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How we can create our ideal country in six years' time, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation

Canada Day Message from the Governor General of Canada Rt. Hon. David Johnston

Canada is a land of majesty, history and diversity. We are blessed with an abundance of resources and warm people. We are the envy of the world in so many ways, and I am proud to call myself Canadian.

When I took on the role of governor general and commander-in-chief less than a year ago, I was humbled by the opportunity and proud to serve the country that has given so much to me and my family.

My wife, Sharon, and I have had the pleasure of travelling across the country, visiting cities and towns with rich and varied histories. We have heard the stories of our Aboriginal peoples. We have spoken with members of our Canadian Forces and their families. We have had discussions with volunteers, entrepreneurs, community builders and philanthropists. We have honoured deserving

Canadians from across the country and have represented our country abroad.

Through it all, Canadians have shared with us their dreams and aspirations for what they want Canada to be.

In 2017, our country will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation, and there is no better occasion than Canada Day to encourage the dialogue about how we can create our ideal country in six years' time.

In my installation speech, I outlined three key pillars, which I believe constitute a smart and caring nation.

The first pillar, supporting families and children, is vital to the future of Canada.

Our lives revolve around our families; not only our immediate families, but also our extended ones. Our society must ensure that all Canadians are given the



His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.
Photo credit: Sgt Serge Gouin, Rideau Hall

chance to make a better life for themselves and their children, because every child deserves stability, love and nurturing care.

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Colourful float by Canadian Tamil Congress at Canada Day Parade in Markham, Ontario - July 1, 2011 - - pic by: Ninaivukal.com



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Canada News

Working to secure Canada's economic recovery



Peter Van Loan MP

On June 22, Peter Van Loan, Government House Leader, and Senator Claude Carignan, Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate, provided an update on our Government's spring legislative accomplishments, according to a media release by the Conservative Party of Canada.

The statement further says, Canadians provided Stephen Harper's Conservative Government with a strong mandate to secure our economic recovery and implement our low-tax plan for jobs and growth.

That is why we re-introduced and passed the Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan. In addition, we took action this spring to increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) for seniors and protect our economy by introducing legislation to put an end to work stoppages.

By the end of this session, the list of measures passed by the House will include:

-the Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan

-the Supporting Vulnerable Seniors and Strengthening Canada's Economy Act

-and extension of Canada's involvement in the UN-sanctioned and NATO-led mission in Libya

-the Fair and Efficient Criminal Trials Act (mega-trials legislation)

- the main and supplementary Government estimates for services for Canadians

We have also introduced key pieces of legislation including:

-the Preventing Human Smugglers from Abusing Canada's Immigration System Act

-the Senate Reform Act

Come September, our Government will move forward with additional legislation that is important to Canadians, such as scrapping the wasteful and ineffective long-gun registry.

Canadians can count on the Harper Government to take the right action in securing Canada's economic recovery, says the Conservative Party of Canada Press statement.

SAAC's 8th AGM



Sri Lankan Accountants Association of Canada recently had its 8th Annual General Meeting at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Markham. More than 50 members attended this meeting.

Mr. Mano Thillainathan Branch Manager of Scotiabank at Scarborough Town Centre was honored with life membership by the Association for his continued patronage and support to the Association. He was instrumental for, Scotia Bank being the lead sponsor for

the accounting forums held by the association twice in the past and it brought many benefits to the accountants and business community.

In this picture President Ari A. Ariaran, CGA, is presenting the Honorary Membership Plaque to Mr. Mano Thillainathan. Secretary Mr. Kuna Rajaratnam, CGA is by the side of him. Mr. Walton Rajah, CGA was appointed as new President of the Association for the following year.

McGuinty Government Expands Access to French Immersion

Ontario is expanding French immersion programs across the province to give more high school students the opportunity to learn a second language, according to a media release by the Government of Ontario.

The statement adds,

Starting in September 2013, the language courses that are needed to complete a French immersion program will be offered at the applied level. Currently, these courses are only offered at the academic level.

Students who take French immersion can also take a variety of subjects in French, helping them to develop strong language skills.

This change will provide more opportunities for students to pursue bilingual careers. Giving students of all ages more opportunities to succeed is part of the McGuinty government's plan to build a well-educated workforce and prepare Ontario for a more prosperous future.

QUICK FACTS

-A revised curriculum for French immersion will be released in 2012 with classes starting in September 2013.

-Boards have the option of offering French immersion programs based on local demands and resources.

-There are about 20,000 high school students taking French immersion in Ontario.

Younger Canadians Aspiring to be Future Entrepreneurs: RBC Poll

TORONTO, June 21, 2010 —One-third (32 per cent) of Canadians who don't own a business like the idea of being their own boss and one-fifth (20 per cent) are thinking about starting up their own business within the next five years, according to the most recent RBC Canadian Consumer Outlook.

"Considering 12 per cent of Canadians are currently self-employed, seeing another 20 per cent interested in being their own boss is indeed significant," said Mike Michell, national director, Small Business, RBC. "Getting a business started can be challenging: you have to have passion for what you're doing, seek out good advice and be prepared with a well-developed business plan."

Who are Canada's aspiring entrepreneurs?

The survey reveals these aspiring entrepreneurs are more likely to be younger Canadians, male, and hold university degrees.

Although not a large gap between the percentage of men and women who want to pursue entrepreneurship, more men (22 per cent) said they were thinking about starting their own business in the next five years than women (18 per cent).

Among university grads, 25 per cent said they were thinking about entrepreneurship in the next five years compared to 23 per cent of post secondary grads, 16 per cent of high school grads; and 13 per cent of those with no high school diploma.

Top business-building tips, according to Canadian business owners:

Focus more time on networking – develop alliances, join industry associations, attend as many events and seminars as possible.



Aggressively solicit clients – spend more time marketing your business. Understand the clients' needs and how your business will meet those needs.

Seek as much help or advice as possible – find a mentor or look to other business owners to draw on their experience.

Develop a comprehensive business plan and review it regularly, especially in growth phases.

Obtain financial advice early in your planning to secure financing in advance.

Know your competition well and research the market.

Small businesses in Canada want flexible banking choices, convenient payment options and simple ways to manage their cash flow. Whether they are starting a business, managing growth, or succession planning, the RBC Advice Centre can help answer their questions. Free interactive tools and calculators provide customized information covering many facets of business finance and online advice videos are updated regularly to answer questions that are top of mind with small business owners. With the guidance of RBC business advisors, small business owners have access to free, no obligation professional advice about RBC products and services. For more assistance, please visit www.rbcadvicecentre.com.

Monsoon Journal
Printing the Winds of Change
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All lands home, all men kin.

**'To anybody the certain
bestower is only his wife'**
- from Tamil movie Karnan
~ Poet Laureate Kannadasan
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from the publisher's desk

Summer is Back and School is Out!

**By Krishni Loganathan
B.A. (Hons)**

As temperatures rise so too the excitement of children leaving school for their summer vacation. Two months of no teachers, no homework, and no getting up early for school. The summer holidays are a time for kids to just be kids. This does not mean that a little reading during the summer is a bad idea, in fact the opposite.

Children are encouraged to continue their studies throughout the summer months to avoid forgetting the materials they learned during the school year. A few tips that have worked in the past are to create a schedule for the children where they have a

routine that they can follow to make it easier for them to keep up with. A reward system is also a great idea to keep their motivation high in the summer months where distractions are endless.

Traditional studying with textbooks and workbooks may seem uninteresting and dull to children who are craving to enjoy every moment outside. This does not mean that the studying can't also occur outside. Learning opportunities in the outdoors are endless. A conservation park, museum, science centre are all great places to take children where they are learning but are also free to be active.

Being active during the sum-

mer months is also a vital component of a children's routine. Obesity rates in children have almost tripled in the last 25 years, and approximately 26% of Canadian children ages 2-17 years old are currently overweight or obese. Being active throughout the summer vacation is just as important as studying. Cost effective and enjoyable activities that children can take part in include biking, rollerblading, swimming, and playing sports. They not only are achieving their physical activity but also having a great time doing so.

Events in the city are also another way of keeping the children both learning and active at

the same time. Cultural festivals are always taking place downtown, and many of them host free activities for children to take part in. Children are gaining new knowledge without being forced to read this in a textbook. Look through your city's websites where events are listed. These events can occupy the children throughout the summer at a low budget and are just as exciting.

As the summer begins, let kids be kids but don't forget the importance of their studies and being active. Monsoon Journal would like to wish everyone a safe and cheerful summer! Enjoy the sun while it's here!

US State Dept urges Sri Lanka govt to quickly demonstrate its willingness to investigate allegation

Office of the Spokesperson, US State Dept., Question Taken at the June 27, 2011 Daily Press Briefing, Victoria Nuland, Spokesperson

Accountability for Alleged Violations of International Human Rights Law

Question: What is the U.S. view regarding accountability in Sri Lanka?

Answer: As we have stated before, the United States supports a full, credible, and independent

investigation of alleged violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law and accountability for such violations.

While domestic authorities have primary responsibility to ensure that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law are held accountable, international accountability mechanisms can become appropriate in circumstances in which a state is unable

or unwilling to meet its obligations.

We continue to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to quickly demonstrate that it is able and willing to meet these obligations as it seeks reconciliation. We hope the Sri Lankans will themselves do this, but if they do not, there will be growing pressure from the international community to examine other options.

Victoria Nuland



150th anniversary of confederation

Contd. from Page 1

It is our duty as parents to offer them every opportunity in life to succeed and to contribute in meaningful ways to Canada.

The second pillar, strengthening innovation and learning, is one way to keep up with an increasingly globalized world. Dreaming up new ways of doing old tasks is the cornerstone of innovation. Through our ingenuity, Canadians have long been at the forefront of technological advances. We must keep up with our fast paced world through innovation and through learning, in our schools, at home and in our communities. Education leads to understanding and a better quality of life for all of us.

Finally, my third pillar entails encouraging volunteerism and philanthropy. Our communities rely on volunteers and philanthropists in a very real way to support people in

need. We must take every opportunity to acknowledge what they do and to promote giving on a national scale. We must try to make giving a part of our daily lives. In this, we are ensuring that Canada maintains the "caring" aspect of its nature that we so cherish.

With these pillars, combined with the dedication of all Canadians, we can build the smarter, more caring nation to which we all aspire.

Canada is a vast country with as many small, secret places of beauty as there are wonderful people. On this Canada Day, I want to wish all Canadians a wonderful celebration. I hope that we can continue to be a nation that imagines infinite possibilities and works hard to create them. Happy birthday, Canada!

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Canada News

Canada announces 10-year multiple entry visas for Indians

Giving a fillip to Indo-Canada trade relations, Canada has announced a new visa regime that will allow Indians 10 years multiple entry visa to the country.

The announcement was made by Canadian Minister of International Trade Edward Fast at a meeting with delegates of the Indian government and business community at the two-day mini Parvasi Bharatiya Divas Canada 2011 convention that began on Jun 11th.

Fast said the new visa process would be available to Indians who travelled to Canada frequently.

"After an initial visa screening, applicants can get a visa that allow them to visit Canada often – as long as their passports are valid up to ten years," Fast said. Minister of State for External Affairs Preneet Kaur who is leading the Indian delegation said both countries were committed to strengthen their bilateral trade relations.

"The Indo-Canadian community is a microcosm of the people of Indian origin living abroad," she said.

"India and Canada will soon sign the Social Security Agreement, conclude a bilateral Investment Protection Agreement, negotiate a revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement and complete an ambitious Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement," she said, adding both nations aim at a bilateral trade target of USD 15 billion in next five years.

Both countries were in talks for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement that would yield significant



economic benefit and lower tariff on a large number of products for both the countries. "A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement is a free trade agreement (FTA) from Indian perspective. It is aimed at promoting market opening policies and stands to become one of the most important building blocks in constructing a broader and deeper bilateral relationship," Kaur said.

S M Gavai, the High Commissioner of India, said the new 10-year multiple entry visa would help to meet the long-standing demand of Indians businesses and others who would like to come Canada frequently.

"2011 is a special year for India-Canada relations. It was in November 2009 in New Delhi that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that 2011 would be celebrated as Year of India in Canada," Gavai said.

"Ties between India and Canada have never been so close, so extensive and potentially so exciting as they are today. The Indo-Canadian community has played a major role in enriching this relationship, in building bridges between the two countries," Gavai added. - PTI

Resolution passed on Sri Lanka by New Democratic Party at Vancouver convention

At the conclusion of their three-day policy convention in Vancouver British Columbia, the New Democratic Party passed a resolution calling on the United Nations to establish a independent, international and impartial mechanism to ensure truth, accountability and justice in Sri Lanka.

Full text of the NDP resolution below:
Resolution on Truth, Justice and Accountability in Sri Lanka

Be It Resolved that New Democrats call on the United Nations to immediately establish an independent, international and impartial mechanism to ensure truth, accountability and justice in Sri Lanka and

Be It Further Resolved that New Democrats believe in the establishment of an impartial transnational justice mechanism to investigate allegation of



Leader of the Opposition, Jack Layton MP on Jun 17, 2011 – At the opening ceremony of the NDP convention, Vancouver BC – pic: NDP

violations of international law by both parties to the conflict as the fundamental step in a road map to peace, stability and reconciliation.

Conservatives Deny Unanimous Consent for Karygiannis Motion

OTTAWA – On June 16th the Honourable Jim Karygiannis, Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Agincourt and Liberal Critic for Multiculturalism, asked the House of Commons for unanimous consent to a Motion calling on the House of Commons to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to co-operate with the UN Expert Panel investigating allegations of war crimes during the last days of the civil war.

"Harper and his cronies say they stand up for human rights at every opportunity. Today, they proved that this is not the truth," said Mr. Karygiannis. "During the last days of the civil war crimes were committed. There is photographic and video evidence. There are first person accounts."

In June 2010, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, appointed a panel of experts to advise him on accountability issues relating to alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law during the final stages of the conflict in Sri Lanka

that ended last year.

The Motion also called on the Government of Sri Lanka to bring to justice those guilty of these crimes. The following is the complete text of the Motion:

That this House call on the Government of Sri Lanka to work with the Panel of Experts established by the Secretary General of the United Nations as it examines the allegations of crimes committed during the last days of the civil war.

And that this House also calls on the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that those responsible for any crimes of war be brought to justice and be subject to the full weight of the law.

"I don't know what this government is waiting for. The evidence is there, witnesses have told the Panel members their stories and the Panel has written its report." Mr. Karygiannis stated. "It is now time for the Sri Lankan government to step up to the plate and accept responsibility." [Via Media release from karygiannismpp.com]

Rathika Sitsabaiesan makes maiden address in three languages in Canadian Parliament

Rathika Sitsabaiesan, MP for Scarborough-Rouge River addresses the House of Commons for the first time since her election win in 2011, in English, French and Tamil.

Rathika Sitsabaiesan MP, Canadian parliamentarian representing Scarborough-Rouge River speaking on Budgetary Policy in her maiden address after the May 2 election rendered portion of her speech in Tamil in Canada's House of Commons on Jun 10. Rathika Sitsabaiesan MP said that as the very first Member of Parliament from Tamil heritage, she was proud and humbled for being able to speak in the Canadian parliament in her mother tongue.

Full text of her own translation of the Tamil speech delivered in the House of Commons, Ottawa:

And for the few of you who may have not understood Thamizh, I'll translate.

Next I am proud to say that as a very first member of parliament in Canada, from Thamizh heritage, I am proud and humbled to've been able to speak in this respectable House, in my mother tongue.

[Applause... Bravo... Thamizh.. Thamizh..Thamizh..]

Many of us Thamizhs came to Canada fleeing persecution and a civil war. Canada embraced us with open arms and



Rathika Sitsabaiesan, MP

we have been doing our utmost to contribute to the economic development and cultural fabric of this great country.

I know that the diaspora Thamizh community in Scarborough-Rouge River, the greater Toronto area and around the world would be proud to know that we have achieved this very important milestone to hear Thamizh being spoken in the Canadian House of Commons. This is the next step in the development of Thamizh community in Canada.

The barriers faced by children of Thamizhs and other immigrants shall be broken down.

And they will endeavour to reach higher roles of leadership in Canada.

[Applause]

Canada News



Sylvester Rajaratnam, owner of Photofast & Meena Sakthivel, Broker/Manager of Century 21 Titans Realty with Premier of Ontario Dalton McGuinty at IIFA Award Toronto 2011. Sylvester and Meena holding the Recognition Certificates received for the Tamil movie from Guinness World Records for the shortest time taken to make a feature film from scripting to screening.

The movie was produced in Chennai, India during 2009 by Canadians Sylvester Rajaratnam who was the Manager, Meena Sakthivel who was the Coordinator and Suresh Joachim who was the Lead Actor.

Amnesty International announced as 2011 Tamil Canadian Walk-a-thon recipient

A gift from Tamil Canadians in celebration of Amnesty's 50th Birthday

Toronto, ON - Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) has announced that Amnesty International, a worldwide movement of people dedicated to the protection and promotion of human rights, is the chosen recipient for the 2011 Tamil Canadian Walk-a-thon.

This year, the 5-kilometer walk will take place on September 18, starting at 9 a.m. from Thomson Memorial Park, Scarborough, ending with a cake cutting ceremony to celebrate Amnesty's 50th anniversary. All proceeds from the Walk-a-thon will go directly to Amnesty International.

"Amnesty International is one of the world's most influential human rights organizations, working to protect values that are withheld in many parts of the world whether it be Haiti, Iran, North Korea or Sri Lanka", said Juanita Nathan, Vice President, CTC Board of Directors. "We are proud to be able to support their work that reflects shared

Canadian values of respecting human rights and upholding fundamental freedoms".

Amnesty International, founded by British lawyer Peter Benenson in 1961, is a worldwide movement with the mission "to conduct research and generate action to prevent and end grave abuses of human rights and to demand justice for those whose rights have been violated". This organization enables ordinary people to come together to help those who are voiceless, striving to live with dignity, safety and freedom. Some of their many campaigns include Demand Dignity, Abolish the Death Penalty, Stop Violence against Women, Security with Human Rights, Control Arms and Demanding the "three Freedoms" for Myanmar. Many within the Tamil Canadian community and the Canadian community at large, have been directly and or indirectly affected by Amnesty International's good work, including their sustained efforts calling for an investigation into human rights viola-

Kay Blair named Chair of Osler Board of Directors

Osler launches an electronic annual report posted to their website



Kay Blair

Kay Blair was named Chair, Board of Directors, William Osler Health System during the AGM held on June 15th, replacing long-time Board Chair Duncan Glaholt, who retired after 10 years of volunteer service.

"I'm stepping into some pretty big shoes; we will miss Duncan's guidance," said Blair. "At the same time, I am looking forward to meeting with front-line Osler employees, the community and with healthcare partners and stakeholders over the coming weeks and months as we continue to strengthen Osler's presence in the community."

Blair was named Chair at Osler's 2011 Annual General Meeting held at Etobicoke General Hospital, Wednesday evening. She takes on the top job after serving on the Board since 2009, most recently as Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee. Recognized for her many achievements by peers, opinion leaders and the Office of the Premier of Ontario, she brings a wealth of experience and ideas to her role as Osler Board Chair.

Three new members were also named to the Board including: Myra Cridland, William Falk and Kamaldeep Sangha. These new members join Blair and 12 other members on the 16-member Board.

"Contributing as Board Chair over these years has shown me over and over

the capacity of the community to join together for a common vision; the selflessness of the human spirit that we see every day in our volunteers; and the incredible skill, dedication and compassion of health care professionals in moments of great joy, great sadness and always with great hope," said Glaholt, who served as a member of the Board since 2001, and as Board Chair since 2007. "This experience has enriched my spirit and I take that treasure with me as I go."

Duncan was honoured for his many years of service with the first ever William Osler Health System Community Service Award.

Other retiring members include Maria Britto and ex-officio members Drs. Eli Bienenstock and Michael McCaffrey.

eReport a Highlight of AGM

Highlights of the annual report were woven through the presentations at the meeting and included video clips of patient stories. The annual report is available in print form and as an interactive electronic version located on the William Osler Health System website at www.williamoslerhs.ca.

tions in Sri Lanka.

"I participate in the walk every year because I enjoy the wonderful social atmosphere amongst the walkers, my friends and I all get in a bit of exercise together, and I know it is going towards a worthwhile cause", said Priya Jeganathan, a walker and lead volunteer with the Walk-a-thon. In the past, the

Walk-a-thon has drawn hundreds of walkers, donors, community associations, business groups and community leaders from the Tamil Canadian community and friends, raising \$42,000 for the Sick Kids Foundation and \$35,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

[CTC Press Release]

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Rouge Valley
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Physician Interview

Prevalence of heart disease in black community

Cardiologist Dr. Paul Galiwango is the medical manager of cardiac imaging at Rouge Valley Health System (RVHS). Here he discusses his particular interest and insights on the issue of heart disease and hypertension faced by the black community.

Q: What is hypertension?

A: Hypertension is high blood pressure. The heart pumps blood into vessels; and if the pressure is too high, the heart has to work harder to pump blood. Over the long term, it leads to damage of the lining of the vessels, and increases the chances of blood clots, strokes, and blood vessels bursting. There are usually no symptoms, which is why it's important for patients to visit their physician regularly, so that we can try to detect it at that silent stage—before it wreaks any damage.

Q: Why are blacks more susceptible to hypertension, heart failure and stroke?

A: We certainly know that hypertension affects the black community more disproportionately. We see an increase in frequency, and we see it at younger ages. In addition to that, hypertension is often more resistant to treatment on patients in the black community. And it seems to have a particularly malignant vascular effect in terms of organ damage to the heart, kidneys, and brain. Why we see that is still a subject of fierce debate. I think it is multi-factorial. There are some genetic studies that suggest there are some unique aspects in the way the kidneys handle the sodium load, which makes blacks more sensitive to salt. And salt affects the cause of high blood pressure—so we call it sodium-sensitive hypertension. And then there are also some lifestyle issues. For example, if you look to the American south, there tend to be some very high-sodium diets, and high prevalence of obesity. So this also contributes to the hypertension rates.

Q: Why do stroke and heart failure tend to present so young in blacks?

A: It certainly seems to be linked to the prevalence of hypertension coming at a

younger age. There was a large study that came out last year that looked at a very diverse group—whites, blacks, Hispanics—and followed them for 20 years. What they found was the prevalence of heart failure at a young age (younger than 50 years old) was about 20 times higher in blacks than in the non-black participants. And the lion's share of that contributed to hypertension. Researchers saw that for every 10 millimetre increase in blood pressure in a black person in their 20s, you double the risk for heart failure in their 40s. It's sobering, but what's encouraging is that it's a treatable condition.

Q: When you see black patients, how do you treat them? What sort of programs do you put them on? Is it particularly unique?

A: In any patient who I see with hypertension, I treat aggressively. Hypertension is silent, and it's easy for it to progress without the patient even realizing it. With black patients, there are some nuances—we do know that they respond differently to certain classes of drugs that are commonly used for hypertension, like ACE Inhibitors, Beta Blockers. Data has suggested that medications such as these may be less effective in the black population. So I would tend to stay away from those, at least at first, and go to more effective drugs like Calcium Channel Blockers and Diuretics.

I also really underscore the importance for everyone—particularly in the black population—of trying to avoid salt in their diet. People often recoil at that suggestion at first, but you do find that with time, the palate adapts, and you get used to it. There's just so much sodium already in packaged foods, it's best to try and cut out salt anywhere you can. I recommend just not adding it to table food, or when you're cooking. In fact, I've learned to cut salt out of my own diet.

Q: What do we do at Rouge Valley to treat this population?

A: The cardiologists at



Dr. Paul Galiwango

Rouge Valley are all very cognizant of these issues, and can

aggressively manage heart hypertension in all patients, and know what to do when they see anyone approach. We have a very diverse community in Toronto and Durham—blacks, South Asians, Asians, etc.—so we deal with everyone appropriately. But I'd also emphasize that the cardiac rehab program is an excellent one, and it gives all the patients the tools they need to live a healthier lifestyle—and aids in helping

them to abandon some of the more harmful habits, like smoking, or a high-sodium diet. So we also refer a lot of our patients to that program.

It's important for physicians who are treating black patients whose hypertension has gotten quite difficult to treat, not to give up and refer those patients on to a specialist for evaluation. It's possible that the medication might need to be tweaked, or replaced. A lot of times, it's a bit frustrating to have a patient on medication for a while, and their blood pressure isn't coming down. But if that's the case, they really should be referred on. You can get there, but you just have to persist.

New Geriatric Assessment Clinic Provides Specialized Care for the Elderly

A new clinic based at Rouge Valley Centenary (RVC) is focusing its efforts on providing specialized care aimed specifically at seniors.

Since first opening last December, the Geriatric Assessment and Intervention Network (GAIN) clinic has received more than 100 referrals, and has seen more than 70 patients. Two new assessments and follow-up visits are taken on average each day in the busy clinic, which is open from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Referrals are received from both the hospital's emergency departments and the community.

The clinic is located in outpatient rehabilitation at RVC, and is part of a Central East Local Health Integration Network (CE LHIN) initiative with the Central East Community Care Access Centre (CE CCAC). The Ministry

of Health and the CE LHIN are committed to the expansion of geriatric services throughout the area. GAIN clinics have also opened at Lakeridge Health Oshawa, Peterborough Regional Health Centre and The Scarborough Hospital.

"GAIN's goal is to create an integrated system of care with enhanced geriatric services," says Amelia McCutcheon, interim vice-president of acute care services and chief nursing executive at Rouge Valley Health System.

Rouge's GAIN clinic is led by nurse practitioner Nicole Niessner in collaboration with geriatric emergency management nurse Clara Tsang and physicians Dr. John Peto, Dr. Teraiza Yassa, Dr. Zureen Syed, and Dr. Shehla Sadiq. It is staffed by a multidisciplinary team of health care professionals, including physiotherapists, occupational

therapists, social workers, pharmacists, and CE CCAC case managers.

"We're able to provide a detailed, comprehensive assessment with a holistic approach for geriatric patients over the age of 75. We have a fabulous interdisciplinary team, and are fortunate to have this level of physician support," explains Dianna Harrison, manager, emergency services, fracture clinic and GAIN clinic.

Together with dedicated inpatient beds for seniors, the GAIN clinics now provide another resource for the emergency department where elderly patients can be referred to get the specialized geriatric care they need. Supported by geriatricians, these clinics will also be available for direct referrals by family physicians and other primary care practitioners.



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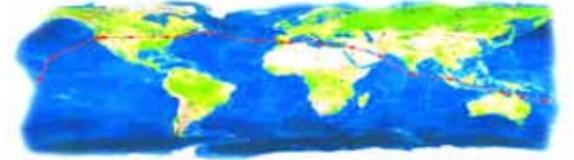
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Around the world



Princess Diana at 50: Imagining What Might Have Been



A woman looks at a montage of images of Princess Diana in the shape of a number fifty on fencing outside Kensington Palace in London, which was the residence of the princess, July 1, 2011.-AP piv via VOA

The late British Princess Diana would have turned 50 on July 1, a milestone that has generated a raft of speculation on what she might have looked like today and what her life would be like.

She was killed nearly 14 years ago in a Paris car crash but her life, loves, beauty and social activism still attract admirers and a fascinated public. Some marked the day by gathering outside London's Kensington Palace, where she once lived, and left cards, a cake, a collage and other mementos at the gates.

She was known as the "People's Princess," but her death at 36 came at a time of personal turmoil. Divorced from Prince Charles, Princess Diana had just ended a romance with a heart surgeon, Hasnat Khan, and a new relationship with wealthy playboy Dodi Fayed was less than two months old.

He was killed in the accident with her as paparazzi chased their car in a Paris highway tunnel. U.S. magazine, Newsweek, provoked a storm among her admirers this week by altering a photograph of a much older-looking Diana strolling alongside Kate Middleton, the daughter-in-law she never met who recently married her older son, William. The magazine's editor, Tina Brown, a friend of Diana's who wrote a biography of her, speculated that the late princess might have married twice more, probably on both sides of the Atlantic.

Such guessing about Diana's life has also proved popular this week in the British press as well. One columnist speculated that Diana would have married into "old American money," perhaps someone with a power-base in New York, but also a horse-racing stable in the state of Kentucky. [VOANews]

Indian Navy to buy 80 interception boats from Sri Lanka

As part of an exercise to strengthen coastal security post the 26/11 attack in Mumbai, the Indian Navy has decided to procure 80 interception boats at a cost of 67 million dollars from a Sri Lanka-based ship manufacturer. The boats are planned to be used by the newly-formed Sagar Prahari Bal (SPB) and other wings of the Indian Navy, PTI reported, quoting Indian Naval officials.

According to Indian Naval officials, the contract process for 80 Fast Interception Craft (FIC) from Sri Lanka-based SOLAS Marine is in its final stages and the deal is expected to be finalised soon. The boats, with speeds between 45-50 miles per hour, would be mainly deployed for coastal security duties and would be used for engaging any suspicious vessel or activity in these



areas, the report said.

With four to five crew members and capability to patrol far off-areas, the boats would also be deployed to provide protection to vital assets and installations along the coastal areas, it added.

Post the 26/11 attacks, the Indian Navy was given the responsibility to look after coastal security along with the Coast Guard and local authorities.

[ft.lk]

Amnesty International Calls On Malaysia to Allow Political Rally



A plainclothes policeman tries to handcuff an activist as he defies police orders to disperse during a May Day rally in Kuala Lumpur May 1, 2010

By Brian Padden

The human rights organization Amnesty International says Malaysian authorities are arbitrarily arresting and detaining scores of peaceful electoral reform protesters in the worse repression of free speech and freedom of assembly in recent years.

