



SINGAPORE MALAYALEE ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Updates (Volume 3, Issue 2)

30th June 2021

Editor: Mrs. Shraddha Rajesh

Past Events

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

The 103rd AGM of the Association was held virtually on 26th April 2021. More than 60 members attended this meeting. The president, Mr. Prem, addressed everyone and highlighted many events and initiatives completed in the last 2 years, including the Kerala Flood Relief Fund, various welfare activities during COVID, the founding of new clubs such as the SMA Tech Forum, Teens Club Chengathies and innovative activities such as SMA Hackathon. He also showcased the digital transformation efforts of SMA, in keeping up with the times.

The new Management Committee was elected. The MC has formed the following leadership team to run the association's activities, as follows:

President	Mr. P.S. Prem
Vice President	Mrs. Sunu Sivadasan-Ghani
Hon. General Secretary	Mr. Venugopalan Priyadarsan
Hon. Assistant Secretary	Mrs. Sindhu Krishna Prasad
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. Anil Kumar Sankara
Hon. Assistant Treasurer	Mr. Kanakathidathil Rajaneesh Krishnan
Cultural Committee Head	Mr. Dinesh Kumar
Cultural Committee	Mr. Vasudevan Thottekatt
Governance	Mr. Syam Kumar
Marketing & Publicity	Mr. Vipin Marakkaatt
Children's Club Mayilpeeli Head	Mr. Sathian Pookkuttath
Committee Member	Mr. K. Sivaraman Nair
Committee Member	Mr. Mattathil Chacko Varkey Mathai

Membership Drive	Mr. Sujith Sivaram
Membership Drive	Mr. Sunil Sivadas
Publications	Mrs. Shraddha Bhushan Patil
SMLF Head	Mr. Chellappan Pillai Sreedevi Ullas Kumar
Social Media	Miss Aathira Unnithan
Social Media	Mr. Sajin Ravi
Sports	Mr. Sabarinath Thekkath
Tech Forum Head	Mr. Anoop Dharmaseelan
Teen Chengathies	Miss Karthika Warriar
Varnam Head	Mrs. Lakshmy Iyer
Welfare Head	Dr. Vidhya Dharshini Pillay
Welfare (Health & Wellness Series)	Dr. Asharani Pezhummoottil Vasudevan Nair
Youth Wing President	Mr. Muhammad Shafiq Abdul Rahman (Kunjali Kutty-KK)
Internal Auditor	Mr. Kishore Sethumadhavan
Internal Auditor	Mr. Muraleedharan V.V.
Trustee	Dr V P Nair PBM
Trustee	Mr. Manu Bhaskaran
Trustee	Mr. Stephen Samuel
Trustee	Mr. H Abdul Samad
Legal Advisor	Mr. Chandramohan Nair PBM
Advisor	Padma Shri Mr. Gopinath Pillai BBM, BBM(L)
Advisor	Mr. M. M. Dollah
Advisor	Mr. P. K. Koshy
Advisor	Mr. Viswa Sadasivan
Advisor	Mr. Jayakumar Narayanan BBM

We thank the outgoing Management Committee for their dedication over the last 2 years.

SMARTEST 2021
by Mr. Sathian Pookuttath

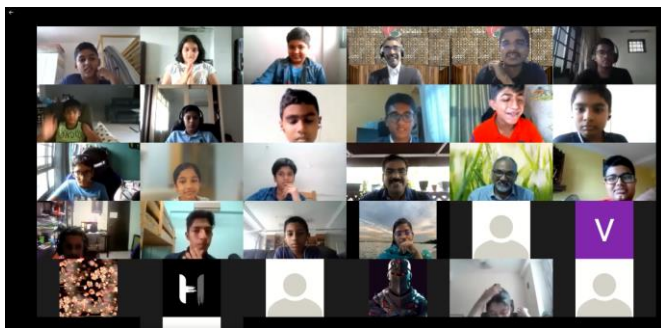
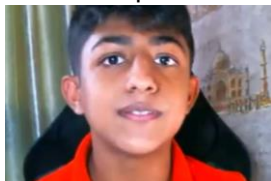
SMA children’s club Mayilpeeli conducted SMARtest 2021 -Spot the Mind Sport, a knowledge quest to kindle the spirit of enthusiastic learning in young minds, on 26th Jun 2021, for the 4th consecutive year.

Due to Covid restrictions, the event was conducted online. Participants number more than 30 and included both Malayalee and non-Malayalees, ensuring diversity and inclusion with other communities.

