

14th Annual
ஆவது ஆண்டு

2015



Mannar Night

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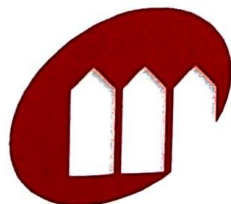
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14th Annual Mannar Night
14 ஆவது ஆண்டு மன்னார் இரவு

New Jaasmin Banquet Hall
November 28, 2015

www.MFAonline.ca

தமிழ் மொழி வாழ்த்து

வாழ்க நிரந்தரம் வாழ்க தமிழ்மொழி
வாழிய வாழியவே!

வான மளந்த தனைத்தும் அளந்திடும்
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Canadian National Anthem

O Canada!
Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all thy sons command.

With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!

From far and wide,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.



Message from President



Good evening friends, I'm proud to greet you and welcome you to our 14th Annual Mannar Night. We celebrate today 14 years of triumph over adversities, prudence in the face of fears, and steed fast determination to succeed as Mannar, Canadians for our people in Mannar. During our 14 years of existence, we've achieved several milestones, including raising about TWO million rupees in trust fund in Sri Lanka to fund our Student Scholarship program for disadvantaged, University Students from Mannar District. In 2013, we raised THREE Thousand dollars in financial aid for orphans from Mannar District. In the years 2014 and 2015, we've sponsored Football Tournaments in Mannar. The tournaments were hosted in association with Mannar District Football League, with 23 league youth's teams participating. This year thanks in great part to special sponsors form Canada, Norway, U.K. and our members, we were able to raise enough funds to sponsor full team jerseys for 16 teams. Motivating the youths and instilling them with a winning attitude is our constitution in practice.

We've achieved all this while enduring various personal, professional and political challenges. During my recent visit to Mannar, Sri Lanka to examine the benefits of our association to our Mannar people, I've also examined the purpose of our organization as to why we have not done more. Why many of our Mannar, Canadians have not made their time and financial contribution to MFA their primary commitment? See over the 14 years of existence, somewhere in the grind of daily life, somewhere in the drift of employment, mortgage payment, kids, school and personal ambitions, some of us have forgotten our purpose. This loss of purpose has caused some of us to view the functions of Mannar Friendship Association with the same regard as we have for attending someone's wedding, birthday parties, funerals, shopping for Halloween costumes, or just relaxing at home over beer or scotch whisky. I realize the need for us to be remind as to why we exist.

We exist to serve. "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." - Mahatma Gandhi. Whether it be war orphans, youths straying into drug abuse, flourishing students abolished by monetary shortfall, what ever the crises that our Mannar community is suffering from, we're there to help alleviate the suffering.

"Serving Our Community in The Company of Friends" – Sylvester Nicholas

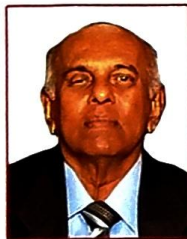
Message from Directors



Michael Xavier
Director



M. Jeevaratnam
Director



George Nicholas
Director



Christeen Dushy
Director



Anton Balarajah
Director

We the Board of Directors of the Mannar Friendship Association are delighted to welcome you all here for the 14th Annual Mannar Night 2015. We specially thank the sponsors, Donors and well-wishes for their generosity in contributing toward the success of this event. Those of you who are not aware of our Association we wish to state what we had achieved during the past fourteen years and how the association was formed.

The Mannar Friendship Association is a Not-For-Profit organization formed during the year 2000 by a group of motivated youths living in Canada. Their main goal was to help the under privileged youths of Mannar District. The following are the list of projects implemented during the past fourteen years:

- (a) A student scholarship fund was set up for students entering university, from the District of Mannar. Fifteen students were selected according to merits and Rs. 10,000.00 funded for each student per year. These funds are paid from the interest drawn from the fixed deposit money which are already deposited in the Hatton National Bank, Mannar. Each year a fair amount of money is deposited in the Hatton National Bank, Mannar according to the profits from social events.
- (b) In addition the Association has contributed towards CMR, Church Buildings, Tsunami Relief Fund, Medical Institute, Orphanage and Senior Recreation Centre.
- (c) In 2013 The MFA initiated a new project named "Bridge to Mannar" children education fund. About 160 (One Hundred and Sixty) children from various regions of Mannar District were supplied with the items needed for school year. Special thanks to Sponsors and Donors.
- (d) In 2014 and 2015 The MFA in association with Mannar Football League, Sponsored Football Tournament in Mannar, Sri Lanka. This tournament was to boost moral amongst Youths and get them focused in sports. Alcohol abuse and smoking has become an epidemic amongst youths in Mannar. More over they seem to lose faith in tomorrow and simply live for today. By engaging them in sports, building character, we work to help them believe in the future for themselves and for their nation. 2014 some 23 youths football team from Mannar, District participated in MFA Football Tournament. In 2015 we also sponsored tournament as well as team jerseys for each team members. Thanks mainly to our sponsors and organizational skills of our Director, Jeevaratnam (DSO), we're able to achieve this.

