



NEWSLETTER

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ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES OF SINGER

80, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 2

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

With the dawn of a New Year as well as a new era, let me first and foremost on behalf of the President and the Executive Committee, wish you and the members of your family 'A Very Happy & Prosperous New Year !

As you are probably aware, I am now temporarily disabled having undergone surgery for a leg injury and hence I am reluctantly compelled to restrict the editor's comments just for a few lines. Hopefully, with the next issue which has been planned for April 2015, I should be able to comment extensively on our performance during the year 2014. In the meantime, I earnestly request members to continuously send in articles for publication.

G. C. WASALATHANTHRI

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The last Annual General Meeting was held at Sea View Hotel, Colpétty on Sunday 14th December 2014. 58 members were present at the meeting including a former Director. The distinguished invitees who graced the occasion were our Patron - Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya, Mr. Asoka Peiris - Group Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Mahesh Wijewardena - Director Commercial & Marketing Mr. Kumar Samarasinghe - Director, Sales, Mr. Premalal de Silva - Director Operations

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, President announced the death of Mr. W.A. Perera - ex Veyangoda Branch Manager that morning. He had been in fact, planning to be present at the AGM. He used to be present at almost all our events. The other member was Mrs. Ruth de Silva former Educational Supervisor who passed away a few months ago after ailing for some time. Two minutes' silence was observed in memory of the two departed members. We trust they will find happiness in their own worlds !

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome two new members who have joined the Association at the last AGM.



They are:

- Mem. No. 212 - Mr. M. Yasarathna Peiris
- Mem. No. 213 - Mr. D.D.V. Pathirana

1. සියලු වෙනස් වේ

සියලු වෙනස් වන බව සත්‍යයකි. එය සැඟවීය හැකි දෙයක් නොවේ. ලෝක ස්වභාවය එයයි. උපදින විට කිසිවෙක් කිසිම දෙයක් ගෙන එන්නේ නැතහොත් උපදින්නේ ඇඳුමක් නැතිව නිරුවතින්ය. ටික වෙලාවකින් දරුවාට ඇඳුමක් ලැබෙයි. පැය දින සති මාස ගතවෙත විට දරුවා දවසින් දවස වෙනස් වෙතවා.

අඬනවා වෙනුවට කැනගසනවා, අඳින ඇඳුම් වෙනස්වෙනවා බිම පෙරලෙනවා, බඩගානවා, නැගිටිනවා, වැටෙනවා වැටෙනකොට අඬනවා, නැවත නැගිටිනවා, තනියම මේ දේවල් වෙන්නේ. ටික දවසකින් ටිකටික ඇවිදිනවා. මේ ආකාරයට දරුවා වෙනස් වෙනවා. එයට හේතුව සැමදාම එකසේ එක විදියට ඉන්න බැරිකමයි.

දරුවා පෙර පාසල් යනවා, ටික දවසකින් පාසල් යනවා ඉගෙන ගන්නවා, ලොකු වෙනවා, පුංචි කාලෙ කරපු කිසි වක් දැන් දරුවා කරන්නේ නැහැ. ලමාවිය පසුකරන විට ගැටවර වියට පත් වෙනවා, තරුණ වියට පත් වෙනවා රැකියාවක් තරනවා. නැතිනම් ව්‍යාපාර වල යෙදෙනවා. තව ටික දවස් යන විට කසාද බදිනවා, ලඹුන් හඳිනවා, ලමයි බලා ගන්නවා.

මේ වනවිට කෙස් සුදු වෙනවා, දත් වැටෙනවා, හම රැළි- වෙනවා, ශක්තිය අඩුවෙනවා, වයසට යනවා, ලෙඩ රෝග හැඳෙනවා, අතපය වාරු නැතිවෙනවා, අවසානයේ මිය යනවා. සැපයී කියලා අප හිතන පහත හැමදේම අවසානයේ දුකයි. ඒ නිසා මේ මූල ජීවිතයම දුකයි.

