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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 

## Wish you all a Happy Onam!

I am honored to be writing the President's message for our flagship magazine Dhwani. This magazine was started with the notion of showcasing the literary talents of our members. We have come a long way, since we first published it, with numerous exceptional and intriguing articles. I hope you enjoy this edition of Dhwani and support our sponsors.

The Detroit Malayalee Association had been serving the Malayalee community in Michigan and in Kerala for over 4 decades. During those years we have had numerous energetic and visionary leaders leading this great organization and I am humbled to be part of that distinguished set of people.

DMA with its dynamic set of Executive Committee members have been working diligently to conduct enjoyable events like the Summer Picnic in July, Onam and Music Show in September, TechDay for kids in October and Christmas in De-
 cember. Our Youth Group and Women's Forum are very strong supporting pillars of this organization. While the Youth Forum is developing the next generation of DMA members, the Women's Forum play a key role in conducting charity events and assisting with organizing DMA functions.

Community outreach and charity has been and will always be DMA's first priority. To that extent, we have donated to Gleaners food bank, volunteered at soup kitchens, cleaned up roads and financially helped out numerous individuals in Kerala and in Michigan. None of these would have been possible without the continued support and generous donations from our DMA members and loyal sponsors, and we are ever grateful to you for that. Going forward, we are expecting and dependent on your continued support and generous contributions to continue with our Community Outreach and Charitable activities.

During the past few years the pandemic has certainly changed our lives and the way we live. It has helped us focus on our priorities and get more involved with family and friends. It had brought us all closer as a community to lookout for each other and help and assist one another during the time of need.

There has not been a more important moment, where we as individuals and as an organization, to get more involved and help communities in and around us. If there is anything that DMA can help with, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Once again on behalf of the Executive Committee, Women's Forum and Youth Forum members, I want to wish you all a safe and joyous Onam!
























 ఎகாலத.








Saijan Kaniyodikal


The voice behind some of Malayalam's most iconic music numbers, Sithara Krishnakumar is one of the most sought after Indian playback singer spreading her wings across borders with her music. A three-time state award winner, the latest being for "Paalnilavin" from Kaanekkaane in 2021, Sithara has proved her mettle as a playback and an independent musician. A trained Hindustani and Ghazal singer, she holds a master's degree in Hindustani Khyal Music and Vocal Music from Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata along with a master's degree in English literature from Calicut University.

She travels extensively and has performed in concerts and stage shows all over the world. Folk \& fusion being her other areas of interest, she has collaborated with various popular music bands in Kerala. Ater Eastraga, the band that focused on a mix of female oriented songs backed by a team of renowned musicians, she is now the soul of the 6-member band Project

Malabaricus, an independent venture dedicated to exploring and experimenting with her unique Folk and Hindustani influences, music philosophy and world view.

Sithara is also a trained dancer and her video presentations " Sri Gurubhyo Namah" and "Tharuni" has garnered rave reviews transcending borders. She has worked with noted composers like Ouseppachan, M. Jayachandran, G.V. Prakash Kumar, Prashant Pilllai, Gopi Sundar, Bijibal, Shaan Rahman and rendered her voice to over 500 film songs including Malayalam and all other South Indian languages.

Her works encompass various genres which convey the deep rooted understanding of music at many different levels. The same instinct is what had Sithara compose music for three movies. Having shared stage with legendary stalwarts like SPB, K.J. Yesudas, Shankar Mahadevan, Hariharan, K.S. Chitra, she is indeed a crowd favourite for concerts worldwide.


Job Kurian is a singer/composer hailing from Alleppey, the land of backwaters and is currently settled in Trivandrum, Kerala. His music is highly rooted in kerala's traditional and folk music and he loves to collaborate his instinctive music with different genres from across the world, hence making his music very unique. One could say his music has "Kerala's soul wrapped in an international sound" giving him the edge.

Job Kurian says "My vision about music can be compared to an endless highway where i could see the farther end but need certain catalysts and energizers to move towards it. It happened with great opportunities in playback singing and I was very fortunate

to be a part of the trendsetter reality show in Amrita TV, back in 2006..and today, by God's grace, the journey still continues."

Job Kurian has been prevalent in the malayalam playback industry and independent music scene of Kerala for the past 13 years, maintaining a high reputation. The TV shows such as straight from the heart, Music Mojo (3 seasons), Thalam (album), Hope Project, along with more than 35 tracks in the malayalam film industry and his energetic live concerts have earned him the reputation he still holds in the hearts of all the music lovers in Kerala. He is immensely focused on producing his own independent projects that are born from his truelife incidents and experiences. All his tracks were well received because of pure genuinity and passion that he puts in to each track. He says, "After all, my music is an extended expression of who I truly am."

