



S E R E N D I B

A NEWSLETTER OF THE SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON D.C.
VOL. 2 NO. 2

July – Sept. 2002

Message from the President

With some understandable trepidation, I have taken on the responsibilities you have entrusted to me as the President of our Association (SLAWDC) from July 1, 2002. I thank you for this great honor, but also wish to note that I have a tough act to follow on the heels of our outgoing President, **Dr. Hilarian M. Codippily**, who relinquished his responsibilities on June 30 after serving with distinction for 15 months as our Association's chief executive.

Hilary's tenure marked the resurgence of SLAWDC bringing vigor and dynamism to our Association. Many of you will agree with me that his leadership and dedication through 27 months while holding the successive offices of President-elect and President marked the high points in the Association's financial viability, growth in membership, variety in programming and offerings, increased charitable giving by our community to several deserving causes in the USA and Sri Lanka, and cooperation and partnership with the Embassy of Sri Lanka and other organizations dedicated to the promotion and preservation of our traditions, culture and performing arts.

The most singular accomplishment of his tenure, and which gives much pride to Hilary, is the establishment of the Association's charitable affiliate, Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc. (SLAGW) on June 21, 2001. He doggedly set about the arduous task of obtaining approval from the IRS for SLAGW's

operational mandate as a Federal tax exempt entity devoted to charitable and educational activity under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. He prevailed in doing so on 5 March 2002. Although past president Anjalika Silva and I had played an earlier role in this happy outcome, Hilary deserves the greatest share of acknowledgement from our membership for this ground breaking achievement. He was assisted along the way by a highly active Board of Directors and his ever accomplished wife and SLAWDC Director, **Shiela Codippily**.

On behalf of SLAWDC, I extend a warm welcome to Sri Lanka's Ambassador designate to USA, **Devinda R. Subasinghe**. In advance of his arrival to assume duties in Washington, DC, he will visit Colombo for briefings and consultations with Government and Legislative leaders, Foreign Ministry and other agencies of the government, and private sector leaders and organizations in Sri Lanka. No stranger to our community, as a student and professional in the nation's capital for over 18 years, Ambassador designate Subasinghe will be filling an important role in guiding and directing Sri Lanka's vital relationship with USA in this critical period.

A short biography of our Association's Patron designate appears in this issue of Serendib.

The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, **Hon. Ranil Wickremasinghe**, has personally felicitated our Association and invited its

assistance in meeting the difficult challenges of reconstruction and reconciliation after two decades of strife. During his July visit to Washington D.C., to meet **President George W. Bush**, the Prime Minister extended his greetings to our members and the Board, and renewed his invitation during a September visit to New York to promote direct foreign investment in Sri Lanka.

Taking a cue from my predecessor, and in the spirit of his dedicated service to the community, I am happy to report that your Association has seen a surge in membership in the past quarter. Our charitable giving to needy causes through the tax exempt affiliate, SLAGW, during this quarter has also intensified to the tune of \$ 1000, an amount unequalled in the past.

The summer sporting season saw a rich offering of events either sponsored or supported by the Association – a basketball tourney, the annual DC-NY cricket encounter, a rugby tournament, a soccer tournament and the Sri Lanka Cricket Society's seven-a-side cricket extravaganza. Your directors and members were at the heart of these events either as organizers or participants. The post-event revels organized by the Association gave our members and guests many a forum to interact. The talent and resources of our expanded Board of Directors has enabled the Association to thus flourish.

Looking ahead to the final quarter of this year, we have a charity event planned for donating 400 - 500 meals to the homeless in association with So Others Might Eat (SOME) on November 27, the Children's Christmas Party on December 14, and the New Year's Eve Dinner Dance at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, MD. We invite your eager participation in these diverse activities.

Nihal W. Goonewardene

Sri Lanka's Ambassador Designate to the United States

Devinda R. Subasinghe has been designated recently as Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the



United States after all formalities have been completed between the two countries. He is expected to assume duties in Washington D.C. on December 1.

He was Vice President of Florida-based Raymond James Financial Inc., responsible for investment banking, structured finance, and international portfolio with focus on Latin America (1999-2002).

