



# Edirimana Corea Family Union



## NEWSLETTER - JULY 2015

Editor: Sri Sangabo Corea

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014 / 2015

#### PATRON

Vijaya Corea  
2584873/2587474

#### VICE-PATRONS

Gerry de Alwis  
Dr. Gamani Corea

#### PRESIDENT

Dr. Eugene Corea  
"Trivia", Madapatha Road,  
Piliyandala  
2614566/077-3776999

#### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Sri Sangabo Corea  
2058487/077-9824816

#### VICE-PRESIDENTS

Surangani Ameresekere  
2694760

Dukshi Goonetilleke  
2862886/077-7899128

#### HONORARY SECRETARY

Pat Abayasekera  
"Serendib", Madapatha Road,  
Piliyandala  
2614568/071-4738973

#### HONORARY TREASURER

Suvendreni Weerasekera  
28, Dr. E.A. Cooray Mawatha  
Colombo 6  
258487

#### HONY. ASST. SECRETARY

Neville Weerasekera  
2360026

#### HONY. ASST. TREASURER

Ranmal Goonetilleke  
071-7307187

#### Christabelle Aturupane

2712534

#### Harsha Aturupane

2727271

#### Deva Corea

2784919/077-3400802

#### Viran Corea

077-7303833

#### Gamini de Silva

2713978/077-779120

#### Lilani Corea Dharmaratne

2883181/077-7256388

#### Aloma Gunasekera

2784451/077-4909927

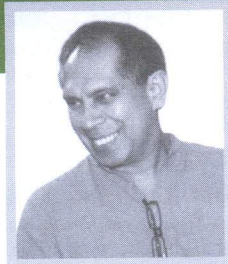
#### Amal Jayasekera

071-271888

#### Dr. Priya Samarasinghe

2706375/077-4909927

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



At the last AGM I sang the praises of the website and those who played a key role in setting it up; namely Deva, Viran and Uttum. Suveni, Ranmal and Ernestine too have helped the team in a big way. To my mind this is a project that will make all of us proud and keep us updated about our past and our present.

The ECFU newsletter which is a work of art by itself and which is accessible to all who can read has been and will continue to be a source of information and interest in the future too. You and I owe Sange a great deal and really much more for his erudite and devoted efforts in producing another issue. Sit back and enjoy reading. Sangabo will not have it any other way!

Eugene Corea

### Welcome to the Corea family website! - [www.chilawcoreas.com](http://www.chilawcoreas.com)



This website collates the history, genealogy, profiles and information relevant to the Corea family that for generations, was prominently associated with Chilaw, Sri Lanka.

Chilaw, is a town 80 kilometers north of Colombo on the western coastline and has been described as being reputed for its 3 Cs – Coreas, Crabs and Coconuts. The Coreas, however, are not natives of Chilaw but a Sinhalese family that settled in Chilaw during the Kotte period. The family's origins track further back to the central hills of Gampola. The family traces its lineage to Ranamuka Bandara, a descendant of Buveneka Bahu Epa, who was the son of Buveneka Bahu IV, King of Gampola. Ranamuka Bandara's son Edirilla Aratchi, became the first 'Corea' ancestor when he converted to Christianity and was baptized as Emanuel Corea. His son Jeronimo Corea, had two sons, Dominicus and Simon. The 'Chilaw Coreas' are the descendants of Dominicus Corea and his son, Lewis Corea.

Dominicus Corea, was the Commander-in-Chief of the Sinhalese Army of Kotte and his exploits are recorded in the Mahavamsa Rajaveliya and the writings of reputed historians of that era, such as De Queyroz, Ribeiro and De Conto. Dominicus Corea is credited with conveying the 'Sacred Tooth Relic' from a temple in Delgamuwa Kuruwita to his boyhood friend Wimala Dharma Suriya I (konnapu Bandara) the King of Kandy. The coronation of Dominicus Corea as King of Kotte and Sitawaka, with a detailed description of his wedding to the daughter of Edirimanasuriya Vidiya Bandara of the Seven Korales, is the only such event at the Kandy Maligawa recorded in the annals. At this ceremony Dominicus took the name Edirimanasuriya. Thus it is that the family union is called the Edirimana Corea Family Union. During his rebellion against King Wimala Dharma Suriya of Kotte and the Portuguese, Dominicus Corea fought many battles and was wounded. Finally betrayed and captured, he was executed on the 14th of July 1596 at the age of 31 years.

Dominicus Corea, is but a milestone in the Corea lineage. The Coreas, as a family are on record in history, as having served the Nation as warriors and freedom fighters. Members of the family have over time diversified their talents to represent and give leadership in many professions and vocations. In the process, they have played notable roles in the freedom struggle against Western Colonists and significantly served the people of Sri Lanka in diverse spheres. Amongst the family members, have been land-owners and agriculturists, physicians, civil servants, doctors, lawyers, economists, peace officers, clergymen, accountants and personalities in the field of entertainment and showbiz to name a few. Several have been or are national and international figures. A cosmopolitan family in today's context, the Coreas have been enriched by the inclusion of many other families through marriage in terms of vocation, the Coreas, have for the most part, been professionals and not businessmen. The family association Edirimana Corea Family Union (ECFU), has amongst its objectives, felicitation of the highest value of culture, decorum, ethics, integrity and true public and social service, recognizing and promoting such characteristics as a reflection of true 'respectability' that is both relevant and needed in the present age.



