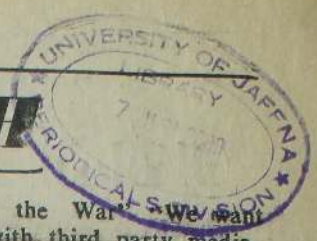


PEACE MARCH



More than 60 organizations participated in the peace march organized by the people's Council for Peace and Goodwill on Saturday, March 25th. The procession in which more than ten thousand people participated, started in front of the Nallur Temple at 9.00 a.m. The march proceeded along Temple Road and Main Street and reached the Esplanade at about 11.00 a.m. On the way copies of memorandum were handed over to the resident representatives of UNHCR, and ICRC.

Slogans such as, "Stop the War - We want Peace", and "Establish peace with third party mediation" were shouted. People expressed the desire that this bloody war which claimed many lives, wounded and maimed many more and internally displaced almost all should be stopped forthwith. This war, if continued, will not bring victory to any party, but rather bring destruction to those in the North as well as in the South.

Bishop Thomas Soundaranayagam of the Roman Catholic Church, Prelate of Nallai Atheenam, Ms. Thangamma Appakutty of Thurkai Amman Temple, President of the Hindu Priests Organization, Former Jaffna MMC, Mr M S Hameed, and Sri Naga-Vigaratipathy, Ven Gnanaratna Thero addressed the public meeting presided by Mr. C. R. Arumainayagam, one of the Vice Presidents of People's Council for Peace and Goodwill. The message sent by Bishop S. Jebanesan was read at the meeting. A memorandum to Her Excellency Madam President Chandrika Bandaranayaki Kumarathunga was read in English and in Tamil. The memorandum was handed over to the G.A. Jaffna.

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RICHEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE

A. Jeyarajan In India

Mr. A. Jeyarajan Primary School Supervisor, Jaffna College, has been granted a scholarship to follow a course in Computer Studies. He will be in India for one year.

Blessed with a Baby Boy

Dr. & Mrs. Dhayalan Ambalavar were blessed with a baby boy on Friday 24th March.

End War - Catholic Bishops

Bishops of Jaffna and Mannar of the Roman Catholic Church have requested the warring parties to stop the war, which has brought immeasurable hardships to the masses, forthwith.

PA & UNP at talks

The ruling Peoples' Alliance and the Opposition United National Party are engaged in a series of meetings on constitutional reforms. "It is a good sign that the two major parties have agreed to reach a consensus before any devolution package is presented" - some observers feel. All these years when one party tried to solve the ethnic problems the other thwarted it. This indicates that, both parties have felt that this national issue should be solved by a national government comprising of all political parties. If the aspirations of all minority groups are taken into account, then the ethnic crisis can be solved eventually.

102nd Birth Anniversary of Thanthai Selva

A Service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Late Mr. S. J. V. Selvanayagam (Thanthi Selva) was held at St John's Church, Chundikuli on March 31st at 4.30 p.m. Mr. S. Sahayaseelan, Lecturer in Political Science, paid the tribute and The Rev. Fr. Dr. Justin Gnanpragasam, Principal St. Henry's College, Illavalai, preached the sermon.

G. C. E. O/L Results

The results of G. C. E. O/L Examinations held in December 1999 are released on 5-4-2000. Jaffna College Students fared well.

3 got 10 Distinction Passes
1 got 9 " "
3 got 8 " "

School Uniforms

Free Uniform materials for the School Children are being issued now.

Message From

Robert Porter

Dear People in Vddukodai, I am amazed to have heard from Noel Suresh so quickly by e-mail and now hope you will hear from me quickly the same way. What is happening with the succession of the principals? I seem to remember that today, our 22nd of February, was to be the Grand Installation of A. A. Paul, I hear from R. Rajmohan now and then about his Jaffna College website and

Bharathanatyam Recital

BY

Dr. SONI MARCUS

A Bharathanatyam performance was given by Dr. Soni Marcus on 5 February, 2000 at the Norman Rothstein Theater in the Jewish Community Center, Vancouver. The function was organized by the Thanil Cultural Society of British Columbia to raise funds

Bishop's Sermon

We Understand that our Bishop's sermon will be broadcast over SLBC's Tamil Service on Good Friday 21-04-2000. The program will include "Meditations on the cross" and songs.

from Milroy Paul about his talk last week about the JDCSI and the American Ceylon Mission at "his Lutheran" (!) church.

