

சகுந்தலா



Memories of
Dr Sakunthala
Satkunaseelan





வைத்திய கலாநிதி (திருமதி) சகுந்தலாதேவி சங்குணசீலன்

நினைவு மலர்

2013 யூன் 30ம் திகதி இடம்பெற்ற 31ம் நாள் அந்தியேட்டி
நிகழ்வின் போது குடும்பத்தினரால் வெளியிடப்பட்டது

Dr (Mrs) Sakunthaladevy Satkunaseelan

Born: 17 October 1948
Birth Place: Colombo, Sri Lanka
Father: Kathirippillai Sinnaathamby
Mother: Pakkiam Sinnaathamby
Brothers: Satchithananthan
Thirunavukkarasu
Sisters: Thavamanydevi
Sarathadevi

Husband: Mr Kanthar Satkunaseelan
Son: Mr Thanan Jeyan Satkunaseelan
Father-in-law: Kanthapillai Sinnathurai
Mother-in-law: Rasamma Sinnathurai
Brothers-in-law: Pathmanathan
Gunasingham
Sisters in law: Chandrakanthi
Sathianandamlar

Employments: Ashford & St Peter's NHS Trust

Education:

- ♦ Holy Family Convent
-Ilavalai
- ♦ Nadeswara College
-Kankesanthurai
- ♦ Medical College of Sri Lanka
-Colombo

Community Services:

- ♦ Nadeswara College OSA (UK)
Served as President, Secretary & Committee Member
- ♦ Tamil Schools Sports Association (UK)
Served as Executive Committee Member
- ♦ Standing Committee of Tamil Speaking People (SCOT)
Served as Vice President & Executive Committee Member

Passed away: 30 May 2013

சகுந்தலா என்ற ஒரு காவியம்

வைத்திய கலாநிதி சகுந்தலாதேவி சற்குணசீலன் 1948ம் ஆண்டு கொழும்பில் பிறந்தார். அவருடைய பெற்றார்களான கதிரிப்பிள்ளை சின்னத்தம்பியும் அவர் மனைவி பாக்கியமும் தங்களது சொந்த ஊரான இளவாலையில் உள்ள சித்திரமொழியில் குடியேறினார்கள். சகுந்தலாவிற்கு சச்சிதானந்தன், திருநாவுக்கரசு என்கின்ற அண்ணன்களும் தவமணிதேவி, சாரதாதேவி என்கின்ற சகோதரிகளும் இருந்தனர். இவர்களில் சகோதரி தவமணிதேவி தவிர மற்றைய மூவரும் அமரராகி விட்டனர்.

சகுந்தலா சிறுமியாக இளவாலை கன்னியர்மடப் பாடசாலையில் சேர்ந்து கல்விகற்றார். பல்கலைக்கழகம் செல்லும் கனவை நனவாக்க காங்கேசன்துறை நடேஸ்வராக் கல்லூரியில் இணைந்தார். அங்கே அவருடன் கல்விகற்ற மிகச் சிறந்த ஓட்டப்பந்தய வீரரான சற்குணசீலனுடன் காதல்வயப்பட்டார். பின்னர் கொழும்பு பல்கலைக் கழகத்தின் மருத்துவக் கல்லூரிக்கு தெரியப்பட்டு மருத்துவரானார். ஆசிரியராகக் கடமையாற்றிய சற்குணசீலன் உயர் கல்விக்காக இலண்டன் வந்தார். குறுகிய காலம் இலங்கையில் கடமையாற்றிய சகுந்தலா இலண்டன் வந்து சற்குணசீலனை மணந்து திருமதி சற்குணசீலன் ஆனார். தன்ஜெயன் என்கின்ற ஆண்மகவுக்குத் தாயாரானார்.

சிறந்த மருத்துவர் என்கின்ற புகழுடன் எந்த நேரத்திலும் யார் கேட்பாலும் உதவுகின்ற மனிதநேயம் மிக்கவராக அவரைத் தெரிந்த அனைவராலும் போற்றப்பட்டார். தான் கல்வி கற்ற நடேஸ்வராக் கல்லூரி போரின் விளைவான உயர் பாதுகாப்பு வலயத்தின் சிக்கலால் கானாமல் போகின்ற சூழலுக்கும் காலகெதியில் அழிந்து போகும் நிலைக்கும் தள்ள்ப்பட்டது. சகுந்தலா கணவருடனும் ஏனைய நண்பர்களுடனும் இணைந்து பழைய மாணவர் சங்கத்தின் ஊடாக புதிய இடத்தில் நடேஸ்வராவைச் செயற்பட வைத்தார். இதே போலவே தமிழ்ப்பாடசாலைகள் விளையாட்டுச் சங்கத்திலும் ஸ்கொட் நிறுவனத்திலும் கணவருடன் இணைந்து செயற்பட்டார். அவருடைய செயற்பாடுகளின் பெறுமதியை அந்தந்த அமைப்புகளின் பிரதிநிதிகள் மரணச்சடங்கில் ஆற்றிய இரங்கல் உரைகள் சான்று பயிரும்.

