



16^{வது} ஆண்டு

மன்னார் இரவு Mannar Night

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வாழிய வாழியவே!

வான மளந்த தனைத்தும் அளந்திடும்
வண்மொழி வாழியவே!

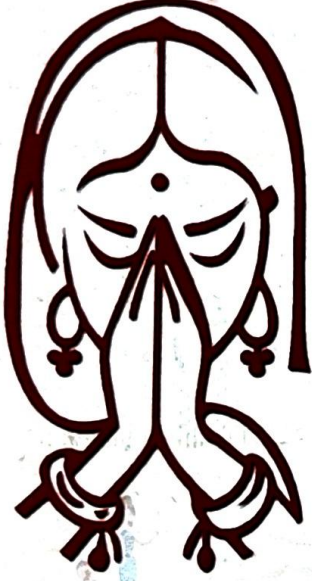
ஏழ்கடல் வைப்பினும் தன் மணம் வீசி
இசைகொண்டு வாழியவே!

சூழக்லி நீங்கத் தமிழ்மொழி ஓங்கத்
துலங்குக வையகமே!

தொல்லை வினைதரு தொல்லை யகன்று
சுடர்க தமிழ்நாடே!

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வாழ்க தமிழ்மொழியே!

வானம் அறிந்த தனைத்தும் அறிந்த
வளர்மொழி வாழியவே!



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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.



State of the Association

By President



Dear Friends,

As the year 2017 ends, I take note of the roller-coaster ride we've all been in. Banking and real-estate fluctuations, local and global political upheavals, racial and religious tensions, tyrants and civil wars populating the world. It seems as if the people in their masses have allowed their greed, lust and hatred to influence and at times control their actions. Minorities in every country, face the brunt of the anxieties and problems consuming any country. We Tamils are the minorities in every country on this planet.

For Canada's 150th birthday celebration, our MFA members, family and friends went on a tour to Ottawa. There we attended a historic documentary tour of the Parliament Building and Ottawa River cruise, depicting the various historic buildings and the role they played in the birth and growth of Canada. Canada boasts a proud history of welcoming immigrants and refugees with open arms. Where government and private organizations are geared to mutually benefit from the strength in diversity.

Canada also carries some dark and disturbing chapters. Internment of Canadian minorities, including Japanese, Chinese and Italians during World War; refusing entry to refugees fleeing war zones, Jewish refugees who were sent back to Europe where they died in the Holocaust; and the continued segregation of the indigenous people.

There is a movement bruited now, powered by the anxieties created by un-employment, where by those of the majority blame the minority for the inequality of wealth. Let's explore this from the perspective of one of North America's largest retailer, Walmart. Almost all the products sold in the store are manufactured outside of North America. The profit from sales is made inside North America. Hence the people in North America are out of a job, but must spend money to purchase their daily needs. Did the minorities decide to ship the jobs out of the country? No. Do the minorities have any say in what Walmart does? No. Yet, as per the movement we're to be blamed for them being poor.

16 years ago, we began Mannar Friendship Association in the wake of 2001 attack on the World Trade Centre. At a time when the world was engulfed in turmoil, where fear and hatred ran rampant throughout human civilization, MFA was established as a beacon of light, with the following purpose: To develop and foster community spirit; to promote, encourage and assist the educational, charitable and recreational endeavours of the members; to promote the development of recreational activities and facilities; to promote cultural life in the community both here in Canada and in Mannar, Sri Lanka; to hold public meetings to consider and discuss all questions affecting the interests of the members; and to promote services represented by the needs and interests of the members both here in Canada and in Sri Lanka; all on a non-profit, non-sectarian and non-political basis. Given the nature of the world as is, the need for MFA to reach out, to grow, to foster is ever great.

In 2001 we initiated the gathering of Mannar, Canadians living here in Toronto and neighbouring areas, together forming the 1st MFA chapter. In 2002 we initiated student scholarship program to support students from the Mannar district of Sri Lanka. Thanks in great part to our sponsors, members and contributors, we were able to assist in the educational endeavours of some 35 students, to successfully complete their undergraduate degree. In 2004 tsunami hits Sri Lanka causing massive devastation and death toll more than 40,000 people. Mannar Friendship Association when to work, raising funds and getting in touch with people in Mannar and parts of Sri Lanka, rendering aid as needed.

State of Association Continued...

