



# Edirimana Corea Family Union



## NEWS LETTER - JUNE 2012

Editor: Sri Sangabo Corea

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### DR. GAMANI COREA By Joe Segera - reproduced



Many years ago in the course of a debate in Parliament, the irrepressible Mr. Wijayananda Dahanayake asked, "Who is this Gamani Corea? Obviously when he asked that question, the present much mellowed Minister of Co-operatives did not know the credentials or the qualifications of Dr. Gamani Corea, one of Asia's best known economists who was Secretary-General of the United Nations Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Dr. Corea, hails from the famous Corea family of Chilaw, among whom were patriots like C.E.V.S. Corea and C.E. Corea. The late C.E.C. Bulathsinghala who besides being an astrologer, was an authority on lineage and pedigree, once expressed the view that the Coreas of Chilaw were a noble family with royal links.

To go back to that old hackneyed saying, "prophets are not honoured in their own country", this is true of this humble man who could stand his own with any Economist from Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology which has a couple of Nobel prize winning economists and that well-known Economics Pundit of the United States, John Kenneth Galbraith.

Dr. Corea, holds the Masters degree in Economics from both Oxford and Cambridge and is the first Sri Lankan to win a doctorate in Philosophy (Economics) from Oxford. That is by way of his scholastic background.

When the Central Bank was established through the initiative of President J.R. Jayewardene who was then the Minister of Finance in the D.S. Senanayake Government, Gamani Corea was just back with his academic laurels.

American Banker and Economist, John Exter who was the first Governor of the Central Bank was looking for smart young Sri Lankans who could assist him. Gamani Corea, was the obvious choice. He has held so many top jobs in the Central Bank that it is difficult to write about all of them. He was Director of Economic Research, Senior Deputy Governor of the Central Bank and Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of National Planning and Development.

This son of Dr. C.V.S. Corea, the country's leading follower and protagonist of the Homeopathy School of Medicine, lives in a sprawling old-world house at Horton Place where the central attraction is his computer which he says, "is my best friend and my most reliable diary." His computer, is so well fed that when he asked this mechanical brain, "mention another Corea", it replied, "Ernest Corea" and when he asked who is talking to me now, the computer answered, "Joe Segera."

Now pushing sixty-one, this cigar and pipe-smoking economist who has an international reputation, is known to have turned down many a big job after he relinquished his term of office with UNCTAD.

Dr. Julius Nyerere, the Chairman of the South Commission paid Dr. Corea a warm compliment a few days ago when he said at a Colombo news conference

### Editorial

The Edirimana Corea Family Union has been progressing at the pace we expected. Some of the teething problems have been solved and we are now going at a slightly accelerated speed, taking one step at a time, to give the ECFU the clout it deserves.

With this in mind, we have launched a campaign to increase our membership. To be a member of a Union, inspired and named after Dominicus Corea, General of the Sinhala Army who was acknowledged as the most valiant and the most dreaded fighter to wage war against the Portuguese, is indeed a privilege. His military genius, indomitable will and valour, matchless skill as a swordsman and invincible as he was at every battle, is good enough a reason, for us to honour him as our ancestor.

Strength, to an organization comes from its membership and this is precisely the reason why we need to increase our membership. With the talent that is available within the family the ECFU is certainly a force to reckon with!

Due to the rising costs of stationery, printing and postage we will be reluctantly compelled to communicate with only the registered members who have been issued with membership cards. Without any further delay, please contact the Honorary Secretary, pay the once and for all Lifetime Membership Fee and obtain your Membership Card.

Be a partner with us on this joint venture !!



that " Dr. Gamani Corea is one of my most distinguished Council members." Right now, Dr. Corea is a Council member of the South Commission which was set up following a resolution adopted at the last Non-Aligned Nations Conference in Harare as a body to work out a plan to settle the Third World's debt problems.

In the course of an interview, Dr. Corea told me that the Third World was beset with debt problems. He expressed the view that Sri Lanka's debt problems " are not that serious." He opined, " we are not Mexico, we are still better off. In short, our debt problems are not so serious. Sri Lanka does not owe massive sums of money to commercial banks.

Our debts are to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and a sizeable amount consists of outright grants. So, our debt servicing is very small, compared to some of the Latin American and African countries."

