



# *23<sup>rd</sup> Annual* *Mannar Night 2024*

23 ஆவது ஆண்டு மன்னார் இரவுக்கு உங்களை அன்புடன் வரவேற்கிறோம்

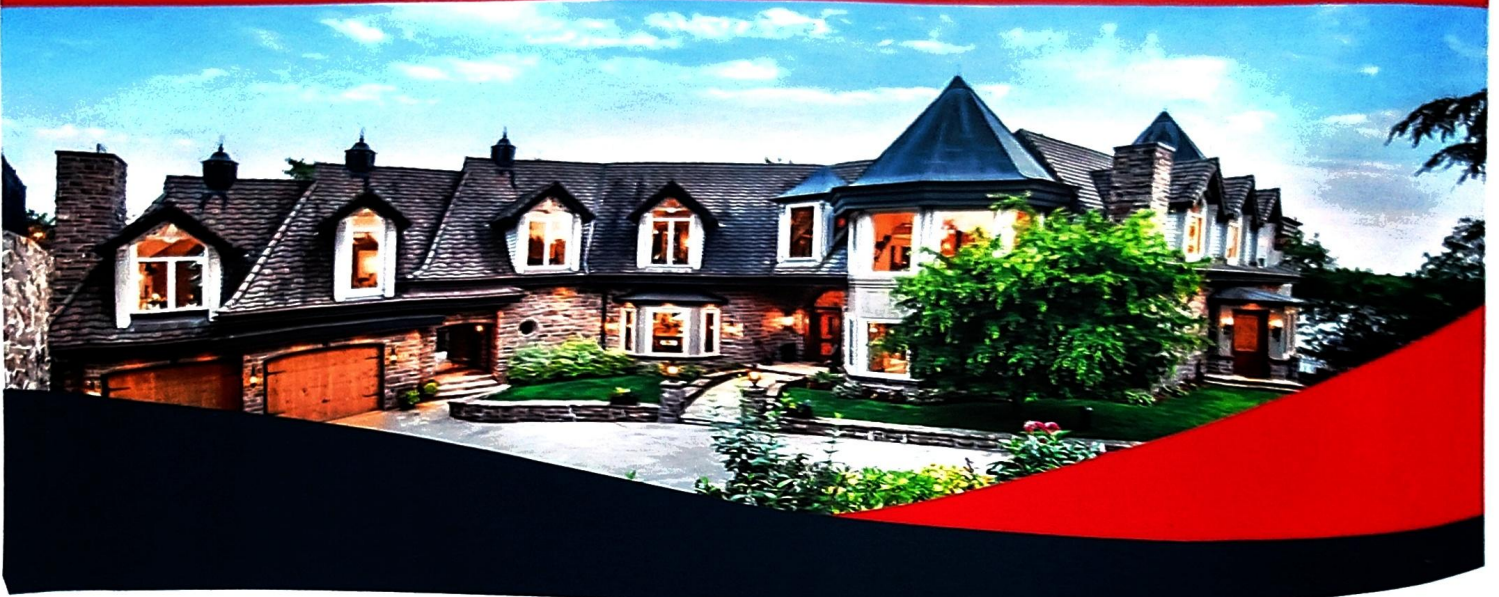
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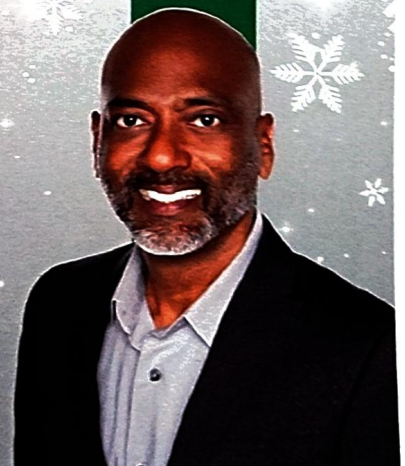


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# President's Message

Good evening, dear friends and family,

I stand here today deeply humbled and honoured to serve as the 6th President of the Mannar Friendship Association (MFA), Canada. Thank you for placing your trust in me and for giving me the opportunity to lead this wonderful organization for the next two years. I also want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for electing a new, talented, and dedicated group of committee members who are eager to serve our Mannar community in Sri Lanka.