මේ තත්වය මනුෂ්‍යයන්ට පමණක් නොවෙයි ගස් කොළන් සතා සිවුපානුන්ටත් සියලුම බඩබාහිරාදියටත් බලපානවා, වෙනස් වෙනවා, ගස්කොළන් විශාල ලෙස හඳුනන් අත්තිමට මැරෙනවා, වේලිලා විනාශ වෙනවා, ගෙවල් ගොඩනැගිලි වෙනස් වෙනවා, පාරවල් වෙනස් වෙනවා, වාහන වෙනස් වෙනවා, ඒවා පාවිච්චිකරන පිලිවෙල වෙනස් වෙනවා, නීතිරීති වෙනස් වෙනවා, රටේ ලෝකයේ පාලනය වෙනස් වෙනවා.

අපි කතාකරන භාෂාව වෙනස් වෙනවා, ලියන කියන අකුරු වෙනස් වෙනවා, සිටින්නට වෙනස්වෙනවා, ගමන් බිමන් වෙනස් වෙනවා, එදා පයින් ගියාට අද පයින් යන්නේ නැහැ, ආගම ධර්මය අදහන පිලිවෙල, නැත්නම් පිලිවෙත් වෙනස් වෙනවා, අඳින ඇඳුම් පලඳින දේවල් වෙනස් වෙනවා, මෙසේ ගෙදර වෙනස් වෙනවා, ගම වෙනස් වෙනවා, නගරය වෙනස් වෙනවා, රට වෙනස් වෙනවා, ලෝකයම වෙනස් වෙනවා, මූල විශ්වයම වෙනස් වෙනවා.

මෙසේ අප විමසිලිමත්ව අපගේ අවධානය යොමුකල හොත් පෙනී යන්නේ සියලු වෙනස්වන බවයි. එහෙත් වෙනස් නොවන එකම දේ වෙනස් වීමයි.

2. මරණය නියතයි

ඉපදෙන හැමෝම මිය යනවා මනුෂ්‍යයා පමණක් නොව සතා සිවුපානු ඇතුලු සියලුම ජීවින් විනාශ වෙනවා

මනුෂ්‍යයන් වන අප මෙලොවට බිහි වී ඇත්තේ බොද්ධ ධර්මයට අනුව පෙර භවයේදී කර තිබෙන විශාල පුණ්‍ය කර්මයන් නිසාය

මනුෂ්‍යයෙක් වී ඉපදීම දෙස සිහි කල්පනාවෙන් විමසා බලන විට ඉපදෙන සමහර අයගේ ශරීර අවයව වල විවිධ වෙනස්කම් පවතිනවා අංග සම්පූර්ණ මනුෂ්‍ය ශරීරයක් සහිතව ඉපදීමට විශාල පිනක්ම තිබිය යුතුය

මේ කරුණු කිපය ගැන පමණක් සිතන විට පෙනෙන දේ අවබෝධ වන දේ වන්නේ පෙර භවයේ අප ඉතිරි කර ගත් මේ පිං මෙන්ම පව මේ කාලයේ මේ වන විට යම් ප්‍රමාණයක් ගෙවී ඇත නැතිනම් වියදම් වී ඇත

එමනිසා නැවත මේ ලබා ඇති මනුෂ්‍ය භවයේදී අපි තව තවත් ප්‍රමාද නොවී පිනට දහමටම යොමු විය යුතුය තම තමන් අදහන ආගම ධර්මයට අනුව කිසිවකුට හිංසා පීඩා නොකර අසාධාරණයක් නොකර තම තමන්ට හැකි උපරිම අන්දමින් උදව්වක් උපකාරයක් කිරීම කළ හැකිය ලෙඩට දුකට පිහිටවී හැකිය ඉගෙන ගන්නා ලෙසින්ට උදව් කළ හැකිය තමන්ට කළ හැකි ප්‍රමාණයෙන් ආහාර පාන අඩු අයට කැම වේලක් දිය හැකිය ආගමික ස්ථාන වලට අවශ්‍ය උදව්වක් හැකි තරමින් කළ හැකිය දෙමාපියන්ට වැඩි-හිටියන්ට සැලකීම හොඳ පිනකි මෙවැනි විවිධ පිංකම්වල යෙදීම අප හැමෝටම කල හැකිය