## Editorial

The Edirimana Corea Family Union was founded, inspired by the heroic achievements of Dominicus Corea Edirimanasuriya Vikramasingha Bandara, popularly known as Edirilla Rala, Commander-in-Chief of the Sinhala Army. He was crowned King of Kotte and Sitawaka by King Wimala Dharma Suriya the First at the lavish wedding reception accorded to him when he married Subadhra Devi, the daughter of Vidiya Bandara, King of the Sath Korale, and Suriya Devi.

As the Commander of the Sinhala Army the youthful Dominicus Corea, was acknowledged to be a brilliant military strategist whom Father De Queyroz, the great Portuguese historian and writer described as the greatest swordsman that lived in those times and was feared by the Portuguese Army as being 'invincible'. He led the Sinhala Army with such distinction crushing the mighty Portuguese Army to humiliating defeats, battle after battle. Despite all the planning the Portuguese, never could match the military skill of Dominicus Corea!

The Coreas, have traced their ancestry to King Buveneka Bahu IV and are right now engaged in getting their family tree into perspective. When it is finally transformed into a wall hanging, needless to say, it will be a Collector's Item, immeasurable in terms of value to own and display in the most prestigious spot in one's drawing room!

The Edirimana Corea Family Union is based on the foundation that its membership is open to any male or female who is a descendant of Dominicus Corea and that itself is a rare distinction that every member of the ECFU can be proud of. Within this family there is a vast reservoir of talent that can be harnessed to give strength and stature to the Union. Our primary objective is to create opportunities for the membership to meet and get to know each other for their mutual benefit. Going by what our family has accomplished at national and international level in various spheres of activity we must continue to serve our nation expecting nothing in return. Country before Self has been the lifeblood of our family and that we must zealously preserve!

If you are a descendant of Dominicus Corea and you are still not a member of the Edirimana Corea Family Union, join us and contribute towards the Union's development plans in the coming year!

Reproduced  
from

## TWENTIETH CENTURY IMPRESSIONS OF CEYLON, ITS HISTORY, PEOPLE, COMMERCE, INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES

Edited by Arnold Wright

London, Durban, Colombo, Perth (W.A.), SINGAPORE, HONG KONG  
Lloyd's Greater Britain Publishing Company Ltd. 1907

... When the Portuguese were finally displaced by the Dutch, Christoffel Corea Vikramasingha entered their service as Mohandiram of Hapitigam Korale. His son Louis was Padicara Mohandiram, an officer appointed by the Dutch Government to arrange for the safe conduct and provisioning of their frequent embassies to the Kandyan Court. A Dutch Act of Appointment under the hand of Governor Van der Graaff, dated March 20 1788 (now in the possession of C.E. Corea Vikramasingha, Proctor of Chilaw) records the nomination of Christoffel Corea to succeed his father, Louis Corea. Christoffel Corea, the Padicara, was invited to Kandy by the Sinhalese King at the commencement of hostilities with the English in 1803, with promises of favour and promotion to high rank, but died shortly after he reached Kandy, leaving three children of whom the eldest Abraham, became Muhandiram of the Chilaw district. The second, Johannes, was Mudaliyar of Alutkuru Korale, and was included in the list of "First Class Sinhalese" prepared under the regulations for the selection of jurors when the system was first introduced in Ceylon; the third was Simon, who succeeded his brother as Mudaliyar of Alutkuru Korale, and was also appointed a Justice of the Peace. Abraham's son Christoffel, was Mudaliyar of the Chilaw District and has left four children - James Edward, Mudaliyar of Chilaw; Allan and Jumeaux, proprietary planters; and James Abraham, Proctor. Johannes, had one son, Simon, who was Mohandiram of the City of Colombo. His only surviving child is a daughter.

Simon Corea Vikramasingha, J.P., Mudaliyar of Alutkuru Korale, had five children of whom Charles Edward, was Proctor of the Supreme Court, Henry Richard, was Mudaliyar of Alutkuru Korale and George Edmund, was a master of Royal College. The other two Jumeaux and Simon, have left no descendants. Charles Edward, has left three sons, the eldest of whom Charles Edgar, Proctor is the unofficial leader of the Chilaw Bar and a member of the Chilaw Association. In 1899 he was elected by the various native associations in Ceylon at a public meeting in Colombo to proceed to England as a delegate of the people of Ceylon to lay before the Imperial Government a representation against the Waste Lands Ordinance. The second son, Alfred Ernest, is a physician and the youngest, Charles Edward Victor, is an Advocate of the Supreme Court. Mudaliyar Henry's only son, James Alfred, is Mohandiram in the historic town of Madampe, in the Chilaw District. Winzer, the eldest son of George, is an officer in the Government Police and the second son Frederick, is a Proctor at Negombo.

In addition to the hereditary rank of Prince conferred on Dominicus Corea Vikramasingha by King Wimala Dharma Suriya, the family has acquired from the Dutch and English Governments the following Patabendi titles: Abhayaratna, Gunasekera, Vikramasundara, Vijayasekera. The living members of the family however, only use the simple Surname Corea and sometimes Corea-Vikramasingha. James Edward Corea, Abhayaratna Vijayasekera, Mudaliyar, Pitigal Korale, North Chilaw, was born on December 2, 1865, and educated at the Colombo Academy, now Royal College, and entered Government Service in 1887 being attached to the Provincial Road Committee at Kurunegala. In 1888 he was appointed to the District Road Committee, Chilaw, and in 1899 became Mudaliyar Pitigal Korale North and has held that office ever since. He is also the Inspector of Coaches and Inquirer into Crimes of the Chilaw District, and in charge of the rural police in Pitigal Korale North. He is the Chairman of the Village Committee and President of the Council of Irrigation, and is a landed proprietor and planter, owning extensive estates. Among others he possesses the Kurukkuwa, Tittakada and Tambugalle coconut estates in the Chilaw District, as well as large tracts of paddy lands. He is a member of the Committee of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society. In 1888 he married Frances Eleanor Terentia, daughter of D.C. Ameresekera, Proctor of the Supreme Court of Kurunegala. His ancestral home and country residence is the Walauwa at Kurukkuwa, whilst his official residence is the Korale Walauwa at Chilaw.