My brother-in-law's sister, Ghris Jensen, is now teaching counselling in the education department of the Seattle University.

My own sister retires next week from her many years with the University of Washington library system, most recently Head of Acquisitions.

And the church where I sing has just had its February Frolic at Fort Flagler, now a state park, situated beautifully on an island Promontory over looking the Straits of Juan de Fuca and a gorgeous view of Mt. Baker, our other huge volcanic peak, now totally white with snow.

Greetings to all, Bob

in aid of the Children's Hospital in Vancouver.

A medical doctor by profession, Dr. Soni Marcus received early training in Bharathanatyam when she was just seven years old under the tutelage of Kalaimamani "Vazhuvooor" Sri R. Samraj. Later she took advanced training under Natyakalabooshani Kalaimamani Srimathi Ranganayaki Jeyaraman. The audience were treated to an exposition of Bharathanatyam in the unique Vazhuvooor style in a traditional manner. The hand gestures and the rhythms of her foot steps were a typical Vazhuvooor pattern. Her poise and movements were graceful and elegant.

Dr. Soni impressed the audience with the very first piece, the Pushpanjali which laid the foundation of her skills and poise.

The most striking piece in the concert was the Varnam, the most important and the biggest number. The Abhinayam during the Varnam was meticulous and the bhava she exhibited to explain the meanings of Tamil piece she chose bore excellent testimony to her proficiency knowledge in this form of dancing. After a small Padam in a popular style, Dr. Soni ended the concert with a Thillana in which she demonstrated intricate and fast movements, an expression of pleasure through nritta. The taped musical accompaniments were by outstanding musicians well known in the field.

At the outset Dr. Soni indicated that she was dedicating the concert to the memory of her father who passed away a little while back. Her husband, Mr. Marcus is a

(Contd to Page 4)

Federalism - Vision of Thanthai

Thanthai Selva was called Gandhi of Eelam because of his of commitment to the liberation of Tamils in Sri Lanka. Though the Sinhalese got their independence from foreign domain- for which Thanthai Selva was happy - he felt that Tamils had not got their independence. Only on the day Tamils win all their birth rights will the Tamils gain independence. His vision was that, the Tamils and Sinhalese could live in peace and harmony under a Federal form of government.

Federalism doesn't mean division of the country. Rather, it is a unifying force - the force which unites people of different ethnicity (and religion). Federalism is sharing of power. Only when people of different ethnic groups share power can a nation be built. When power is shared, all people will happily join in the development process, because of a sense of belonging. As long as a section of the society is oppressed, their co-operation cannot be expected.

Many fear that federalism will eventually lead to separation. This fear is unfounded. In fact, countries like The United States of America, where much power is vested in the State Governments, people very rarely think of separation. It is a country where The National Flag is most respected. People there take pride in identifying themselves as Americans and not by the states they live in.

In a federal form of government there is devolution of power. People participate in the government of the nation through their elected leaders who enact the legislation. There is meaningful autonomy with which people of a region - province or state rule themselves. These self-governing units come together at national level and share power. Because of this sharing of power they become more patriotic and actively involve themselves in nation building and the result is "unity in diversity".

Federalism is the most viable form of government for a multicultural country like Sri Lanka. Unfortunately, some think that only they have exclusive claims for nationhood. On the contrary, no ethnic group or religious group can claim exclusive rights because the Sri Lankan Society is a multicultural society. Even England, which once belonged only to English has now begun to recognize the multicultural nature of its society. In the United States no person can be discriminated on the basis of race, religion, or sex. Why cannot Sri Lanka think in those lines?

Uspg's Tercentenary Celebrations During the year 2001

Many parishes, dioceses and churches overseas will join in these celebrations with locally organised events and services to take place at an appropriate time during the year 2001.

The Principal components of the celebrations within British islands will be:-

An updated history of the Society and its role in God's mission - this is now with the printers and will be published world-wide in December 2000.

