



SINGAPORE MALAYALEE ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Updates (Volume 3, Issue 1)

31st March 2021

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Past Events

NATTUVADHYANGALUM NATANKALAKALUM by Mr. Sathian Pookkuttath

The beauty of folk songs and the variety of instruments used in folk songs in Kerala is a priceless asset. It is an art form that is slowly dying out, and there are few genuine artists in this area, thus the newer generations are lacking exposure as well.

We are trying to bring art forms that are slowly disappearing even from the villages of Kerala and subsequently from our eyes, to the masses. SMA organised an event called 'നാട്ടുവാദ്യങ്ങളും നാടൻകലകളും' performed by Sri Janardhanan Puthusseri, a famous singer of folk song fame from Kerala, on 27th Dec 2020. Sri Janardhanan is a winner of Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy award, Dr. Ambedkar National award and the Kerala Folklore Academy Award.

It was an entertaining and educational event, introducing more than 30 traditional percussion/musical instruments and the art form connected to the particular instrument. It was a unique event held for the first time for Singapore Malayalees, filled with various folk songs - pulluvan paattu, koith paattu, nagapattu, navvoru pattu, natodi paattu and chekavar paattu.



PROSE AND POEM 2020 by Mr. Sathian Pookkuttath

Mayilpeeli Children's Club believes that nurturing children's interest in language is crucial for their development. With this goal in mind, a creative session was conducted on 27 Dec 2020, to expose children to literature and inculcate in them a love for words. Literature enhances development of language skills and other critical thinking skills that provide the foundation of learning in children.

The session led by Mrs. Uma Shankar was effective in demonstrating the importance of literature as communication as well as art.

The children were fascinated and demonstrated their skills in developing creative phrases, poems and stories. It was a lively, hands-on session where children spontaneously wrote poems on a given topic in a short time at end of the session.

More than 15 children aged 9-14 participated in this session; we received encouraging feedback and much appreciation from parents for conducting such an interesting session for children.



VARNAM 2020
by Mr. Anil Kariseril

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world in a big way. It made it necessary to find new ways to conduct our annual art exhibition, thus Varnam 2020 was held virtually. 19 talented artists of the Singapore Malayalee community exhibited their works; a total of 165 art works are being displayed.

The official opening of Varnam 2020 was conducted on Zoom on 21st Nov 2020 in the presence of more than 50 attendees. It was graced by the presence and blessings of His Excellency Periasamy Kumaran, High Commissioner of India to Singapore.

The exhibition received more than 3500 visitors in the few weeks. Varnam 2020 can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/Varnam2020>



Participating Artists – Varnam 2020



Art Workshop for Seniors

A traditional Kerala mural painting workshop was conducted on 28th Feb at CareLight Wellness Centre. Due to restrictions, only 8 participants were accepted. It was the very first activity conducted in the centre since March 2020.

PIONEER WING
by Mrs. Sunu Sivadasan-Ghani

After the World Health Organization officially classified COVID-19 as a pandemic, Pioneer Wing postponed all face-to-face meetings. As seniors were not comfortable with virtual platforms initially, it was only after more than a year that Pioneer Wing finally had their first online meet-up on 21st February 2021. Seniors who had not seen each other for months were overjoyed. Well-known chef and active member of the Pioneer Wing, Mrs. Prasanna Kumary, conducted a cooking demonstration on various chutneys to go with dosa. The session included pioneers clarifying queries and sharing their own cooking experiences.

The second meet-up took place on 27 March 2021, with about 10 pioneer ladies coming together at Carelight Wellness Centre. Clapping therapy by Rangoli expert Mrs. Vijaya Mohan got everyone moving and clapping to the vibrant music that was played. Mrs. Prasanna Kumary demonstrated the cooking of Gobi 65 and Mrs. Sunila guided the group in a short meditation session. It was indeed an energising and enjoyable session.



HEALTH & WELLNESS SERIES by Dr. Vidhya Pillay

The world is currently in the midst of a pandemic that has affected people globally both physically and mentally. The Singapore Malayalee Association started a 'Health and Wellness Series' with the aim of addressing various topics in health and well-being that we hope will be helpful for everyone.

