

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**(February 1, 2010 to January 31, 2011)**

## **SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON, D.C.**

A Non-Profit Organization founded in 1975

P.O. Box 30295

Bethesda, MD 20824-0295

AND

Its affiliate

## **SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON, INC.**

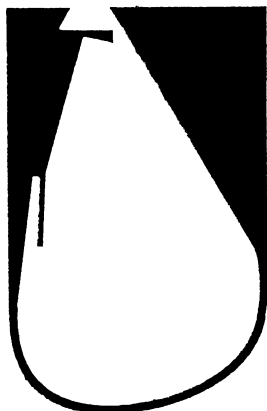
An Approved Federal Tax Exempt Organization

P.O. Box 30295

Bethesda, MD 20824-0295

**President – Sandra Sourjah**  
**Secretary – Kamini Wickramaratne**

**SRI LANKA  
ASSOCIATION  
OF WASHINGTON DC**



Patron

.....  
**His Excellency  
Jaliya Wickramasuriya  
The Ambassador for Sri Lanka  
to the United States of America**

Vice Patrons

**Dr. Greg Fernandopulle  
Mrs. Anjalika Silva**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Sandra Sourjah  
President**

**Roy Braine  
President-Elect**

**Kamini Wickramaratne  
Secretary**

**Sandra Ismail  
Asst. Secretary**

**Gothami Gunasekera  
Treasurer - SLAWDC**

**Hafsa Miskin  
Treasurer SLAGW**

**DIRECTORS**

**Zara Atukorala  
Lasitha Gunawardena  
Amjad Moulana  
Alex Perera  
Ajith Pushpakumara**

**Suraj Navaratne  
Honorary Auditor**

A Non-Profit Organization  
founded in 1975  
Address:  
P. O. Box 30295  
Bethesda MD 20824-0295

E-mail: SLAWDC.COM

www.slawdc.com

March 1, 2011

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I invite you to the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the SLAWDC, on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2011 for the official handing over of office to the succeeding President and the new Board of Directors.

It has been an honor and joy to have served as President through the past year during which I have had the opportunity of serving my fellow Sri Lankans, interacting with the Sri Lanka Embassy, and people of our local government (Montgomery County), and meeting new people in our community. I am extremely happy that my board in spite of the financial restrains was able to organize several projects successfully. Our main focus was to bring the community together while helping the less fortunate back in our homeland and providing entertainment to the Sri Lankans in the Greater Washington region.

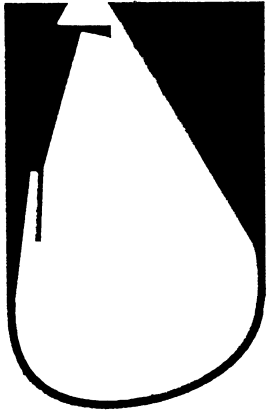
Through year 2010 we were able to organize several events covering the areas of national celebrations, social, charitable, community, sports events, and not forgetting an event for our kids during the holiday season. Under sports, the winners of the Mini-Cricket Tournament challenged the New Yorkers in New Jersey on August, 2010. SLAWDC actively participated at all events organized by the Sri Lanka Embassy and other Sri Lankan community organizations. Our active involvement in the local community was duly recognized by the Montgomery County in 2010. On September 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Sri Lanka Day celebrations, we received a certificate from the Montgomery County Executive Mr. Ike Leggett, in recognition of our excellent leadership in bringing the community together. In the last quarter of 2010, we changed the design of the SLAWDC website to make it more user-friendly and informative to new immigrants and visitors.

I extend my sincere thanks to a dedicated Board who came together to achieve our goals as a team, especially for the tremendous job done in organizing the 'Sri Lanka Day' in September, which turned out to be a roaring success. Every guest, participant, and vendor at the end of the day left us with a word of gratitude and request in the hope of continuing this event annually. On behalf of my board of directors, I thank our past Presidents, all community leaders, members and friends for your unstinted support without which my job would not have been as easy and enjoyable. My profound gratitude to our Patron H.E Ambassador Jaliya Wickramasuriya, Vice Patrons, Advisory Board members, and the Elections Committee. To my dear friends whose names I have not mentioned here, I want you to know your support, guidance and contributions was a great strength to us.

As I step down this year, I wish the new Board every success.

*Sandra Sourjah*  
President - 2010

**SRI LANKA  
ASSOCIATION  
OF WASHINGTON DC**



Patron

.....  
**His Excellency  
Jaliya Wickramasuriya  
The Ambassador for Sri Lanka  
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Vice Patrons  
**Dr. Greg Fernandopulle  
Mrs. Anjalika Silva**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
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President

**Roy Braine**  
President-Elect

**Kamini Wickramaratne**  
Secretary

**Sandra Ismail**  
Asst. Secretary

**Gothami Gunasekera**  
Treasurer - SLAWDC

**Hafsa Miskin**  
Treasurer SLAGW

**DIRECTORS**  
**Zara Atukorala**  
**Lasitha Gunawardena**  
**Amjad Moulana**  
**Alex Perera**  
**Ajith Pushpakumara**

**Suraj Navaratne**  
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March 1, 2011

**NOTICE OF THE 36<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the 36th Annual General meeting of the Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C., and its tax exempt affiliate, the Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc., will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2011 commencing at 3:30 p.m., at the Argyle Park Activity Centre, 1030 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901. A social hour will precede the meeting at **2:30pm**

**AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the Agenda and the Notice convening the 36th Annual Meeting of the Association.
2. Address by our Patron H.E. Jaliya Wickramasuriya
3. Adoption of the Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting of the Association held on March 28, 2010.
4. Adoption of the Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts of the Association for the year ending January 31, 2011.
5. President's Address.

**2010 Board dismiss**

**Year 2010 at a Glance - Powerpoint Presentation**

6. Election of new Board of Directors for 2011/2012. Members may also nominate candidates from the floor at this meeting in accordance with procedures of Article VII (B) of the Constitution.
7. Election of the Honorary Auditor for 2011/2012
8. Address by the incoming president
9. Any other business.
10. Adjournment.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors  
*Kamini Wickramaratne*  
Secretary

## **Election Committee Report**

**To:** The Board of Directors, Sri Lanka Association of Washington DC  
**From:** Election Committee  
**Subject:** Nominations for the election of Board Members at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, March 12, 2011

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The undersigned members of the election committee received the following nominations for the election of the Board of Directors postmarked by February 16, 2011.

The committee verified that the under noted candidates, proposes & secondars have satisfied the provisions in the Article III (b) and Article III (g) of its by-laws.

President:	Roy Braine (auto succession)
President Elect:	Lasitha Gunwardena
	Proposed by: Sandra Sourjah
	Seconded by: Alex Perera
Secretary:	Sandra Ismail
	Proposed by: Anjalika Silva
	Seconded by: Hyacinth Wickramanayake
Asst: Secretary:	Kamini Wickramaratne
	Proposed by: Hafsa Miskin
	Seconded by: Alex Perera
Treasurer (SLAWDC):	Gothami Gunasekera
	Proposed by: Lasitha Gunawardena
	Seconded by: Roy Braine
Treasurer (SLAGW):	Vacant

<b><u>Directors</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed by</u></b>	<b><u>Seconded by</u></b>
1) Zara Athukorale	Hafsa Miskin	Kamini Wickramaratne
2) Amjad Moulana	Sandra Sourjah	Kamini Wickramaratne
3) Hafsa Miskin	Alex Perera	Roy Braine
4) Ajith Pushpakumara	Gothami Gunasekera	Alex Perera
5) Vacant		

Signed  
Sumith Wijegunawardena  
SLAWDC Elections Committee  
Thursday, February 24, 2011

Signed  
Bandula Ranasinghe  
SLAWDC Elections Committee  
Thursday, February 24, 2011

See signed original.

