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17th Annual Mannar Night

17 ஆவது ஆண்டு மன்னார் இரவு

New Jaasmin Banquet Hall

November 17, 2018

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தமிழ் மொழி வாழ்த்து

வாழ்க நிரந்தரம் வாழ்க தமிழ்மொழி
வாழிய வாழியவே!

வான மளந்த தனைத்தும் அளந்திடும்
வண்மொழி வாழியவே!

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இசைகொண்டு வாழியவே!

குழக்லி நீங்கத் தமிழ்மொழி ஓங்கத்
துலங்குக வையகமே!

தொல்லை வினைதரு தொல்லை யகன்று
சுடர்க் தமிழ்நாடே!

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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.



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Presidents Message



Sylvester Nicholas

Dear Friends,

With pleasure I welcome you to our 17th annual Mannar Night. Mannar Friendship Association has achieved many goals both here in Toronto, Canada and in Mannar, Sri Lanka. Our Directors have given you a brief history about MFA in their message. I wish to take this opportunity to discuss with you about the future of MFA. With that in mind let me tell you of an incident that recently happened to me that caused me to examine my history.

I was driving West on Finch Avenue East. As I approached Markham Road I was on the left lane, there was an SUV with a hitched trailer on the right lane. First thing that caught my eye was the trailer. It was an old mini mobile home trailer, held together by rust. Then I see the SUV that was hauling this rust bucket. It was a 1980's Ford Bronco with left turn signal blinking, indicating it wants to enter the lane I'm driving in. I was concerned about driving next to it or behind it, because I had seen a similar one unhitch while driving and crash on the highway. Naturally I sped up and moved ahead. In the rear-view mirror, I see this vehicle move behind me and then move to the left turn lane. Light changes red at Markham Road. Bronco with trailer is parked on the left-turn lane of Finch, I'm parked on the left lane of Finch, waiting for the signal to turn green. Driver of the Bronco leans to the passenger side of his vehicle and rolls down the window and looked at me. I thought he had a question, maybe about direction, so I rolled down my driver side window and inquisitively look at him. At which point, driver of the Bronco, a frizzy, red haired, white guy, yelled at me as follows, "Get the F*ck out of my country you F*cking Packie"! Light changes green and he drives off.

Well, I've thought about his humble request. First; my 2017 Lexus did get in the way of his 1980's trash mobile. Second; this is not the first time I've been called by a racial slur. At the age of eleven my world was destroyed by civil war. Since then I've been called by most racist affronts including, Kotia, Neggar, Packie, FOB (fresh off the boat) and WOP (without papers). Third; this is not happening somewhere in Virginia, USA. This is happening in Toronto, Canada, where my home is, where my business office is, where the city councillor is Neethan Shan, where the member of provincial parliament is Vijay Thani-gasalam, where the member of federal parliament is Gary Anandasangaree; all three of them are Sri Lankan, Tamils.

Now let's think about all this. We're a minority in every country that we're in. All that we've got we had to build from nothing. Working for less than minimum wage in which ever countries we end up in. Then send what little we've earned back to Sri Lanka to rebuild every Tamil community that had been bombed into a pile of debris. Then work hard enough, educate enough, save enough, to finally build



Presidents Message

Cont...

we had to build from nothing. Working for less than minimum wage in which ever countries we end up in. Then send what little we've earned back to Sri Lanka to rebuild every Tamil community that had been bombed into a pile of debris. Then work hard enough, educate enough, save enough, to finally build the lives we've got, while enduring racial hostilities. We've achieved considerable levels, in professional carriers, political and business ventures, social and economic gains. Yet what guaranties do we have that those who hate what we've achieved, can't take it from us?

For most of my 26 years in Canada I've remained silent about racism in Canada. Why? Because in Canada, I was assured, that although racist thoughts can't be stopped, they will be stopped at words. Now it seems racist words are in the process of becoming normal. Sri Lankan Tamils should remember what comes next. Normalized racist words become social actions, which become government policies. Racist government policies eventually lead to civil war! This is how racism shattered Sri Lanka.