අප්‍රමාදව මෙසේ පිංකම් යුතුකම් වල යෙදෙන කිසිවකු මරනයට බිය විය යුතු නොවේ එම නිසා තම තමන්ගේ ආගම ධර්මයට අනුව මේ සංසාර දුකෙන් මිදීමට අද අදම හැකි තරමින් පිංදහම් වල යෙදීමට උත්සාහ කරමු

බස සැමට යහපතක්ම වේවා
මංගල වේලාරත්තගෙන්

.....AND THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN

Employee Training was an integral component of the Personnel Department's functions and Group Personnel Manager Gamini de Silva led the role in conducting very many training programmes for the different strata of both SIC and SSL employees at carefully selected venues. Being in the Personnel Department, I too was involved in most aspects in ensuring the success of such programmes.

At one program held for SIC employees, A.N. Majeed, then Assistant Accountant at SIC was invited to make his presentation to the thirty odd participants. This was just a few months after he had joined the Company.

Majeed began confidently, but a few minutes later, I noticed a dramatic change in that his eyes had widened, voice became unsteady and worse, his fingers were trembling. I immediately realized that he was extremely nervous and 'in the firm grip of stage-fright'. It was time that I acted fast. "Do you have any contingency plan?" I asked aloud to draw Majeed's attention towards me. There was no relevance between a contingency plan and the accounting structure he was trying to put across, but the question was designed to divert his mind from the un-nerved situation at that moment.

"What contingency plan" he asked enquiringly and went on, "There is no need for a contingency plan in this system" The brief interruption was enough for the desired psychology to work. He became relaxed and went on to make an excellent presentation.,

A different week-end residential programme for SSL Managers was held at the Dolphin Hotel in Waikkal. GPM and I were present early to ensure that everything was in order. Of the participants, first to come were Anton Abeysekera and Ruth de Silva. Others followed in their fours and fives. After registration, the more enthusiastic were seen in the swimming pool. Dolphin Hotel's reception hall was very unique with its four walls of gigantic clear glass sheets spreading from floor to ceiling. From inside the hall, one had a clear view of everything happening on the entire ground floor and never felt being in a glass enclosure. The highly polished glass walls in the dimmed lighting, were virtually non-existent. It was here that at sundown, cocktails were served with Chairman L. Namasivayam also being present.

I was photographing the event and went out for a short break. On my return, GPM told me that the Chairman just left, before which he enquired for me. Hoping to see him before he left the premises, I made a hurried exit almost running out of the hall. The next instant I knocked against the 'ghost wall', my forehead banging against the glass very hard, and fell on my knees. The impact was so much that the glass wall, massive as it was, smashed, and chunks began to fall rapidly crashing into smithereens as they hit the floor. I dared not move from my position as glass was falling all around me and continued so, for a full four minutes. I stood up when the clatter stopped and saw there was no front wall other than a large piece of glass that remained like the sword of Damocles.

Too stunned to move earlier, the others then converged on me and I had just a small cut on my palm to show them. DM Werapitiya provided me 'first aid' by thrusting a glass full of brandy into my hands.

Incidentally, this had been the third accident of the nature, the first, when a night patrol security guard went through the glass and next, with a doctor couple's little son crashing through and ending with nine stitches on his hand. When the SSL party was vociferous, the hotel management apologized, admitting that some stickers at least, should have been stuck on the glass.

2. LAWTON GETS HIGHEST AUSTRALIAN AWARD

One time SIC Engineer Charles J. Lawton was honoured with Australia's highest Civilian Award by P.M. Tony Abbot last April, for his services to the community. Lawton who was a Lieutenant in the Navy, had two stints at SIC when Paul C. Lewis was Chairman before migrating to Australia and is the first Sri Lankan recipient of the honour.