In 2005 as Sri Lanka was once again engulfed in civil war, we did not give up. We continued to find ways to aide our brothers and sisters. In 2007 we published our 1st Mannar Night souvenir booklet. Thanks to all the Ad sponsors, we were able to establish our 1st trust deposit of \$5,000.00 dollars. We continue to contribute towards this deposit and is currently more than \$12,000.00 dollars, earning interest in Hatton National Bank, in Sri Lanka. The interest earned from this deposit is used to fund our student Scholarship program. As the Civil War came to its disastrous end in 2009, hundreds of thousands of Tamils had died. Many children were orphaned. In 2012 we worked with MARR (Mannar Association for Relief & Rehabilitation), donating \$3,000.00 to aide orphaned children with educational materials and to sponsor a Christmas get-together. In 2014 we established a Patrons' trust fund in Toronto, Canada. Thanks to contributions from our Patrons, Meleni David and Jude Yoganathan we currently have \$6,000.00 dollars in investment, earning 10% interest every year. In 2014 and 2015 we worked with Mannar Football League to sponsor youth's football tournament in Mannar UC stadium. Spearheaded by our retired Mannar DSO, Jeevaratnam, we provided financial awards to winning teams and team jerseys to 16 teams. After the civil war, unemployment, hopelessness, a sense of defeat had consumed the Mannar Province, leading many youths to get into drugs and alcoholism. Participation in sports develops community spirit, promotes team spirit and above all encourages youths to look at the future with optimism. Many of the members and sponsors of MFA raised over \$15,000.00 dollars needed to achieve this.

Without Mannar Friendship Association none of this would be possible. Without all of you, MFA will not be possible. Questions must be asked, who will carry the torch that is MFA into 2018? Who will write the next chapter of MFA? In this world where Tamils are the minority in every country, who will speak for us? If what was done to us in Sri Lanka were to happen again, or visit us hear in Canada, who will fight for our rights? I call on each of you to search your hearts. Though passion may run high and we don't always agree, we all want what's best for our community. In the brief time we have on this earth we must do what we can to best benefit our people.

Affectionately yours,

Sylvester Nicholas
President,
Mannar Friendship Association

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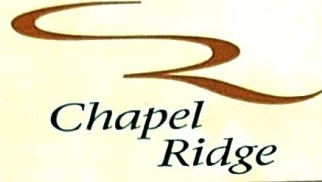
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Canada's Committee Members 2017



From Top Left to Right: Sylvester Nicholas – President, Julian Leslie, Anthony Jeyabalan Peris – Vice President, Gerald (Ravi) Christopher, George Nicholas – Director, DSO Jeevaratnam – Director, Jude Yoganathan – Patron, Rohan Mathews – Assistant Treasurer, Anton Balarajah – Director, Suthaharan Arumugam

From Bottom Left: Bertie Kingsley – Past President, Christina Kingsley, Jenevy Kanikkai – Secretary, Shyamala Mathews, Meleni David – Past Patron, Wathsala James, Shiranie Peris, Michael (Master) and Indra Xavier.

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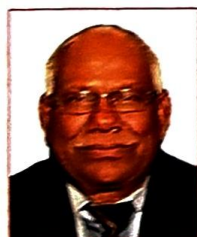
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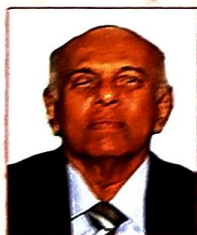
Message from Directors



Michael Xavier
Director



M. Jeevarathnam
Director



George Nicholas
Director



Anton Balarajah
Director



Christeen Dushy
Director

Dear Friends,

I wish to express my happiness and joy in associating myself with Mannar Friendship Association(MFA) for the last 16 years.

I thank you for the opportunity that you've given me to serve as one of the Directors of this organization, which represents the place where I am from. Looking at the past of this Association, we can feel proud of what we've achieved and contributed towards our people at home.

We have also worked hard within ourselves to build our own relationships and focusing the development and the future of our youths in Canada.

There are numerous challenges that we face towards the future and specially our younger generation who need to establish themselves. We hope they too will share their Talents, Time and Treasures (Three Ts) to build a better society both here and in Mannar.

I wish to join along with our fellow Directors and Officials of MFA in wishing every family in our association a very joyful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2018.