Job Kurian works with a regular set of wonderful co-artists who has a great rapport with him, both personally and musically, and travels together frequently in India and abroad, further strengthening the bond, giving the audience an impeccable and mesmerizing experience. Job has featured along with a lot of popular bands like Avial, Shankar tucker band and so on, sharing a beautiful chemistry with such legendary artists on and off stage.

Harish Sivaramakrishnan is a trained Carnatic musician, Indian playback singer and lead vocalist of the Banglore based Carnatic progressive rock outfit, Agam. Apart from this he is also the Head of Design at CRED after working for over a year in Adobe and Google. As a playback singer Harish predominantly works in the Tamil and Malayalam music industry and has a number of hits to his name like Marayumo from Jawan of Vellimala, Irul mazha from Angels, Pravanavidhuve from Oru vadakkan Selfie, Paanila and Varikallo from Rockstar, Unnai Maatrinal from Ko 2,Nenjilleri Theeye from Ramaleela, Oru Vanchi Pattu and Devadhai Pol Oruthi in Solo, Avan in Seethakathi and Nee Vasanthakalam in Chola to name a few. He has worked with prominent music directors such as Bijibal, Gopi Sundar, Govind Vasantha, G V Prakash Kumar and Shaan Rahman. He recently bagged the Best Playback Singer award at South Indian International Awards for Veyyon Silli from Soorarai pootru. As the lead vocalist and founding member of Agam he has toured all around the globe and performed at a number of prestigious festivals and venues pan India.


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## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dinesh Lakshmanan

# DMA's Journey JANUARY - AUGUST 2022 



## VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

DMA started this year's activities with Valentine's Day celebrations and family fiesta on 12th of February, and the program was coordinated by Boby Thomas. This was an evening with various games, kids’ games, new executive member introduction and other fun filled activities.


INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION


DMA Women's Forum celebrated International Women’s Day, coordinated by Sarita Nair and Raji George. It was celebrated with a session on Women Entrepreneurship by Theresa Schierloh and making blankets for the less fortunate women and children, coordinated by Sholy Nair.

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DMA Youth forum organized DMA CAN Drive led by chairperson Jerusha Manoj. The team collected over 300 pounds of canned food and donated to Gleaners at Brighton, on 23rd April.

## DMA PICNIC



DMA picnic was held on 16th July at Firefighters Park, Troy, coordinated by Brijesh Gopalakrishnan, Charles Thomas, Libin John and Sam Mathew. It was a fun-filled day with Barbeque specialties, Naadan Kerala food, Naadan kalikal, Kids games, Kids face painting, Kite flying and Chess exhibition.


Cod
SEPTEMBER 2022

## DMA ADOPT-A-ROAD



DMA adopt a road community work was conducted on 23rd July. DMA volunteers did the community work in Sterling Heights (Dequindre Rd between 14 and 16 Mile Road) as well as in Novi (Novi Road between 8mile road and Grand River Avenue). The event was coordinated by Sreekumar Kambath on east side and Sam Mathew on West side.


## INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Detroit Malayalee Association joined hands with ILA on the India Independence Day Celebrations at Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi on August 20th.



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SEPTEMBER 2022


## DMA CHARITY REPORT

 2022 - January - JulySudarsana Kurup


Financially supported Viswajyothi Charitable Society, Ranni- Perunad to buy an ambulance where ambulance service is difficult for the community.


Check handed over by Sri Raju Pillai for the ambulance vehicle booked by Vishwa Jyothi Charitable Society. Society President Sanu Mambara, Vice President Arun Anirudhan and Society Member Haridas received them and expressed their gratitude

Financial support to a family where all the children are differently abled and are financially struggling for survival.
Recommendation from former Panchayath president
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Support with canned Food at Gleaners, Brighton MI.
As part of support to the community service, collected and delivered over 300 pounds of canned foods to Gleaners at Brighton lead by DMA’s Youth Forum and Women's forum


Adopt a Road Program- West side lead by
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# MY MOTHER <br> IS ONE OF 

She is one of a kind
She wonders about my future
She hears me play FIFA 11 24/7
She smells like new shoes
She sees EVERYTHING!
She is one of a kind
She believes that I will change the world She feels like a human
She teaches me tips and tricks
She worries about me playing FIFA 22 too much!
She is one of a kind
She understands that I LOVE soccer
She helps me learn new things
She dreams that I become rich and own a Lambo and a Ferrari! She hopes I become a good person!
She is one of a kind.