**MINUTES OF THE 35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SRI LANKA  
ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON, D.C., (SLAWDC) AND THE SRI LANKA  
ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON, INC., (SLAWDC) HELD  
SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2010**

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C., (SLAWDC) and its tax exempt affiliate, Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc., (SLAGW) was held on Sunday, March 28, 2010 at the Argyle Park Activity Centre, 1030 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, Maryland, with President Dakshi de Silva in the Chair. Associated with the President in conducting the meeting was the President Elect Sandra Ismail and Secretary Sandra Sourjah.

With a quorum of 36 out of the 100 members the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was called to order at 3:30PM.

President, Mr. Dakshi de Silva welcomed everyone to the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of The Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C., (SLAWDC) and The Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc., (SLAGW).

**1) Adoption of the Agenda and the Notice convening the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association**

The Agenda and Notice convening the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was adopted as in order:  
**Proposed by Dr. Greg Fernandopulle and seconded by Mr. Prasanth Cherubim.**

**2) Address by the president Mr. Dakshi de Silva**

Mr. Dakshi de Silva opened his address by thanking the membership and said it was a privilege to serve as president of SLAWDC and SLAGW for the past 2 years. He thanked his wife Romanie for the unstinted support extended, and patience throughout his term as president. He also thanked the board members and their spouses for their support at all times. Mr. De Silva then thanked the advisory board especially Mr. Sena Basanayake, Mr. Lasantha Dahanaike, and Mr. Prasanth Cherubim who were always there at times of need for guidance and counselling. He also thanked Mr. Terry Kuruppu & the Elections Committee for being there to conduct the elections in a fair and efficient manner.

Going back to last year's performance, Mr. De Silva said it looks like the SLAWDC has declined in its revenue comparing with the last few years. Looking at last year's New Year's Eve Dinner dance we were disappointed at the poor attendance. With great difficulty we managed to get 200 guests, still falling short on revenue. Looking at our past year's activities and comparing it with the last ten year's, the expenses have significantly gone up. However the revenues have stayed at a stagnant point. If our main event which is the New Years Eve dance does not bring us the expected revenue, very soon we will be eroding on our reserves. He believes it was mainly due

to the downturn in the economy as a result of which we saw less participation in the dance and even membership renewals had declined. I think the new president and the board will need to focus on improving the membership and also cater more to the demand of our membership and our community. We should also focus on the youth.

Mr. De Silva also took the opportunity to extend his gratitude to a few board members who contributed significantly towards the success of his term: Mrs. Sandra Ismail who as always took the leadership in organizing the Sinhala/Tamil New Year celebrations in April and for her role in single handedly organizing the 2009 New Year's Eve Dinner Dance. Special thanks to Ms. Sandra Sourjah for her help in the secretarial and administrative duties and for keeping us all on schedule. The President also thanked Mr. Lasitha Gunawardena for a great job done with the SLAWDC Website. The Charitable page was made more reader friendly and informative and hoped everyone will make it a point to find some time to visit this website.

Mr. De Silva concluded by wishing the incoming president and board all the very best and hoped they will continue to making SLAWDC stronger and engage with the community better.

### **Vote of Thanks:**

**Dr. Greg Fernandopulle** – Proposed a special vote of thanks to the outgoing President. Dr. Greg said as one of the original members of this association it was his duty and obligation to thank the President for a good job done. He further said, things have become more complex than it used to be but Dakshi has juggled through all these during these bad times; especially at a time when things have got so expensive and complicated with more people around, less people want to join as dues paying members but many want to participate. However, we all have an obligation to keep this organization going and Dakshi has done a good job. So, thank you and good luck to you.

### **3) Address by Mr. Nimal Karunatileke from the Sri Lanka Embassy, representing H.E. Jaliya Wickramasuriya**

“My colleague Brig. Ravipriya and I are happy to be representing the Ambassador. Both H.E. and the Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Tissa Wijeratne sends their sincere thanks to the Sri Lanka Association for the great work they are doing, and all the support extended to the Embassy and we wish you the very best in the coming years. We know that the SLAWDC is considered the largest Sri Lankan organization. We are aware that the association has contributed in a big way bringing the community together socially and culturally. Also I must extend my gratitude to the association for their help with the Kidney patient's project in Sri Lanka and to President Dakshi de Silva for coming forward and helping us in collecting 22 dialysis chairs from donors in this region and shipping them to Sri Lanka. Our special thanks to your team, especially to Sandra Ismail and Sandra Sourjah for helping the Embassy at the 62nd Independence Day celebrations. If you look at the last 30 years as an Embassy we had to spend a lot of time and effort to basically counter the adverse publicity with misinformation generated by anti Sri Lankan elements. Now that we are through with this era we have a new opportunity to come together whenever possible to find new synergies and to work towards Sri Lanka's future; the development of Sri Lanka. The Embassy has taken steps and initiatives to develop Sri Lanka's

economy and foreign investment. When the war ended last May, we were able to take about 30-35 investment companies to the North of Sri Lanka, and now those investors are considering investing in Sri Lanka, but are waiting to see the political stability, which we think will get better after the forthcoming elections. In February and March, 2010 we had two chefs from Hilton Sri Lanka who came here for food promotion at the World Bank for 4 days. They also had the same program in New York on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010. We also have two delegations coming from the Export Development Board, in April to Boston for the 'Boston Seafood Show'. We have few others coming from the household items industry to Chicago, including the Dankotuwa Porcelain. I can continue mentioning a whole lot of businesses who are interesting in promoting Sri Lankan products. We understand that you are a social organization, but still we think there will be a few ways in which the Embassy and the association can come together. Please let us know if we can be of help to you and we will be there for you. I wish you all the best and I also would like to extend our best wishes to the new board that will be coming on board today”.

#### **4) Adoption of Minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association held on March 28, 2009**

The Secretary Sandra Sourjah announced the following corrections to the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting mailed out to the membership. Clean copies were distributed at the AGM.

- 1) Mrs. Anjalika de Silva was corrected to read as Mrs. Anjalika Silva

Since there were no other corrections or comments, the minutes were duly adopted as in order, **Proposed by Mr. Prasanth Cherubim and Seconded by Mr. Sena Basanayake.**

#### **5) Adoption of the Annual Report and Statement of Account for the year ending January 31, 2009**

Mr. Kosala Tantula was concerned that some names of members are not mentioned correctly on our website. After a lengthy discussion on how to find the complete names of such members, Mr. Kosala Tantula said we can get help from Clement Abeygoonewardene or Jim Nanayakkara for such information. Mrs. Anjalika Silva informed that the association had prepared the History of the Association a few years ago and that copy should be saved somewhere in the binders.

Ms. Sandra Sourjah suggested publishing the names of the Secretary together with the Presidents in future publications. As the gatekeeper of all documentation and administrative duties of the organization it is imperative that we recognize the contributions of a Secretary.

**New Year's Dinner Dance - Ticket Sales** – Mr. Terry Kuruppu said the annual financials states we had sold tickets for \$75.00 and \$40.00. He asked if we had a breakdown of the proceeds. There were also concerns as to why the \$40.00 ticket wasn't published. Suraj explained that this was only done on the last couple of days when we found that we couldn't sell our tickets. As such we opened it to anyone who wanted to come in after dinner for \$40.00. Moreover, it was offered to the youth.

Dakshi also said it might be a good idea to do away with the dance just for about two years, until there was a demand for the dance again. With the downturn in the economy our community too

became reluctant to pay high prices for special occasions and preferred hosting house dances/parties. There was a suggestion to think of a Holiday Party instead of the New Year's Eve Dance or a dance in the spring. Dakshi said we need to find a source of income for operating costs.