'Charlie' was always attired in RCyN Officer style white short-sleeved shirt, shorts and stockings. He gained reputation as 'a real gentleman' occasionally entertaining employees at the Ratmalana Airport Club. When we once visited Trincomalee he escorted us around the Naval harbour and to Foul Point from where wild elephants swim to the nearby island with only their trunks above water. Lawton even gifted a new building for homeless ex-Servicemen cared for in Katana by Sri Lanka Ex-Servicemen's Association. An incident involving this officer and Gentleman is worth being re-told.

SIC organized a musical show in its premises in which leading artistes including Victor Ratnayake, Sanath Nandasiri, Milton Perera, Lata Walpola, Sujatha Attanayake were all featured. The crowd that converged outside the gates to watch the show was so massive that the two-carriageway Galle Road became a single roadway for traffic.

While the show was in progress, Lawton went up to his room and saw baila maestro M.S. Fernando with legs stretched atop the table and, an arm around a female artiste. Stirred furious, Lawton shouted at M.S., grabbed him and kicked him out of the room. M.S. crashed against a desk before which he knocked against me.

A few minutes later, MS was invited onto the stage. Still smarting over the incident he shouted into the mike that he was brutally kicked by whom he termed 'Singer ballo'. The employees were naturally agitated and workman Gamini Gunaratne loudly demanded from front of the stage that MS gets off. In defiance MS retorted that he was scheduled to sing three songs but now would sing nine and occupy the stage longer, which he did. At the end however, both the Singer and SINGER buried the hatchet in good spirit.

3. WHOSE PAIR OF LEGS ?

Department Manager Thanikasalam summoned Charge Hand W.L.D.S. Wijetunge and pointing to a pair of feet protruding from under a workbench in the Wood Work Finish Department, ordered him to tell the owner to pull them in.

Thanikasalam had been explained that workman Kariyawasam had worked the whole of the previous night, and just crept under the bench to catch some sleep. Thani understood well. This was in 1978 with the introduction of the open economy policy which revived SIC production that was crippled, forcing the Company to implement a Voluntary Retirement Scheme, and also run on its financial reserves.

4. WORLD'S END NOT FOR THE HARE-BRAINED

I watched in awe as Kalyana Dhirasekera poured the yellow contents in the bottle down his throat, the liquid not touching his lips. A few feet away, S.R. Fernando perhaps inspired by Dheere, performed the same feat. While most of us shivered in the bitter cold 3,600 feet above sea level, the duo adopted the measure to keep warm.

It was February 1971 and we were at World's End, the coldest and windiest location in Sri Lanka, as part of our annual excursion. World's End then, was totally isolated from the everyday world with no soul in sight for miles. (On one visit, Tony Ferdinand, P.D. Karunaratne, Ramanayake, Maithripala and myself were lost for four hours – having taken a wrong turn and meeting nobody to ask for directions). Having trekked the 9 km path up from Ohiya, a few minutes earlier, we peeped down the sheer precipice to have a view of the Balangoda town, but all we could see was a sea of clouds rushing up to meet us. The wind at the summit was so violent that we found it difficult in that ferocious atmosphere to keep standing. A strong gust not only blew away my cap but also nearly carried Alexander down the slope.

February in Horton Plains is challenging and is for the brave and adventurous. It certainly is for the fast and furious hard liners and not for the hare-brained. As usual the skies remained gloomy and howling winds brought unending floating clouds which engulfed everything. Those just four feet away simply disappeared from sight in the misty fog. The tiny particles of ice in our hands were proof of what the clouds were made of, and added to this, everybody developed running noses.

Located on the highest plateau of the country, Horton Plains consisted of ecosystems such as montane evergreen forests and grasslands. The flora was bewitching with curtains of feathery fronds and moss nurtured over the years by the constant damp, draping from branches of trees. Of the fauna, the monkeys on the eucalyptus and pine trees as well as the stag on the plains had extremely long fur coats. I crawled up a hillock to get a closer view of the feeding stag and after they sped away, couldn't resist the temptation to roll down the lush green grassy slopes like a sack of potatoes. The mudalali at the tea kiosk at Ohiya mentioned that his ferocious looking dog was a cross wolf!

