do you know what happens to old people - They DIE!" I hoped for the earth to open up and gobble me up that very moment. It is a wonder that these people are still talking to us!

Recently, we were visited by my husband's boss. I swept around the house like a tornado cleaning everything up- putting away toys and cleaning nooks and crannies. I sat my kids down and told them to behave- not to yell at each other and to not call each other names- at least for the duration of this visit. The guest arrived, we sat down and everything went well until Iru crept under the chair next to the guest and said "Amma there is a spider web under this chair." Then she crawled out from underneath and said to him, "No one ever cleans this house!" Thankfully, the wonderful gentleman he is - Jeeva's boss took it in good humor.

Iru is also into telling us stories and explaining them. The other day she asked me "Amma, do you know why Cinderella's sisters are called step sisters?" I said, "no, tell me"- and Iru responded with great confidence "because they step around- you are so silly not to know that you know".

As they are growing up- Meth is quietening down- at least he seems to understand when not to open his mouth but Iru pretty much remains a laugh a minute kind of gal!

Submitted by **Chathuri Nugawela-Munasinghe**