



25

# NEWSLETTER

January 2014

## ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES OF SINGER

80, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 2

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### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

First and foremost on behalf of the President and the Executive Committee, I wish each and everyone of you and your families A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

This is the first issue of our Newsletter for the current year and I feel it is appropriate that we review our activities during the past year. It is with pleasure and with a sense of satisfaction that I record that all the activities planned for the year by the Executive Committee have been achieved as mentioned in the "Secretary's Report for 2013. We now step into 2014 with the same enthusiasm and determination to provide our members equal or more opportunities to get together and renew their friendships which commenced whilst working at Singer.

The participation of members and their families at these events is very important to make them successful and memorable. Therefore we request all members to give top priority to these events planned for 2014 and ensure they participate with their kith and kin.

### NEWSLETTER

Last year we were able to publish only three Newsletters even though we had planned for four. Lack of contributions from members compelled us to restrict the issues to three. Only a handful of members regularly send in articles for publication which is rather disappointing. With the membership growing slowly but steadily, more members should devote a little bit of their valuable time to expose their literary skills and send in articles for publication. This is your publication, the media through which you can share your past experiences at Singer with the other members. So let us join hands and make the Newsletter more meaningful.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As planned, the 13th Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 8th December 2013 at the Sea View Hotel, Colpety in the presence of 59 members including two former Directors. The distinguished invitees who graced this occasion were our Patron Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya, Mr. Asoka Peiris, Group Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Vidya Vidyaratne, Group Manufacturing Director, Mr. Shyam Ramanathan, Director Logistics, Mr. Chitral Perera, Director Human Resources and Mr. A. C. M. Irzan, Director Regnis PLC

The A. G. M. commenced with our President Mr. Bertie Fernando welcoming the members and distinguished guests. As usual, two minutes silence was observed by those present as a mark of respect to the members who had departed from us. Thereafter, the President in his address to the membership emphasized the importance of members participating in the activities planned by the Executive Committee. The AGM culminated with the usual Social Get-together, Fellowship and the Buffet Lunch thoroughly enjoyed by the members present.

**:Hony. Auditor :** Mr. Priyath Salgado

## SING-A-LONG MUSICAL EVENING

*"Regardless of your age, music can bring a great deal of pleasure and beauty in your life" - Robert E. Moor*

Weather can at times be very soothing and comfortable and at times hostile and destructive but life and activities should go on despite numerous obstacles. This is exactly what happened on 23rd November 2013 when we had the 'Sing-A-Long' Musical evening. The heavy downpour which prevailed in the evening was a threat to the organizers who had spared no pains to make the musical evening a memorable event. It rained so heavily that the approach road to the Lions Club Secretariat Hall was virtually converted to a pool but our members young and old who had cleared their throats with mint lozenges trickled in to the premises, some half drenched.

At about 7.30 p.m. Lashantha Perera our compere of the event activated his vocal chords to welcome the members and their guests. Thereafter, the three piece band with the musicians took over to provide the music for the show accompanied by songs from the past and present.

The ladies who had earlier got wet dried themselves by singing lustily whilst the gentlemen made good use of the opportunity to dry themselves with the aid of the 'strong stuff' freely available.

A significant feature of the evening was the inter-table singing competition dominated by the ladies who sang to the music provided by the musicians. The winners were awarded special prizes to keep them happy. However, the cynosure of the evening were the two small grandsons of the President who walked up to the Band and sang together to the listening pleasure of all present.

Last but not least, I need to mention the generosity of four ladies and a gentleman who jointly contributed Rs. 25,000/- towards the expenses involved in organizing this event. The Executive Committee sincerely thank them for their kind gesture and look forward to such contributions from members too which will no doubt help to make the events planned for the current year more colourful.

Having partaken the drinks and short eats served, the participants left wishing each other 'Good Night' with sweet memories of an excellent evening.

*"Nature, like man, sometimes weeps for gladness" - Disraeli*

G. C. WASALATHANTHRI



## PAST 'SINGER' MEMORIES - By T. V. Pereira



### 1. 'ARISE SIR WILSON !

Vijitha Jayawardena who replaced Chandrani Gunawardena as Factory Manager's Secretary in May 1978 had yet to get used to 'Factory Customs'. She came to me fully excited one afternoon and said, "FM is sleeping behind the newspapers. I don't know what to do". "Tap him thrice on his shoulder with your pen and say 'Arise, Sir Wilson. You have been Knighted" was I could manage to say. But she was wise enough to dial FM's telephone from the general office which made him get up with a start, to find it was a missed call !