Jumeaux Arthur Christoffel Corea, the third son of the late Johannes Christoffel Corea, Mudaliyar, Chilaw, was born at Chilaw in 1873 and educated at Wesley College. In 1893 he entered the Ceylon Survey Department and four years later passed the licensed surveyor's examination. He commenced practice at Chilaw as a Licensed Surveyor & Leveller, is also holder of the Surveyor-General's Special Licence to survey crown land and fiscal's licensed surveyor for the districts of Kurunegala and Chilaw and is a member of the Chilaw Association and the Chilaw Tennis Club. In 1902 he married Adeline Beatrice Lucy, daughter of the late Don Conrad Ameresekera, Proctor Supreme Court, Kurunegala and their children are: Odella Beatrice Claribel and Enlalie Hypatia Adelaide. Mr. Corea, is interested in and owns coconut estates in the villages of Puliyan Kadawara, Alutkuruwulla and Villattawa, Karukkuwa, Erunwila and Kirimetiya, tracts of fields in Kirimetiya and building lots within the Local Board limits of Chilaw.

### PAKISTAN PRESIDENT CONFERS CIVIL AWARD ON GENERAL WEERASOORIYA

Former Army Commander and Sri Lanka High Commissioner to Pakistan, General (R) C.S. Weerasooriya was decorated with the Sitara-i-Pakistan by Pakistan President, Manmoon Hussein recently.

General Weerasooriya, is married to Dilhani, daughter of the late Herschel and Estelle Pandittesekere of Chilaw. They have two children, Rushika (married to Matthew Heindle) and two grandchildren, Araliya and Chaim. Their eldest son Rajeev and the youngest Seth passed away in 1989 and 1991 respectively.



Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner Amna Baloch along with Sri Lanka - Pakistan Friendship Association President Iftikhar Aziz are seen presenting the souvenir to General Srilal Weerasooriya.



... Contd 02

The Investiture Ceremony marking Pakistan Day on March 23, 2014 was held at Aiwan-i-Sadr (President's House) Islamabad. The Chairman Senate, Speaker National Assembly, Federal Ministers, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Service Chiefs and Ambassadors among others participated.

The Sitara-i-Pakistan is awarded to General Weerasooriya in recognition of his efforts for strengthening relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Citation read out at the Investiture Ceremony, inter alia, states that "during (General Weerasooriya's) ambassadorial assignment, he played a key role in strengthening and deepening Pakistan-Sri Lanka friendly cooperative ties, including the signing of a Free Trade Agreement between the two countries." Significantly, this was the first Free Trade Agreement ever entered into by Pakistan.

As per the aforesaid Citation, the Sitara-i-Pakistan was conferred on General Weerasooriya "in recognition of his true friendship with Pakistan, his outstanding and meritorious services in deepening Pakistan-Sri Lanka cooperative ties".

The association of General Weerasooriya with Pakistan began in 1963, when he was enrolled as a Gentleman Cadet at the Pakistan Military Academy, and it continues to date. General Weerasooriya was appointed Commander of the Sri Lanka Army after a 35 year military career and on retirement was appointed as Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Pakistan, a position he held for six years.

Educated at S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia and a graduate of the Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul and the National Defence College of India, General Weerasooriya held many key positions in the Sri Lanka Army and was decorated for gallantry and service more than a dozen times in his military career.

As Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Pakistan and accredited Ambassador and Plenipotentiary for Sri Lanka to Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, he played a lead role in improving political and trade relations between Sri Lanka and the region and was the Patron of the Pakistan-Sri Lanka Friendship Association and the Pakistan-Sri Lanka Business Forum. On returning to Sri Lanka he was the President of the Sri Lanka-Pakistan Friendship Association for several years. General Weerasooriya is the current World President of the Association of Military Christian Fellowships which has a membership of 150 nations.

The Edirimana Corea Family Union congratulates Srilal on his achievement and wishes Srilal and Dilhani continued success in the years to come!

## VIRAN COREA APPOINTED TO SEYLAN BANK BOARD

Young legal expert Viran Corea has been appointed to the Board of Seylan Bank Plc as a Non-Executive Director.

He was nominated to the Seylan Bank Board by Sri Lanka Insurance Corporate which holds 15% stake. The appointment has been approved by the Central Bank as well.

Corea, an Attorney-at-Law, is a Counsel and Legal Consultant with 18 years experience at the Board. He possesses Bachelor-of-Laws (LL.B) and Master-of-Laws (LL.M) degrees from the University of Colombo.

His experience in private practice has included the fields constitutional and administrative law, commercial law, industrial law, arbitration, contract law and land law. He has been involved as a counsel in a number of landmark cases of national and public importance, reported in the Sri Lanka Law Reports in 2012. He was picked as an Asia Society Asia 21 Young Leader. He is also a Research Associate at Verite Research Ltd., a Colombo based private sector research firm and think tank that services public and private sectors in Asia. Before commencing his private practice he served as a state counsel at the Attorney General's Department for several years. During this time he represented in court and advised government departments and state institutions in several important matters. He also examined draft legislation for its constitutionality prior to its presentation to parliament and vetted bilateral and multilateral agreements involving the government prior to their acceptance.