**The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, March 28, 2009, recorded by Secretary, Sandra Sourjah and its Financial Reports audited by Mr. Kamal Dorabawila was duly proposed as correct by Dr. Greg Fernandopulle and seconded by Mr. Bernard Wickramanayake.**

Mr. Dakshi de Silva welcomed and invited the Elections Committee Chairman Mr. Terrance (Terry) Kuruppu to take the floor to conduct the elections.

**6) Election of the Board of Directors for 2010-2011**

In the absence of Mr. Bandula Ranasinghe and Mr. Sumith Wijegunawardena, the Chairman Mr. Terry conducted the elections.

The names of Mrs. Sandra Sourjah and Mrs. Sandra Ismail were nominated from the floor. Mrs. Sandra Ismail gracefully chose to decline, stating that she had agreed to become President Elect last year on a temporary basis. Mrs. Sandra Ismail wished the new President, Mrs. Sandra Sourjah all the very best in her role as President and asked the community to support the new Board just as they did in the past.

The following were declared the new Board of Directors:

President -	<b>Ms. Sandra Sourjah</b> Proposed by Mr. Dakshi de Silva Seconded by Mr. Bernard Wickramanayake
President Elect-	<b>Mr. Roy Braine</b> Proposed by Ms. Sandra Sourjah Seconded by Mr. Dakshi de Silva
Secretary -	<b>Mr. Rizmi Mahamooth</b> Proposed by Ms. Sandra Sourjah Seconded by Mr. Roy Braine
Assistant Secretary-	<b>Ms. Kamini Wickramaratne</b> Proposed by Mr. Amjad Moulana Seconded by Mr. Lasitha Gunawardena
Treasurer-SLAWDC	<b>Mrs. Gothami Gunasekera</b> Proposed by Ms. Kamini Wickramaratne Seconded by Mrs. Sandra Ismail
Treasurer-SLGW	<b>Ms. Hafsa Miskin</b> Proposed by Mr. Roy Braine Seconded by Mr. Dakshi de Silva
Directors (5)	<b>Ms. Zara Atukorala</b> Proposed by Ms. Zara Atukorala Seconded by Mr. Roy Braine



**Mr. Lasitha Gunawardena**

Proposed by Ms. Kamini Wickramaratne

Seconded by Mr. Amjad Moulana

**Mrs. Sandra Ismail**

Proposed by Ms. Kamini Wickramaratne

Seconded by Mr. Lasitha Gunawardena

**Mr. Amjad Moulana**

Proposed by Ms. Sandra Sourjah

Seconded by Mr. Roy Braine

**Mr. Alex Perera**

Proposed by Ms. Sandra Sourjah

Seconded by Mr. Lasitha Gunawardena

Mr. Terry Kuruppu asked that we all work together and at the end of the term, you feel for yourself that you have contributed to the community and assured his support.

**7) Election of the Hon. Auditor**

**Hon. Auditor - Mr. Suraj Navaratne**

It was unanimously agreed to appoint Mr. Suraj Navaratne as the Hon. Auditor of the association for the year 2010/2011.

**8) Address by the Incoming President**

Vice Patron Mr. Prasanth Cherubin, Past Presidents; Dr. Greg Fernandopulle, Mr. Sena Basanayake, Mrs. Hyacinth Wickremanayake, Mrs. Anjalika Silva, Mr. Hilarian Codippily, Dr. Ranjan Amerasinghe, Mr. Lasantha Dahanaike and immediate past president Mr. Dakshi de Silva fellow members, and friends.

Thank you all very much for being here with us at the 35<sup>th</sup> AGM of your association. My sincere thanks go out to Terry for your time in conducting the elections.

I appreciate greatly the trust and faith you have in me to hold this prestigious office. Having read and watched the excellent performances of my predecessors and the outgoing President Mr. Dakshi de Silva I hope and pray that I will be able to handle this position equally well. It is said “*your journey begins only when you put your foot forward.*” So, with faith in the Almighty and trust in my conscience and last not least, *you* my dear friends, I have decided to proceed on this journey of service to the Sri Lankan community.”

A warm welcome to my Board of Directors; my dear friends; Roy, Alex, Lasitha, Kamini, Amjad, Hafsa, Zara, Gothami and Sandra Ismail with whom I have worked on many projects during the past year, and last not least to Rizmi Mahmooth who has graciously accepted my request at short notice to become my secretary.

To be honest, until yesterday I had decided to refrain from any kind of commitments with the association, so I can focus on some personal tasks that I have been postponing, but when I was

called to duty by some of my good friends, I could not refuse them anymore, and also did not want to disappoint the enthusiastic board members who are anxiously waiting to organize some great social events & fund raisers for the community.

I also know that I am taking on this office at a critical time when the economy has slowly but surely affected the country. Membership and financial support had declined and our fund raising projects were badly affected. Our financials have taken a deep dive, but I'm positive with an energetic team like ours, we will surely make up for it by the end of this year. But not without the support of people like you (those present), our membership, other SL organizations, the Sri Lanka Embassy and friends. This year we will plan on doing low budget projects and as discussed earlier in the meeting we will do away with the New Year's Eve dinner dance for sure, and depending on our financial strength at the time we will do a social event at the end of 'Fall'. So, I and my team are totally depending on you my dear friends because we are here today to continue the most prestigious Association you started 35 years ago. To keep the momentum going – we need your undivided attention and unconditional support, and please join us at all our future events. The first being the Sinhala/Tamil New Year celebrations on Saturday, April 17. We need your support and positive feedback. Send us a note to say how we are doing so we know you are enjoying our programs. When we are quiet, wake us up! Feed our little minds with your great ideas and thoughts. My dear fellow members, this is your association and we are here to serve you. On behalf of the 35<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors, I pledge to serve the SLAWDC, and the Sri Lankan community. I quote Mahatma Gandhi "*We must be the change we want to see in the world.*"

Today, I called my father to inform him that I had decided to take on the challenge if called upon, and to receive his blessings to help carry on my mission. My father was the happiest, and said "*my daughter I have faith in you and I know you can do it..... " Courage daughter do not stumble – though the path be dark as night, There is a star to guide the humble – trust in God and do the right."*

I am personally honored to be SLAWDC's 20<sup>th</sup> President on her 35<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. Congratulations to the founders!

Thank you.

**The Sri Lanka Association of  
Washington, D.C. (SLAWDC)**

**P.O. Box 30295  
Bethesda, MD 20824-0295**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
(February 1, 2010 to January 31, 2011)**

**THE SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON, D.C.,  
(SLAWDC)  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING  
FEBRUARY 1, 2010 TO JANUARY 31, 2011**

The Board of Directors is pleased to present the following Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Association of Washington, DC (SLAWDC)

**Patron**

Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the United States, His Excellency Jaliya Wickramasuriya

**Vice Patrons**

Dr. Greg Fernandopulle and Mrs. Anjalika Silva

**Non-resident Honorary Members**

Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Jr.

