



MANNAR FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS

2022 21st Annual **Dinner & Dance**

Celebrating in combination with 19th & 20th Mannar Nights



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21st Annual Mannar Night

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November 19, 2022

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வாழிய வாழியவே!

வான மளந்த தனைத்தும் அளந்திடும்
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சூழ்க்லி நீங்கத் தமிழ்மொழி ஓங்கத்
துலங்குக வையகமே!

தொல்லை வினைதரு தொல்லை யகன்று
கடர்க தமிழ்நாடே!

வாழ்க தமிழ்மொழி வாழ்க தமிழ்மொழி
வாழ்க தமிழ்மொழியே!

வானம் அறிந்த தனைத்தும் அறிந்த
வளர்மொழி வாழியவே!



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.

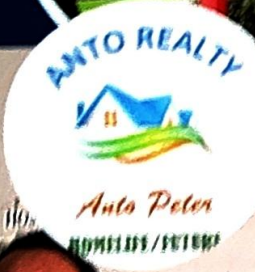


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Message from Directors



Michael Xavier
Director

We the Board of Directors of Mannar Friendship Association wish to extend our warm greetings to all those present here for The Mannar Night 2022. Our heart felt thanks to the donors, sponsors, volunteers, entertainment performers and well wishes for your generosity in contributing towards the success of this event and our organization.



M. Jeevaratnam
Director

21 years ago, in 2001 we began Mannar Friendship Association. 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. MFA 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 continued to find ways to aide our brothers and sisters. 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, to aide orphaned children with educational materials and to sponsor a Christmas get-together. In the years 2014 and 2015, we've sponsored Football Tournaments in Mannar. The tournaments were hosted in association with Mannar District Football League, in Mannar UC stadium, with 23 league youths' teams participating. In 2015 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. 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. In 2019 our 15 students who have been scholarship recipients have successfully graduated.



Christeen Dushy
Director

In 2020, the world was engulfed by the COVID-19 pandemic, causing massive devastation and death throughout the human species. Tamils of Sri Lanka suffered the brunt of it, as minorities always do. Majority race of every nation fight over what little resources left, while minorities are left destitute. MFA went to action aiding our people with food packages. Each meal package containing sufficient dry food items to sustain a person for a month. We also raised funds to purchase much needed medical equipment for Mannar Hospital. Our Mannar Chapter members spearheaded this program coordinating with hospital staff. In 2021 we provided aide for the bus and train crash survivors in Talaimannar. Some 20 students and 1 school master, from Talaimannar GTMS School, who were on the bus at the time of crash.



Anton Balarajah
Director

The Board of Directors wish to thank the Past and Present Presidents and their respective committee members for their valuable time spent and the hard work they had put in for the successful continuation of MFA for 21 years. With the continued support of each of you MFA will continue to serve our people in the company of friends.



George Nicholas
Director

Murugesupillai (DSO) Jeevaratnam
Director
Mannar Friendship Association

Emergency Relief Fund



The MFA-ERF provided aid for the bus and train crash survivors in Talaimannar. Our MFA Mannar Chapter, Jude Master - President, Robert Peris and Gnanaraj Parunanthu, got in communication with the victims, survivors and their families to coordinate essential Aid. We identified 20 students and 1 school master who were on the bus at the time of crash. We prepared a return-to-school package for each student, containing a school bag, stationaries, pairs of shoes and socks, school uniform and Rs.5000//. Also an attaché bag and Rs.20,000// for the school master. This is MFA's effort to help these victims return to normal life after experiencing such a horrific tragedy. This event took place on Friday, April 23, 2021, at 9:30 AM, in Talaimannar GTMS School. Our honoured guests, Mr. K. J. Bratley, Zonal Director of Education, Mannar, Rev. Fr. Augustine, Parish Priest of Talaimannar. Also in attendance, Talaimannar GTMS School Principal, Teachers and Students who helped MFA organize and host this program. Tamils are a Minority in every country in which we live. If there is to be, it is up to us.



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Artistic Director & Founder

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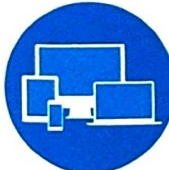
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Patrons Message

Dear Friends,



Meleni David
Past Patron

The precious daughters and sons of our birth land Mannar, historic, venerated by all religions, rich in culture, blessed with all Mother Nature's wealth. One day it was a wonderful, special place for all of us to live and enjoy. Unfortunately from civil wars to natural disasters, from economic embezzlements to political failures, Sri Lanka has been plagued along with our people. Due to these happenings, our people were made homeless, maimed, orphaned and are oppressed physically and mentally. We are scattered all over the world. A minority culture in every county we live in.



