

APRIL 2021

THE RED VELVET

Quarterly Newsletter of the Ladies' College Old Girls' Association



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FIRST VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 111th Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) of the Ladies’ College Old Girls’ Association (“LC OGA”) was held on 13th March 2021. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent restrictions on gatherings, the Executive Committee decided to hold the AGM via audio-visual means for the first time in the history of the LC OGA.

The AGM commenced with the customary prayer by the Patroness, Mrs Eesha Speldewinde, followed by a welcome speech by the President, Mrs Fathima Aziz, who explained the reasons for conducting a virtual AGM, and highlighted the events organised by the LC OGA for the period from October 2019 to February 2021. These included the online initiatives that the LC OGA organized to maintain a sense of community and fellowship amongst the membership despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the President’s address, the Hon. Secretary, Mrs Nirusha Ranjitkumar Ratnatunga ran through the administrative matters on the agenda.

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Mrs. Aruni De Mel, Ms. Nirupa Karunaratne and Mrs. Sepalika Happugoda were reappointed as trustees of the OGA Trust, having completed their first three-year term. Ms. Kishani Asirwatham was appointed to replace Ms. Malathi Algama (who completed her term) as a trustee of the OGA Chapel Trust. The Hony. auditor, Ms. Chandrika Wijeratne was reappointed, having indicated her willingness to serve another term. Please see page 3 for the list of members of the LC OGA Executive Committee for 2021.



Mrs. Speldewinde gave a brief overview of School news for the year, focusing primarily on the new modes of technology introduced by the School to deliver quality education, the distance learning methods introduced by the School during the lock-down period and consequent closure of schools, as well as the precautionary measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 following the re-opening of the School.



All members who registered to participate in the AGM were sent a link to an online voting platform via email. Participants then cast their vote online for each resolution taken up for voting.

Amendments to the Constitution

The following resolutions to amend the Constitution of the Ladies' College Old Girls' Association ("Constitution") were passed unanimously by those voting:

- Amendment to Rule 20 of the Constitution to change the financial year of the LC OGA to commence on 1 April and end on 31 March each year.
- Amendment to Rule 16(1)(f)(b) of the Constitution to amend the period for the preparation of interim accounts.
- Amendments to Rule 9(1)(a) and Rule 9(1)(b) and Rule 17 of the Constitution to create a new post of Assistant Publicity Secretary on the Executive Committee.
- Amendment to Rule 12(2) of the Constitution to change the procedure for holding Annual General Meetings, so as to allow for the conduct of virtual Annual General Meetings, should circumstances require.
- Amendment to Rule 12(3) of the Constitution to reduce the quorum requirement for an Annual General Meeting from 100 to 60.
- Amendments to the OGA Trust Fund Deed to cover the objects of LC Cares, to accommodate a representative of LC Cares on the Board of Trustees of the OGA Trust and to introduce other amendments to enable the smooth and transparent administration of the OGA Trust.
- Amendments to the OGA Chapel Trust Fund Deed, similar to those made to the OGA Trust Fund Deed, to enable the smooth functioning of the OGA Chapel Trust.



President

Fathima Aziz - 0773 020 750

Vice President

Parames Coomaraswamy - 0777 352 645

President – Elect (2021)

Roshanara Page - 0777 313 422

Hony. Secretary

Nirusha Ratnatunga - 0776 044 041

Hony. Treasurer

Amali David - 0772 240 110

Hony. Publicity Secretary

Anisha Wijewardane - 0777 466 188

Asst. Secretary

Amaya Weerasinghe - 0773 541 341

Asst. Treasurer

Anjali Karunaratne - 0777 362 247

Asst. Publicity Secretary

Shoiba Ismail Shums - 0773 340 229

School Secretary

Anargi Ranaweerasinghe - 0777 262 744

OGA Rep. on CMS Governing Body

Ms Manisha Pieris

Committee Members

Priyadarshini Algama - 0775 914 248

Malkanathi De Silva - 0777 555 195

Saheli De Silva - 0775 757 153

Anishka Gomesz - 0774 744 767

Thinushka Gunasekera - 0777 783 331

Laila Ismail - 0776 227 813

Jovanka Jayaweera - 0772 991 162

Neeroshika Obeysekera Joseph -
0777 397 900

Taarea Karunaratne - 0772 480 582

Dhanushki Perera - 0776 018 007

Christine Rodrigo (Dias Bandaranaike) -
0777 390 490

Tharushi Senanayake - 0773 097 878

Ashika Senaratne - 0773633453

Shanika Seneviratne - 0777 530 816

Jemiah Sourjah - 0773 039 545

Karthiga Sridhara - 0773 717 619

Shaemali Sumanatilleke (De Zilwa) -
0776 417 547

Nadini Eroma Warusavitharana
(Wimalagoonaratne) - 0772 576 740

Naomi Wijetunga - 0776 771 690

ONLINE INITIATIVES

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka a year ago and the subsequent restrictions imposed by the Government on gatherings, we have been unable to hold any physical events for the past year. Undeterred by this, the Executive Committee of the LC OGA continued with its online initiatives in late 2020 and early 2021, organizing a number of activities to keep our members engaged and entertained.