In the last few weeks, authorities in Malaysia have detained nearly 100 people for promoting a July 9 political rally in Kuala Lumpur. The protest is being planned by a coalition of opposition parties and activists calling itself "Bersih," which is the Malay-language word for "clean." The group, which includes Amnesty human rights activists, is calling for a more transparent voting process ahead of national elections expected to be held next year.

Malaysian officials have declared the rally illegal because, they say, the participants are trying to overthrow the government and support communism. Authorities have warned people not to attend.

Nora Murat is the director of Amnesty International in Malaysia and has been involved in organizing the rally. She says peaceful political rallies have been held the past and is surprised by the government's efforts to prevent this one from happening.

"We are really taken aback by the treatment that we have been received from the government and the police forces and I think yesterday our prime minister actually issued a statement saying that they are leaving it up to the police on whether or not and how they are

going to use the emergency ordinance," Murat said.

The recent arrests include 30 members of the Socialist Party of Malaysia, who were apprehended after police said they found leaflets and t-shirts promoting an outlawed communist party on their bus. The group has been charged with trying to wage war against Malaysia's constitutional monarch.

Malaysia's constitution guarantees its people freedom of assembly and freedom of speech. But Malaysia's home minister has threatened to invoke the internal security act against the organizers on the grounds of national security. Under this law suspects could be detained indefinitely without facing charges or trial.

Murat says Amnesty International is calling for Malaysia to allow the rally to take place and release all activists or charge them with a recognizably criminal offense.

"What we are requesting again is, and reminding the police authorities, it is their role actually to facilitate a peaceful demonstration and not to threaten us and telling us not to go out on the ninth," Murat said.

Since independence in 1957, the government of Malaysia has been dominated by one political party, the United Malays National Organization or UMNO. In 2008, UMNO lost for the first time its two-thirds majority in parliament. Soon after, opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim was arrested on charges of sodomy. He maintains the charges are politically motivated. That trial is ongoing.

[VOANews]

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Do circuit A, rest, then move onto circuit B. If time permits repeat both circuits.

Circuit A

Push ups

Facing the ground, place your hands at chest level with hands slightly wider than shoulder width apart and feet behind you on your toes. For the beginner version you can lower yourself on your knees with feet raised in the air. Keeping your neck in line with your spine (in neutral position) bend your elbows and lower yourself toward the ground maintaining a flat back and straight legs. Do not allow your hips to sag to the ground, maintain a table top position and aim to bend your elbows to 90 degrees. Do 12-15 repetitions (reps).

Supermans

Lie face down on a mat with arms straight in front of you with palms facing the ground heels and feet together. Keep neck in line with your spine in a neutral position and lift your upper body and lower body off the ground, squeezing your bum and back, lower to the ground and repeat. Do 15 reps.

Downward dog with leg lifts

Bring your palms to the ground and stand up on your toes with hips raised in the air so you are in a "V" position. As you hold this posture, raise your right leg in the air with heels pointing toward the sky and then lower to starting position. Repeat with left leg and alternate legs for 20 reps.

Bench knee raises

If you're at the park, find a bench and step on the bench with your left foot and raise the right knee in the air and lower to the ground and then immediately raise the right knee again, and lower to the ground without moving the left foot off the bench. Do 10 reps on the right side then repeat on the left.

Cardio: Run on the spot

- 30 seconds

Rest for 30 seconds to 1 minute.



Circuit B

Walking lunges with arms raised

Start with arms straight and above your head. Step forward with your right leg and bend your knee and bring your left knee about an inch above the ground. Then bring your left foot to meet your right, coming to standing position. Keep arms raised, back tall and abdominals tight, and step forward with the opposite leg, repeating movement. Alternate right and left legs. Do 20 reps.

Tricep dips on a bench

With your back toward the bench and fingers pointing toward your back, bend your knees, with feet together on the ground and bring your arms behind you, so your fingers are wrapped around the edge of the bench about shoulder width apart. Slowly lower and bend your elbows so they are at 90 degrees. Do not use your hips for this exercise. Focus on bending only at the elbow and then raising yourself up to starting position. Do 12 reps.

Squat with side leg lift

With feet hip-width apart and toes pointing forward and hands on your waist, bring your hips toward your heels as if you were sitting down in a chair. Make sure that your knees do not go over your toes. Push all your weight back into your heels. Look straight ahead and keep your back tall, trying not to lean for-

ward during the exercise. Come back to standing and immediately raise your right leg to the side, pointing the toes forward. Lower right leg to standing position and perform another squat, come back to standing and raise the left leg. Alternate sides for 20 reps.

Shoulder circles in a chair pose

Bring feet and knees together and bring your arms to the side at shoulder height. Sit back in a chair with hips low and back at 45 degrees. Draw 20 circles clockwise then another 20 circles counter-clockwise, holding the chair posture.

Cardio: Mountain climbers

- 30 seconds

Get into a push up position (as mentioned above) with face down and hands and toes on the ground. Bring your right knee in toward your chest and then straighten your leg and bring it behind you to meet the left foot without touching the ground. Then bring your left knee in toward your chest and repeat. Keep the movement rapid, quickly switching

between the right knee and the left, as if you were climbing a mountain!

Rest for 30 seconds to 1 minute.

Repeat both circuits if time permits.

Make your 30 minutes count! Try not to rest for too long between exercises to keep the heart rate high and to maximize the calorie burn. Aim to drink at least one litre of water to stay hydrated, especially if it is a hot and humid day. Also, make sure to do a five minute warm up and cool down to prevent injury and soreness.

Take this no fail, no excuses, no problem workout anywhere and everywhere you go! May it be the cottage, hotel, resort, camping or simply your backyard, enjoy the outdoors, get a fabulous tan and get fit at the same time. Does it get any better than that?

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Milestone



DR. NAREN

DR. NAREN CHELLAPPAH OF CANBERRA RECOGNIZED WITH MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Dr. Naren Chellappah of Canberra has been recognized in the 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours for his selfless service to less fortunate communities in India and Laos.

Dr. Chellappah has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his work as a volunteer dental surgeon. Dr. Naren lives in Canberra, Australia at the present time. Earlier was in Singapore, as a Lecturer

of Dentistry, in the University of Singapore. Dr. Naren Chellappah, who has been a dental surgeon since 1975, migrated to Australia with his family in 1990,

His father Mr. R. Chellappah was among the Senior Management of Bank of Ceylon, up to early - 1970s and later he joined the World Bank. Naren is the grandson of Late Mr. A. Thillyampalam of Sangarathai, Vaddukoddai, who was the President of Sivathondan Nilayam, Jaffna/Chengalladdy. Naren's Wife Nandana is the granddaughter of "Addangka Thamilan", late Mr. C. Suntheralingam.

An earlier recipient of OAM was Ms. Rasanayakam Malini Devi, on 26 January 2000, for services to the Tamil community as the founder and Secretary of the Tamil Foundation.

Well known as 'Mali Akka' Ms. Rasanayakam is daughter of late Mr. M. Srikhanta, Former G.A. Jaffna. Ms. Malini Devi is the wife of Dr. V. Rasanayagam, Orthopedic Surgeon who performed the Surgery for Yoga Swami. Dr. V. Rasanayagam is the younger brother late Dr.V. Perampalam, Former General Manager of Ceylon Cement Corporation.

In the Australian honours system appointments to the Order of Australia confer recognition for outstanding achievement and service. The Medal of the Order of Australia is awarded for service worthy of particular recognition.

In the Australian honours system appointments to the Order of Australia confer recognition for outstanding achievement and service. The Medal of the Order of Australia is awarded for service worthy of particular recognition. The Order of Australia is the pre-eminent way Australians recognise the achievements and service of their fellow citizens.

The Order of Australia is the pre-eminent way Australians recognise the achievements and service of their fellow citizens.

Nominations to the Order of Australia come directly from the community: either individuals or groups. Appointments in the Order of Australia are not made posthumously. However, a nomination will be considered if the person is alive when the nomination form is received by the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat at Government House in Canberra.

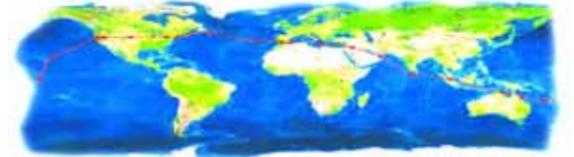
The 19-member Council for the Order of Australia then considers the nominations. The Council makes its recommendations, independent of government, direct to the Governor-General.

Awards in the Order of Australia are publicly announced on Australia Day (26 January) and the Queen's Birthday public holiday (June).



Nottingham Public School in Ajax held a Graduation Awards function recently. Picture shows Anjali Suthakaran receiving the Valedictorian Award for outstanding performance from Staff member Mr. Hrynkiw. She also gave the Valedictorian speech after receiving her Award.

Around the world



'The Sri Lankan government's apologists have argued that civilian deaths were a necessary price to pay for the defeat of the Tamil Tigers'

Confronting the Killing Fields

By Sam Zarifi

Ban Ki-Moon has suggested that he can only establish an international investigation if the Sri Lankan government consents. It would be a sad day for the authority of the Secretary General if he could only authorise investigations approved by the government under scrutiny.

Far from the lenses of television cameras and the print of news headlines that typify war reporting today, tens of thousands of civilians – perhaps as many as 40,000 – were killed in the last terrible phase of fighting of Sri Lanka's civil war between the brutal Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Sri Lankan government.

No reporters were allowed near the war zone, blocked by the Sri Lankan Government in an attempt to hide the death and destruction from the world. But in this era of mobile phones and digital technology, hiding the truth is difficult.

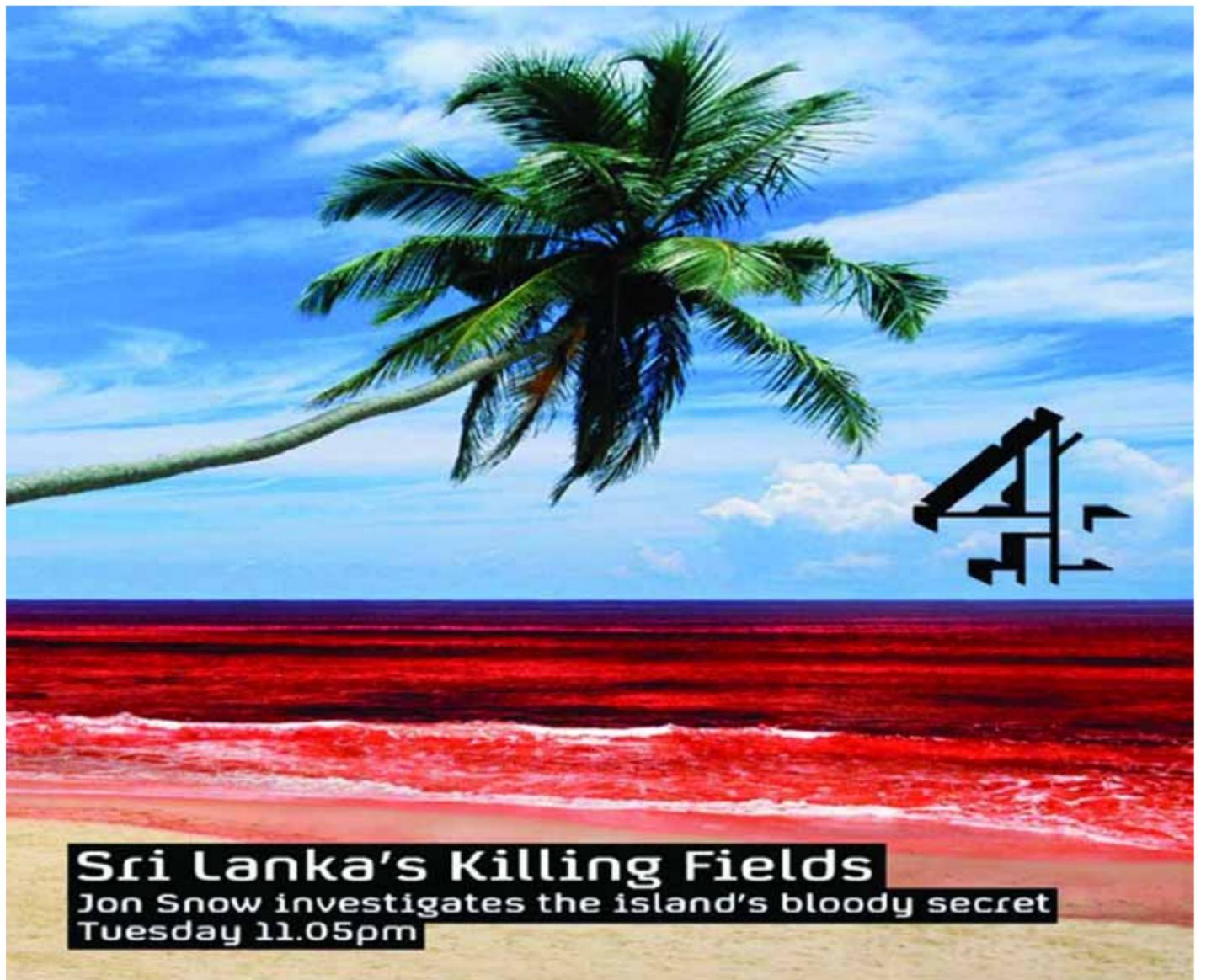
On Jun 14th, Channel 4 UK exclusively aired a series of shocking insights into the events of those final bloody weeks of conflict in 2009, broadcast in the dark hours of the night, at 11pm, which seemed fitting. You can watch it again on 4OD, here.

A huge viewing audience saw the devastating scenes that seem to show Sri Lankan government troops executing prisoners. The footage showed dead female Tamil Tigers who appear to have been raped and murdered and the cynical use by Tamil Tigers of civilians as a buffer against the Sri Lankan military. Viewers were also shown the shelling by Sri Lankan forces of crowded hospitals and civilian encampments in areas that the authorities ironically dubbed "no-fire zones".

The images reveal hidden truths about crimes against humanity committed by both sides – both committed to victory at any cost and seemingly uncaring about the suffering of those whose fates they were fighting over.

The images also highlight the need for those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity to be held to account, to secure the stability that post conflict Sri Lanka so badly needs. It has been proven that acknowledging the truth is a first step towards reconciliation, so why should this be denied to the people of Sri Lanka?

A panel of three eminent international legal experts appointed by the UN Secretary General independently found credible allegations that war crimes and



Hundreds of thousands of people around the globe continue to view 'Killing Fields', according to Channel 4

crimes against humanity were committed by both parties to the conflict from May to June 2009. These findings corroborate Amnesty International's own conclusions. But in the two years since fighting ended, no justice has been delivered. That may be about to change, and the international awareness generated by the 'Killing Fields' documentary could prove the tipping point. An Early Day Motion was brought before the House of Commons, last Thursday. That is a start, if belated.

The UN Panel of Experts suggested that only an international accountability mechanism could investigate the serious allegations properly. Such a mechanism is crucial to avoid a horrifically negative precedent for lawless behaviour worldwide, and to act as a neutral and independent body to bring out the truth that must be at the heart of genuine reconciliation.

– a group listed by many governments as a terrorist organisation – allowing for evidence implicating the Sri Lankan government in war crimes to be overlooked.

But the report of the UN Panel of

Experts is public, as is the 'Killing Fields' documentary.

While China, Russia, Cuba, and Pakistan continue to support Sri Lanka's demands for impunity, other influential governments are less inclined.

Neighbouring India, has demanded real moves toward reconciliation in Sri Lanka and notably, has not been swayed by the Sri Lankan global charm offensive. Similarly, the US has suggested it will not rule out international accountability. Many governments from the global South have also voiced disquiet about the emerging evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Ban Ki-Moon has suggested that he can only establish an international investigation if the Sri Lankan government consents, or through "a decision from Member States" through a forum such as the Human Rights Council or UN Security Council.

It would be a sad day for the authority of the Secretary General—and the implicit moral stature of his position if he could only authorize investigations approved by the government under scrutiny.

The UN and its member states need to act now to ensure that what happened in Sri Lanka is not overlooked and forgotten. At Amnesty International we hope that 'Sri Lanka's Killing Fields' awakens the public's outrage and puts pressure on governments to support a genuine reconciliation in Sri Lanka.

Justice can only be served and healing delivered if the international community launches an international, independent investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Sri Lanka. This historic opportunity must be seized, or the price for us all will be intolerably high.

[Sam Zarifi is Director, Asia-Pacific, Amnesty International]



Sam Zarifi

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Arts and Forms

ASPECTS OF ABHINAYA



by Malarvilly Janagan,
Artistic Director and the
writer of this article.

Malarvilly Janagan

Dance comprises of two components 'Nritta' - the technical aspect and 'Abhinaya' - the emotional aspect. In Abhinaya there are four types, of Angika (gesture), Vachika (words/speech), Aharya (decorations) and Satvika (emotions). A traditional Bharathanatya programme begins with nritta, pieces like Alarippu and Jatiswaram, subsequently there is a gradual increase in Abhinaya in the Sabdam and the Varnam after which Padams are featured dealing exclusively with abhinaya and that too mainly in the Satvika mode. The other three modes of abhinaya are also used but it is in the satvika mode that the rasa of every idea which are mostly love lyrics soaked in srngara rasa that the satvika element lends itself admirably for the building up of emotions and sentiments.

Besides Padams, the lyrics used in Abhinaya are Javalis, Ashtapadis, the songs of Arunachala Kavirayar, Gopalakrishna Bharati's Nandanar Lyrics, Ramanataka Slokas, Vrittams, Padyas, etc. In Padams the popular and most appropriate songs are by Kshetranya, Sarangapani, Annamayya, Subbramayyar, Ghanam Krishnayyar and many others. As most of you know, abinaya is the expression of words by the angas, upangas and prathyangas, major and minor limbs and subsidiary limbs. The face and its upangas play the most important part in Abhinaya. Without expression the hastas, hand movements and

not appropriate to the situation should not be elaborated. One should understand the situation and expand it within the scope and words of the lyrics. One can wonder around the point, but never away from it.



Kalanidhi Narayanan

Example: "Kar Ulavum, Sheer Ulavum Mithilaiyil" - This line is from "Yaro Ivar Yaro".

It describes the city of Mithila which has a very pleasant climate and which is prosperous and wealthy. Now, we are given the freedom to describe certain aspects. Without telling the whole story upto that point, it is neither apt nor justified. "Jagadodharan" gives you scope to depict astonishing things in the life of Krishna like Pootana Moksham, Sakatasura Vadham, Govardhanodharanam, Kalinga Mardanam, Draupadi Vastrapaharanam, Geeta Upadesam, but these should only be touched upon to highlight the magnitude of Krishna's pranks like stealing the butter, playing with the Gopi, it will be inappropriate and even ridiculous. Three points should be kept in view while doing sanchari. After the lines are sung once in full, only the portion which is to be taken up for sanchari. After the lines are sung once in full, only the portion which is to be taken up for sanchari should be repeated with musical variation (neraval). To these, different elaborations that have the stanzas as the starting point should be performed. While sketching out these short story-ideas, the emphasis should be on subtlety and clear-cut communication without making it seem like a full-scale drama.

Anga Suddha

The next point is Anga Suddha or perfect posture is also essential in abhinaya. Here again aesthetic adjustment is necessary. For instance, to depict the humility of Nandanar (with a bent head and hunched shoulders) it is essential to stray a little from the specified erect posture. Similarly other controlled deviations are made necessary by character, mood and situation.

When a Padam is taught, the whole context, total circumstances should be made clear to the dancer, show should know which is the main character and which are the subsidiary ones. The character whose statement is the song is the main character and the character she/he is talking about are

the subsidiary one. If prominence is given to a secondary character, the original balance of the lyrics is lost. Here are a few examples: In "Thaye Yashoda" the complainant gopi is the main character not the prankster Krishna or Yashoda. Similarly in "Pasyati Dishu Dishu" and "Dareejochu Chunnadi", the messenger is the main character, the nayika whose plight she is reporting and the nayaka who is listening to her are the subsidiary characters.

Laya

This is another important aspect which should not be forgotten. While doing Abhinaya, laya should be an intrinsic part of the dance. Every step, hand gesture, and movement of the head including facial expression, should all be in rhythm. This does not mean that a stamp of the foot should mark every beat. There should be a flow. The stopping and starting points and the body movements in dance should move with the above and flow of the song's melody.

When we talk about abhinaya, the concept of navarasa comes into the picture. Navarasas or the nine rasas form the full range of human sentiments or emotions.

- Sringara - Love*
- Veera - Valour*
- Bhaya - Fear*
- Bibhatsa - Repugnance*
- Karuna - Compassion*
- Adbhuta - Wonder*
- Raudra - Anger*
- Hasya - Humour*
- Shantha - serenity.*

It is from this state of equanimity that the different emotions are evoked and it is to this state of utter tranquility or emotionless void that one reverts to in the end. To understand the concept of Navarasa or even the concept of Abhinaya, one needs to first understand the difference between bhava and rasa. Bhava - is what an artist conjures up with her imagination and proceeds to depict with her creative skills. The artistic pleasure that is experienced because of this bhava is termed rasa. This has to be enjoyed by both the artist emoting the bhava and the audience witnessing it. Further an emotion felt implies a cause. This is termed Vibhava or the determinant - that which determines.

Now follows a voluntary feeling expression of emotion triggered by the vibhava anubhava. The anubhava is expressed in different ways termed the sanchari bhavas or vyabhichari bhavas. To take an example: A girl sees a boy and falls in love with him. The

emotion produced or the effect of the bhava is love and the cause of this emotion is the vibhava is the boy. To elaborate further bhavas give rise to a prevailing mood. In the above instance, you have the basic mood, love - the sthaya bhava; the sanchari satvika, transitory - the resultant mood.

In Abhinaya, the Rasaraja or the King of



Kalanidhi Narayanan

rasas is Sringara. It forms the basis and the inspiration of most poetry. The Sthaya bhava or the mood here is love. Sringara or love is threefold, ratishringara, when love blooms between a man and woman. Vatsalya when it is the love of a mother for a child. Bhakthi - the love inspired by god in a devotee. In these three, the sthaya remains constant but the sanchari and satvika change. To take an example from a classic lyrics, 'Krishna Nee Begane' - Krishna come quickly... can be done as an appeal by a lover, a call to a child, or prayer by a devotee.

Aspects of Abhinaya:

Kalanidhi Narayanan

(Cont.....in August 2011)



Kalanidhi Narayanan

gestures alone will not be able to bring out the exact meaning of the situation.

Example: Calling the person with anger or with love will have the same hand gesture almost, but to be meaningful, it should be combined with the right facial expression. The music also should be matched with the mood.

If it is done in pure natyadharmi or stylized and technical approach it becomes very difficult for the audience who do not know the language of gestures to understand what is being done. If it is completely lokadharmi or naturalistic it will not appeal to the viewers artistic instincts. Everything that is done in real life does not lend itself for projection on the stage. Sanchari means trying to bring out your imaginative powers to explain the situation. The literal meaning of sanchari is 'to roam about' but it should not be taken too literally. Anything that is



Kalanidhi Narayanan: younger days



Cinema World

International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA)

The International Indian Film Academy Awards, also known as the IIFA Awards are presented annually by the International Indian Film Academy to honour both artistic and technical excellence of professionals in Bollywood, the Hindi language film industry. Instituted in 2000, the ceremony is held in different countries around the world every year. This award ceremony has been organised by Wizcraft International Entertainment Pvt Ltd – one of India's premier event management and entertainment agencies - since its inception.

The 2011 IIFA Awards, officially the 12th International Indian Film Academy Awards ceremony, was held in Toronto, Canada from June 23-25, 2011.

The Awards ceremony took place at Rogers Centre and the Music & Fashion Extravaganza at the Ricoh Coliseum.

This is the first time the IIFA has been held in Canada and North America. Toronto's large South Asian population likely influenced the choice as a host city (Ontario is the province with the most Indo-Canadians at 573,250 with 484,655 in the Greater Toronto Area). The award ceremonies are held in various places around the world and has not necessarily been held in locale with a large Indian population.

Some of the photos from the events can be seen here.



Bipasha Basu performing at the IIFA Awards



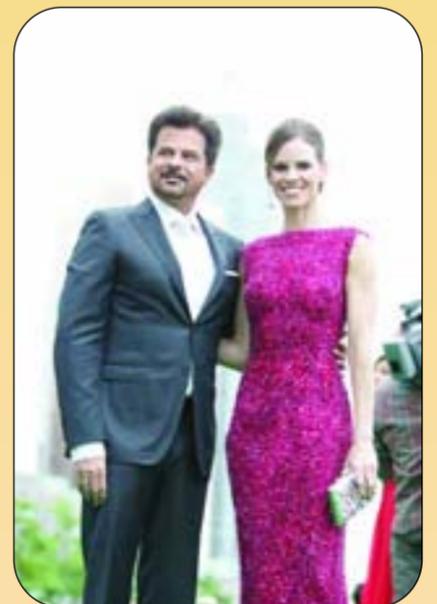
Bipasha heats up the IIFA Awards Green carpet



Kapoor Brothers at Raj Kapoor Cres in Brampton, Ontario



Shah Rukh Khan with Premier Dalton McGuinty



Hilary Swank and Anil Kapoor on the green carpet



Top winners of the night - Ranveer Singh, Anushka Sharma and Shah Rukh Khan shake a leg together



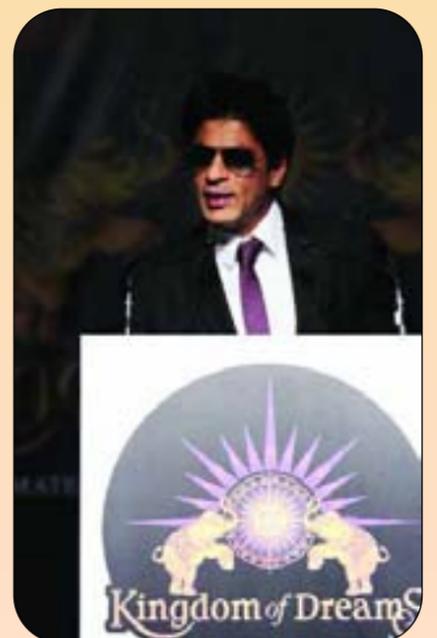
Vishal Bharadwaj wins for Best Dialogue



The curtain falls on IIFA 2011



Kangana's performance



Shah Rukh Khan

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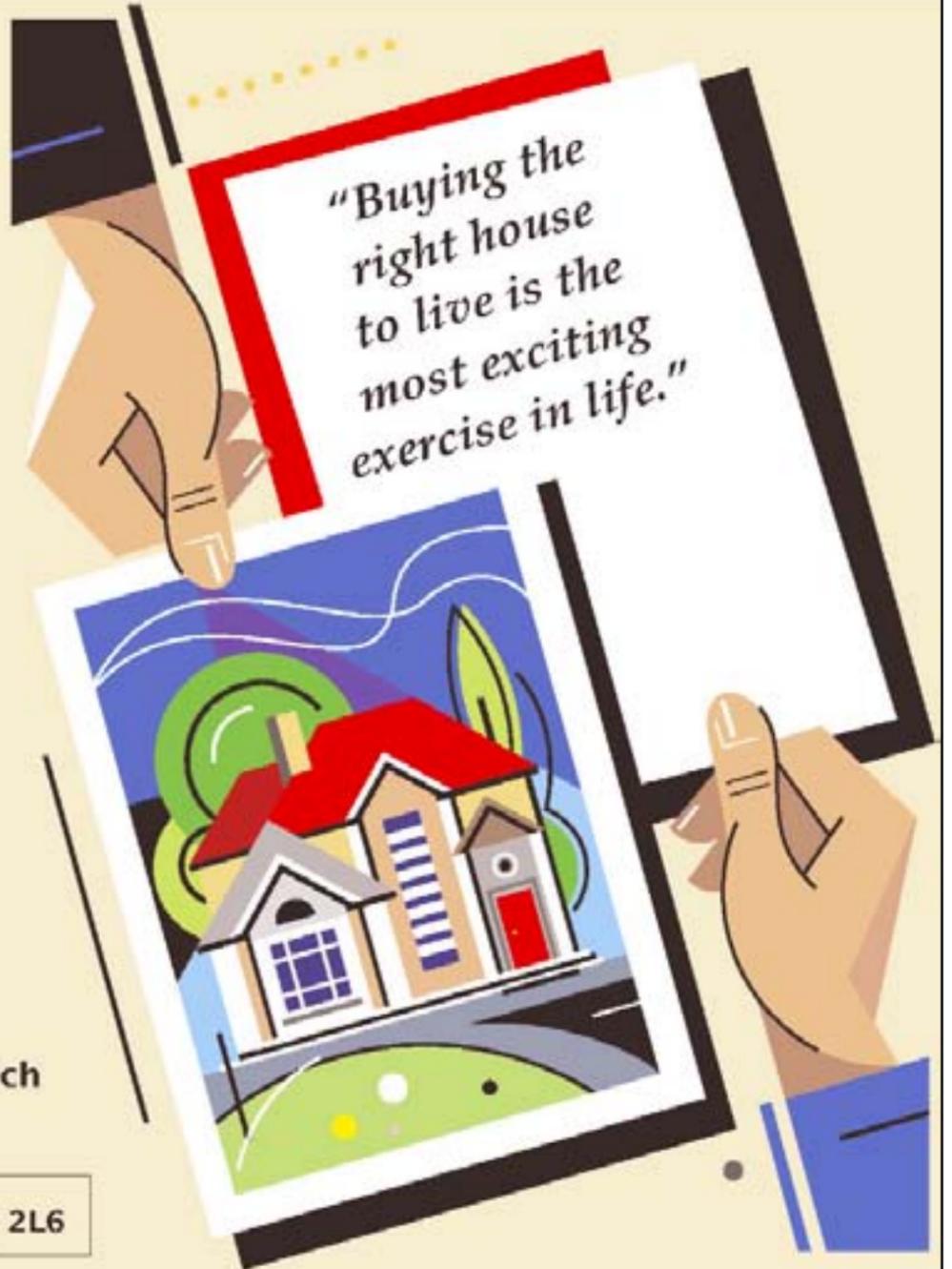
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HONDA DAILY NEWS

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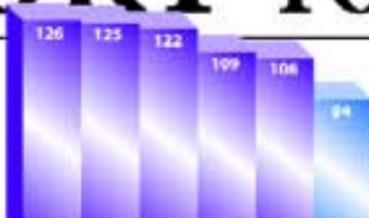
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THE SCARBOROUGH HOSPITAL | 2010-11

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



HSMR RATE AMONG GTA'S BEST

A dramatic improvement in our Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio has put us among the top performers in the GTA

A BALANCED BUDGET

The Scarborough Hospital has maintained a balanced budget for the past three years.