We had our first talk on 'Genes, Lifestyle and Chronic Diseases' by Dr Resham Gurung in December 2020. This was followed by 'Alcohol and Drug Use Disorders' by Dr Mohamed Zakir Karuvetil in January 2021, 'Allergies in Children' by Dr Rajeesh Ramachandran in February 2021 and 'Dementia' by Dr Christopher Cheek in March 2021.

We have had good participation locally and overseas as the talks are held on Zoom, making it possible for people to join in from overseas too. The sessions have all been informative and engaging.

We have many partners who have readily partnered us and supported this series. They are Paya Lebar CCC, the Inner Wheel Club of Singapore Central, Mountbatten Active Ageing Committee, the Kamala Club, Meyer Neighbourhood Committee, Sree Narayana Mission, the Singapore Sindhi Association, the Singapore Telugu Samajam, the Serangoon IAEC, the Serangoon CC and the Kadayannallur Muslim League.

We hope to have more participation from everyone for the upcoming monthly talks. Do follow us on Facebook for more updates on this series.



YOUTH WING FOOD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME by Dr. Vidhya Pillay

In 2020, the Youth Wing started a regular meal sponsorship programme that kickstarted with Onam.

Food being an integral part of Singapore society spurred us to want to give back to our multicultural society in a small way. As a team we decided to sponsor meals for the main festivals (Chinese New Year, Hari Raya, Deepavali and Onam) every year going forward.

On Saturday, November 30th 2020, the Youth Wing members sponsored a meal for the residents of Sunlove Home for Deepavali and on Wednesday, Feb 10th 2021 to all the residents at Lee Ah Mooi Old Age Home (Silat) for Chinese New Year.

Due to Covid restrictions, we were not able to be present physically at the homes during the meals but the staff kept us updated with some lovely photos of the residents enjoying their meal.

We have a few exciting events lined up for 2021 so do follow us on Facebook (Singapore Malayalee Association Youth Wing) and Instagram (youthwingsma) for more updates.

We hope you will join us as we work towards promoting and creating an awareness of our Malayalee culture and language amongst the youth in Singapore. We also hope to contribute to the larger Singapore society regardless of race, religion or language in whatever way possible.



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION by Mrs. Sindhu Krishna Prasad

SMA is proud to receive Singapore Book of Records certificate once again. 12,000 'Thank you Singapore' hand-painted Deepavali greeting cards were displayed at the launch of the event. An initiative by Mrs Vijaya Mohan, which aimed to support and thank the Singapore Government's leadership in the current pandemic.

The main objective of these cards was to thank our Leaders, Ministers, Civil Servants, Grassroots and Community Leaders among others, who have managed to keep Singapore safe, strong and united in the face of a raging COVID-19 pandemic.



The event was inaugurated by Little India Shopkeepers & Heritage Association (LiSHA) Chairman Mr. Raj Kumar Chandra. Organised by Mrs. Vijaya Mohan, Rotary Club of Novena, Singapore and supported by LISHA and Tekka Place, more than 12,000 cards were distributed to over 75 organisations as well as individuals to be coloured and returned for display at Tekka Place.

LADIES' WING by Dr. Sunitha Nair

SMA Ladies Wing donated New Year Gift hampers to the residents of Sree Narayana Mission on 29th of December 2020.

We organised an informative talk over Zoom on Hydroponics Gardening by Mr. Lim Han Hong on 22nd Jan, and a Yoga demonstration by Yoga Shiromani Chandran N.R. on 27th March. He demonstrated each type of yoga with a brief explanation on its health benefits.



DRAMA 2020 by Mr. Vasudevan Thottekkatt

Due to the COVID restrictions, on stage performance and live rehearsal camps of Drama club activities were muted temporarily. But the teams were progressing with activities like web series and short films as a group activity. SMA Drama club wishes them all the best for the interest shown in these ventures.

SMA drama group conducted an online drama competition following strict guidelines of a stage play during Onam 2020. It was a 7min uncut/un-edited performance by the participants.

Out of the qualifying entries, the first prize winner is Rashobh R.S. for his drama "Punarjani", which will be performed on stage at the 2021 Natakamela.