This frontline economist who works without a salary or remuneration for the South Commission has his heart and soul in this, the land of his birth. He was concerned about the rising prices and recalled the old days when inflation was unheard of and Japanese goods were so cheap that one could make a satin drill suit with just eight rupees. " Now " said Dr. Corea " the situation is quite different, things have turned topsy turvy. The Japanese Yen has brought in its wake, inflation and rising prices in developing countries such as our's."

Reflecting on the plight of Third World countries, Dr. Corea was of the view that over the last fifty years commodity prices have been going down. And the sufferers have been poor countries such as our's. On top of all this, developed countries were resorting to protectionism which has dealt a body blow to exports from the Third World. He pointed out that the developed countries also had their problems. And these problems had their effect in the trade patterns and economics of those countries. He cited an example of the recent " crash " at Wall Street, America's business and stock-trading centre which was reminiscent of the " crash " in the thirties.

Dr. Corea explained that slashing imports alone would not solve the problem. " My opinion is that unless the global economic environment improves there is no solution to the problem." He stressed that the immediate need was for a great measure of sympathy and fairplay by the developing countries. It was not only a question of re-scheduling loans and writing off debts, it was the very high interest rates that were killing the borrowers. The time he said had now come for the developing countries to strengthen their bargaining power and to work towards obtaining greater access for their products and obtain fair prices. Dr. Corea pinpointed the fact that it was wrong to blame any political or governing party for the present recession. The situation today is that the poor countries were becoming poorer while the rich countries were growing richer.

Discussing what he called the "Japanese Economic Miracle" the former Chief Executive of UNCTAD said that the Japanese were on top of the world because of their good salesmanship. They knew their job and the lesson of the Japanese should be learnt by economically poor countries like our's.

He has once asked a Japanese industrialist about the secret of Japan's success and the industrialist had replied, " When we sell our goods, we follow up and see to it that the customer is satisfied."

#### Note from the Editor

Recently, about a month ago I dropped in at Horton Lodge to see Gamani and I was pleasantly surprised to see Gamani seated on a chair in the verandah in the company of his aunt, Malini Kotelawala.

I was received with a warm welcome and we spoke of various things which I thought would be of interest to Gamani. Although he was very interested and seemed to enjoy the conversation, just to cheer him up, I recalled a hilarious incident in which he was involved many years ago, during his stewardship as Secretary-General of UNCTAD. He enjoyed listening to it and laughed just as he did when he told this to me for the first time! After spending over one hour with him when I finally got up to leave he said " Will you come again ? " to which I said " yes ". It must be



Dr. Gamani Corea receiving the Dr. Sahabdeen Foundation Award for Excellence for 1993 from Governor of the Western Province S. Sharvananda chief guest at the award ceremony held at the BMICH yesterday evening. In the centre is Dr. A.M.M. Sahabdeen.

quite an uninteresting pastime for Gamani to sit on a chair and keep gazing at the road. He needs company and I do hope that as many of us who are in the ECFU will find the time to drop in to cheer him up! My next visit to see him will be in just a few days.

There is a saying that a Prophet is not honoured in his own home and Minister Anandatissa de Alwis related this story one day when we were having a friendly chat at his home. He said that all the finance ministers in the developing countries were meeting in India to come up with a formula that would generate interest amongst the affluent countries to come to the assistance of the poorer countries. The experts at this meeting failed to come up with a winning formula. One of the participating experts who was considered a financial wizzard made his point that to a person like Gamani Corea a workable solution would be well within reach. Minister Anandatissa de Alwis, as the Minister of State was participating as the delegate from Sri Lanka. Everyone agreed and turning to the Minister the Chairman made a courteous request for Gamani's immediate presence. The meeting was suspended until the Minister contacted Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake who had already sent Gamani on an important mission to Britain. The Prime Minister, agreed however to contact Gamani and request him to leave for New Delhi. In the meanwhile, all the participants decided to wait for Gamani's arrival. When they were all relaxing in the beautifully landscaped garden they saw a Rolls Royce approaching and when someone said, " Here he comes " everyone got up and went up to greet Gamani with a welcome smile and a warm handshake.

" I was so proud seeing how all these financial wizards from different countries looked at Gamani with boundless admiration and respect " said the minister. With the meeting reconvened, it did not take long for Gamani to come up with a formula that was acceptable to all!

The minister's countenance changed when he said with a sad tone that when Gamani arrived in his country for the Non-Aligned Summit there was no one at the airport to greet him with garlands and ceremonial paraphernalia that was so lavishly showered on foreign delegates when they arrived! Being the simple and unassuming Dr Gamani Corea he is - the expert with the double doctorate from Oxford and Cambridge breezed out - unaffected and happy to be in his homeland after many years of globe trotting!