During his undergraduate days he was also a radio presenter at SLBC and FM 99, master of ceremonies, part of the choral group, The Revelations and dramatist. An alumnus of S. Thomas' Preparatory School and S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, he captained the schools debating teams and the debating team of the Sri Lanka Law College.



## DESHAMANYA MRS SIVAGAMIE VERINA OBEYESEKERE

### The lady with the Midas Touch –



Deshamanya Mrs Sivagamie Verina Obeyesekere or Siva Obeyesekere as she is popularly known was born to Amybelle Charlotte Valorie Corea and Lois Robert Clifton Dassenaik on the 7th of May 1929.

Educated at CMS Ladies College up to the Senior School Certificate, Siva was a hostel prefect, games captain, and captain of the netball and tennis teams from 1943 to 1948. She married Senator Deshamanya James Peter Obeyesekere, the only child of Maha Mudliyar, Sir J.P. Obeyesekere and Lady A.E. Obeyesekere in 1948. James Obeyesekere, having schooled at Royal College finished his education at the University of Cambridge and piloted

his own airplane back to Ceylon in 1946. When S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike broke away from the UNP to form the SLFP in 1951, James and Siva were among the first to join him. James, was the Member of Parliament for Attanagalle, a Deputy Minister of Health, a Deputy Minister of Finance and a Senator. He was conferred the national honour of Deshamanya by President Mahinda Rajapaksa. The Obeyesekeres have two children, Chantel and Peter. Chantel, who has donned her parent's mantle continues to work towards the development of indigenous arts and crafts and promoting local talent. Married to Dijen de Saram they have two children, Dhevan and Chiara.

Siva Obeyesekere, can be most appropriately referred to as the Lady with the Midas Touch. Her sincerity of purpose and her boundless capacity for hard work and producing results brought her into the limelight, being a woman of matchless vision. Behind every successful man there is a woman and needless to say Siva was a force to reckon with supporting James to the hilt!

During the period 1960 to 1965, when James was Member of Parliament for Attanagalle, Siva organized Community Health Programmes in 127 villages located in the Attanagalle electorate and actively began to develop handicraft and handloom centres as well. Appointed the Chairman of the Small Industries Board in 1961, she organized sewing centres and traditional crafts centres, reviving the District Cooperative Unions in handloom textiles.

In 1963, she was appointed the Chairman of the Accommodation Committee and a Member of the Tourist Development Council and was responsible for the drafting of the Tourist Development Act. In 1964, Siva inaugurated "Laksala" the first Government Cottage Industries Emporium and was the Chairman of its Advisory Board. She established the Craftsman's Association of Sri Lanka and promoted the Master Craftsman's Apprenticeship Scheme. Elected President - National Artisans & Craftsman's Association in 1973, she inaugurated "Lakpahana" a private sector



## ... Contd 03

organization for the promotion of local handicrafts. In 1991 she was the first woman to be awarded the "Deshamanya" (Pride of the Island) for her services to the nation by President Ranasinghe Premadasa and was elected the first President of the World Craft's Council affiliated to UNESCO and in 1996, was elected the first President of the Asia Pacific Region of World Craft's Council. In 1993, she was the first foreigner to be awarded the "Kamala Saamaan" in memory of Kamala Devi Chattopadhyai of India for the development of "Laksala". In 2006, she was appointed as National Consultant to the Ministry of Rural Industries and Self-Employment Promotion. She was also the Presidential Advisor to His Excellency the President.

A founder member of the SLFP she worked tirelessly for the party from the age of 22. A devout Christian, Siva Obeyesekere broke tradition by challenging the UNP at the parliamentary election in 1965 by contesting the Mirigama seat, which is a UNP stronghold dominated by a Buddhist population. Although her opponent underestimated the chances of this 36 year old Christian from winning she beat the more experienced Wijayabahu Wijesinghe by an overwhelming majority. In 1970, her opponent was Prof.W.S.Karunaratne, Professor of Buddhism and Sinhalese who was an eloquent speaker. The crowds, in large number also came to see and hear Siva who was able to reach out to the people with her brand of oratorical skills. Elegantly attired in her signature dress made of homespun Sri Lankan handlooms and batik sarees, people came from near and far to see and hear Siva mesmerizing her listeners. She won the seat and almost immediately got down to nursing her electorate with a determination to alleviate poverty.

She was appointed Deputy Minister of Health and later Minister of Health. She introduced the National Family Health Programme which was adopted by the United Nations as an international model and for this effort she was given a special award of appreciation by Senator Edward Kennedy.

Between the years 1973 and 2003 Siva Obeyesekere represented Sri Lanka at several international conferences. In 1973, she was elected Vice President "Status of Women in Family Planning" in Djakarta and led the Sri Lankan delegation to the World Population Conference in Bucharest. In 1977, she led the Sri Lanka delegation to the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva and was the first Asian woman to be elected as Vice President. From 1977 to 1987, she was a delegate representing Sri Lanka at ESCAP in Bangkok on Population related conferences and conferences relating to Indigenous Crafts in Japan, Austria, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. In 2009, she was appointed to the S.W.R.D.Bandaranaike National Memorial Foundation by President Rajapaksa.

In addition to her official commitments Siva Obeyesekere was also a trustee of the Boys Scout Movement and was intensely involved with the Sri Lanka Cancer Society and as a Past President established branches in Kandy, Galle, Batticaloa and Jaffna and also played an active part in the School for the Deaf and Blind, Homes for the Aged and Orphanages and was a popular fund raiser for educational institutions such as S.Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia and her alma mater, Ladies College Colombo.