The way down was comparatively easy but we had to halt several times until the misty clouds which enveloped us moved away and the road became visible. At times we ran just to escape the path of the clouds, and turned to watch them beautifully sail past like enormous puffs of cotton. At the foot of the mountain, breathing was easy. I in particular, felt the lack of oxygen at the summit. At lower elevation now SR suddenly fell to the ground like a log, without warning. The effect of the alcoholic haze which was restrained due to the cold began to tell. He passed out for a good one hour.

Sent by T.V. Pereira

A FACT TO PONDER

As we grow old we should think that we are not ageing but ripening to perfection, according to somebody's view. Actually no one is perfect. Even the worst character may have one good quality with him or her. On the other hand, a well respected person may have certain unworthy qualities.

An ugly person can be beautiful inside, and a beauty can be ugly inside. Judging a person at a glance is not possible as human beings are not transparent. As the great poet Alagiyawanna Mukaweti highlights in his "Subhashithaya"

මිනිස් හට සොඳුරු ගුණ සහ නුගුණ ඇත
නිදොස් කෙනෙකු මෙදියක ඉපදුනේ නැත

This realization helps you to understand the human nature and to accept people as they are and minimize hatred. This is the gateway to become benevolent and to forgive and forget unpleasant incidents in life and also to be careful not to antagonize anybody.

This attitude will pave the way to peace of mind.

Sent by Pushpa Fonseka



THE SPEED

Forty Five kilometers per hour - 'God will take care of you'	Over 85 kilometers per hour - 'This World is not my Home'
Over 55 kilometers per hour - 'Guide Me Oh Thou Great Jehova'	Over 95 kilometers per hour - 'Lord I'm coming Home'
Over 65 kilometers per hour - 'Nearer My God to Thee'	Over 100 kilometers per hour - 'Safe in the Arms of Jesus'
Over 75 kilometers per hour - 'Nearer, still Nearer'	

Proverbs to Ponder

1. A wise man thinks all that he says, A fool says all that he thinks - (English Proverb)
2. Great thoughts come from the heart - (French Proverb)
3. When gold speaks e very tongue is silent - (Italian Proverb)
4. When luck enters, give him a seat - (Jewish Proverb)
5. Daggers and spears are not as sharp as tongues - (Malayan Proverb)
6. A man's conversation is the mirror of his heart - (English Proverb)
7. Life is the biggest bargain. We get it for nothing - (Yiddish Proverb)
8. If I keep a green bough in my heart the singing birds will come - (Chinese Proverb)
9. A bridge of one pole is very hard to cross - (English Proverb)
10. A man runs over another's field. Over his own he treads skowly. - (Malayan Proverb)

Compiled by Romauld Fernando

SUB-COMMITTEES

President appointed the following Executive Committee members to serve in the Sub-Committees in order to plan and implement various activities of the Association in the current year

Social & Entertainment - Nelson Mendis, John Emmanuel, Kalyana Dhirasekera, Kaushalya Murugadasan, Lashantha Perera and Anton Silva

Scholarship Fund - Ananda Epa, Zubair Hassen and Sunethra Vidanage

Welfare of Members - Winston Dabara, Vijitha Jayawardena and Ananda Epa

News Letter - Gamini Wasalathanthri and Vijitha Jayawardena

Membership Drive - Sunethra Vidanage, Lashantha Perera and Janaka Kaluhendiwela

(President, Secretary and Treasurer would assist all sub-committees as ex-officio members)

BIRTHDAYS

We wish 'Happy Birthday to the following members who are celebrating their birthdays in February and March.

