



SINGAPORE MALAYALEE ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Updates (Volume 1, Issue 3)

30th September 2019

Editor: Mrs. Shraddha Rajesh

Past Events

ONAM NITE 2019

by Mrs. Lakshmy Iyer

As published in Connected to India

Malayalee megastar Dr. Mammooty's fans in Singapore were in for a treat when the actor visited the island nation to celebrate Onam Nite 2019 on 24 Aug 2019.

This event was presented by the Singapore Malayalee Association and produced by Asianet, in collaboration with Esplanade Theatres on the Bay. Padma Shri Mammooty made multiple brief appearances on the stage to wild cheers and whistles from the close to full-house audience. The evening was full of entertainment, song and dance as Onam was celebrated with great gusto.

Taking the audience on a musical journey through popular melodies were youth icons Karthik, Sithara, Kavya Ajit and Harishankar. There were also dance performances by Asha Sharath, Shamna Kasim and Archana, who danced to both cinematic numbers as well as semi-classical songs, ably supported by a team of passionate dancers from Singapore. The comic relief on the evening was provided by the likes of Suraj Venjaramoodu, Ramesh Pisharody, Dharmajan, Tini Tom, Nobi and Pashanam Shaji.

The annual affair organised by the Singapore Malayalee Association is always a gala event which has featured Malayalee stars such as Mohanlal, K. J. Yesudas and K.S. Chitra among others in the past.



CURRY FIESTA 2019 BY LISHA

By Mrs. Sindhu Krishna Prasad

In-conjunction with our bicentennial year, LISHA Women's Wing organized an event where 200 types of curries were served at Campbell Lane event marquee by 200 different organizations on 14 Sep 2019. Being a multi racial event, SMA prepared our authentic Avial curry using different varieties of vegetables. Just like our curry, multi-racial and multi cultural people came together to create the Singapore Book Of Records.



SMA SOCCER TOURNAMENT

By Mr. Sabarinath Thekkath

With 8 teams (120 players) participation and 9-a-side competition, SMA Soccer tournament 2019 was conducted at Naval Base Secondary School, Yishun on 27-28 July 2019 in association with RP Ponnanam 2019.

The tournament was conducted in 3 different sessions. Trophies, Medals and Cash prize was awarded to winners and runner up. Medals were given away to the second runner up. Best Goalkeeper and top scorer trophies were awarded too. This occasion was graced by Dr. Dinesh Nair, GOH, who is a member of Singapore Football association.

The prize distributions were done by Dr. Dinesh Nair, Mr. Shanavas Vijayan, Mr. Jayakumar Narayanan and Mr. Jayadev Unnithan.



KALIKKALAM 2019 - SMA BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

With the same spirit and enthusiasm of past years, 2019 SMA Badminton tournament was held on 7th July at SBH Arena Country Club Jurong. We fielded 5 categories which brought the Indian communities together through sports.

The categories for all Indians residing or studying in Singapore, were Indian Women's doubles, Indian Mixed Doubles, Indian Veteran's Doubles and Indian Men's doubles. The last category was the Malayalee Men's doubles.

164 people and 181 matches were played in a single day simultaneously in 9 courts. MediaCorp covered the event and it was telecast in Vasantham channel. Babolat sponsored all the prizes.



CARELIGHT WELLNESS CENTRE ONGOING ACTIVITIES

CareLight Wellness Centre is booming with activities for our elderly! These activities empower our elderly to lead healthy lifestyle and build strong bonds. Do come by and join us in our activities! The programmes for each week are posted in our CareLight web page.



Embroidery

If you would like to volunteer, you may contact our in-house staff, Ms. Laveena (82317319), who oversees all the activities at the Centre at Blk 141 Bedok Reservoir Road, #01-1529 S470141.



Art Therapy

VARNAM 2019

By Mr. Anil Kumar

Annual exhibition "Varnam" serves as a platform to nurture artists of Singapore Malayalee community since 2013. Varnam 2019 was staged under the theme of "fest beyond colours - unite community through innovative ways", where the focus was on providing participants with real opportunities to showcase their talent. It featured around 130 paintings with various artistic styles by 17 dedicated artists.

Artists were selected based on their creativity, popularity and exposure in Singapore art community. Exhibits were from categories of traditional Kerala art, finger painting, still life, charcoal art, contemporary art, creative multimediam and inspirational moments of life.

Mrs. Rosa Daniel, The CEO of National Arts Council (NAC) Singapore was the Guest Of Honour. She was delighted to see gathering of different artists as one interest group within the community. Mrs. Rosa was presented with her portrait drawn by Kalyani Anil.

All artists who participated are not full-time or many of us are not learned artists. Through this interest group more than 100 new art works were created for Varnam 2019 exhibition and it was well received by art-lovers.