PATIENT SATISFACTION UP

Surveys show our patients are more satisfied than ever with their experience at the hospital

Hundreds of stakeholders contribute to hospital's Clinical Action Plan

Following an intensive process that engaged hundreds of hospital staff, physicians, clinicians and the community, The Scarborough Hospital Clinical Action Plan (CAP) will focus on Cancer and Chronic Disease Management as our two major strategic projects over the next three to five years.

The CAP process began last summer with a total of 32 recommendations covering just about every healthcare area in the hospital. Over the course of several meetings, participants from the front lines to senior management formed 'communities of practice' and were given the task of defining the services TSH should deliver.

From 32 recommendations, eleven were shortlisted and presented to a Consensus Summit that drew more than 200 hospital and community stakeholders last fall. Nine of those advanced to the business case stage and, from there, the Steering Committee made a unanimous recommendation to focus on Cancer and Chronic Disease Management.

"As many of the steering committee members pointed out, moving forward with Cancer and CDM will have the strongest impacts throughout the organization," says Dr. Wright, TSH's President and CEO.

"To be a strong cancer care provider, for example, we will need to focus on making sure we have the very best surgical support for those patients. To truly offer patient-centred chronic disease management, we will need to change many of our processes and procedures to make them more patient-centred. The impacts will be significant and positive throughout the organization."

TSH's Board of Directors is now working on a strategy to put those recommendations into action.



MRI announced for Birchmount campus

Patients awaiting MRIs at The Scarborough Hospital will now face shorter wait times. The Hon. Gerry Phillips, MPP for Scarborough-Agincourt, announced approval and base funding for a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) unit at the Birchmount campus, expected to be operational later this year. An MRI is considered a vital diagnostic imaging tool. In 2010, 247 patients were transported from the Birchmount campus to the General campus via ambulance. With a new MRI machine, the Birchmount campus will be able to perform more than 2,000 scans every year, providing more timely and more efficient care to our patients, close to home. By committing the funds to operate the MRI, the government has signaled a strong future for the Birchmount campus. The first phase of the Scarborough MRI Campaign to raise the funds from the community to purchase the MRI is currently underway.

Looking forward to future achievements



Michael Mueller
Chair of the Board

This year's Annual General Meeting provided an opportunity for us to pause, reflect, and celebrate the many achievements that have taken place at The Scarborough Hospital in the last 12 months.

There are many, many highlights—the approval of the MRI which will be up and running at the Birchmount campus this fall, the continued improvements in patient safety and quality of care and improved relations with our community. These are achievements we should all be proud of.

But I want to be clear to my fellow board members, hospital staff and the community that the work is far from over, and despite the many victories, there is still much work to be done.

In my time as Chair of the Board I have learned exactly how challenging it is to run a hospital. I have held leadership positions in several large, multi-national organizations and their complexity is nothing compared to hospitals. The pace of change, the budget challenges, the regulatory and reporting requirements and the importance of the work that takes place at a hospital all add up to an extremely challenging environment.

But the men and women who have chosen healthcare as their vocation came here willingly, attracted by this challenge and a firm commitment to patient care. And so we need to continue pushing forward—raising the bar on our key

objective of quality care.

We need to find ways to connect with people's passion to achieve excellence and to innovate. We need to learn from our mistakes. We need to put good processes in place and at the same time find ways to remain nimble and responsive despite the size of the organization and the complexity of the system.

Most of all, we need to remain patient-centred—inviting our patients and our community to be part of the solution, and keeping an open dialogue based on mutual trust and respect.

If we can do that, there is no question in my mind that The Scarborough Hospital will continue to have successes to report at its AGMs.

Touching Lives, Saving Lives

It has been a very good year for The Scarborough Hospital Foundation, and we are grateful to the critical role that donors, organizations and businesses played in helping us to achieve our goals to support the best healthcare for our global community in Scarborough. In the last year, TSH Foundation:

- Granted \$2.7 million to the Hospital for the purchase of new equipment, staff education and capital projects such as our new emergency and critical care building
- Increased revenue by 25%
- Decreased expenses by 15%
- Increased staff and physician gifts by 200% (since 2008)
- Recruited 4 new business leaders to sit on the Foundation's volunteer Board of Directors
- Secured the largest gift in the hospital's history: an anonymous pledge of \$3.1 million which will be paid over the next 5 years
- Was awarded the Imagine Canada Ethical Code for operating a responsible, transparent and accountable charity following best practice, Canada Revenue



- Agency and good governance
- Increased our total donors by 20%
- Increased the average gift by 100%
- Supported, mobilized and connected with our many communities to raise funds and support our hospital through walks, raffles, tournaments and many other fundraising initiatives

Over the next 10 years, The Scar-

borough Hospital will undergo an unprecedented period of growth and redevelopment which will focus on the purchase of new equipment such as an MRI for the Birchmount campus, and a new Diagnostic Imaging concourse and surgical pavilion at the General campus. It is an exciting time. Strong communities do build strong hospitals, and we will accomplish all of our community and hospital goals with your support. Thank you for making a difference.



Situated in the most diverse community in Canada, The Scarborough Hospital (TSH) delivers innovative, high-quality patient care at two hospital campuses and six satellite sites. The Scarborough Hospital is a regional centre for dialysis and is renowned for its sexual assault care centre and mental health programs. Affiliated with the University of Toronto, TSH is also a referral centre for vascular surgery, pacemakers and corneal implants.

The Scarborough Hospital's vision is to be recognized as Canada's leader in providing the best healthcare for a global community. Here at TSH, we embrace and celebrate our community's unique religious and multicultural heritage, and are proud of the culturally sensitive care we provide on a daily basis.



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Birchmount campus
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Top Tips for Staying Healthy Blog:
tshtoptips.wordpress.com

Our Patient Declaration of Values

As a patient of The Scarborough Hospital, I will receive the best healthcare at both the Birchmount and General campuses.

RESPECT

Knowing that each time I enter the hospital, I will be treated with courtesy, patience and respect by all staff members at all times.

QUALITY

I will receive high quality, safe, evidence-based medical care and services. In the event that these services are specialized elsewhere, I will be promptly referred and transitioned to that care provider.

TIMELINESS

I will be prioritized and informed promptly and my health condition will be diagnosed in an efficient manner.

VOICE

My voice will be heard regardless of the language I

speak or the cultural community with which I identify.

INFORMED

I will have access to timely and complete health information that includes options, so informed decisions can be made. I have a right to participate in decisions relating to my treatment and care.

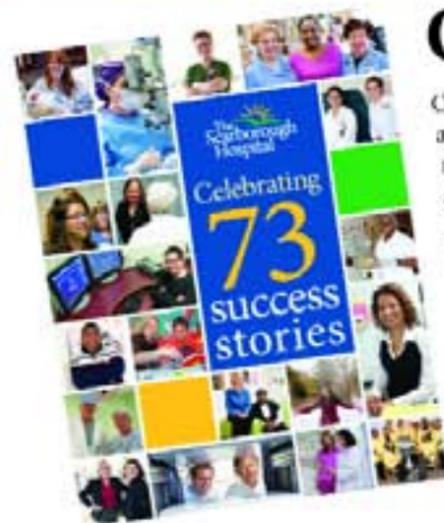
CONFIDENTIALITY

I will feel confident knowing that all personal and medical information is kept confidential and handled in accordance with the Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004.

ENGAGEMENT

I will be able to participate in the continuous improvement of the hospital and its services through community engagement and feedback.

A copy of our Patient Declaration of Values is available for download from our website at www.tsh.to



Celebrating our successes

Our staff, physicians, volunteers—and patients—have plenty of reasons to celebrate the incredible accomplishments that have been witnessed at The Scarborough Hospital in the past couple of years.

We have seen dramatic gains in staff and patient satisfaction. Our infection rates are greatly improved. We've had a balanced budget for the past three years. And community

support for our Foundation is helping us purchase urgently needed state-of-the-art medical equipment and fund important capital projects such as our West Wing expansion.

These, and many other worthwhile accomplishments, were the focus of a recent publication called "Celebrating 73 success stories." The booklet was distributed to all staff at the hospital, and is available for download in the Publications section of our website at www.tsh.to

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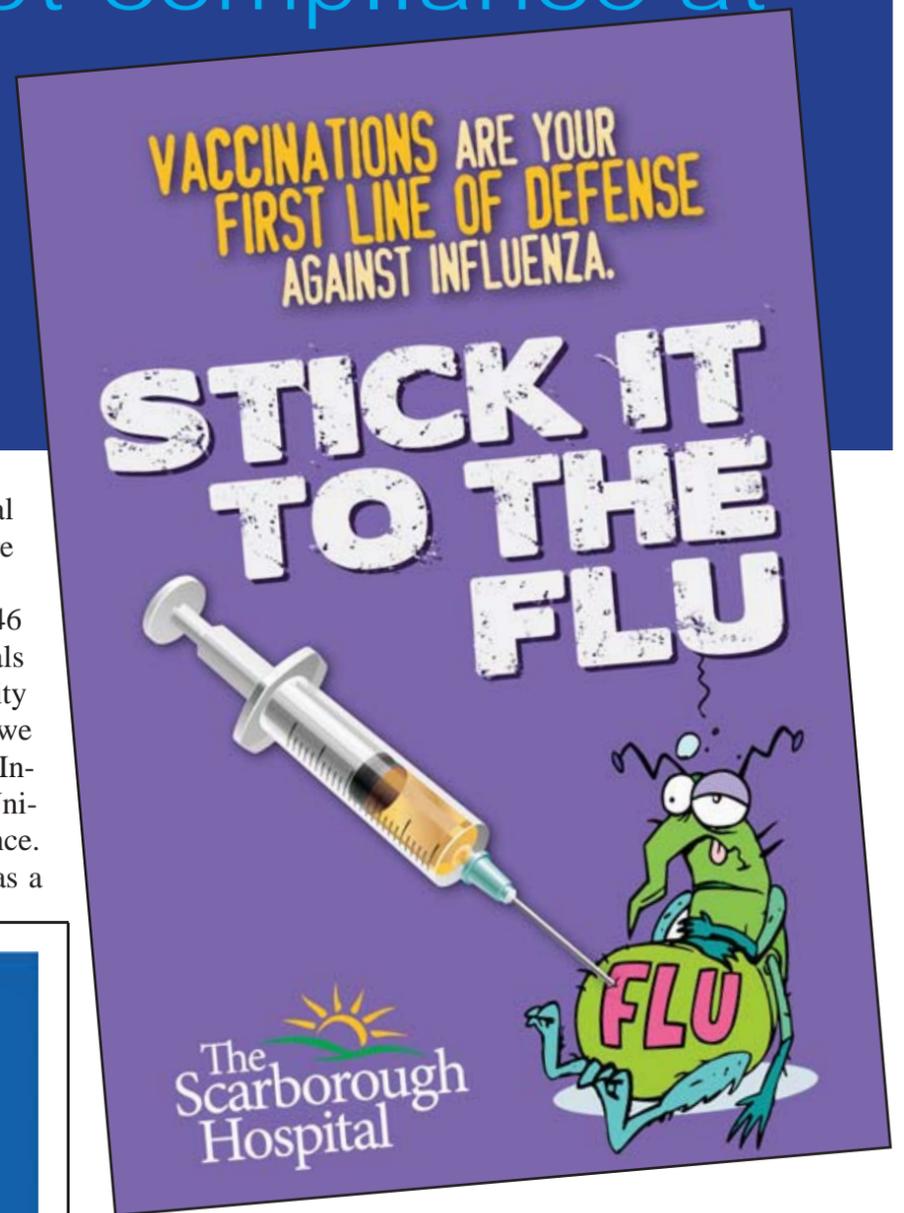
The Scarborough Hospital

Major hike in flu shot compliance at The Scarborough Hospital

Marking a dramatic turnaround in just two years, The Scarborough Hospital rated the second highest in flu vaccine compliance among Toronto's acute care hospitals, according to an annual report by Toronto Public Health.

"Our compliance rate for 2010/2011 is 45 per cent (General campus) and 46 per cent (Birchmount campus), placing us second out of 18 acute care hospitals in Toronto," says Yvonne Walfall, Manager, Occupational Health & Disability Management at TSH. "That's a huge improvement over 2008/2009, when we were at the bottom of the list at 24 per cent and 29 per cent." In the report, 'Influenza Rates of Healthcare Workers in Toronto Healthcare Facilities,' only University Health Network (UHN) rated higher than TSH in flu vaccine compliance.

This year's TSH campaign, with its catchy theme, 'Stick It to the Flu,' was a



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Shotgun Start: 1:30 p.m.
Dinner and Awards: 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

combination of excellent communications and easier access to the flu shot for all staff.

"We had the resources we needed, for staffing clinics, space to set up flu clinics, top-of-the-line needles, mobile carts roaming 24/7 and lots of communications," explains Occupational

The Scarborough Hospital rated the second highest in flu vaccine compliance among Toronto's acute care hospitals, according to an annual report by Toronto Public Health.

Health Nurse Campaign and Clinical Lead Teresa McCormack. "And it's not about the free coffee vouchers, but about relating to hospital employees, teaching them what they need to know."

While the flu vaccine is not mandatory for hospital staff, the key was to ensure staff made informed choices.

"We took the time to sit down with people in the units, addressed their concerns one-on-one, and educate them on the facts about the flu vaccine," Yvonne says. "That personal touch made a huge difference in the success of this year's flu vaccine campaign."

Richmond Hill



COUNCILLOR HOGG RE-ELECTED TO NATIONAL BOARD

Richmond Hill continues representation on national Federation of Canadian Municipalities

RICHMOND HILL – Richmond Hill Regional & Local Councillor, Brenda Hogg, was re-elected to the National Board of Directors at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) 74th Annual Conference and Municipal Expo™ in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

"I love working with hard working, dynamic politicians from across the country," said Councillor Hogg. "Through my work with the FCM, I have the opportunity to learn about municipal issues nation-wide and present our research and requests to the Federal government."

First elected to FCM's Board in 1997, Councillor Hogg has held many significant offices including the office of Vice-President-at-Large, Chair of the Ontario Regional Committee from 1999 to 2002, Chair of the Social Economic Development Committee; Chair of the Quality of Life Reporting System; Co-chair of the Finance and Inter-governmental Arrangements Committee and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on International Relations.

With Councillor Hogg's re-election, the Town and Region of York continue to be well-represented in the national municipal arena in dealing with policy and program matters. One of Councillor Hogg's main concerns is ensuring that municipalities maintain direct communication with the Federal government to keep them informed about the front line service that local governments provide to

local communities.

"Through our collective lobbying, FCM has established a strong voice at the Federal level of government and brought attention to Richmond Hill and York Region and their need for funding from FCM's Green Municipal Funds for many local "green" projects," said Councillor Hogg. "FCM has also negotiated a more direct relationship with the Federal government and now has a 'seat at the table' during Federal budget deliberations and for the first time ever- was represented during the recent Throne Speech."

Over the past few years, the Town has received millions of dollars from the Federal government through the FCM initiative, specifically for environmentally sustainable projects like Richmond Hill's Pioneer Park Stormwater Management Rehabilitation Project.

The FCM has been the national voice of municipal government since 1901. With more than 1,775 members, the organization represents the interests of municipalities on policy and program matters that fall within federal jurisdiction. The National Board of Directors is elected annually during the Annual General Meeting by elected members of municipal governments who are also members of FCM. The Board meets quarterly to develop policy positions on key national municipal issues.

RICHMOND HILL MAKES THE GRADE

Council, Staff and the Community Continuing to Move from Vision to Action

RICHMOND HILL – Two years have passed since the Town of Richmond Hill first released its new Strategic Plan and, since that time, so much has been accomplished!

Richmond Hill successfully accessed nearly \$30 million in grants to fund 13 projects. In response to the desire of its residents the Town also created a new Environmental Services Division and established an Energy Management Plan, all while ensuring that the community is engaged in these and other important Richmond Hill projects.

"The Strategic Plan has always been a plan for the people, by the people," said Dave Barrow, Mayor. "It's a road map for this Council as we move forward and grow in a meaningful way. All of the accomplishments that have been made so far, along with all that we still have to do,

will continue to be in the best interest of the people who live and work here and, even more importantly, with their help."

Not only has a new Official Plan been completed, but work has also begun on the development of the Town's first Cultural Plan. New trails and cycling infrastructure were created, and the Going Green program was expanded to include apartments (diverting even more waste from landfills). Construction is also well underway on a new community centre in Oak Ridges, along with plans for a new fire station as well. Three new Task Forces were also created to help staff and Council manage some of the bigger, long-term projects about to be undertaken by the Town. And, of course, Richmond Hill got a new brand.

The 2011 Annual Report and Phase 2 Implementation Plan documents that

RICHMOND HILL BRANDED AS AN AWARD WINNER AGAIN

Receives IABC/Toronto OVATION Award of Merit for recent branding project

RICHMOND HILL – Since its launch, Richmond Hill's new brand has captured the hearts of the community and now it has captured an award as well, recently receiving an OVATION Award by the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Toronto chapter.

On May 25, 2011, the Town of Richmond Hill was awarded an OVATION Award of Merit by IABC/Toronto for its branding project - titled Richmond Hill Has a New Look! At last night's Council meeting, Mayor Dave Barrow was presented with the award by staff.

"We are proud to have been awarded for the work we did on our branding project," said Mayor Barrow. "Our new brand reflects the rich history of the community with the retention of a modified version of our traditional crest as well as a new logo that supports the modern and progressive place we are today."

The OVATION Awards recognize excellence in communications in the GTA and are organized by IABC Toronto chapter, the largest chapter in the world with more than 1,700 members. This year, Richmond Hill was selected from a record-breaking number of entries to the program, with over 218 submissions. The project was judged in the "Brand Communication" category by two senior level practitioners. Standardized criteria was used to evaluate the entry that consisted of a work plan and work samples that demonstrated how the project applied a full range of communication planning and management skills and how the entry related to and affected the organization's overall business strategies.

were approved by Council at its June 13 meeting detail the next steps Richmond Hill will take to see the vision, created two years ago, become actionable items. Some of the key initiatives and priorities that will be undertaken over the next five years include the Civic Precinct Project, implementation of the Economic Development Strategy and Official Plan implementation.

"Phase Two is about to get underway and will bring with it opportunities for connection, innovation and change," said the Mayor. "The past two years we needed to first plan our actions and now we need to action our plans. We look forward to continuing to work with the community to achieve our goals."

In addition to specific projects, the report also sets out key dates and indicator measures that will be used to evaluate success. Specifically, 41 short and long-term indicators have been identified



New Logo - Town of Richmond Hill

Richmond Hill employed a number of communication tactics and drew on multiple areas of public relations practice in both building awareness of the new brand amongst residents and visitors as well as educating staff on proper and consistent usage. In addition to commending the Town for its solution of retaining the crest for certain purposes, the judges also commented on the Town's efforts to involve the community. They also went on to say that, "the brand clearly tells a new fresh story and image for Richmond Hill."

Municipal branding has become an important step towards differentiation and development for communities large and small in Canada and around the world. Richmond Hill had never been through a robust brand development process that captures the defining characteristics of the Town and includes the creation of a modern, sophisticated corporate logo to effectively support the communication and marketing objectives. Ultimately, the new brand helps strengthen Richmond Hill as a respected municipality and is more reflective of its mission and values.

Richmond Hill previously won an OVATION Award of Merit in 2010 for its Strategic Plan project. For more information of the Town's new logo and brand including the YouTube video, visit Richmondhill.ca/Brand.

to help the Town track its progress in addressing the Strategic Plan goals and strategies. The timeline for this second phase of implementation is 2011 to 2014.

In 2010, the Town won an OVATION Award of Merit from the International Association of Business Communicators for communicating and engaging the community in the development of the Strategic Plan. More recently this past May, Richmond Hill's Strategic Plan was awarded the Richard Goodman Strategic Planning Award by the Association for Strategic Planning, only the second Canadian municipality to be recognized in the 10 years the award has been granted.

Copies of the Strategic Plan Annual Report 2011 and the Phase 2 Implementation Plan documents will soon be posted online at RichmondHill.ca/StrategicPlan.

Jaffna Student in Greece for Olympics



Thushyanthan Sivarajah, from Sivapoomi School for Special Needs has arrived in Athens, Greece to participate in the 2011 Summer Special Olympics.

2011 Summer Special Olympics being held during the first two weeks of July. This year there were six students selected from Sri Lanka to participate in the Special Olympics. Thushyanthan is the first Tamil student ever to be selected from Sri Lanka.

The Sivapoomi School for Special

Needs was founded 7 years ago by Mr. Aru Thirumurugan. This school serves 215 students with mixed disabilities within the Jaffna District. Mrs. Kalaivani Kugathasan is the Director of the school with 14 teachers under her guidance.

The selection of Thushyanthan to the Special Olympics Team is a great achievement for the Sivapoomi School and the entire Community.



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Sports



The Score on Cricket

CHRIS GAYLE Saga Continues...

By Tashvir Narine

The game of Cricket has surely evolved over the past handful of years in many aspects. It is truly a global phenomenon that we have been privileged to enjoy, when you look back at how the game transgressed from decades past. If you rode the Toronto subway ten years ago with a cricket bat, most non-Cricket fans would be oblivious to what the object was, but now it's a whole new ball game, no pun intended. On today's cricket informs and stadiums, one can even see that corporate sponsorship rivals that of most major North American and European sports.

One factor could be that that the sport itself has become much more exciting, with the expansion of twenty over matches including international players now shifting their trade to India to participating in the IPL tournaments. But with athletic enthusiasm and economic stimulation, there will always be conflict and disagreements, such is the nature of the beast.

Take Chris Gayle for example. The Jamaican opening batsman guided the Challengers to the IPL finals with his extraordinary batting innings, but at the same time has also been left out of the West Indies team since the World Cup, in a scene that appears to be taken from a stage play.

Known worldwide, Gayle has been a leading force in the West Indies attack for the past decade, proving to be one of the key wickets in its batting lineup. His empowering frame is intimidating to any bowler, as even when he makes an incorrect shot, the power in his swing can correct the mistake. In fact, just last year

Gayle recorded a triple century in a test match versus Sri Lanka in November. However, relations have been attacked between Gayle and the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) recently and a stand off has taken place, with both sides failing to amend this break thus far.

Going back to the World Cup earlier this year, the West Indies made it to the quarterfinals, losing out to Pakistan in a poor performance, amounting only 112 runs. This was surely not the results anyone in the West Indies was hoping for, certainly not the WICB. But blame does fall to the biggest stars in such situations, and it was pointed out that Gayle might not have carried his weight in the competition. Following the World Cup, the West Indies met up with Pakistan and in a shocking move, left Gayle out of the side for the two one day internationals. One might note that also excluded were fellow stars Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Ramnaresh Sarwan, which the WICB accounted for, saying they were giving some international experience to some of the younger players.

In sports, it is highly noted that experience is important but youth also plays a big part of success. So no one could lay fault on the WICB for attempting this endeavour, however it seems now that conflicts were already simmering between Gayle and the board, because on April 20th, Gayle signed with Royal Challengers Bangalore for the 2011 season, making himself unavailable for the test series that was upcoming. This angered the board who claimed that he chose to play in the IPL over representing his country. It was also noted that the board was awaiting a fitness test



from Gayle as he was recovering from an injury sustained in the World Cup.

The climax of the saga could have been April 21st however, when Gayle attacked the management and board of the West Indies team on a radio interview who felt that the selectors should have contacted him before dropping him from the side to face Pakistan, and also to have done a better job monitoring his progress of rehabilitation. Thus his decision was to go to India and not represent the West Indies. In response, the board who was angered by Gayle's comments, claimed that this was indeed not true and the standoff began then. West Indies lost 3 of the 5 ODIs against Pakistan and split one of the two test matches, which could have yielded more promising results perhaps, if Gayle was in the lineup.

Following this series, the West Indies has then hosted India and the test matches continue as we speak. On June

23rd India defeated the West Indies in Jamaica, where Gayle originates from. One can only imagine the whispers from the crowd commenting on the saga, but as of now there is still no sign of Gayle in a West Indies uniform.

Known worldwide, Gayle has been a leading force in the West Indies attack for the past decade, proving to be one of the key wickets in its batting lineup. His empowering frame is intimidating to any bowler, as even when he makes an incorrect shot, the power in his swing can correct the mistake. In fact, just last year Gayle recorded a triple century in a test match versus Sri Lanka in November.

Sports

South Asian superstars bring RBC's commitment to cricket to life in Greater Toronto

Recently in Toronto South Asian superstars Wasim Akram and Sunil Joshi thrilled young cricketers and cricket fans of all ages across Greater Toronto. The former Pakistan and India national team players were brought to Canada by RBC to help put the spotlight on RBC's ongoing contributions to grassroots cricket.

From Friday June 24 to Monday June 27, Akram and Joshi tutored local children, signed autographs and shared their passion for the game with fans all across the city. Highlights of their tour of the Toronto area included:

- Participating in a coaching session for children at Valley Park Middle School in Don Mills, and a youth cricket practice session at Scarborough's L'Amoreaux Park for City of Toronto students, the CIMA Cup team, and OCA U19 players.

- Helping officially open Thackeray Park Cricket Field in Etobicoke, highlighting a \$25,000 RBC donation towards a practice net, tutoring local youth, and presenting free RBC Wicket Cricket equipment to four local schools.

- Helping kick-off the opening ceremonies of the RBC OCA Elite Trophy Tournament in Brampton.

- Engaging fans of all ages at autograph sessions at RBC branches in Fairview Mall, Brampton and Cooksville.



“The former Pakistan and India national team players were brought to Canada by RBC to help put the spotlight on RBC's ongoing contributions to grassroots cricket.”

RBC's goal is to create a legacy that will enable schools and neighbourhoods to build on their love of the game, pass along cherished traditions to our children, and create healthy vibrant communities. Akram agrees this is the right approach to helping grow the game in Canada “You go to grassroots, you go to schools, you coach kids and just explain to the kids that actually this game is a unique game and a simple game.”

“What RBC is trying to do for the youth cricket of this country is fantastic” said Joshi. Over the past five years, the RBC Wicket Cricket program has delivered free cricket equipment to more than 1,100 schools across the country. More than \$250,000 worth of cricket-related grants have also been donated to municipalities, recreation centres and cricket clubs. And each summer, RBC donates cricket



equipment to various municipal day camps and cricket associations.

In May, 2011 the RBC Foundation announced \$100,000 in funding to help improve access to cricket in four Canadian municipalities, including a \$25,000 grant in Toronto's Thorncliffe neighbourhood that will help turn a baseball diamond into a 'multi-purpose' field with portable wickets and stumps and a batting practice area built into the existing backstop.

RBC is also supporting Cricket Across The Pond, a community initiative led by CIMA Canada and the Access & Diversity Unit of the Parks, Forestry & Recreation to provide opportunities to youth from diverse neighborhoods to participate in a fully paid cricket training trip to the UK.

Cricket continues to be one of the fastest growing sports in Toronto. Thanks to the commitment from organizations like RBC, and thanks to the inspiration provided by Akram and Joshi over these past four days, maybe one day Canada will have its own ICC Hall of Famers to celebrate.

Courtesy: Diversity Communications, Toronto

Tribute

Mrs. Packiam Sivalingam (Packiam Teacher)

29 April 1921 – 18 June 2011

Mrs. Packiam Sivalingam (Packiam Teacher) passed on peacefully Saturday, June 18th in Sydney, Australia in the presence of her loving family. She was born on April 29, 1921. She celebrated her 90th birthday last April in the company of her children

She was known to be a strict, kind and compassionate teacher who inspired her students so much that many of them went on to become prominent leaders.



Mrs. Packiam Sivalingam

and grandchildren. The wake was observed on Friday, June 24th and the funeral services were conducted on Saturday the 25th, both in Sydney. A memorial celebrating her life is being planned to be held in the Chicago area around July 17th. If you require additional information please email chelva@aol.com.

Packiam Teacher was the proud mother of, **Sivothyayan (London), Sivakumari (Sydney), Sivabalakan (Sydney), Dr. Sivathanan (London), Prof. Sivanesan (Oklahoma), Prof. Sivananthan (Chicago), Jeyakumari (New Jersey), Sivendran (New York), Banukumari (Sri Lanka), loving mother in law of Subathra (London), Dr. Shanmuganathan (Sydney),**

Ketharagowri (Oklahoma), Vasanthi (London), Dr. Inthumathy (Chicago), Theivakumar (New Jersey), affectionate grandmother of **Sharmila, Suganthan, Gowri, Kausala, Niroshan, Samantha, Thasani, Abirami, Tharani, Kirupan, Satheesh, Famina, Matt & Sri** and the blessed great grandmother of **Isaac**.