\* \* \*



### 2. The late Ms. Vijitha Jayawardena

Although work in the factory started at 7am some employees were regularly late. Planning to put an end to habitual late coming, Factory Manager Wilson Wijesekera called for a list of late comers from the Personal Department. He however dropped the idea when he observed that his Secretary Vijitha Jayawardena topped the lists.

She was late 1063 minutes in the preceding month and already 360 minutes in the running month. He handed back the list saying "we can proceed with the late Mrs. Vijitha Jayawardena on top"

\* \* \*

### 3. At Rocket Speed

For years, from 1966 Subadasa was General Manager J. M. Rajaratnam's trusted driver of whom he took great pride. He was transferred to SSL from SIC. One day Subadasa said, "I dropped Mr. Rajaratnam at the Ratmalana Airport and drove fast to the Palalai Airport to pick him up. GM never travels without me even in his Jaffna home town". Subadasa would have driven at rocket speed.

\* \* \*

### 4. The Ghost



Everybody made way or the ghost in white who appeared and held the nozzle end of the fire cart at the fire outside the spray booth. But nothing happened.

The ghost turned out to be Sathiyamoorthy of the Metal Department who on seeing the fire caused by welding sparks, rushed to the cart and turned on the valves holding the nozzle at himself. By the time he wheeled the cart to the fire it was empty, but he was beyond recognition - covered from head to foot in chemical white powder.

**ANYWAY**

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self centered

*Forgive them anyway*

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives

*Be kind anyway*

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies

*Succeed anyway*

If you are honest and frank, they may cheat you.

*Be forthright anyway*

What you spent years building, they may destroy over-night.

*Build anyway*

The good you do today, they often will forget tomorrow.

*Do good anyway*

Give the world the best you have, and it will never be enough.

*Give the best you've got anyway*

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God. *It was never between you and them, Anyway*

Sent by: Rohan Goonetilleke

**මාලාගේ පැත්තකින්**

1) වාල්ස් රණසිංහ වැඩිහිටි නිවාසය  
වැඩිහිටි සැමට ඇත්තෙන් සුර විමනක්ය  
මෙහි අම්මලා සැමදෙන හට එකමුතුය  
මම කාලය ගෙවන්නේ හට සතුටින්ය

2) විසිහතයි අටයි දෙදහස් හත වසරේ  
දුව මියගියා මා ගිල්වා සෝ සයුරේ  
මා තනිවුනා මේ ලෝකේ දුක් අඳුරේ  
වැඩිහිටි නිවාසට ආවා ඒ අතරේ

3) දවසට තුන් වරක් පුජාවට යනවා  
හැම මොහොතකම මම දෝතිට පිං දෙනවා  
මෙහි අම්මලා සමගින් මා තුටු වෙනවා  
දුක අතරෙන් තවමත් මා හිතැහෙනවා

4) තව කරුණක් තිබේ සැමටම කියන්නට  
Heart Attack දෙවරක් හඳුනාය මට  
සහාපතිතුමා හා මැතිණි ආවා මා බලන්නට  
සිංගර් යහළු යෙහෙලියෝ එනව දුකසැප බලන්නට

5) ක්‍රීම් කුෆර් විතරයි කන්නට දෙන්නේ  
වෙන බිස්කට් ජාති මට හොඳතැනිලු අතේ  
බිස්කට් ජාති කිසිවක් දැන් නැත කන්නේ  
සීමාවක් ඇතිවයි පලතුරු කන්නේ

6) මම කථා නමුත් මගේ කොණ්ඩය සුදුම සුදුසි  
Heart Attack හඳුනාට පසු තව මහතයි  
දොස්තරවරු කියන්නේ බර වැඩි කියලයි  
මොනවා කරන්නද දෙවය මහොම තමයි

7) කාලය ගෙවමි කවි හදමින් කවි කියමින්  
විහිට කරමි නිවාසේ අම්මලා සමගින්  
ඇඳුම් මසමි කාලය කෙටි කර ගනිමින්  
ඇත්තයි මම ඉන්නෙ නිතරම සිනාසෙමින්

8) උල්පත සිඳි ඇත කවි ලියනා පැනේ  
සැම මොහොතකම මගේ දුව සිහි වෙනවානේ  
සිහිනෙන්වත් මගේ දුව මට නොපෙනෙන්නේ  
පෙර කළ පවක්දෝ මේ මට පලදුන්නේ

9) නිසරණ සරණ සහ දෙව් බඹ හැමගෙ සෙත  
නිතරම ලබලබා ඊසි සම්පන්නි මත  
ඔබ සැම දිනේවයි පතමින් ඇතිව මෙත  
තවතමි මගේ කවි මෙතනින් තබා තිත

**NEW MEMBERS**

We warmly welcome the following seven new members who have joined the Association.