**Sustaining Members**

The following are recognized by the Board as Sustaining Members, who continue to pay annual dues, regardless of their Honorary or Life member status:

Dr. & Mrs. Raj & Deepika Barr-Kumar  
Dr. & Mrs. Hilarian & Sheila Codippily  
Mr. Edward Peries

**Life Members**

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. ABEYEGOONEWARDENE, Clement & Anastasia | 14. DON, Milroy                       |
| 2. ABEYWICKRAMA, Kenneth & Bernadette     | 15. FERNANDOPULLE, Dr. Greg & Sulocha |
| 3. AMERASINGHE, Dr. Ranjan & Wimala       | 16. FERNANDO, Vijitha & Sarla         |
| 4. BADDELIYANAGE, Don & Mangala           | 17. FONSEKA, Lalin & Ranmalee         |
| 5. BADDELIYANAGE, Ravi & Nadira           | 18. GOONEWARDENE, Nihal & Crystal     |
| 6. BARR-KUMAR, Dr. Raj & Deepika          | 19. GUNASEKERA, Ronald                |
| 7. BASNAYAKE, Sena & Nelum                | 20. HAPANGAMA, Ratna & Anoma          |
| 8. BUDDHADASA, Harsha                     | 21. HERATH, Saliya                    |
| 9. CODIPPILY, Dr. Hilarian & Sheila       | 22. KARUNARATNE, Shantha & Saman      |
| 10. DAHANAIKE, Lasantha & Chathurika      | 23. KURUPPU, Terrance & Ranjini       |
| 11. DE FONSEKA, Dr. Kamal & Tara          | 24. LENORA, Nihal & Pradipa           |
| 12. DE SILVA, Dakshi & Romanie            | 25. LOOS, Janine                      |
| 13. DE ZOYSA, Rani                        | 26. MAHMOOTH, Rizmy & Sharmaleen      |
|   | 27. MOTHA, Guy & Cecilia              |

28. MCCOY, Billie
29. MIRCHANDANI, Chandru & Yolette
30. MUSHIN, Mohamed & Sithy
31. NANAYAKKARA, Jim & Badhra
32. NANAYAKKARA, Iroshana & Shayami
33. PADMAKUMARA, Hiru
34. PERERA, Alex
35. PERERA, Cecil & Therese
36. PERERA, Srilal & Yaeko
37. PERIES, Edward & Anna
38. PERIES, Kumar
39. PILAPITIYA, Tissa & Lakshi
40. RAJAKUMARAN, Basil & Devika
41. RANASINGHE, Bandula & Geetha
42. RANGANATHAN, A.
43. RUDRAN, Dr. Rudy & Ranji
44. SALGADO, Dr. Ranjith & Surangani
45. SALGADO, Ranil
46. SAMARASINGHE, Drs. Stanley & Vidya
47. SENANAYAKE, Shantini
48. SOURJAH, Sandra
49. STORK, Ralph Ainslie
50. TANTULA, Kosala & Ruki
51. VITHANAGE, Charmini
52. WIJETILLEKE, Lakdasa & Padmini
53. WIRATUNGA, Ranjith & Christine

## Members

1. ABEYGUNAWARDENA, Saumya
2. ABEYWARNA, Upul & Dilini
3. ABEYWARNA, Mahil & Nisansa
4. ATUKORALA, Zara
5. BRAINE, Roy & Shannon
6. BURAH, Tuan-Azmin & Avanthi
7. CHERUBIAM, Prasanth & Chemali
8. DHARMASENA, Kumar & Ayanthi
9. DORABAWILA, Kamal & Nilmini
10. FERNANDO, Roshan & Dinesha
11. FINE, Steven
12. FONSEKA, C.D
13. FONSEKA, Prishani
14. FONSEKA, Dilantha & Everista
15. GUNAWARDENA, Lasitha
16. GUNAWARDENA, Kapila
17. GUNASEKERA, Gothami
18. HERATH, Piyatilleke & Manel
19. ISMAIL, Shane & Sandra
20. MENON, Radesh
21. MISKIN, Hanif
22. MISKIN, Hafsa
23. MOULANA, Seyed Amjad
24. MOULANA, Seyed Ali & Tanuja
25. NAPOLI, Dominic & Ramani
26. NAVARATNE, Suraj & Hirani
27. NAZICK, Fahmi & Farhana
28. NAZICK, Fazna
29. NEDIMALA, Edward & Loretta
30. OBE-WICKRAMARATNE, Kamini M
31. PERERA, Dhanika & Sharon
32. PERERA, Malan
33. PERERA, Marlon
34. PERERA, Prasanna
35. PONNAMPERUMA, Dhanu
36. PUSHPAKUMARA, Ajith
37. RAHAMAN, Timur
38. RATNE, Mithra
39. RUMINSKI, Mark & Miriam
40. SENEVIRATNE, George Neil
41. SILVA, Sathy & Anjalika
42. WICKRAMASURIYA, Sameera
43. WIJEGUNAWARDENA, Sumith & Thamalie
44. WIKRAMANAYAKE, Ignatius & Hyacinth
45. YAKEEM, Harshan

## Membership

The Association announces a membership of 45 single and family dues paying members, 53 life memberships and 1 honorary life member.

## Finances

SLAWDC ended its financial year with a balance of \$ 2,907.20 (See Statement of Accounts)

## Annual General Meeting

The following office bearers were elected to serve on the Board for 2010/2011 at the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday, March 28, 2010.

President -	Ms. Sandra Sourjah
President Elect-	Mr. Roy Braine
Secretary -	Mr. Rizmi Mahamooth
Assistant Secretary-	Ms. Kamini Wickramaratne
Treasurer-SLAWDC	Mrs. Gothami Gunasekera
Treasurer-SLGW	Ms. Hafsa Miskin
Directors (5)	Ms. Zara Atukorala
	Mr. Lasitha Gunawardena
	Mrs. Sandra Ismail
	Mr. Amjad Moulana
	Mr. Alex Perera

### Honorary Auditor for 2010/2011

Mr. Suraj Navaratne was appointed Honorary Auditor of the Association for 2010/2011

### Board Meetings for 2010/2011

The Board had eight (8) regular meetings during the year 2010/2011

### Resignations:

Rizmi Mahamooth, Secretary tendered his resignation in June of 2010 due to personal reasons. We thank Mr. Mohamooth for his services during his brief period with us.

### Board Changes:

Ms. Kamini Wickramaratne assumed the duties of Secretary and Mrs. Sandra Ismail moved up to the post of Assistant Secretary.

### New Appointments:

Mr. Ajith Pushpakumara filled in the position of Director.

## **WWW.SLAWDC.COM**

The SLAWDC Website has been redesigned to make it a more friendly and informative site for our readers and new visitors. In response to viewer suggestions and requests, it became the aspiration of one of our directors to make the SLAWDC website look more professional and user friendly. One of the special features here is the link to our charitable wing, SLAGW [www.slawdc.com/SLAGW.html](http://www.slawdc.com/SLAGW.html) which serves as the information hub for all our fund-raising events. It is now focused on charitable activities that assist educational and humanitarian programs in Sri Lanka. We have tried to improve the website to reflect the work of the SLAGW and developed a website that clearly communicates SLAGW's message and which, over time, would get people involved with our fund-raising campaigns. The new web site offers three main areas for donors and members of SLAWDC/SLAGW. These main areas are: Current & Past Projects, Get Involved and Donate Now. The "Get Involved" Sections allows donors and members to suggest new projects or submit new charity drive ideas for existing projects and the "Donate Now" section allows donors to donate online via "Network for Good" using credit cards or Paypal accounts to projects of their choice. The site also features many links to partner organizations working with SLAGW.

We thank director Lasitha Gunawardena for a job well done!

### **Quarterly Newsletter - SERENDIB**

The newsletter continued to include community news in addition to SLAWDC news on a quarterly basis. Two issues of the SERENBID were distributed via electronic mail to our members in June and December of 2010.

## **Reports from Events Held During The Year 2010/2011**

### ***CHARITABLE PROJECTS***

#### **SLAWDC Pool Tournament**

SLAWDC held a Pool Tournament in aid of the Courage, Compassion and Commitment Transit House (CCC) – National Cancer Hospital, Sri Lanka on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Hard Times Café and Cue in Germantown, MD. Over 25 SLAWDC members registered for the tournament, and we appreciate their time and participation towards this worthy cause. We also thank other members and friends who joined us to cheer on the players. Past President, Mr. Dakshi De Silva awarded the prizes to the winners.

We thank our main sponsors Mr. Adnan Ahmed, Mr. Shane McCarrick and Dr. & Mrs. Mary Jane Wagstaff, and for the generous donations received from Dr. Raj Barr-Kumar, Mr. Prasanna Perera and Mr. Edmund Yarboi. We also take this opportunity to thank all the participants for making this event a joyful experience.