திடீரென நோயின் சாயலை உணர்ந்தவர் வைத்தியசாலை சென்றார். ஆசைக் கணவரையும் அருமை மகனையும் மாத்திரமல்லாது நூற்றுக்கணக்கான நண்பர்களையும் தவீக்கவிட்டு 30.05.2013 அன்று இறைவனடி சேர்ந்தார்.

தமிழ்ப் பாடசாலைகள் விளையாட்டுச் சங்கம் (ஐஇ)- TSSA UK

புலம்பெயர் வாழ்வில் நான், எனது குடும்பம், எனது வாழ்க்கை என்ற போட்டியில் எமது இளம் தலைமுறை தனது அடையாளங்களை இழந்துகொண்டு வருகின்றது. இந்தச் சூழலில் இனம், மொழி, சமூக மேம்பாடு என்று சிந்திப்பவர்களையும், அதற்காக அர்ப்பணிப்புடன் வாழ்பவர்களையும் ஏண்ணி கணக்கில் அளக்கலாம். அந்தச் சிறு தொகையினரில் தமிழ்ப் பாடசாலைகள் விளையாட்டுச் சங்கத்துடன் தன்னை இணைத்துக்கொண்டு, தனது நேரத்தையும் நிதியையும் கொடுத்து உழைத்தவர் அமரர் திருமதி சகுந்தலாதேவி சற்குணசீலன் என்றால் மிகையல்ல.

கடந்த பதினான்கு வருடங்களாக தமிழ்ப்பாடசாலைகள் விளையாட்டுச் சங்கத்தின் வளர்ச்சியிலும் அதன் செயற்பாட்டியும் தனது கணவருடன் இணைந்து செயற்பட்டார். எமது விளையாட்டுப் போட்டிகளின் போது நுளைவாயிலில் பலவருடங்கள் தொடர்ந்து பணிபுரிந்த ஒரே பெண்மணி இவர் என்றே குறிப்பிடலாம். நுளைவாயிலில் கடமைபுரிவது ஒன்றும் இலகுவான காரியமல்ல. கடமைக்காகச் செயற்படாமல், பணிசெய்வது எனது கடன் என்று செயற்படுபவர்களால் மட்டுமே இது சாத்தியமாகும். புலம்பெயர் மண்ணில் இடம்பெற்ற பலநிகழ்வுகளில் முதலுதவி மருத்துவராக மட்டுமல்லாது சாதாரண தொண்டராகவும் செயற்பட்டவர்.

விருந்தோம்பலில் தனக்கென ஒரு உயர்ந்த இடத்தை எமது மனங்களில் தக்கவைத்துக் கொண்டவர். நூளாந்த வாழ்க்கைப் பிரச்சினை என்றாலும் சிக்கலான மருத்துவப் பிரச்சினை என்றாலும் இலகுவாக அணுகப்படக் கூடியவர். இவரது இழப்பு எமது சங்கத்துக்கும் தமிழ்ச் சமூகத்திற்கும் ஈடு செய்ய முடியாதது.

*வெள்ளை நிறப் பூவோ, வேறெந்த மலரோ
வள்ளல் திருவடிக்கு வாய்த்த மலரெதுவோ
வெள்ளை நிறப் பூவும் அல்ல, வேறெந்த மலரும் அல்ல
உள்ளக் கமலமடி உத்தமனார் வேண்டுவது*

ஜோய் பூரணச்சந்திரன், செயலாளர்

Message from a friend

Sakunthala was not only a devoted wife to her husband Seelan, but also a loving mother to her son Jeyan. For Seelan, Jeyan and Sakunthala's family, I offer my most sincere condolences. I hope you take some comfort in seeing the number of people that are here today. It is indicative of how many lives she touched.

Having been friends with Sakunthala for over 15 years, I experienced how willing she was to help others. Her selfless nature meant that she was always making sure that others were happy and looked after. She was generous with her time and affection.

She took a keen interest in people she met and was a great conversationist. This was partly due to the depth and scope of her knowledge. She knew so much about many subjects and this allowed her to engage with many people from all walks of life. This was perhaps a skill and manner that she had perfected working as a consultant. She was a person who was interested in people.

Her demeanour and calm nature allowed her to mediate difficult situations without being imposing or aggressive. Sakunthala's opinion was valued and had a way of providing balance to a disagreement and allowing people to reach a resolution when none was thought possible. This was something I truly admired and is an example of how inspiring she was.