- 200 Chandrika Mendis
- 201 K. H. Balasinghe
- 202 A. J. Pigera
- 203 G. P. Katugampola

- 204 H. M. G. Gunasekera Banda
- 205 P. A. Dissanayake
- 206 L. G. O. Herat

මාලා මංගලිකා අබේසූරිය,  
වාල්ස් රණසිංහ වැඩිහිටි නිවාසය,  
132 හයිලෙවෙල් පාර, කොට්ටාව  
(දු ක 0755441692)

## OUR VISIT TO LAUGHING MALA

A new concept of visiting our sick and elderly members at their homes was initiated by our President.

Accordingly, a few members led by the President himself visited Mrs. Mala Abeysuriya now residing at Charles Ranasinghe Elders' Home, Kottawa on 9th June 2013. Ever smiling Mala greeted us and entertained us with tea and also invited us to join her at lunch. The members who visited Mala presented her and other inmates of the Home with Bedroom linen and Towels.

Mala was extremely happy. The photograph taken with her and the members is evidence of her happiness.



GAMINI WASALATHANTHRI

## BIRTHDAYS

We wish 'Happy Birthday to following members who will be celebrating their Birthdays in February and March. Trust we haven't missed anyone

### FEBRUARY

Lashantha Perera 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Vasantha Wijemanne 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Ramani de Fonseka 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Gamani Abeysuriya 4<sup>th</sup>  
 W. L. Maithripala 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Ruwan Kasturiarachchi 5<sup>th</sup>  
 L. A. Jayawardena 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Romauld Fernando 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Marie Martyn 10<sup>th</sup>  
 H. M. K. Bandara 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Sakuntala Armstrong 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Judith Vannitamby 14<sup>th</sup>  
 T. V. Pereira 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Nanda Illeperuma 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Chrysantha de Alwis 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Subadra Alutwatta 27<sup>th</sup>

### MARCH

Pushpa De Fonseka 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Susima Ponnampereuma 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Ranjit David 10<sup>th</sup>  
 Janaka Kumarasi nghe 13<sup>th</sup>  
 Bertie Fernando 16<sup>th</sup>  
 Kamalangani Perera 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Sriyani Weerasinghe 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 G. Devruvan 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Swarna Prematilake 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Delricus Peiris 29<sup>th</sup>

## "IT'S MY BIRTHDAY"

In mid 70s there was a member of the minor staff named Abeysena. He was a well mannered, good natured, obedient character, and was always well dressed too. Apparently he had made his friends believe he was doing clerical work in office. It so happened that one day a friend had come to the Chatham Street Office to meet him.

As Abeysena was busy he had to sit on the visitors' settee near the entrance.

A little while later, Abeysena had appeared in the main office carrying a tray full of patties, serving the staff their morning snack. Latterly, when he came to meet the friend he had asked "මේකද උබේ ජය්සාච්ඡා?" to which Abeysena had promptly replied "නෑ අද මගේ birthday එක නේ".

Mala had heard it from the reception desk, and the news spread through the office like wild fire !!

Sent by: Vijitha Jayawardena

*Post Script* - A few months later while in office Abeysena complained of a very severe headache (migraine) and was taken to hospital. Next morning when his colleagues Selladurai, Amarasekera and Jayawardena went to the hospital to see him, they were told he had passed away the previous night!

## "MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE" PRESENTATION

A well thought, inspiring and topical lecture on "Life After Retirement to Live Longer and Better" was expertly delivered to our membership at a Special presentation by invited Guest Speaker **Dr. Mrs. Piyusha Milani Atapattu**, Senior Lecturer and Specialist, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, at Lions Club premises, Nugegoda on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2013.



The eminent lecturer explained and discussed many current diseases and ailments which affect the human being and briefly explaining the causes for such, went on to enlighten the audience how to face them with confidence and be free to live longer, happier and better. She emphasized that the patient should be very strong in mind, even if physically low. She stressed on the importance of exercising physically on a daily basis, even for about 30 minutes a day. Her advice was always to have a positive and a happy outlook towards life.

The success of the elite presentation was proved by the long session which followed by endless questions asked by our members— both male and female. All members were a happy and contented lot at the end of the programme.

A sumptuous but nutritious lunch was partaken by all, and Mr. Bertie Fernando, our President, proposed a vote of thanks to the guest lecturer, and also presented her with a complimentary gift as a token of appreciation.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE IN MARCH 2014. ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION SHOULD REACH ME BY 28<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, THE LATEST. - G. C. WASALATHANTHRI  
 6A, 6th Lane,  
 Pagoda Road,  
 NUGEGODA.