So where do we go from here? I'm a Sri Lankan Tamil. My ancestors who's routes I can trace back 300 years, built the town in Sri Lanka where I grew up. Town's church's bell tower has my great grand uncle's name engraved on it in marble. He purchased and brought the materials to town, built the bell tower and donated it to the church. There are schools, businesses and community centers that were built by my ancestors, located throughout Sri Lanka. I know the names of those who've served as police officers, teachers, judges, bankers, political leaders, doctors, priests and nuns. Yet on the land of my ancestors, my mother, sisters and I were sentenced to exile at gun point, for the sole crime of being born Tamil. What guaranties do we have that the same will not happen here in Canada?

We go about our daily grind, making enough money to pay for our mortgages and bills. Tending to family squabbles and gossips. Our minds occupied by professional, personal and health related problems. Perhaps it is too much to ask to think about racial problems. Except, all our problems, especially mine began with the civil war, which was instigated by racist policies by the government of Sri Lanka. So, I ask again, what must we do to prevent the same from happening in Canada?

I invite each and everyone of you to think about this. Over the holidays, between the parties, between the things we need to do and want to do, to take time to think about this. And we'll in the new year collectively put together a plan of action that will become the mission of Mannar Friendship Association. The mission to prevent Canada from being shattered by hatred.

Thank you for devoting the time to read and committing the mind to think.

Respectfully yours,

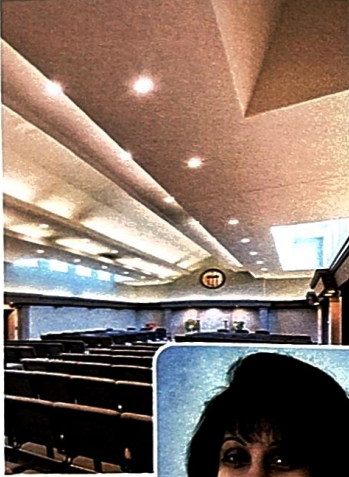
Sylvester Nicholas
President
Mannar Friendship Association



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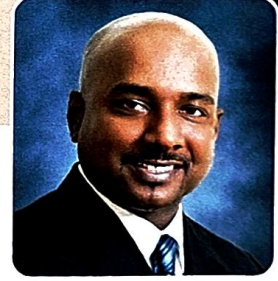
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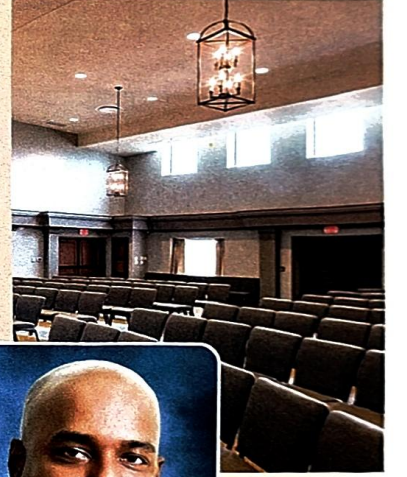
மார்க்கம், மற்றும் மிசிசாகா
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Message from Directors



Michael Xavier
Director

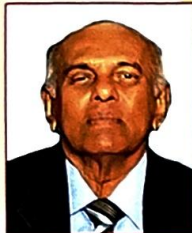
Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to address you today on this 17th annual Mannar Night. Celebrating 17 years of trials, tribulations and exaltations. I look back at how far we've come, the history of Mannar Friendship Association.



M. Jeevaratnam
Director

17 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 is ever great.



George Nicholas
Director

In 2002 we initiated student scholarship program to support students from the Mannar district of Sri Lanka to successfully complete their undergraduate degree. In 2004 tsunami hits Sri Lanka causing massive devastation and death toll. Mannar Friendship Association went to work, raising funds and getting in touch with people in Mannar and parts of Sri Lanka, rendering aide as needed. 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 a trust fund which is currently earning interest in Hatton National Bank, in Sri Lanka, which helps to pay for the student scholarship. 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), 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 which is currently 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. In 2017 we celebrated Canada's 150th anniversary, by coordinating a tour of Ottawa with Canadian parliament, showcasing the history of Canada. In 2018 we've welcomed Mannar Bishop, Fidelis Lionel Emmanuel Fernando as an Honorary Member of Mannar Friendship Association.



Anton Balarajah
Director

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 2019? 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.