February

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

March

Pushpa Fonseka	1st
Susima Ponnampereuma	3rd
Ranjit David	10th
Janaka Kumarasinghe	13th
Bertie Fernando	16th
D.D.V. Pathirana	16th
Kamalangani Perera	23rd
Sriyani Weerasinghe	23rd
G. Dewruwan	24th
Swarna Prematilleke	28th
Delricus Peiris	29th



If you have not given us your birthday (date & month)
please inform us ASAP in order to update our records.
Thank you.

FRIENDS - RELATIONS PEOPLE - PEOPLE

PEOPLE are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centred.	Be KIND anyway
If you are kind, PEOPLE may accuse you of selfish motives	Be KIND anyway
If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies	SUCCEED anyway
If you are honest and frank, PEOPLE may cheat you.	Be HONEST & FRANK anyway
What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight.	BUILD anyway
If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous.	Be HAPPY anyway
The good you do today, PEOPLE will often forget tomorrow	Do GOOD anyway
Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough.	GIVE the world 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

(Mother Theresa)

Dhoni Speeds Past Bolt, Alonso In Forbes List - (An extract)

Indian cricket team captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been ranked 16th in the latest Forbes list of highest-paid athletes with an earning of \$31.5 million (around Rs.180 crore), placing him above the likes of Rafael Nadal and Usain Bolt. As per the latest Forbes list of highest-paid athletes in the world, the 31 year-old captain of the Indian cricket team earned \$31.5 million between June 2012 and June 2013.

The list places Dhoni above F1 racer Fernando Alonso, who is ranked 19th, Lewis Hamilton at 26th place, Novak Djokovic at 28th place, Rafael Nadal at 30th spot and Usain Bolt at 40th rank. The calculation is based upon the earnings estimates which include salaries, bonuses and prize money from both club and national teams, as well as endorsement income.

Dhoni has moved up 15 positions in this year's list. He held the 31st rank last year. Sachin Tendulkar is the only other Indian sportsman who features in the list with a rank of 31st and total annual earning of \$22 million (Rs.125 crore).

The list is topped by golfer Tiger Woods, who made \$78.1 million last year followed by tennis player Roger Federer who earned \$71.5 million and basketball player Kobe Bryant whose earnings stood at \$61.9 million. According to Forbes, Russian tennis player Maria Sharapova topped the list of highest-paid female athletes for the ninth straight year by earning \$29 million between June 2012 and June 2013. American Serena Williams was second on the list with earnings of \$20.5 million, followed by Chinese tennis player Li Na on \$18.2 million and Belarusian Victoria Azarenka on \$15.7 million.

Sent by Romauld Fernando



OBITUARIES



We regret to announce the death of our member W.A. PERERA (SONNY) who passed away on 13th December 2014. He had been one of our ardent members who was present at most of our events since the inception of our Association. We wish him ETERNAL BLISS

SING-A-LONG WITH SINGER YOUNG AND OLD

The much looked forward to event of the Association – the Annual 'Sing-a-Long' Get-together was held in the middle of the pen-ultimate month of the year at the Lions Secretariat Hall, Colombo. Members from far and wide – Young and Old were there with their families and friends on this evening, undisturbed unlike on the previous occasion when rain dampened the atmosphere.

The lively band supported by a talented lady singer and two male singers set the crowd going with many an old favourite – both English and Sinhala songs with the crowd joining lustily, including 'Golden Oldies', 'Not-so-Young' and 'Young Oldies', their spouses and young kids

The correct décor, music, food, drinks and 'COOL' participants around the event was a grand success, and those who missed it should think of making it a MUST ATTEND event in future.

It was great to see our honoured Chief Guest Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya and Mrs. Anoma Amarasuriya taking the dance floor with others and enjoying the evening which thrilled the audience more. Another attraction was the little grand son of our president Mr, Bertie Fernando taking the floor to thrill the audience with his break dancing and baila.

All in all it was an excellent evening which brought together the past employees of Singer, our members and their families and friends once again.



Singer Sing-A-Long / dancing in full swing



NEXT NEWS LETTER

We expect to release the next Newsletter in April 2015. Therefore please forward your contributions to reach us by 20th March 2015 addressed to:

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