Jude Yoganathan. P.Eng
Patron

Though we live in Canada, still have our sweet memories of our early days. In our place we were like one family, sharing and caring for one another. What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others remains and is immortal. We who are showered with God's blessings have the duty to remember and to extend our loving hands to our people, especially those who are still suffering under the post pandemic Sri Lanka in complete disarray.

Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will. People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

I thank you for your presence this evening and your continued patronage of Mannar Friendship Association. Wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New year.

Meleni David
The Law Offices of Meleni David
Past Patron

Mannar Friendship Association – Canada



Programs

Mannar Friendship Association

21st Annual Mannar Night, Saturday, November 19, 2022

MCs: Roshita Spaulding & Anton Balarajah

Observation of two minutes of silence

LIGHTING OF THE TRADITIONAL OIL LAMP

தமிழ் தாய் வாழ்த்து (Shaline Suresh)

CANADIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM (Shaline Suresh)

SOUND OF THE SEASON (Niranjan & Ashani Nicholas, Joseph & Emerencia Kodithoor, Jeyabalan & Shiranie Peris, Christina Kingsley with Vijayakumar Stanislaus (Santa)

FUSION DANCE (Hermína Lenin)

SONG (Anton Croos)

FUSION DANCE (Abinaya Bavananthan)

SONG (Bavan Linga)

MELODY DANCE (Roshita Spaulding)

PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE PORTRAIT

BOBBY n BAND ON THE RUN

DINNER

RAFFLE DRAW & DOOR PRIZES

VOTE OF THANKS

BOBBY n BAND ON THE RUN

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Canada's Committee Members 2022



From Top Left to Right: Niranjan Nicholas - Treasurer, Jeevaratnam (DSO) - Director, George Nicholas - Director, Gaster Benedict, Joseph Kodithor, Michael Xavier - Director, Rohan Mathews - Assistant Treasurer, Jayabalan Paris - Vice President, Sylvester Nicholas - President, Jude Yoganathan - Patron, Sebastian Shanthirajah - Press Secretary, Ravi Christopher, Leslie Julian, Suthaharan Arumugam, Anton Balarajah, Christy Maslamany, Bertie Kingsley
From Bottom Left: Ashani Nicholas, Emaculate Nicholas, Aruntha Gaster, Emerencia Joseph, Indra Xavier, Shyamala Mathews, Meleni David, Shiranie Jayabalan, Jacoline Shanthirajah, Georgini Julian, Sumi Balarajah, Jenevy Kanikkai - Secretary, Bridget Maslamany, Christina Kingsley



Presidents Message

Dear Friends,

I'm honoured to welcome you all to our 21st Annual Mannar Night. As described in detail in the directors' message, through a multitude of challenges, Mannar Friendship Association has achieved many goals both here in Toronto, Canada and in Mannar, Sri Lanka. Our COVID-19 relief programs; Assistance for the Bus and Train crash survivors; along with Our current accounts are published in this booklet.

Thanks in great part to our members, sponsors, donors and volunteers here in Canada, in Sri Lanka and around the world, we've successfully served the people of Mannar for now 21 years. 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. We've achieved considerable levels, in professional carriers, political and business ventures, social and economic gains throughout the world.

We reached all these goals while fighting wars on three fronts. First is the unending attacks we face as a culture in Sri Lanka. From pandemics to economic crisis to the civil war that consumed nearly a century, generations of Tamils are born of war. Second front is the world in which we live. From natural disaster to man made disasters to racial attacks, we the minority race have no choice but to face the brunt of it. Third front is the infighting and divisiveness amongst ourselves, that has plagued all our organizations and hindered many of our achievements, everywhere we are on this planet. We must change our thought process, to see the world for what it is. Only then we can begin to make head way on all three fronts. Until we resolve our differences, amongst ourselves and our race, our achievements on the World Stage will be met with limited success.

Serving our community in the company of friends for the past 10 years, has been one of my greatest honors. For the past nine years, I've served as your President most proudly and affectionately. I thank each and every member of the committee here in Toronto and in Mannar, who've worked with me to make Mannar Friendship Association an international success! As you read the vote of thanks and Mannar hospital relief program, you will hear the names of individuals who have overcome extraordinary circumstances, including family members in hospital or deceased, in order to serve MFA and the people of Mannar. I could not be more proud to have worked with you all.

This will be my final Mannar Night as your President. The mission of Mannar Friendship Association and her 21 years history will become the care of a newly elected committee. They will take the mantle of leadership and journey to a brave and prosperous future.