Ambassador designate Subasinghe has had a very active 25 year international career from advising Presidents Jayewardene and Premadasa (1977-1984) on international economic development and financial issues and US-Sri Lanka bilateral issues, to serving the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation (1984-1995) in the Asia Pacific and Central and Eastern Europe regions advising on economic reform; industrial, trade, agricultural and environmental restructuring; private sector development; and foreign direct investment issues.

From 1995 to 1999, he was Founder and CEO of Asia Insight 21 which specialized in trade and investment matters, and with Deloitte & Touche Fantus Consulting (an industry leader in corporate location/foreign direct investment advisory services) and The Services Group (a privately held trade and investment advisory firm).

The Ambassador designate has been an advisor to Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe during his terms in office as Minister, Leader of the Opposition and Prime Minister.

He was educated at the Royal College and the Sri Lanka Law College. He was a national swimmer, and this brought him to the U.S. to pursue higher education as an athlete/scholar. He completed a B.A. in Economics and Political Science at Indiana University and a M.A. in International Economics at the School of Advanced International Studies at The John Hopkins University in Washington D.C.

Ambassador designate Subasinghe is a strong supporter of globalization and economic development and understands the risks and rewards of investment in emerging markets. He has published extensively on these issues, and has also addressed international conferences and audiences sponsored by a variety of international agencies, universities, think tanks and financial institutions.

He and his wife Helga Wurzer-Subasinghe, who is an artist, have a son, Oliver, who is a Senior at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

By Mahil Abeywarna

Basketball

This year's annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament was an immense success. It took place on August 3rd at the Bauer Drive Community Center in Rockville. The indoor tournament drew a total of 8 teams, which included one team from New York and another from New Jersey. The team from New York, "Ceylon Pi", was the returning champion. A house full of spectators cheered with gusto for the teams.

The eight teams were divided into two groups and each group played on either end of the court, under the watchful eyes of referees Bob Frederick and Buddy Crutchfields. The four teams making the semi-finals were Brothers, Terps, Ceylon Pi, and Peace I. The crowd was anxious in

awaiting the outcome of the semi finals and no one was sure which two teams would walk into the final till the very end. The first semi-final game between Brothers and Ceylon Pi was won by the latter with a score of 13 - 9. The second semi played between Terps and Peace I was won by the latter with a score of 14 - 8. An entertaining final between Ceylon Pi and Peace I followed. It was won by Ceylon Pi (13 -7) to become repeat champions.

The President of the Sri Lanka Association, Mr. Nihal Goonewardene presented the awards. Vidura Jayasooriya of Ceylon Pi was given the award for the Most Valuable Player. He had a total of 31 points from the 5 games he played. Faisal Mohammed from Peace I also had an impressive 34 points from 6 games. Both Vidura and Faisal had played for the Sri Lanka National Team in recent years.

Winning team, Ceylon Pi from New York, consisted of Vidura Jayasooriya, Chakravartu Karalasinham and Mewan Bandara

Runners up, Peace I from New Jersey, included Faisal Mohammed, Sahan De Silva and Prabath Pingamage



SLAWDC President at Awards Ceremony

Annual NY-DC Cricket Encounter

This year's Annual NY-DC cricket encounter was held in Denville, New Jersey on August 17th in conjunction with the Sri Lanka Association in New York's (SLANY) celebration of "Sri Lanka Day". The Mayor of Denville opened the day's events starting with a USA vs Sri Lanka cricket match. USA won this year's match.

The DC side was captained by Mahil Abeywardena with Dasarath Kiridena acting as his deputy. Maxwell Amirthampillai was the Team Manager and coordinated the event for SLAWDC. New York put up an impressive score of 136 all out. Batting second, the DC side got off to a shaky start. We lost some wickets early on, but were soon on the scoreboard thanks to a partnership between Shawn Corera and Dakshi De Silva. Maheshan Fernando's quick scoring helped our side to come towards the brink of victory. After a six by Hiru Padmakumara off the second to last over, DC needed 5 runs off the last over with no wickets in hand, to seal the victory. However, Hiru was run out in the first ball of the last over, bringing an exciting game to an end.

During the awards ceremony at the banquet hosted by SLANY later that evening, the Washington, D.C. players were honored for individual team performance. Shawn Corera was judged the best batsman, Hasitha Kuruvita the Best Bowler and Maheshan Fernando the Man of the Match.