## Obituary

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

- Lylie Corea
- Ivy Corea
- Prina Corea
- Ariya Corea
- Gamini Tammita
- Leonard Gunawardene

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





## REGISTERED MEMBERS OF THE EDIRIMANA COREA FAMILY UNION

as at May 15, 2012

Shelton de Alwis  
Mrs. Jack Conway  
Mrs. Malcolm Corea  
Vijaya Corea  
Savithri Thambapillai  
Stephanie de Alwis  
Nirmali Jayasekera  
Surangani Ameresekere  
Mrs Dukshie Goonetilleke  
Mrs. Harindra Corea  
Shanti Perera  
Vere Wickremasuriya  
Chas A. Ernest Corea  
Randunna Corea  
Rohan Goonetilleke  
Devadunna Corea  
Suvendreni Weerasekera  
Priya Samarasinghe  
Shiranee Gunawardana

Lilani Corea Dharmaratne  
Harinlal Aturupane  
Christabelle Aturupane  
Manouri Kalugampitiya  
Sanjeeva Victor Corea  
Brenda Wickremasinghe  
Sri Sangabo Corea  
Ernestine de Silva  
Eugene Corea  
Patricia Abeysekera  
Harsha Aturupane  
Carmen Perera  
Chrishantha Atapattu  
Mrs Rita Corea  
Mayadunne Corea, Jnr  
Amal Jayasekera  
Viran Corea  
Gamani Corea  
Mrs. Ishvari Corea

Mrs. Tissa de Alwis  
Manel Fonseka  
Ramesh Fonseka  
Erin Gooneratne  
Nuala Goonesekera  
Doreen Hettiarachchi  
Tissa Jayatilleke  
Anula Maharage  
Chantal De Saram  
Damaris Pannila  
Mahasen Pannila  
Rohan Perera  
Vimal Perera  
Kamini Perera  
Nalini Perera  
Vere Perera  
Indira Warnakulasooriya  
Anura Perera  
Anil Wickremasinghe

Harold Herat  
Chandra Corea  
Lylie Corea  
Jayanthi Jayasinghe  
Aloma Gunasekera  
Shireen Corea  
Nihal Corea  
Sanjeeva Fonseka  
L.D.Liyannaratchi  
Manoranee Silva  
Gamini de Silva  
Tissa de Silva  
Gihan de Silva  
Mrs. Vikrama Corea  
Ranmali Amarasekera  
Renuka Corea Lloyd  
Sharmini Corea Jayawardene

## HOW TO BE A LIFETIME MEMBER OF THE EDIRIMANA COREA FAMILY UNION

There is only One Type Of Membership in the Edirimana Corea Family Union ... and that is

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

## QUALIFICATION

The Constitution states as follows: Membership shall be open to the descendants of Edirimanasuriya Dominicus Corea generally known as Edirilla Rala and the spouses of such descendants.

## PROCEDURE TO ENROL

- \* If there is Corea blood in your veins ie if there is a Male or Female Corea in your lineage (ancestry or pedigree) contact the Secretary - Neville Weerasekera and obtain an Application Form.
- \* Furnish all the information asked for in the Form - in block capitals.
- \* Forward the Application Form along with Cash/Money Order/Postal Order or a Cheque drawn in favour of the Edirimana Corea Family Union and crossed A/c Payee, for Rs.1,250.

## FOR THOSE LIVING OVERSEAS

The Lifetime Membership Fee is Rs.2,500.

Hurry! Join up and be a part of a dynamic force!



Edirimana Corea Family Union

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Enrolment: \_\_\_\_\_

Honorary Secretary

## THE SILENT PILLAR OF KOTTE

- Sri Sangabo Corea Reporting -

On the 18th of March 1982, a Memorandum was addressed to President J.R. Jayawardene with a request that Kotte Road be re-named as Dominicus Corea Mawatha. The request was initiated following President Jayawardene's plan to restore the grandeur of Kotte and in doing so, introduce novel features that would give the driveway to the Parliament a striking visual impact. The signatories to the Memorandum were:

- Mrs Vimala Corea - President of the Kotte/Nugegoda Social Service League and a close relative of President Jayawardene
- Kumar Corea - Architect and Company Director
- Sri Sangabo Corea - Corporate Affairs Manager - Ceylon Tobacco Company Limited
- Chas. A. Ernest Corea - Justice of the Peace and Unofficial Magistrate and Attorney-at-Law
- D.H.R.A. Corea - Retired Superintendent of Police, Justice of the Peace and Unofficial Magistrate

The President, with his vast knowledge of historical facts was of the firm belief that a fitting Memorial for Dominicus Corea - General and Commander of the Sinhala Army and crowned King of the Sat Korale, Kotte and Sitawaka would be a source of inspiration to the present generation and generations to come. With the cabinet approving the project the President assigned the task to the Minister of State and Member of Parliament for Kotte, the Honourable Anandatissa de Alwis.

Minister Anandatissa de Alwis, being my very close friend telephoned me to Ceylon Tobacco Company saying he wanted to meet me urgently. When the question was asked what it was all about, in his friendly manner he said, "Sangabo - you should know by now that I don't discuss state secrets on the phone. If you know what's good for you, you'll be in my office at 3.00 p.m. today. O.K.?", "O.K. Chief" was my reply. My secretary's immediate reaction was that something big was in store for me!

At 2.55 I was in his room at "Transworks House", H.E.'s file which was already on his table was handed to me for reading, with a mischievous smile on his face. Even before he spoke I knew what I was in for!





I always enjoyed doing things for the minister because his company with his rich sense of humour was so very enjoyable. Sangabo, I am depending on you to do this for me. Will you prepare an action plan and see me in a week?" I said 'O.K.' and left.

In a week's time I was in the minister's office all set to discuss the action plan. In attendance were Leslie de Alwis, the minister's private secretary, Mrs Manel Abayaratne - Director Information and the minister's stenographer to record our decisions. According to the plan ...

- The Memorial was to take the form of an elegant Pillar approximately 80 feet in height
- The location was at the point where Kotte Road joined up with the Sri Jayawardenapura Road
- The funds for the memorial were initially to come from the Corea's
- The Department of Archaeology was to be commissioned to design and construct the Pillar
- The Sri Lanka Army, Navy and Air Force would figure prominently in a march past and guard-of-honour at the unveiling ceremony
- The invitees would include Parliamentarians, Members of the Diplomatic Corps and Religious Dignitaries
- The ceremony will start and end with the National Anthem
- A booklet on Dominicus Corea will be distributed in Sinhala, Tamil and English amongst the invitees
- A helicopter would shower down jasmine flowers on the memorial as soon as the Pillar was unveiled
- A 21 Gun Salute was to be included at an appropriate time
- His Excellency President J.R. Jayewardene will deliver the keynote address
- The print and electronic media will give live coverage to the ceremony from start to finish

Since the collection of funds was of paramount importance to get the project off the ground the Minister of State, in his letter to the Coreas had this to say ...

"No history book, whether written by a Portuguese, a Dutchman, an Englishman or a Sinhalese regarding the Kotte period is without several pages describing the parentage, the youth, the martial exploits, the marriage, the appointment as King of Kotte and Sitawaka and finally the terrible death Dominicus Corea had at the hands of his Portuguese captors due to his fierce fighting to free his country from foreign domination.

Dominicus Corea has no parallel in the history of our country. His statue must be worthy of him and serve as a source of inspiration to the present generation and generations to come.

As the Member of Parliament for Kotte it is with a sense of pride that I associate myself with this project which is designed to do honour to a great soldier and patriot from Kotte. The statue which will be sited along the driveway to Parliament will serve as an important landmark in Sri Jayawardenapura, Kotte and will be unveiled at an appropriate ceremony by His Excellency President J.R. Jayewardene.

It is my sincere hope that you will give generously to this project which is a major step taken to restore the grandeur of Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte, the ancient Capital of Sri Lanka.

sgd. Dr. Anandatissa de Alwis  
MINISTER OF STATE  
AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
FOR KOTTE

We only had to make sure that the designing of the Pillar was going according to plan. Henri and I were in constant touch with the designers at the archaeological department and wasted no time in visiting some of the locations where the carvings conforming to the Kotte period were available for us to see and approve. The foundation stone was laid by the minister on 10th July 1985.

When I enquired from the minister whether I had the freedom to form a committee of selected individuals to assist me he said he had no objections but made it clear that he would be dealing directly with me and not with any member of the committee.