## RUNNING WITH THE HOUND ... GWEN HERAT

This is how I described politics when Harold was involved in for that matter, during his tenure when to an extent politics was fair and right unlike the violence let leased today on innocent people who suffer silently.

When Sange asked me to do a spot on how it was like being a powerful politician's wife, I was hesitant because nothing changed in me, I remained the same girl that Harold met and married after a tennis-court romance but of course not without opposition from both sides that many predicted would not last long. I wanted to prove that my domineering father was wrong. With grit and determination I pulled through, not that it was a bed of roses.

Harold, came from a world of law and justice and a dynasty. I was the princess in the family that my father fully controlled and who shattered my dreams of becoming a concert violinist. He pushed me to study the piano and ended a lousy pianist. I was from a world of art and English with writing being my forte and majored in Aesthetic studies abroad. It took years to develop my writing because of a hectic political career; working in all Ministries that Harold held, having three kids in a row, following him around, attending meetings, seminars, press interviews meeting Diplomats, the sort that comes with the Foreign Ministry and all the time gathering steam. It was an education in a way exposed to a world at large.

I felt somewhat lost with no one to guide me and had to do a balancing act to co-ordinate that nothing fell by. It was truly difficult, missing meals most of the time. My meals, would be packed in a box that I could carry and eat with a fork while travelling. On many an occasion I felt embarrassed when people travelling in a bus could look down and see me eating, but got used to it. Harold and I, used to travel apart while going to work and that gave both the opportunity to plan and discipline our work for the day; he, especially with his hectic Parliamentary schedules and sitting with the Cabinet. Working in the Ministries was fun and educational because I was moving with the cream of the best brains in the country and seized the opportunity to learn a great deal about their thinking and they in return were happy that I was in their team and treated me like a princess as they came to know me better. Harold, was respected and loved by all who worked with him and so were his colleagues in Parliament because of his humility and kindness. He never hurt any one while all the time he pulled me up for doing something stupid or saying the wrong thing! He got along with the media without treading on their toes and was dubbed as MR.CLEAN!!

Every one, who came to know Harold accepted that he indulged in clean politics and that included even his opponents. That explains as to why Nattandiya electorate was spared of violence during the JVP uprising that prompted President J.R.Jayewardene to refer to Harold as an exemplary politician at a public meeting.

However, that being apart, our family life was in shatters with the children not seeing their father for days because when he arrived at home it was invariably late at night when they were asleep and in school next morning before I wake him up to face yet another hectic day. The only time we were able to get together as a family was on Sunday morning to worship at our church and God helped us to look to the future with divine protection! Our children were a calm and collected trio that never stressed us and took their studies seriously and it was easy to steer them through as they excelled in their studies in college and university, ending up as academics. To me, this was my greatest achievement with so much in hand, with my balancing act going smoothly while quite a few families involved in politics failed to groom their children due to distractions and unavoidable pressure. Shamara, Awanka and Parveen were never exposed to politics and were brought up like normal





... Contd 04

kids without the trappings and the security that is associated with the offsprings of today's politicians.

Although politics frightened me at the beginning, I took to it like a duck takes to water. Looking back I just cannot comprehend how I tackled some of the very difficult assignments such as The Voice of America that was a part of my duty. I fulfilled my task without any difficulty. On principle I never interfered with any of the issues that were Harold's except on one occasion when Harold was Minister of Justice and was at cross roads when he had to submit his recommendation on the Death Penalty. That was the time when I reminded him that as a practicing Christian no one had the right to take away a God-given life.

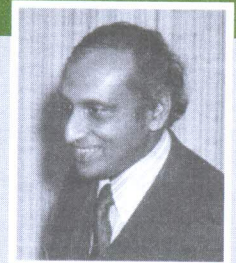
Months ago a reporter asked Pope Francis whether he would take to task a gay person and he replied ... 'Who am I to sit in Judgement?' If every one thinks on those terms just like Harold did, this world would be a better place to live in.

Today, I am into serious writing, catching up the lost time spent in politics with a great public/critic response and a classic under my belt along with several weekly columns in the newspapers.

Given the chance will I do the same? The answer is 'NO'  
I will still choose to be a Concert violinist on a world stage!

## DEATH OF DR. GAMANI COREA

The demise of Dr. Gamani Corea who was the Vice Patron of the Edirimana Corea Family Union has left a void which cannot easily be filled. Gamani, was the son of Dr. Siddhartha Corea (Dr.C.V.S.Corea – the country's leading follower and protagonist of the Homeopathy School of Medicine) and Freda Kotalawala (the only sister of Sir John and Justin Kotalawala). His paternal grandfather was Charles Edward Victor Seneviratne Corea and his maternal grandfather John Kotalawala (Snr). After his schooling at Royal College, he proceeded to England and obtained the Masters degree in Economics from both Oxford and Cambridge Universities. With his knowledge and experience and outstanding accomplishments at both national and international levels he gave the Edirimana Corea Family Union the desired patronage during his lifetime. May his soul rest in peace.



## MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE FROM H.E. PRESIDENT MAHINDA RAJAPAKSE

Read out by Vijaya Corea at the General Cemetery - Borella

I am deeply moved on learning of the passing away of Deshamanya Dr. Gamani Corea, one of the most illustrious sons of Sri Lanka.

He stood out in the world as a Sri Lankan economist, civil servant and diplomat whose special contribution was to the economic advancement of the developing nations. The positions he held as a founding figure and Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and as Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, drew attention on the high quality of personalities from Sri Lanka that have contributed to the progress of the World Assembly. A luminary in the field of economics, his outstanding work for the economic advancement of Third World nations saw him re-elected thrice to the prestigious post of Secretary General of UNCTAD to which he was first appointed in 1973.