She will be remembered for many things, but one of my most favourite memories of her will be her delicious kebabs. They were famous within the community and were gone within seconds of being put down. She had many talents and cooking was certainly one of them. Knowing how well liked they were she would ensure that she made plenty so that no-one went hungry. It was a typical example of her wanting to ensure the comfort of others.

Sakunthala was a remarkable individual. She was talented, generous, kind, caring and thoroughly interesting. It is with sadness to think of those people who never had the good fortune of meeting her. I will miss her greatly, but along with everyone here, treasure her memory forever.

Myla Mylvaganam

My Memories of Sakunthaladevi Satgunaseelan

Are there any words worthy enough to write about our beloved Sakunthala? That was the big question that crossed my mind before I started writing.

I have known Sakunthala and her husband Seelan for nearly five decades. As a member of Nadeswara College Old Students Association (UK), as a friend and most of all as a classmate of Sakunthala and Seelan, I feel privileged to write a few lines about her and also to share my memories with you.

I recognised that Sakunthala was an ultra quiet but studious girl at Nadeswara during our high school time together. Following school, we all took different paths in life. However, I discovered that Sakunthala turned out to be very forward, extroverted and charity conscious when I met her again a few years later. Accidentally, when I was in living in Manchester I met Seelan and Sakunthala (who was working in Bury) and we re-established contact. My daughter Shamila and her son Jeyan were just toddlers and we used to discuss their milestones and future education. After recent events, that all seems like such a long time ago now.

Sakunthala would have been overwhelmed by the beautiful flowers on the day of her final journey; She would have been overwhelmed by all the support Seelan and Jeyan have received since her passing away. Most of all she would have been overwhelmed by all of her friends and family who are here today to celebrate her good life on her 31st day of her passing away.

My wife Thamayanthy and I had the opportunity to spend time with her very recently because the last Nadeswara College Executive committee meeting was held at my house on 26 May. Sakunthala is well known to prepare a variety of dishes for every function we hold. As usual Sakunthala walked in with a huge dish of chicken curry for the members to enjoy after the meeting. She even brought several loaves of bread to make sandwiches; such was the generosity of her spirit. We enjoyed a pleasant evening, full of laughter while reminiscing of old times and looking to future events. She was the last person to leave our house with Seelan at midnight, with pot plants that my wife gave her, as they are both keen gardeners. My wife and I feel very privileged along with other Nadeswarans who were present that night to have shared those last few enjoyable moments in her company. Sakunthala, school time sweetheart of Seelan, had her last supper at my home which is both a bittersweet and unforgettable memory for me. My wife and I were greatly shocked to hear of her admittance to hospital the next morning of 27 May at St. George's.

We still cannot absorb the fact Sakunthala will no longer be in our company, entertaining us with her hospitality and making us laugh by cheekily eating idiyappams with one hand. It is these little eccentricities unique to Sakunthala and our friends that will be sorely missed, but I take comfort knowing that she will be remembered always with fondness and praise.

At every annual Nadeswara College Sports Day in this country, Sakunthala would be the only noticeable figure amongst all of us for her 'Busy Bee' activities. She worked tirelessly in the fresh food cooking area until the time of leaving the grounds. Such was her devotion and loyalty to her beloved alma mater.

Sakunthala, in our last meeting of 26 May you mentioned a couple of things and in the 2005 Nadeswara College Old Students Association souvenir programme, you also wrote in your President's message of your vision. We promise you that we will endeavour to work towards your legacy and we feel that fulfilling your wish is the most wonderful tribute we can offer you.

Sakunthala has gone home now, guided by her faith and by the light of those she has loved and lost. Now, she is with them once more, leaving those of us who grieve her passing with memories she gave, the good she did and the dream she kept alive.

Nadeswarans will greatly miss you forever as I feel that your absence leaves a deep void that cannot be filled by anyone else.

Personally, my wife Thamayanthy will miss you terribly because you both used to talk about medical matters over phone for hours. Tears rolled down her eyes when she saw those two pot plants on your window sill after you had passed away. They have already grown. The same way your memories will grow and thrive among our family members.

Sakunthala, you held such a unique down to earth character, ready to help anyone at any time and you will always hold a special place in our hearts.

May your soul rest in peace.

Sellathurai Shanmuganathan

Vetha & Shianee

Sakunthala was a lady with a heart of gold, always gave her life for everybody. She was a pillar of strength for one and all. She will be always look after both of you forever.



36 Years of Service

Standing Committee of Tamil Speaking People (S C O T)

It is a privilege and my duty to say a few words about late Dr Sakunthala Satgunaseelan on behalf of the Standing Committee Of Tamil speaking people or also known as SCOT.

As many of you know SCOT has been functioning as one of the oldest Tamil Charities in the UK over the past 36 years. What has held our association together is the selfless dedication and the charitable nature of our members like Sakunthala.