## **SLAWDC Carom Tournament**

SLAWDC held its first annual carom tournament on December 11th 2010. This event drew a large crowd of players and spectators, who were fixated on the heart-stopping matches that went on late into the night. The tournament was split into the two traditional categories: Singles and Doubles.

Of the ten teams that competed in the Doubles category, it ended in a close battle between the team of Upul Abeywarna and Mahil Abeywarna against Harshan Yakeem and Sumith Silva. A close advantage over the Abeywarna brothers resulted in the duo of Harshan and Sumith taking home the trophy.

In the singles category, the extremely close final was held between the Association's Past President Edward Peries against Sanjaya Ranasinghe, with Sanjaya triumphing over his competitor in a nail-biting final bout.

At this juncture, we would like to make special mention of Mr. Razeen Mannan who worked tirelessly in setting up the framework and structure of the tournament, which in turn resulted in a complete success.

The awards were distributed by President-Elect Roy Braine, Past President Edward Peries and Mr. Razeen Mannan. The trophies were donated by Dr. Raj Barr-Kumar and Mr. Dakshi de Silva.

## ***COMMUNITY EVENTS***

### **Sinhala and Tamil New Year Celebrations - 2010**

Although a little windy, the weather Gods were on our side on this beautiful day of April 17, 2010 when SLAWDC celebrated the Sinhala and Tamil New Year with over 150 members of our community present.

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Washington, D.C. was represented by his Excellency Jaliya Wickramasuriya, Ministers Nimal Karunatilake, Wasantha Perera and Defense Attaché Brigadier Vijitha Ravipriya. The occasion was also graced by our special guests, County Executive Ike Leggett and other office bearers. A special thanks to the Sri Lanka Ranga Kala Kavaya, Ape Kattiya and Educate Lanka for their participation.

After the lighting of the traditional oil lamp by our distinguished guests, and singing of the National Anthem the Maha Sangha inaugurated the event with their blessings followed by prayers by representatives of the Hindu, Muslim and Christian religious groups, Mrs. K. Ranganathan, Mr. Naseer Azeez and Dr. Greg Fernandopulle, respectively.

County Executive Ike Leggett then addressed the gathering followed by his Excellency Jaliya Wickramasuriya.



In her welcome address SLAWDC President, Ms. Sandra Sourjah thanked the clergy and distinguished guests. She also mentioned that this was a significant New Year celebration for all Sri Lankans. After 3 decades of terrorism in Sri Lanka, this year all communities celebrated the New Year together in an atmosphere of peace, unity & hope for a better future. After introducing the new Board of Directors, the President thanked all members and well-wishers who generously contributed kiribath, various curries and other traditional sweet meats towards the community brunch.

We were privileged to have several dance performances once again this year. ‘Hela Urumaya’ a combination of traditional dances depicting movements of animals was performed by Sandali Chandradasa and Finoli Lowe, Amali & Natalie Perera, Dinali Weeraman. ‘Mukundha Mukundha’ a Baradham based Gopies of Gokulam playing and dancing with God Krishna, and ‘Pokkiri Pongal’ from the movie Kandasamy were performed by Abaya Nadakumar, Arya Menon, Meghana Nimmathota, Parani & Yadaven Saravanapavan, Tanvi Jammula and Vani Agarwal.

‘Erabudu Mal Pipila’ was performed by Melory Lowe, Dehera Weeraman, Sitara & Darya Sadeghi. All performers were adorned in beautiful traditional dance outfits and they were spectacular to watch. As we all know, an amazing amount of time and effort goes into training these kids; and we have to commend and thank Vasunthra Saravanapavan and Manori Weeraman for their dedicated efforts, and also the parents of these children.

The Avurudu Kumari/Kumaraya Contest was a treat for all. The spectacle of kids in their beautiful traditional outfits paraded before the judges, who as usual, had the hardest task of picking the winners Sitara Sadeghi was selected the Avurudu Kumari, David Amal Fred was chosen as the Avurudu Kumaraya. All participants received gifts as a token of appreciation for their efforts.

A big thank you goes out to Mahalon Lowe and D.I. Senaratne for providing the music and sound system on this occasion.

Prior to the outdoor games, an announcement was made calling everyone to partake in the traditional goodies, which were in abundance. Thanks to the Directors of SLAWDC and contributions from the community, the tables were laden with kiribath and other traditional foods which everyone enjoyed. Soon afterwards the outdoor games began with the Kana Muttiya, Banis Kame Tharangaya, Sack Race, Lime and Spoon race, Tug-O-War to name a few. There was no age limit and everyone was willing to participate in the fun! Raffle tickets were sold to raise funds and the 1<sup>st</sup> prize of a Black & Decker Food Processor was won by Miss Raheem. The 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, a hamper with Sri Lankan goodies was won by Mr. Tissa Pilapitiya. Congratulations to the winners!

A big thank you to the organizing committee and the MC’s for the day - Directors, Kamini Wickramaratne and Amjad Moulana. We all had a good time, but as the saying goes “all good things must come to an end” and so did the celebrations, which concluded at around 2:30pm.

## **Cricket Tournament - 2010**

The NY vs DC Cricket Match is one of the major events scheduled in the SLAWDC calendar which takes place every year.

This year it was played in Denville, New Jersey on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> 2010. It was a hot and sunny, but a gorgeous day for cricket. This annual event was held in conjunction with the “Sri Lanka Day” celebration organized by the Sri Lanka Association of New York. The cricket pitch happened to be the base ball field and the New Yorkers enjoyed playing on that ground.

The SLAWDC team was represented by Sameera Wickramasuriya (Captain), George Seneviratne, Shawn Corera, Malon Perera, Ruvinda Ranasinghe, Roshan Fernando, Manoj Abeysekara, Dakshi De Silva, Kelum Sooriyabandara, Shane Ismail and Badra Gunasena. This team which was managed by Roy Braine and Sandra Ismail, won the championship in the mini cricket tournament held on July 25<sup>th</sup> 2010 organized by the Sri Lanka Association of DC.

Having won the toss, the NY cricket captain Chaminda Jayaweera invited DC to bat first. With the strong winds blowing against, one sided batting crease Malon and Ruvinda opened the batting for DC. New York bowlers took the advantage of the pitch and surprised the batsmen with sharp bounces. Ruvinda scored 26 runs with 2 sixes and 2 fours while Manoj, Kelum, Dakshi, and Badra gave a valuable contribution all of which resulted in the DC team to manage to get a healthy score of 104 runs during their allocated 20 overs. Chasing a descent score of 104 New Yorkers came to the crease with a positive mind and opened the innings with some mighty hits.

Although 15 runs came from the very first over bowled by Dakshi, DC managed to come back to the game with tight bowling from Badra and George. They took two wickets each while Sameera broke the all important opening partnership at 24 when George held to a good catch at the midwicket. Over all, New Yorkers played a very calculated game with some hard hitting from Ruchira and Dushmantha. They discovered some sustained form and took charge as NY breezed to a 5 wicket victory. When Ruchira was caught at 32 they were almost home by then.

This encounter took place within the highest traditions of the Sri Lankan community and the level of sportsmanship displayed by both teams were exceptional. May this big match continue in the same friendly manner with mutual respect but hard fought contest in the future too.

## **Sri Lanka Day - 2010**

On September 18th, SLAWDC successfully carried out it's flagship event for the year: Sri Lanka Day. Held at N. Chevy Park, it was a day out for our members and community to mingle amongst one another celebrating the true essence of Sri Lankan culture, from tasting the succulent dishes from the various food vendors, enjoying the live music from the many local musicians, and to take part in various forms of amusement and recreation lined up with the contribution of all the community organizations in the area.