Christeen Dushy
Director

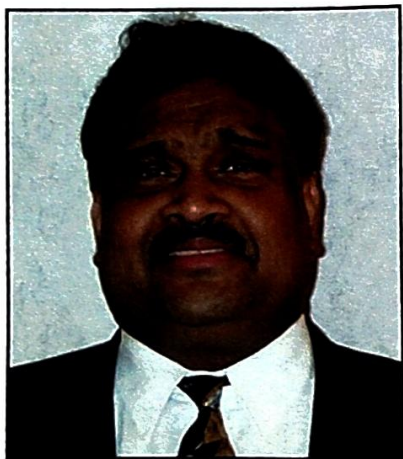
On be half of the Directors of Mannar Friendship Association,
Affectionately yours,

Christeen (Dushy) Seevaratnam
Director
Mannar Friendship Association



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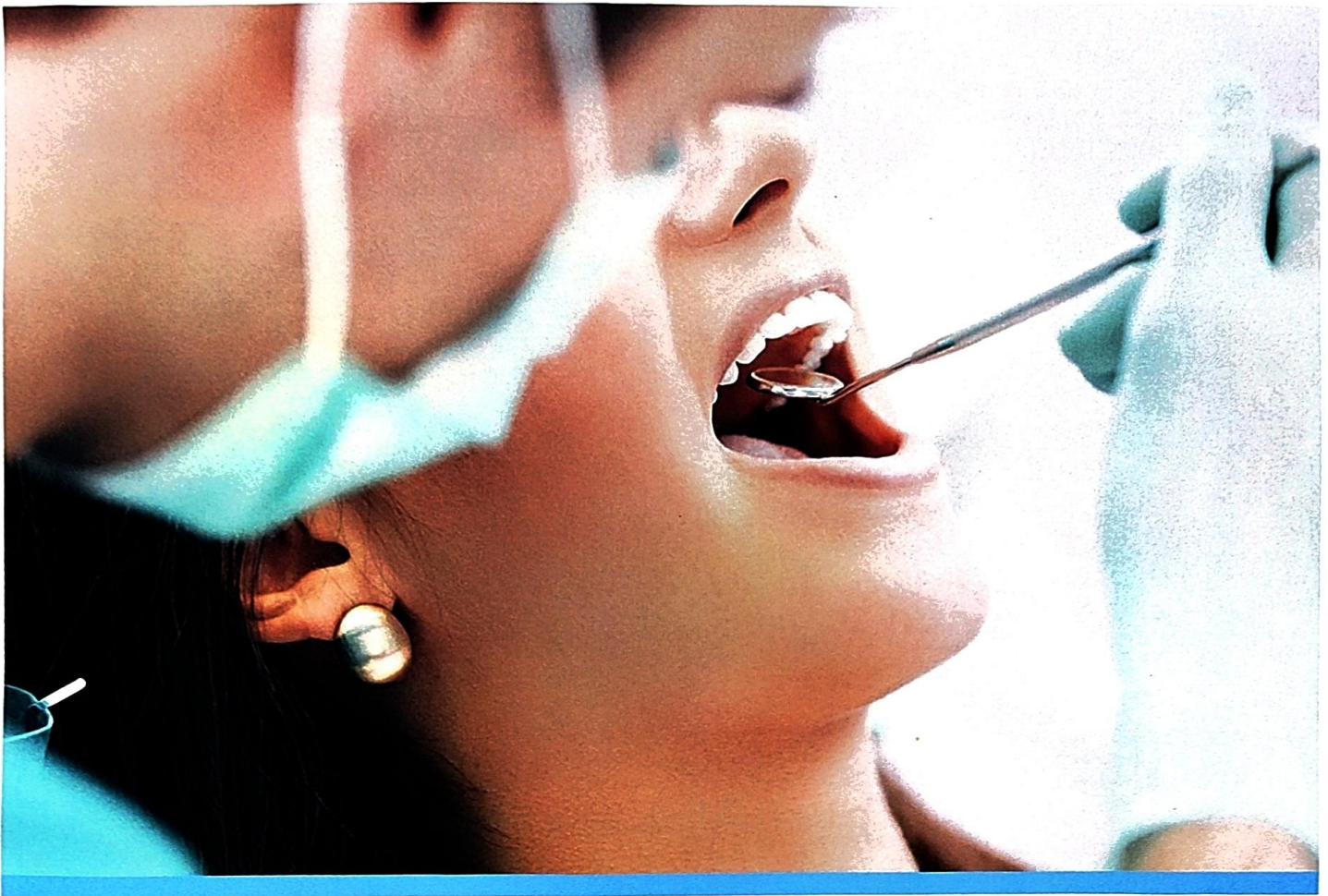