## CONGRATULATIONS

## Aditya Kutty's fourth year as a member of Greenhills' Model United Nations team



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As a rising senior, this will be Aditya Kutty's fourth year as a member of Greenhills model United Nations team, and has been appointed as it's Secre-tary-General for 2022-23. In the past he has attended 7 conferences as a delegate. Aditya is also currently serving DMA as its Youth Forum Vice Chair. $\bullet$


## CONGRATULATIONS

## Siya Sandeep - District Champion

In June 2022 Siya Sandeep won three district Championship titles in Taekwondo for the Mid-American region consisting of Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.

Siya Sandeep who began her martial arts training at the age of seven, is a two-time Taekwondo district champion and a Second Degree Blackbelt. In June 2019, Siya won her first District Championship (Creative Weapons) for the Southwestregion comprising California, Nevada, and Arizona.

She was trained under Mr. Tim Conkel, Master, and Mrs. Master Church at the Church's Martial Arts Studio in California. After moving to Michigan in 2020, she is currently training under Mr. Zach Horn, owner of Thrive Martial Arts at West Bloomfield, Michigan. Under the guidance and direction of Mr.Zach Horn, Siya has dedicated thousands of hours towards perfecting her craft. Under his training, Siya is hoping to try for World Championships next year.



Denver has been a place which has cast a spell on me. I never knew I had this keen affiliation to mountains until I came here. Surprisingly I hail from Palakkad which is nestled by the western ghats, where I could catch a glimpse of the mountains from my school, my house and just anywhere. But it took me a thirty long hour of flight and sub-zero temperature to realize mountains are more or so my soul-mate. I've not exaggerated the emotions the mountains evoke in me here. But I genuinely do feel that my heart opens up every time I look around the mountains and the expanse of the sky here. I just feel Alive!

Reshma Ranjan, an author and a poet. This poem is part of My Verses and My World published on November 27th 2018 on Amazon. by Reshma Ranjan

## I'm Alive!



Reshma Ranjan
As I glimpsed the horizon crowned, with the mighty rocky mountains, I knew no bounds of happiness, that spread across me.

Every time I stepped out, The mountains teased me, The wind played with me, It enamored me to the brink. As I take in the expanse, Of the vast sky I never knew, Was so large and magnificent, I feel the peace settle in.

Every time I see the colors,
Changing at the blink of an eye,
Grey, purple, red and pink,
My heart it hums a tune of bliss.
As the exhilaration exceeds,
Every time it is beyond words, Could ever describe,
It stirs my very soul.
Every time I let my eyes take in,
The expanse and the mountain,
My heart opens up just a little more,
To gather everything my eye reaches.
As every glimpse and glance progresses,
My heart it grows,
Bigger and bigger,
Expanding to newer terrains.
Every time, I feel my heart is,
Expanding and expanding,
Absorbing more and more,
I want it go further and further.
As it does the expanding,
And the absorbing, I still feel
It has more space in it,
To be enraptured and excited.
Every time I want it to grow,
More and more,
Grasping the zealous and pious,
Beauty of the life.
As I become alive, with Every breath I take, Every glimpse I see, I am Alive!



## CONGRATULATIONS

## Dr. Deepthy Nair crowned as Rajaputri

Dr. Deepthy Nair, wife of our EC member, Madhu Nair was recently crowned as Rajaputri / Mrs KHNA at the KHNA Biennial Convention at Phoenix, Arizona on 1 Jan 2022. She was chosen for this title after going through Speech and talent rounds. Dr Nair is an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon and Clinical Assistant Professor at University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry. She is also a classical dancer and an strong advocate for women. She is the recepient of the prestigious National Scholarship for dental faculty, Enid Neidle Scholarship 2020 by the American Dental Education Association for her project related to issues faced by junior women facuty in academia. DMA wishes her all the very best for all her future endeavors.

The renowned body of model United Nations provides the platform for students to participate in a simulated legislative body and address political, societal, and economic issues through the use of policy, during conferences held at various universities across the country. Students learn and train to become effective as public speakers, negotiators, and critical thinkers.

## CONGRATULATIONS Anand as Chess Champion

I was 7 or 8 years old when my parents bought me my first chess set as a present and introduced me to the game of chess. As a kid I loved the concept of having my own personal 'army' and using it to conquer the enemy forces on the other side of the board. I couldn't even play the game properly, but I played with the pieces as if they were toy soldiers, fighting for the safety of their kingdom.

When I was in 4th grade, I realized the significance of chess in my everyday world. I remember joining in the group with my friends to play chess. Although none of us knew how to play particularly well, chess served as an important medium through which I built and strengthened life-lasting relationships with my peers.