Packiam Teacher's quiet strength and exemplary character is seen in everything she did, most especially in the outstanding academic, professional and spiritual accomplishments of her children. She was a devoted wife,

taking care of her husband through his entire life. After **Mr. Sivalingam**, fondly known around the world as Sivalingam Master, passed away she relented to her daughter's plea to move in with her. She spent the last 17 Years of her life with her daughter, son in law and grandchildren in Sydney. She was blessed with frequent visits from her children and grandchildren from around the globe. Please find, attached herewith, the photos of Packiam Teacher and Sivalingam Master from Dr. Siva's talk during the Distinguished Professor Award Ceremony earlier this year.

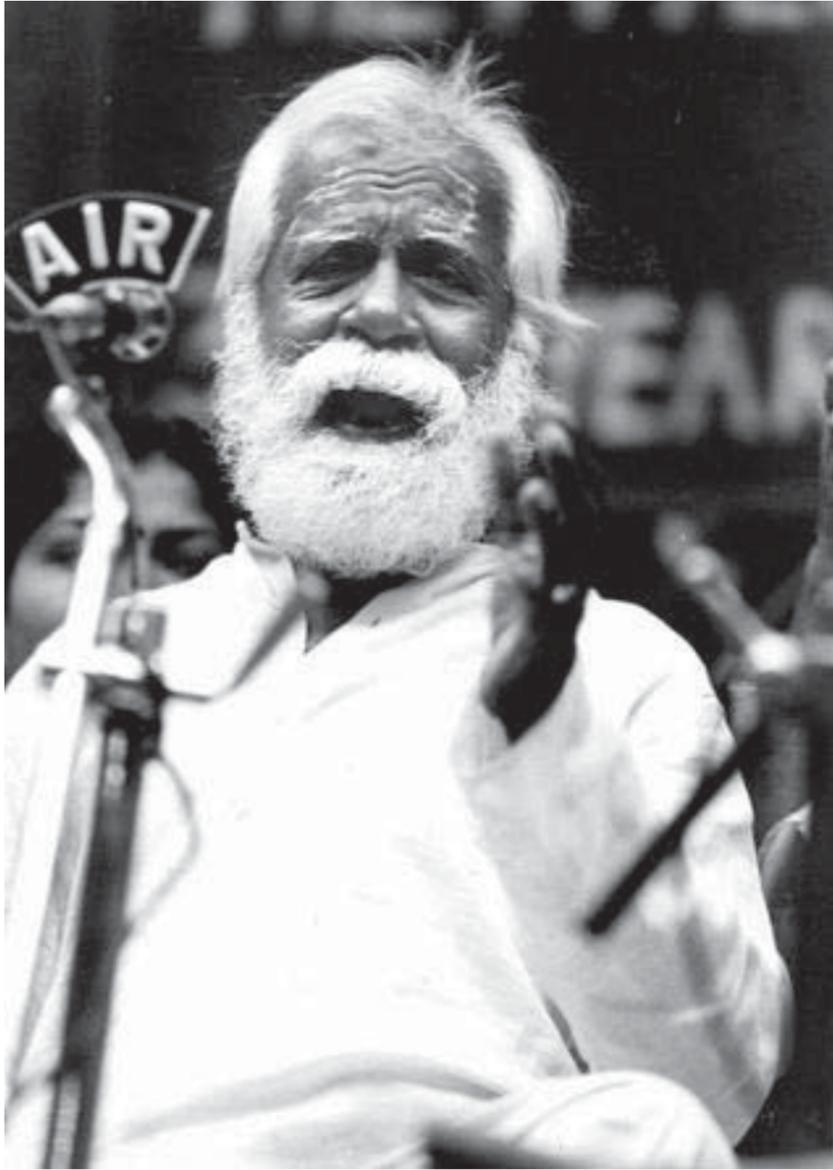
Packiam Teacher married at the young age of 24. She taught junior high and high school aged children and was a well respected Principal of the Junior High School. She was known to be a strict, kind and compassionate teacher who inspired her students so much that many of them went on to become prominent leaders. She lived in a society that revered teachers at a Saintry level for good teachers molded solid

foundations for their students' lives. She most certainly earned such reverence. Being a working mother she still found enough time to manage the affairs of her husband as well as all her children. She was the oldest among her 8 siblings, and educated them as well, on top of her many other duties.

Packiam Teacher died as she lived, with the highest affection and respect of all who knew her.

For additional information please email : chelva@aol.com.

Tribute



AN ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF MUSIC: S. Ramanathan.

By Geetha Bennet

A Tribute to renowned musician S. Ramanathan, by his daughter Geetha Bennet published in *The Hindu* recently, in commemoration of Father's Day that passed on June 19:

'It is a great honour for me to share a few things'

It is a great honour for me to share a few things about my guru and father Sangita Kalanidhi, Isai Perarignar Dr. S. Ramanathan, musician and musicologist. There are several aspects of my father that we all admire: his simplicity, unassuming quality, his thirst for knowledge, and more than anything else his humanity.

As far as I know my father had never spoken ill of any one. He had the kindest heart to sit in the front row to listen to even a very young kid singing and say a few encouraging words after. He believed that any one can learn music and would never turn down anybody who showed an interest to study with him.

He used to say that teaching and sharing one's knowledge were very important. "It does not matter what you do today, but it is very important what you are doing for posterity."

MUSICIAN WITH MANY DIMENSIONS

Not surprising that many of his students are successful artists spreading Carnatic music all over the world.

Appa was known for his singing, playing the veena, musicology and research work. There were other facets of father which were also unique. The first that comes to my mind is his command of the English language. We would have games choosing difficult words at random and

one of the participants had to give the meaning. Appa never made a mistake. When we questioned him how he got it right every time he shared the secret. "Go to the root of any word... that is the way to learn the meaning."

We lived our younger days in Chennai at 20, Sydoji Street, Thiruvallikeni, which is near the Marina beach. Appa would walk us to the beach before sunrise and give us several kinds of lessons; one day he would teach us English conversation, another day he would ask us to memorise Thevaram, Thirupugazh, Bharatiar, Kamba Ramayanam poems and so on.

Sitting on the sand he would explain the meaning of the song which we were memorising. Even today the whole Ramanathan clan knows and remembers all these songs, poems, and authors.

On a more personal note the very first time when Appa came back from the U.S. in 1962 he brought many Hollywood movie scripts such as 'It Happened One Night' and the Alfred Hitchcock classic 'Rebecca.' Fascinated, I started reading them even in my school days. The first time

I came to the U.S., I made it a point to see all those films. It opened up a new avenue for me. This exposure could easily be one of the reasons for my writing Tamil fiction later on.

Appa's thirst for knowledge was amazing. When he later came to stay with us in California, I had to drive him to the West Covina Library every other day. His subjects of interest varied including autobiography, philosophy, cinema scripts and short stories from all over the world.

Appa was a walking encyclopaedia. Any question you asked him about music he would answer without referring to a book.

In his last days, Appa was bedridden with lung cancer. He was not able to eat, speak or move around. I would sit next to him and play the veena. Those were the hardest moments of my life.

I had just learnt a piece, 'Ika naina na,' in ragam Pushpalathika, from a cassette and wanted to play it for him, but had no clue who the composer was. When I asked him, in that semi-conscious condition, in a very feeble voice he said, 'Tirupati Narayanaswamy.' I broke down and started crying.

He believed that one should know everything in one's field. He proved it even in his last moments. His soul left his body listening to ragam Suruti sung by my sister, Dr. Vanathy Raghuraman and S. Sowmya, both his students.

When Dr. S.R. passed away, T.S. Parthasarathy, well-known musicologist had written in *Kalki*, Tamil weekly, that as long as Carnatic music existed, S. Ramanathan's name would also be there. I think this summarises appa's musical accomplishments.

Wherever he is, he is singing his heart out with the angels.

Courtesy:

Photo D. Krishnan via The Hindu

Op-Ed



Be unattached to fruit of work

Lord Krishna states in Bhagavad Gita that man attains perfection by performing his allotted duties in a spirit of sacrifice which means without bothering for the fruit of actions, without attachment and even without the feeling that I am the doer of actions. When you offer the fruit of your actions to God and also its doer ship then your work becomes worship of God. With actions performed in this manner one attains purity of mind which is a prerequisite for gaining progress in the spiritual path. Man has to perform certain obligatory duties while living in the world which are listed below.

Our first duty

Our first duty is toward our own self. Man is not only a body but primarily an Atma or soul possessing a body. We are primarily Atma and then a body. Atma can move from one place to another without a body but body without Atma is inert. Atma being a fraction of God its inherent nature is SATCHIT ANAND which is absolute Truth, Absolute Knowledge and Absolute BLISS. Generally we neglect the nourishment of Atma and give utmost importance to improve our physical charm. We feel that if our body is attractive our mind and intellect shall also grow. This is not true our constituents of our personality that is physical, mental, intellectual and spiritual are to be nourished separately to attain a whole some personality. For its nourishment Atma needs rest, silence, peace, love, truthfulness, happiness and righteousness. When we acquire these traits, then Atma manifest itself in our conduct. A complete man is not only worldly wise but also spiritually elevated which is only possible when we cater for the need to nourish Atma. Permanent happiness which is un conditional lies inside us in Atma. In life we generally nourish the visible part of our self like the body but ignore the invisible and subtle part of us which are mind, intellect and Atma when we nourish Atma, our mind remains silent and intellect sharp..

Our body consist of body, mind and intellect and hence our duties are to keep each one of them in a nourished state. To keep the body in a fit state body should be given Satvik food, body should be exercised and kept neat and clean. Body is the temple of God and therefore it is our responsibility to keep the temple of God free from any type of dirt. Mind should be nourished with love, concentration and cheerfulness. Mind should be kept pure by allowing it to practise spiritual values. Intellect should be nourished by knowledge and wisdom by yoga and by meditation intellect should also be exercised by giving judgements after discriminating between what is right and what is wrong and following the righteous path.



It should be noted that mind is the chief factor governing the body. We should avoid suggesting to the mind of our limitations like sickness, old age and death. If mind is kept healthy the body will be able to handle its stress. Mental hygiene is superior to physical hygiene. A healthy mind also helps us to form good relationship with others.

Our second duty

Our second duty is towards, the maintenance and upkeep of our family. We should never have a possessive attitude towards them but we should act like a trustee without attachment in meeting their day to day requirements. It is our responsibility to teach higher values of life to our children. Children learn more by actions of their parents rather than by words. It is therefore essential that our conduct as parents should be exemplary. If parents actions are righteous. Trustworthy and helpful, children shall adopt these traits with no difficulty. What children learn from their parents remain with them life long. Do not throw your anger on your children for some of their faults. Make them understand what is correct with love and patience. Do not expect from your children. They should be nourished to grow at their own pace.

Our third duty

Our third duty is towards our place of work which is our source of income that enables us to maintain our self and our families. We should regard our place of work as a sacred place and work with integrity, sincerity and honesty. We should never think of amassing wealth by unfair means. Work becomes worship of God. If we offer the fruits of work and its doer ship to God.

Our fourth duty

Our next duty is towards the society we live in and the world in general. We must remember that we are the children of one God and so the world is a family. From spiritual point of view same Atma is in all of us and hence the other person is you yourself and not different. So we should deal with others as nicely as we deal with our self. In the same way as you expect others to deal with you nicely, you should also deal with them in the same manner. God says in Bhagavad Gita that I am the friend of all, so there is no reason why you should not maintain friendly relation with all. Make the world your own as there is no stranger in the world. Friendship is a trustworthy relation which is a tool to cure hatred and promote peace all around. Give as much as you can to the society and world in general- if nothing else give good wishes to all. Serving others is the salt of life. More energy you spend in serving others more divine energy will flow into you. Service should always be provided to poor down trodden, sick and neglected. When you serve others your own problems become smaller. Serve with a feeling of equality and compassion, when a person realizes that the same supreme self dwells in all his attitude towards them will change into love and spirit of service.

While living in the world you should always make it a better place to live by your contribution. You may not be able to change others but you can change yourself to become a better person and inspire others to become good people. The golden rule is to serve all with body, mind and wealth to the extent possible and depending on our capabilities. We all can help

others as we all have some talent in us.

All four duties are equally important and we should perform these duties without neglecting any of them for the sake of another. These duties are like four legs of a table which give stability to the table if all are of equal length and size. Any shortcoming in any of the leg will make the table unstable.

Dr. Kanayalal Raina

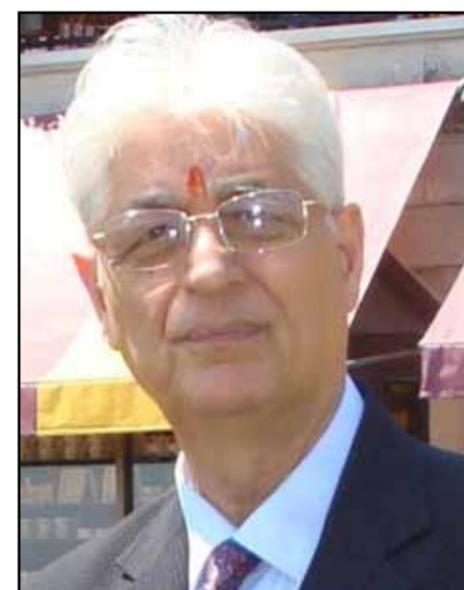
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Has Osama Bin Laden really been killed in Abbottabad

Dr Kanayalal Raina

Let me begin by recounting a conversation I had last week with a Pakistani lady, who met me in connection with a business proposal, for which she wanted funding. We she heard that I was a journalist too besides an engineer, she asked if I believed that Osama bin Laden had really been killed in Abbottabad. I said that I had no doubt at all that he had been and that if she still needed proof then she should pay attention to Al Qaeda's own confirmation of the death of their leader. 'Ah, but what is Al Qaeda,' she scoffed 'who knows if there is even such an organization or if it is just something the Americans have invented to suit their war against Islam and Muslims. It is very hard to know what to believe any more.'

It is the sort of conversation I seem to have whenever I meet Pakistanis these days but what made this one especially interesting was that this lady, so filled with doubts about jihadi terrorism, was a victim of it herself. Her family moved to Dubai after a suicide bomber caused major damage to one of their main business assets and later they moved to Canada, yet she was not prepared to concede that there was such a thing as jihadi terrorism. It was all American propaganda, she said, and it was not just Muslims who thought this way. In Dubai earlier before her migration, she regularly ran into 'intellectuals' from foreign countries who shared this view.

The reason why I began this piece by relating this conversation is that it reflects what I believe to be Pakistan's most important problem: denial. Or to use that old cliché – a collective decision to keep one's head buried ostrich style in the sand. Even supposedly, moderate Pakistanis have spent the past decade, since 9/11, in a state of deep denial about the role of the Pakistani army in creating, financing and spreading Islamist terrorism across the world. David Headley is currently telling a courtroom in Chicago the gruesome details of how the attack on Mumbai was planned at every stage by the ISI and yet Pakistan's official spokesmen continue to dismiss him as a less than credible witness. It is the job of official spokesmen to defend the Government they represent but what is much harder to understand is why ordinary Pakistani citizens do the same. The funny thing is that while many Pakistanis are happy to condemn their civilian politicians and charge them with corrupt practices their hackles rise if anyone dares to criticize the army or the ISI. It is as if they do not dare admit that the institution that has been the mainstay of the Pakistani state since it came into being is rotten to the core.

The detailed testimony of David Coleman Headley of the Chicago cell of the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LET) in the case against Tahawur Hussain Rana and some others being tried in absentia before a Chicago court has received considerable attention in India and Canada. However, the attention received in Pakistan is limited. The focus in Pakistan seems to be more on his credibility as a witness. Questions posed by the defence lawyer of Rana relating to Headley's background as a narcotics smug-



gler and his alleged unreliability in money matters have received greater attention in Pakistan than in Canada. I do not know how the Danish press has been covering the trial.

As someone who can claim the dubious distinction of having covered political changes and other events in Pakistan for nearly thirty years I believe I am in a good position to observe that this patriotic defense of the army is a new trend. When I first traveled to Pakistan the army was so hated that it was hard to meet anyone who would speak in defense of it. Zia ul Haq was in power then and he was seen as an evil dictator who was held personally responsible for executing a popular, democratically elected prime minister. After Zia was killed, in that mysterious plane crash, and Benazir Bhutto took charge the army was so unpopular that although she was not their choice as prime minister they were unable to stop her from taking the job. They did prevent her, though, from interfering in matters of foreign policy and defense and this made the Generals even more unpopular.

So when did things change so much as to make the army almost sacrosanct in the eyes of ordinary Pakistanis? In my view it started in the late nineties when Nawaz Sharif ran such a corrupt and venal government that he gave civilian politicians a bad name. When he was ousted by General Pervez Musharraf in a coup in 1999 it was a popular move in Pakistan even if Musharraf was seen as the villain of Kargil in Indian eyes. When Kargil proved that a conventional war against India was unwinnable Musharraf started the process of using vicious, fanatical jihadi groups to continue the war against India. And, it has to be sadly admitted that India was completely unprepared for this new kind of warfare. Had we been more prepared we would at least have noticed that two of the most evil terrorists in the world – Maulana Azhar Masood and Omar Sheikh – were rotting unnoticed in Indian jails for five years. It was an unforgivable lapse on the part of the Indian government that only came to attention when they were exchanged for the passengers of IC 814.

They may have gone unnoticed while they were in jail in India but they became big public figures in Pakistan and everyone knew that they had the support of the ISI but somehow there was no outrage on the part of ordinary Pakistanis. There was no outrage either when soon after 9/11 the world discovered that a Pakistani national hero, A.Q. Khan was running a black market in nuclear technology with the full

approval of the Pakistani army. He exported nuclear technology to Libya, Iran and Osama bin Laden and yet he remains a hero in the eyes of most Pakistanis.

Is this because what liberals like to call 'civil society' has itself become infected by Islamism? I believe this is what has happened which is why it is so difficult for there to be public condemnation of either the jihadi groups or their progenitor, the Pakistani army. The discovery of Osama in his Abbottabad safe house and later Taliban attack on an important naval base have caused some Pakistanis to ask questions about the army's role but this is mixed up with the valid fear that only the army stands between Pakistan and a descent into chaos. An unfortunate consequence of the army's new popularity is that the lie that India wants to destroy Pakistan is now more widely believed than it ever was before. Pakistanis need to realize that their biggest problems are home-grown, and not made in India, before we can begin to take the peace process forward in any meaningful way.

At last now bowing to the demand of the Chicago court which is trying James Headley as a facilitator of 2008 Mumbai attack by LeT outfits, Washington has unsealed the records compiled by the US intelligence agencies about the confessions made by the Pakistan-born US citizen Coleman Headley. These are startling revelations that prove close interaction between Pakistan's ISI and the terrorist organization, Lashkar-e-Taiyyaba based in Pakistan. What has been told by Indian sources to Pakistan about the involvement of ISI and the LeT in Mumbai carnage is now endorsed and with full details by Hadley. Interestingly he deposed that he

was eager to be given an assignment in Kashmir but failed to obtain it. The reasons are not known. According to his disclosures, he had favoured LeT terrorist attack on National Defence College of which he seems to have made good survey. But the ISI handlers did not allow him an assignment in Kashmir and instead asked him to make a survey of Mumbai which he did.

After Hadley's court statement unsealed by the United States to facilitate the Chicago court's prosecution of the culprits of Mumbai attack of 2008, Pakistan can no more deny ISI's involvement in the crime. India stands vindicated. It is now the job of the US and the members of European Union to tell the world what they think of Pakistan as a state that sponsors terrorism on its soil covertly. Notwithstanding these revelations, Pakistan government has been repeating its commitment of not allowing Pakistani soil to be used against India. The ground situation is that Pakistan is earnestly sponsoring terrorism on its soil and providing all facilities to these outfits to carry out anti-Indian subversion after clandestinely infiltrating into Indian Territory. The unsealed documents reveal the names of persons who were handling Headley and arranging his training at the camps. In fact Headley seems to have undergone thorough training in terrorism at the camps which ran over several courses. Zakir Lakhvi, who is one of the important persons in hatching the conspiracy of 26/11 had been keeping a close eye on Headley and giving him instructions. According to Headley, the LeT handlers were watching the entire happening in Mumbai on 26/11 in TV in Pakistan and were also communicating intermittent instructions to the attackers. Thus the unsealed recording of Headley is the final and indisputable proof of ISI's involvement in Mumbai carnage. With these revelations, it becomes easier for India to take the case of Mumbai attacks to international court if she desires.



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John Boddy Homes has been voted 'Best Builder' in Ajax/Pickering for the fourteenth year in a row for this year's Readers' Choice Awards and has released its next phase at their 'Eagle Glen' community in Ajax. Located just minutes east of Toronto 'Eagle Glen' combines the closeness and convenience of city living with a suburban feel, and its prime location makes it a great place to call home. Classic two-storey homes are available, as well as side and back splits, semi detached and townhomes. Homes start at 1,700 square feet and range up to a spacious 3,534 square feet. John Boddy Homes offers traditional size lots with a minimum of 105 feet in depth and a great selection of extra deep lots, pie shaped lots, walk out basements and a select few backing onto 3.5 acres of mature trees. With such a broad range of house sizes and styles 'Eagle Glen' has the ideal home to suit every preference. From the unique exteriors and charming streetscapes to the elegant interiors, various John Boddy Homes include such impressive standard features as vaulted ceilings, double door entries, décor columns, mirrored sliding closet doors, ceramic kitchen backsplashes, double basin bathroom vanities with make-up counters and so much more. Their gourmet kitchens, welcoming great rooms with cozy gas fireplaces and elegant dining rooms with coffered ceilings are all spacious and comfortable, making them the perfect location to enjoy time together with family or entertaining friends. In addition, some models include such impressive extras as classic French doors, transom windows and custom octagonal skylights allowing light to travel throughout the home for a bright and spacious feel.

For their homeowner's convenience, most John Boddy Homes include main or second floor laundry rooms, laundry chutes, kitchen breakfast bars, private water closets, interior garage access, high efficiency furnaces and basement rough-ins for future bathrooms. Also, windows are vinyl clad wood which allows for interior custom colours with a maintenance free exterior. Other features include arched entryways, custom millwork, window mullions on all front and rear facades and decorative garage doors featuring appealing window lites. Custom landscaping packages and paved driveways are also included in all homes providing the renowned curb appeal that enhances the entire 'Eagle Glen' community.

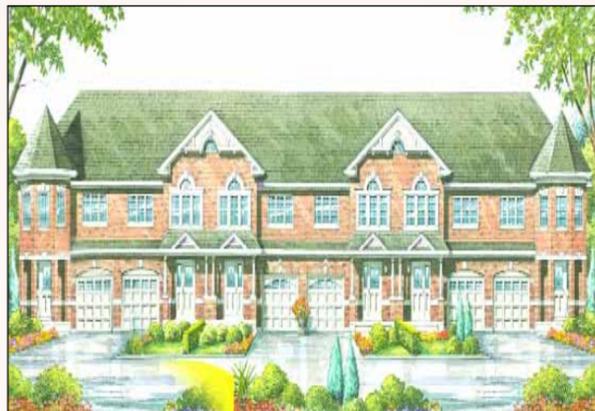
Innovative floorplan designs combined with an extensive array of standard features included with every new home have become a corporate trademark of John Boddy Homes and 'Eagle Glen'. Not only does a John Boddy home offer such striking standard features, there are also a



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wealth of opportunities to upgrade, making their homes as unique as each individual homeowner. The 'Eagle Glen' Sales Office features a Décor Centre that contains a wide range of upgrade items to select from in order to customize your home. Their high-tech electrical and décor consultants allow homebuyers to make upgrade selections on site, enabling them to conveniently personalize their home.

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Currently John Boddy Homes is offering an incentive package of \$3,000 in free upgrades or 5 appliances to all new home purchasers. Also included is one year of Roger's services for free! Included in this package are home phone with 150 long distance minutes and 2 calling features, personal TV with free rental of a standard definition box, a HD digital box, VIP package, free on demand programming, Canadian timeshifting channels as well as Rogers Hi-Speed internet service and all are installed for free.

The 'Eagle Glen' community offers many important neighbourhood amenities such as a brand new on-site public elementary school, places of worship, fully equipped parks and easy access to both Ajax and Go-Transit Services. Toronto is easily accessible from nearby Highways 401 and 407. Located just north of a host of shopping and recreation centres, 'Eagle Glen' allows residents all the amenities of the urban

lifestyle while providing the beauty and tranquility of the neighbouring countryside.

Since 1955, John Boddy has been involved in the construction of thousands of new homes throughout Ontario, and has earned a reputation as an accomplished builder of fine residential communities. Of significance are the award winning 1000-acre 'Bridlewood Community' developed during the 1960's and 1970's in Scarborough, the 'Forestbrook' Community in Pickering developed in the 1980's, 'Willowcreek' in Peterborough, and 'Eagle Ridge on the Green' in Ajax developed in the 1990's and early 2000's.

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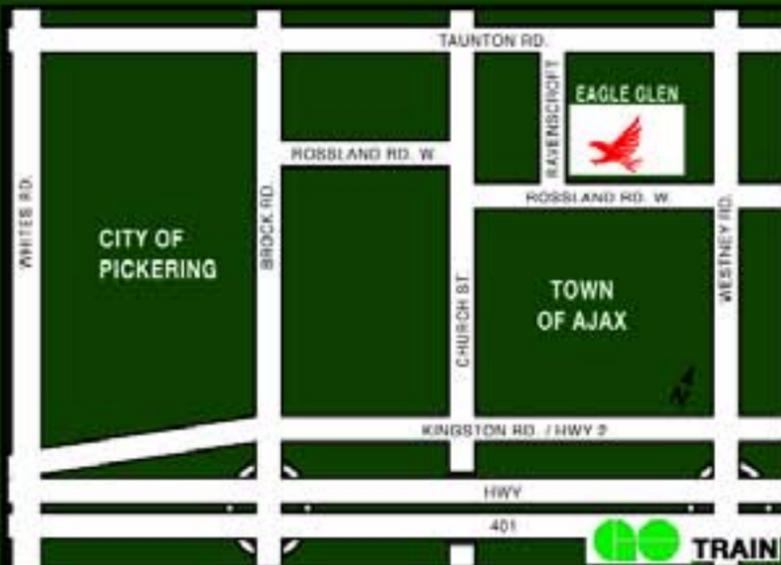
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Recent Event



Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce Raises \$18,000 for The Scarborough Hospital and Providence Healthcare



TORONTO - The business community is once again at the forefront in exhibiting the giving spirit of our community by organizing one of the pioneering annual charity events, the "CTCC Walkathon".

This year's annual Walkathon organized by the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce was held on Sunday June 5th, 2011. The 4 km walk through major streets around Scarborough Birchmount Hospital began at 9 AM.

The participants of the CTCC Walkathon strapped on their running shoes in order to raise money for a very important cause while in the meantime promoting

healthy exercise and lifestyle and enjoying the outdoors with a pleasant morning walk. The Walkathon supports the healthcare needs of residents in Scarborough. Since 1999, the event has raised approximately \$200,000 for Scarborough hospitals (General & Birchmount divisions) and Providence Healthcare.

This year RBC took on a leading role in raising more than \$7,000 with Mohan Sundaramohan, Branch Manager of RBC as co-chair of the Walkathon. The Scarborough Rangers once again have also joined hands in supporting this year's Walkathon. Corporate Sponsors Industrial

Alliance, RBC, TD, Scotiabank, and The CableShopper all provided critical support to keep this fundraising event successful along with many other valuable sponsors.

CTCC's Walkathon could not run smoothly without Co-Chairs Mohan Sundaramohan and Sritharan Thurairajah, and Event Coordinators Santha Panchalingam, Ghajan Mahan, and Navajeevan Anandarajah to lend their support.

The CTCC would like to thank everyone that came out to walk and support this year's Walkathon and is already looking forward to next year's Annual Walkathon, and raising even more money for a worthy cause.



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Belacan Chicken	\$6.99
Szechuan Chicken	\$6.99
Manchurian Chicken	\$6.99
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Beef

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Chilli Beef	\$7.49
Jerk Beef	\$7.49
Beef Rendang (Malay Curry)	\$8.49
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Spirituality



Book Review

Yogaswamy and Guru Paramparai in Jaffna

Mr. Ratnapragasam's book on 'Yogaswamy and Guru Paramparai in Jaffna' has fulfilled a long-felt need of the Tamil diaspora, especially the younger generation, who are ignorant of their mother tongue - Tamil.

Mr. Pragasam has written this book in English, with great forethought, to enable the youth to read, understand and appreciate the intricate details of the Kailasa Paramparai of Lord Siva, who held the truth in their palms.

Though there were so many other Guru paramparai in our Hindu religion, Mr. Pragasam has chosen this particular one for the simple reason, Yogaswamy was a great sage of the recent times, who has touched and transformed the lives of many in our homeland and abroad, who are Hindus, Christians, Muslims and Buddhists. If not for him, we cannot boast ourselves as Hindus to-day.

Mr. Pragasam has done an in-depth study of these gurus, and has aptly presented, in easy reading English, their divine life stories and mission. They knew the past, present and future of the Tamils - Hindus in particular.

Yogaswamy instructed his disciples - especially the American born Sivasubramaniya swamigal, to safeguard and spread Hinduism, world-wide, and to build temples.

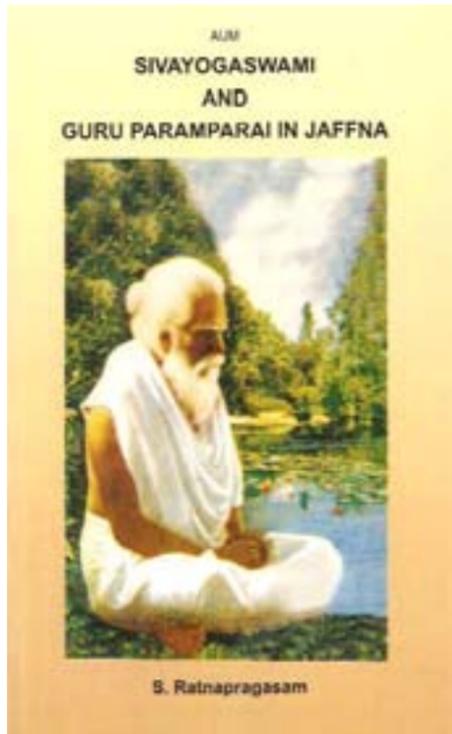
After his demise (maha-samadhi), the good work continues under the spiritual guidance of his disciple - Bodhinatha Veylanswamigal - the 164th Jagadcharya of the Nandinatha Sampradaya.