Canada's Committee Members 2018



From Top Left to Right: Niranjan Eugene Nicholas - Treasurer, Sylvester Nicholas - President, Julian Leslie Nicholas, Jeyabalan Peris - Vice President, Joseph Kodithoor, Ravi Gerald Christopher, John Vaz Joseph Eugene, Michael (Master) Xavier - Director, Augustine Jeevananthan, Jude Rohan Mathews - Assistant Treasurer

From Bottom Left: Sebastian Shanirajah - Press Secretary, Emma Joseph, Shyamala Mathews, Asuntha Iruthayananthan, Christeen (Dushy) Seevaratnam - Director, Shiranle Jeyabalan, George Nicholas - Director, Christi Massillamanni, Renuka Jeevananthan, Indra Xavier, Jenevy Kanikkai - Secretary



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Programs

Mannar Friendship Association

17th Annual Mannar Night, Saturday, November 17, 2018

MCs: Shiyamala Mahadevan & Anton Balarajah

In Memory of the Victims of Hatred, Observation of Silence & Prayer

(We remember the victims of hatred, in Toronto. We remember the victims of hatred in the World.

We pray their soul finds peace. We pray the cost will not fall upon the innocent.

We pray for the courage to build a future governed by equality, respect and love for all.)

Lighting of the Traditional Oil Lamp

Tamil Thai Vazhthu : Dilani Nicholas

Canadian National Anthem

Sound of the season 1

"The little Drummer boy" song by Johanna Joseph, Joshua Joesph, Antonio Tamilmaran Benildas,

Anjali Johan & Amaliya Johan

Sound of the season 2

"Lucid Dreams - Juice World" song by Marian Shanthirajah

Bharatanatyam: Nilaksha Prakash

Canada MGR: Mutturaaman & Jeyalalitha

Dance: Adalia Alexander

Performance By: Hips Don't Lie Dance Company

The President's State of The Association: Sylvester Nicholas

Committee Portrait

Girls Special

Amanda Kingsley, Nitharshana Julian, Freetha Vijay, Ashley & Ragavi Mathiyalagan

Fusion: Nilaksha Prakash

Ladies Moves

Christina Kingsley, Shiranie Jeyabalan, Sashini Beed & Harshini Niranjana

Gentlemen Groove

Kingsley Bertie, Sutha Arumugam, Niranjana Nicholas & Jeyabalan Peris

Comedy Pieces

Julian Nicholas & Bavananthan Mahadevan

Dinner & Songs

Ramesh Thuraiarajah, Open to Guests

Santa's Arrival

Vote of Thanks

Raffle Draw

Dance Floor Opens



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Message from Patrons

Dear Friends,



Meleni David
Past Patron

We are all here to celebrate another Mannar Night as we've been doing it for the last 17 years. Thanks to the few Members who still have the commitment to put together wonderful Mannar events year after year without any hesitation. You can't imagine how many hours, how much effort and money these dedicated members have devoted to keep MFA alive. I believe MFA has less than 20 permanent officially registered members. Does MFA belong to only those few people? Where are all the other Well-wishers of Mannar? It's a fact that most of us become observers rather than contributors. "Doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results"? We are very fortunate to achieve our goals with the big heart from the small group of members.

We are defined by how we choose to exist. Responsibility towards and contribution to community is part of how we make a difference. Every human being wants to make a difference; one of the ways we might do this is through our contribution. Contribution of our time and resources. I have one life and one chance to make it count for something... My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference.



Jude Yoganathan, P.Eng
Patron

World is changing around us. The seeds of hatred that led to the civil war in Sri Lanka is prevalent throughout this world. We all have a duty to inform our children what happened to us in Sri Lanka and to teach them how to prevent this from happening in their time and beyond. This is the core purpose of MFA's existence. We all have a duty to think about MFA's existence. It's a time for an imminent change towards a better future. It's a time to bring our next younger generation to have innovative ideas and vibrant energy to brighten this association.