Tonight's event, originally planned for November 23, 2024, was postponed due to the unexpected passing of our long-time active member, Mr. Ravi Christopher. Ravi was a pillar of MFA and a true friend to all of us. His contributions, enthusiasm, and unwavering dedication to our community have left an indelible mark on our organization. Let us take a moment to honour his memory and the legacy he leaves behind. This unforeseen circumstance brought significant challenges for our committee and organizing volunteers. Reduced support and time constraints tested our resolve, but through strong determination and teamwork, we were able to bring this event to life today. It is a testament to the resilience and commitment of everyone involved, and I thank each one of you for your efforts.

A special word of gratitude goes to our past President, Mr. Sylvester Nicholas, for his tireless dedication and personal sacrifices. His leadership and unwavering commitment have left a lasting impact on MFA. Sylvester has been a true pillar of our organization, even joining the patrons' club with a generous contribution of CA\$3,000 to sustain our operations. I also extend my heartfelt congratulations to him and Mrs. Nirosha Nicholas on their recent marriage in Jaffna, Sri Lanka. Despite his action well packed time of year, proving his ability to overcome any challenges, as he mentioned when he was elected to presidency in 2014, for every Mannar Night he will be here!

Our patrons have always been a source of strength and guidance. Their financial support and wise counsel continue to play a crucial role in our success, and I thank them sincerely.

To all the guests and participants of Mannar Night 2024, I warmly welcome you! Your presence here tonight is a powerful reminder of the strength and unity of our community. Events like this would not be possible without the hard work and generosity of our members, volunteers, sponsors, donors, and well-wishers. Your contributions—whether time, energy, or financial resources—have made this evening a reality. Over the years, MFA has been privileged to carry out meaningful projects that have touched lives. From providing scholarships to university students, supporting Mannar Hospital, aiding victims of tragic accidents, and ensuring school supplies for underprivileged children, we have strived to bring hope and assistance where it's needed most.

Looking ahead, we are committed to continuing this legacy. Tonight, I want to highlight a cause close to our hearts: the Sebamalai Mariyannai House of Compassion. This home, run by the Dominican Sisters, provides shelter, education, and care for 26 orphaned and impoverished children. Despite their incredible efforts, rising costs make it increasingly challenging to meet even basic needs.

We have pledged to raise CA\$3,000 annually to support this vital organization. Your generosity tonight will help ensure these children receive the nutritious meals, education, and care they deserve. Together, we can give them the opportunities that every child has the right to enjoy.

Finally, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Mannar Night 2024 Organizing Team. In such a short time and under challenging circumstances, you have poured your heart and soul into making this event a success. Your dedication inspires us all to continue striving for excellence and service.

As I conclude, let me share this thought: "Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much." Let us continue to work hand in hand to uplift our community, honour the legacy of those we've lost, and make a lasting impact for generations to come. Thank you for your trust, support, and generosity. Let's enjoy the rest of this wonderful evening together!

Warm regards,



Indra Michael Xavier

President, Mannar Friendship Association, Canada  
"Serving Our Community in the Company of Friends"

Season's Greetings and Continued Success for Mannar Friendship Association  
on your 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary.

You've survived many trials and have emerged triumphantly!

God Bless MFA and our Mannar people!

*Dr. Victor Figurado & staff of  
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A heart felt message to our long standing  
**President Sylvester Nicholas.**



Sylvester, as you retire from your long-standing leadership of our Mannar Friendship Association, we stand together to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your tireless dedication and visionary guidance over many years.

Your selfless commitment has fostered countless meaningful connections, and your legacy will continue to inspire our Mannar Friendship Association.

You captained the Ship called Mannar Friendship Association for almost a decade. Steering this ship in your tenure had never been easy; you were forced to face with many challenges of turbulence and icebergs.