"Hinduism Today", a well known religious quarterly magazine, published world-wide by the Kuaai Aadheenam in Hawaii, is aimed at helping the youth, in understanding and appreciating, our Hindu religious values, and practice them in their day-today life.

The author has made a thorough study of Yogaswamy's 'Natchinthanai' poems, and has quoted a number of valuable stanzas from them, and given them the real meaning in Tamil, for clarity. Infact, after reading his book, we have gathered a clear vision of their teachings.

'Yogaswami and his guru paramparai period' should be regarded as a "Golden Era", in the history of Sri Lanka, as there was complete peace and harmony in the country; as well as political stability, unity, better understanding and cordial relationship, amongst the various communities.

Now the situation has changed (for the worse) and we are compelled to pray



and yearn, for a come-back of this holy guru paramparai, to re-establish peace and order, in the country.

This book is a must-read for the youth, and the elderly should read it first to impress as to why it is important for the future generation, to understand and appreciate the great teachings of these siddhars, and follow them, to lead a virtuous and meaningful life. We are living in an age of Kali Yuga, and undergoing untold hardship both mentally and physically, and are bound to go astray and perish, unless some sort of divine intervention comes in.

Though Mr. Pragasam has met Yogaswamy only once, he has to be admired, for his foresight and keen interest, spending a great length of time, in investigative studies, to compile such vast information and present it with a collection of pictures, in clear print, as a handy-sized book, thus enabling the reader, to take it along and read as time permits, unlike other lengthy write-ups, that we normally come across.

I thank Mr. Pragasam for giving us a family tree of this guru paramparai in the final section, of the book, for our reference.

We look forward to seeing more writings from him, to enlighten and encourage our younger generation, regarding our rich, religious heritage.

We pray to Yogaswamy and his guru paramparai, for their spiritual guidance and blessings.

Aum Nama Sivaya
Book Review by:
Meena Thavaratnam,
 Retired Teacher, Toronto
Publishers: Sivathondan Devotees,
 Sangamam Prayer Hall, Toronto

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சன்கீழமை **July 16th 2011**

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 மாலை 4:30 வரை

11:30 செயமாலை
 12:00 கூட்டுத்திருப்பலி
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Spirituality



AMMACHI IN CANADA

by Devadas Chelvam

Toronto is indeed immensely blessed as she prepares to receive the Divine Mother Mata Amritanandamayi at Doubletree Hilton Hotel of Toronto Airport at 655 Dixon Road on July 15-18. The programs are free for the public on July 15 morning and evening and July 18 evening.

Millions of devotees all over the world lovingly call her Ammachi or Amma. The media refers to her as the "hugging saint", since she receives all the people who approach her with a motherly hug, manifesting unconditional overflowing love.

Her hug is not an ordinary embrace. Amma says that she transmits her divine energy through the hug. Those who are ready and receptive are profoundly transformed thereby. It is indeed a marvel to watch her hug thousands of people affectionately for long hours, sometimes even up to twenty hours, without leaving the seat even once to stretch or rest.

Ammachi was born on September 27, 1953 in Kerala, India. Parents named her Sudhamani. She did not cry at birth like other children. Instead, Sudhamani had a bright smile and a penetrating gaze at her mother. The child's complexion was dark blue, like Lord Krishna and Mother Kali.

Sudhamani was only six months old when she started walking and speaking easily in Malayalam, the mother tongue of Kerala. The blue complexion started to fade away then, and she remained dark in color.

Even as a little child, Sudhamani composed and sang devotional songs to Lord Krishna with much fervor. Often she sat in ecstatic meditation, completely unaware of the world around her. Such spiritual exercises were unknown to the villagers and the family. Hence they thought that Sudhamani was crazy, especially as she sometimes burst into laughter and shed many tears due to divine bliss.

Sudhamani attended school up to fourth grade only, though she was brilliant and did not forget whatever she heard or read. Since the mother fell ill, parents made Sudhamani stay home and do all the household chores. Waking up very early, she swept the house and the compound, cleaned the cooking utensils, cooked all the meals, fed her siblings and prepared them for school, washed the cows and the cow-shed, found gruel to feed them, and cared for the sick and old in neighboring houses.

From early childhood, Amma's heart responded readily to others' suffering. Sudhamani washed, clothed and fed those who were destitute, old and sick. She was scolded and punished severely at home for such acts, but Sudhamani continued to behave in the same manner without any fear. The family members and the people around Sudhamani thought that she was an ordinary girl, though strange in her ways. They did not suspect her extraordinary spiritual eminence. Like Bhagavan Krishna and Lord Jesus Christ, Sudhamani was aware that She was the embodiment of Supreme Divine Consciousness. Amma said

that all the divine forms were within Her, and She could manifest any divine form whenever She wanted.

In 1975, at 21 years of age, Sudhamani walked into a neighboring house, where the ceremonial reading of the life of Lord Krishna was going on. It was amazing to see her features and color being transformed to appear like Lord Krishna. Devotees of the Lord started worshipping her, glad that the Lord had taken temporary possession of Sudhamani. Some rationalists who happened to be there were disturbed by this phenomenon. They demanded that Sudhamani should perform a miracle if she were Lord Krishna, though they did not believe in the possibility of miracles.

Sudhamani replied that She came on earth to make them realize the greatest of miracles, namely the presence of God in their hearts, and not to indulge in phenomena which are ephemeral. Since the rationalists continued to insist, saying that they would believe if She performed a miracle, She agreed to do so a week later at the same place.

Word passed around the neighboring villages about the promise of a miracle. More than a thousand people gathered around the house. Some unbelievers perched high up on trees to get a better view, and expose what they deemed would be a fraud.

Sudhamani was again transformed to look like Lord Krishna. She asked one of the doubters to bring a pitcher of water. After sprinkling it on the people as holy water, she asked the man who brought the water to look into the pitcher. The water had turned into pure milk! It was distributed to all the people around.

Then She called another skeptic, and instructed him to put his hand into the same pitcher. To his astonishment, the milk was transformed into a fragrant pudding (normally made with bananas, raw sugar, raisins and rock candy boiled in milk). More than a thousand people enjoyed eating this delicious pudding, yet the pitcher remained full!

Amma performed many more miracles like curing the seriously sick, and even raising the dead to life. Such physical miracles have only a limited value, since we all have to eventually discard our body. Far more significant are Her miracles of spiritual transformation of the devotees.

It is rather difficult to understand the tremendously powerful attraction that Amma exerted on certain devotees who had hardly heard about Her. Amma says that it is entirely the work of God's grace due to the merits of former lives.

A band of college educated youth who were used to ease and comfort, endured many material hardships in order to be around Amma. They were glad to be often without food, and sleep out in the open on bare ground. Even a temporary separation from Amma was unbearable agony to them.

How can one explain that a respected professor of medicine from the University of



California, as soon as he heard about Amma from his brother in Kerala, could cancel his medical appointments and fly to India on the following day, leaving his two small children and a furious and perplexed wife at home? Dr. Prem Nair returned home three days later, only due to the insistence of Amma.

Equally mysterious was the reaction of his wife when she heard Amma singing on a tape that her husband had brought. Mrs. Nair shed copious tears and left immediately with the children to Amma's ashram in Kerala. Amma allowed her to stay there for few months until her husband joined her.

Before meeting Amma, Nair family was not particularly religious or given to any spiritual practice. They were satisfied with material comforts and their social life. Amma turned them around so that now they are intent on God alone, and yearn for Her night and day.

With tears in her eyes, Ila Campbell spoke about her coming to Amma for the first time. She is an Indian woman married to an American, and worked in Brookhaven National Laboratory as a scientist, intent only on making money and living comfortably, and was not at all religious, she said. She was raised with materialistic values and to look down on Hindu culture, scriptures, religious ceremonies, and Gurus. Reading J. Krishnamurti during her college years confirmed her skeptical attitude.

While on a vacation at her father's house in Mumbai, she saw on TV for a few seconds Amma conducting a religious ceremony at Her ashram temple in Nerul, about three hours away by car from Mumbai. It was announced that Amma would be there giving a program on the following day as well. The image of Amma with the question: "Who is she?" dominated Ila's mind throughout the day. She could not understand her sudden and urgent need to see Amma that she felt deeply, though she knew nothing about Amma.

Moreover Ila was in bed with a severe cold and fever, and could hardly sit up. Her father was unwilling to drive her since he had a business appointment next day. Then she prayed fervently to be well enough, and get a transportation to attend the program, if Amma wanted to see her. On the follow-

ing morning she was amazed to find herself completely well, and her father offering to take her, since his appointment had been postponed.

When Ila got near Amma to be hugged, her hair stood on end and the mind went blank. All she could do was to shed profuse tears, feeling that she was finally "at home." Now she finds that all her problems with the family or at work are easily solved due to the grace of Amma, and her only goal in life is to cultivate in herself the compassion and selfless love of Amma.

Saints and holy people from different parts of India came to the ashram to pay homage to Amma, declaring that she was truly Divine Mother. Her family members witnessing the many miracles and hearing the testimony of saints were finally converted to accept Sudhamani now named Mata Amritanandamayi wholeheartedly as their Guru. In the beginning Amma encountered vehement opposition and vicious persecution by some family members and other villagers. Several attempts were made to kill her. The miraculous manner in which she was protected convinced most of the opponents that she was truly divine, and they became her ardent devotees later.

One Western reporter asked Amma what she thought about some devotees worshipping her saying that she is God. Amma laughed to say that today they may regard her as God, and tomorrow they may think of her as devil, it made no difference to her, but she knows (not a mere belief) that all the people who come to her are God, and she bows down to them all.

The simple, humble and pure life of Amma is an entirely open book. Disciples are with her day and night. She hardly eats or sleeps, and is ever ready to serve others in any way she can, while she endures much pain.

Amma inspires us to seek freedom from egoism and worldly bondage. Following Her would enable us to realize the truth of our being. God alone is, within us and everywhere. Everything else gets its reality from God. Experiencing God's holy Presence here and now means peace, love and joy.

For more info about Amma, please see www.Amma.org



Spirituality

WORDS OF PEACE



The Miracle of You

Fascinated by the distractions of the moment, people tend to miss a fantastic miracle happening right under their noses every day, says Maharaji, who travels the world offering a practical experience of what it really means to be alive.

"We are all caught up in fantasies," Maharaji says, "and in these fantasies we live. We fantasize about what this life should be, how it could be, what it must be. Our inspiration comes from these fantasies."

Reality, he says, begins with understanding—and that's not something that can be bought. "The other day, I was reading the newspaper," Maharaji says, "and there were ads for people who for a certain amount of money will sell you enlightenment. How can anybody do that? Enlightenment begins with understanding. If you don't understand something, money has nothing to do with it."

"There is a beautiful story I read once about a crow flying overhead who saw a gorgeous swan swimming in the lake. This sight was incredibly beautiful, so the crow said, 'I think I'll do the same.' He dove into the water, and what happened? Crows cannot swim, and he drowned."

"This is what happens to us, too. We see something and we think, 'Oh, I want that, too.' What is it that you really want?"

"We are so wrapped up in technology, in time, in concepts and ideas, yet I find that people are desperate. People are so desperate that when anything offers



them even a little fragment of hope, they jump on it.

"In all the concepts, all these befuddling 'miracles' that people are so caught up in, the real miracle passes right under their noses, and they don't know it. The coming and the going of this breath is the most incredible miracle. It's not when a statue cries. Milk coming out of stone—that's not a miracle."

"You can see, and that's a miracle. You can feel. That's a miracle. You can hear. That's a miracle. You're alive. That's a miracle. Yet people are fascinated with the statue and the milk. That's not what you should believe in. Believe in what is real."

"Let me tell you what is real. There is nothing more real for you than the coming and going of this breath. This is what

makes you you."

During his presentations, Maharaji often answers questions related to his message.

Q: You talk about finding what is real, and I find this confusing. To me, reality is everything I can see, feel, touch.

A: Just for a moment, let's consider what an illusion is. How would you define an illusion? Something that appears to be real, but is not.

When a magician, an illusionist, performs a trick, what does he use? He uses this one ingredient called distraction. For a minute, while he does what he does—pulls a pigeon out of his sleeve, or whatever it may be—he distracts you, and then he does his thing.

Now, this is all entertainment. It's fairly innocent. But when that starts to happen with your life, it's not entertainment anymore.

What have people said illusion is? Me, mine, you, yours—that is the illu-

sion. What I call mine is not mine, and what I call me is not me. Everything in this world wears away. That's its nature. One day, everything will go. It's the coming and going of this breath that's making it all possible—that makes you cry, that makes you laugh, that makes you think, that makes you enjoy, that makes you wonder. Understand your blessing, accept your blessing, and then you will be set free.

The true reality is within you, and it's a fantastic show. An amazing show—and I have tickets to it. They're not for sale, but you can ask for them. When I am convinced, as much as I can be, that you are sincere in wanting to watch the show, then you may have one.

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Spirituality



Fasting and Feasting

By: j.j.atputharajah

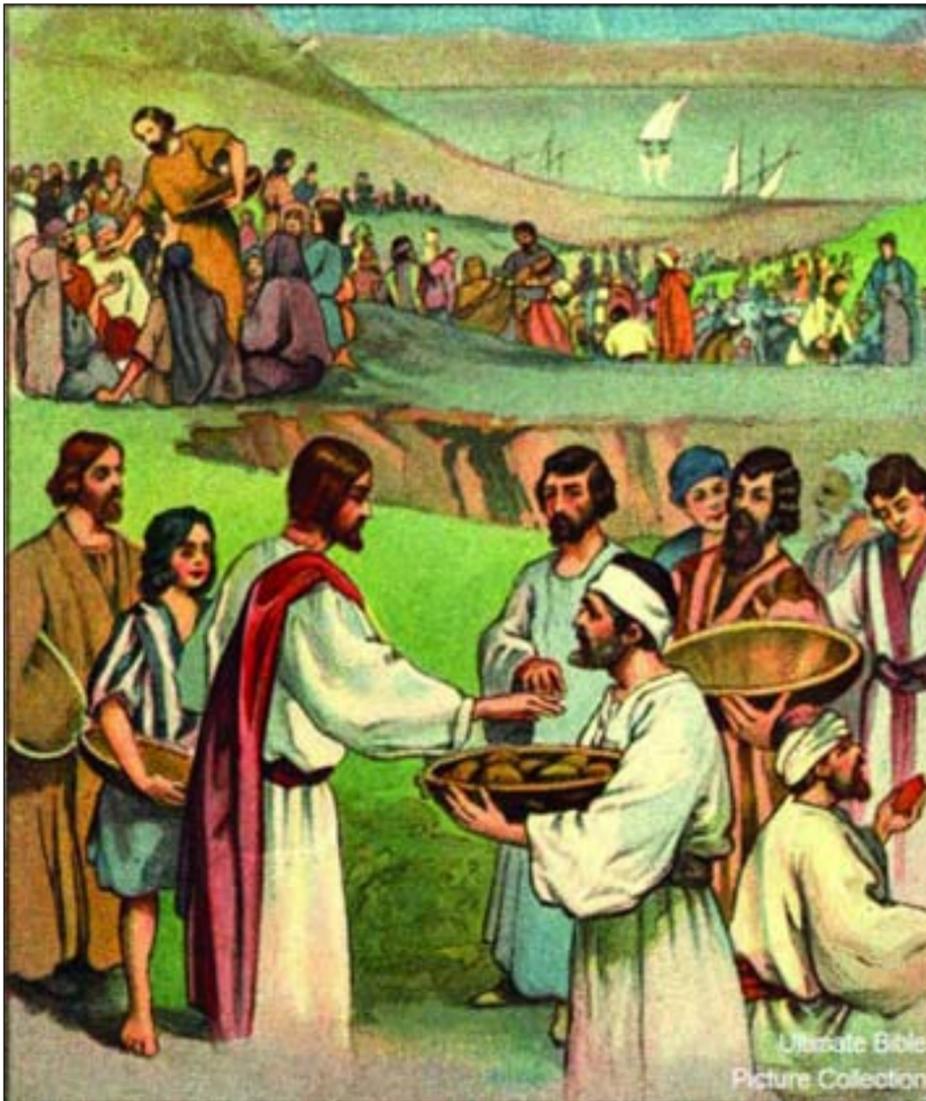
Fasting

Fasting and feasting are significant features of religious observances common to all faiths practiced around the world. World major religions like Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism have all accepted these practices from times immemorial. They are prevalent in modern times too.

Fasting means self-denial by going without food for a period of time. It may be total or partial -avoiding of certain foods or eating in smaller than normal quantities. In Hinduism fasting indicates the denial of physical needs of the body for the sake of spiritual gains. According to the Hindu scriptures, fasting helps create an atonement with God by establishing harmonious relationship between body and soul. They have fasting periods spread throughout the year for various reasons and times. Amavasai, sastri, asthami, ekadasi, pradosam, pouranium, sankatara chadurthi, kirthigai, sivarthri are some of the regular ones. Fasting festivals are common. They fast on festivals like Navarathri and Shivarathri. Kantha-sashdi Viratham is one of the special ones. In Buddhism, fasting is recognized as one of the methods of practicing self control. Christians consider fasting as useful in getting rid of distress and grief; it helps one to prepare for spiritual upliftment and could be also useful process in repentance and atonement. Jesus said fasting, like prayer should be done in private and not for show. Many Catholics observe fasting during the lent and orthodox Christians observe fasting for even more days. The Muslims also give importance to fasting as a religious discipline especially for a good number of days prior to their Ramazhan festival. Therefore all religions thought of fasting to be imperative for the well-being of the human being as it nourishes both his/her physical and spiritual needs.

B. Feasting:

Feasting is another religious activity that is common for all religions. It is generally associated with festivals and celebrations and they vary according to countries and their traditions and perspectives. For Christians feasting days are the New Year, Christmas, Easter Sunday and several other occasions which vary according to traditions and cultures. Judaism has several feasts like the feast of the passover, feast of epiphany which are subsequently followed by some of the Christian faiths. Hindus have feasts during Thai Pongal, New Year, Aadi Perukku, Saraswathy Poojah and Deepavali. Besides they organize special feasts in memory of the deceased. The Muslims feast themselves at the end of



the Ramadan fasting period in addition to many others like the birthday of Mohamed Naby. Most feasting have historical or incidental backgrounds. Jesus fed the five thousand people who gathered together to listen to his sermon; he also got his disciples to distribute drinks after a wedding ceremony at Cana.

C. The Diasporas' Perspective:

The Tamil community in the GTA have established several places of worship to suit their needs. Some of them have converted warehouses into temples and churches. They have helped them to continue their religious activities they practiced in their homelands in Sri

Lanka and India. The Hindus have the Richmond Hindu Temple, the Canada Kandasamy Temple, the Sri Ayappan temple and several others. The Muslims have the Abu Huraira Mosque, the Al-Janna Mosque and several other schools where they teach the younger generation their faith. The Christians have the Tamil Christian Church of Canada, the Christian Family Worship Place, the Miracle Family Temple, the Grace New Covenant Pentecostal Church and many others.

These places serve as centers of worship and fellowship. Feasting occupies a central place in building fellowship among the worshippers. For example the New Covenant Pentecostal Church which has annual conventions feed the worshippers after the service. They are not worried about the numbers which may be in their thousands. They follow the patterns set up by the leader of their faith and cater to both spiritual and physical needs of their members as well as their guests.

Fasting and feasting are one of the regular activities of religious organizations which are very helpful in building spiritual fervour and fellowship among the members. They are also useful in nurturing mental health and social cohesiveness. Many immigrants who miss their community life in their homelands are able to meet their kith and kin in places of worship and enhance greetings and update their information about mutual interests. No man is an island. Religious functions and events enhance the social lives of the people and lead to better quality of life.



Spirituality

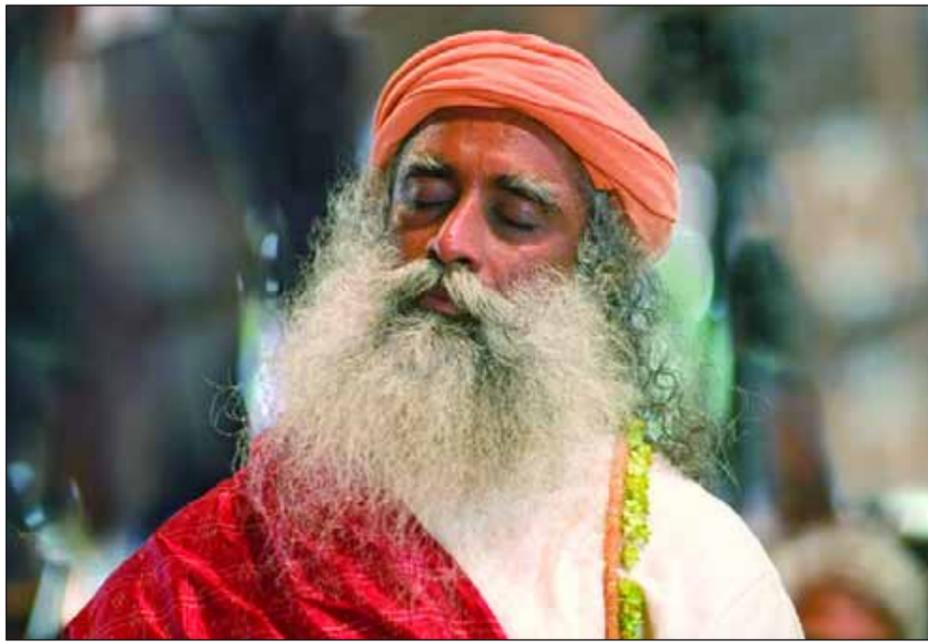
Standing By To Understand

The closer the relationship is, the more effort you should make to understand them.

When you live in this world, there are various types of complex interactions happening. As your field of play increases, the complexity of interaction also increases. If you're just sitting in a cubicle, working on your computer with only one other person, you need only a little understanding, but if you're managing a thousand people, you need a vast understanding of everybody. Now, suppose you're managing a thousand people and you want all these people to understand you, then you're not going to manage anything. You need to understand the limitations and the capabilities of these thousand people and do what you can; only then will you have the power to move the situation the way you want it to go. If you're waiting for these thousand people to understand you and act, it is only a pipe dream; it is never going to happen.

The closer the relationship is, the more effort you should make to understand them. Somebody becomes closer and dearer to you only as you understand him better. If they understand you, they enjoy the closeness of the relationship. If you understand them better, then you enjoy the closeness. It is not that the other person is totally bereft of understanding. With your understanding you can create situations where the other person would be able to understand you better. If you're expecting the other one to understand and comply with you all the time while you don't understand the limitations, the possibilities, the needs and the capabilities of that person, then conflict is all that will happen; it is bound to happen. Unfortunately, the closest relationships in the world have more conflict going on than between enemies.

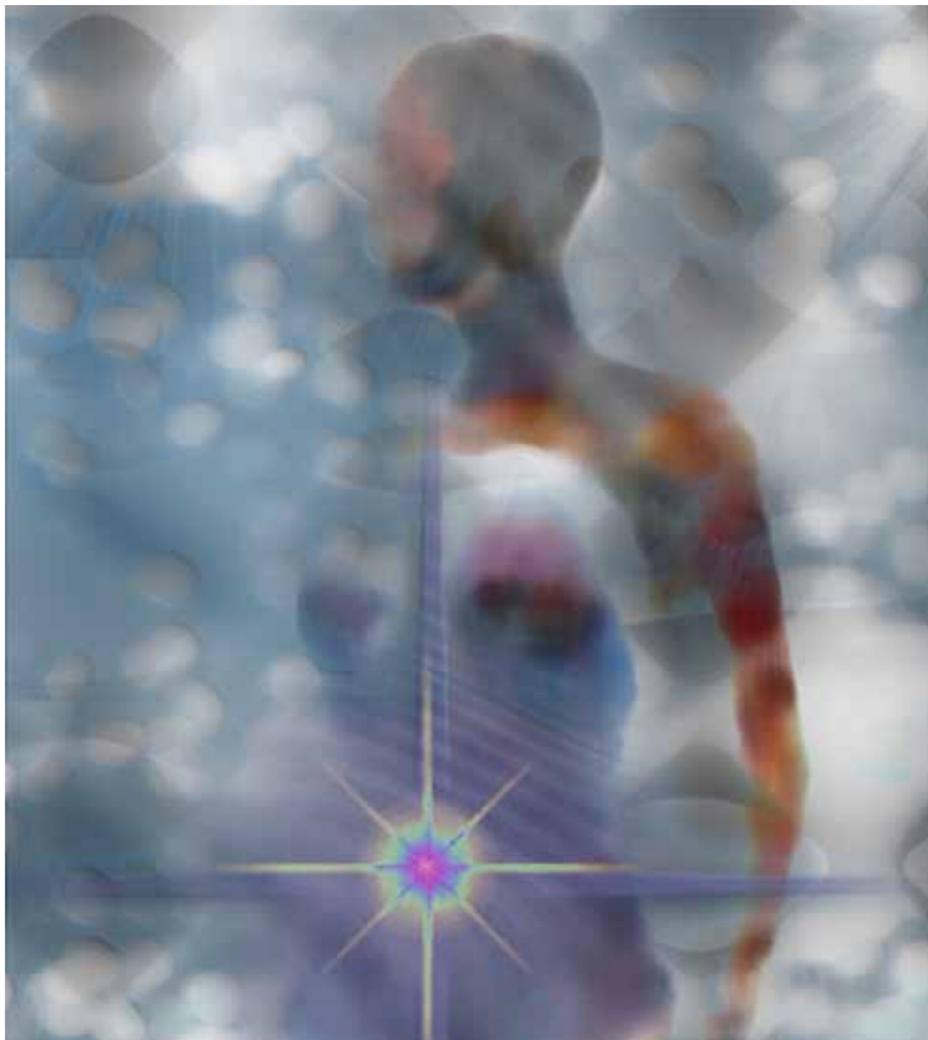
In your relationships, you have fought many more battles than this and are still fighting; isn't it so? This is because your line of understanding and theirs is different. If you cross this L.O.C., this Line of Control, they will get mad. If they cross it, you will get mad. If you move your understanding beyond



Sadhguru Vasudev is a realized master, yogi and mystic, who has founded Isha Foundation, an international public service organization that strives for ultimate human well-being.

For world-wide program information, visit www.ishafoundation.org

Toronto local contact 1-866-424-ISHA (4742) or email Toronto@ishafoundation.org



global or whatever, don't you want to be the person who decides what happens in your life? If you do, you better include everything and everybody into your understanding. You should enhance your understanding to such a point that you can look beyond people's madness also. There are very wonderful people around you, but once in a while they like to go crazy for a few minutes. If you don't understand that, you will lose them. If you don't understand their madness, you will definitely lose them. If you do, then you know how to handle them. Life is not always a straight line; you have to do many things to keep it going. If you forsake your understanding, your capability will be lost. Whether it's a question of personal relationships or professional management, in both places you need understanding; otherwise, you won't have fruitful relationships.

The way you are right now, the very quality of your life is decided by the type of relationships you hold. You better make the needed effort to understand the people around you.

Sadhguru J. Vasudev is a contemporary mystic rooted as strongly in worldly and pragmatic matters as he is in inner experience and wisdom. Named one of India's 50 most influential people, he has addressed prominent global forums on issues as diverse as socio-economic development, leadership and spirituality. He has served as delegate to the United Nations Millennium Peace Summit and the World Peace Congress and has been a special invitee to the World Economic Forum (2006-2009), the Australian Leadership Retreat (2006) and TED (2009).

His interviews are featured in The New York Times, BBC, Bloomberg, CNN and CNBC. He is the author of several books, the subject of four books and co-author of the Amazon Bestseller "Midnights with the Mystic". His public talks frequently draw crowds of over 300,000 people.

Founded by Sadhguru, Isha Foundation is a non-religious, non-profit organization with over 200 centers worldwide and over one million volunteers. Isha Foundation offers Inner Engineering Online – a practical approach for inner transformation in a fast paced world. The course designed by Sadhguru presents simple, yet powerful tools for an individual to experience life on a deeper level with more awareness, energy, and productivity. This program is an ideal opportunity for those with time and travel constraints to experience the same profound effects of the traditional Inner Engineering program, which has impacted millions of people over the past 25 years. To learn more, view the free Introductory Talk, or to register visit www.InnerEngineering.com

theirs, their understanding also becomes a part of your understanding. You will be able to embrace their limitations and capabilities. In everyone, there are some positive aspects and some negative aspects. If you embrace all this in your understanding, you can make the relationship the way you want it. If you leave it to their understanding, it will become accidental. If they are very magnanimous, things will happen well for you; if not, the relationship will break up.

All I am asking is: do you want to be the one who decides what happens to your life? Whether they are intimate relationships, professional, political,

Isha Summer Program for Children

Date: 16 - 22 Jul 2011

Location: (Intersection: Finch & Middlefield)
5321 Finch Ave East Toronto, ON M1S 5W2

Session Info: Saturday: 2:30-4:30 pm

Sunday: 2-4 pm | Monday -Thursday : 4-6pm | Friday: 3-6pm

Price: \$300 (CAD)

Details:

Isha Yoga Children's program consists of an introduction to yoga practices including a few simple, but life enhancing asanas and kriyas. The program content is presented through fun games and play so that children experience a sense of belonging and unity with life.

