



DECEMBER 2021 | ISSUE 2

## HAMPTON ROADS MALAYALEE ASSOCIATION



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HRma Virginia



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## President's Message

Namaskaram,

As 2021 draws to a close, we take this privilege to thank the community for supporting HRMA activities. Over the past year, we have established and launched HRMA Youth Club, conducted P.V. Chummar Memorial Tennis Tournament for the first time, contributed to Clean the Bay Day, launched a new batch of Malayalam Class, donated to COVID19 Kerala Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF), held the HRMA Picnic and celebrated Onam in-person for the first time since the pandemic, conducted a Thanksgiving Food Drive, and hosted a Blood Drive in partnership with the American Red Cross. Without tremendous support of the community, HRMA could not have been able to overcome all of the associated challenges to successfully hold so many events in one year. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with, and for, such a committed community.

We also look forward to organize many collaborative events starting with HRMA WinterFest '22. Till we meet again, have a wonderful holidays and a Happy New Year!!!

**Nisaraj Dharmarajan** - HRMA President

# HRMA Onam Celebration

HRMA conducted Onam Celebration on August 14, 2021 at the Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads. It was unprecedented in a lot of ways with the best ever venue, authentic Onam Sadya, and engaging participation from our Youth Club. The cultural show was a feast for our eyes with amazing performances from our community members. We also conducted fun filled games which took the whole event to another level. All of our wonderful volunteers invested great energy and time into making a lip-smacking Onam Sadya. Everyone who attended the event truly enjoyed the mind-boggling medley of colors, flavors, and aromas spread on a shiny, emerald banana leaf.



# HRMA Picnic

This year's annual picnic took place on October 16, 2021 at the Chesapeake City Park Shelter. It was a memorable day of games and yummy food. The thattukada was an instant hit and received rave reviews from the community. Volunteers served selflessly to conduct the games and cook the food which helped us to manage the event in a smooth and efficient manner. HRMA congratulated and distributed awards and coupons to the winners for games conducted as part of the picnic.



# Youth Club Updates

## HRMA Youth Club Movie Night

HRMA Youth Club held an Outdoor Movie Night on Saturday, July 24th with lots of fun activities. HYC Leaders coordinated lot of outdoor games for the youths and they all had a blast. Around 30 youth club members participated in the movie night. Volunteers played a key role in making this Movie Night a reality.

## Thanksgiving Food Drive

Youth Club wanted to give back to the community and they thought thanksgiving was the best time to do so. HRMA Youth Club Coordinated a Food Drive for Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia and collected 355 lbs of non-perishable food items from our community. The Food Drive was conducted from 13th to 20th November and various drop sites were set up all over Hampton Roads. All food collected were turned in to the food bank before Thanksgiving so as to help he needy during the holiday season.

## Thanksgiving Party

HRMA Youth Club hosted a Thanksgiving Potluck Party exclusively for the Youth Club members on Saturday, November 20th at Bayside Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Thanksgiving Party included a welcome speech by HYC Supervisor Aswine Alex, Thanksgiving message by Dr. Govindan Palat, Thanksgiving lunch, Craft activities, Game sessions, and Vote of Thanks by HYC Supervisor Theertha Dinesen. Thank you to all the volunteers, parents and youths that took time in bringing food for the potluck and for making the Thanksgiving party a grand success.



# Blood Drive

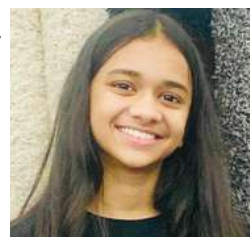
HRMA partnered with the American Red Cross to conduct the first ever blood drive in our community. On December 5, 2021, we rolled up our sleeves to help save lives! The event was conducted at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church. The blood drive was a great success and with the support from HRMA community members and non community members, American Red Cross was able to collect 34 units of blood.



# Achievements

## Ann Elizabeth Cherian won Student Service Award

Ann Elizabeth Cherian daughter of Vishakh Cherian and Anu Thomas, has been recently recognized by the York County School Division with a "Student Service Award" for her academic excellence and her immense contribution to the community and the country. Ann has also been selected and given membership to the James W. Carmines Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society based on Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Character and Citizenship.



## Thiruvathira

Our Thiruvathira Team ( Laasya ) represented HRMA in the thiruvathira contest organized by FOMAA group and have been selected as one of the Finalists. This is a big achievement as the contest had participants from all over US and Canada. The participants were Anjaly Ajith, Aarathy Sajeev, Lakshmi Prajeesh, Latha S Nair, Linda Nisaraj, and Minu George.



## Kombans flexes muscles, ends 2021 as Champions

In a fitting finale to a season filled with chaos and uncertainties because of the Coronavirus pandemic, Kerala Kombans HRMA won the 8th Ruchit Patel Memorial Cricket Tournament (RPMT) to end 2021 as Champions. In the finals, held at Chesapeake Temple Grounds on December 5th, 2021, Kombans defeated Newport News Lions by 4 wickets.

Winning the toss and electing to field first, Kombans strangled the Lions to dismiss them cheaply for 76 runs (all-out) in 12.2 overs. Naveen Vidiyala (3 wickets), Sajeev Sadanandan (3 wickets), Pradeep Mathew (2 wickets), and Arun Ghosh (1 wicket) were the pick of the bowlers. The thrilling chase of Kombans was made possible by sensational batting displays from Sajeev (13), Saikumar (16), and Arun Ghosh (19\*), as Kombans reached the target in 13.4 overs.

The Championship victory marked significant milestones for Kombans Team. From the team's inception in 2016, Kombans consistently reached the playoffs, but this victory marked the first championship win at the Temple Grounds.

The victory came as pure team performance. Though the top-scorer and top wicket-taker awards of the tournament went to other players, Kombans performed consistently. The all-round performance of Sajeev (144 runs, 11 wickets), calm and composed Arun Ghosh (85 runs, Ave 42.5, 5 wickets), consistent Sreedharan (80 runs), muscle-man Nelson (78 runs, 3 wickets), Dhoni-Esque Saikumar (60 runs, 13 dismissals including 10 catches), sharp-shooter Naveen (11 wickets), and mystery spinner Pradeep Mathew (7 wickets), was complemented by others with a sensational display of team spirit with the bat and ball on and off the field.

Having finally breached the Temple Grounds barrier, greater glories await Kombans as they take their strides to become a force in the 40over tournaments in 2022.



## Words of Wisdom for the New Year

“It’s never too late to become who you want to be. I hope you live a life that you’re proud of, and if you find that you’re not, I hope you have the strength to start over.” —**F. Scott Fitzgerald**

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.” —**Albert Einstein**

# Kids Corner



Jeslyn Mariam Abraham  
Grade : Kindergarten



Nitha Nithin  
Grade 4



Anya Paul,  
Grade : Kindergarten



Maria Rose Sajan  
Grade : 5