It was not long after that that I started to pursue a higher-level knowledge of chess and its tactics. Enrolling in a chess class, the outermost layer of what seemed to be a simple board game was peeled back to reveal a rich history that was centuries old. Whether it was in the opening, middlegame, or endgame, I was exposed to many higher-level strategies and patterns that boosted my playing ability and overall knowledge of the game. My skills progressed to the point where I
could say with confidence that I was a chess player.
Instead of being confined to casually playing chess with my friends, my newfound knowledge served as a key which allowed me to enter the global chess community. I played chess in small local tournaments, both online and at my school chess club.

One of my favorite parts about chess is how there are always shared patterns between every match that I play, yet each position always ends up completely unique from the last. Now, while I still enjoy playing chess with my friends, I no longer just play for the sake of having fun with others. I want to keep learning and improving my play as the years go on and reach a level where I can also help give back to it in my own way. -




## An Interview with FOMAA Mayookham Winner: Lalitha Ravi



## 1. Why did you decide to compete in this beauty pageant?

While I always love to participate in pageantry, this one was extra special since it took me back to my roots and my traditions. The wonderful initiative of supporting education for girls was also another motivation to be a part of this wonderful initiative.
2. Tell us about your overall experience?

It truly was a phenomenal experience and very unique as an etched memory to cherish. While the Pandemic certainly was causing a lot of mental and emotional anxiety, the Mayookham pageant competition was a refreshing experience that gave work to both beauty and brains. Here beauty was both internal and external that motivated me to keep sanity, peace and give work to my brains to enrich my creativity.
3. What was your biggest take away from the event?

The fact that the whole event was completely virtual, this strengthened my resilience, gave more adaptability and innovative skills to bring out my best through the digital world. Knowing how I could best present myself in the digital media with vogue, class, finesse, creativity and aesthetics truly was a revelation for me.
4. Could you share some unforgettable moments from the pageant with us?

Challenges are always the learning experiences that make you a stronger person. While every round in competetion was quite memorable and kept me on the edge to match up with my fellow contestants, the unforgettable moment was on the morning of our final rounds. I had

an unfortunate episode when the pressure cooker blew out and the vent struck my head. Painful and scary, yet I didn't have the time to cope and my adrenalin gush had to kick in to fight hard and strong. I had to get ready for the finals and nothing was going to stop me. And when I heard the final results of who is the Queen of Mayookham 2021, "yours truly" that was the most special moment. No pain No gain!!
5. Now looking back at the event, what do you think made you unique among the other women contestants?

While the competition was certainly not an easy win and every contestant was equally accomplished, talented, beautiful and creative, I think my stars were very aligned for this win and the queen's title. I think featuring myself genuinely and sharing my experiences and life stories made me bring out my best seamlessly in full confidence.
6. Talent is also a large part of the pageant scorecard. What did you showcase? How was the experience?

You bet it was! As mentioned earlier, the women's forum team from FOMAA certainly put us to task challenging us on each round to see how much more we could offer with our skills, talents and creativity. Not knowing that the iconic idol for the pageant was Cleopatra, I portrayed her in the festive fashion round and I think I nailed it well. I truly felt like Cleopatra and the experience was quite empowering since her tales are still spoken for her valor and bravery. Portraying the beautiful murals from the temple arts of kerala with my kasavu saree round certainly gave me the joy and delight of cherishing my roots and identifying my aesthetic appeal for the arts, as an artist. Finally, being able to showcase my skills through the martial arts of Kerala, Kalaripayattu, completed the dancer in me with all fireceness and grounding.
7. You are a bundle of talent and juggle so many roles- a Health Coach, Entrepreneur, Performing artist and much more. Which role/s are you most passionate about and why?

Oh dear! A tough one to answer. First of all thank you for this complimenting question and I truly do feel happy and blessed to be able to balance my passions and my profession till date. That said, dance for me is soul food.

While I feed well on my passion I see the profession of a health coach certainly marries well to support my passions. As a performing artist, health and well being are certainly a pivotal asset to treasure, so I pray I am able to balance them as I have all these years. Thathaasthu!!
8. Please share with us about some women who inspired you the most?

All through my life from childhood to adulthood there have been many dynamic, fearless women in my life who have stood up to be their best self in the most challenging scenarios they faced. On that cadre, most certainly my mother is and will be a very inspirational woman for her grit, patience and boldness. My materanal grandmother who nurtured me during my childhood and adolescent age is an iconic figure to our entire family for her selfless
compassion and love and the grounding qualities she has imbibed on us. As for women icons who have inspired me in the celebrity field, are dancer Shobhana, Madhuri Dixit and Tabu. I must add that I have some very good women mentors and friends in my life who have taught me a lot and continue to inspire me in many different ways and I
seek to learn more and stay inspired.
9. Final question, What is your message to all the women in our community?

Live your dreams and live it fully well. Believe in yourself and know that there is only one like you so mark your identity and live your life with passion and in positivity.


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(2)

## TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

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