



NEWSLETTER

HAMPTON ROADS MALAYALEE ASSOCIATION

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Issue 4



EDITORIAL BOARD

ANU THOMAS
(CHIEF EDITOR)

JOY KANNARKAT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Namaste All

Hope your Christmas and holidays were great. HRMA's hallmark Silver Bells celebration typically brings the New Year feeling to all of us. Let us hope for a Happy, Healthy, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year, as the world is optimistic to end the Covid calamities and risks in 2021.

HRMA adapted to the Covid imposed constraints and stayed active as much as we could. You may recall:

- Coping with Covid seminar with psychiatrist, Dr. G.K. Palat.
- Fund raising & Helping four local community food pantries during the Covid crisis (\$1,325.00)
- Recognizing health-care workers (our heroes) in our Malayalee community with souvenirs
- Virtual Onam celebration with "paissom" distribution and our own cultural program along with Sajan Palluruthy from Kochi entertaining us
- Being a source of support in the community during testing times be it a loss or threat to life.
- Recognizing two award winning NASA scientists from our own Malayalee community and their inspiring presentations for HRMA
- Ongoing virtual Malayalam class
- Member appreciation with Biriyanis Hut coupons.
- And, now the virtual Christmas and New Year Silver Bells Program

Malayalees are familiar with the saying "ambalam cheruthanagalum prathiasham koodum" (temple may be small but works are great). HRMA seems to fit this saying. This is made possible, for a small organization of just 35 dues-paying members to serve a much larger community, only because of the support of our sponsors, benevolent donors for specific purposes, volunteers, distinguished speakers for our programs, and participants in our various programs. The Executive Committee and I immensely thank you all. I urge all of the Malayalees in Hampton Roads to join HRMA so that we can celebrate our shared heritage and serve our community a little better.

The current resurgence of Covid crisis puts us all on high alert. The health care workers in our midst and their family members are the most stressed and vulnerable. Let us hold them high in our prayers for their safety, and extend our support. "We are so incredibly proud of you".

HRMA, as we know it today, is four years old. A new administration will take over, as our two-year term has come to an end. The transition will take place now as we celebrate the Silver Bells and the election is completed. Congratulations to the newly elected and best wishes. Please support them. Join HRMA and volunteer to serve the community.

On behalf of the current administration, I want to thank the Hampton Roads Malayalee Community for allowing us to serve you the last 2 years. I profusely thank each and every member of the current administration for generously giving their time and efforts to serve the community, and their team spirit in doing so.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.

Joy P. Kannarkat - President

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Joy Kannarkat, President

Aju Paul, Vice President

Sajeev Sadanandan,
Secretary

Chanchal Rachel, Treasurer

Dennis Devasia, Member

Ajish Poulose, Member

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Latha Nair, Member

Sreejith Chandran, Member

Abdul Jabbar, Member

George Thomas, Ex-Officio

TREASURER'S UPDATE (October 2020 - December 2020)

Greetings!!!

Let me share some information about HRMA's financial standing.

As on December 31, 2020 we have 35 subscribers to HRMA membership (membership include family membership as well as individual membership) for the year 2020.

Update on activities during the Global Pandemic:

During these unprecedented times of COVID-19, HRMA stands in unity with the community and the world as we recover as One!

Undoubtedly, COVID has brought new challenges to our lives, forcing us to adapt to new ways of living. HRMA is not immune to the same and has needed to adjust the planned events for the year, including cancelling the Picnic Scheduled for May 2020 and celebrated Onam virtually using the Zoom Platform.

HRMA has therefore changed its focus while staying true to its goals, conducted the following activities to help our community

Event Update:

Onam Celebration – We cannot think of Onam without the sweet flavor of Payasam. So HRMA distributed Ada Pradhaman, one of the most delicious Payasam in Kerala Cuisine (at free of cost to members and charged \$10 for non members) and incurred a net expense of \$506.50.

Honoring NASA Award Recipients and Healthcare Workers – HRMA conducted a virtual event to honor the NASA Award Recipients and visited the Healthcare workers in our community for acknowledging their dedication, care, and support in facing the Covid Pandemic with a token of appreciation. HRMA incurred a total of \$458.27 to conduct these events.

Financial Update and Legal Update

AGM adopted and audited accounts for the Financial Year 2019-20 will be available on our HRMA Website. We filed the 990N (Annual Electronic Notice - e postcard) required for small tax-exempt organizations with IRS for the financial year 2019 - 20 within the due date.

Thank you for your continued support.

Chanchal Rachel - Treasurer

SECRETARY'S NOTE

Greetings to all! As the new year renews all happiness and good tidings, hope the joyful spirit keeps glowing everywhere in 2021. Caught up in Covid19 pandemic, every celebration is bound to look a bit different with no exceptions to HRMA's Xmas and new year celebrations going virtual too.

Amidst the challenges, HRMA in our continued efforts to inspire young minds, were able to coordinate and conduct an educational and interactive session with award-winning NASA aerospace professionals, Thanks to Dr. Renjith Kumar and Mrs. Susan Thomas for providing a wonderful session. HRMA as a family also stood together to pay gratitude to all healthcare workers helping us out through this pandemic within our community with a token of appreciation.

Nevertheless, to remind members are the heart of any organization, I would request all to renew/become a member of HRMA and help our community grow.

On behalf of the committee, we Thank You all for your continuing support.