Respectfully yours,



Sylvester Nicholas
President

Mannar Friendship Association
"Serving Our Community in The Company of Friends"

Mannar Friendship Association

Current Financial Status

In Canadian Currency:

RBC Account: \$24,820.15

NFSREM investment: \$6,000.00

TOTAL: \$30,820.15

We had \$12,000.00 in Canadian currency held in HNB (Hutton National Bank), in Mannar, Sri Lanka.

This amount was split between 2 accounts in HNB held in Sri Lankan rupees.

Interest from these accounts funded part of the Student Scholarship Program sponsored by MFA.

When Sri Lankan currency began to loose value, we withdrew all of this money and deposited it into the above RBC account in Toronto, Canada.

All the money was withdrawn from HNB account, long before the eventual and catastrophic collapse of Sri Lankan, economy, infrastructure, and government.

God Save Sri Lanka!



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Business Account Statement

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July 15, 2022 to August 17, 2022

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Account Summary for this Period

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Opening balance on July 15, 2022	\$24,826.15
Total deposits & credits (D)	+ 0.00
Total cheques & debits (I)	- 6.00
Closing balance on August 17, 2022	= \$24,820.15

Account Activity Details

Date	Description	Cheques & Debits (\$)	Deposits & Credits (\$)	Balance (\$)
	Opening balance			24,826.15
01 Aug	Monthly fee	6.00		24,820.15
	Closing balance			24,820.15

Account Fees: \$6.00

Mannar Hospital Donations



May 2021, RDHS – Mannar (Regional Director of Hospital Service), approached MFA requesting aid with COVID-19 emergency. At the request of MFA Canada's Chapter, our Mannar Chapter, Mr. Jude Figurado – President, Mr. Robert Peries and Mr. Gnanaraj Parunanthu met with RDHS – Mannar. Along with other doctors, support personal and volunteers have compiled a list of essential medical equipment for RDHS – Mannar Hospital, paid for by Mannar Friendship Association – Canada.

The Equipment are: 1 ECG Machine Single Channel Basic, 4 Nos of Syringe Pump, 2 without VAT, 2 with VAT, 2 Edan iM 60 Patient Monitor

Special thanks to Joseph Satkuna Yoganathan – MFA Project Manager, who spent hours on the phone with various officials and suppliers in Sri Lanka as well as sponsors and donors in Canada, to make this happen. Our thanks to, Mr. P. Amalathasan, past President MFA Mannar Chapter for helping us organize multiple projects over the past 21 years. Mr. Sinnarasa Ratnakumar – Treasurer, MFA Mannar Chapter, has been our treasurer since the founding of MFA in 2001. Despite the personal tragedy of his son's death, he helped us coordinate this project. Such has been his dedication to MFA. Our thanks to all the past and present members of MFA Mannar Chapter for their dedication and service to our people. God Bless!

Canadian Dollars	First Name	Last Name
\$100.00	Anne Remma	Figurado
\$200.00	Anton	Peter
\$50.00	Balandran	Kumarasamy
\$100.00	Berie	Kingsley
\$100.00	Charles	Manarajah
\$200.00	Christeen Duetty	Selvarajah
\$250.00	Christie Ambrose & Ringet	Massamannu
\$100.00	Devadas	Parmananthan
\$700.00	Dr Victor John & Anne Mary	Figurado
\$100.00	George	Nicholas
\$200.00	Jeevananthan	Jeyakothy (Augustine Jeeva)
\$200.00	Jeyebalan & Shriane	Pera
\$200.00	Johanna	Joseph
\$100.00	Jeyei	James
\$125.00	Jay	Genasan
\$200.00	Joseph	Yoganathan
\$100.00	Joseph	Koduthol
\$300.00	Jude	Yoganathan
\$100.00	Joga	Prakash
\$150.00	Jude Kohan & Shyamala	Muthuraj
\$150.00	Julian Leslie	Nicholas
\$150.00	Kanagasangam	Somasundaram
\$50.00	Miray	Nicholas
\$50.00	Mehra	David
\$200.00	Michael (Master) & Indra	Zaver
\$100.00	Munagasupite (DSO)	Jeevarathnam
\$200.00	Nirangan	Eugene Nicholas
\$100.00	Quintus	Figurado
\$250.00	Rajah	Nadarajah
\$50.00	Renuka	Walters
\$100.00	Ravi Gerald	Christopher
\$150.00	Rita	Yoganathan
\$100.00	Sebastian	Shanthiraj
\$100.00	Suresh	Nathaniel
\$50.00	Sutharman	Arumugam
\$420.00	Sylvester	Nicholas
\$100.00	Suchithra	Jeyanathan
\$50.00	Valentine	Johnpulle
\$100.00	Wathissa	James
\$6,395.00 TOTAL		

*Season's Greetings
and Continued Success for Mannar Friendship Association
on your 21st Anniversary.
You've survived many trials and have emerged triumphantly.
Here's to 21 More! God Bless!*

Dr. Victor Figurado

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Vote of Thanks

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

Thank you for gathering to celebrate our 21st Annual Mannar Night.
Celebrating in combination with our 19th and 20th Mannar Nights.