In Sri Lanka, Dr. Corea who began his career at the Central Bank of Ceylon rose to be its Senior Deputy Governor, and also held the office of Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs. In these positions he played a significant role in directing the strategies of economic research and development of Sri Lanka. In the field of diplomacy he was this country's ambassador to the European Economic Community. As Chancellor of the Open University of Sri Lanka, he gave new direction to a hitherto unexplored field of higher education.

Honoured by several foreign universities and gracing the boards of governors of important institutes of international studies, science and economics in Sri Lanka, Dr. Gamani Corea brought to his work the lasting spirit of his grandfather, the late Victor Corea, a great freedom fighter and a member of the Legislative Council of Ceylon.

His demise leaves a major void in the field of economic expertise, administration – both national and international and diplomacy. His career was a trail of excellence that can hardly be matched.

On this sad occasion I convey my deepest condolences to his next of kin.

May his soul Rest in Peace

Mahinda Rajapaksa  
November 04, 2013

## SPECIAL TRIBUTE SEMINAR IN HONOUR OF DR. GAMANI COREA

20 March, 2014

A Special Tribute seminar in commemoration of the life and intellectual legacy of Dr. Gamani Corea of Sri Lanka (UNCTAD Secretary-General 1974-1984) and South Centre Board Chair 2001-2002) took place on March 20, 2014, 1500-1800h, Room XXV, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.



Mr. Deepak Nayar moderates session on the intellectual legacy of Dr. Gamani Corea with speakers including Mr. Gerassimos Arsenis; Mr. Michael Sakbani; Mr. Jan Pronk; Mr. Michael Zammit Cutajar and Dr. Saman Kelegama.



... Contd 05

The first session entitled Tribute to Gamani Corea : life and work was led by Ambassador Rubens Ricupero, Former Secretary-General of UNCTAD (1995-2004) and Mr.Chakravarthi Raghavan, Emeritus Editor of the South-North Development Monitor (SUNS).

The second session on The Intellectual legacy of Gamani Corea was moderated by Professor Deepak Nayar, Emeritus Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University and Member of the Board of the South Centre.

## THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GAMANI COREA

Dr.Gamani Corea passed away in Sri Lanka on November 3, 2013. Dr.Corea started his career at the Central Bank in Sri Lanka where he later became Director of Economic Research. He was also the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, playing a key role on Sri Lankan economic policy. In 1963 he was invited by Raul Prebisch to join the team involved in the preparation of the first UNCTAD Conference in 1964, an organization which he served later as Secretary-General from 1974 to 1984.

Dr.Gamani Corea was also instrumental for the establishment of the Group of 77 and later in the 90s, the South Centre where he had served previously as a Member of the South Commission (1987-1990) and a decade later as Member and Chair of the Board of the Centre (2002 to 2003). Dr.Corea promoted domestic and international economic policies aimed at the benefit of the poor and of the developing countries. He contributed to reinforce unity among nations of the South and their position in multilateral negotiations.

Dr.Corea introduced the integrated Programme for Commodities commonly known as the "Corea Plan" one of his finest achievements that has led to the establishment of the Common Fund for Commodities. The influence of Dr.Corea on the decision to establish the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative is also another of his accomplishments having previously chaired the Expert Group of the Non-Aligned Movement on Third World Debt which served as the basis for the HIPC initiative. He was a strong proponent of a New International Economic Order (NIEO) and under his tenure, UNCTAD experienced one of the most active periods of its history. The special tribute seminar of the South Centre not only paid a tribute to this eminent South thinker but also debated the intellectual thinking going beyond Dr.Gamani Corea's legacy as many of his ideas and thoughts are a timely element for our debates in search of alternatives to the current developmental challenges the Global South is facing today. The South Centre will release a book with the contributions received.

## NEW MEMBERS

In any organization an infusion of new blood is desirable to bring about a new dimension that will galvanize its membership into new forms of action. Whilst extending a warm welcome to each and every new member who has helped the ECFU to grow in number we do hope that the new members will contact the Executive Committee and offer their services to take this unique family union to greater heights. The ECFU, extends a WARM WELCOME to the following ...

- Indramalie D.Gunaratne – Rajagiriya
- Lalantha Herat – Mount Lavinia
- Ishani Corea – Nugegoda
- Lishni Salgado – Canada
- Manoj Abayasekara - Piliyandala
- Hiranthie Rodrigo - Rajagiriya
- Chryshan Shiranka Rodrigo – Rajagiriya
- Praveen Corea – Piliyandala
- Manahari Abayasekara – Piliyandala
- Sharmini Corea Jayewardene – USA
- Shiona Weerasekera - Colombo 6
- Rochelle Fernando – Rajagiriya
- Avril Salgado – Piliyandala
- Shehan Salgado – Piliyandala
- Ramani Corea Wagiswara – UK
- Shenuka Gunasekera - Colombo 5

 <b>Edirimana Corea Family Union</b> <b>MEMBERSHIP CARD</b> NO. _____	 <b>Edirimana Corea Family Union</b> Name : _____ Address : _____ Date of Enrolment : _____ _____ <small>Honorary Secretary</small>
---	---

## HOW TO BE A MEMBER

If you are a descendant of Dominicus Corea ...