Sajeew Sadanandan - Secretary

RECOGNITIONS & CONGRATULATIONS*

- **Norfolk-Kochi Sister City News (Ann Schwarz-Miller):** In early November, after a nearly three-month delay due to the covid pandemic, Kochi's Honorable Mayor Soumini Jain officially unveiled the Kochi mermaid statue, Norfolk Sister City Association's gift to the people of Kochi. The Kochi mermaid is especially designed to symbolize the partnership between the two cities. The statue, named "Mermaid in Saree", is located in Subhash Chandra Bose Park, adjacent to the popular Marine Drive promenade. There she joins a collection of world-class sculptures that are installed in various locations in the park.

We are also happy to announce that Dr. Anil Nair was elected to the Board of NSCA at our December meeting. Dr. Nair has served on NSCA's Kochi Committee since its inception and was instrumental in establishing the Norfolk-Kochi sister city relationship. He will serve as a key link both to the Asian Indians of Hampton Roads organization and HRMA.

Finally, the Kochi Committee has been working together with Mrs. Saji Varghese, Principal of Rajagiri Christu Jayanthi Public School, and Dr. Dorie Banks, Principal of the Academy of International Studies at Rosemont Middle School (Norfolk) to initiate a virtual exchange program involving students and teachers from the two partner schools. The participating teachers have been selected and will meet one another via Zoom directly after the Christmas break. We hope to begin student participation shortly thereafter.



- Dr. Renjith Kumar is the 2020 recipient of NASA's highly prestigious honor of Distinguished Public Service Medal citing "distinguished public service to NASA's mission through executive leadership and engineering contributions, focusing on technical excellence and customer satisfaction". Thank you Dr. Kumar for your inspiring presentation to HRMA.
- Mrs. Susan Thomas and her team received "NASA Honor Group Achievement Award" recognizing the CERES Instrument Working Group (Clouds and Earth's Radiant Energy System) for successful launch, activation, early orbit checkout, and performance characterization of Flight Model 6 Instrument. Mrs. Thomas was the leader of the team. Thank you Mrs. Thomas for your inspiring presentation to HRMA.
- HRMA is excited to announce that the following students successfully completed the Grade 1 Malayalam Class Syllabus prescribed by the Kerala State Education Department. Ritika Nisaraj, Karthika Nisaraj, Ayush Nisaraj, Rishab Rejith, Arjun Rejith, Prarthana Prajeesh, Shivanya Prajeesh, Rahul Biju, Ryan A Lazar. Kudos to the kids, volunteers and their parents for their efforts and dedication.

*Publication is on a self-reporting basis or with consent as announced.

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Honoring our healthcare Workers

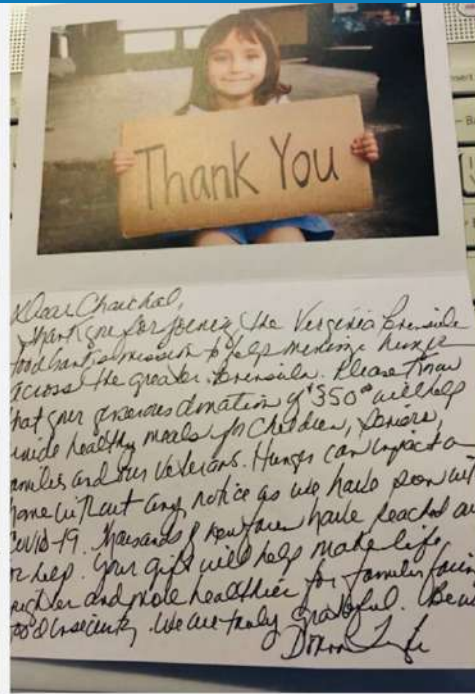
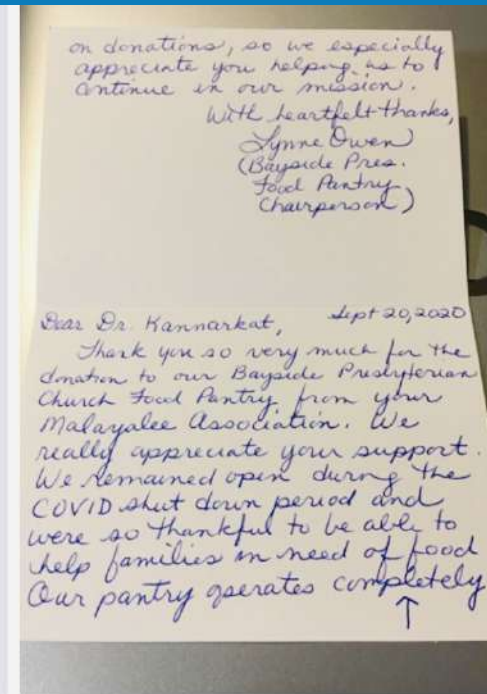


Honoring



HealthCare Workers

Thank you Note - Food Pantries



Onam Virtual Celebration - Guest of Honor



Award Presentation - NASA



HAMPTON ROADS MALAYALEE ASSOCIATION (HRMA) PRESENTS:

An INSPIRATIONAL & MOTIVATIONAL SPEECH
by
NASA AEROSPACE PROFESSIONALS

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 7 2020 | 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

LIVE ON ZOOM

OUR SPEAKERS



DR. RENJITH KUMAR
Aerospace Entrepreneur
TOPIC - "Experiences of An Aerospace Engineer"



SUSAN THOMAS
Instrument Scientist
TOPIC - "Clouds and Climate: A View from Space"