SMA drama team is entering a milestone of its 6th year. On a positive note, we hope that the stage comes alive in 2021. All interested members are welcome to join the group by sending an email to drama@malayalee.org.sg

All Singapore Malayalees are invited to Natakamela 2021 and are requested to extend their wholehearted support.

SMLF UPDATES
by Mr. Ullas Kumar

3rd October 2020: പ്രരോദനം - ആശാന്റെ വിലാപകാവ്യം ഒരു അവലോകനം by Mr. Pradeep Nayathil. ആശാന്റെ ഒരു പേജിൽ ഒതുക്കിയ ഇരുട്ടിൽ നിന്നും ദുഃഖത്തിൽ നിന്നും ആത്മ സാന്ത്വനത്തിലേക്കും ദുഃഖനിവൃത്തിയിലേക്കും നീളുന്ന കാവ്യ യാത്ര. കുമാരനാശാന്റെ ജീവിത വീക്ഷണവും ചിന്തകളും.

October 17, 2020: എം മുക്തന്റെ കൂട നന്നാക്കുന്ന ചോയി by Ms. Divya Arun. കൂട നന്നാക്കുന്ന ചോയിയിൽ illustrations ചെയ്ത ശ്രീ.ഭാഗ്യനാഥ് ഈ സെഷനിൽ അതിഥിയായി വന്നു.

November 7, 2020: സങ്കീർത്തനങ്ങളുടെ അനുരണനം - A literary session by K Asok Kumar based on the novel ഒരു സങ്കീർത്തനം പോലെ written by Shri. പെരുമ്പടവം ശ്രീധരൻ.

വിചിന്തനത്തിനും പഠനത്തിനും വലിയ സാധ്യതകൾ ഉള്ള ദോസ്തോവിസ്കി എന്ന കഥാകാരൻറെ ഔന്നത്യത്തിനു ഒട്ടും ചോർച്ച വരാതെ ശ്രീധരൻ മാഷിന്റെ ഒരു സങ്കീർത്തനം പോലെ എന്നതിന്റെ വെളിച്ചത്തിൽ ഒതുക്കി അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു.

November 21 2020: കുമാരനാശാന്റെ "കരുണ" by Ms. ഉമാശങ്കർ. കുമാരനാശാന്റെ പ്രമുഖ കൃതിയെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള ആസ്വാദനവും വിശകലനവും.

December 12, 2020: “തുടക്കത്തിലേ ഒടുക്കവും ഒടുക്കത്തിലെ തുടക്കവും” അനിൽ ദേവസ്സിയുടെ 'യാ ഇലാഹി ടൈംസി'ന്റെ വായനാനുഭവം നമ്മൾതന്നെ തീർത്തിരിക്കുന്ന വ്യതിരിക്തമായ ഒറ്റപ്പെടലിന്റെ ഘനീഭൂത സാഗരം പൊട്ടിക്കുന്നു. കാൽച്ചവട്ടിൽനിന്ന് മണ്ണ് ഊർന്നുപോയിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ലോകത്തിലെ ഓരോ മനുഷ്യന്റെയും ജീവിതാവസ്ഥകളിലേയ്ക്ക് നമ്മുടെ ചിന്തയെ വ്യാപരിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. മനുഷ്യജീവനം പലായനവും അക്കങ്ങളായി മാത്രം ഒടുങ്ങുന്ന സമകാലിക ദുരന്തങ്ങൾക്കു പിന്നിലെ വൈയക്തികവ്യഥകൾ നമ്മെ അനുഭവിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. അത് നമ്മിലെ മനുഷ്യസ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ വ്യാപ്തിയെ വെല്ലുവിളിക്കുന്നു.

2018ലെ ഡിസി സാഹിത്യപുരസ്കാരത്തിന് തെരഞ്ഞെടുത്തുകൊണ്ടുള്ള പ്രശസ്തിപത്രത്തിൽ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിയതുപോലെ 'ദുബായ്' നഗരത്തെ കേന്ദ്രമാക്കിയാണെങ്കിലും സിറിയ, തുർക്കി, കാനഡ, ഈജിപ്റ്റ്, ശ്രീലങ്ക, ഇന്ത്യ തുടങ്ങിയ പല നാടുകളിലെ മനുഷ്യാവസ്ഥയെ പ്രമേയമാക്കുന്ന പല അടരുകളുള്ള, 'സാർവ്വദേശീയമാനമുള്ള നോവൽ' യാ ഇലാഹി ടൈംസ് - ഹേമ ശിവരാമകൃഷ്ണൻ.