This is a 7-day program for children ages 8 - 13. Sessions are 2 hours long and 3 hours on the last day. Children should come on empty stomach condition for the session. Snack will be provided.

Special Feature



Watching 'Killing Fields' was 'most painful fifty minutes I have ever spent watching anything on a screen'

by Preeta Samarasan

Among some of my oldest relatives, there's a custom of recording weddings gifts given and received in order to ensure that no family is left feeling cheated.

So, for example, if Jupiter Uncle gave Volkswagen Uncle's daughter one thousand and one ringgit* on the occasion of her marriage, then when Jupiter Uncle's son is getting married, Volkswagen Uncle will consult his wedding-gift book, look under Jupiter Uncle's name, and duly stuff one thousand and one ringgit into the clean white envelope he will slip into his shirt pocket on the morning of the wedding.

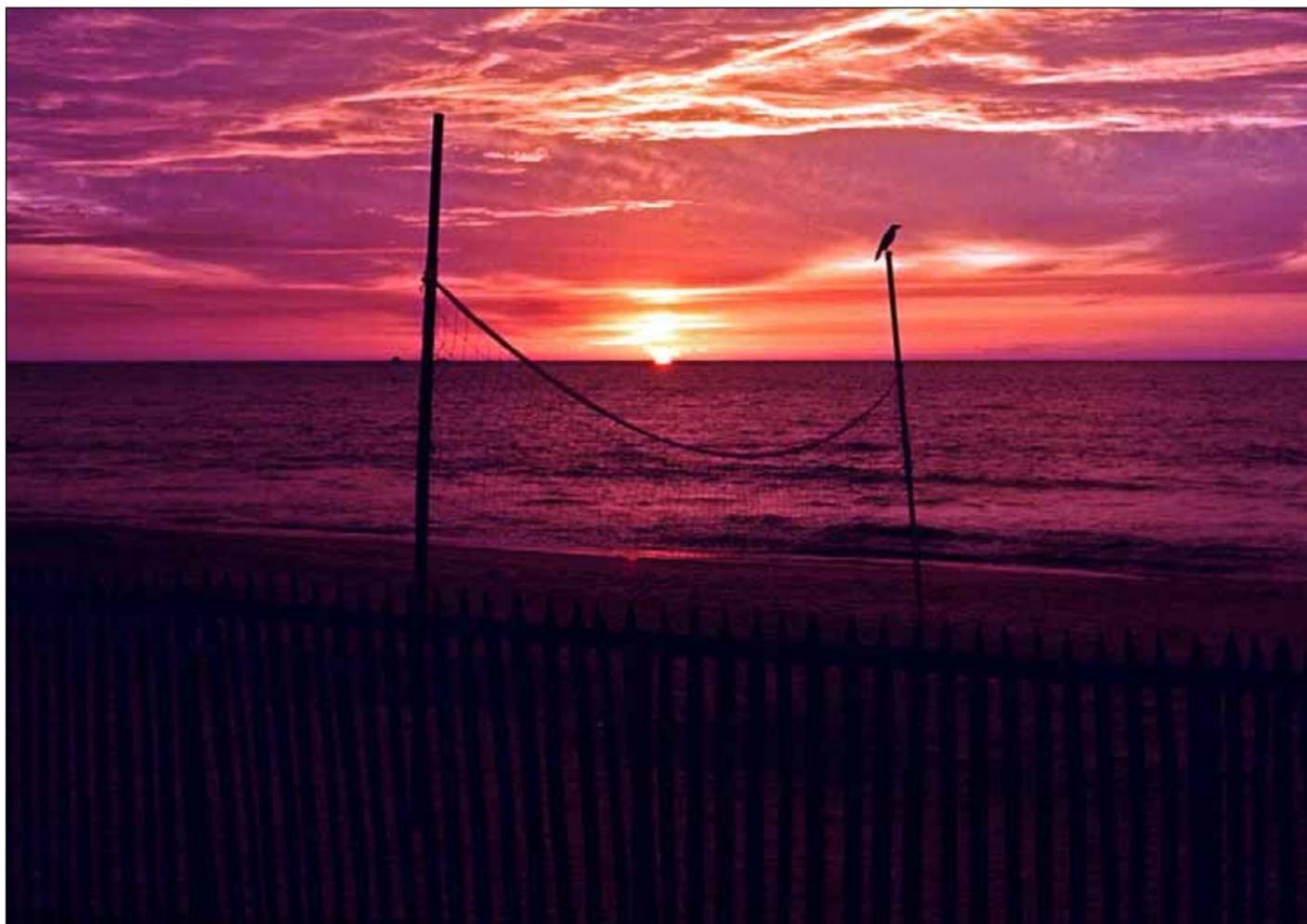
The custom works in reverse, too: Jupiter Uncle will write down in his own book what he gave at Volkswagen Uncle's daughter's wedding, so that he will know exactly how much to expect when his own children are getting married.

The system takes into account different family sizes: should Jupiter Uncle have three children, but Volkswagen Uncle only one child, then Volkswagen Uncle is expected to return the one thousand ringgit in three installments.

Allowances are also made for different financial circumstances, so that an immensely wealthy uncle might give generously to his nieces and nephews without expecting equal gifts for his own children if his siblings are not quite so wealthy. These allowances notwithstanding, I used to hate this system, for all the reasons that have probably already struck my Western readers.

It seemed to mandate what should have been natural and voluntary, to value appearances over sincerity, to throw families into agonies of shame. In my eyes the system remained unredeemed even by the comedy that arose out of it: the men, like my ne'er-do-well uncle, who made a profitable hobby of gatecrashing weddings with the requisite envelope in their pockets (with their eye on that envelope, neither the bride's side nor the groom's would throw out such a guest even though neither side recognised him); the families who, when going through the envelopes after the wedding, had to cast aside those empty unmarked ones, like spoiled votes.

But I've been thinking about that custom this week, about what we expect in return when we give, about whether it's possible to ever give anything without



remembering, somewhere at the back of your mind, that you gave, how much you gave, how readily.

You may not record it consciously at the time, you may have no intention of keeping tally, but one day when you're least expecting it, the memory of what you gave will surprise you.

On June 14th, the BBC's Channel 4 released Sri Lanka's Killing Fields, a documentary about the final weeks of the 25-year-war between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Tamil Tiger rebels. At least 40,000 Tamil civilians died in those final weeks, herded into "No-Fire Zones" and then targeted by government forces and used as human shields by the Tamil Tigers.

Trailers for the documentary warned that it contained "the most shocking images ever seen on Channel 4," and certainly, having seen my share of televised atrocities — we are spoiled for choice, after all, and I tend to force myself to read and watch the worst of what there is — I will say that these were the most painful fifty minutes I have ever spent watching anything on a screen.

There are those who have argued that SLKF sacrifices insight for shock value, that its bloodshed-as-exhibition thrust is in terrible taste. I don't necessarily dis-

agree, although we all know how hard it already is to get any attention for whatever the world's latest tragedy might be; shocking images draw an audience, and that has to be the producers' top priority whether their primary motive is political or financial. But I'm not here today to discuss the merits of the documentary. I'm here to talk about the only field in which I'm an expert: my own feelings.

Although I have no ancestral ties to Sri Lanka, I am of Tamil descent. Tamil is the language in which my grandmother spoke to me, the language of her love, of her protection; it is a language inseparable, for me, from both the bliss and the melancholy of my childhood. It's also the language of fierce emotion: the ugliest insults, the most uninhibited joy.

Although I write only in English, when I'm really angry or really sad, when I'm feeling lost or confused, my tongue rebels against not only the vocabulary of English but its very sounds, reverting to Tamil phonemes. It's an almost physical transformation — I can almost feel my tongue changing shape inside my mouth — and anyone who is with me at these moments notices the abrupt switch in accent even if I'm speaking English.

So it's no surprise that it is especially difficult for me to hear people pleading

for the lives of their children, screaming for their mothers, or begging for mercy in Tamil. But I suspect that even this does not begin to explain to a Western audience the power that spoken Tamil holds over me.

I asked my husband, who is American and white, if his heart lurches every time he hears someone speak American English on the radio or on TV. I expected him to say no, and I recognise that this may be just my husband, who is known for his equanimity rather than for his lurchy heart.

Still, I do think that my relationship with the Tamil language owes itself not just to my childhood, but to two other facts of my life: 1) that I have never, at any point in my life, lived in a place where I was a member of the ethnic majority; 2) that I left home relatively young, and have never gone back to live there. I won't call it exile — I have trouble with applying that word to myself — but I do think that your connection to a place, a language, a culture changes when you have to leave it forever. There's an ache, an absence, that doesn't go away.

I'm telling you all this to explain the reaction I had to SLKF. By any stan-

Contd. in next page...



Special Feature

dards it was an extreme reaction; I wept not only while watching it but for days afterwards, in the shower, while trying to sleep, with no warning while I had — or so I thought — other things on my mind. And weeping, I found myself going back to the long black book I apparently keep inside my head, the one marked Sympathy Given and Received. I thought of the attention I have paid, the outrage I have summoned up, the pain I have felt for what I did, yes, in this lowest of moments, think of as Other People's Causes: Rwanda, Bosnia, Gaza, The Congo, Zimbabwe, gay marriage, the election of George W. Bush not once but twice, universal healthcare in the US, the Tea Party movement.

I thought — of course — of September 11th. I thought of the tears I'd shed and the people I'd shed them with, the hugs I had dispensed, the fury I had witnessed and vicariously felt, the cries for revenge that I listened to and forgave. I thought of how, in the days after September 11th, I would never have asked an American, breezily, nonchalantly, on the phone or in person, How are you? let alone expected an answer about his or her everyday life, the deadlines at work or school, the social engagements.

I would never have asked because in those days and weeks, everybody knew how Americans were, and nobody assumed — as many of us seem to assume every day — that politics are separate from real people's lives, that the events playing out on the global stage are not the things that affect our day-to-day feelings, our appetites, our desire to get out of bed in the morning. It's socially acceptable to be sad or angry about things happening directly to you or to people you know; it's not socially acceptable, in most circles, to cry all night about a documentary involving people you have never met in a country you have only visited once.

I thought of why it was so difficult for me to answer even a close friend or family member's How are you? with the truth: My heart is breaking because I watched a BBC documentary about Sri Lanka. I thought of my own deep need for politeness and calm, of why I respect social conventions and avoid confrontation even when doing so hurts me.

And adding up the total of my gifts of sympathy and empathy — subtracting here, carrying one hug over to another column there — I thought, also, of how much I myself am to blame. I did everything I could to fit in in America, at least in the early years, because that is who I am: a chameleon, a fitter-in. I will do your accent to make you feel more comfortable. I will speak your English, whatever its idiosyncracies, after listening to you for ten minutes. Of all people, I have the least right to be offended when Americans forget that I am not one of them.



Add to this the fact that I am Malaysian by nationality, not Sri Lankan, not even Indian, and that most people in the US and Europe don't know the complicated relationship between ethnicity and nationality in Malaysia (I may be fourth-generation Malaysian, but I am not Malaysian Indian in the same way that a fourth-generation American is German-American or Irish-American).

And then add to that the fact that I myself, having grown up under an apartheid government, argue in public for equal rights for all Malaysians regardless of descent, and that in arguing for those rights I emphasise the precedence of nationality and national identity over ethnicity and ethnic identity. If I argue that Malaysian Indians should be accepted as Malaysians, that we have no homeland other than Malaysia, that it is the Malaysian government who should address the problems of the Malaysian Indian community and not any Indian government or political party, then maybe it's unfair of me to expect the rest of the world to understand that what is happening to Tamils in Sri Lanka is happening to my people.

The day I watched SLKF, I was sitting in bed at my laptop, my Facebook news feed on the screen. My daughter, who is two, came up behind me, and she did that thing she always does, pointing to each thumbnail, saying Baby! Dog! Tree! It so happened that on that day the profile pictures of several South Asian women were in my news feed, so as usual, my daughter pointed to each of them in turn, exclaiming — with joy, with affection — Amma! Amma! Amma! It's a running joke in our household that

to her eyes, every Indian woman is her mother. But then she came to a still from SLKF, in which a woman, mostly naked, lies dead in a pool of her own blood. She pointed at the picture, and with slightly less joy in her voice, said, Amma.

Of course I am not that woman. I cannot claim to know what any of the dead, maimed, or orphaned in Sri Lanka have gone through. I had a comfortable, middle-class childhood of piano lessons and ballet lessons. But I do know, first-hand, the devastating effects that nationalist projects can have on minorities. And I do also know that sometimes all I want is simple recognition, no analysis, no explanations solicited or given.

In that moment, my daughter's hot, sticky hands on my knee, in front of me this woman whose life could not have been more different from mine, what I felt most of all was gratitude to my daughter, for giving me something without knowing she'd given it, for expecting nothing in return.

———
*it is considered bad luck to give a round figure; you always give eleven, fifty one, one hundred and one, etc.

[Photo credits: Accounts book by futureshape on flickr; Sri Lanka 1993 by Ulf Bodin on flickr; India-faces-generations by mckaysavage on flickr]

(Born in Malaysia, Preeta Samarasan moved to the United States to finish high school, then stayed for college and graduate school. Her first novel, *Evening Is The Whole Day*, was published in 2008. She is currently working on a second novel. This piece was posted on Michigan Quarterly Review under the heading "Transactions")

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Preeta Samarasan

Special Feature



If there is to be reconciliation, there must be rethinking of the concept itself

by Amarnath Amarasingam

As my doctoral dissertation deals with Sri Lankan Tamil activism in Canada, I was asked by a few people why I had not yet weighed in on the recent Channel 4 documentary, Sri Lanka's Killing Fields, which in conjunction with the United Nations Report released in March, provides a devastating account of war crimes committed by both Sri Lankan government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

My answer often was that I had not yet gotten over my moment of sheer speechlessness. What is left to say that has not already been said by clips of bound Tiger rebels being summarily executed, or passing shots of Sinhala soldiers tossing dead bodies onto the back of trucks, or merciless video of screaming Tamil civilians running from bunker to bunker as shells fell nearby, or recordings from cameras stalking the hollow cries of a mother clutching the tiny body of her bleeding child. No, there was nothing to be said.

Then came the Sri Lankan government's rather farcical attempt to downplay both the UN Report and revelations of the Channel 4 documentary. Rajiva Wijesinha, an MP in the Sri Lankan parliament, told Al Jazeera that while he is "not saying that everything in it is fake," he believes much of the Channel 4 footage to have been "manipulated" and went on to argue that it "seems quite possible that much of what was shown was in fact done by the Tigers." When asked about the deliberate shelling of hospitals, Wijesinha responded that they had evidence of the LTTE placing heavy weapons near hospitals and "if" such shelling actually happened, it is a "great pity."

Similarly, Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the United States, Jaliya Wickramasuriya, told PBS NewsHour that the footage in the documentary is "not authentic." When asked about the deliberate shelling of no-fire zones during the final months of the conflict, Wickramasuriya responded: "All this is propaganda. Lots of people can say lots of things."

While the government response was predictable, another line of argument has recently gained some fanfare. This peculiar position, as most recently articulated by Amjad Mohamed-Saleem argues:

"The release of this documentary and other reports provides unwarranted distraction from the main issues that the

government (and any government in a post conflict country) should be held accountable for including: steps taken towards reconciliation, stemming the rising cost of living, tackling corruption and trying to ensure law and order."

While I agree with the overall vision, I cannot help but demand that those responsible for heinous atrocities not be allowed to walk, head held high and cleansed of wrong doing, beside me while I take these "steps" towards reconciliation. An individual, regardless of whether they are dressed in SLA or LTTE uniform, cannot kill your family, and then flippantly tell law enforcement officials who come to arrest him that they are living in the past.

As such, some of the current arguments for reconciliation, while commendable in principle, have mutated into a rather immoral and circular conversation-stopper. Those pushing for reconciliation tend to argue that there are extremists on both sides who wish to perpetuate tensions between the Sinhalese and Tamil communities. Placing themselves between Tamil separatists and Sinhala nationalists, the "reconciliationists" often present their view as the moderate or center position. However, simply placing yourself in the middle does not make you a moderate. Like with all relationships, reconciliation most genuinely arises after apologies, acknowledgement, and forgiveness.

The Sri Lankan government has neither offered an apology nor a statement of regret, but rather continues to insist that it had a policy of zero civilian casualties, and, ipso facto, any evidence of civilian deaths is either doctored, manipulated, or part of a broader conspiracy.

The government has also attempted to reframe the conflict, including the last months of the war, as simply one theatre in the overall global 'war on terror'. This is all in addition to the government's dismal efforts at post-war reconciliation.

As Jayadeva Uyangoda recently argued in Asian Survey, the "preoccupation with regime consolidation over reconciliation constituted the core of Sri Lanka's political trajectory in 2010." In light of these developments, to demand a conversation on reconciliation is to put the cart before the horse.

To even enter these topics into the conversation with many reconciliationists, one risks being branded 'divisive'. While this perspective is often presented as being open to dialogue, and accepting of other points of view, it has become



UN Departure - Channel 4 'Killing Fields'

painfully evident that for many individuals pushing reconciliation, the parameters of the discussion are pre-set and involve willfully ignoring any call for truth, and dismissing the need to bring those responsible to justice.

I argue, then, that the argument for reconciliation, in its present form, is a kind of post-war pacifism that is too convenient for the victor, and ultimately disrespectful to the innocent.

As such, the call for reconciliation has, regrettably, come to resemble the Sri Lankan government's demand that life be allowed to simply move forward. Many in the Tamil diaspora in Canada and abroad proceed to rightly dismiss this call as nothing more than majoritarian rhetoric masquerading as the 'moder-

ate' position. If there is to be reconciliation, then, it seems clear that there must first be a substantial rethinking of the concept itself.

[Note: this is part 1 of 2 articles dealing with Sri Lanka. The second will take up the issue of war crimes with a specific focus on the actions of the LTTE]

Amarnath Amarasingam is a doctoral candidate at Wilfrid Laurier University, and is currently completing his dissertation entitled, Pain, Pride, and Politics: Sri Lankan Tamil Nationalism in Canada. He can be reached at: amarnath0330@gmail.com On Twitter: <http://twitter.com/amaramarasingam> This Article first appeared in The Huffington Post

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Short Story

AMONG THE COASTS - Part 1

Original in Tamil by T. Agilan
English Version by Thuraiyooran

The sea where the sun falls is full of wonders. It melts into a reddish foam and make you merry. The sea is always kissing the coast, a line remember to have read somewhere in a poem. The person who could remember the poems read is she. He is unable to fill his letters with poems. He felt jealous about one of her many special abilities to do so.

He was floating on the thought of traveling tomorrow. "Thamby (brother) we will definitely put you on boat, no more excuses", the words of the boatman was like honey going deep into his mind and kindled sweet thoughts.

I could see her face tomorrow. He was trying to draw her face from memory, but couldn't. Have I forgotten her. Her image unable to be described in words, was appearing in bits and pieces in his memory. Her eyes were more pleasurable than her face. Dinesh was unable to remember her full face. Her eyes were floating like small fish in his mind. Her eyes were every thing for her. They revealed her anger, speech, smirk and sorrow to him. The very thought of seeing her eyes again brought a chill in his body, like the sea breeze. His shadow hid itself in the evening twilight. Can't stay here anymore. Because the grief stricken town's night eyes are full of guns. These guns will ask questions in unknown languages. These may start sadistic searches on you. They cast a suspicious look on your body and derive pleasure. We are helpless in this situation. A wave twirled around his feet and dragged him into the sea.

He told his mother we could go tomorrow. Jenitta was grumbling. They have been cheating us for a week now. They received the money in advance. She is always like this in a hurry all the time. The youngest Mary was silent and lying down. Mother was acting as though she listened to him.

Actually mother doesn't like to go to India. Her mother told her to look after the land with the house, mango tree, jack tree and the rest. After her father she loved the trees, the garden, cattle and they loved her too. More than that she loved to live in the house built by her father. She believed that her father's smile was in every brick. This house was built with sweat of her father and the love of her mother, as told by our grandma. Mother's love to our father is still in her mind, but she never shared with us. She may have told us if father was living. It appeared that mother was safeguarding her love, like the honey in a bottle and was careful in seeing that it doesn't spill out.

But grandma was telling us lots of stories about them. The imagination in old age is not like a river but like a raging stream bursting its bunds. She used



Sunset, Inner Harbour, Trincomalee, Sri Lanka East - pic Drs. Sarajevo

to come out with everything with beautiful descriptions in a gusto. She came out with the secrets of all her children. It was evident from her stories that father was a mismatch to our mother. But our mother loved our father very much. This village was a witness to the sweet memories of their love and their escapades. Their lovelorn paintings unknown to others, have been inscribed in this village. Hence she didn't want to leave this village.

She agreed to go due to her children. One night they shot the first house owner in the lane and left. That night no one slept. Gun shots were heard through out the night. Mother didn't sleep the whole night. She never spoke to anyone. No one was in a mood to speak. All kept awake. Our life is used to lightless nights. The night father went missing mother was like this. He went looking for father all over and came back with grief and mother kept quiet. She never even asked about the result of the search. Dinesh guessed that mother would have decided something in her mind about our father. Sometime the decision of the mind is more decisive than witnesses and news. Mother trusted her mind's decision. She got used to a life without father, on the third day after his disappearance.

She took out the letters from uncles sent from India and cleaned the dust. She told him to write a letter to them to inform that we are coming to India. She wanted her children to escape death. Dinesh was eager to meet Niranjani, uncle's third daughter.

Mother knew that Dinesh is in love with Niranjani and even uncle too. They took it lightly and hence Dinesh was indirectly supported. Mother had this attitude may be because she was her brother's daughter. Had he loved someone else her reaction would have been the same. Any how Dinesh had some concerns in going to India. He had no other interests other than meeting Niranjani. He had no friends there. Even the friends here are in hiding or got killed. The Amman temple, the school he studied, the lanes he was running and the playground he played, all of these he never wanted to

miss. This feeling made him think deep. He had an internal fight between these thoughts. He felt that he belonged to the village and all the incidents are inscribed on his palm as lines.

His childhood memories are filled with guns and boots, hence difficult to stay in the village. Our foolish people have a believe that there are good guns and bad guns. Guns only know to kill, so he decided to go to India. There will be no terror filled nights. No barking of dogs or sound of breaking fence trees. Further more his Niranjani is there to shower love on him. Also could fill the lungs with sulphur smoke free air. So he had enough reasons to go to India. Making arrangements was a thrill and secret. Who is taking people to India by boat and how much they are charging, were all found out secretly. Finally it was decided on rupees ten thousand per person.

A week passed since arriving at Pesalai (village in Mannar district). 'leaving tomorrow', 'we are leaving tonight', 'not enough people', 'Navy patrol seems to be too much', 'no one to operate the boat' were the excuses, fears and reasons given for the delay." We are leaving tomorrow believe me", the boatman told him. He believed these words. His mind also said the same. You are bound to believe your mind. It never faltered. Intuition is like thousand truths floating on the surface of the ocean. He always trusted his intuition.

Mother was feeling distraught over leaving all the belongings behind. The amount of hardship, the struggle, the displeasure she earned over these belongings and the property she had for nearly 55 years, were a great loss to her. Now all what she had was in a black bag. Everyone had only a bag in their hands. Dinesh had a bag too, his savings of 25 years. The ocean had the power of determining their future. Whether it is six, seven or eight hours journey. No one knew. His father told not to ask the duration from the boatman. This he felt as a superstitious believe.

The boat people also had this believe and still has it. They believed that the

journey may meet with obstacles and dangers if you ask the duration. Everyone believed that we could reach the other side before dawn.

There were lots of stories floating around in the village about these sea journeys. People who were struggling in mid ocean, people who died because of the boat capsizing and people who survived with much difficulty. There was no scarcity in our country for such fatal stories. We have stories of bloody corpses and burning smell of dead bodies, a plenty in our land.

Selvam anna (brother) told us to be ready by 7.30 pm so that he will take us to the departing spot. He is the driver of the boat. We got ready at 6.30 and mother looked very calm and cool. May be she did not show her feelings. But he was feeling like a butterfly flying within the stomach. There was a feeling of an unknown fear, anxiety and joy in him. Mary was always sitting close to mother. Jenitta kept quiet. There was no feeling on her face. But they were all looking at him. So everyone was waiting for the driver. They were all waiting to leave the mango shaped island. He was thinking about the land, where he was living for the last quarter century. He was feeling as though he has grown old in these 25 years.

Around 8 pm there was a beedi light approaching our house. The person came close by and said Dinesh. He replied. Person turned back and started walking. They followed him without talking. The light was not visible. We only saw a shadow of a person wearing a jacket. We followed the shadow. After walking some distance the shadow stopped and showed the beedi light and made sure that we are following him. Then started walking again. Now the feet of all of us were sinking in dry sand. We must be aware of coast guard and must not be seen by him. No moon that day but the sea appeared lit. We could see the boats. After a while the sand suddenly took us into water with a cluck sound. Jenitta held the hand of him. He felt that everyone depended him in the absence of father. Something was dissolving like grated coconut among the feet. May be some sea weeds. The sound of the sea dashing on the boat was heard.

Is this a sea, no waves are there, he thought to himself. As the water rose above the knee, the shadow got into a boat. He helped Jenitta to get in. Then Mary and mother was helped to board the boat. Dinesh got in last. The person untied the robe tied to the boat. He used a long pole to move the boat slowly into the sea. Nobody talked. There was a fear filled silence. The smell of fish came out with full force and created a feeling of throwing out.

To be Continued...

A Favourite choice to Dine-In or Party

Merlyn's Taste of World is the realization of a lifelong dream for President /CEO and Founder, Merlyn Selva.

'Merlyn's Taste of World' is the latest venture with a restaurant and special events venue under one roof. The specialties of the house bring a contemporary twist to the menu serving a combination of traditional western, eastern and fusion cuisine.

With over 20 years of experience, Merlyn's Unique Caterers has grown to be one of the busiest in Southern Ontario. Merlyn's Unique Caterers was established, catering for corporate clients and operating cafeterias. Later they undertook to cater social events and continued to grow.

In 2006, Merlyn received the award for 'Entrepreneur of the year for Business Excellence' presented by the Markham Board of Trade.

Merlyn was nominated for 'Achievement and Civic Recognition award in Business/Corporate category' by the Town of Markham in 2010.

Inspired by many cultures, Merlyn designed his menus with the new trends toward healthy eating. He is an advocate for local products, and uses several sustainable food items, as well as locally grown produce and locally raised meats. His philosophy is simple - "great food



should be home made, savoured and memorable."

The reputation for innovative international cuisine and personalized service is verification of their dedication to excellence in every area of their business. Event planning is also their specialty and is perfectly suited for events of 10 to 200 people. Merlyn's party planning specialists assist you with every detail for your next business or social get-together.

Merlyn's magnificent banquet facility comprises of distinctively designed architecture and richly decorated interior. With seating for up to 200 persons, the main banquet area is spacious to accom-

modate smaller intimate as well as larger events. It is a unique setting for corporate events, weddings, birthday parties, anniversaries, Christmas parties and other social gatherings.

Merlyn's provides its patrons with a state-of-the-art facility equipped with HD TV for your multimedia presentations and designed to accommodate functions complimented with competitive pricing.

The bar has a distinctive selection of liquors, full service and expert bartenders. The banquet hall also includes a dance floor, DJ facilities and of course fine dining.

Come and experience the ultimate event-venue for your next event. You provide the time, date and occasion and Merlyn's will take care of the rest, Great atmosphere, great service and great food.

Merlyn's has provided catering in the York Region for over 10 years. We provide flexible catering and specialize in custom made, fresh quality foods. All our menus are prepared to the highest standards and care. Satisfy your business clients, sports teams, school events, or any social function with tastes from around the globe.

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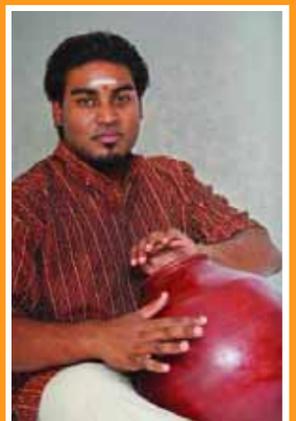
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Recent Event



Creation of Sorkkam Club by Visionary Entrepreneurs

“Entrepreneurs Warren Sinnathamby, Meleni David and few others believed in this vision that made for the creation of Sorkkam Club. The vision was that they wanted to have a place for community, families and friends come, spend and enjoy the time together”, said Umesh Vallipuram, CA in his speech during the grand opening of Sorkkam Club on Friday, June 10th.

More than 500 guests attended the opening of Sorkkam Club and had a

chance to walk around and view all the facilities available at Sorkkam Club premises located at 150 Bullock Dr, Markham. Guests were treated with wine and delicacies throughout the evening along with live music.

Indoor cricket facilities and practice pitches with auto balling equipment is one of the attraction for young cricketers to get the training throughout the year. Fitness facilities, many games such as Table Tennis and Pool Table for enter-

tainment are some other features at Sorkkam Club.

Full office and print shop facilities are available to serve the needs of the business persons as well as business and social lounges, meeting and board rooms for members at Sorkkam Club.