Thank you for your sheer commitment, unwavering support, wisdom, and kindness. You will be deeply missed as our President.

In addition, we wish to convey our warmest congratulations on your marriage; Congratulations on finding love and starting this new chapter in your life. May this new journey bring immense joy, love, and happiness to you and your partner. May your bond grow stronger with each passing day.

We celebrate not only your love but also the remarkable person you are. Your compassion, empathy, and kindness have touched many hearts.

You will be deeply missed, but we're thrilled to see you embark on this exciting journey. Cheers to a lifetime of love, happiness, and adventure !

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Date: 15/11/2024



Dear members of Mannar Friendship Association,

We are the Dominican Sisters, in charge of Sebamalai Mariyannai House of Compassion. Our house is located between Thalaimannar and Pesalai.

We take care of 25 children in our house. Out of these 25 children, some of them have lost both their parents, some stayed with a single parent and all others come from very poor families. We started this mission in 2003 during the ethnic war in the country. We mainly focused on the children who had been abandoned by their families due to the situation in the country. Our mission is to look into their future, providing them with good education and teach them good and moral values of life.

The children are totally under the care of our sisters. Children from grade 3 to grade 9, attend a village school nearby, and the children from grade 10 to grade 13, attend Central College at Thalaimannar.

We get donation from various donors and well-wishers, which amounts to about Rs. 7 Lakhs per year, which is quite challenging to provide all the necessary things in life to these children.

We kindly ask the members of the Mannar Friendship Association to consider supporting us for the next 3 years, in the amount of Rs. 6 lakhs every year, which will be a tremendous help for us to continue our mission and provide these children with a better life.

Thank you all and may the good Lord bless each and every one of you.

*Rev. Sr. Mary Magdalin Joseph O.P.*

Rev. Sr. Mary Magdalin Joseph O.P.

The Manager of the Institute



# Canada's Committee Members 2024



## SEATED LEFT TO RIGHT:

Treasurer - Marie (Shiranie) Pitchaithamby  
President - Indra Michael Xavier  
Past Patron - Meleni David  
Secretary - Ashani Nicholas

## STANDING LEFT TO RIGHT:

Director - Jeevaratnam (DSO) Murugesupillai  
Director - Bertie Kingsley  
Past Patron - Jude Shanthi Yoganathan  
Director - Jeyabalan Peris  
Patron - Sylvester Nicholas  
Vice President - Niranjana Eugene Nicholas

## ABSENT:

Director - George Nicholas  
Director - Christeen (Dushy) Seevaratnam



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# Patrons Message



*Sylvester Nicholas*  
*Patron*



*Jude S. Yoganathan*  
*Past Patron*



*Meleni David*  
*Past Patron*

23 Years and counting! Congratulation and Best Wishes to all the Members, Sponsors, Doners, Well Wishers, Volunteers and Executive Committee of MFA. Your continued commitment and contribution to Mannar Friendship Association, has made it possible for MFA to serve our people here in Canada and in Mannar, Sri Lanka. Our congratulations to our President, Indra Michael Xavier. Thanks to each of you MFA will continue to serve our people for decades to come.

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SONG

(Bavan Linga)

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VOTE OF THANKS

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Vice President - Niranjan Eugene Nicholas, Treasurer - Marie (Shiranie) Pitchaithamby

President - Indra Michael Xavier, Secretary - Ashani Nicholas

## Mannar Friendship Association Current Financial Status

RBC Account: **\$26,735.03**  
(Canadian Dollars)

Investment Trust: **\$9,000.00**  
(Canadian Dollars)

HNB Current Account: **Rs.35,000.00**  
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# Vote of Thanks

Good evening to our esteemed guests, our sponsors, our MFA family, friends and well-wishers. It is truly a privilege and a heartfelt joy to stand before you all this evening to express our deepest gratitude on behalf of the Mannar Friendship Association. Tonight, as we celebrate our 23rd Annual Mannar Night, your presence here reflects your unwavering support and dedication to our organization and the Mannar community in need.