Christeen Dushy
Director,
Mannar Friendship Association





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Mannar, Sri Lanka, Chapter

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Mr.Gnanarajah James Ragavaraj (Secretary)
Mr. S.J.F. Jesuthasan
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

As we celebrate our 16th Anniversary as an association, we're pleased to present you with the names of our 15 Scholarship recipients from Mannar, Sri Lanka. Here below you'll find their names, where in Mannar District they are from and what university and area of studies.

- 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

Sylvester Nicholas (President)
Anthony Jeyabalan Peris (Vice President)
Niranjan Eugene Nicholas (Treasurer)
Jude Rohan Mathews (Assistant - Treasurer)
Jenevy Kanikkai (Secretary)
Shiranie Peris (Assistant - Secretary)
John Vaz Joseph Eugene (Social Secretary)
Sebastian Shanthirajah (Press Secretary)

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

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

Bertie Kingsley (Social Committee)
Julian Leslie Nicholas (Social Committee)
Suthaharan Arumugam (Social Committee)
Shyamala Mathews (Social Committee)
Indra Xavier (Social Committee)
Asuntha Iruthayanathan (Social Committee)
Augustine & Renuka Jeevananthan (Social Committee)
Kodithoor & Emerencia Joseph (Social Committee)
Gerald (Ravi) Christopher (Social Committee)
John Benedict Gaster (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: Errulcalampiddi, Mannar
Attending: University of Jaffna
- 15) **Miss. S.Niroshini**
From: Nantan, Mannar
Attending: UVA Wellassa University of Sri Lanka



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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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Mannar Night 2016



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MFA Canada 150 Tour



This year Canada celebrates her 150th Birthday. The members, sponsors, family and friends of Mannar Friendship Association are proud to be a part of Canada.

I was born a Sri Lankan, Tamil. Descendent of generations of proud Sri Lankans. My ancestors served as police officers, school teachers, professors, mayors, business men and women, doctors, lawyers, priests and nuns, built the church, built the town in which I was born. Yet on the land of my ancestors, my mother, sisters and I were sentenced to exile with an AK47 assault weapon pointed at our heads. Every member of our organization can recall similar experiences. We will not forget how we were reduced from a proud citizen into a refugee. We will remember always, the country, Canada, that gave us a home and treated us with dignity at our time of plight. When we say we're proud to be citizens of Canada, this is what we remember.

Part of celebrating Canada's 150th Birthday was a tour of the Canadian Parliament, organized by MFA in partnership with Parliament Tours, followed by Ottawa river cruise, with guided commentary on the historic sites and buildings depicting the events that shaped Canada. Like the history of many courtiers, Canada's history is also not all proud and glorious. Some are filled with sorrowful, despicable events. What is important is how Canada has learned to reconcile with those appalling historic times. Perhaps in this Sri Lanka could also learn to reconcile.

"Our greatest glory is not in never falling. It's in arising every time we fall."

**Sylvester Nicholas
President**





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PATRICK BROWN

MPP - Simcoe North
Leader of the Official Opposition



**Greetings from the Leader of the Official Opposition, Patrick Brown,
on the Mannar Friendship Association's 16th Annual Dinner & Dance**

I would like to extend my warmest wishes to the Mannar Friendship Association and all those attending this evening's 16th Annual Dinner & Dance.

I would like to congratulate you on another successful year as you gather to celebrate community, culture, and the accomplishments of this past year. This is a great opportunity to recognize all the work that you have done to develop and foster community spirit and charity. It is inspiring to see all of the assistance you provide to those who need it here in Ontario, and in the Mannar district in Sri Lanka. This work is a reflection of the best of our province's values, and I encourage you to continue to serve the community through your many initiatives in the months and years ahead.

On behalf of the Ontario PC Caucus, I would like to wish you a successful evening as you celebrate the Mannar Friendship Association's 16th Annual Dinner and Dance.