The day's program began at 10:00am with the sports activities; Men's, women's, and veteran's Tennis Tournaments, basketball matches, and the event that stole the show: the ladies cricket

tournament. The enthusiasm shown by the young and old towards participating registered the excitement and enthusiasm among our community for such events. We thank Dr. Greg & Sulocha Fernandopulle for sponsoring the Challenge Trophy and Mrs. Saumya Abeygunawardena for the medals.

Among the various food and drink stalls selling Kottu Roti, Hoppers, Rice & Curry, there were several stalls showcasing the various community organizations existent in the Washington Metropolitan area, each exhibiting some sort of amusement to keep the crowd entertained. For instance, a dunk tank was erected by members of the Educate Lanka Foundation to raise funds towards scholarships for underprivileged children from Sri Lanka, and a children's perahera complete with little Kandyan drummers was arranged by the Ranga Kala Kavaya organization.

The Chief Guest Ambassador Jaliya Wickramasuriya was accompanied by the children's perahera (procession) to the vendor stalls and he mingled among members of the Sri Lankan community and several passers-by who came to the park to see what the whole excitement was about, helping themselves to a taste of Sri Lankan culture while they were at it.

The SLAWDC received a Certificate of Appreciation from the County Executive Isiah Leggett in recognition of the leadership and involvement with the community. The certificate was delivered to the president, Sandra Sourjah by Ms. Lily Qui from the Montgomery County office at the Sri Lanka Day celebration. Mr. Asoka Ranaweera Sri Lankan representative at the Montgomery County was also present at the event.

A successful day of fun, laughter and games ensued, and came to a close with the awards ceremony for the winners of the sports events around 6pm. The Association would like to take this opportunity to thank every single member who attended this event, and all the volunteers for their hard work in making this event a huge success. Live music for the day was provided by members of the Sri Lanka Association of Richmond, Virginia.

### **Children's Holiday Party – December 2010**

The annual SLAWDC Children's Holiday Party was held on Saturday, December 11 2010 at the Tivoli Community Center in Silver Spring, Maryland. Around 25 children under 12 attended the party. The program for the evening began with the welcome address by the president Sandra Sourjah. Shanthi Gnanasekeran, Sajiv Gnanasekeran, Roshan Beddaliyanage, and Drushan de Silva played Christmas carols on key boards while the audience joined in singing the carols. Little Sitara Sadeghi performed a beautiful multicultural dance. The children were then entertained with music and games conducted by Sandra Ismail and Amjad Moulana. Ms. Manourie Wheeler read the Christmas Story to the children, followed by the arrival of Santa Claus to the singing of 'Santa Claus is coming to Town'. Every child received a gift from Santa Claus. After the photography session with Santa Claus the guests were invited to help themselves to some refreshments.

## ***COMMUNITY EVENTS SUPPORTED BY SLAWDC***

### **Asian American Community Resource Fair - 2010**

SLAWDC participated at this year's Asian American Community Resource Fair, the official kick-off of the Asian American Heritage Month, which was held on Saturday, May 8, 2010 at the Montgomery County Executive Office Building in Rockville, Maryland. Unlike the other organizations participating which had specific items of goods or services to promote, SLAWDC was essentially on a goodwill mission to record our presence as part of the Asian American Community. The colorful tourist posters, brochures and other traditional artifacts on display did attract many to our stall with inquiries about Sri Lanka and what we had to offer. The County Executive Isaiah Leggett and various Montgomery County officials visited the stall and appreciated our representation. "

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Board members Hafsa Miskin and Amjad Moulana had the honor and pleasure of attending the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Youth Conference on Diaspora and Peace-Building at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C. Organized by Search for Common Ground and the U.S. Institute of Peace in partnership with Normadic Wax Productions, the Conference was the first step towards better understanding the experiences of Diaspora youth in the United States, better integration of their voices into policy dialogues, and to encourage greater peace-building at home. The event focused on the experiences of Diaspora youth from Sri Lanka, Iraq, Haiti and Nigeria and included workshops with useful tools such as; expression thru free styling, efficient use of the web as a tool for enhanced networking, and creative expression through film making. Overall the conference was a great experience and an opportunity for us, as the future leaders of this world, to explore peaceful ways to help our Diasporas, here in the United States and back home, to build bridges of understanding and harmony.

### **Library of Congress – Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**

The keynote speaker at the Library of Congress event was Dr. Franklin Odo, Founding Director, Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program.

The invitation to open the keynote program with the US National Anthem was extended to a SLAW Past President Sri Lanka's Anjalika Silva who sang "The Star Spangled Banner" and closed the program with "America the Beautiful" on behalf of the Asian American Community in Washington.

Celebrations continued throughout the Washington DC area this year in the month of May, on account of the special initiative signed by President Obama in October 2009 to promote Asian Americans into positions of leadership and visibility in the United States.

### **2010 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Observance at US Department of Transportation**

Sri Lankan Ambassador to the US H.E. Jaliya Wickramasuriya, Minister of Administration at the Sri Lankan Embassy Ms. Wasantha Perera, performers Anjalika Silva and Amandi Koshila, and

Hemnath De Silva participated in an event organized by the US Department of Transportation to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month – May.

While giving his Welcoming Remarks at the event on May 18th, Hon. Ray LaHood, Secretary of the US Department of Transportation (DOT), thanked H.E. Ambassador Wickramasuriya for gracing the occasion with his presence. The program was coordinated by Ranmali Fonseka, a Sri Lankan employee at the Department of Transportation.

In his address, Ambassador Wickramasuriya praised the efforts of DOT employees in organizing this event, which brought together people of different ethnic backgrounds. The Ambassador also stressed the importance of all people living harmoniously in a world full of diverse cultures.

The celebration included a cultural program where Amandi Koshila, a Sri Lankan student in Washington performed a Yaga Gee Dance. A nostalgic journey in song was performed by Anjalika Silva (Soprano) who welcomed visitors to Sri Lanka in a bilingual song opening in English followed by a medley describing Dambulla, Isuruminiya, Siripada and the beauty of Dunhinda in song through the journey. Other performers represented Bangladesh and India.

## **Help Raise Funds for Downs Syndrome**

The SLAWDC board members attended the **Kosala Dullewa** dance performance held on Sunday, June 13 at the University of Shady Grove. The touching effort by a talented 21 year old youth born with Downs syndrome to raise funds to improve the life styles of challenged /special needs children in Sri Lanka is a cause the SLAWDC unanimously agreed to support. The KDF will be accepted as one of SLAWDC's sponsored charities. Members and guests are encouraged to donate generously towards this charity through SLAGW and enjoy a tax break.

## ***COMMUNITY SERVICE***

The SLAWDC continued to maintain a bank of volunteers for help with translations.

We had a few requests for English/Sinhala translations and the information was forwarded to interested volunteers on our database during the last quarter. We also advertised job openings via the SERENDIB Newsletter.

SL Association of Richmond, VA held their annual holiday party on Saturday, December 4, 2010 at the Phoenix Reception Hall in Richmond Virginia. SLAWDC president Sandra Sourjah attended the event. The event began with a welcome address by the president Winston de Weisser. After the lighting of the traditional oil lamp, Mr. Thanuja Usliyanage, Counselor SL Embassy, delivered a message from H.E. Ambassador Jaliya Wickramasuriya. Music and dancing began after dinner.

## ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS***

We thank –

Our Patron, Ambassador, Hon, Mr. Jaliya Wickremasuriya;

Vice Patrons, Dr. Greg Fernandopulle and Mrs. Anjalika Silva;

Advisory Board –Mr. Sena Basnayake, Mr. Lasantha Dahanayake, Mr. Mohamed W. Muhsin, Mr. Raj Barr-Kumar Mr. Dakshi de Silva;

Our Honorary Auditor, Mr Suraj Navaratne;

Our good friends of Sri Lanka Ranga Kala Kavaya, Sri Lanka Catholic Association, Educate Lanka and the Sri Lanka Association of Richmond, VA

Our spouses and families;

Our counterparts in the Sri Lanka Association of New York;

### **Conclusion:**

It is a pleasure presenting the Annual Report for the year. We look forward to your continued support in the future.