Sakunthala cared about the people she left back home when she came to UK. It is this hunger to help our underprivileged brethren that brought her and her husband Satgunaseelan to work in our charity, giving up their valuable leisure and quality time. She has been a member for more than 10 years and also held various positions within the general council including the position of the Vice President.

Every year our charity holds at least two fund raising events. It is Sakunthala and her husband who normally get to the venue first with their load of items for the event and helping out from decorating the hall to sorting out that the collections on the day are all managed properly.

I can vividly remember Sakunthala attending our last GC meeting held on the 19th May just weeks before she passed away. She was as usual full of energy running around helping other members of the GC in preparing coffee, tea and also serving short eats. During the meeting she smartly presented a case for SCOT to continue supporting an organisation for handicapped children in the Vanni, which she and her husband have personally visited some time ago. This is just an example of the care and dedication Sakunthala showed towards alleviating poverty and uplifting Tamil speaking people in Sri Lanka.

SCOT has lost a devoted member who stood by the values of our organisation; above all we have lost a good friend and a model human being.

May the good Lord grant her eternal life and her soul Rest In Peace.

Prabha Swampillai
President

Message From

Divisional Director Clinical Haematology - Asford Hospital

At this moment of great sadness, it is a real honour for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to, and give thanks for, the achievements of a dear friend and respected colleague. I do this on behalf of Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals but also at a much more personal level as I worked closely with Sakunthala almost every day for almost 20 years; and so I know first hand the true extent of her dedication to service on behalf of her patients. Each day she would be seen on the wards, in the clinics and in the laboratory actively engaged with staff and patients, and towards the end of each day there was an almost ritual sound of hurried footsteps accompanied by warnings that she "would miss her bus again!" She worked with us as one of a tightly knit team of four senior haematologists sharing equally in both the clinical case load and the on call responsibilities. In fact she would often give her time well beyond this commitment and be found to have popped into the hospital at weekends when she was not on call and even on occasions when she was supposed to be on annual leave. She made herself extraordinarily accessible to patients and regularly broke our golden rule of not giving out her home telephone number or pager contact to patients and relatives.

Over the years we all came to know her very well in other ways. We heard daily reports of her various domestic incidents ranging from trips to A&E with Jayan following minor cricket injuries, to the accidental burning down of her kitchen, to the successes and failures of her various garden purchases made during her annual trips to the Hampton Court Flower Festival. I know how deeply she relied on the support given freely to her by Seelan to be able to do her work as she wished as well as to manage her home responsibilities not least her work alongside him within the Tamil school and sports societies. I also know how incredibly proud she was of their son, Jayan, from her regular bulletins about his progress through school and college, and now in his working life. We often heard too about her extended family in Sri Lanka and worldwide including Switzerland, Canada and Australia and we learnt how much she enjoyed her many trips to visit relatives and friends abroad over the years.

At work her friendly, unassuming, approachable style, the style that gave her such a strong connection to her patients, could also sometimes disguise her professional seniority, her expertise as a clinical haematologist and her very high standards of practice excellence in both diagnostic morphology and in planning patient treatment and care. Within our team she provided particular leadership in several areas: in providing continuity for complex inpatient care, in developing a strong laboratory / clinical service interface, and in supporting the large anticoagulation service. She was known outside her Trust in the wider region as an accomplished haematologist. Many of you will know she often worked during her leave undertaking locum consultant posts at various hospitals across the UK,

often carrying these out to support her charitable works, and all the feedback we subsequently received from these attachments was strongly positive - sometimes even to the extent of trying to poach her away from Surrey! Throughout her career she had a special interest in teaching and training including medical students and laboratory scientists, but perhaps most of all the encouragement of junior doctors – and it is a testament to her as an inspiring teacher and role model that I know of four current consultant haematologists in London teaching hospitals who had their first haematology experience at graduate level working alongside Sakunthala at Ashford Hospital.

Last week I received many calls and messages expressing sympathy but also appreciation of her service and talents. These came not only from consultant and clinical staff in the hospital, but also from the wider Trust community including administrative and support service staff who all knew Dr Seelan. Our Trust Chief Executive and Chief Nurse both made time to visit the haematology department during the week and the Chairman of the Trust, Aileen McLeish is here with us today. I have been contacted by some of her previous colleagues from Ashford now living elsewhere including Tony Newman-Smith who telephoned from Lincoln and my own predecessor Dr Annabelle Baughan now based in the South of France in Marseille. I have heard from doctors in several other Trusts in the region where Sakunthala was particularly well known, including St Helier's Hospital, the Royal Marsden Hospital and East Surrey Hospital. There have been some very consistent themes linking these messages including reference to her beautiful personality, to her incredible dedication to patients, to stories of her personal support to colleagues at moments of difficulty in their own lives, and to an appreciation of her real talent in drawing together not only her own immediate and extended family but also the wider hospital and community families to which she belonged. On a different level, there was frequent mention of her famous fish cakes and other culinary contributions to the various departmental parties and celebrations which will clearly be much missed.