Kindest Regards,

Patrick Brown
MPP - Simcoe North
Leader of the Official Opposition



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Programs

Mannar Friendship Association

16th Annual Mannar Night, Saturday, November 25, 2017

MC: Anne Gayatri Nicholas

Observation of two minutes of Silence

Lighting of the Traditional Oil Lamp

Tamil Thai Vazhthu

Irene Eugene & Aloma Hillory

Canadian National Anthem

Sheryl Peris, Shalomi Mathews, Netharshana Leslie, Anushaka Eugene, Shalisha Mathew

Christmas Carols

Asuntha Iruthayanathan, Anthony Jeyabalan & Shiranie Peris, Michael (Master) & Indra Xavier,

John Vaz Joseph & Irene (Vasanthi) Eugene, Aloma & Rajan Hillory,

Augustine Jegasothy & Renuka Jeevananthan, Joseph Kodithoor & Emerencia (Emma) Joseph,

Niranjan & Ashani Nicholas, Michael Mathew

MFA's Dancers

Adaliya Alexander, Shiloh Dineshkumar, Nelaksha Prakash, Bertie & Christina Kingsley,

Rajan & Aloma Hillory, Watsala James, Delani Mary

The President's State of The Association

Sylvester Nicholas

MFA's Singers

Augustine Jegasothy Jeevananthan, Johanna Joseph, Jacoline Shanthiraja, Anton Crooss, Ramesh Thurairajah,

Cellina Joseph, John Vaz Joseph Eugene

MFA's Dinner Service

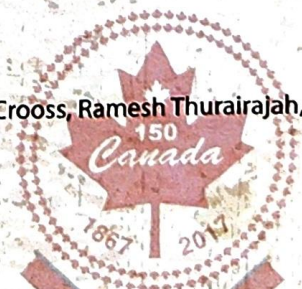
Raffle Draw Final Prize

Shalomi Mathews, Blanka Suthaharan, Sheryl Peris, Netharshana Leslie

Santa Arrival

Vote of Thanks

Dance Floor Opens





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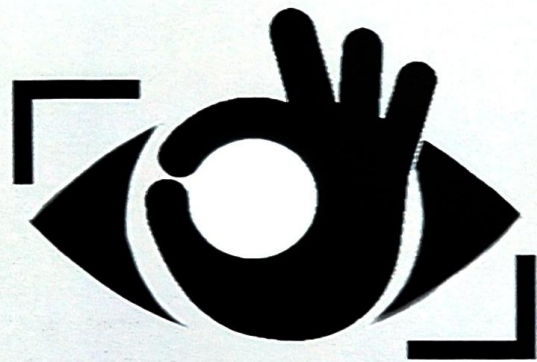


Ivor Ockersz

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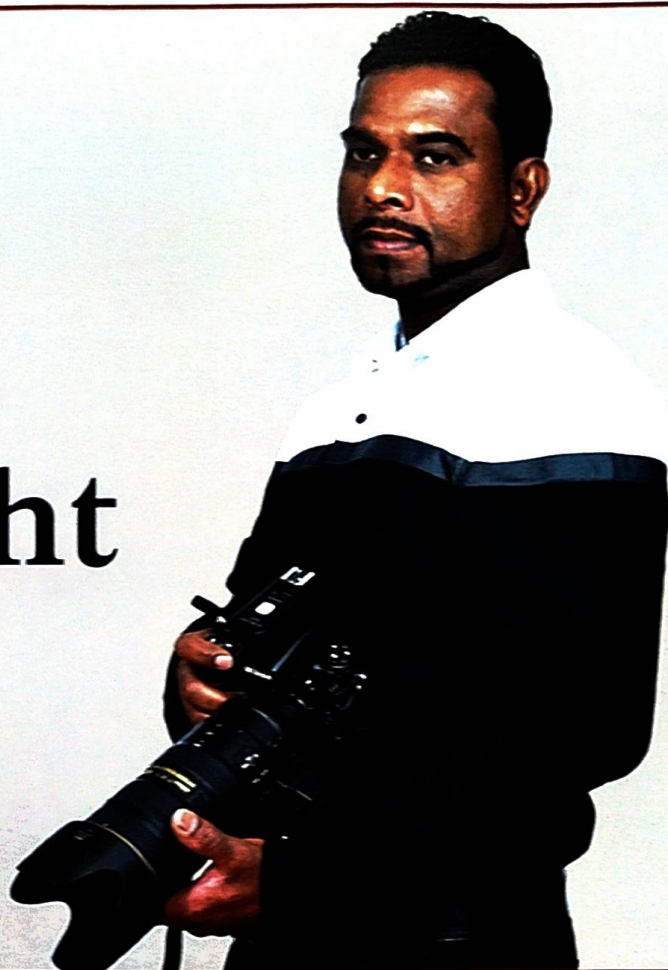
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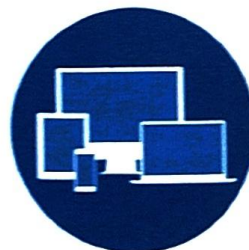
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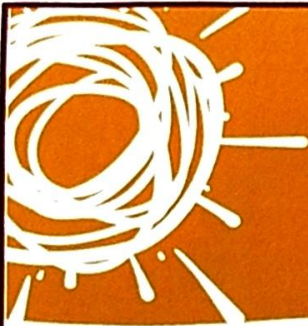


