



MEA wishes all members of our family a very happy, healthy, and prosperous 2014



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Spring Picnic  
Scholarship Fundraiser  
CGCT  
Community Service  
Science Talent Search  
Cultural Nite  
Welcome New Board  
Members Corner

MEA would like to thank all its members, well wishers and sponsors for your valuable support, participation and contributions. 2013 had been another great year for MEA and this was possible because of your continued support. As the new board takes over the activities for 2014, we are looking forward to your continued support and active participation to keep MEA a thriving charitable organization.

Hope to see you all again in our upcoming events.

#### MEA Board Of Directors for 2013

President: Hari Nair Secretary: Anoop William Treasurer: Mathew John

Directors: Karun Nair, Ranimol Sibi, Salil Gopinath, Thomas Sebastian



## Spring Picnic



MEA Spring picnic and General Body Meeting was held at Lost Creek Park, Sugarland on Saturday, April 6th.

It was a great day filled with the company of good friends, great food, and the perfect weather. There was excellent participation and everyone volunteered and helped out in one way or another. Five teams fiercely competed in team games and the Orange team emerged as winners. We proved that we engineers too know how to have fun!

We identified some young MEA talents during the day. Nayan Tara won the best screamer contest. She and other five other screamers won gift certificates to Baskin-Robbins. Sanvi won a jar of sweet treats for her estimation skills. The day concluded with a General Body Meeting.



## **Scholarship awards cross \$200,000**

Over the past decade, MEA has been awarding scholarships to economically disadvantaged and academically brilliant Engineering graduate students enrolled in colleges in Kerala. Cumulatively such awards have now crossed \$200,000 which is a very significant achievement for MEA. We want to thank everyone who have supported and contributed to make this possible.

## **Scholarship Fundraiser -2013**

This year MEA members actively participated in two fundraising events. In the first, members participated in the Soorya Festival promoted by Shingari's School of Rhythm. In July, MEA hosted another fundraiser event (Soorya Festival) at Woodlands Middle



School. 12 new scholarships will be distributed during this year. 30 finalists are currently going through verification process to pick the final 12.

## **Major Donors of 2013 ( Donations of \$500 & above)**

MEA Scholarship Program is funded through generous donations by our donors. We thank each and every one of the contributors for their support.

A&B Labs

Anoop William

Asmita Salil

Beena & Harish Pillay

Jaya Mohan (Dr.)

Jasmine & Mohamed Sulaiman

Kanchana, Balji Menon & Paliyam Family

Lakshmi & Hari Nair

Lekha & Vasanthak Narayanan

Loveena & Joseph Koshy

Midhu & Mathew (Swarup) John

Michael MK

Prafulla Pillai Memorial Scholarship Fund

Sagar Vidyasagar

Shiny & Abraham John

Sree & Pravin Thampi



## **A New Channel for harnessing support from MEA Scholars and Well-wishers in India**

**By: Vijay Kayath**

Since 2007 all students who benefited from MEA Scholarships have found employment and are successfully pursuing their career-goals. A few of them have expressed interest in contributing funds to MEA Scholarship program; some others have offered to mentor current scholarship recipients. Realizing this is an excellent opportunity to benefit from the financial and intellectual resources of the growing MEA Scholarship Alumni, a group of MEA Houston members explored the possibilities of establishing channels to receive such help for the Scholarship program. This article is intended to provide information to all MEA members on the efforts made so far.

### **Goals**

1. Foster a network of MEA Scholarship Alumni; develop a system to maintain their contact information up-to-date.
2. Develop a practical and efficient program by which MEA Scholarship Alumni living in India or abroad can constructively support the MEA Scholarship program including donating money.
3. Develop a system by which MEA Scholarship Alumni are paired with MEA Scholarship students so that the students can benefit from the guidance and advice from the Alumni.
4. Ensure that this 'Initiative' is guided by the same mission, vision and values that are the guiding principles of MEA Scholarship program.