Most notably the Directors wish to thank the past and present Presidents of the MFA and their committee members for the valuable time spent and the hard work they have put in for the Association. The Board of Directors wish the MFA the very best in all their future endeavours in the years to come.



A Personal Message from MPP Bas Balkissoon

As the Member of Provincial Parliament for Scarborough-Rouge River, it gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to the members, guests and organizers attending the Mannar Friendship Association's annual 14th dinner celebrations.

The Association works with its members to develop and foster community spirit as well as to promote, encourage and assist with educational and charitable activities.

It is important for members of a community to stay connected and engaged. Your efforts to keep your members connected through a variety of recreational and educational activities, cultural and charitable events is a wonderful way to support them as they transition into Canadian society while maintaining their cultural customs and traditions.

On behalf of the Legislature of Ontario, I would like to thank the Association for its efforts in working with its members to become contributing members of our strong and diverse society.

I hope you have a wonderful evening as you celebrate 14 successful years and I wish you many more years of great accomplishments for your members and for our province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bas Balkissoon".

Bas Balkissoon, MPP
Scarborough-Rouge River

Queen's Park, Toronto
December 2015



உங்கள் உறவினரைப் பிரிந்து தடுமாறும் வேளையில்
இறுதி நிகழ்வுகள் பற்றிய தகவலை உங்களுக்கு, வேண்டாம்
அனுபவத்தோடு கூடிய அன்பான சேவையை வழங்குகிறோம்

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Mannar, Sri Lanka, Chapter

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Mr. S. Ratnakumar (Treasurer)
Mr. Gnanarajah James Ragavaraj (Secretary)
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Dr. S. Yokeswaran
Mr. Jude G. L. Figurado
Rev. Bro. S. C. Vigayathan
Mr. S. A. Hinayathullah
Mr. Kalatharan
Mr. Thevananda
Mr. Karuniyanathan
Dr. A. A. Siril

For 14 years we've raised funds to provide Scholarship Finance to University students from Mannar, Sri Lanka. This year we're providing scholarship to 15 students to complete their Bachelor Program in various universities in Sri Lanka. Below you'll find the names of our scholarship recipients.

- 1) **Mr. Jenistan Benedict**
From: Savartkadu, Mannar
Attending: University of Colombo School of Computing
- 2) **Miss. Glodiya Fernando N.**
From: Emil Nagar, Mannar
Attending: University of Jaffna
- 3) **Miss. Sulaxanakala J.C.**
From: Ugilankulam, Mannar
Attending: University of Moratuwa
- 4) **Miss. Analaaswiniya Alosias Edward Croos**
From: Talaimannar Village, Mannar
Attending: University of Jaffna
- 5) **Miss. Jancymary Thurairaja**
From: Talaimannar, Mannar
Attending: University of Jaffna
- 6) **Miss. Niruthika Karunanithy**
From: Uppakudam, Mannar
Attending: University of Jaffna
- 7) **Miss. A.M. Ann Mithusha Selvakumar**
From: Sinnakadai, Mannar
Attending: Advanced Technological Institute, Trincomalee

Toronto, Canada, Chapter

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Jeyabalan Peris (Vice President)
Jude Rohan Mathews (Treasurer)
Niranjan Eugene Nicholas (Assistant - Treasurer)
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Shiranie Peris (Assistant - Secretary)
Jenevy Kanikkai (Social Secretary)

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Michael (Master) Xavier (Director)
George Nicholas (Director)
Anton Balarajah (Director)
Christeen Dushy Seevaratnam (Director)

Jude Yoganathan (Patron 2016)
Meleni David (Past-Patron 2015)

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John Gaster Benedict (Social Committee)
Julian Leslie Nicholas (Social Committee)
Suthaharan Arumugam (Social Committee)
Shyamala Mathews (Social Committee)
Aruntha Gaster (Social Committee)
Indra Xavier (Social Committee)