* * *

Community News

Birth

Ravindar & Nadira Baddeliyanage were blessed with a son **Roshan Joseph** on August 22, 2002. He is a brother to Rehan and Don & Mangala's 6th grandchild.

Dinesh, son of Nihal and Chrystal Goonewardene, won the first place Gold Medal in sparring at the July 2002 Junior National Championships of the US Tae Kwon Do Union in Minneapolis, MN.



Dinesh won three fights in the Red Belt category to advance to the final match. He has previously won the Gold in the Junior Nationals in Las Vegas and San Antonio, for his age group in 1999 and 2000, respectively. He has won the qualifying Maryland Junior State Championship for four consecutive years from 1999 to 2002. Dinesh's sister, **Lalique**, placed 4th in the 11 year olds' Green Belt sparring competition at the Junior Nationals in 2002. She is a winner of the Maryland Junior State Championship in her age group and belt category for 2001 and 2002.

Wedding

Don & Mangala Baddeliyanage's youngest daughter **Ramona Manourie** married Brian Wheeler on October 19, 2002.

In Memoriam

Josephine Fernandopulle, mother of Dr. Greg Fernandopulle, passed away after a long illness at the age of 85 on September 26 in Dankotuwa, Sri Lanka. We extend our collective condolences to Greg, Sulocha, Rushika, Maria, Anushka, Gabrielle and Serina Fernandopulle, all stalwarts of our Association. The late Mrs. Fernandopulle is survived by 10 great grandchildren among them Gabrielle and Serina. A past president of our Association, Greg has been a pillar of strength to our community over the last 20 some years.

A Farewell to Dr. Hilarian Codippily

By Ramani Napoli

The Board of Directors of SLAWDC gave a farewell dinner on Saturday, June 29, 2002 at Dr. and Mrs. Rudran's residence, in appreciation of Dr. Hilarian Codippily's yeoman service as President and director of the Association.

Several past presidents and board members who worked closely with him during his term in office were among those present. There were many tributes to Hilary and his remarkable hard work and contributions to the Sri Lankan community. He was highly commended for obtaining tax exempt status for SLAGW and many other achievements during his term as President.

Mr. Nihal Goonewardene thanked Dr. Codippily for his dedication to excellence and assured him of continuity for the good work begun by him.

In conclusion, Dr. Codippily, thanked the Rudrans and the Board for hosting the event. Dr. Codippily said he was convinced that Mr. Nihal Goonewardene, with his creativity and professionalism, will have an enormous impact on our Association and will raise it to greater heights under his leadership. Dr. Codippily, assured us of his continuing support to the Association.

The Board thanked Mrs. Ranji Rudran for hosting the event and all those who made this a successful event.

Your Board at Work and Play

Below is my appreciative take on some of the events of summer and the enormous contributions made by your Directors to enrich community life.

Seven-a-Side Cricket Tourney: I was invited by Dakshi Silva, President of Sri Lanka Cricket Society of Washington, D.C.,

to be the Guest of Honor at the 7-a-Side Tourney on Saturday, July 13. Happily, I saw many of our intrepid board at the tournament and the subsequent fund raiser in Bethesda at the Shark Club. The turnout at the Fairfax Park cricket field in Virginia was truly great given that 12 teams competed for the event, cheered on by their cohorts. Iroshana Nanayakkara did a superb job in pulling together myriad tasks as Tournament Director. A majority of our directors were involved as organizers, players or marshals (Maxwell Amirthampillai, Anomi Wijesooriya, Nalaka Weragoda, Mahil Abeywardena, Ramani Napoli, Sharon Perera and Chaminda Fernando).

Fund Raiser: The fund raiser following the cricket tournament at Shark Club was a roaring success, and an omen of good things to come. Anomi Wijesooriya took the lead in getting us mobilized for this unusual form of painless fund raising. Her arrangements with the Shark Club management left us directors with very little to do but mingle with our friends and watch the SLAWDC off-take in sheer amazement. Ramani and Sharon were integral to the process having labored since 8 pm with Anomi until closing to net us approximately \$ 1500 for SLAWDC coffers. Lasantha Dahanaike, Mangala Baddeliyanage, Gayanga Opatha and other directors provided relief duty for the primary trio. I would be remiss in my duties if Nick Napoli was not given prominent mention as an eager helpmate and able discomonger.