Firstly, our heartfelt thanks go to our major sponsors, without whom this event would not be possible.

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Your generous financial contributions have been instrumental in making this event possible. Without your support, tonight's success would not have been achievable. We are deeply grateful to all of you.

A special note of appreciation to our immediate past president, Sylvester Nicholas, who despite the excitement of recently getting married, has selflessly devoted time and effort to assist us in numerous ways to make this event a successful one. His hard work, especially in preparing our annual event booklet, is an example of true commitment and community spirit. Thank you, Sylvester.

To our esteemed patrons—Ms. Meleni David, Mr. Jude Yoganathan, Mr. Sylvester Nicholas - your significant contributions provide the financial backbone that helps sustain the operating costs of our organization year after year. Your generosity inspires us to keep striving toward our goals.

*Cont.*

# In Memorial Of



**Suresh  
Mathews**

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1966,  
March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024



**Ravi  
Mathews**

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1965  
November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024



During this annual event of Mannar Friendship Association, we would like to remember and honor two brothers, Ravi Mathews and Suresh Mathews, who were taken from us far too soon. Their laughter, their smiles, their love, all gone unexpectedly, leaving us with a void that can never be filled.

These two brothers were "dear friends" in our lives, always there to lend a helping hand, to share a joke, to gather for community events, etc...They were the embodiment of friendship, companionship and community spirit.

Their passing has left a hole in our hearts that can never be mended. We will forever miss their presence, their warmth, their friendly smiles. But we take solace in knowing that they are now at peace, watching over us from above.

Let us remember the joy they brought into our lives, the friendship they shared with us, and the memories we will forever hold dear.

To our two brothers, gone but never forgotten, Ravi and Suresh, may you both rest in peace knowing that you both were loved beyond measure and will always hold a special place in our hearts.

# Vote of Thanks Cont.

We extend a warm thank you to all the program participants—our talented dancers, singers, and performers—who have truly lit up the evening. Your dedication, time, and selfless contribution of resources have made tonight's event a unique and memorable one by all. Your performances have brought joy to us all and enriched this gathering.

A big thank you to our MC - Shajahi Rajasingham for guiding us seamlessly through the evening with charm and professionalism.

We are equally grateful to our raffle prize, door price, Photo/video sponsors - Bertie Kingsley, Jude Yoganathan, Indra Xavier, Rajan Nadarajah, Leslie Nicholas (Julian), Baskaran Soosaithasan, John Benedict (Gaster), Joseph Santhanpillai, Niranjana Nicholas, George Nicholas, Suthaharan Arumugam, Felix Nixon, Timothy Croos, Sarathkumar Sebaratnam, and Jeyabalan Peris.

In addition, we would like to thank our volunteers who worked tirelessly to sell this event tickets. Your contributions help fund our initiatives and keep our mission alive.

To our DJ Robin, bar helpers, and the staff of J & J Swagat Banquet Hall—thank you for your hard work and support in ensuring that everything runs smoothly tonight.

Our new MFA committee members deserve a special mention for their time, effort, and labor in organizing this event, alongside the dedicated Mannar Night 2024 organizing and action committee members. Your teamwork has been remarkable and integral to our success.

If I have inadvertently missed acknowledging anyone, please accept my sincere apologies. Every single contribution, big or small, has been crucial in making this evening a grand success.

As we conclude, let us continue to celebrate our heritage, strengthen our bonds, and look forward to many more joyous gatherings together. Wishing everyone here a Happy New Year!

Let me leave you with a thought that resonates with tonight's spirit of togetherness: "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." - Henry Ford

Thank you, and have a wonderful evening!





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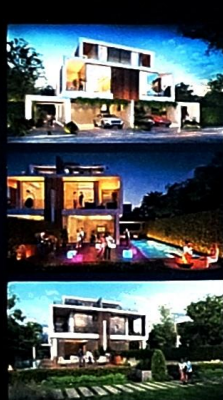
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