My memory of Sakunthala is that she was always busy, always positive, always compassionate, and that she always demonstrated great dignity and professionalism. She lived a life of service genuinely dedicated to others; I believe she lived that life to the full; and I believe she lived it well.

Andrew Laurie

Dr Soma Arunasalam

Sybil & I were deeply shocked to hear the sudden passing away of Sakunthala. We will always remember her unstinting contribution to S.C.O.T. in its daily function and on our fund raising events. Please accept our heartfelt condolences

நடேஸ்வராக் கல்லூரி பழைய மாணவர் சங்கத்தின் அனுதாபச் செய்தி

அமரர் திருமதி சகுந்தலாதேவி சற்குணசீலன் அவர்கள் 30.05.2013 அன்று மறைந்த செய்தி நம் அனைவரையும் ஆறாத்துயரில் ஆழ்த்திவிட்டது.

குடும்பப் பண்புகள் துலங்கும் தமிழ்ப் பெண்ணுக்குரிய அடையாளமாகத் தெரிந்தவர் திருமதி சகுந்தலாதேவி அவர்கள். உற்றார், உறவினர், நண்பர்கள், அயலவர் என்ற பேதம் இன்றி அனைவருக்கும் தன் உதவிகளை அவர் வழங்கத் தயங்கியதில்லை. அன்பு, அறிவு, உயர் பண்பு, திறமை, நற்சிந்தனைகள் ஊறெடுக்கும் உள்ளம் என அத்தனை பண்புகளையும் தன்னகத்தே கொண்ட திருமதி சகுந்தலாதேவி அவர்கள் இன்று நம்மிடையே இல்லை என நினைக்க முடியவில்லை. அமரத்துவம் அடைந்துவிட்ட திருமதி சகுந்தலாதேவி அவர்களின் நற்பண்புகள் யாவும் பிரதிபலிக்கும் மையம்தான் நடேஸ்வராக் கல்லூரிப் பழைய மாணவர் சங்கம். அவரது மருத்துவக்கல்விக்கு களம் அமைத்துக் கொடுத்த கல்வித்தாய், நடேஸ்வரா கல்லூரி மீது அளவில்லாப் பற்றுக் கொண்டிருந்தார்.

அவரது நன்றி உள்ளத்தின் பெரும் இடத்தில் நடேஸ்வராக் கல்லூரி வியாபித்திருந்ததை நாம் அறிவோம். தனது நன்றியறிதலை வெளிப்படுத்த பழைய மாணவர் சங்கக் கிளையில் தன்னை இணைத்துக்கொண்டு செயற்பட்டார். சங்கத்தின் தலைவராக 2003-2004 ஆம் ஆண்டுகளிலும் கலாச்சாரச் செயலாளராக 2008-2009 ஆம் ஆண்டுகளிலும் தொண்டாற்றி உள்ளார். நிர்வாகசபை அங்கத்தவராகவும் அவர் பயனள்ள பணிகளை ஆற்றியுள்ளார்.

ஆயுதப்பேராட்டம் காரணமாக கல்லூரி இடம்பெயர்ந்து, நிலைகெட்டுத் தவித்த வேளைகளில் பாதிப்புற்ற மாணவர்களின் தேவையறிந்து உதவிகளைப் பெற்றுக்கொடுக்கச் சங்கம் மேற்கொண்ட முயற்சிகளுக்கு உறுதுணையாக நின்று செயற்பட்டு ஆறதல் அடைந்தார். மாணவர்களுக்கு சீருடை, காலணி முதலிய அத்தியாவசியப் பொருட்களைப் பெற்றுக் கொடுக்கவும் அவர்களின் பசி போக்க பால், மதிய உணவு வழங்கவும் சங்கம் மேற்கொண்ட முயற்சிகளுக்கெல்லாம் கால நோரம் பாராது உதவினார். இவரது மறைவினால் சங்கம் வலுவிழந்து நிற்கிறது.

எந்த அளவுகோல்களினது மதிப்பீடுகளையும் மிஞ்சி உயர்ந்த இடத்தைப்பெற்று ஒளி வீசும் வைத்திய கலாநிதி சகுந்தலாதேவி சற்குணசீலன் அவர்களின் மறைவு, திரு சற்குணசீலன் அவர்களுக்கும் அவர்களது அன்பு மகன் தனன் ஜெயனுக்கும் மட்டுமல்லாது எங்கள் சங்க அங்கத்தவர்கள் ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் தனிப்பட்ட முறையிலும் பேரிழப்பாகும்.

அன்னாரின் ஆத்மா இறைவன் திருவடிகளை அடைந்து சாந்தி பெற பிரார்த்திப்போமாக.