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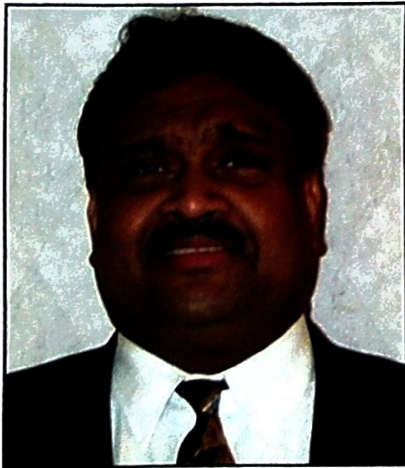


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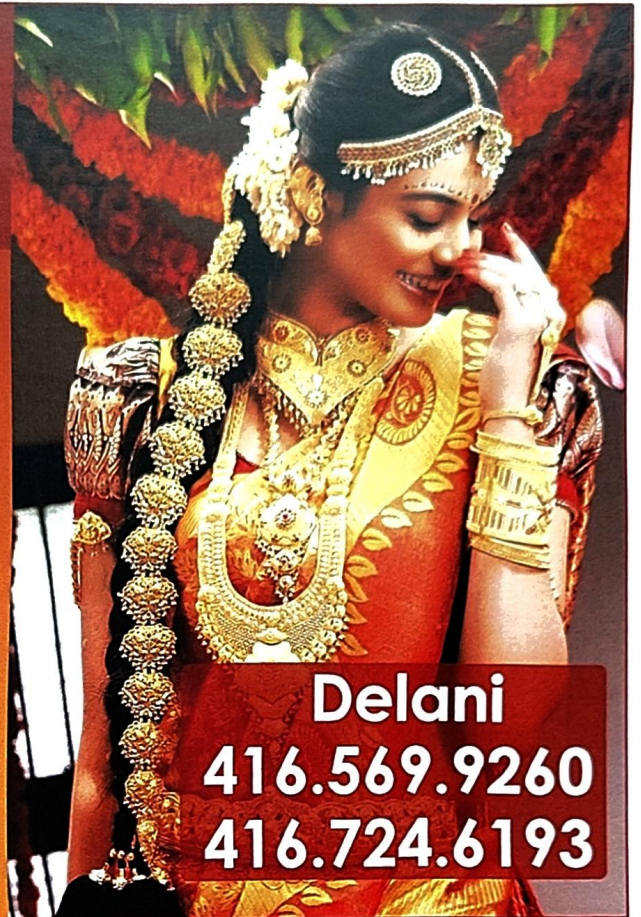
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*Best Wishes and Season's Greetings
for Mannar Friendship Association
on their 16th Anniversary.*

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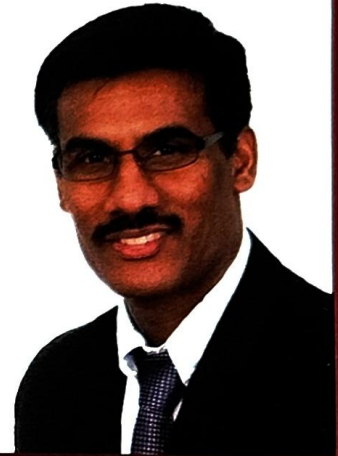


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MFA 2018 Calendar

MFA 2018 Family Day:

Date: Saturday, April 7, 2018

Time: 6:00pm - 11:00pm

Location: Condo Party Room

Address: 121 Trudelle Street, Scarborough, Ontario, M1J 3K4

Phone: (416) 613 - 4965

MFA 2018 Summer BBQ Party:

Date: Saturday, July 7, 2018

Time: 10:00 am - 6:00pm

Location: TBA

MFA 2018 Marylake:

