DEN CHATTER
LIONS CLUB OF COLOMBO (HOST)

A LION STORY
EDITOR'S NOTE

Hi Folks,

Den Chatter in this month speaks about how fashion kills the Earth and we recognize outstanding personalities of our own Lions and Lion Ladies in the club with the newly introduced chapter "A Lion Story". The very first story is a tribute for Lion Lady Hiranya Jayalath.

Also, we invite you all to join our upcoming projects organized by the Lions club and Leo club.

Happy Reading Everyone!

LITTLE MISS CHATTERBOX  Lion Harshi Samarasekera  Editor

WELCOME TO THE COLOMBO HOST FAMILY!
MS SURANJANI WICKRAMARATNE

Suranjani is a well known personality to us all and we are delighted that she finally joined Colombo Host family. A banker by profession she is now an active social worker. She reaches out to rural Sri Lank to empower under privileged children through education. She founded the Tharana Foundation through which much of her work is carried out.

Lion Suranjani is the daughter of our beloved late Lion Stanley Wickremaratne and was sponsored by Lion Dudley Thambinayagam.
PLASTIC & FAST FASHION!

THE NEW EARTH KILLER

ARTICLE BY THE LEAF GIRL

This might surprise you, but all most all the clothes we wear are made of plastic. Yes, you are wearing plastic.

Fabrics such as polyester, nylon, acrylic and polyamide contains plastic. The worst fact is that these plastics get added to wasted water as plastic microfibers when the fabric is made and even we wash it. Then, it either gets added to the soil directly or goes to the rivers and the ocean via the drainage system.

Do you eat fish? Then yes, you eat plastics gradually with fish as fish have already consumed a tons of microfibers throughout its’ lifetime.

What about being a vegetarian? Well, still the answer is Yes, because you still consume salt daily.

YOU HARVEST WHAT YOU SOW!

What’s the point of having 1000s of dresses if you, your children and your grand children are dying due to micro plastics in your clothes?

Think not twice, but many times before you buy a new dress or shirt. Always go for eco fashion brands and always do your best to protect our Mother Earth.

There's no shame in reusing (rewearing) your existing clothes without buying more. It means you love this Earth and your children too.
COLOMBO (HOST) GENERAL MEETING

26TH SEPTEMBER 2019

Marking the special visit of the Region Chairperson, Lion Shirani Hewage and Lion Upali Hewage
FOR THE LOVE OF PARADES...
THE GLORY OF SINHA CHARIKA 2019

ARTICLE BY LION DULMI GUNATILAKE

Some of us would question the whole point of a parade. Why do we need to ride in our cars all day just floating on roadsides in hot or rainy weather? Yes, the USA has a history of parades and the Lions Club was born in the US, but why do we continue these parades in other parts of the world? Is it necessary?

Parades are held for a wide range of reasons, but they are usually celebrations of some kind. The word parade itself however has little that's celebratory about it - it came to the English language from the French, meaning of "to prepare". So what are we preparing for at Lions Club with parades?

The History
There are many myths about the history of parades. It is said that parades have been in existence since early as 3000 B.C. where religious processions were formed in the hope of moving a step nearer to heaven. In a military sense, early rulers had armies lined up, and march in formation for inspections and celebrations. It was also used as a form of intimidation for opposing armies to see how many soldiers a ruler had over another. Similar parades are used in athletic settings. Protest demonstrations are also forms of parades in the form of marches. The longest parade in said to be the Hanover Schützenfest parade which is 12 kilometers long with 12,000 international participants including 100 bands, 70 floats and carriages.

According to Wikipedia, A parade (also called marchpast) is a procession of people usually organized on a street, accompanied by marching bands, floats or vehicles.

See next page.
FOR THE LOVE OF PARADES...
THE GLORY OF SINHA CHARIKA 2019

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Sponsorship of parades allows for financial fundraising for example from the corporate sector and for organization to be involved in funding charitable work. Parades encourages skill and creativity through the construction and designs of floats and costumes. Some parades in the US hosts competitions in machine maneuvering, repertoire, precision which develops other vocational skills.

The Importance

It is not an easy task prepare for a parade and involves multiple committees and tireless effort. However there are great reason for charities to use parades to positively impact society. One of the reasons is to build awareness of social causes affecting nations. For example, to build awareness about the increasing concerns for diabetes. 60% of diabetics in the world live in Asia and Sri Lanka has 1 in 12 adults suffering from diabetes; it’s an upward trend says the IDF (International Diabetes Federation).

Fellowship and building community momentum is another benefit of parades which joins entire towns and geographies. Needless to say that parades are loads of fun when you spend time with like-minded people and friends. The adrenalin created through networking and fellowship makes everyone happy and healthy!

