



SERENDIB

A NEWSLETTER OF THE SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON D.C. and
THE SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON INC.

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Message From The President



Thanks to the cooperation extended by our members, the inaugural "Sri Lanka Day" held during the Labor Day weekend was the highlight of our 2007 program thus far. This was organized by SLAWDC with the collaboration of all the Sri Lankan Organizations in our area. SLAWDC, the oldest and largest organization in the area, along with a

spirited board of directors took the leadership in bringing together the Ranga Kala Kavaya, Coalition of Sri Lankan Americans (COSLA), Sri Lankan American Catholic Association of Metropolitan Washington (SLACAMW), and Educate Lanka, with the support of the Embassy of Sri Lanka to bring to reality the first ever "Sri Lanka Day" in Washington DC. With the formation of so many different organizations, each having independent events throughout the year, we thought it was time for all of us to come together, join hands and bring forth a united event for our ever growing and diverse community. The event was centered around the DC-NY Annual Cricket Match, and was an astounding success, with a full day's program of sports for all ages and a variety of food vendors to satisfy the most discerning.

This year, at the request of our members from Virginia, we have agreed to make Tyson's Corner, Virginia the location for the New Year's Dance. I am aware that we Marylanders deem that driving to any city on the other side of the Potomac equates to driving from Colombo to Kataragama. Nevertheless, I think it is only fair that we make this sacrifice, since our friends from the south have made the drive up north, for many years without objection. The venue for the dance, Tysons Corner Marriott is conveniently located just off the beltway, boasts a magnificent grand ballroom, and offers free covered parking. The Marriott staff has promised us their renowned gold star service and a scrumptious buffet dinner. This year we will also provide live music from the popular local band "Sihasara" along with DJ Anil who has experience spinning a variety of international music at many World Bank events. I hope all of you will join us on the

31st to celebrate the coming year and support your Association's annual event, which is still priced at a bargain of \$75 per head.

Many of us who receive updates from family and friends in our beloved motherland, are aware of the tough life most people are experiencing in trying to make ends meet. The predominant reason being that the cost of living has increased tremendously in recent months. We have a lot to be thankful for -- living in the safety of this great country with all of the comforts it offers. During this Thanksgiving period, as we gather with family and friends and enjoy the fruits of our labor in one of the most privileged countries in the world, I appeal to you to reach deep into your pockets and make a pledge to support one of the many approved charitable organizations that your Association supports in Sri Lanka. We have enclosed a pledge card with a brief description of the charities we support, along with an envelope to make it easy for you to send a tax-deductible donation to SLAGW, which is the charity arm of the Association. Remember 100 per cent of your donation reaches the intended recipient, and today more than ever, they do need our assistance.

As always, I like to extend my profound gratitude to my fellow Directors for their spirit of volunteerism and unstinting support in ensuring that our program is successful.

Wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Lasantha Dahanaike

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Walk Again Campaign

Walk Again Campaign to build a better life for the Sri Lankan heroes, started with a goal of raising \$6000 to provide 15 wounded soldiers with above-knee prosthetic legs.

The overwhelming response for donations enabled the organizers to meet its initial goal 3 weeks prior to target date and therefore revised the goal to \$8,888 to include all 22 soldiers housed at Ranaviru Sevena. The organizers successfully met the new target and forwarded all donations to Ranaviru Sevena and also



contributed an additional \$2000 on their own for use towards 2 prosthetic legs that extend all the way up to the hips. Five of the legs have already been handed over to the soldiers and

the balance 17 will be delivered in January (details and updates are available on www.walkagain.com).



The organizers, former Directors of SLAWDC, Gayanga Opatha and Mahil Abeywarna and their friends Kanch Algama and Lasitha Gunawardena

completed the Army 10 miler race on October 7th to wrap up this successful fundraiser.

Dr. Amerasinghe delivers Keynote lecture

Past president of SLAWDC, C.F. (Ranjan) Amerasinghe, LL.D. (Cambridge University), was honoured by being invited to deliver a keynote lecture in mid-October at a conference on the Law of International Institutions, organized by the University of Leiden, Netherlands, and attended by graduate students, academics and practitioners in international law.

Carols by Candle Light

A Christmas Celebration presented by the The Sri Lankan American Catholic Association of Metropolitan Washington (SLACAMW) will be held on December 8, 2007 at the TEMPLE EMANUEL, 10101 Connecticut Ave, Kensington, MD 20895 from 6:30 p.m. to

Midnight (Holy Mass 6:30-7:15 p.m.) Adult tickets are \$25.00, Kids ages 6-12: \$15.00 and children under age 6: FREE. Ticket price includes Sri Lankan buffet dinner (drinks available at cash bar). Please reserve your tickets by November 25, 2007 by calling Maxi Amirthampillai (301) 519-7985 or Loretta Nedimala (301) 942-3089

Continental Cricket Club Bags Two Trophies



The CCC successfully won the Annual 20-20 tournament beating some of the top teams in the league. The team representing Sri Lanka also went on

to win the 'Country' Tournament beating India in the semi-finals and Pakistan in the finals.