For and on behalf of the President and Board of Directors.

*Kamini Wickramaratne*

Secretary

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**(February 1, 2010 to January 31, 2011)**

## **SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON, INC.**

An Approved Federal Tax Exempt Organization

P.O. Box 30295

Bethesda, MD 20824-0295

AND

Its affiliate

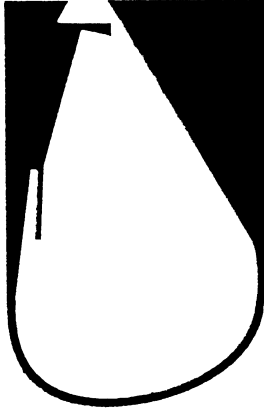
## **SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON, D.C.**

A Non-Profit Organization founded in 1975

P.O. Box 30295

Bethesda, MD 20824-0295

**SRI LANKA  
ASSOCIATION  
OF WASHINGTON DC**



Patron

.....  
**His Excellency  
Jaliya Wickramasuriya  
The Ambassador for Sri Lanka  
to the United States of America**

Vice Patrons  
**Dr. Greg Fernandopulle  
Mrs. Anjalika Silva**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Sandra Sourjah  
President**

**Roy Braine  
President-Elect**

**Kamini Wickramaratne  
Secretary**

**Sandra Ismail  
Asst. Secretary**

**Gothami Gunasekera  
Treasurer - SLAWDC**

**Hafsa Miskin  
Treasurer SLAGW**

**DIRECTORS  
Zara Atukorala  
Lasitha Gunawardena  
Amjad Moulana  
Alex Perera  
Ajith Pushpakumara**

**Suraj Navaratne  
Honorary Auditor**

A Non-Profit Organization  
founded in 1975  
Address:  
P. O. Box 30295  
Bethesda MD 20824-0295

E-mail: SLAWDC.COM

www.slawdc.com

March 1, 2011

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I invite you to the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the SLAGW, on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2011 for the official handing over of office to the succeeding President and the new Board of Directors.

It has been an honour and joy to have served as President through the past year during which I have had the opportunity of serve my fellow Sri Lankans, interact with the Sri Lanka Embassy and people of our local government (Montgomery County). I am extremely happy that my board, in spite of the financial restrains was able to organize several projects successfully. Our main focus was to bring the community together at events to raise funds for the less fortunate back in our homeland and provide entertainment to our community in the Greater Washington region.

This year we were successful in organizing a Pool Tournament to raise reasonable funds to make donations to the CCC Foundation, Kosala Dellewa Foundation and the NEST foundation in Sri Lanka. Our active involvement in the local community was duly recognized by the Montgomery County. In September of 2010 at the Sri Lanka Day celebrations the SLAWDC received a certificate from the Montgomery County Executive in recognition of our excellent leadership in community programs. In the last quarter of 2010, the SLAGW website was redesigned to give additional information about our charitable projects and links to worthy organizations to encourage our members to donate through our website and earn a tax break.

I extend my sincere thanks to a dedicated Board who came together to achieve our goals as a team. I thank our past presidents, leaders of other community organizations, and members and friends for your continued support without which my job would not have been as easy and enjoyable. My profound gratitude to our Patron H.E Ambassador Jaliya Wickramasuriya, Vice Patrons, and Advisory Board members, and the Elections Committee. To my dear friends whose names I have not mentioned here, I want you to know your support, guidance and contributions were a great strength to me.

As I step down this year, I wish the new Board every success.

*Sandra Sourjah*  
President - 2010



**The Sri Lanka Association of  
Greater Washington, D.C. (SLAGW)**

**An Approved Federal Tax Exempt Organization**

**P.O. Box 30295  
Bethesda, MD 20824-0295**

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**(February 1, 2010 to January 31, 2011)**

**THE SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON (SLAGW)  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD  
FEBRUARY 1, 2010 TO JANUARY 31, 2011**

## **Governance**

The Board of Directors of the Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C. (SLAWDC), duly elected at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Saturday, March 12, 2011 provides the overall guidance, stewardship, and management to SLAGW. As the affiliate organization of SLAWDC, responsible for its humanitarian, charitable and educational activities, SLAGW receives support from the parent organization in carrying out the mandate granted by its members. The Board held seven meetings during the course of the year.

## **Patron**

Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the United States, His Excellency Jaliya Wickramasuriya

## **Vice Patrons**

Dr. Greg Fernandopulle and Mrs. Anjalika Silva

## **Non-resident Honorary Members**

Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Jr.

## **Sustaining Members**

The following are recognized by the Board as Sustaining Members, who continue to pay annual dues, regardless of their Honorary or Life member status:

Dr. & Mrs. Raj & Deepika Barr-Kumar  
Dr. & Mrs. Hilarian & Sheila Codippily  
Mr. Edward Peries

## **Life Members**

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. ABEYEGOONEWARDENE, Clement & Anastasia | 9. CODIPPILY, Dr. Hilarian & Sheila   |
| 2. ABEYWICKRAMA, Kenneth & Bernadette     | 10. DAHANAIKE, Lasantha & Chathurika  |
| 3. AMERASINGHE, Dr. Ranjan & Wimala       | 11. DE FONSEKA, Dr. Kamal & Tara      |
| 4. BADDELIYANAGE, Don & Mangala           | 12. DE ZOYSA, Rani                    |
| 5. BADDELIYANAGE, Ravi & Nadira           | 13. DON, Milroy                       |
| 6. BARR-KUMAR, Dr. Raj & Deepika          | 14. FERNANDOPULLE, Dr. Greg & Sulocha |
| 7. BASNAYAKE, Sena & Nelum                | 15. FERNANDO, Vijitha & Sarla         |
| 8. BUDDHADASA, Harsha                     | 16. FONSEKA, Lalin & Ranmalee         |
|   | 17. GOONEWARDENE, Nihal & Crystal     |

18. GUNASEKERA, Ronald
19. HAPANGAMA, Ratna & Anoma
20. HERATH, Saliya
21. KARUNARATNE, Shantha & Saman
22. KURUPPU, Terrance & Ranjini
23. LENORA, Nihal & Pradipa
24. LOOS, Janine
25. MAHMOOTH, Rizmy & Sharmaleen
26. MOTHA, Guy & Cecilia
27. MCCOY, Billie
28. MIRCHANDANI, Chandru & Yolette
29. MUSHIN, Mohamed & Sithy
30. NANAYAKKARA, Jim & Badhra
31. NANAYAKKARA, Iroshana & Shayami
32. PADMAKUMARA, Hiru
33. PERERA, Alex
34. PERERA, Cecil & Therese
35. PERERA, Srilal & Yaeko
36. PERIES, Edward & Anna
37. PERIES, Kumar
38. PILAPITIYA, Tissa & Lakshi
39. RAJAKUMARAN, Basil & Devika
40. RANASINGHE, Bandula & Geetha
41. RANGANATHAN, A.
42. RUDRAN, Dr. Rudy & Ranji
43. SALGADO, Dr. Ranjith & Surangani
44. SALGADO, Ranil
45. SAMARASINGHE, Drs. Stanley & Vidya
46. SENANAYAKE, Shantini
47. SOURJAH, Sandra
48. STORK, Ralph Ainslie
49. TANTULA, Kosala & Ruki
50. VITHANAGE, Charmini
51. WIJETILLEKE, Lakdasa & Padmini
52. WIRATUNGA, Ranjith & Christine