A Deed Well Done: Our real estate tycoon and director, Lasantha Dahanaike, has been true to his word in sharing some of his hard earned commission with the Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington Inc. on his first sale as a licensed agent. Avery Hess Realty, his employer, has matched Lasantha's contribution to increase the total contribution to SLAGW. Lasantha and Avery Hess Realty have pledged to continue sharing all future commissions generated by him with SLAGW, regardless of the referral source.

Membership Drive: Our need to increase membership is a long recognized goal. This quarter, with a little help from me and other directors and loads of initiative by Maxwell, 37 new members have been recruited. The sporting events have proved to be fertile ground for recruiting new members. The relative youth of our directors, with a few notable exceptions, has also helped in attracting new members in increasing numbers.

SLAGW draws solid support



I wish to thank the generosity of the Hon. UN Under-Secretary General and Mrs. Jayantha Dhanapala, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Y. McCoy, Dr. & Mrs. Hilarian Codippily, who joined me and wife Chrystal, in

becoming the first Donors of Distinction to the Prof. Cyril Ponnampereuma Memorial Scholarship Fund of SLAGW. I am happy to report that the capital fund for this endeavor has reached \$ 6,250 since its September launch.

Mr. Lasantha Dahanaike also joins the Distinguished Donor ranks by his generosity to two other charities supported by SLAGW. The McCoys were separately honored earlier for their generosity in making the first donation received by SLAGW to the general fund in April.

Your donations to SLAGW are tax deductible and will help us achieve our community's higher and nobler purposes.

Charitable Projects of SLAGW

By Lasantha Dahanaike

The Board has designated the following charities as "Recommended and Approved"

for long term giving by donors and members of SLAGW:

- Prof. Cyril Ponnampereuma Memorial Scholarship Fund (CPMSF) of SLAGW
- Richmond Fellowship Lanka in Uswatakeiyawa.
- Friends of the Disabled Children Society in affiliation with Ward 6 of Lady Ridgeway Hospital in Colombo.
- American Red Cross
- So Others Might Eat (SOME) in Washington, D.C.

In July of 2002, the SLAGW made a donation of \$250 each to Richmond Fellowship Lanka, The Nest in Hendala, Manrosa Home of Love in Dankotuwa and the Friends of Disabled Children Society. We will continue supporting the "Recommended and Approved" organizations as charitable donations to SLAGW permit.

Richmond Fellowship Lanka is a registered NGO under the Voluntary Social Services Act in Sri Lanka. It is a non-profit voluntary organization that offers skilled care to those who are mentally and emotionally disturbed and who require rehabilitation in addition to medication before they can re-integrate with the family and the community. RFL provides accommodation for twenty males and females.

RFL is affiliated to RF International based in the United Kingdom ,and is thereby linked to similar organizations offering a global network of therapeutic communities.

Friends of Disabled Children Society is affiliated with Ward 6 of the Lady Ridgeway Hospital in Colombo. The society was established in January 2002, as a result of the interest expressed by many individuals in bettering the standard of facilities available to children who were differently able.

The ward treats those with both physical and mental disabilities. Together with a dedicated doctor-in-charge, Dr. Nihal Gunatilleke and a staff of dedicated nurses, the patients do not lack for proper care. However the care of disabled children in Sri Lanka is a comparatively new concept. In a country riddled with superstition such children are usually considered outcasts and are shunned.

While this society, the first of its kind, has achieved much by way of the Physiotherapy Unit, the Hydrotherapy Unit and the Occupational Therapy Unit, further assistance is needed to complete their full mission.