### **Present Status**

After exploring several concepts of setups to achieve the goals enumerated above, the idea of setting up an organization in Kerala administered by former MEA Scholars was found to be difficult. Instead, MEA Houston found that cooperating with a charitable organization in India was the expedient way to utilize the momentum generated within the MEA Scholarship Alumni community. As a result, discussions between Mr. Nalina Pillai of MEA Houston and Officers of a



# Malayalee Engineers' Association

## Houston, Texas

*Newsletter*

[www.meahouston.org](http://www.meahouston.org)

Volume 19, Issue 1

December, 2013

charitable organization called CETA Galaxy Charitable Trust (CGCT) ensued and led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MEA Houston and CGCT.

CGCT is a charitable organization registered in Kerala with visions similar to that of MEA Houston. It is an offshoot of College of Engineering, Trivandrum Alumni (CETA) organization. CGCT has been providing educational support to financially challenged bright students from Govt/Govt aided schools across villages of Kerala under its scheme "HOPE"-Helping Outstanding Pupils in Education.

MEA Houston will be able to support CGCT projects especially HOPE by forwarding details / presentations on HOPE among their members or well-wishers. MEA Houston can also consider the possibility of MEA Scholarships made available to HOPE beneficiaries for their higher education.

CGCT has the experience and ability to operate bank accounts in Kerala. It can provide prospective donors with a channel to contribute money by opening and operating a bank account for that purpose. The MOU requires CGCT to open and operate a bank account in India which will be designated for accepting donations earmarked for financial aid to deserving engineering students. MEA Houston will not provide funding for this account and will not transfer any money from its Scholarship Fund. MEA Houston will have no control over the management and administration of the bank account in India and will not carry the burden of keeping account books and filing tax returns and other regulatory paperwork. At present only checks and money transfers from Indian bank accounts will be accepted to fund the account operated by CGCT.

Other CGCT responsibilities are:

1. CGCT shall withdraw necessary funds from the account to meet the cost of opening and maintaining the account and income tax or statutory charges if any.
2. Not take any payments or compensation for its office bearers for the accounts administration.
3. Follow all rules and regulations governing the operation of the bank account and file required tax returns and statutory forms at appropriate times.



# Malayalee Engineers' Association

## Houston, Texas

*Newsletter*

[www.meahouston.org](http://www.meahouston.org)

**Volume 19, Issue 1**

**December, 2013**

4. Not be responsible for raising funds for the Program.
5. Issue checks upon recommendation of designated MEA Houston representative subject to availability of funds.

MEA Houston responsibilities are:

1. Develop a list of qualified students who can be considered for scholarship(s) and recommend to designated CGCT representative the name(s) of the students and amount(s) of scholarships to be granted based on available funds in the Scholarship account.
2. Designate one person as their contact person for all communications with CGCT. CGCT will have the option to contact other MEA Houston office bearers to expedite communications.
3. Make MEA Scholars and MEA well-wishers aware of the new bank account and solicit donations.

MEA Houston President has nominated Mr. Vijay Kayath, Trustee and member of MEA as the designated person for all communications with CGCT and to coordinate with former MEA Scholars. The term of this MOU is for a period of three years. It may be extended upon written mutual agreement. It shall be reviewed annually to ensure that it is fulfilling its purpose and to make necessary revisions. Either party may terminate this MOU upon thirty (30) days written notice without penalties or liabilities.

The signing of this MOU is not a formal undertaking. It implies that the signatories will strive to discharge, to the best of their ability, the responsibilities stated in the MOU. Interested MEA members can request and obtain a copy of the signed MOU from Secretary or President of MEA Houston.

MEA Houston and MEA Scholarship Alumni will rely on the good will of the people in CGCT's director board and trust their honesty in managing the funds. MEA Houston will need to maintain the network of MEA Scholarship Alumni and support their mentoring program. We currently have several volunteers in Kerala who have helped us in the implementation of our project in the past. This would be an opportunity to harness this resource into a formally recognized part of MEA and thus provide motivation for such critical resources to remain as a working part of our Scholarship Project in the years to come.

*Vijay is a MEA Trustee Board member .*



# Malayalee Engineers' Association

## Houston, Texas

*Newsletter*

[www.meahouston.org](http://www.meahouston.org)

Volume 19, Issue 1

December, 2013

**Community Service:** As part of serving the Houston community, MEA volunteered at the Houston Food Bank on August 10th. Together we volunteered 40 hours, sorting around 3,000lb of food items.