Dhruv Manoj, winner for the past 3 years, joined Sujith Sivaram, as the co-host for the quiz this year. Together, they covered 75 questions across various topics including space & space missions, health and wellness, current affairs, living in Singapore, Indian states, culture and sports.

The organizing team shared teasers over a month before the quiz with the children and parents, ensuring that the learning happened not only during the quiz.

SMA congratulates all participants. This year's winner is Mathew Roy (in red below), with Ishan Krishnan in second place and Manas Iyer in third place.



Dhruv (above, in black) was thrilled to be able to contribute to the quiz differently this year - graduating from quiz winner to quiz master.

Mayilpeeli is always looking for ways to support the personal development of its members, and this is just one example. Mayilpeeli will be organising more creative and enriching events in the near future, please stay tuned!

YOUTH WING
by Mr. Muhammad Shafiq (Kunjali Kutty)

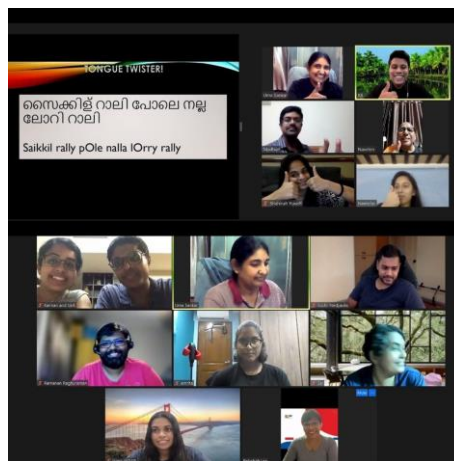
In April 2021, the new Youth Wing committee took office.

The first event organized by the new committee was a music series called 'Yathra - A Journey Back in Time' that was dedicated to frontline workers for their hard work throughout the pandemic. Songs from yesteryear were chosen in dedication to legendary singers. The series was broadcast on Facebook and Instagram every Friday over a period of three weeks and was performed by our own members, Vinayak and Basil. We had very good viewership; the series was received well.

The Food Sponsorship Programme has been continuing successfully. For Hari Raya Puasa, we sponsored an Iftar meal of biriyani from our SMA merchant partner, Briyani Caterer, on 12th May 2021, for the residents of Pertapis Senior Citizens Fellowship Home. We also sponsored an Iftar meal for 100 migrant workers through SDI Academy.

We conceptualized and created an SMA promotional video as part of the SMA membership drive. The video, which was received extremely well, can be found on our social media pages.

The Youth Wing also organized an 8 week Basic Conversational Malayalam course with MLES. Classes were held twice a week; there was overwhelming response with a sign up of 20 participants. It was an enjoyable course and feedback has been positive. We plan to conduct these Basic and Intermediate Conversational Malayalam classes twice a year going forward.



We would like to welcome Ashwin, Rashmi, Deepika, Rafeeq and Rebekah to the team as well.

We have a few exciting events lined up for the rest of the year so do follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@youthwingsma) for more updates.

This August 2021, the Youth Wing will be taking you on an adventurous series of "Kerala Cuisine: A Singapore Story". This series will showcase restaurants in Singapore serving Kerala cuisine.

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.



The new Youth Wing committee is as follows:

President	Muhammad Shafiq Bin Abdul Rahman (Kunjali Kutty)
Vice-President	Aathira Unnithan
Secretary	Basil Shibu
Treasurer	Kaveri Letha
Media and Publications Co-Ordinator	Neha Anand
Logistics Co-Ordinator	Vinayak Jayachandran

PIONEER WING UPDATES by Mrs. Sunu Sivadasan-Ghani

The heightened alert with further restrictions made it difficult for the Pioneer Wing ladies to get together for 'Chaaya and Rock' time in the last 3 months. Whatsapp served as the main platform for our ladies to connect with each other through text messages and photos – sharing of family photos and delicacies created in their kitchens. Inspirational and informative videos and messages served to uplift the spirit of our seniors.

One activity that kept some of them engaged in their own homes was the making of paper flowers using newspapers. Madam Vijaya Mohan, our renowned rangoli artist, did a video demonstration on how to make the flowers. These flowers will be used to decorate Little India during Deepavali. Seniors from the CareLight Wellness Centre were also roped in for this activity. While keeping seniors engaged and focused, this activity which was done at their own pace also helped in hand exercise and muscular coordination. To date, we have made a total of 800 paper flowers.