(1) Contact the Secretary of the ECFU and request for an Application Form. (2) Fill the details asked for (3) Forward the Application with the Life Membership fee of Rs.1,250 in cash or if by cheque drawn in favour of the Edirimana Corea Family Union and crossed Account Payee. If you are living overseas the Life Membership fee is US Dollars 25. The ECFU has only a Life Membership and the Fee is a once and for all payment that covers the applicant and the spouse including the children until they reach the age of 18. Once it is tabled at the Executive Committee Meeting and approved you will receive your membership card from the Secretary and a receipt from the Treasurer confirming that you are a registered member of the ECFU, empowered with voting rights.

## OBITUARY



It is with profound sorrow that we record the passing away of the following members of the family during the period under review :

- Nirmalie Corea • Rane Corea • Nihal Corea • Ranjini Corea • Indira Corea • Vimala Corea (USA) • Sabrina Corea
- Iloña Corea • Patricia Corea • Doris Corea • Dr. Gamani Corea • Sanjay Corea (USA) • Srimani Dassenaik
- Venetia De Alwis • Norma Tennakoon • Prince Nelson • Stephanie De Alwis.

The ECFU offers its heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families. May God give them the strength and the courage to bear their loss.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

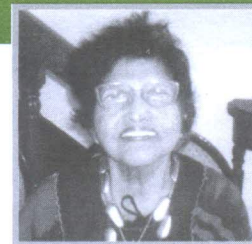
A Memorial Service for Vernon Corea (1927-2002), broadcaster with Radio Ceylon, Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and the BBC was conducted to mark the tenth death anniversary at St. Paul's Church, Milagiriya on September 29, 2012 at 5 pm. The Speaker was Vijaya Corea.



## MUMMY

Stephanie de Alwis nee Goonetilleke

- Safe in the arms of Jesus -



Mummy was born on July 14, 1926 to Edmond Goonetilleke and Myrtle Elizabeth Lavinia nee Corea. My Mum and Dad married on March 28, 1951 and enjoyed married life for 63 years until my mother's death at the age of 88. They separated them on the 28th of February 2014. Following their marriage my parents moved to Anuradhapura where the first two were born. The other three followed when my father was stationed in Galle. My mother was shattered by the tragic death of her only son in a car accident at the age of 29 years.

Most evenings my mother would be entertaining us on the piano accordion with her favourites in classical music such as "Maiden's Prayer", "La Paloma" and "Blue Danube" to mention a few with a mixture of modern pop. Mummy's favourite programme on radio was "Memories that Linger". Her all time favourite was "Silver haired Daddy of mine" sung by Jim Reeves. She was also an excellent cook feeding us with all her specialities. She took pride in entertaining guests and would lay the table stylishly and tastefully. Mummy was a 'Lady' in the true sense of the word who was a homemaker and I looked up to her as a Tower of Strength. She was fastidious about her appearance even if she had to see the regular doctor. Though in later years her movements were restricted owing to arthritis, she never gave up on life. She never stopped caring for others and would always enquire about her loved ones on my daily visits. Being a woman of sterling character and qualities were the legacy she left behind to emulate and I am truly proud of her.

Since losing my mother I have this to say:

When someone we love dies, we never get to see them again, but we will always feel them because they live on in our hearts and in our minds through our smiles and our tears and even though we cannot touch them we will never forget how they touched us.

Sadly missed and fondly remembered.

Loving and affectionate daughter

Aloma Gunsekere

## SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of pianist Nihal Corea who passed away on 24th March 2014 was held at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Panadura at 4.30 pm on Saturday 21st June 2014. At the piano, accompanying the singing was Nihal's nephew Ramesh Fonseka (sister's son). Nihal's daughter, Malgini Corea Amaratunga from Canada, in her tribute thanked God for the loving and exceptional father and husband she and her mother were blessed with. A special Thanksgiving song for the life of Nihal was sung by his sister, Manel Fonseka, with accompaniment on the piano by Nihal's wife, Sriyani commending his soul to the nearest presence of God, composed by Nihal himself.

At the end of the service some of Nihal's familiar smooth piano playing was played over the sound system bringing back fond memories of Nihal's magic touch on the keyboard.

## CLARICE RANJINI COREA



Clarice Ranjini Corea, received her secondary education at CMS Ladies' College, Colombo and Holy Family Convent, Bambalapitiya.

Her calm and pleasant demeanor along with an ability to handle responsibility earned her a place in Public Relations at the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) from 1969-1983, during which time she met her future husband, Vijaya who was also attached to the radio station.

Marriage and the consequent birth of their son Viran and later daughter Sashika, led Ranjini to make a love-driven decision to resign from the SLBC in order to dedicate her time to exclusively take care of her young family. As each of her family members would attest, her faithful devotion in investing of herself to her family never wavered through the years and, to her last breath, she was an ever-present mother and a wife with attributes of a rare calibre.

Ranjini, had faced and fully overcome a deadly colon cancer in 2010. In 2012, she was diagnosed with a primary breast cancer. Her heart was dedicated to actively, but quietly, getting involved in providing relief, assistance and comfort to sufferers of cancer and their families.

She devoted her time to seeing to the physical, psychological and spiritual needs of cancer patients, in a spirit of deep gratitude to God. In her gentle and reassuring manner, she frequently gave thanks and glory to God, imputing her ability to face the challenges associated with cancer to the sustenance and hope of eternal life through her belief in Jesus Christ. She wanted this message made known to people in life, and in death, which to her was a portal to eternal life.

She passed away peacefully at 5.30 in the morning of Wednesday, 10th December 2014 surrounded by family. In keeping with her wishes, her mortal remains were laid at A.F. Raymond Funeral Parlour for the paying of respect and the funeral was held on the very next day (Thursday, 11th December 2014). A service of thanksgiving for her life and work was held at the funeral parlour at 4.00 pm, officiated by the Anglican Bishop of Colombo, Rt. Rev. Dhiloraj Canagasabey, assisted by Rev. Marc Bilimoria.