## Members

1. ABEYGUNAWARDENA, Saumya
2. ABEYWARNA, Upul & Dilini
3. ABEYWARNA, Mahil & Nisansa
4. ATUKORALA, Zara
5. BRAINE, Roy & Shannon
6. BURAH, Tuan-Azmin & Avanthi
7. CHERUBIAM, Prasanth & Chemali
8. DHARMASENA, Kumar & Ayanthi
9. DORABAWILA, Kamal & Nilmini
10. FERNANDO, Roshan & Dinesha
11. FINE, Steven
12. FONSEKA, C.D
13. FONSEKA, Prishani
14. FONSEKA, Dilantha & Everista
15. GUNAWARDENA, Lasitha
16. GUNAWARDENA, Kapila
17. GUNASEKERA, Gothami
18. HERATH, Piyatilleke & Manel
19. ISMAIL, Shane & Sandra
20. MENON, Radesh
21. MISKIN, Hanif
22. MISKIN, Hafsa
23. MOULANA, Seyed Amjad
24. MOULANA, Seyed Ali & Tanuja
25. NAPOLI, Dominic & Ramani
26. NAVARATNE, Suraj & Hirani
27. NAZICK, Fahmi & Farhana
28. NAZICK, Fazna
29. NEDIMALA, Edward & Loretta
30. OBE-WICKRAMARATNE, Kamini M
31. PERERA, Dhanika & Sharon
32. PERERA, Malan
33. PERERA, Marlon
34. PERERA, Prasanna
35. PONNAMPERUMA, Dhanu
36. PUSHPAKUMARA, Ajith
37. RAHAMAN, Timur
38. RATNE, Mithra
39. RUMINSKI, Mark & Miriam
40. SENEVIRATNE, George Neil
41. SILVA, Sathy & Anjalika
42. WICKRAMASURIYA, Sameera
43. WIJEGUNAWARDENA, Sumith & Thamalie
44. WIKRAMANAYAKE, Ignatius & Hyacinth
45. YAKEEM, Harshan

## **Membership**

The Association announces a membership of 46 single and family dues paying members, 53 life memberships and 1 honorary life member.

## **Finance**

SLAGW revenue for the period ending January 31, 2011 was \$ 921.77

SLAGW ended its financial year with a balance of \$ 1,119.14 (See attached statements)

## **Annual General Meeting**

The following office bearers were elected to serve on the Board for 2010/2011 at the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday, March 28, 2010.

President -	Ms. Sandra Sourjah
President Elect-	Mr. Roy Braine
Secretary -	Mr. Rizmi Mahamooth
Assistant Secretary-	Ms. Kamini Wickramaratne
Treasurer-SLAWDC	Mrs. Gothami Gunasekera
Treasurer-SLGW	Ms. Hafsa Miskin
Directors (5)	Ms. Zara Atukorala
	Mr. Lasitha Gunawardena
	Mrs. Sandra Ismail
	Mr. Amjad Moulana
	Mr. Alex Perera

### **Honorary Auditor for 2010/2011**

Mr. Suraj Navaratne was appointed Honorary Auditor of the Association for 2010/2011

### **Board Meetings for 2010/2011**

The Board had eight (8) regular meetings during the year 2010/2011

### **Resignations:**

Rizmi Mahamooth, Secretary tendered his resignation in June of 2010 due to personal reasons. We thank Mr. Mohamooth for his services during his brief period with us.

### **Board Changes:**

Ms. Kamini Wickramaratne assumed the duties of Secretary and Mrs. Sandra Ismail moved up to the post of Assistant Secretary.

### **New Appointments:**

Mr. Ajith Pushpakumara filled in the position of Director.

## **SLAWDC Website**

The SLAWDC Website has been redesigned to make it a more friendly and informative site for our readers and new visitors. In response to viewer suggestions and requests, it became the aspiration of one of our directors to make the SLAWDC website look more professional and user friendly, One of the special features here is the link to our charitable wing, SLAGW [www.slawdc.com/SLAGW.html](http://www.slawdc.com/SLAGW.html) which serves as the information hub for all our fund-raising events. It is now focused on charitable activities that assist educational and humanitarian programs in Sri Lanka. We have tried to improve the website to reflect the work of the SLAGW and developed a website that clearly communicates SLAGW's message and which, over time, would get people involved with our fund-raising campaigns. The new web site offers three main areas for donors and members of SLAWDC/SLAGW. These main areas are: Current & Past Projects, Get Involved and Donate Now. The "Get Involved" Sections allows donors and members to suggest new projects or submit new charity drive ideas for existing projects and the "Donate Now" section allows donors to donate online via "Network for Good" using credit cards or Paypal accounts to projects of their choice. The site also features many links to partner organizations working with SLAGW. A big 'Thank You' to director Lasitha Gunawardena for an excellent job with the website!

## **SLAWDC Newsletter – SERENDIB**

The newsletter continued to include community news in addition to SLAWDC news on a quarterly basis. Two issues of SERENDIB was distributed via electronic mail to our members in June and December, 2010.

### **SLAGW CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES FOR 2010/2011**

## **SLAWDC Pool Tournament**

SLAWDC held a Pool Tournament in aid of the Courage, Compassion and Commitment Transit House (CCC) – National Cancer Hospital, Sri Lanka on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Hard Times Café and Cue in Germantown, MD. Over 25 SLAWDC members registered for the tournament, and we appreciate their time and participation towards this worthy cause. We also thank other members and friends who joined us to cheer on the players. Past President, Mr. Dakshi De Silva awarded the prizes to the winners.

We thank our main sponsors Mr. Adnan Ahmed, Mr. Shane McCarrick and Dr. & Mrs. Mary Jane Wagstaff, and for the generous donations received from Dr. Raj Barr-Kumar, Mr. Prasanna Perera, and Mr. Edmund Yarboi. We also take this opportunity to thank all the participants for making this event a joyful experience.

## **SLAWDC Carom Tournament**

SLAWDC held its first annual carom tournament on December 11th 2010. This event drew a large crowd of players and spectators, who were fixated on the heart-stopping matches that went on late into the night. The tournament was split into the two traditional categories: Singles and Doubles.

Of the ten teams that competed in the Doubles category, it ended in a close battle between the team of Upul Abeywarna and Mahil Abeywarna against Harshan Yakeem and Sumith Silva. A close advantage over the Abeywarna brothers resulted in the duo of Harshan and Sumith taking home the trophy.

In the singles category, the extremely close final was held between the Association's Past President Edward Peries against Sanjaya Ranasinghe, with Sanjaya triumphing over his competitor in a nail-biting final bout.

At this juncture, we would like to make special mention of Mr. Razeen Mannan who worked tirelessly in setting up the framework and structure of the tournament, which in turn resulted in a complete success.

The awards were distributed by President-Elect Roy Braine, Past President Edward Peries and Mr. Razeen Mannan. The trophies for the winners were donated by Dr. Raj Barr-Kumar and Mr. Dakshi de Silva.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We thank –

Our Patron, Ambassador, Hon, Mr. Jaliya Wickremasuriya;

Vice Patrons, Dr. Greg Fernandopulle and Mrs. Anjalika Silva;

Advisory Board –Mr. Sena Basnayake, Mr. Lasantha Dahanayake, Mr. Mohamed W. Muhsin, Mr. Raj Barr-Kumarakulasinghe, Mr. Dakshi de Silva

Our Honorary Auditor, Mr Suraj Navaratne;

Our good friends of Sri Lanka Ranga Kala Kavaya, Sri Lanka Catholic Association, Educate Lanka and the Sri Lanka Association of Richmond, VA

Our spouses and families;

Our counterparts in the Sri Lanka Association of New York;

### **Conclusion:**

It is a pleasure presenting the Annual Report for the year. We look forward to your continued support in the future.

For and on behalf of the President and Board of Directors.

*Kamini Wickramaratne*

Secretary

See attached Audited SLAGW Financial Statement