Message from the Son

My Mother passing away has been a shock for the people that were lucky enough to have known her. I would like to start, by saying what I think my mum would have wanted first. Thank you to all her family, friends and colleagues who have helped us through this very difficult time. My dad and I have been truly touched by all their support. We can never repay all the kindness we have been shown these last few weeks. We will both try as one way of honouring her memory.

The greatest tribute to her as person is the response from the patients she treated. We are still receiving cards and letters from them, all expressing shock and sadness, at her passing. Although each of their stories is different, they all say the same thing. They all describe the same person we all knew and loved. Dr.Seelan, as they knew her, would take time to get know them and their families. All patients were treated with same dedication, compassion and professionalism. My mum did not do this, just because this was part of her job. We all know this an essential part of character. Caring for people, other than herself, is what made her happy. This, along her knowledge and expertise in haematology, is what allowed her to form a strong bond, with both her patients and fellow workers, all while being totally professional. Although my mother never really spoke about why she wanted to become a doctor. I think we can all safely say, it came from a desire to help people.

My dad is proud to have been your husband, and I am proud to have been your son.

Thanan Jeyan Satgunaseelan

மைத்துனி திருமதி சக்தி குடும்பத்தின் அனாதாபர் செய்தி

அண்ணாவின் ஆருயிர் மனைவியாக, மகனின் அன்புக்குரிய அம்மாவாக அயலவர்களின், நண்பர்களின், இணைந்து பலியிபுற்றிய மருத்துவ கலாநிதிகளின், பழகிய அனைவரின் அன்புக்குரியவராய் அமெதியின் மறுஷுவமாய், மென்மையான தன்மைகொண்டு பண்பாகப் பழகிய அண்ணி - மைத்துனி இவராவார். எங்களிடம் வந்து பிள்ளைகளோடு பாசமாகப் பழகிய நினைவுகள் மறக்க முடியாதவை.

அண்ணா என்றும் அண்ணி என்றும், மருமக்கள் என்றும் பண்போடு பழகிய நீங்கள் எங்கு சென்று விட்டீர்கள்? அண்ணாவும் மகனும் வருந்துவதைக்கண்டு ஆறுதல் கூற முடியாது தவிக்கிறோம். உங்கள் இழப்பை எங்களால் ஏற்க முடியவில்லை. தயரறும் அனைவருக்கும் எங்கள் குடும்பத்தின் சாப்பாக ஆறுதல் தெரிவிக்கின்றோம்.

**நத்தம் போல் கேடும் உளதாகும் சாக்காடும்
வித்தகர்க் கல்லை அரிது**

பொருள்: புகழும்பிற்கு பெருக்கமாகும் கேடும் புகழ்நிலை பெறுவதாகும் மரணமும் அறிவில் சிறுந்தவருக்கல்லாமல் மற்றவர்க்கு இல்லை.

நாகராசா - சக்தி இணைபா
பிள்ளைகள் பிரியங்கா, வித்தி
கவிநலாந்த

Dr Sakunthala Seelan

It is with the very greatest sadness that we have learned of the sudden and tragic death of Dr. Seelan.

Dr. Seelan died in St. George's Hospital, Tooting on Thursday 30th May following emergency cardiac surgery earlier in the week.

Our thoughts are especially with Dr. Seelan's husband and her son at this time of immeasurable sorrow for them both and we remember with them also Dr. Seelan's wider family across very many parts of the world.

Dr. Seelan had worked in this Trust for very many years having been part of the Ashford Hospital Team even before the merger with St. Peter's Hospital. Our photo shows her receiving her 25 years long service award at the staff awards in 2012.

Her loss will be felt most keenly within Haematology and Pathology as a whole. Please remember especially her Consultant colleagues, the Haematology Medical and Nursing Teams, Medical Secretaries and all who worked closely with her day by day. Each one has lost not only an inspirational colleague but also a loyal and treasured friend. Please remember the many patients and families who benefited from her outstanding care for them. Dr. Seelan was also widely known throughout the Trust community and her passing affects us all.

She was a role model for all of us in terms of her outstanding commitment to our community and patients and in so many ways she epitomised all that is best in healthcare today.

Her unflinching hard work, her commitment to her Team, and her compassion were daily demonstrations of what it really means to put patients first. We are infinitely the poorer for the loss of her gentle, skilled and profoundly conscientious presence among us.

As time unfolds we shall seek the most appropriate ways to honour Dr. Seelan with our gratitude and remembrance. A Book of Condolence will shortly be opened by her colleagues in Haematology and Pathology and this book will be made available in the Department for patients, staff and visitors to sign.