Peace Calm and Tranquility

By Sheila Codippily

On our August visit to Sri Lanka I was touched by the way in which some of the Non-profit organizations were reaching out and helping people cope with their setbacks. Representing the Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc. (SLAGW) as a member of the Board, I had the opportunity of visiting four of these very deserving organizations with Hilary to make a monetary presentation of \$250.00 from SLAGW, to each of these organizations. The very dedicated and hardworking staff should be commended for their good work. Below is a brief description of some of the work done by two such organizations:

The NEST, in Hendala: This is a branch of a non-profit organization which is spread over many districts throughout the country. With the help of international and local donors, they offer rehabilitation and support services to people diagnosed with long-term illnesses, such as AIDS, victims of drug abuse, mental illness, etc. Subsequent to hospitalization, the patient can transfer to one of these facilities, for probably one or two months and are cared for by a group of very enthusiastic, compassionate and well trained staff, who receive their guidance and training from no other than, the NESTS'

Patron, Dr. Diyanath Samarasinghe, Associate Professor, Psychiatric Dept. of the Medical Faculty, University of Colombo.

The two main goals of the NEST are, first to steer people away from prolonged institutionalization (which is very common in Sri Lanka), bring them in to the halfway home, where they are surrounded with *peace, calm and tranquility* (not forgetting the emphasis on medications when deemed necessary). They are also taught life-skills, and then reunited with family and the community. Secondly, NEST takes a firm stand on denouncing stigmatization, which as we are all aware, could play a major role in the recovery process, and enhances their quality of life.

Manrosa Home of Love, in Dankotuwa:

This home was inaugurated in October 1999. The property was a donation by the children of a very wealthy family after the demise of their parents. The instruction was that it should be used as a charitable institution to shelter and care for destitute elders. A committee of social workers headed by a very dedicated resident administrator, Mrs. Annie Samaranayake, who is a lay Franciscan, and an active social worker carries out the administration. The 4 bed roomed home accommodates ten female elders selected from among the poorest of the poor in society, who have been left destitute for various reasons. They do not discriminate against race, community or religion. The home is extremely well maintained. The gardens were in full bloom and the floors are spotless.

Caring for the elderly takes a tremendous amount of sacrifice and dedication and certainly Mrs. Samaranayake (who met and chatted with us), demonstrates these qualities. She indicated that they do not receive Government or international funding. The local community brings in donations of dry rations and alms. The donation from SLAGW was much appreciated, and they look forward to help from other donors.

**PROFESSOR CYRIL A. PONNAMPERUMA
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
Sponsored by the
Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc.



"I expect to pass through this world but once; any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

-Attributed to Stephen Grellet, and often quoted by Cyril Ponnampereuma

Many have tried to lead lives exemplified by such ideals, but few have succeeded to the degree of Cyril Ponnampereuma in making a life so rich in scientific accomplishment and international acclaim resonate in harmony with a genuine concern for the pressing needs of the world's less fortunate. Throughout Cyril's illustrious life, and following his untimely death in 1994 at age 71, the world's leaders and most prestigious institutions of higher learning unflinchingly acknowledged his abiding love for humanity in the innumerable honors and tributes bestowed upon him.

The Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc., a tax-deductible organization dedicated to humanitarian and educational advancement, is deeply honored to establish a scholarship fund in memory of Sri Lanka's most famous scientist. We consider the Professor Cyril A. Ponnampereuma Memorial Scholarship Fund a simple, but particularly appropriate tribute to a man who bequeathed to the world an invaluable legacy of research on chemical evolution in the universe and in the origins of life. Need-based scholarships will be awarded through area universities to students from Sri Lanka for undergraduate study, and will eventually be expanded to include graduate study as well.

Tributes from distinguished admirers:

Dr. William E. Kirwan, Chancellor, University of Maryland, *"Throughout his career, Dr. Ponnampereuma was motivated by his abiding belief in the dignity of the world's peoples."*

Jayantha Dhanapala, U.N. Undersecretary General for Disarmament Affairs, *"In him were fused the warm human values of an ancient culture and the dynamic energy and enterprise of a vibrant young nation. He combined the two cultures of the East and the West as gracefully as he did the humanities and the sciences."*

J.R. Jayewardene, President, Sri Lanka, *"...not only one of the best known Sri Lankans of this century, but also a warm, caring human being who had a profound knowledge covering many fields of human endeavour and inquiry."*

Awards: In 1980, Dr. Ponnampereuma received the first A.I. Oparin Gold Medal for the "Best-Sustained Programme" awarded by the International Society for the Study of the Origin of Life. In 1990, he was awarded the Honour of Vidya Jyothi for service to his native Sri Lanka at the National Day investiture ceremony. The Republic of France honored him as a *Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres* in 1991 for his contributions to the international pursuit of scientific knowledge. In 1993, Cyril was awarded the first Harold Urey Prize by the Russian Academy of Creative Arts and, in October 1994, Pope John Paul II named him to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in Rome.