January 16, 2021: Why do we enjoy Art? a session by Sunil Sivadas Ph. D. പലതരത്തിൽ, തലത്തിൽ കല ആസ്വദിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള കാരണങ്ങൾ ശാസ്ത്രീയമായ അവലോകനം.

February 19, 2021: A session with the writer Anil Devassy – the author of award winning novel യാ ഇലാഹി ടൈംസ്.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Dr. G Raman was an exemplary gentleman, a successful lawyer and a great spirit who contributed generously to the Malayalee community and society at large. He will be fondly remembered.



Mr. K. O. George was an exemplary leader who served with great dedication and commitment as the president of the SMA from 1987-1990. We will miss Mr K. O. George who was indeed a stalwart of the Singapore Malayalee community.



Mr. R. Raveendran was a stalwart of the Singapore Malayalee community – an exemplar of community service in community and grassroots organizations. Uncle Ravee was a larger-than-life figure and will be greatly missed.



SMAK-ATHON 2020 BY SMA TECH FORUM

“The thrill of learning and building something new is boundless. We wanted to pave a way to empower groups of friends and families to experience this joy together. The feedback from participants of the first Arduino workshop by SMA Tech forum encouraged us to think further on how to provide a larger avenue for this. We hope SMAK-athon would be an exciting journey for tech enthusiasts.” – Manju Venugopal, Tech Enthusiast, head of SMA-kathon organizing committee

The hackathon was held on 20 Dec, where participants from the ages of 8 to 50+ identified problems and developed very interesting working devices to address these problems. This served as an introduction to the world of IoT for most of the participants who were new to using Arduino. They learnt the basics of Arduino programming, and went through the whole process from identifying a problem, to using design thinking to envision a solution, to implementing the solution using hardware and going through multiple iterations of debugging, to making the final presentation. Participants were appreciative of the opportunity to learn from experts through the workshop, to learn something new and to create something of value. We are confident that this has sparked an interest in lifelong learning of IoT for many of our participants! The winners are:

Junior	1st	Nandita Harish, Nandita Raj, Niranjan Harish <i>FeedPro - Smart Pet Feeder</i>
	2nd	Aryan Arun, Gaurav Bhardwaj <i>Automatic Window Closer</i>
	Special Mention	Mrinalini Sivadas, Siddhi Bhangale <i>Secure Home</i>
	Special Mention	Abhinav R Nair, Darshil Agrawal, Aditya Baiyy <i>Liquid Temperature Sensor & Heater</i>
Senior	1st	Mohammed Razi, Merrill Manuel Jose <i>Delivery Notifier</i>
	2nd	S. Kishore, Ambili Nair, Aarav Kishore <i>Smart Dustbin</i>

Congratulations to all our winners of the Hackathon.

The keynote speech was delivered by Mr. Prakash Bare, an engineer and entrepreneur by profession, has held various technology and business positions in the electronics design industry.

These are the Tech Talks that have been conducted from Oct 2020; they are available on YouTube:

1. Technology in Public Safety & Security by Mr. Raja Sekaran (ex Senior Police Officer for 25 years with the Singapore Police Force)
2. AI in Healthcare by Balagopal Unnikrishnan (Research Engineer at I2R, A*STAR)
3. The Future of Fashion by Nikita Menon (fashion graduate & MSc candidate in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence for the Creative Industries)
4. Impact of Whatsapp Privacy Policy Changes by Rajesh Sreenivasan (Partner and Head of the Technology, Media and Telecom Law at Rajah & Tann LLP)
5. 5G – What to expect? by Ullas Kumar [MBA (NUS), MTech (IISc)] (Technology consultant and entrepreneur)

Today we are a small group of 18 members and we would love to have more enthusiasts join us. Feel free to write to us if you have queries or have an interest in being a speaker or to be a part of this fun team at SMAtchforum@malayalee.org.sg



For SMA membership:

<http://bit.ly/SMAMember>

For any feedback/queries, please write to info@malayalee.org.sg