MAYILPEELI

By Mrs. Ambili Nair

Mayilpeeli organised a Science Exhibition Scienspire 2019 as part of Onam Village. This competition was an excellent platform for budding young scientists below 16 to showcase their passion. Topics included all areas of Science and Engineering. 9 teams presented their projects in the form of display boards, experiments and models. Mr. Madan Pushpakath and Mr. Sangit Sasidhar, experts from academic and the industry, were the judges; they were impressed by the innovative and original ideas showcased.

An art competition was also organised for children - colouring for 4 to 7 year olds, and pencil drawing for 8 to 11 year olds.



NATAKAMELA 2019

By Mr. Vasudevan Thottekatt

The 4th Edition of Natakamela was held at The Grassroots Club. Every year we tell new stories, draw colourful pictures and convey some message. As in previous years there were 3 different dramas - mythology, history and family comedy. New techniques were attempted, new actors were given the opportunity to perform. The objective of this group is to attract new acting talent from the younger generation and present the sweetness of Malayalam language.

The drama working committee is formed and the team has planned 2020 drama event as a milestone (5th year). The team will also conduct Nataka kalari, a session to introduce drama to kids.



ONAM VILLAGE 2019

By Mrs. Lakshmy Iyer

Singapore's Malayalee Carnival, Onam Village was held on 22 Sep 2019. It was in 2015 that all Malayalee associations in Singapore came together for the first time to celebrate the island nations 50th birthday and kick-started the Malayalee Carnival. The venue is known to most Malayalees in Singapore as it has a historical name as well as being host to many SMA events, the Naval Base Secondary School in Yishun.

Onam Village was a family-friendly event where adults, children and entire families had a fun-filled day. All categories saw tough competitors with winners walking away with prizes, bragging rights and of course pictures for social media by the many amazing volunteer photographers!

Onam Village was honoured by the presence of AP Dr. Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, MP for Nee Soon GRC and Senior Parliamentary Secretary for the

Ministry of Social and Family Development and the Ministry of Education as our special guest. Past Presidents of SMA, dignitaries, VIPs and both Malayalees and non-Malayalees graced the occasion and added colour to the carnival atmosphere.

This year we held a 'Pookkalam Mathsaram' that brought out the best of floor-flower-design artists in Singapore. Festive stalls and lucky draws added to the excitement. Cultural programs, drawing/coloring competitions and a science exhibition entertained and educated all day long. What is Onam without the traditional sadya, the Onam Sadya was a feast for all the senses! The day ended with energetic rounds of sports and family games and 'vadam vali' - the traditional tug-of-war.



Gabriel Garcia Marquez Festival (SMLF) by Mr. Ullas Kumar

SMLF is celebrating the works of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the well-known Latin American author from Columbia and the creator of the probably best ever novel written in the history of man kind "One hundred years of solitude." The first of the sessions was presented by Smitha Augustine - "Strange Pilgrims" and Hema Sivaramakrishnan "The Incredible and Sad Tale of Innocent Eréndira and her Heartless Grandmother". The second session dealt with more complex themes: "Dealing in Dualities - The Marquezian way" was presented by Dr. Thara Ravindran and "No one writes to the Colonel : A review " By EK Mohan Raj.

The third session also had two presentations, the first one "The Chronicles of a death foretold: A review by

Mr. Ashok Kumar followed by "Solitude in one hundred years of solitude" by Mr. Ullas. The final session of GGM festival will be on 20 Oct. The session will be led by Mr. T. Suresh Kumar. All are welcome to attend the event. The topic will be "സ്വർഗ്ഗത്തെ നിസ്സാരമാക്കിയ എഴുത്തുകാരൻ" (മാർക്കേസ്യോ മാജിക്കൽ റിയലിസവും). This will be a golden opportunity to review and reflect on his life and work and surprisingly pleasant experience to enter an inexplicably wonderful world of magical realism.

The 7th Anniversary of SMLF will be held on 10 Nov. The well-known short story writer Mr. Ashtamoorthy will be the special guest on the occasion. "'സീത' - നൂറുവർഷങ്ങൾ" highlights the 100 years after Kumaran Assan completed his "Chintavishtayaaya Seetha". The event will also feature the book release of the Malayalam translation of "Geethanjali" by Rabindranath Tagore by Pia Jayakumar.

LADIES' WING

By Dr. Sunitha Nair

SMA Ladies wing has been active throughout the quarter.

On Aug 31st, SMA Ladies' Wing along with Breast Cancer Foundation Singapore, organised a Breast Cancer Awareness talk at Carelight Wellness Centre. Dr. Germaine Xu (Breast Surgeon, Mt.Alvernia Hospital), Ms. Mazuim Khamis (BCF Singapore) and Mrs. Anu Chia gave informative talks on the importance of breast self examination and screening tests to detect breast cancer, which is the most prevalent cancer among women in Singapore. The speakers stressed the importance of regular check-ups, a healthy lifestyle and early detection and treatment of breast cancer.