At the "heart" of it all

Inside the Lions organization, the core or the parade engine us the heart and soul of the organization the social causes it represents. It represents the joy that’s experience by people through service, the warmth of the hearts of the selfless people who sacrifice their time, effort and money just to give to those in need! See next page.
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Around the world, there are billions spent on luxuries to have the best looking home or car, whilst millions go hungry. Some cut and chop their bodies with cosmetic surgery to enhance their bodies, while millions of children die in Africa unable to afford a glass of milk due to poverty. Billions are spent on fashion shows and handbags with astronomical prices to make women look trendy and fashionable. While in some parts of the world women live trapped in their own homes, forced into marriages, and not allowed to speak up when they are abused.

Reputed organisations like the Lions movement through such parades allows a platform to speak up for the under-represented, to raise awareness of the hidden, and more importantly to offer in help in meeting fundamental human needs of people. With the world improving on technology, one would think that world hunger is reducing - but according to recent BBC news and shocking stats by the UN, reveals that in 2018, world hunger is increasing for the third year in a row!

Realities such as these need to be reminded to communities and the world; it needs to be constant. Parades allows us a channel to Remind, Reflect and Resolve. If you don’t want to join parades for the friendships and fun, then join it for the bigger cause it represents – the giving, hope, joy, peace and support service to the world.

So take a walk, or drive along - falling in Love with the Lions Parade.
MEALS ON WHEELS

Serving the Zero Hunger Goal of Lions International & UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Because,

1 in every 9 people goes to bed hungry each night.
A LION STORY

A TRIBUTE TO LION LADY HIRANYA JAYALATH
Lions Club of Colombo (Host)

She was a much loved Lady with love for everyone and was loved by everyone for her friendliness and kind smile. Everyone who knew her will always remember how much she enjoyed whatever she did from serving people, dancing, singing, enchanting floral decors to handcrafts.

Though not a Lion, she carried out many health related projects on behalf of the club and was a very active member of the Lion Ladies Committee from the day Lion Sisira Jayalath (her beloved husband) joined the Colombo Host family.

A LION LADY WHO SERVED LIKE A REAL LION!

The biggest projects lead by her are Sight for Thousand with 1000 cataract operations being carried out in a year. Funds were canvassed and raised by her and was conducted with the National Eye Hospital where she visited the hospital to interview the patients or their families before handing over the lens. As she did not drive there was many a time she took the bus or tuk to make sure the lenses got to the patients when she could not get a ride to the Eye hospital. Such was her involvement that the people in hospital thought she was a doctor and called her Dr. Hiranya. This project was adjudged as the best SightFirst project in the Multiple and was among the best projects in the country that year.

Her other key project was the Hope for Children cancer project where she worked to get funding from an international organisation to carry out a project to donate much needed medicine to the pediatric oncology ward of the Maharagama Cancer Hospital.

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With funding of US$70,000 this is the largest value invested in a single project by our club. Hope for Children was close to her heart and she coordinated every purchase to be donated to the hospital. Not even being prepped for brain surgery stopped her as she coordinated the project from her hospital bed. Hope for Children was awarded all 3 years it conducted.

A lawyer by profession, she found her true calling in making places beautiful with customised floral decor. She was the main 'decorator' of all club events and handled the decor for many Lions Conventions and other Lions events. She loved the Lions movement and played a role where ever she could and when ever called upon.

Such was her commitment to the club that she attended our 60th anniversary a few weeks after undergoing brain surgery and attended our 61st charter in June this year dressed dapper in a sarong to hide the medical apparatus she was compelled to 'wear'.

Lion Lady Hiranya joined the Lions movement at a time there wasn't much emphasis on female members but that did not stop her from being active in service, fellowship and leadership as would a Lion. Possibly why many referred to her as Lion Hiranya. Never one who wanted to shine alone, her work was carried out in support of anyone who needed her help! Lion Lady Hiranya was awarded as the Lion Lady of the year of District 306A in 1993/1994.

At our 61st charter, when Lion Dr. Mahin thanked her for all she had done for the club when proposing the vote of thank, little did he or any one of us know that it would be the last charter that she would attend and our installation meeting in July would be the last time many of us club members would see her.

Lion Lady Hiranya passed away on the 27th of September 2019.

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED IN OUR HEARTS!
September 2019

EMPOWERING THE YOUTH

LEO CLUB OF COLOMBO (HOST)

LOVE CURES

LEO ORIENTATION PROGRAM

22nd Sep 2019
at Leo Youth Centre,
Colombo 07
by PDP Lion Asitha Pinnaduwa MJF

28th Sep 2019 at CCC
Cancer Transit Home,
Maharagama
STAY TUNED IN OCTOBER...

LIONS ENVIRONMENT DAY!
A day for all Lions of 306A1 to serve the Environment. Save the date, 20th Oct 2019 Because we've only one Planet to live!

MEALS ON WHEELS
October Edition
Date to be confirmed.

CLUB GENERAL MEETING
Month of October 2019
30th October 2019 and venue to be confirmed.

THE LONGEST STANDING PROJECT OF LIONS CLUB OF COLOMBO (HOST)

Cordially inviting you to join with us on 19th October 2019 to celebrate 50 Golden Years of Leoism in Sri Lanka with our very own Leo Club of Colombo (Host) at Galle Face Hotel, Colombo