## MEA Science Talent Search

This year MEA introduced a poster board competition to promote Science and Technology among children from MEA families and the Houston community in general. 19 children participated in High school, Middle school, and Elementary categories. Dr. Badri Roysam (Head of the Dept., Electrical and Computer Science, University of Houston), Dr. Latha Vasudevan (Asst Director – Radiological Safety Officer, Texas A&M University) and Dr. Sridevi Suresh (Physician, Baylor University) judged the entries. Prizes worth a total of \$1100 were given out. The entries were displayed at the MEA Cultural Nite and received great reviews from the audience.





# Malayalee Engineers' Association Houston, Texas

*Newsletter*

[www.meahouston.org](http://www.meahouston.org)

Volume 19, Issue 1

December, 2013

## Cultural Nite



With great enthusiasm and participation from MEA members' families, MEA organized yet another enjoyable Cultural Nite on September 28th at Durgabari auditorium in Houston. The event started with social hour during which the Science Talent Search entries were displayed. This gave our members an opportunity to view the entries, talk to most of the participants, and pick their favorites for the Viewer's choice awards. MEA members and their families showcased the best of their talents during a two hour show. KC Alexander, Zahroof Mohamed and Jasmine Sulaiman were recognized for outstanding professional achievements. The event concluded with a dinner catered by Sathya Grocers. This event was sponsored by Mahesh Shastry of True Choice Advisors.





# Malayalee Engineers' Association

## Houston, Texas

*Newsletter*

[www.meahouston.org](http://www.meahouston.org)

Volume 19, Issue 1

December, 2013

### Director Board—2014

Welcome New Board!

MEA Annual General Body Meeting was held on 01 December, 2013 at Rangoli Restaurant in Houston. The general body elected the following members to the 2014 board. Please join us in welcoming the new board for 2014.

Joyce John	- President
Sojan Antony	- Treasurer
Anoop William	- Director
Lekha Vasanth	- Director
Vidya Raja	- Director
Sajee Kadambathil	- Director
Ranjith Nair	- Director





# Members' Corner

## Paradise

*By Priya Nair*

Through my eyes  
I see the earth  
The gifts of love  
The gifts of birth  
All our misfortunes  
All our plights  
Yes, my eyes bring me many sights  
Yet I have not seen  
Paradise

Through my ears  
I hear the winds  
The sounds of nature  
Pulling me in  
All our screams  
And all our cries  
I've heard truth and I've heard lies  
Yet I have not heard  
Paradise

There is a world  
Of which I've been told  
The dreams of the young  
The dreams of the old  
No terrors to fear  
No screams to hear  
A world which we call  
Paradise

Through my heart  
I feel the warmth  
Of arms that rock me  
Back and forth  
All the love  
All the care  
"Perfect world"?  
I have no wish to go there  
My heart brings me  
Paradise

\*\*\*\*\*



**Twists and Turns**

***By Poornima Iyer***

Wrote this song to say goodbye  
To my gentle little butterfly  
You were my angel on this earth  
Without you life really hurts  
You made me smile you made me frown  
You turned my whole life upside down  
How am I gonna live without you.....  
You were my sunshine  
You were my rain  
Without you life won't be the same again  
You were my angel on this earth  
And without you life really burns  
Life is full of twists and turns  
Life is full of twists and turns  
How could you leave so suddenly?  
Without even warning me  
You packed your bags  
Left for the sky  
Didn't get a chance to say goodbye  
Lord please tell me what to do  
You were my sunshine you were my rain  
Without you life won't be the same again

You were my angel on this earth  
And without you life really burns  
My life is full of twists and turns  
Life is full of twists and turns  
You were my best friend anywhere  
Without you I'm an empty shell  
The winds of loneliness have rolled through my heart  
Ever since we've been apart  
Life with you was one wild ride  
But without you there is no light  
How am I gonna live without you  
You were my sunshine  
You were my rain  
Without you life won't be the same again  
You were my angel on this earth  
Without you life really burns  
My life is full of twists and turns  
Life is full of twists and turns  
Twists and turns  
Twists and turns  
Twists and turns

\*\*\*\*\*