- 8) **Mr. Subramaniyam Vasiharan**
From: Vaddakkandal, Mannar
Attending: University of Sri Jayewardenepura
- 9) **Mr. V. Vasan**
From: Adampan, Mannar
Attending: University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
- 10) **Miss. J. Suganiy**
From: Panankatikottil, Mannar
Attending: University of Jaffna
- 11) **Miss. M. A. Everesta**
From: Ugilankulam, Mannar
Attending: University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
- 12) **Miss. C. Menat Thanusha**
From: Thoddaveli, Mannar
Attending: South Eastern University of Sri Lanka
- 13) **Mr. Juli Jesus**
From: Sithivinayagar Einthukalur, Mannar
Attending: University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
- 14) **Miss. Mohamed Uvais Ijasabanu**
From: Errulcalampididi, Mannar
Attending: University of Jaffna
- 15) **Miss. S. Niroshini**
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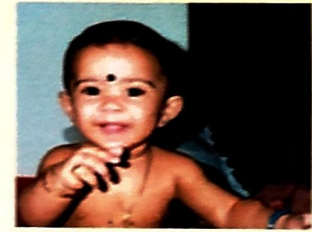


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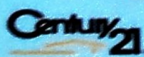
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Mannar Night 2014



Mannar Night 2015



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Programs

Observation of two minutes of Silence

Lighting of the Traditional Oil lamp

Tamil Thai Vazhthu: Lourdes Renuka Waltus

Canadian National Anthem: Sheryl Peris

Story of Christmas Gift

Ribbon Dance: Hannah Paulmark and Shalomi Mathews

Song " Fire to the Rain": Anika Paramanathan

Dance: Puthusa Kattikitta Jodi: King and Chris

President's Speech: Sylvester Nicholas

Dance: O 'Dntr' Cash Bar: Prima Dance School

Dance: Preethi and Keerthi

Song: Augustine Jeevananthan

Dance: Prima Dance School

Dinner

Vote of Thanks: Wathsala James

Raffle Draw

Dance Floor Opens





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2015 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



"Success is not Final, Failure is not Fatal, the courage to go on is what counts." To bring the youths of Mannar, Sri Lanka, together and encourage them to strive for success, despite all the setbacks they've suffered due to the war and the continued social & economic conditions in Sri Lanka. The youths of Mannar need to believe in a future, for only then they be motivated to work towards that future. Asking them to stop giving into alcohol, smoking and gang violence will not work for they have nothing better to do, in their mind. By encouraging sports activities, we divert their attention towards a winning attitude in life. We the Members and Sponsors of Mannar Friendship Association are proud to once more sponsor this Football Tournament, in association with Mannar Football League, to bring about a united and prosperous future.





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Sunflowers Furniture Company is proud to sponsor Mannar Friendship Association and support the continued work they do for the people of Mannar, Sri Lanka. Often parents talk about the children losing touch with the Tamil Culture. Consider what they are exposed to each day and how much of that exposure is to the Tamil culture. It is organizations like Mannar Friendship Association that hold a torch to our culture, expose our children to the history and enrich them with the identity of who we are. Teach them the importance of taking care of our community back home in Sri Lanka as well as here in Canada. We wish the members, organizers, participants, supporters and contributors a tremendous success now and in the future.

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I am at the top When.....

Clearly understand that failure is an event, not a person, that yesterday ended last night, and today is your brand new day.

I have made friends with my past, am focused on the present, and optimistic about my future.

I know that success doesn't make me and failure doesn't break me.

I am filled with faith, hope and love; and live without anger, greed, guilt, envy or thoughts of revenge.

I am mature enough to delay gratification and shift my focus from my rights to responsibilities.

I know that failure to stand for what is morally right is the prelude to being the victim of what is criminally wrong.

I am secure in who I am, so I am at peace with God and in fellowship with man.

I have made friends of my adversaries, and have gain the love and respect of those who know me best.

I understand that others can give pleasure, but genuine happiness comes when I do things for others.

I am pleasant to the grouch, courteous to the rude and generous to the needy.

I love the unlovable, give hope to the hopeless, friendship to the friendless and encouragement to the discouraged.

I can look back in forgiveness, forward in hope, down in compassion and up with gratitude.

I know that "he who would be the greatest among you must become the servant to all."