WELFARE WING by Dr. Vidhya Pillay

The Welfare Wing organized a four week series in June 2021 titled 'Covid-19 Series 2021 - Reflections'. The series was a platform created for Singaporeans from different walks of life to speak about their personal experiences, reflections and perspectives during this pandemic. We heard from speakers from the social work sector, caregivers, students, teachers, doctors, and owners of F&B and small businesses. It was an enlightening and insightful series that was well received.

The 'Health & Wellness Series' that was started in December 2020 has been continuing successfully. The talks have been supported by 13 community partners. In April 2021, we had a talk by Dr. Praseetha Nair and Dr. Viknesh Shanmugam on basic medical emergencies. From May onwards, we collaborated with Sree Narayana Mission (Singapore) for the series. Dr. Kalpana Bhaskaran spoke about diet strategies to prevent and manage diabetes. We also collaborated with Arya Vaidya Sala, Kottakal, for a talk on Ayurveda for general health and wellbeing in conjunction with the centenary celebrations of Mr. P K Warriar, the Managing Trustee of Arya Vaidya Sala, Kottakal.

In June, a talk on yoga and wellness was conducted by Dr. Sessa Srinivas Pammi in conjunction with International Yoga Day. Dr. V P Nair and Dr. Dinesh Nair also spoke to

SINGAPORE MALAYALEE ASSOCIATION
&
SREE NARAYANA MISSION (SINGAPORE)

Health & Wellness Series

PRESENTS

**How to Catch the HEART ATTACK
Before it Catches You!**

Dr V P Nair & Dr Dinesh Nair

Saturday, 26th June 2021
3pm (Singapore Time)

Zoom Details:

Meeting ID: 983 7256 8297
Passcode: 805668



us later in the month about how to prevent a heart attack. The series has more informative and interesting talks lined up for the rest of the year so do keep a look out for more information on our Facebook page.

The Welfare Wing will be organizing more activities and events for our members and anybody who would like to participate. Do join us!

We are happy to assist anybody who requires any assistance and we welcome you to join us as a volunteer.

If you or anyone you know requires any form of assistance or if you would like to join us as a volunteer, please contact us at welfare@malayalee.org.sg

Thank you for your continued support!

Welfare Volunteer Appreciation

Appreciation ceremony for SMA volunteers who were involved in SNM feeding session. GOH Mr. T Devendran, SNM CEO, Mr. Jayadev Unnithan, SNM President and Mr. Jayakumar BBM.



INDIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS BY LISHA by Mrs. Sindhu Krishna Prasad

Little India Shopkeepers and Heritage Association (LISHA) along with 16 Indian organizations presented an exhibition on the Indian New Year theme and cultural segments to celebrate the Indian New Year at the PGP hall of Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple.

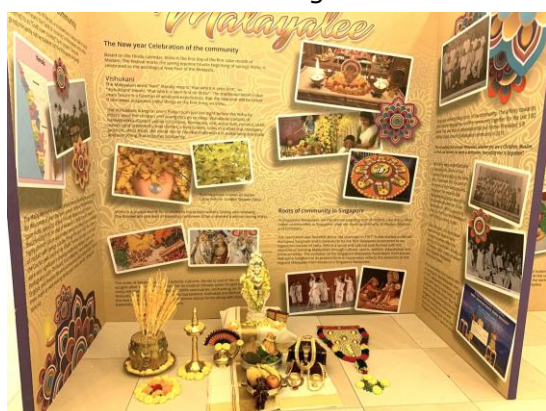
SMA set up a booth showcasing our Vishu Kani based on the New Year theme. We also showcased our traditional Mohiniattam, performed by Mrs. Haritha Haridas and team.



Minister Indranee Rajah and Minister Alvin Tan were the guests of honour at the launch. As part of the President's Challenge initiative, Minister Indranee Rajah received the cheque on behalf of President Halimah Yacob. SMA members donated generously towards the noble cause. Also, our Varnam team raised funds by auctioning their paintings.

All 16 Indian organizations came together to showcase their unique celebrations. LiSHA has adapted to COVID-19 by live-streaming their performances, to keep everyone safe amidst the celebrations.

We would like to thank the Ministry of Culture, Community, and Youth (MCCY) and Singapore Tourism Board who have partnered with LiSHA and the Hindu Endowments Board to organize this.



TECH FORUM

by Mr. Anoop Dharmaseelan

It is almost the middle of the year and COVID is very much with us. For most of us, it has not been an easy ride the last couple of months. Sometimes it just feels as if the whole world is upside down and there is not much we can do about it. One way to stay positive is to keep learning and upgrading oneself.