Our 5th President and tonight's Stage Sponsor, Sylvester Nicholas, of HomeGuard Funding Ltd. – The Mortgage Centre, our gratitude for your council and leading MFA for the last Nine Years.

Our Platinum Sponsors and long standing members; Indra Michael Xavier, of HomeLife/Future Realty Inc.; Christeen Dushy Seevaratnam of Chapel Ridge Funeral Home Ltd.; we express our thanks for your continued contribution to our association.

Our Gold Sponsor; MFA's 2nd President and long standing member, Bertie Kingsley - HomeLife Galaxy Real Estate Ltd.; Our Silver Sponsor; Anto Peter - HomeLife Future Realty Inc.; Our Bronze Sponsors; Nicholas Multi Media Group Global Inc.; Dr. Victor Figurado and staff of St. Lucia's Medical Centre.; Northern Financial Services and Real Estate Management Ltd. thank you for your support. To our event sponsors; Jerom - Esai Americas; Nirothini Pararajasingam - Niruthya Kalanjali - Academy of Fine Arts; Dr. S. Raveendran and Associates Dental Centre; Ajanth Software Services our heartfelt gratitude. Raffle sponsors, Dr. Seshantri Viswasam - Sunshine Dental; Kitty Lam Insurance Agency Ltd.; China Cottage; Maple Groceries; Indra Michael Xavier - HomeLife/Future Realty Inc.; Jeyabalan Peris, Jude Yoganathan, Julian Leslie, Master Xavier, Dr. Victor Figurado, John Benedict Gaster, Baskaran Soosaitathan, Joseph Kodithoor, Niranjana Nicholas, George Nicholas, Murugesupillai (DSO) Jeevaratnam, Suthaharan Arumugam, Kingsley Bertie 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, Raffle and Bar revenue that truly goes to sponsor our MFA programs.

To our Patrons Meleni David, of Meleni David Personal Injury Lawyers and Jude Yoganathan, P.Eng., we thank you for being the financial backbone of MFA since the founding of Mannar Friendship Association. Tonight both of you have pitched in to cover the expenses, from band performance to raffle gifts to what ever else MFA needed to make this night a success, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

To our entire program participants, for joining us this evening and providing us with a most delightful display of Talents, we thank you. Our MCs Roshita Spolding and Anton Balarajah. Roshita Spolding is a professional MC, hired to many weddings and events. She has also worked at radio stations. Our thanks to Roshita Spolding, for being our MC tonight. Anton Balarajah, has also MC many events, including past Mannar Nights. He is also one of the directors of MFA. Tonight's highlight performers, Bobby n Band On The Run, who are providing us DJ service and band entertainment. Thank you for stepping up and making this a memorable night. Our Sound of the season performers Niranjana & Ashani Nicholas, Joseph & Emerencia Kodithoor, Jeyabalan & Shiranie Peris, Christina Kingsley with Vijayakumar Stanislaus (Santa), job well done. Our songbird, Shaline Suresh, thanks for stepping up at the last minute and a fine performance. Our dancers, Hermina Lenin, Abinaya Bavanathan and Roshita Spaulding, you've delighted us with your performance. Our singers, Bavan Linga, Anton Croos and all of you who did karaoke tonight, you've jam-packed the night!

Canadiyatamilan Danny - YouTube; TJ Print & Promo - Alan for design and print services for Mannar Night Souvenir Booklets and Tickets; Software and Webhosting services by Ajanth software services; Slide Show and Videography - Jerom Rajadurai; and to our gracious host, New Jasmine Banquet Hall - Thevan (Dave) and his staff for serving us tirelessly tonight, we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

We want to extend our thanks to all the volunteers who've made this 21st Annual Mannar Night a tremendous success. Special thanks to: Jeyabalan & Shiranie Peris, Michael (Master) & Indra Xavier, George & Imaculate Nicholas, Joseph & Emerencia Kodithoor, Niranjana & Ashani Nicholas, Bertie & Christina Kingsley, Anton & Jerradine (Sumi) Balarajah, Meleni David, Asuntha Iruthayanathan. We exist to serve. Whether it be Man made or Natural disasters that befell our Mannar community, we're there to help alleviate the suffering.

"Serving Our Community in The Company of Friends" - Sylvester Nicholas
With our lasting gratitude,
Mannar Friendship Association



“
When loved ones depart we carry your
burden with helping hands we lead
you gently to your loved ones final resting.
”

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