Asian American Health Initiative

The Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) was established to help eliminate health disparities that exist between Asian Americans and their non-Asian counterparts and to develop appropriate health programs that meet the needs of a diverse group of Asian Americans living in Maryland's Montgomery County.

AAHI works toward eliminating cultural and language barriers through its health promoter's program by training them to become health educators in their own communities. They also provide health education and free screenings in different Asian American communities through health fairs or outreach events. AAHI provides the following services in the community:

1. Osteoporosis education and screening
2. Diabetes Education
3. Hepatitis B education
4. Tobacco Cessation Education and carbon monoxide screening
5. Blood pressure screening
6. Cancer education on Breast, Cervical, Prostate, and Colorectal
7. AAHI, in collaboration with Montgomery Cancer Crusade and Women's Cancer Control Programs, provides free cancer screenings for those County residents who are uninsured. Women 40 years or older and uninsured, are eligible for breast or cervical cancer screenings. Men 50 years or older and uninsured are eligible for prostate screening and both men and women, over 50 years or older qualify for colorectal screening.

For more information, please visit www.AAHIinfo.org or call 240-777-4517.

Shramadanas at the DC and Wheaton Temples



SLAWDC Directors organized two successful shramadanas, one at the DC temple and another at the Wheaton temple. Both events were held on October 27, 2007 in order to have the temples cleaned and ready for the upcoming katina pinkams.

Directors, Suraj Navaratne, Upul Abeywarna, Rashika Padmakumara, Saman Karunaratne, Sandra Ismail, Iroshana Nanayakkara, Dakshi De Silva and Lasantha Dahanaike along with family and friends participated. The DC temple library was cleaned and organized and the Wheaton temple deck was cleaned and all unnecessary articles disposed of.

We have been notified to inform the community to donate items that are only required by the temples.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Children's Christmas Party December 8, 2007

The annual Children's Christmas party this year will be held together with the The Sri Lankan American Catholic Association of Metropolitan Washington (SLACAMW) during its Christmas celebrations to be held on December 8 at Temple Emmanuel, 10101 Connecticut Ave, Kensington, MD 20895. Celebrations start at 6:30pm with Holy Mass until 7:15 pm. Adults tickets @ \$25.00, Kids (6-12yrs) @ \$15.00 and Children under age 6 are FREE. The price includes a Buffet Dinner. Please reserve your tickets by November 25, 2007 by calling Devika Wimalkantha (571) 278-4343 or Sandra Ismail (240) 441-1019

New Year's Eve Dinner Dance December 31, 2007

The New Year's Eve dinner dance will be held this year at the Tyson's Corner Marriott. Tickets are priced @ \$75 per adult and \$35 per child aged 4- 12. A dinner buffet and Kiribath to celebrate the New Year will be served. Don't miss out on the opportunity to celebrate

the New Year in style with your fellow Sri Lankans to the live music of the Sihasara band and DJ Anil. It is an event not to be missed with door prizes, contests and dancing all night long. Please reserve your tickets and tables by calling Dakshi De Silva 703-220-2394, Saman Karunaratne 301-299-0615 or Devika Wimalkantha (571) 278-4343. Those who reserve tables by December 10 will get a free bottle of Champagne at midnight!

Cultural Show

February 1, 2008

State Dance Troupe of Sri Lanaka will perform in Washington DC to celebrate the 60th Independence Day.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dillini Abeywarna, wife of SLAWDC Director, Upul Abeywarna gave birth to a baby girl, Roshali Nemaya Abeywarna on October 11, 2007. Congratulations Dilini and Upul!

Former president of SLAWDC, Anjalika and her husband Sathi Silva were blessed with a grandchild on November 14, 2007. Grandson Kingsley Tilak Arthanayake was born at 7:43 pm and weighed 7 lbs. Congratulations to the proud parents Eesha and Nihal!

Congratulations to Deepthi Codippily, daughter of SLAWDC Vice Patron and former President, Dr. Hilarian Codippily, and Mrs. Sheila Codippily, former Board Director, on the launching of her first book "*Glimpses Of Development-Selected Country experiences*". This brings together research papers completed during the author's undergraduate and graduate studies in the late 1980s and early 1990s, providing valuable insights of development issues from different parts of the world – from South Asia, East Asia, and Latin America, beginning with Sri Lanka's Mahaweli Project.

EDITOR'S NOTES

We appreciate your feedback whether it be on how to improve this newsletter, what events you'd like for us to organize in the future, placing advertisements in the newsletter, or just to complain about what we are not doing right.

Please share your thoughts and comments with us, by writing to the editor at editor@slawdc.com.