The Legacy: Dr. Cyril Andrew Ponnampereuma was born on October 16, 1923 in Galle, Sri Lanka, and completed his primary education at St. Aloysius' College and St. Joseph's College. In 1948, Dr. Ponnampereuma earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Madras, India, and in 1955 married the former Valli Pal. Cyril began his scientific career by completing a Bachelor of Science (Honors) in Chemistry at Birkbeck College, University of London, in 1959. While in London, Cyril studied under British physicist J.D. Bernal, a pioneer in studies into the origins of life, who inspired what would become Dr. Ponnampereuma's lifelong research in the same field. In 1962, Cyril earned his Doctorate of Science in Chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley, under the tutelage of Nobel Laureate Melvin Calvin, and was awarded a Fellowship by the National Academy of Sciences to work with the space program.

After joining the National Aeronautical and Space Administration's (NASA) Ames Research Center, Dr. Ponnampereuma was promoted to Chief of the Chemical Evolution Laboratory in 1963. Over the next eight years, Cyril attained international recognition for his groundbreaking work with NASA's Apollo, Viking and Voyager programs. As a principal investigator of lunar samples acquired in 1969, Dr. Ponnampereuma received numerous accolades for his contribution to the understanding of the Moon and its environment. Under his leadership, the Ames laboratory also synthetically produced molecules that were key components in the creation of life. Arthur C. Clarke, author of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, remarked that Cyril "was a leading authority on the origins of

life” who “played a major role in NASA’s experiments for detecting life on Mars.” Furthermore, his “analysis of meteorites showed that the basic chemicals of life...were common throughout the universe.”

From 1970-71, Dr. Ponnampereuma embarked on his first of many endeavors to share his enthusiasm for science with the people of his native Sri Lanka by accepting the position of Director of the UNESCO Program for the development of basic research in Sri Lanka. In 1971, Dr. Ponnampereuma joined the faculty of the University of Maryland as Professor of Chemistry and founding Director of the Laboratory of Chemical Evolution. In 1983 he and a team of University of Maryland scientists discovered a 4.5 billion year-old meteorite in Australia containing the five chemicals that combine to form DNA and RNA, the essential life-giving nucleic acids. It was the first time the life-building molecules had been found in the same naturally occurring material. In 1984, the Laboratory of Chemical Evolution successfully synthesized all five of these components under Dr. Ponnampereuma’s direction.

Returning to Sri Lanka in 1984, Cyril accepted the challenge of transforming the Institute of Fundamental Studies into a world-class scientific research facility. During his tenure as the second Director of the IFS, Dr. Ponnampereuma was instrumental in moving the IFS facility from Colombo to Kandy, where he oversaw the transformation of the spacious Hantane Hotel into a state-of-the-art research laboratory. Drawing upon his international contacts, he obtained gifts from the Japanese government worth several million US dollars to equip the laboratory. Before leaving IFS in 1991, the Institute was selected as a distinguished laboratory of the world by the University of Bologna, Italy.

While heading IFS, Cyril put into practice his theory that developing nations could “leap-frog” into modernity by adopting modern technologies existing in the developed world. However, he presciently warned, “It is easy to say that modern technologies should be adopted to develop our country. But it is not so easy to decide what technologies are appropriate to suit our culture.” Additionally, Dr. Ponnampereuma fervently believed in the direct correlation between scientific advancement and improved common social welfare. Concerned with the impact the construction of the IFS facilities in Kandy was having on local children, Dr. Ponnampereuma obtained a gift from the Canadian High Commissioner to construct a multi-purpose playground for the children living in the neighboring Hantana hills.

During his lifetime, Cyril authored over 350 publications related to chemical evolution and the origin of life, and wrote or edited eighteen books on the subject, including *The Origins of Life*, which has been published in several languages. The American science magazine *Omni* listed Dr. Ponnampereuma among the nine great minds of the 20th century for the tremendous influence he has had on contemporary thought. In addition to his professional achievements, Cyril was a dedicated husband to his wife of 39 years, Valli, and a caring father to his daughter, Roshini.