WELFARE TEAM

By Mr. Syam Kumar

SMA Welfare team has been continuing with the feeding sessions at Sree Narayana Mission. The regular monthly feeding sessions are conducted on every third Saturday of the month.

SMA welfare team is planning to start regular blood donation drives in collaboration with the Singapore Red Cross every quarter.

The first blood donation drive in this series will be held on Saturday, 2 Nov 2019 at CareLight Wellness Centre at Block 141, Bedok Reservoir Road. The team requests all to support and donate blood. Please contact Badarudeen (98800295) or Syam (92316256) for registration.



YOUTH WING

All Malaysia Malayalee Association (AMMA) Sports Tournament

By Ms. Athena Michael

Braving hours of the long weekend's traffic across the causeway, on 11th August 2019, Ms. Athena Michael, President, Public Relations & Marketing IC and Ms. Cynthia Mark, member of the SMA Youth Wing, represented SMA at the All Malaysia Malayalee Association (AMMA) annual sports tournament in Johor Bahru. The Youth Wing's attendance at this event espoused its commitment to extend its outreach far and wide, both within and outside of Singapore, thereby strengthening extant bonds and forging new bonds, strengthening the Malayalee identity across borders.



Something's brewing as the Youth Wing is planning a Deepavali special cooking demonstration for foodies and cooking enthusiasts alike to come join the Youth Wing for an afternoon of food and fun – stay tuned for updates through the Youth Wing's Facebook and Instagram pages.



1. Pioneer Wing Get Together, 5 Oct
2. SMLF: Final session of GGM festival
Sunday 20 Oct, 2.30pm
@SMA Hall
3. Blood Donation Drive @ CareLight
2 Nov, Saturday, 9am – 3pm
Contact Badarudeen (98800295) or
Syam (92316256) for registration.
4. SMLF 7th Anniversary
Sunday 10 Nov, 1- 5pm
Special guest: Well-known short
story writer Mr. Ashtamoorthy

To update your preference on how you would like to receive SMA Quarterly e-newsletter:
<http://bit.ly/newsletterSMA>

For SMA membership: <http://bit.ly/joinSMA>
For any feedback/queries, please write to
info@malayalee.org.sg

HERITAGE ACTIVITIES

By Mr. Krishna Kumar

SMA is working on the Heritage of Malayalees of Singapore in two aspects: (1) Malayalee Heritage of Singapore Publication and (2) Malayalee Heritage Centre.

The Publication will cover the following aspects and more:

- Malayalees in Singapore
 - Malayalee migration to Singapore
 - Malayalee organizations in Singapore
- Malayalee Festivals & Celebrations in Singapore
- Malayalees of Singapore – Demographics
- Malayalees in the Art & Cultural Landscape of Singapore
- Malayalam Language, Media and Literature in Singapore
- Health & Living – Malayalee Heritage of Singapore
- Malayalees in Politics & Public Life of Singapore
- Malayalee in Business, science & technology and other professional careers
- Prominent Malayalees of Singapore

The main part of the document will cover the story of Malayalees of Singapore while the Appendix of the publication will

cover general aspects of Malayalees such as:

- Malayalee Heritage in Art & Culture
- Religious Heritage of Malayalees
- Malayalam, Language & Literature
- Malayalee Heritage in Health & Living
- Kerala – General Vital Stats and general information etc.

The objective of this project is to capture and document the unique view of the Singaporean story

through the lives and mindscape of Malayalees of Singapore, from an SMA perspective. Through this effort, we wish to bring into public view, the diversity of cultures of Singapore and how Malayalees enhance and enrich the vibrancy and brilliance of the colourful tapestry that Singapore is. This project plans to be a significant and serious effort by SMA as a part of its post 100th year celebrations and aims to create authentic documentation of various aspects of the Malayalees of Singapore, including art, culture, language, religion, business, and diverse professions.

The proposed Malayalee Heritage Centre at the SMA is expected to focus on the Malayalee heritage through Virtual Heritage Platforms as well as samples of quintessentially Malayalee Artefacts as well as artefacts from the Malayalees of Singapore.

We seek SMA members or friends/relatives with interest in the above-mentioned heritage related activities to participate in the project actively to create, improve, sustain and project our story, the Malayalee story of Singapore, at a national level. If interested, please do write to us to:
heritage.sma@gmail.com .

If you have any specific and/or deep knowledge in any of the topics mentioned or in technology topics such as **responsive website design, mobile apps design or related topics**, please do indicate that too. Any specific experience with Malayalee migration stories, Malayalee history or any heritage planning may also be specifically mentioned. When writing to us, please do indicate: (1) your name, (2) mobile number, (3) specific related skills, if any, (4) In which area you would like to participate and support.