This **Thursday, 6th June** from **11am – 3pm**, we shall be offering a first opportunity within the Multi-Faith Centre at St. Peter's Hospital for those who wish to do so to light a candle or to bring a single flower to leave in the Centre in Dr. Seelan's memory. There will be no formal time of prayer but simply space for all of us who wish to do so to spend a few moments in remembrance. One of the Chaplains will be present during that time.

Dr. Seelan would be the first to understand that her passing evokes many memories for us all and sometimes these will be painful memories of loss, both recent and more distant in time. If you have a few moments on Thursday you are simply welcome, if you wish, to spend them quietly in the Centre remembering loved ones, friends and colleagues in the way that is most fitting for you.

*Judith Allford
Head of Pastoral Care*

Niece Prianka

அந்தை

Sadly missed,
A long life away,
Quietly remembered, everyday.
No longer in our life to share,
But in our hearts,
You are there.



From a Patient at Ashford Hospital

We cannot express how shocked and saddened we were to hear the tragic news of such a wonderful doctor. I attended the haematology unit on Thursday for my monthly bone infusion and saw the notice displayed. I was deeply shocked and could not believe what I was reading. After my appointment my daughter and myself went to the chapel to light a candle.

Dr Seelan has been looking after me since I was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2010 and I cannot express what a wonderful doctor she was from day one of meeting her. She felt more like a friend than a doctor. When I saw her I would always ask how her son was, as she had told me about his illness and how he was doing so well, I think her news of her son and my illness were as much of a shock and I could relate to how she felt.

Nothing was too much for her, she always had time for me even out of hours she would call if I had a problem, which I expect she had done to many other of her patients because that was the kind of person she was. She would talk to me and my daughter about going out to Nandos for chicken with her family and many other things.

To me and my family, whom she had met, she was a wonderful doctor and she will be very very hard to replace. I will really miss her and don't know if I can put my trust in another doctor that I will now be under. Many people will have much to say about Dr Seelan but I can truly say from the heart that she was wonderful, and she helped me and my family get through a terrible time in my life. She would always make me smile when I was down even giving me a cuddle to reassure me. I feel truly blessed to have met such a wonderful woman and you must be really proud to have had such a wonderful wife and mum. She was an inspiration and we will always remember her with happy memories.

Our thoughts are with you both and your family at this sad time.

With fondest memories of a wonderful lady.

Love from

Mrs Sibley

Mr Sibley and family



Dr Sakunthala Seelan
ASHFORD HOSPITAL MULTI-FAITH CENTRE
ACT OF REMEMBRANCE, Wednesday 19th June 2013, 12noon – 2pm

As time unfolds we continue to seek the most appropriate ways to honour Dr. Seelan with our gratitude and remembrance. A Book of Condolence will shortly be opened by her colleagues in Haematology and Pathology at St. Peter's and this book will be made available in the Department for patients, staff and visitors to sign.

Next **Wednesday 19th June 2013 from 12noon – 2pm**, we shall be offering an opportunity within the Multi-Faith Centre at Ashford Hospital for those who wish to do so to light a candle or to bring a single flower to leave in the Centre in Dr. Seelan's memory. There will be no formal time of prayer but simply space for all of us who wish to do so to spend a few moments in remembrance. One of the Chaplains will be present during that time.

Dr. Seelan would be the first to understand that her passing evokes many memories for us all. Sometimes these are painful memories of loss, both recent and more distant in time. If you have a few moments next Wednesday you are simply welcome, if you wish, to spend them quietly in the Centre remembering loved ones, friends and colleagues in the way that is most fitting for you.

Maureen Body
Frances Castledine

Chaplains

Dr Sakunthala Seelan

BOOK OF CONDOLENCE

Many of you will already be aware of Dr. Seelan's sad and untimely death. Her passing is very deeply felt among us all. We recognise how difficult it is at this time for patients and families who have benefited from her care as well as for colleagues who have worked so closely with her. Most of all we continue to remember her husband, son and wider family in the enormity of their loss.

We have now opened a Book of Condolence for Dr. Seelan and this will continue to be available in the Haematology Department over the coming weeks. You are warmly invited to contribute your signature and your personal remembrance to the Book. In time the Book will be given to Dr. Seelan's family.

A Memorial Service for Dr. Seelan is planned for the beginning of October. This will be held at St. Peter's Hospital. The date and time of the service will be confirmed shortly.

The words of someone for whose mother Dr. Seelan cared speak for us all: "I was so sorry to read about Dr. Seelan. Dr. Seelan looked after my mum who had every faith in her. We have lost not only a good doctor but a good person."

Emma Mitchell
Site Manager, Support Services
Surrey Pathology Services



கண்ணீர் துளிகளில் சில.....

மகாலிங்கம் கதாசிரியர்

பதினமூன்று ஆண்டுகளிற்கு முன்பாக சமூகசேவையுடன் இணைந்த தொடர்பினால் அறிமுகமாகி, நல்ல சேவகியாக, அக்காவாக, அன்றியாக, ஏன்! அம்மாவுக்கு இணையாக தொடர்ந்த உறவு..... பாதியிலே பரிதாபமாக அறுந்து போனது!