I recognize, confess, develop and use my God- given physical, mental and spiritual abilities to the glory of God and for the benefit of mankind.

I am over the top, when I stand in front of the Creator of the universe and He will say to me "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

By: Jude Rohan Mathews

2015

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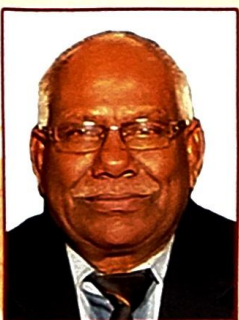
PATRON OF MANNAR FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



Jude Yoganathan
Patron

It is not how long you've lived. It is how many lives are better off because you've lived. Taking from one's bounty and sharing it with others is not a popular trait. Our own needs and wants take precedence over the needs of others, to a point that we no longer care about extending a helping hand. In a world of 7 Billion Humans, those with the will and the means to act on their compassion are a minority. In our association we're fortunate to have many such individuals. One such Individual is Jude Yoganathan. First president and one of the founding members of the Mannar Friendship Association, Jude Yoganathan, has continued to serve our community, when & where ever the need arises. We the members of Mannar Friendship Association are proud to have him as our 2016 Patron of the Association. My we continue to benefit from your presence and guidance.

MOST VALUED MEMBER OF MANNAR FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



M. Jeevaratnam
Director

Title is unimportant. Task is of importance. The task of financing and organizing each and every one of our charitable programs. The task of carrying out the logistics of events like Mannar Night. The task of keeping members, sponsors and well-wishers informed and engaged in the association. The task of raising funds, to sacrifice one's time to serve others. Tasks get done because there are individuals in Mannar Friendship Association, who believe the success of MFA is their personal responsibility. Last year we instituted a program to recognize such individuals in our midst who best represent this value. "Most Valued Member of Mannar Friendship Association", is that program, which is awarded to Jeevaratnam Murugesupillai, of whom we affectionately call DSO. The spirit that drives such individuals in our organization is what empowers all of us to serve our community.



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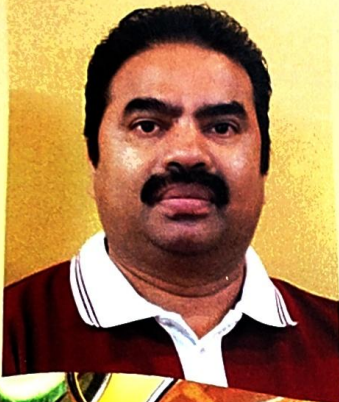
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Acknowledgements

Mannar association appreciates and recognizes the following individuals who contributed to this year event's success

Master of Ceremony: Samantha Param, Dheepthi Gnaneswaran

Raffle Prizes Sponsors: Dr.V.Figurado , Jeyabalan Peries, Joseph Koduthoor
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Ravi Christopher Gerald, Wathsala James, Jeevaratnam (DSO) Murugesupillai

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Year Book Printing and Coordination:

TJPrint & Promo (Alan), Jerom Rajadurai, Fastrack Graphics
Sylvester Nicholas, Suthaharan Arumugam

Bar Organizers: Jude Rohan Mathews , Ravi Christopher Gerald, Michael (Master) Xavier

Performance Organizers: Jenevy Kanikkai, Shyamala Mathews, Jeyabalan Peris
Shiranie Peris, Indra Xavier, John Gaster Benedict , Bertie Kingsley

Members Who Found Ad Sponsors: Meleni David, Jenevy Kanikkai, Bertie Kingsley
Jeyabalan Peris, Suthaharan Arumugam, Sylvester Nicholas, Michael (Master) Xavier
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Anton Balarajah, John Gaster Benedict, Christeen Dushy Seevaratnam

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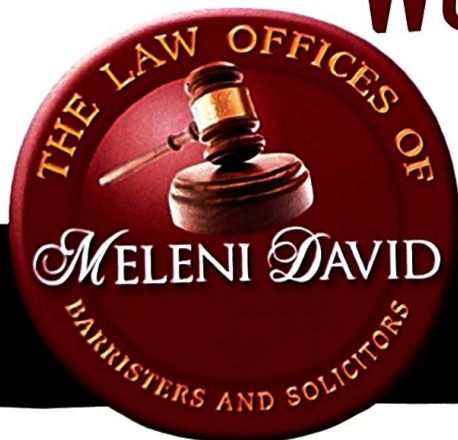
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