A well planned out studio is available for members to use the area for photo shoot or prepare a movie – video promotional advertisement. Members with interest in art and culture will also be

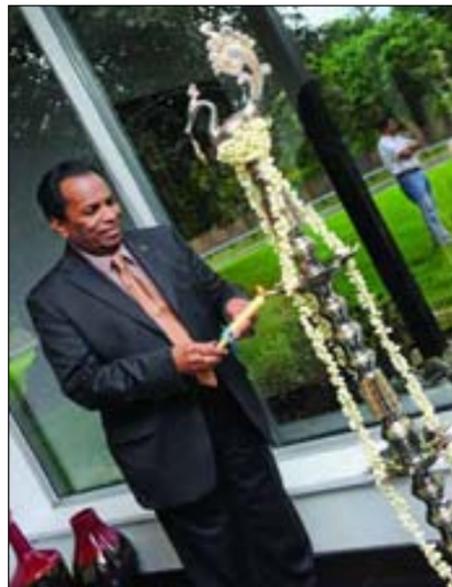
able to learn the instrument of their choice along with facilities for audition.

There is space available to cater functions too with dining facilities.

Sorkkam has also announced future expansion of the facilities and land nearby earmarked for further development in the next few years.

Some of the photos taken on Friday, June 10th at the opening day can be seen here.

Photo courtesy: Ninaivukal.com





Recent Event

Tamil Literary Garden Awards - 2011

The Tamil Literary Garden, which was established in 2001, is a Toronto based organization committed towards promoting the development of Tamil literature and studies internationally. The mandate includes the presentation of awards on an annual basis to those creative persons who have made significant contributions to the development of the Tamil language. The annual awards function was held in Radisson hotel on 18 June 2011.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to a leading writer in Tamil, Mr. S. Ponnuthurai who has made significant contributions in the last 60 years. His masterpiece, 'Sadangu', a novel set in the 1960s in Sri Lanka, has now been translated into English as 'Rituals' by Professor Chelva Kanaganayakam and will be released very soon. Mr.S. Ponnuthurai has written more than 25 books which includes his autobiography 'Varalaarril Vaazthal' that has been

well received.

In addition to the Lifetime Achievement Award, the following awards were also presented. Fiction awards to P. Karunaharamoorthy for his collection of short stories 'Pathungu Kuzhi' and to S. Venkatesan for his novel 'Kaaval Kottam'.

Non-fiction awards to R.S. Sugirtharajah for his book 'Panpaaddu PorkanikaL' and to S.Theodore Baskaran for his book 'Innum

Pirakkaatha ThalaimuRaikkaaka.'

Poetry awards to Thirumavalavan for his collection of poems 'Irul Yazhi' and to Manushyaputhiran for his collection of poems 'Atheethathin Rusi'.

Information Technology in Tamil Award given in honour of Sunadara Ramaswamy every year was awarded to Muthu Nedumaran from Malaysia. The student essay contest award was given to Serothy Ramachandran.



Recent Event



Providence Community Partners

Providence Healthcare Foundation welcomed 60 'Partners' and guests from local businesses to Providence Healthcare on June 10 for its Spring Mixer and BBQ, generously sponsored by Enbridge Gas Distribution. This social and networking event featured table-top discussions led by Providence Healthcare staff on WSIB and Employee Wellness; the services offered through the Providence Community Centre, includ-

ing the Adult Day Program and Scotiabank Learning Centre; and information on the role Providence Healthcare plays within the healthcare system.

Providence Community Partners is a growing, dynamic program offering incredible value to businesses in the east end and is open to any size business looking to get involved in the community and looking to network with potential ven-

dors and clients. Our Providence Community Partners are businesses and community organizations from Scarborough and East York that cover a wide range of industries and services.

Providence Healthcare is a leading Toronto health care facility, specializing in rehabilitation for patients who have experienced strokes, orthopaedic surgery, or lower limb amputation, or who require specialized geriatric rehabilita-

tion, assessment and treatment. We also provide complex continuing care, long-term care and community outreach with a particular focus on addressing the medical, physical, spiritual and emotional needs of individuals with geriatric conditions. If you are interested in learning more about Providence Community Partners, please contact Emily Dawson at 416-285-3666, ext. 4232 or at edawson@providence.on.ca.



Indran Kunaratnam, Manager Operations, Office Paradise, Suresh Kumar, President & CEO, J11 IT Solutions, Mike Ahilan, President, Canadian Tamil Chamber of Commerce, Jennifer Stewart, President, Providence Healthcare Foundation and Paul Dunderas, Director of Marketing, Kingsway Arms at McCowan Retirement Residence.



Namita Kanishkan, Manager, Human Resources and Special Projects, Kanish & Partners Chartered Accountants and Advisors, Dr. Raffy Chouljian, DDS and Josie Walsh, President and CEO, Providence Healthcare.



Silvano DiMarco, Private Banker, TD Waterhouse Private Client Services, Emily Dawson, Director, Annual Fund & Partnerships, Providence Healthcare Foundation and Mike Scott, Manager Business Development, TD Business Banking.



Honourable Margaret Best, MPP Scarborough-Guildwood, Minister of Health Promotion and Sport with Lynne Wallace, Chair, Providence Community Partners Advisory Group.



Crystal Lambkin, Manager & Cruise Specialist, Paragon Travel, Jennifer Stewart, President, Providence Healthcare Foundation, and Neil Herie, Jerrett Funeral Home.



Dr. Peter Nord, Vice President, Chief Medical Officer and Chief of Staff, Providence Healthcare, Dan Harris, MP Scarborough Southwest and Manny Sousa, Manager, Community & Municipal Relations, Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.



Renzo Ranalli, District Vice President, TD Commercial Banking, Namita Kanishkan, Manager, Human Resources and Special Projects, Kanish & Partners Chartered Accountants and Advisors, and Mike Ahilan, President, Canadian Tamil Chamber of Commerce.



The Providence Community Partners Spring BBQ and Mixer was generously sponsored by Enbridge Gas Distribution



Several Providence Healthcare staff were on hand to inform guests about services offered by Providence Healthcare. Angie Papadopoulos, Wellness Coordinator and Administrative Assistant, Occupational Health and Safety and Suzanne MacDougall, Manager, Occupational Health, were on hand to provide guests with information on WSIB and employee wellness.

The Real Wedding Show 2011 - a multicultural extravaganza

Everybody knows that the Indian Style Wedding Procession known as 'Baraat' is a unique feature of the Indian Weddings. How about if you also be the part of a Baraat? Nice idea, isn't it? So, be ready to dance in an Indian Wedding Procession in "The Real Wedding Show 2011" presented by 'Universal Business Chambers' in association with 'Rishta Shaadi' Marriage Bureau, to be held on Sunday, August 7th 2011 from 12 PM to 10 PM at Premier Banquet Hall, Mississauga ON.

'The Real Wedding Show' is a yearly event. Last time this show was held in New York, USA. This Wedding Show will be packed with full of entertainment and fun. As the title line of the show reads, "A Multicultural Extravaganza with Punjabi Tadka, Gujarati Masala, Rajasthani Colours and North American Potpourri", this show will portray the true multicultural essence of Canadian Life Style.

'The Real Wedding Show 2011' is being sponsored by a number of well known corporate businesses and supported by South Asian and Main Stream Newspapers, Radio & TV shows.

To avoid a competition between the vendors only 30 vendors are being picked from various trades and professions, who will display their products and services at the show.

Besides the Baraat and the Vendors Booths, another charm of the event is the 'Fashion Show'. Efforts are on that the Fashion Show incorporates not only the South Asian Wedding Dresses like Sarees, Base, Gowns and Jewellery for women and Shervani for men but also the Western Style Wedding Gowns for women and Tuxedo for men be displayed by the fashion models from the South Asian diaspora and the main stream fashion models from Canada and the US.

"The Real Wedding Show" is not just for fun and business. This show also carries responsibility to honor a few distinguished gems of the community who have dedicated their lives for the cause of community, have excelled in their respective businesses/professions/services, promoted cultural values and have proved themselves to be a face in the crowd. The awards include - 1. Lifetime Achievement Award, 2. Professional Excellence Award, 3. Cultural Excellence Award and 'Face in the Crowd' Award.

The visitors will taste presentation of different cultures by means of Bollywood Dances, Bhangra & Gidda (Punjabi Dances), Dandia & Garba (Gujarati Dances), Ghoomar (Rajasthani Dance) and Western Dances.

Quick displays of on the spot - 1. Hair

Styling, 2. Henna, 3. Bridal Make-up, and 4. Yoga for weightloss, will be another highlight of the show.

A Food Stall with mouthwatering dishes will be ready to welcome and serve the visitors of the show.

Just for a ticket \$5 per person, audience of 'The Real Wedding Show 2011' will enjoy the whole day fun. No tickets for kids under 10.

For further enquiries about the sponsorship, vendor booths, participating in

the show as a fashion model (individual and agency), dancer (individual or group) or for tickets, please call Prof. Saran Ghai, President & CEO, Universal Business Chambers: (647) 993-0330 or e-mail: businesschambers@gmail.com.

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Durham Tamil Association



DTA's 11th Annual BBQ

On a beautiful sunny day June 18 – Durham Tamil Association held its 11th annual BBQ & Sports meet. Over 160 adults & kids participated & had a great time. Greenwood conservation park was an ideal location for DTA members to enjoy all day activities. BBQ & freshly made Kothu Roti was served & enjoyed by all. Kids activities from races to hurdles had several children earning 1st, 2nd 3rd place medals in front of proud parents. Our new MP for Ajax-Pickering Chris Alexander attended & brought greetings from the Federal Government of Canada with his wife Hedvig & their beautiful daughter Selma. Kim Dowds- Community activist, Councillor David Pickles & Regional Councillor Peter Rodrigues brought greetings and handed medals for the sports meet winners. We would like to thank all participants, sponsors (Dairy Queen Ajax), DTA Sports Committee and all DTA volunteers for a great event.



DURHAM TAMILS GET READY FOR AN EXCITING SUMMER DTA's UPCOMING EVENTS IN JULY

July 1st Canada Day Celebrations at Ajax & Pickering - join at DTA's tents

July 24th LADIES CLUB:

Exciting cooking lessons with a well-known Chef 10A.M. -12 P.M.

@ Eastshore Community Centre

July 24th BASKET BALL PRACTICE:

7-9 P.M. @ Eastshore Community Centre

Youth activities every week throughout July, Beach Day, Sports Activities,

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Durham Tamil Association

Durham Tamil Association celebrated with Town of Ajax at AJAX Mardi Gras Parade

On June 17th DTA kids & adults dressed up in traditional costume & Mardi Gras outfits. DTA's float included a live band with drums, piano and musicians.



Durham Tamil Association's Kids Camp Day - June 3rd

DTA youth organized this fun filled event, Banuja Ganesalingam and Sangeetha Shanthakumar were the team leaders and did a great job with kids activities. Camp day started off with throwing the ball in the bucket game, followed by Scavenger hunt, Movie time & Pizza lunch. Kids enjoyed coloring competition and storytelling inside two tents for break time with cookies and juice

DTA supporting Literacy Night at Valley Farm Public School in Pickering

Anita Suresh (Valley Farm P.S.), Banuja Ganeshalingam and DTA volunteers made the event colorful by offering Henna Tattoo, Face painting for students & parents.



Tamil Cultural & Academic Society of Durham



Mardi Gras

On Friday, June 17, The Tamil Cultural & Academic Society of Durham (TCASD) was honoured to participate in the annual Ajax Homeweeek Parade. This year's theme being Mardigras was a colorful and exciting event. This is an event that TCASD always attends along with many other organizations. It is a very entertaining and special event which brings the community together. TCASD had many youth including their

parade club participate. They wore bright eye catching costumes designed by Sigogini Sivarajah and hammered their bright noise makers. They marched through the Ajax Durham Centre along with the many other floats. Everyone had a great time, and cheers could be heard across the Town. TCASD has participated in this parade every year and hope to continue on this tradition.

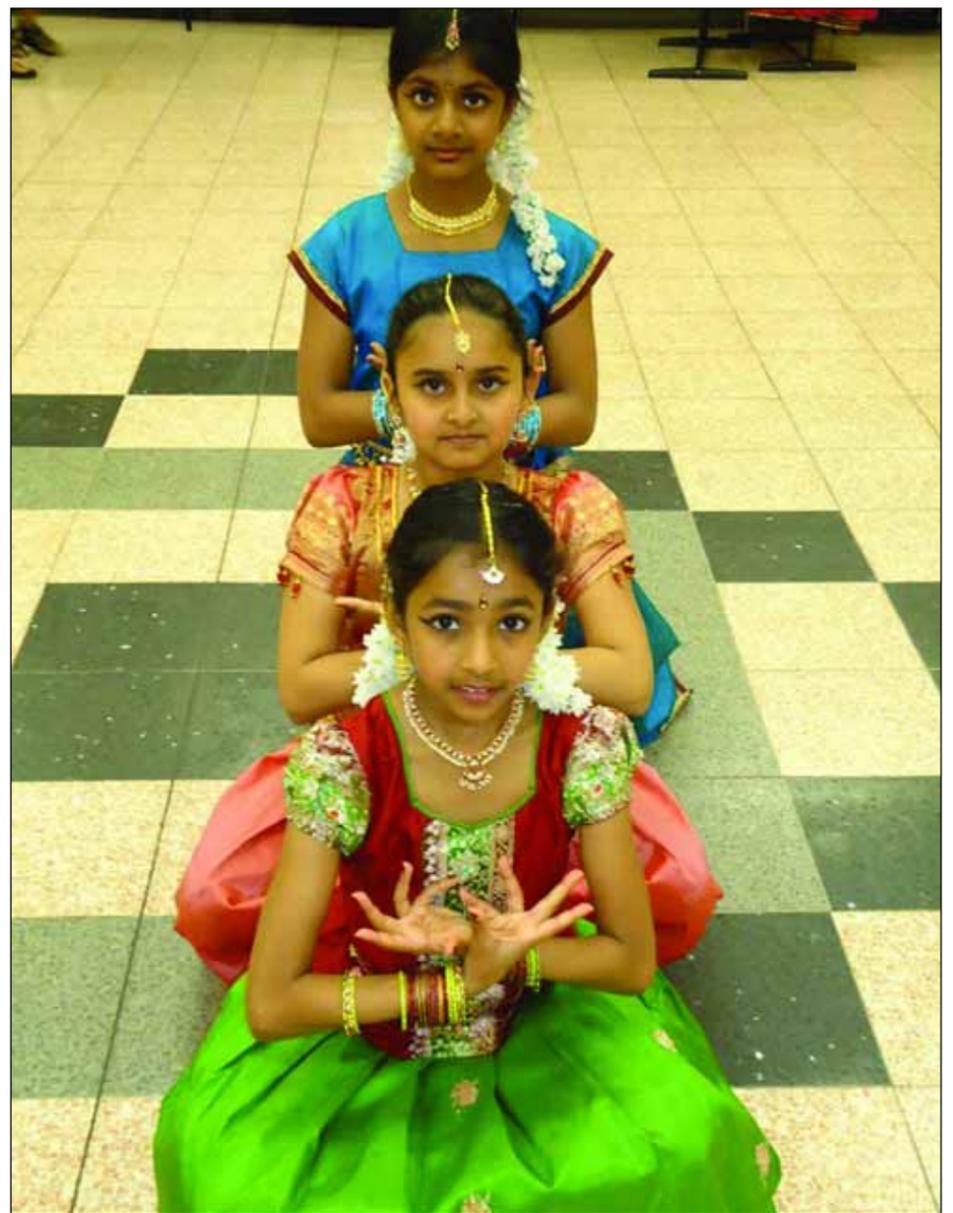


TCASD at the South Asian Heritage Day

The Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham participated in the South Asian Heritage festival 2011 held at the Ajax community Center on the 21st of May 2011. The south Asian heritage festival was organized by the Community Economic Development for Immigrant women. It was a great honour for TCASD to participate in this event and represent their heritage. TCASD presented two dances for this festival. The

children of TCASD danced an excellent dance in the scenario of Brindhavan where Lord Krishna grew up with the Gobis.

The participants include Santhiya, Ashana and Nancy and Nadaline. The dance was choreographed by our senior youth Vashine Kamesan. The dance was enjoyed by every one and all the kids who participated in the dance were so excited and did their dance with passion.



Santhiya, Nancy and Ashana



The Escape into Glory dance group



Tamil Cultural & Academic Society of Durham

A Night of Hope

Lavanya Pathmanathan

Hospitals are an essential resource to the community for they are a place that allows the ill to recover. They act as a second home and provide a feeling of comfort to many. The Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham recognize the great contribution of hospitals. As a result, TCASD held their second annual charity gala, Lights of Hope: An Evening at the Taj, on Saturday June 4th, 2011. The event raised well over six thousand dollars with donations still coming in. All the profits raised this gala is be donated to the two hospitals, Rouge Valley Ajax - Pickering hospital towards the MRI Campaign and The Oshawa Hospital towards our pledge for the Durham Regional Cancer Centre.

This auspicious occasion, held at the Ajax Convention Centre, was an astounding success. From the start to the end, there was not a dull moment. The entertainment was lively. There was a variety of dances that ranged from Bharathanatyam to Bhangra. Also the melodic sounds of Bavadharani in Bharradhi Arts Group.

Melanie Ratnam with her beautiful voice got the guests out of their seats to dance away and pleased the ears of many. The food was enjoyable! The fashion show, coordinated by the infamous London designer PK Del Mar, was a perfect way to end off the memorable night. TCASD would like to thank those who

helped coordinate the very successful evening. It would not have been possible without them.

Also TCASD is grateful for our special guests who attended the event.

We would like to thank our special guest speaker Dr. Rajes Logan the President of Canadian Medical Dental Development Association, Honourable Rathika Sitsabaiesan the MP of Scarborough Rogue River, Honourable Cornerliu Chisu the MP of Scarborough-Pickering, Joe Dickson the MPP of Ajax-Pickering, Shaun Collier the Regional Councillor Ward One and the Deputy Mayor for the Town of Ajax, Lorene Coe City Councillor and Acting Deputy Mayor Town of Whitby, David Pickles, City Councillor Ward three City of Pickering, Mrs. Andrea Russell the Interim CEO of the Oshawa Hospital Foundation and Mrs. Tracy Paterson the VP of Development Rouge Valley Health System Foundation and Image is Everything Campaign Director.

A special thanks to Veridian for the continuous support, TVI, CMR, CTBC and Monsoon Journal for all the media coverage, dance choreographers Aparna, Thulasi and Sigogini, and slide show coordinator Abira. Our heartfelt appreciation and thanks to all the sponsors and donors for this event. The Lights of Hope Charity Gala is another TCASD tradition that will be continuing for many years to support our local hospitals.



Guest of the gala



Appreciating the Gala sponsors



Corneliu Chisu, MP Scarborough-Pickering



Dr Rajes Logan, President of CMDDA



Rathika Sitsabaiesan, MP Scarborough Rouge River



PK Fashion designer and model



Business



Look before you leap

Taxing issues of owning U.S. property

David Joseph, M.A. (Economics)

When Canadians think about another long Canadian winter, the anticipation of an annual sojourn to the sunny south is especially appealing. For many, purchasing a second residence in the United States is an attractive alternative. However, significant tax planning, financial planning and estate planning implications accompany the purchase of foreign property. It's important to do your research first, so you know what to expect and how to prepare. Here's a review of the key issues.

Financing the deal When you purchased your principal residence in

to determine what option is right for you. You should consult with your Investors Group Consultant who will work with your lawyer and accountant

to ensure you maximize your tax reductions.

After the purchase:

Once you've decided on the property you want and have arranged appropriate financing, more decisions await.

Will you rent out the property?

Canadian residents are taxable in Canada on their world wide income. Therefore, any net rental income from your U.S. property will be taxable to you in Canada. In addition, you will be taxed in the U.S. on the rental income (foreign

David Joseph, M.A. (Economics)
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tax purposes will also take place upon death. The U.S. may levy federal and state estate tax, depending on the value of the property and the size of

your estate. Only U.S. estate tax may be eligible for a foreign tax credit to offset any Canadian capital gains tax on the deemed disposition.

The taxing truth about selling your U.S. property

Escalating costs may have you considering the sale of your U.S. real estate

the sale of U.S. real estate on a U.S. tax return, regardless of whether you gained or sustained a loss on the sale. And keep in mind, there are some differences on how the capital gain is taxed in the U.S.. In Canada, we tax the difference between the fair market value and the 'adjusted cost base' of a property. In the U.S., the capital gain is the difference between the fair market value and 'basis', which may not be the same as the 'adjusted cost base'. If you have claimed depreciation on your U.S. property for tax purposes, the 'basis' will be reduced by all the depreciation previously claimed. As a result, the capital gain for U.S. purposes may be greater than the Canadian capital gain. There is no recapture of depreciation for U.S. purposes. Capital gains are fully taxable in the U.S., although the rate of tax applied to a gain may be lower. Each state imposes its own taxes so you must consult the relevant legislation for the state in which your property is located. Any state income tax may be used as a deduction when calculating U.S. federal tax.

Comprehensive

Canada U.S. tax treaty:

To prevent double taxation, Canada allows you a foreign tax credit up to the amount of the U.S. tax paid. Property owned on September 26, 1980 is afforded special treatment that may reduce the amount of your U.S. taxation.

The U.S. may impose a withholding tax on the sale. Ten percent of the gross proceeds of the sale will be withheld, unless the purchase price is \$300,000 U.S. or less and the purchaser

intends to use the property as a residence. This tax is shown as a credit on your U.S. federal tax return. These are just some of the subtleties impacting the sale of your U.S. property. . Buying real property is always a major life decision, and often represents a major expenditure. When that property is in another country, there are additional tax and estate planning implications to consider.

Disclaimer:

This report specifically written and published as a general source of information only, and is not intended as a solicitation to buy or sell specific investments, nor is it intended to provide legal advice.



Canada, chances are you

took out a mortgage for a good portion of the total value. You might want to do the same with your U.S. property. Canadian based lenders cannot accept a mortgage on a U.S. property.

You may need to consider other sources of financing. You may be able to borrow in the U.S. at a lower rate than Canada. While lower interest rates are appealing, remember that foreign exchange fluctuations ultimately may make your U.S. debt more expensive to service.

A non-recourse mortgage may be your best option since this type of mortgage may reduce your exposure to U.S. Estate Tax.

Ownership options:

There are many options to ownership that may reduce the estate tax liability. Generally, assets can be owned personally, in a partnership or through a trust. Keep in mind that there are many

factors you need to consider in order

tax credits can be claimed when filing your Canadian tax return, to avoid double taxation). Depreciation is mandatory for U.S. tax purposes, so the U.S. and Canadian returns should be done in conjunction with one another to ensure the full potential of foreign tax credits is achieved. U.S. tax must be withheld by the U.S. renter unless you elect to use the net rental income method. If so, for how long? If you rent out your U.S. property for more time than you use it yourself, and if it costs more than \$100,000, you must also file an annual information return in Canada along with your Canadian tax return (Form T1135).

Upon disposition:

When you sell your U.S. property, any capital gains will be included in your income for Canadian tax purposes. As well, a U.S. federal return and possibly a state return will be required to report the gain. Canada will usually allow a foreign tax credit for U.S. tax paid.

A deemed disposition for Canadian

holdings. But, before you hammer in that "For Sale" sign, consider this — as a Canadian resident, your sale has the potential to attract Canadian, U.S. and U.S. State income tax.

Canadian taxation :

As a resident of Canada, your worldwide income is taxable — which means that the taxable capital gain or loss on the sale of a U.S. property must be reported on your Canadian tax return in the year of sale. It is possible to use your principal residence exemption to shelter the gain from Canadian income tax, but you may not want to waste that exemption if tax arises in the U.S. on the transaction. If you have claimed depreciation on the property, there is also a possibility for recapturing that depreciation — which is fully taxable.

U.S. taxation:

The U.S. imposes tax on real property in accordance with the Foreign Investment In Real Property Tax Act (FIRPTA). Therefore, you must report



Have Economic Models and Policy Tools Failed in the Current Global Economic and Financial System?

Arun Senathirajah ACIB,
MBA (Banking Mgmt)

Originating from the subprime mortgage market crisis, financial crisis emerged in 2008-09 engulfed large investment bankers on Wall Street and brought serious recession in the US since the Great Depression and dragged rest of the world economy down with it. Global financial crisis started with lightly regulated market driven capitalism in the US. IMF's Chief Economist Olivier Blanchard has recently stated "The crisis has clearly shown both the limits of markets and the limits of government intervention. It is time to take stock and draw a first set of lessons." 'We are now, I fear, in the early stages of a third depression' says Nobel Prize winner Paul Krugman 'and this third depression will be primarily a failure of policy around the world... governments are obsessing about inflation but the real threat is deflation.' He has added fiscal restraint is correct when the economy is strong, but under the circumstances, restraint actually causes problem you are trying to solve, since by slowing growth governments reduce their tax intake deficit rise rather than fall, citing the example of the 1870s and 1930s.'

Free Market is not independent

Free market economy is not really free and independent. It is subject to intervention by the respective governments and requirements laid by international bodies such as IMF, World Bank, regional bodies like ADB (Asian Development Bank) and ECB (European Central Bank), when economic situation going out of the hands of the respective governments. They further adopt various social security measures to suppress social and political unrest. Subprime mortgage crisis in the western economies, liquidity calamity of the banking, bankruptcies of insurance and investment banking institutions and credit crunch had led to global financial crisis which inevitably invited interference of the state machineries to regulate the markets. Governments mostly of from western nations pumped billions of dollars following the calls from the US Fed, Bank of England and ECB to prevent further calamity. Many countries in the Europe are now facing sovereign debt crisis and inevitably follow the austerity measures proposed by the IMF and the relevant lenders.

Current Models and Rethinking

Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium" (DSGE) models used by the Federal Reserve and other central banks were subject to strong criticism by leading economists and questioned the wisdom of relying for national economic policy on a single, specific model when alternatives are available. The Institute for New Economic Thinking in New York has attacked many of the assumptions, including efficient financial markets and rational expectations, on which these models are predicated. These assumptions were clearly too simplistic. Professor Joseph Stiglitz of Columbia University explains the reality of the crisis as 'At a very high level of analysis there is a realization that markets are not necessarily efficient and stable on their own. Many economists had believed that to be the case before the crisis. Widespread belief was that keeping inflation low and stable was necessary, and almost sufficient, for maintaining

high growth and good economic performance is clearly wrong as well. Models that were used before the crisis neither predicted the crisis nor gave us a framework for responding to the crisis when it happened. For an economist, this is a very exciting time, because it means there's a lot of work to be done.' Professor Michael Spence of Stanford University is of the opinion that 'inflation continues to be an important policy target, but it can't be the exclusive focus of central banks. If one is worried about the stability of systems as complex as our financial systems, focusing on inflation, I think, is quite clearly not enough.' Robert Solow, professor emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology states 'the simple dependence on conventional monetary policy, not to be abandoned of course, seems to have come to its limits, and one has to move on even to direct fiscal policy or to innovative ways of dealing with money and credit. An interesting idea with direct policy implications is to rethink the way the credit mechanism mediates between savers and investors and puts credit to productive use. That is terribly important, both nationally and internationally.'

Monetary Policy V Fiscal Policy

Generally monetary policy is considered more effective compared to fiscal policy. When interest rates came down to zero—then monetary policy couldn't work, and that was thought to be a weird and almost-never-to-occur circumstance. Even the prevailing situation is same at very low interest rate the western economies have not yet rebounded with the sign of growth. Inflation is also a very important problem. The rising commodity prices are a major headache. They also have a bigger impact on inflation in the developing countries. One of the lessons of the crisis for the emerging markets is that they need to pay more attention to prebuilt mechanisms that allow them to redistribute income or provide support in the face of shocks. Now, economic mind-set shifts towards fiscal policy measures. On the fiscal side, huge build up of public debt specially, in the United States with every budgetary submissions make them dependent on lenders for their economic agenda. When are they going to have surplus to redeem their bonds? When budgetary gap bridging lenders like China turn away from US dollar denominated bonds what are the consequences for the economy. Systematic management of sovereign debts with the agreement of the lenders with whom a country defaulted is paramount important in order to get out of the debts, taking example of Argentina, thereby a borrower can avoid unsatisfactory austerity measures imposed on them.

Global Reserve System

Replacing the current dollar-based global reserve system with a global system is extraordinarily important. Augmenting the SDR (special drawing rights) system which the IMF manages is also proposal with expanded basket of currencies like Chinese Yuan. The SDR is an international reserve asset created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement its member countries' official reserves. There are proposals now to issue SDRs on a regular basis so they may be used in a countercyclical way and for addressing global needs. It is also hoped this would resolve problems with the countries with excess currency



reserves artificially keeping low of their currency value (devalued).

Banking Re-regulation

There are widespread allegations that present worldwide financial catastrophe was the result of deregulation architecture maneuvered by Alan Greenspan, former Chairman of the US Federal Reserve and his predecessors. He left the derivatives market mostly unregulated and let the offshore banking to flourish with innovative financially engineered and structured products by investment bankers such as JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, Bank of America, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley evading from US Inland Revenue. Alan Greenspan's era of the 1990s fully supported the development and trading practices of the risky financial derivative products and even Federal agencies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were responsible for the developing risky mortgage backed securities. Alan Greenspan regretted in 2008 'I made mistake in presuming that the self-interest of organizations specifically banks and others, were such as they were best capable of protecting their own shareholders and their equity in the firms.' Structured products such as CDOs and CDSs did not spread the risks, rather concentrated to be too risky. Professor Simon Johnson at MIT's Sloan School of Management states 'Including JPMorgan Chase & Co. Citigroup, Bank of America, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley major six banks have total assets more than 60% of the US GDP. This is an unprecedented degree of financial concentration...concentrated economic power tends to take over political power, which runs counter to democratic tradition.. also have learned that it runs counter to sound economic policy.' Very concentrated banking system with capital accumulation, especially here in the United States gave the confidence to the bankers that the economy is dependent on them so, that the government will rescue them in case of liquidity issues arise. Realizing these dangers of the deregulation and the financial crisis led to banking sector reregulation in the form of modified recast of Glass-Steagall Act (Bank Act of 1933) by President Barack Obama's administration in 2010. Repairing the financial system is not complete. Governments' capacity to respond to a crisis is lessened because of the rising debt and deficits that have come as a result of the crisis itself. There is grave need to limit the size of the banks and really workable regulations. Regulation should also be global in nature with exchange of practical ideas.