The Ruby Room - LC OGA Virtual Book Club

The second session of The Ruby Room was held in late November 2020. We had a smaller turnout for this session on Bernadine Evaristo's 2019 Booker Prize winner, *Girl, Woman, Other* which was ably moderated by Shalini Wickramasuriya, however, the discussion was no less lively or enthusiastic - if at all, the more intimate group allowed for a really in-depth discussion on a range of topics related to the book. We hope to organize further sessions of The Ruby Room for our avid LCite readers in the coming year.

Virtual Demonstrations

Prompted by the surge of interest in home-cooking during the lockdown period, the LC OGA organized two further cook-alongs in December 2020 and January 2021.



Ruwanthi Fernando of Roo's Deli showed us how to whip up a sumptuous Christmas menu ahead of the festive season and Adirupini Tyagaraja hosted a Thai Pongal special, demonstrating how to prepare a delicious, traditional Sakkarai Sadham.

Piyusha Fernando of Petite Décor held a DIY Christmas décor masterclass, sharing tips, tricks and inspiration for decking our halls in the lead up to Christmas.



Christmas Jingle Jam

To round off the year, a group of choristers from the LC OGA Choir got together one evening to record an impromptu Christmas Jingle Jam featuring some well-loved Christmas carols. Sureka Amerasinghe coordinated the program, which we hope brought a little festive cheer to the end of a challenging year.



We have had a wonderfully enthusiastic response to our online initiatives and hope to build upon these in the coming year.

FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS

With the pandemic continuing into 2021, the Executive Committee conceived the idea for and coordinated the production of a celebratory video to mark the school's 121st Founders' Day, which we felt this would be accessible to more members, including those residing overseas.

The program consisted of a selection of hymns sung by the LC OGA Choir, a welcome by Mrs Fathima Aziz (President, LC OGA), a reading of 'Footprints in the Sand' by Ms Anisha Wijewardane (Publicity Secretary, LC OGA) and a prayer of thanksgiving by Mrs Eesha Speldewinde (Principal, Ladies' College).



As we draw close to a year of living through this pandemic, we have all faced unprecedented challenges. Yet we have all found ways of coping, and moving forward despite these difficulties. Indeed, these strange times have also brought us opportunities which may not have come our way in "normal" times.

– MRS FATHIMA AZIZ



Founders' Day is one of the main events on the LC OGA's calendar, and, in the ordinary course of things, a choir of almost 50 Old Girl choristers rehearse in the months preceding this significant day, to lead the hymns at the service of thanksgiving in the Chapel. As this was not possible this year, 12 members of the LC OGA Choir volunteered to meet and record a few hymns for this video, despite the risks. We are grateful to these ladies who came together spontaneously for the love of singing and of their school.



The highlight of the video was a special performance by a virtual Chorale of Old Girl choristers from across the globe, of 'Messiah' which was arranged by Sureka Amerasinghe and first recorded for the CD produced by the Ladies' College choir for the School's centenary celebrations.



Mrs Christine Perera, who nurtured a love of music and singing in generations of LCites, also made a surprise appearance, to the delight of viewers.

We thank Sureka Amerasinghe for her inspired direction of the LC OGA Choir and Chorale, musical arrangements and coordination of the musical items for this video.

DATABASE UPDATE PROJECT

One of the key projects of the Executive Committee of the LC OGA for 2021 is an update of the LC OGA membership database. The aim of the database update project is to:

- Migrate the database to a secure, online system which is in the control of the Executive Committee;
- Update members' details in our database;
- Streamline our method of communicating with members; and
- Establish a clear protocol for regular maintenance of the database.

In order to ensure this project is a success and we need the cooperation of each and every one of our members. You will shortly receive a link to a new page on the LC OGA's website where you can update or confirm your details which will, in turn, allow us to update the database. Your batch representative will also be in touch with further details.

STORIES OF FAITH

Inviting all old girls to share their story of faith. A project initiated by the School, *Stories of Faith* is a compilation that will feature stories of faith from past and present students and teachers.

If you were touched during Chapel prayers or have been inspired by a song that, to this day, has been a source of strength, or you have experienced God's power in your life, we invite you to email your story (less than 300 words) to lcfaithstories@gmail.com or contact the project coordinator on 0777 593 948 for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

14th APRIL 2021

A Celebration of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year
Premiering on Youtube

14th MAY 2020

A Celebration of Eid
Premiering on Youtube

JUNE 2020

Members' Event
(Details to be confirmed)



CONTACT US!

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Operating Hours

Weekdays
9:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.

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