Automation with Python programming:

Tech Forum organized a session on Automation with Python programming language. This was a very well-received talk in April 2021, conducted by Mr. Vinod Verghese, VP at Citibank. This talk was an eye-opener to many as they realised a lot of the repetitive tasks in their daily life could be easily automated using Python.

Cloud Computing:

This talk was conducted in May 2021 by Mr. Jayachandran Maniyeri, a senior solutions architect at Blugraph Tech. Be it Zoom, Grab or Food Panda, all these services are made possible through cloud computing.

Ventilator Journey:

The final talk for the quarter was about the now ubiquitous ventilator. We are all familiar with the significance of this device thanks to Covid. This talk told the story of how a bunch of innovative tech geniuses came together to develop an Ambu-based pneumatically controlled ventilator. This talk was delivered by Mr. Vishnu Vadakkepat, a key innovator in this ventilator project.

Python workshop:

The Python talk sparked curiosity and interest in many, this led us to organise a 2 day Python workshop for enthusiasts. This project was the brainchild of the M&Ms of the Tech Forum, Manju and Malavika.

Due to Covid restrictions in place, the event was held online. We could offer only 20 slots and all the slots were taken up within a day. We hope to organise more sessions in the near future.

The encouragement and support have been heartening so far, and we look forward to delivering more quality content. If there is any tech topic that you would like to know more about, feel free to drop us a note at techforum@malayalee.org.sg

SMA TEENS DEBATE by Kritika Suresh

The SMA Teens Club Chengathies organised an online debate on 19 and 26 July, in which participants aged 12-18 from all over Singapore took part. This debate was conducted encourage a healthy spirit of discussion and competition among the teenagers.

We had the privilege of having a distinguished panel of experienced and talented adjudicators, Dr. Anitha Pillai, Mrs. Deepa Madan and Mr. V Bimel Ram. Dr. Anitha Pillai is an applied linguist and a teacher educator at National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University. She has served as an adjudicator for several years for the national secondary schools debates competition in Singapore. Mrs. Deepa Madan is an English Language & Literature Subject Head at a local secondary school. She was in charge of her school's debate team for years and was an adjudicator at the secondary schools debating championships on several occasions. Mr. V Bimel Ram is a media and events consultant. He has been an active debate participant since his student days, representing his school, college, other institutions and organisations. He has served as adjudicator, judge, chairman and trainer over the years for private and televised national debates. All the three adjudicators were thoroughly supportive and gave constructive input that allowed us to gain an insight into how a debate competition works.

Teen Debate Results



First Place:

Manu Sabarinath
Josmin Cannisius Thadathil
Lasheeka Ramesh

Second Place

Thejas Kizhakke Chittadath
Amrith Koottala Anil
Aadithya Pillai

Best Speaker

Lasheeka Ramesh

Dr. Anitha Pillai said she was "truly delighted to have adjudicated the maiden

teen debates organised by SMA Teen Club, where I felt that we were given a front row seat to witness some of our brightest minds come together to make their case. It was also gratifying to see the next generation work so well together. It reminded me of taking part in events organised by the Kerala Association as a teen myself."

Even though the debate took place online, all the participants were enthusiastic and gave it their best. We also received help from various people that made this whole debate more manageable. We hope to be able to move this debate to a face-to-face event when Covid restrictions ease.

KERALA COVID RELIEF FUND

The Malayalee Community in Singapore, consisting of SMA and other prominent Malayalee organizations, is collaborating with the Indian Medical Association (Kerala) to raise funds to procure PPEs for healthcare workers through IMA approved vendors. The distribution of the PPEs will be carried out by IMA as part of the ISafe project, fully considering the requirements at the ground level. This approach ensures that the funds are utilised in a verifiable and credible manner under the supervision of IMA. The funds will be audited by a Public Accountant and the report will be submitted to the Registrar of Charities.

We request your kind contributions to this noble cause to support Kerala's fight against COVID. Please donate generously at:
<https://sgforkerala.com>



UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Varnam Art Exhibition
2. SMA Fest by Cultural Wing
3. Health & Wellness talks series
4. SMA Tech Forum sessions:
 1. Cyber Crime (20th Aug 2021)
 2. Cryptocurrency (Sep 2021)
5. Kerala Cuisine: A Singapore Story by the SMA Youth Wing

For SMA membership:

<http://bit.ly/SMAMember>

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