The "birthday" service of celebration will be held at St Paul's Cathedral on 15th June 2001. The year will start with an Epiphany service at Lichfield Cathedral (our founder's diocese) and end at York Minister during St Andrew's tide. Other services are planned at many cathedrals in these islands throughout the year.

A pilgrimage will take place over three weeks linking Sheldon, the parish of the founder Dr. Thomas Bray, near Birmingham, and London, ending at St Paul's Cathedral in time for the birthday service.

Exhibition material is being prepared to include the latest CD ROM interactive technology to illustrate the work of the Society in partnership with the world church. Copies of the CD ROM will be available at no charge to those dioceses wishing to receive them. A "celebration" information, prayer and resource pack will also be available later this year.

A Financial Appeal will be launched in June 2000 both in these islands and overseas, with the object of undergirding the Society's existing work of financial support in appropriate places, to which the Society is called now and in the future.

A major conference, under title "Venture Fourth" is planned for mid 2001 in the UK to bring together a group of clergy and laity from the world church and these islands to consider God's mission for the future.

Bharathanatyam...

doctoral student at the University of British Columbia. In addition to supporting his wife in her artistic endeavors and making her hair style, he was responsible for coordinating the audio-visual aspects during the concert. It is indeed fitting Dr. Soni chose a noble cause to make her debut in Vancouver and the audience were thankful to her for sharing her time and talents for a worthy cause. Dr. Rathnaswami, President of the Tamil Cultural Society of B.C. thanked the artist for her noble gesture and gave a cheque to the Children's Hospital Fund.

LIFE AND ART

Tamil Cultural Society of BC recently organized a Bharat Natyam recital by Dr. Soni Marcus in aid of BC Children's Hospital at Norman Rotstein Theatre.

Bharat Natyam is the classical dance style of Tamil Nadu, a southern state of India.

being practiced for last two thousand years. The dance form consists of two components: Pure Dance (Nrutta) and Expressional Dance (Nrutyta). It is performed both by men and women, has aptly been termed as a form of Yoga in recognition of its synthesis of physical energy and spiritual power. This art is thematic in content and in intention it is a spiritual experience.

Soni was a great pleasure to watch who is trained under great Gurus in India. Her deep love for this art was evident as she danced to precise movements, while maintaining the clarity thereby revealing her command over the essentials of Bharat Natyam.

The program was the great success to raise funds for BC Children's Hospital

Artiste, Dr. Soni Marcus's Report

Dr. Soni Marcus, felt very honoured to present this Bharathanatyam recital on behalf of the Tamil Cultural Society of BC, in aid of the BC children's hospital. She commented that the program was very well organised and was presented in an excellent fashion. She was pleased with the very appreciative audience who made her feel at home and comfortable through out her performance. Soni also said that she had a wonderful experience and is looking forward to performing again for worthy charitable causes like this

Dr. P. Rathnaswami, President, Tamil Cultural Society of BC's Report.

Though the Tamil Cultural Society of BC has organized similar classical performances by renowned artists before, this is the first attempt to have such a program to raise money for a noble cause. This was possible solely due to Dr. Soni, who came up with a nice program without any financial commitment for the Society. We are encouraged by the response from the public and we hope to have many more programs like this in future.

For information about the Society's programs kindly contact Dr. Rathnaswami (604) 222 - 3550 or the web site <http://TCSBC.tripod.com/welcome.html>.

3rd Year Rememberence

In Ever Loving Memory Of

Mr. Chellappah Edward Rajasingham

(Retired Vice Principal Union College Tellippalai and once English Editor Morning Star.)

Born: 24 - 06 - 1912 Called to Rest: 21 - 4 - 1997

I have finished the work, which you have given me to do.
John 17:4

Lifes truest Heroes never carve their name
On marbled columns built for their acclaim.
They build instead a legacy that springs
From faithful service of the king of kings.

Gustafson

Fondly Remembered by his beloved wife Ruby, daughters Vathana and Dhaya, sons-in-law Curtis and Hastings and Grand Children, Ramesh Robina, Rhoda and Anjelo and Brother Mr C. A. Balasingham and sister-in law Mrs Lily Balasingham

C. A. Balasingam

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