நல்ல மனிதர்களைக் காலன் தன்பக்கம் விரைவாக அழைப்பானா!..... என என்னத் தோன்றுகிறது. எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் மேலாக, அழைத்தவுடன் அவசரமாய் ஓடி வந்து செய்த மருத்துவ உதவியை எம் உயிர் உடலில் இருக்கும் வரை மறக்க மாட்டோம்.

எப்படித்தான் மனதை நாம் தேற்றிக் கொண்டாலும், டாக்டர் சகுந்தலா சற்குணசீலன் அவர்களின் தன்மைமற்ற மருத்துவ உதவியும், அவரின்..... கைவண்ணத்தால் தயாராகும் வித்தியாசமான ருசியுடைய 'வட்டல் அப்பழம்' இனி எப்போதுமே எமக்குக் கிடைக்கப் போவதில்லை.

அமரரின் ஆத்மா சாந்தியுடைய இறைவனைப் பிரார்த்திக்கின்றேன். ஆறாத் துயரில் அவதியுறும் சீலன் அண்ணாவுக்கும் அவரது அன்பு மகன் ஜெயனுக்கும் எங்கள் பணிவான அனுதாபங்கள்!

பத்மா நாதன்

பிறந்தது இறப்பதற்காக! நீங்கள் பிறந்தது சேவைக்காக! எல்லா வேலைகளையும் தன் வேலைகளாகச் செய்யும் சேவகியாகப் பார்த்தேன். எனக்கு, எல்லாவற்றிலும் அறிவுரை கூறி வழிநடத்திய தோழியே! பாதி வழியில் காலன் உன்னைக் கவர்ந்ததேன்?.

உங்கள் ஆத்மா சாந்தி அடைய இறைவனை வேண்டுகின்றேன்.

போய் வாருங்கள்! மீண்டும் சந்திப்போம்!

Chenny

No words will console anyone. She will be missed by her family (Jeyan & Seelan) as well as by friends

கண்ணீர் துளிகளில் சில.....

இரத்திராசா

மானிடப் பிறப்பின் ஐந்து மண்டலங்களையும் பேருடனும், புகழுடனும், மனித நேயத்துடனும் ஆற்றிய சேவை அளப்பரியது.

மேலாக, தமிழ்ப்பாடசாலைகள் விளையாட்டுச் சங்கத்திற்கு ஆற்றிய உதவியும் ஒத்துழைப்பும் என்றும் எமது நினைவு உள்ளவரை மறக்கமுடியாதவை,

உங்கள் ஆத்மா சாந்தியடைய இறைவனைப் பிரார்த்திக்கின்றோம்.

பத்மராணி சிவநேசன்

‘எப்பவோ முடிந்த காரியம்’ மனிதனின் குறுகிய வாழ்க்கைப் பாதையில் எப்ப நடக்கும், என்ன நடக்கும் எனக் கணிக்க இயலாது. முன் உறுதியுடன், கடமை என்ற பாதையில் வாழவேண்டியது மனித நியதி. சகுந்தலா அப்படி வாழ்ந்தார்.

சகுந்தலாவின் ஆத்மா சாந்தியடைய இறைவனை வேண்டுகிறோம்.

எமது குடும்பத்தின் ஆழ்ந்த அனுதாபங்கள்.

காண்மபன் & ரோகினி

உறுதியான பேச்சும், நிமிர்ந்த நடையும் அவரின் கம்பீரமான தோற்றமுமே கண்முன் நிற்கின்றது. தமிழ்ப் பாடசாலைகள் விளையாட்டுப் போட்டிகளின் போதும் வேறு பொது விழாக்களிலும் தனது அளப்பரிய சேவையினால் பெருமை சேர்த்துள்ளவர்.

அவர் நாமம் வாழ்க!

Kaanji Thambipillai

Sakunthala was a real ‘People’s person’ – Always willing and able to help those in need. She will be missed by all of the tamil community.

My thoughts and prayers are with Seelan and Jeyan

We'd like to say Thanks to...

- The Medical Staff at St George's Hospital
- Friends from TSSA & Nadeswara OSA, who helped us to Organise the Funeral
- Colleagues at Ashford Hospital for their support
- Friends who contributed to the publication of this Souvenir
- Friends for their messages of sympathy to console us, and their oral tribute at the Funeral Service and Cremation.
- Friends & Relatives, who visited Our Home and gave us their support during our time of need.
- Friends & Relatives who attended the Funeral, Cremation and the 31st day religious service

**Kanthar Sinnathurai Satkunaseelan
& Thanan Jeyan Satkunaseelan**

30 June 2013