Date: Saturday, August 18, 2018

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00pm

Location: Our Lady of Grace Shrine at Marylake

Address: 13760 Keele St, King City, Ontario, L7B 1B5

Phone: (905) 833 - 5368

MFA 2018 Annual Meeting:

Date: Saturday, September 22, 2018

Time: 6:00pm - 11:00pm

Location: Condo Party Room

Address: 121 Trudelle Street, Scarborough, Ontario, M1J 3K4

Phone: (416) 613 - 4965

MFA 2018 Mannar Night:

Date: Saturday, November 17, 2018

Time: 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Location: New Jaasmin Banquet Hall & Convention Centre

Address: 90 Nolan Court, Markham, Ontario, L3R 4L9

Phone: (416) 827 - 6660

MFA 2018 St. Xavier Feast:

Date: Sunday, December 2, 2018

Time: 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Location: Our Lady of Good Health Parish

Address: 131 Birchmount Road, Scarborough, Ontario, M1N 3J7

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On your 16th Anniversary, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Mannar Friendship Association, in reaching this milestone. As a longstanding sponsor of your association, I'm pleased to hear of your various charitable work both here in Toronto and in Mannar, Sri Lanka. Wishing you all the best.

Kitty Lam

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Congratulations Mannar Friendship Association, on celebrating 16 years of success!



Wishing you all the best

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Vote of Thanks

Our 1st Patron and tonight's Diamond Sponsor, Meleni David, of Meleni David Personal Injury Lawyers, our gratitude for your council and continued support of MFA.

Our Gold Sponsors, Amazon Mortgage – The Mortgage Centre, Margie Vincent DePaul of Sunflower Furniture, Indra Michael Xavier of HomeLife/Future Realty Brokerage, Christeen Dushy Seevaratnam of Chapel Ridge Funeral Home, Nava - Wilson LLP Barristers and Solicitors, Anne G. Nicholas of Premier Law and Northern Financial Services and Real Estate Management and our Silver Sponsor, Dr. Victor Figurado and staff of St. Lucia's Medical Centre, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Our gratitude to all souvenir booklet Ad sponsors, your contribution is what enables us to aide our people. Dr. Sabapathy Raveendran, Dentist; Galina Geris of Music Masters E.C. RCM Exams, Competitions and Concerts; Gandhi of Mega Financial Group; Thurairajah Ramesh of ReMax Royal Properties Realty Ltd. Brokerage; Arun Bakery – Take Out and Catering; Terrence Rupenthiran - Sales Representative - Home Life Galaxy; Delani of Mary's Bridal Creation; Canbe Foods; China Cottage; Kitty Lam - Providing Insurance and Financial Services; Ajanth – Quality Web Sites and Software; Ruben – Angel Light Photography; Easan Krishna-Pillai CFP – Sun Life Financial; Murali - Jet speed travels; Thevan - New Jasmine Banquet Hall; Usha Masilamany – TD Canada Trust; Ivor Home Renovation; Sugan Sivarajah – Pyramid Group Real Estate Professionals; Selvan - Zoom Productionz; Ruban – Car Center; Kanga – MGD Screen Printing; Thinusha Take-Out & Catering & Staffs; and Nicholas Multi Media Group Global.

Thanks to our well wishers from Sri Lanka, from around the world and here in Canada, especially Honourable Member of Provincial Parliament, Patrick Walter Brown, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario and Ontario's Leader of the Official Opposition.

We want to extend our thanks to all the volunteers who've mad this 16th Annual Mannar Night a tremendous success. Our thanks to the Organizers & Volunteers: Anthony Jeyabalan & Shiranie Peris, Rohan & Shyamala Mathews, Michael (Master) & Indra Xavier, Asuntha Iruthayanathan, Jenevy Kanikkai, John Vaz Joseph & Irene (Vasanthi) Eugene, Augustine Jegasothy & Renuka Jeevananthan, Joseph Kodithoor & Emerencia (Emma) Joseph, Niranjana & Ashani Nicholas, Michael Mathew, Bertie & Christina Kingsley, Anton & Jerradine (Sumi) Balarajah, Sheryl Peris, Shalomi Mathews, Netharshana Leslie, Anushaka Eugene, Sashi Suthaharan, Emily Suthaharan, Preethika & Keerthika Gaster, Georgini Julian and John Benedict & Aruntha Gaster.