A message was shared by Rev. Dr. Colton Wickramaratne, who said that having associated with Ranjini for many years both before and during her battle with cancer, he saw in her a great conviction and an uncompromising commitment and love for God and her family. He said, "The Lord Jesus asked - When I come back will I find faith on earth? He assuredly found it in Ranjini." He said, he witnessed in her true hope of eternal glory through Jesus Christ.

As she was laid to rest in the family grave at the Jawatte Cemetery with praise and thanks to God for her life, yet again the service was officiated by the Bishop of Colombo, Rt. Rev. Dhiloraj Canagasabey. Rev. Dr. Tissa Weerasinghe expressed similar sentiments, stating: "Here lies a true and faithful woman of God who never compromised her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. She was a living witness and a great encouragement to many. She ministered quietly, fervently and effectively." At the time of her burial, the hymn "In the Sweet By and By, We Shall Meet On That Beautiful Shore" was sung as she had requested, as a message from her, especially to her husband, children and three sisters.



## BARGAIN COUNTERS – AN ECFU PROJECT

The annual sale this year will be held at the Community Centre Hall at the Church of the Good Shepherd, (Tel: 011-2585889) 118, Jawatte Road, Colombo 5 from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. and NOT at the Sri Lanka Girl Guides Headquarters as in the past years. The following will be on sale at rock bottom prizes : Gents, Ladies and Children's new and almost new clothes, bedroom linen, Christmas décor and cards, toys, gifts, handicrafts, costume jewellery, books, cakes, confectionery, Lucky Dip and a variety of household goods. For further information and to ascertain the date please contact Dukshi on 077-7899128 or Surangani on 2894760.

## BIRTHS

Heartiest congratulations to:

- Anjaana Ratwatte (daughter of Preethi Wijesundera and Mohan Ratwatte) and Dilan Karunatileke on the birth of their first born (daughter) Ariyana Neriah Karunatileke on March 25, 2015 at Joseph Fraser Memorial Hospital.
- Sandamali Kooragoda and Ranmal Goonetilleke (son of Malini Corea and Lakshman Goonetilleke) on the birth of their fourth child (son) Biyen Goonetilleke on April 17, 2015 at Joseph Fraser Memorial Hospital.
- Sashika Corea (daughter of Vijaya Corea and Ranjini Wickremasinghe) and Mahiman Sivasundaram on the birth of their first born (son) Ravale Corea on May 1, 2015 at Durdans Hospital



## Sange's ice breaker

### GOOD NEWS FOR MEN

A man and his wife were getting a divorce at a local court,  
The custody of their children posed a problem.  
The mother jumped to her feet and protested to the judge  
That since she had brought the children into this world,  
She should retain custody of them.

The man also wanted custody of his children,  
So the judge asked for his side of the story.  
After a long moment of silence, the man rose from his chair  
and replied,

"Your Honour, when I put a dollar into a vending machine,  
and a Coke comes out, does the Coke belong to me or to the machine ?

### WHO DO YOU THINK WON CUSTODY OF THE CHILDREN ?

#### HAND (අත)

#### Location : Temple Trees

#### Occasion : After the UNP under J.R.Jayewardene won an unprecedented victory with a 5/6 majority and the SLFP were vacating Temple Trees

In these days and times with a general election round the corner We are reminded of an incident that took place at Temple Trees way back when the UNP under J.R.Jayewardene scored an unprecedented victory with a 5/6<sup>th</sup> majority. When the SLFP were vacating Temple Trees and the last batch of the party workers was leaving after a tiring 'mopping up' operation seven hulking men squeezed themselves, into a Morris Minor car one on top of each other with one of them carrying a cut-out of a Hand which was the party symbol. With much difficulty they forcefully shut the door. One man shouted 'Atha' and the other six shouted 'Jaya Wewa'. Again the man shouted 'Atha' and the rest shouted 'Jaya wewa'. The man this time shouted 'Yako magey atha dhorata ahuwela ! (My hand has got caught to the door) and soon the door opened for the man to nurse his badly injured hand ! Since then the SLFP has been contesting under the betel leaf !!

### THE SECRET OF MY HAPPY MARRIAGE

Once I was asked by my friend,  
"What is the secret behind your happy marriage ?"

I said, "You should share responsibilities with love and respect for each other.

Then absolutely there will be no problems whatsoever."

He asked, "Can you explain ?"

I said, "In my house, I take decisions on bigger issues whereas my wife takes decisions on smaller issues and that way there is no interference in our decisions."

Still not convinced, my friend asked me, "Give me some examples"

I said, "Smaller issues like which car we should buy;  
How much of money to save; When to visit the supermarket; When to go on vacation;  
Which sofa, air-conditioner and refrigerator to buy; Who spends on what;  
Whether to keep a maid or not etc. are all decided by my wife.

I just agree to it"

He asked, "Then what is your role ?"

I said, "My decisions are only for very big issues like  
Whether America should attack Iran;  
Whether Britain should lift sanctions over Zimbabwe;  
Whether Sri Lanka should go ahead with the Colombo Port City;  
Whether Kumar Sangakkara should retire from Test Cricket;  
Or Whether Vasudeva should give up politics etc., etc;  
And you know my wife NEVER objects to any of my decisions."

## PRINTED MATTER

If undelivered please return to:

**Sri Sangabo Corea**

52, Jawatte Road, Colombo 5.