Academic appointments and affiliations: Dr. Ponnampereuma was appointed a Distinguished Visiting Professor by the Indian Atomic Energy Commission, and was a guest lecturer at both the Soviet and Chinese Academies of Sciences. A visiting faculty member at Stanford University, the University of Nijmegen in the Netherlands, and at the Sorbonne in France, Cyril established the Chemical Evolution Institute at the University of Beijing in 1982. The University of Maryland recognized him as a Distinguished Professor in 1978, and presented him with the Distinguished International Service Award in 1991. Shortly before his death, Dr. Ponnampereuma was named to head the university’s new North-South Center for Sustainable Development. He had served as past president of the Third World Foundation, and was a fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences in Trieste, Italy, where he chaired the Global Frontiers of Science Committee. In 1992, he was appointed director general of the Academy’s Network of Centers of Science, a coordinating effort of 20 international centers of sustainable development. Since 1984, he had served as Science and Technology Advisor to four Presidents of Sri Lanka, and had chaired Sri Lanka’s National Science Planning Commission.



Your generous contribution will enable the Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc. (SLAGW) to begin awarding scholarships for the academic year commencing in the fall of 2004. SLAGW will gratefully acknowledge all gifts by including donors in an Honor Roll and providing a receipt for tax purposes. Donors of Distinction will be given special recognition for gifts of \$250, or for higher levels of giving. Please send contributions to:

Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc.
c/o ISTI
1820 North Fort Myer Drive
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22209
Tel: (703) 807-2080 Fax: (703) 807-1126 E-mail: nihalg@istiinc.com

SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON D.C.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
January 1st to December 31st
Year 2002

Regular membership (Individual)	\$15.00
Regular membership (Family w/ children under 18)	\$25.00
Associate membership (Temporary residents in the US for one year)	\$5.00
Sustaining Members – Life members paying dues – voluntary	\$25.00
Life Membership: Individual	\$200.00
Family	\$300.00

Please make checks payable to:

The Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C.

Mail to:

P. O. Box 30295, Bethesda, MD 20824-0295

Address changes should be notified to the above SLAWDC address. The Board will not be responsible for lost mail unless address changes are notified by the member.

Tax deductible donations are accepted only by **Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc**, an approved 501(c)(3) entity chartered by SLAWDC and governed by the same Board of Directors. All donors donating \$ 50 or more in a given year will be listed in a Honor Roll in the Annual Report.

Distinguished Donor Categories for SLAGW * :

Benefactor	\$ 250 +
Founding Donor	\$ 500 +
Sustaining Donor	\$ 1,000 +
Leadership Donor	\$ 5,000 +
Endowing Donor	\$ 10,000 +

* Donors of Distinction in the Benefactor, Founding and Sustaining Donor categories will be so honored for a 2-year period or until such time they graduate to an upper tier of charitable giving. The Board of Directors will extend membership in the parent SLAWDC to Donors of Distinction, at their discretion.

Please send contributions to:

Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc.
c/o ISTI
1820 North Fort Myer Drive
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22209

Tel: (703) 807-2080

Fax: (703) 807-1126

E-mail: nihalg@istiinc.com

FOR BOARD USE ONLY -
*Please note for future
Membership card issue*

Year:

Category:

Unit #:

Member # :

No. of Cards #:

Date Paid:

Check #:

APPLICATION FOR SLAWDC MEMBERSHIP

I/We wish to enroll as a member(s) of the Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C., subject to the approval of the Board of Directors and agree to abide by the constitution and by-laws of the Association.

Membership Information: New Membership Renewal Other Year 2002

Mailing Preference: Postal Service E-Mail Fax

First Name of Member:

First Name of Spouse:.....

Last Name :.....

Address:

.....

Home Phone :..... **Home Fax:**.....

E-mail Address:.....

Children under 18 years

1. _____ M F Date of Birth: Year ____ MO ____ Day ____

2. _____ M F Date of Birth: Year ____ MO ____ Day ____

3. _____ M F Date of Birth: Year ____ MO ____ Day ____

4. _____ M F Date of Birth: Year ____ MO ____ Day ____

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER: _____ **DATE:** _____