Thanks to all those who've made Financial & Bar Donations: Augustine Jeevananthan, Jude Yoganathan, Anthony Jeyabalan Peris, Michael (Master) Xavier, Marino Jeyashanthan (Kutty) , Niranjana Nicholas, Julian Leslie, Bertie Kingsley, Suthaharan Arumugam, John Benedict Gaster, Leslie Gnanaparahasam, Jeevaratnam (DSO) Murugesupillai Jenevy Kanikkai, Rohan & Shyamala Mathews, John Vaz Joseph Eugene, Sylvester Nicholas and Joseph (Satkuna) Yoganathan. For it is people like you that makes the world a better place.

MFA Canada 150 Tour, on Saturday, June 24, 2017, celebrating Canada's 150th birthday with a tour of Ottawa Parliament followed by a river cruise. We thank all the organizers and participants who've helped to make MFA's presence known in Ottawa, Canada. Special thanks to Augustine Jegasothy Jeevananthan for raising \$1,000.00 in donation to sponsor the event.

As mentioned in the Patron message it takes a lot of work to put together each of our events. After our day jobs, we are laboring through the nights and weekends to make events like Mannar Night and Summer BBQ happen. Not to mention calling all our members, family, friends, sponsors and well-wishers to inform and invite them. Especially to George & Emaculate Nicholas for calling as many members and informing them of our events. Also, our gratitude to our DSO Jeevaratnam, who despite an arm fracture, served as referee at our Summer BBQ sports events.

Vote of Thanks Continued...

Special thanks to those who went out and collected Ads and Promoted our events, to fill our 16th annual booklet as well as collect raffle sponsors. Namely: Sylvester Nicholas, Benedict Gaster, Bertie Kingsley, Celina Joseph, Christeen Seevaratnam, Dr. Figurado, DSO Jeevaratnam, Anne Gayatri Nicholas, Jenevy Kanikkai, Jeyabalan Peris, Jude Yoganathan, Julian Leslie, Master Xavier and Meleni David. Your contributions are invaluable to MFA. The funds we raise through, ticket charge is just enough to cover the cost of the night. It is the Ads revenue that truly goes to sponsor our MFA charitable programs.

Happy Birthday to our master of ceremony, Anne Gayatri Nicholas. Thanks very much for spending your birthday with us. You've carried the night exceptionally well. We look forward to your continued patronage, towards a mutually prosperous future.

Thanks to tonight's, Videographer, Selvan - Zoom Productionz; Photographer, Ruben - Angel Light Photography and the photo-booth team for accommodating our web profile picture services for MFA past & present members; DJ Robin for delighting us with his music selections; ESFM Radio, Jerom Rajadurai for slide show services; TJ Prints & Promo - Alan for design and print services for Mannar Night Souvenir Booklets and Tickets; and to our host, New Jasmine Banquet Hall - Thevan and his staff for serving us tirelessly.

To our entire program participants, for joining us this evening and providing us with a most delightful display of Mannar Talents. Thanks to our event ticket sales, raffle ticket sales, souvenir photo sales and bar organizers, we've been able to raise sufficient funds to continue our Scholarship and Charitable work in Mannar, Sri Lanka. All our active members contributing annually, individual - \$25 and family - \$50, we want each of you to know that you have our ever-lasting gratitude.

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



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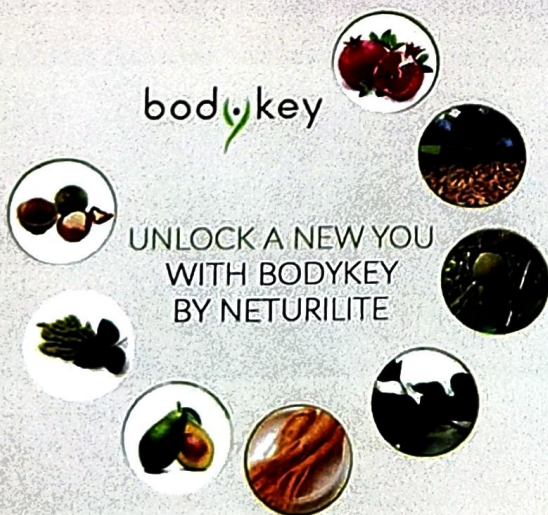
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