In Search of New Models

The crisis was a wake-up call for theorists and policymakers. Economic models and policy tools have to be adapting to

changes in the global economic and financial system. The subject of Economics has become an open ground where more research is required to prevent future economic catastrophe.

Conventional economic models failed to foresee the financial crisis. Could Agent-Based Modeling do better?

Courtesy: The Economist

ABMs - Economic Crisis Early-Warning System

A workshop on Agent-Based Models (ABMs) sponsored by America's National Science Foundation and attended by economists from the Fed and the Bank of England, policy advisers and IT specialists. They explored the potential of ABMs of the economy to help learn the lessons of this crisis and, perhaps, to develop an early-warning system for the next one. ABM uses a bottom-up approach which assigns particular behavioral rules to each agent. In ABMs simply run a computer simulation to see what emerges, free from any top-down assumptions. Agents' behavior may be determined (and altered) by direct interactions between them, whereas in conventional models interaction happens only indirectly through pricing. For example, some may believe that prices reflect fundamentals whereas others may rely on empirical observations of past price trends. DSGE models perform well enough in a business-as-usual economy. They do badly in a crisis, however, because their "dynamic stochastic" element only amounts to minor fluctuations around a state of equilibrium, and there is no equilibrium during crashes. ABMs, in contrast, make no assumptions about the existence of efficient markets or general equilibrium. Big fluctuations and even crashes are an inherent feature in ABMs, since ABMs contain feedback mechanisms that can amplify small effects, such as the herding and panic that generate bubbles and crashes. In mathematical terms the models are "non-linear", meaning that effects need not be proportional to their causes. Models for American Housing Market subprime mortgage Crisis, Credit Crunch, and a Model for complex derivatives failure are some of the vulnerabilities predicted by the ABMs were presented in the workshop. ABM is similar to Tsunami warning or seismologists' forecast of earthquakes precisely the gradual movements of tectonic plates. Role of interactions between different sectors of the economy—housing and finance is also possible. They are exploring the feasibility of constructing an immense real-time simulation model of the entire global economy by linking many such modules together.

Arun Senathirajah

The Academy of Finance

Children's Corner



A SUMMER STORY

(Adapted from a Native American Folktale)

By Chandrani Warnasuriya

Long ago there lived a group of American Indians at the edge of Winterland in an island called the 'Land of Sunrise.' The Indians of the land called themselves the "Children of Light," Wawaniki, because they were the only people who saw the light of the Sun in

a powerful glow about her that could melt away anything frozen.

Glassenap was determined to find the maiden to save his people. He requested the help of the bird who carried him on his wings to the far south to the shores of the southern seas. Glassenap who knew the language of birds spoke to the whale and requested him to carry him on his back over to the land of Summer. The

air softer and sweeter. The smell of spices fruits and flowers perfumed the air enticing him body and spirit. He heard the clams singing down in the sand. The whale asked Glassenap what it was the sea animals were singing. Glassenap wishing to go aground said, "They want us to hurry up, for storm is coming." Close by land Glassenap did what was forbidden. He opened his eyes and peeped. At once the whale got stuck in the beach and Glassenap jumped out the whale's back and walked ashore. Pushing the whale back hard Glassenap managed to send the whale back into the water, bidding him farewell and thanking him.

With each step he took inland, Glassenap found the land getting warmer and warmer. It was not long before he found himself deep in the forest. In the forest he came across a beautiful woman in the midst of a group of girls, singing and dancing around her. Her beautiful black hair was decked with flowers and her arms and body dazzling with golden trimmings. She was so beautiful and charming and full of sweet words that Glassenap was sure she would melt the cold and icy heart of the

sweetly and gently, touching Winter's heart. Winter felt warm. His cold and frozen heart melted and instead of frost sweat poured down his face. Winter felt his power all gone. The spell of frost broken, his icy tent melted away,

Summer now wielded her power and everything came back to life. Grass grew green. Snow ran down rivers. Plants and trees woke up and new life came into being all over. Old Winter now felt all his power taken away.

Suddenly they all felt themselves in the middle of a dividing line. To the north of it was the Northern hemisphere and to the south of it lay the Southern hemisphere. With one stroke of her hand Summer wrote 'Thus far and no further. I give the land north of the line to be all yours for six months of the year. I will not disturb you and you will reign over Glassenap's land. In the other six months I will come back from the South to rule the land.'

Giant Winter could do nothing but agree. Fleeing to the North, he was smitten and struck down by gigantic pole and could go no further. Frozen stiff he couldn't move for six months, and so it was named the North Pole. The Winterland getting less and less cold it spread in a binomial triangle down to the south. Summer standing on the edge of South Pole spread her luscious green all over for six months. The binomial trian-



'a peaceful Summer, and a heart warming Winter' - Pic: K. Thirukumaran

the far distant horizon when they woke up in the morning. The Land of Sunrise, was ruled by a very kind hearted man by the name of Glassenap.

Once Sunrise Land got extremely cold. The land froze. Snow and ice spread everywhere and covered everything. Fires wouldn't glow and give warmth. No corn could be grown and no animals could be raised. The people were perishing of the cold.

Glassenap wanted to do something to save his people. So, he went as far North as possible beyond which lay the land of Winter. He inquired from the people why their land was frozen. He was told of a giant by the name of Winter living in a wigwam and that it was the giant's breath that froze the land. Glassenap decided to have a talk with the giant and entered the wigwam, Before long the giant's frost fell on Glassenap casting a spell over him and he went to sleep for six months. At the end of six months the charm left Glassenap and he woke up.

In the meanwhile Looni a wild bird who had been very attached to Glassenap in the Land of Sunrise came looking for him and brought him good news. The bird told him of a land to the far South that was always warm. This land was ruled by a maiden whose name was Summer. She was very beautiful and had



'The Winterland getting less and less cold' - Pic: K. Thirukumaran

whale was willing, but on one condition, that he wouldn't open his eyes or his mouth lest he go aground strike against a reef and Glassenap would fall off and get drowned. Glassenap agreed and got on the whale's back For many days he travelled on the whale's back.

Each day the water got warmer and

giant Winter.

Glassenap leaped over and caught her and together they travelled to the far north back to the icy tent of giant Winter. Winter planned to put him into sleep again. Here Summer did not allow Glassenap to do any talking but did the talking herself. Her words fell softly and

gle now complete, Summer and Giant Winter hugged each other meeting once more at the dividing line running from East to West and promised each other to live in peaceful co-existence, to give every creature on the planet earth and Glassenap's land, a peaceful Summer, and a heart warming Winter.



Children's Corner

SCHOOL'S OUT, CAMPING'S IN COLEMAN CANADA AND CANADIAN TIRE MAKE IT EASY FOR CANADIANS TO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

The end of classes marks the official start of summer for many families eager to enjoy the benefits of the great outdoors. With the Canada Day long-weekend fast approaching, Canadians have the opportunity to kick-start an active camping season. A survey commissioned by Coleman Canada and Canadian Tire indicates that 94 per cent of Canadians plan to spend time outdoors this summer.

“As noted in the survey, participants agree that ‘easy campsite setup’ (34 per cent) and ‘quality gear’ (29 per cent) are key to making Canadians happy campers,” says Pat Gray, Director of Marketing, Coleman Canada. “Providing reliable products that minimize setup times and make preparing delicious meals easy are some of the ways Coleman helps create happy campers.”

Enjoying the Outdoors is Convenient and Comfortable

Almost 20 per cent of Canadians identified “planning/getting organized” as one of the hardest decisions when “preparing for an outdoor getaway and exploring nature.” By offering convenient and comfortable recreational solutions with gear that fits every budget, group size and camping style, Coleman and Canadian Tire enable families to make the most of their outdoor time this summer.

“Canadian Tire understands life in Canada and wants to make it easy for everyone to get outside and discover fun activities,” says Duncan Reith, senior vice president, merchandising, Canadian Tire. “Whether it’s camping outdoors, going fishing or taking a road trip, Canadian Tire offers products that are made with the latest technologies to create a comfortable, convenient and enjoyable outdoor experience.”

According to Canadians, 36 per cent



consider a tent to be the most important gear to have on a trip, but that does not mean it should take the longest to set up. The new line of Coleman® Instant tents, exclusive to Canadian Tire, offer campers the simplest solution for a quick and reliable home away from home. Ready in 60 seconds, these tents offer all the features of a Coleman tent for groups of six and eight and ensure they’re spending less time setting-up and more time doing what makes them a happy camper.

Open air cooking is a staple in every successful summer trip. From overnight to day trips, Coleman’s line of on-the-go cooking systems lets the gourmet chef entertain outdoors. The new PerfectFlow™ InstaStart™ Portable Oven, a Canadian Tire exclusive, is great

for baking and cooking delicious full-sized dishes. By accommodating full size baking pans, adjustable wire racks and 500°F baking performance, gourmet meals will bring a smile to every camper’s face. No need to rely on the campfire to get it going – propane powered, this oven will last up to 3.5 hours with the burner on high using one propane cylinder.

Canadians will be relieved to know that they no longer have to leave the comforts of home to enjoy the great outdoors – one of the hardest things about embracing nature as identified in the survey by one quarter of respondents (26 per cent). The new Coleman® Portable Propane Coffeemaker can brew a full pot of hot coffee in just 18 minutes. It’s not only easy to use, it also operates on a single standard 16.4 oz. propane cylinder so there are no cords to mess with. Campers will feel right at home on the campsite while enjoying a cup of coffee in the morning.

Almost 30 per cent of Canadians agree that great camp food is an important factor to a happy camping experience. A key component of delicious meals on the campsite is ensuring that food is kept safe and fresh in hot summer weather. Coleman offers a wide range of coolers in all shapes and sizes, boasting stacking capabilities for easy packing



and storage. The Coleman® 50 QT Wheeled Xtreme® Party Stacker™ Cooler keeps ice for up to 5 days and will ensure your meals stay safe and cool. Coleman knows that even with a great cooler, sometimes finding what you need when the sun goes down can be a little challenging. To avoid this situation, the Coleman® Auto-On Cooler light attaches to any surface and its integrated motion sensor automatically turns the light on and off. Avoid getting stuck in the dark by sticking this light to any of Coleman’s coolers - perfect for nights by the campfire, late nights at the cottage or long weekend getaways.

To find out more about camping and Coleman products available at Canadian Tire, visit www.canadiantire.ca/camping.

Courtesy: **Diversity Communications, Toronto**

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Special Feature



Five Days of State Terror in Jaffna:

May 31-June 4 - 1981

by Santasilan Kadirgamar

Two years after the end of the war in Lanka, without a political solution in sight, it may be appropriate to look back at events that occurred 30 years ago. 31 May to 4 June 2011 marks the 30th anniversary of days of violence and arson in Jaffna that aggravated relations between the Tamils and Sinhalese majoritarian state and eventually led to prolonged warfare.

Although mercifully loss of lives was minimal, the extensive damage to houses, shops and institutions was unprecedented sending shock waves within the Tamil community.

This led to a total loss of confidence in the state and its law enforcement agencies. The events of May/June 1981 hardened attitudes on both sides and propelled the drift towards extreme Tamil nationalism and the emergence of Tamil youth militancy and a ruthless response by the state and its security forces. In remembering what happened in 1981 one recalls Benedette Croce, the Italian historian's dictum that, "all history is contemporary history".

Little appears to have changed in 30 years. The ultra-nationalist mental make-up that went into these horrendous happenings has changed little since then.

Documenting and reporting these events at that time was the Movement for Inter-Racial Justice and Equality (MIRJE) which was formed in 1979. It was a coalition of trade unions, secular and religious organisations and people's movements in the country. The Jaffna branch, of which the author was the founding president, organised meetings, documented the violation of human rights and sent information to key members of the movement in Colombo and Kandy.

The membership of MIRJE was multi-ethnic and multi-religious reflecting the diversity of Lankan society. The leadership came from outstanding professionals, many of them from the majority Sinhalese community.

MIRJE published three major reports: "Emergency" (1979), "What Happened in Jaffna: Days of Terror" (1981) and "Torture and Tension in Vavuniya" (1982). The second report came after Regi Siriwardene, distinguished writer and intellectual with impeccable credentials, had spent several days in Jaffna and did an in-depth study of what happened.

Jaffna is the primary city of the Lankan Tamils and their cultural centre. Both the city and the larger Jaffna peninsula did experience, in the context of deteriorating relations between Tamils and the state, occasional acts of violence in 1961, 1974, 1977 and 1979. Jaffna, known for its quiet ways of life and non-violent forms of dissent and struggle, was never the same again after the days of terror in 1981.

By April 1981, there had been sporadic acts of violence on individual Tamil policeman and politicians who were pro-government.

The Neerveli Bank robbery had taken place in April by a group of armed Tamil youth constituting the largest haul at that point in time. The District Development Council (DDC) election had been announced and nominations had been accepted.

The Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) had swept the parliamentary polls in 1977 in the Tamil areas on the secessionist Tamil Eelam demand. But its popularity was on the wane. Having made that extremist and adventurist demand, departing from what was a realisable federal or regional councils programme, the TULF had no credible programme. While indulging in the rhetoric of liberation in actual practice the party had made compromises in accepting a diluted devolution package hoping to make step by step progress towards greater autonomy.

In the process, defections took place from the TULF and it lost several of its firebrand platform speakers. The editor of the party's paper the Suthanthiran and some leading lights of the party had formed the short-lived Tamil Eelam Liberation Front. Meanwhile, the TULF's hegemony was challenged by a gradually growing and highly secretive underground movement committed to armed struggle.

The ruling United National Party (UNP) had not won a seat in Jaffna from 1956 and it hardly had a party structure in this district. But President J R Jayewardene was determined to fight the elections with handpicked Tamil candidates backed by state patronage. Under a democratic political system any political party no doubt had the right to contest elections in any part of the country. But here was a delicate political scenario with the national question having defied solution since Independence in 1948. Passions had been aroused and there



Jaffna Public Library, after May 31, 1981 - Pic: Vijaya Kumaratunga

was a growing climate of violence spear-headed by youth born in the 1950s, the infamous decade of "Sinhala Only".

Among the UNP candidates was Thiagarajah, a retired school principal and former member of parliament. In April 1981 Thiagarajah was assassinated by Tamil militants. Lesser-known candidates were also assassinated or intimidated into withdrawing their candidacy. The state retaliated with arbitrary arrests under the provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

The Jaffna branch of MIRJE sent desperate messages to the headquarters in Colombo to send a fact-finding delegation to Jaffna. A five-member delegation arrived on 11 May 1981, all Sinhalese with the exception being Paul Caspersz, president of the national movement and of Burgher descent. The delegation reported their findings to the movement in Colombo on 2 June. But events had moved too fast in Jaffna.

The acts of "state terrorism" in 1981 took place on the eve of the DDC elections on 4 June 1981. The DDCs took shape after intense negotiations between the TULF and the UNP government headed by president Jayewardene. They were meant to devolve limited powers and the TULF, much against the will of its youth wing and dissenting sections within the party and in Tamil society, had agreed to contest the DDC elections and accept office thereafter.

On 31 May 1981 there was a TULF election meeting in the vicinity of a well-known temple in the city of Jaffna. An unidentified gang attacked the policemen on duty. It was generally believed that the perpetrators of this attack were members of the People's Liberation

Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) that had broken away from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). A Sinhalese and a Tamil policeman lost their lives and a Muslim policeman was injured. The mayor of Jaffna who presided at the meeting disbanded the gathering.

As stated by Amirthalingam, leader of the opposition in parliament on 9 June, Within half an hour, jeep-loads and truckloads of policemen, some in uniform, some without uniforms, arrived at the venue of the meeting. They entered the temple itself. They damaged what are called 'Vahanams'... Then they [ran] riot. They set fire to shops and houses, cars and other vehicles. The violence continued throughout the night, as more shops in the heart of Jaffna city, the market and more houses were set on fire.

Noteworthy was the destruction of the office of the TULF. Witnesses to the event stated to MIRJE activists that the attackers were dressed in shorts, carried guns and iron rods and all spoke Sinhalese. The MIRJE report went on to state "most dastardly of all on this first night was the complete destruction of and the senseless arson of the house of the Member of Parliament for Jaffna".

It was fortunate that the Jaffna member of parliament, Yogeswaran and his wife were able to escape. The report further alleged that sections of the police in Jaffna had targeted and made an attempt to eliminate the popular and outspoken member of parliament for Jaffna.

Ironically, Yogeswaran together with TULF leader Amirthalingam were assassinated by the LTTE in 1989 in Colombo, Yogeswaran some years later when she



Special Feature

assumed duties as mayor of Jaffna, while refusing to accept police protection, in one of the most shameful and cowardly attacks ever carried out by the LTTE, was assassinated in Jaffna.

Thousands gathered to see the damage done to the city but quickly dispersed. There was no retaliatory violence. The police and the armed forces were nowhere visible. Members of Jaffna MIRJE had compiled a report on the damage done and drafted an appeal to be telegraphed to president Jayewardene only to be told by officials in the Jaffna post office that no telegrams could be dispatched to the president without prior approval from his secretary.

This left them with no alternative but to go to the press. The editor of the Eelanadu agreed to publish the contents of the report. As they were at the press at 7 pm that evening, the city of Jaffna was plunged into darkness as the lights went off. They hurriedly left the scene only to be informed the next morning that within minutes of their departure, the press had been burnt down and that the editor had been hospitalised with severe injuries.

The Eelanadu press (Tamil) founded in 1961 was the only daily newspaper published outside the city of Colombo. The most internationally publicised event was the burning and total destruction of the magnificent Jaffna Public Library on the night of 1 June 1981. The library project was initiated by a committee appointed in 1934, and old documents including Ola Leaf manuscripts were collected opening a small library in 1936. The construction of the larger library began in 1953 led by reverend Fr Long, principal of St Patricks College in Jaffna with the assistance of Indian experts in library science and Dravidian architecture. The library collection of 95,000 volumes contained 10,000 handwritten manuscripts including colonial documents from the 16th century.

Five bookshops were reduced to ashes; three of them owned by Poobalasingam, veteran member of the Communist Party committed to a united Lanka. His bookshops were a rallying point for those committed to a left agenda, providing the best of reading material, books, journals, periodicals and newspapers from the Sinhalese south and India, especially Tamil Nadu. As repeatedly acknowledged by visiting Sinhalese educationists and distinguished visitors from abroad, education was the very ethos of Jaffna society. The magnificent Jaffna Public Library was a visible symbol of this commitment to excellence in education.

These acts of commission and omission on the part of the state at this critical juncture have confronted observers and analysts with an intriguing question. What were highly placed members in the



Statute of Fr. Long
- Vijaya Kumaratunga

government up to? What exactly was the political agenda of the then president and his cabinet. Three senior ministers among others were present in Jaffna when these horrendous acts of violence took place.

Jaffna gave the sight of a bombed-out city, though the destruction took place using relatively primitive means compared to the more sophisticated modern weaponry used in aerial bombings and shelling with multiple barrel guns that wreaked havoc in the last decade of the war that ended in May 2009. In 1981, buildings were torched after being doused with petrol pilfered from neighbouring petrol stations, by gangs in jeeps and several on foot when the streets were deserted late in the night.

The inability on the part of the state to restrain and control its own security forces sent a powerful message to the Tamil people, that a substantial degree of self-government was the only solution. In the midst of this incredible situation, concerned citizens consisting of businessmen, professionals and university academics came to the Roman Catholic Bishops House. Deeply agitated they called for some kind of protest in Jaffna. Bishop Deogupulle, who for years refrained from adopting a political profile, led this citizens' delegation to the Kachcheri (the administrative headquarters in Jaffna) and protested directly to the commanding officer of the armed forces in Jaffna brigadier Weeratunga. The army commander, absolutely courteous to the bishop, excused himself. He had been called by the president to Colombo for urgent consultations.

The members of the delegation met ministers and other officials and conveyed their concerns, protesting in the strongest terms and demanded that the police be confined to barracks. A comment made by a senior minister is worth recording here. He told us that we must bear in mind that this was the third body

of a Sinhalese victim they were carrying back to Colombo!

This writer, responding as one of the spokespersons on behalf of the delegation, said, "We do not condone such killings but such comments do not help. We want an immediate halt to the violence and steps taken towards a meaningful political solution".

The group returned to Bishop's House and formed themselves into the Jaffna Citizens' Committee. Consisting of politicised and apolitical persons, it was agreed that the Citizens' Committee would not take a political position pertaining to the overall demands being made by the Tamil people. Each member of the Citizens' Committee was entitled to his or her political views, but as an organisation their primary task was to contain the situation, maintaining direct links with the army headquarters in Jaffna. A little known fact is that eventually members of the Citizens' Committee joined army patrols on the five main roads in the Jaffna peninsula.

The police were confined to barracks and the situation contained. The army commander had stressed to visiting human rights delegations from Colombo that his task was to contain the situation, and that it was the task of the politicians to arrive at a political solution.

Citizens' Committees came into existence in other towns. Politicians and partisan politics were excluded and for sometime did good work. But in the course of time their activities were stifled as the LTTE attempted to make them into front organisations.

The original Citizens' Committee and the Jaffna MIRJE ceased to exist as the conflict escalated in 1987.

The events of 1981 marked a watershed in that it effectively internationalised the conflict in the country. Journalists, human rights activists and academics from various parts of the world began visiting Jaffna.

The first to arrive six weeks after the events was Francis Wheen from the London-based New Statesman. Salamat Ali, a Pakistani living in exile in New Delhi, covered the events for the Far Eastern Economic Review.

David Selbourne from Oxford University spent four days in Jaffna doing an indepth study of the emerging conflict and wrote for the Guardian, the New Statesman and the Illustrated Weekly of India. Venkat Narayan, journalist, reported the events for the India Today. Two distinguished academics from India, the late Urmila Phadnis from Jawaharlal Nehru University came separately and thereafter became deeply engaged in studying and commenting on the crisis in Sri Lanka.

Visitors came from Japan, the Philippines, South Korea and one significantly from Beijing. Others came from

several European countries and the US to report on what was happening in this little known part of the world. Visitors from India included Kalyanasundram, senior leader of the Communist Party of India and Nedumaran, member of the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly, then of the Kamaraj Congress.

Many delegations came from the rest of the Island, almost all Sinhalese, among whom were members from the left movement, academics, and Christian leaders and most significantly some Buddhist monks. The last to arrive as late as November, nevertheless worthy of mention, were S D Bandaranaike (cousin of S W R D Bandaranaike) and Vijaya Kumaratunga from the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, then in the opposition in parliament.

They came to express their concerns to the devastated people of Jaffna. They were all given a warm welcome. While their sympathy and concern was appreciated, as this writer on behalf of Jaffna MIRJE stated to a visiting Christian delegation, "We do not ask for charity. We want justice." The need to identify and expose perpetrators of these crimes was stressed. In short the citizens sought accountability on the part of the state.

The allegations against the police and the government by both Amirthalingam and Yogeswaran were placed on record in parliament on 9 June, when the events of 1981 were debated. The TULF had a sweeping victory at the DDC polls, cashing in on outraged public sentiment to the days of violence.

The chief spokesman for the government Gamini Dissanayake admitted, "Some damage had been done by the police... we do not deny and cannot contradict ... that the house of the hon. member for Jaffna, Mr Yogeswaran had been burnt by the police." He also admitted that they were "concerned with the morale, the psychology and behaviour patterns of the police". "The atmosphere was one of terror; the police were not easily confined to barracks", he concluded. The state never appointed a commission to go into the happenings of 1981 nor has an appropriate apology been made for those five days of arson to this date. Neither has adequate compensation been paid.

In this flashback to 1981 and reflecting on the contemporary situation one goes back to the often quoted words of George Santayana, "Those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it".

Santasilan Kadirgamar (kadirsan2@yahoo.com) is the former President of the Movement for Inter-Racial Justice and Equality, Jaffna branch and a founder member of Jaffna Citizens Committee. This article appeared in the Economic and Political weekly dated June 4th -10th

News from Waterloo



Celebrating cultural diversity

By **Melissa Tait**, Record staff

KITCHENER — It's not just about the shawarma and baklava.

The annual Kitchener Waterloo Multicultural Festival, which ran this weekend, draws thousands of people, many of them because of the food. And organizers say the festival, which is organized by the Kitchener Waterloo Multicultural Centre, is a chance for a rich cultural diversity to be celebrated.

Now in its 44th year, the festival that filled Victoria Park featured ethnic food, dance and crafts. It was one of three weekend cultural festivals at the park.

The multicultural festival "is something happy" when life as a new immigrant can be very hard, Asmaa Cober said.

For the 36-year-old, settling in Canada was made easier because of an education in social work and English.

She came to Toronto as a refugee from Iraq in 2003, before moving to the region to marry her husband Chris, of

Kitchener, and work as a project co-ordinator at the multicultural centre.

Cober said many immigrants suffer from depression and anxiety because of the mental stress of a new culture, new laws and new language.

If you don't speak the language, "it's like living in a cage," she said.

And that's where the multicultural centre — and the festival — come in, acting "as a bridge (new immigrants) need to pass through."

Life as a visible minority, or a new immigrant, isn't always easy in the region.

It was recently reported by Statistics Canada that Waterloo Region had the highest rate of police-reported hate crimes in Canada in 2009.

Nationally, more than half of those crimes were motivated by race or ethnicity, the report said.

"I think it's good that people are talking about it," said Lucia Harrison, executive director of the Kitchener Waterloo

Multicultural Centre.

"We hear it from our clients all the time, but if you walked down the street and asked people if they believe that hate crimes would be at that level in this community, most people would have been surprised."

It's been 44 years since the centre — then known as the KW Folk Arts Council — started the multicultural festival as part of Canada's centennial year.

The council morphed into the multicultural centre, a non-profit group "where 95 per cent of our resources go into direct settlement services," said Harrison.

"Our role is trying to help people understand diversity," Harrison said, adding that the festival and education help bridge cultures.

Now, the festival is entrenched in the region as an unofficial kickoff to the summer festival season.

The main event at the festival is always the food. Attendees watched folk

dancing and munched on giant turkey legs, as smoke from the barbecue donairs encircled the long lineups at the Turkish tent.

Harrison said 18 different cultural associations served food, and while the centre is responsible for organizing the festival, it's successful because of the dedication of the various associations.

Beyond the food tents was the market, where henna tattoos, rain sticks, and clothing and trinkets were on sale. Meanwhile, the National Aboriginal Day Celebration drums pounded from the Victoria Park island, and the traditional dances by First Nations members produced a colourful frenzy of feathers and fabrics.

Members of the Tamil cultural association of Waterloo region presented a Ramayana epic dance. It was noteworthy that the students of Laya Lasya of Cambridge gave the inaugural performance of the day followed by speeches from the Mayor of Kitchener and Waterloo.



Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region

"South Asian Picnic"

Saturday

July 16th

Laurel Creek
Conservation Area, 290 Beaver Creek Rd

Waterloo

11.00am - 7.00pm

KITE flying
& ENJOYING life

Come on by for a FREE hot dog, drop kids off at the bouncy castle, Chat with members of the South Asian community and enjoy the day.

Bouncy castle, Candy Treat, Sack & Spoon race, face painting etc., \$5.00 include Bouncy Castle, Cotton Candy and Hot dog, GRCA admission extra. Bring your own kite.

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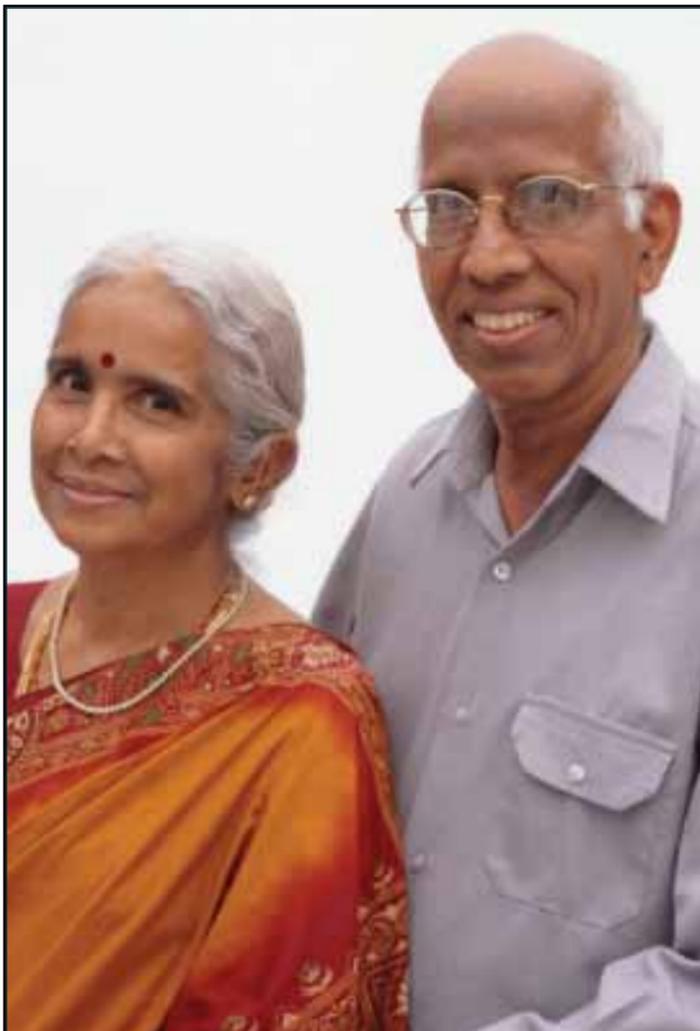
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