I thank you for your presence this evening and wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New year.

Jude Yoganathan, P.Eng
Patron

November 17, 2018

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Mannar Night 2017





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MFA 2019 Calendar

MFA 2019 Family Day:

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2019

Time: 6:00pm - 11:00pm

Location: Condo Party Room

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

Phone: (416) 613 - 4965

MFA 2019 Summer BBQ Party:

Date: Saturday, July 6, 2019

Time: 10:00 am - 6:00pm

Location: TBA

MFA 2019 Marylake:

Date: Saturday, August 10, 2019

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 2019 Annual General Meeting:

Date: Saturday, September 21, 2019

Time: 6:00pm - 11:00pm

Location: Condo Party Room

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

Phone: (416) 613 - 4965

MFA 2019 Mannar Night:

Date: Saturday, November 23, 2019

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 2019 St. Xavier Feast:

Date: Sunday, December 1, 2019

Time: 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Location: Our Lady of Good Health Parish

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

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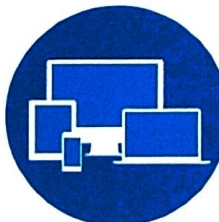
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MFA Student Scholarship Recipients

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

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 Uwais Ijasabanu

From: Errulcalampiddi, Mannar

Attending: University of Jaffna

15) Miss. S. Niroshini

From: Nantan, Mannar

Attending: UVA Wellassa University of Sri Lanka

*Best Wishes and Season's Greetings
for Mannar Friendship Association
on their 17th Anniversary.*

Dr. Victor Figurado

and staff of

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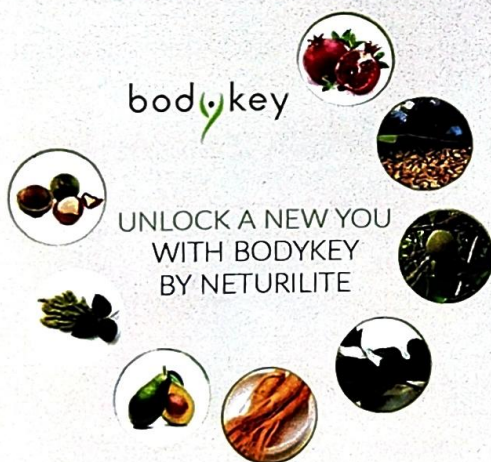
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Mannar Bishop Visit 2018



Most Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Fernando
Bishop of Mannar

Bishop's House, Pottim, Mannar, Sri Lanka
Tel: 023 2222503, 0777261541,
Fax: 023 2222709
Email: emmatdo@bdi.lk

04-08-2018

Mr. Sylvester Nicholas,
President,
Mannar Friendship Association,
5200, Finch Avenue E,
Suite 208,
Toronto, Ontario M1S4Z4 - Canada.

Dear Mr. Sylvester Nicholas,

Greetings from Mannar! My sincere thanks for the wonderful evening that we had at Lawyer Melani's place with a sumptuous dinner and fellowship. I am deeply grateful for the meaningful souvenir you presented to me making me an honorary member of the Association and the gift of a precious sum of Canadian Dollars 2000/-.

So it was very nice to meet all of you there in that get together. I hope to be in continuous contact with you all. Convey my kind greetings to all of them and to Christine who brought me over there.

As I returned to Sri Lanka on the 23rd July, I heard that some 50 families are settling down with temporary tents in the area released by the Navy near the lake in Mullikulam. So I contributed from this sum of money for the temporary shelters that were being provided by the Mannar - Caritas - Valvuthayam. The National Sedec and the Valvuthayam have funded the rest.

Wishing all of you with gratefulness and praying for God's Blessings over all of you.

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

Emmanuel Fernando

Most Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Fernando
Bishop of Mannar
Diocese of Mannar - Sri Lanka.



Honorary Member of Mannar Friendship Association

Presented To

Bishop Fidelis Lionel Emmanuel Fernando

It is not how long you've lived. It is how many lives are better off because you've lived. In appreciation of your, Forty-Five years of service to the Sri Lankan Tamil Catholics, your devotion to truth, morality, charity and love, in the face of multitudes of challenges, for gracing Mannar Canadians with your presence and blessings, we express our gratitude. May we continue to benefit from your guidance.

Thank you and God Bless!

"Serving Our Community in the Company of Friends"

Toronto
July 17, 2018

Sylvester Nicholas
President





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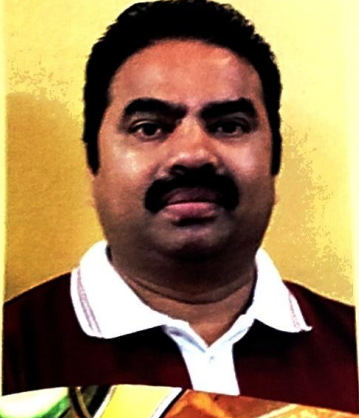
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On your 17th Anniversary, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Mannar Friendship Association, in reaching this milestone. As a longstanding sponsor of your association, I'm pleased to hear of your various charitable work both here in Toronto and in Mannar, Sri Lanka. Wishing you all the best.

Kitty Lam

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Meleni David (Past-Patron)

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Julian & Georgini Nicholas
Rohan & Shyamala Mathews
Jude & Jacoline Shanthiraja Yoganathan
Michael (Master) & Indra Xavier
Kodithoor & Emerencia Joseph
Ravi Gerald Christopher
Augustine & Renuka Jeevananthan
Niranjan & Harshini Nicholas
Jeyabalan & Shiranie Peris
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John & Aruntha Gaster
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Mannar, Sri Lanka, Chapter

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Vote of Thanks



Dear, members, sponsors, honoured guests, well wishers, families and friends,

Thank you for gathering together for a most successful 17th Annual Mannar Night.

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, Indra Michael Xavier of HomeLife/Future Realty Brokerage; Nicholas Multi Media Group Global Inc.; Christeen Dushy Sevaratnam of Chapel Ridge Funeral Home, Northern Financial Services and Real Estate Management, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Our Silver Sponsor, Dr. Victor Figurado and staff of St. Lucia's Medical Centre and to all our souvenir booklet Ad sponsors, your contribution

is what enables us to aide our people. We express to you our lasting gratitude.

We want to extend our thanks to all the volunteers who've mad this 17th Annual Mannar Night a tremendous success. Special thanks to: Jeyabalan & Shiranie Peris, Rohan & Shyamala Mathews, Michael (Master) & Indra Xavier, George & Imaculate Nicholas, Joseph Kodithoor & Emerencia (Emma) Joseph, Niranjan & Harshini Nicholas, Bertie & Christina Kingsley, Anton & Jerradine (Sumi) Balarajah, Asuntha Iruthayananthan and Miriam Menakumari Nicholas. Thanks to all those who've made Financial, Raffaele & Bar Donations. It is because of your donations that the entire proceeds from the Bar and Raffaele sales are going to the Student Scholarship funds.

To our entire program participants, for joining us this evening and providing us with a most delightful display of Mannar Talents, we thank you. Also, thanks to Hips don't lie Dance Co. for entertaining us with their performance. Thanks to our event ticket sales, raffle ticket sales and bar organizers. 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. As mentioned in the Patron's 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, Summer BBQ and Family Day happen. Not to mention calling all our members, family, friends, sponsors and well-wishers to inform and invite them.

Special thanks to those who went out and collected Ads and Promoted our events, to fill our 17th annual booklet as well as collect raffle sponsors. Namely: Sylvester Nicholas, Benedict Gaster, Bertie Kingsley, Celina Joseph, Christeen Seevaratnam, Dr. Figurado, Jeyabalan Peris, Jude Yoganathan, Julian Leslie, Master Xavier, Niranjan Nicholas 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.

Thanks to tonight's, Slide Show and Videography by Jerom Rajadurai of FastRack Graphics; Photographer, Ruben – Angel Light Photography; DJ Robin for delighting us with his music selections; TJ Prints & Promo – Alan for design and print services for Mannar Night Souvenir Booklets and Tickets; Software and Webhosting services by Ajanth; and to our gracious host, New Jasmine Banquet Hall - Thevan and his staff for serving us tirelessly.

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 or 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

With lasting gratitude,

Jenevy Kanikkai
Secretary
Mannar Friendship Association



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