Henri and I in the company of the designers visited some temples and buildings where the carvings they had in mind were available for us to see and approve.

At this point in time Flora and I had to leave for the United States to spend a holiday with my daughter Ramani and I included in our sight-seeing itinerary a visit to Arlington Cemetery to see the grave of President John F. Kennedy. Some of the simple and yet novel features surrounding the eternal flame were well thought of. I was looking at the possibility of incorporating some of the features to enhance the visual impact of the Dominicus Corea Memorial.

With the inner structure of the Pillar installed passers by were curious to find out what the Pillar represented. There was trouble also brewing with a few politicians and buddhist monks asking why a memorial should be put up in honour of Dominicus Corea when there were others too who deserved to be honoured. After a long chat the minister had with me he sent me this letter ...

10th December 1985

My dear Sangabo,

Dominicus Corea Edirilla Rala Memorial

The members of the Maha Sangha in Kotte and Bellanwila have protested for erecting a memorial for Edirillera.

Enclosed is a photo-copy of a Note sent to me by Ven. (Dr) Bellanwila Wimalaratana on Edirillera.

It would seem unwise therefore to go ahead with this project and be unnecessarily drawn into a controversy.

With kind regards

Yours Sincerely  
Anandatissa de Alwis  
Minister of State

The minister was very upset that all our hard work had been reduced to nought and was anxious to find out what the underlying reason for this protest was. He asked me whether I was prepared to attend a meeting at the Bellanwila Temple to which I said I certainly will come because I needed to know what this was all about. The Ven. Dr Bellanwila Wimalaratana was present with four lecturers who I believe were from the Sri Jayawardenapura University who did not get involved in the debate but instead appeared to play their role as observers. Henri, Kumar and I were there armed with books written by De Queyroz, Baldeus, Knox, Sir Paul E. Peiris, Mudliyar C.E.C. Bulathsinghala, John M. Seneviratne and other historians.

The first issue raised was that Dominicus Corea was married to a Portuguese lady. We showed chapter, page and paragraph, confirming from the history books, that Dominicus Corea was given as his bride, Subadra Devi the daughter of Vidiya Bandara, King of the Sat Korale and Queen Suriya Devi, the daughter of Mayadunne of Sitawaka. This is the only wedding recorded in the annals of history as having been held in the Kandy Maligawa with much pomp and pageantry that was associated with Royalty. At his coronation and wedding, Dominicus Corea was proclaimed King of Kotte and Sitawaka by King Wimaladharmasuriya 1 and Dominicus Corea took the name Edirimanasuriya.





When the request was made by the venerable priest to dedicate the memorial to "All the Heroes of Kotte" the minister said it was not possible to reverse the original decision approved by the Cabinet. When asked for our opinion we agreed to withdraw from the project on the grounds that there was no equal to Dominicus Corea in terms of heroic achievements and on a matter of principle would not insult the Commander of the Sinhala Army who was also the King of Kotte and Sitawaka by merely comparing him with other so called "Heroes of Kotte". We informed the minister that we were not in a position to deviate from the original terms of reference issued to us and had no choice but to disassociate ourselves with the project and refund the monies received, to the respective donors.

Before we concluded the meeting I had this to say....

'It is sad that when a Sinhalese is to be honoured it is not the other races that would protest and oppose but a few Sinhalese themselves who will use their might to stop it and in doing so display their disloyalty and disrespect for the deserving. We saw this happening today and that indeed is the sad plight of the Sinhalese!'

.... and thus ended months and months of arduous work reduced to nought thanks to the interference of petty minded politicians and narrow minded historians!

### The Edirimana Corea Family Remembers - Ernestine de Silva



A choral Celebration in remembrance of our dear departed was held at the Church of St. Paul, Milagiriya at 4.00 p.m. on the 12th of November 2011. This was the first of its kind and was the 'brainchild' of Eugene Corea, the President of the Edirimana Corea Family Union, to commemorate our departed relatives and thank God for their lives, services and legacies that sustain the present and next generation of Coreas.

The organizing committee - with Eugene as Chairman, Neville Weerasekera, Patsy Abayasekera, Suvendreni Weerasekera, Gamini de Silva, Deva Corea, Ranmal Goonetilleke, Amal Jayasekera, Christabelle Aturupane and Savithri Thambapillai, went into action.

Fund raising was of paramount importance and a target was decided on. Coreas and 'nee' Coreas here and abroad were rounded up to reach as many people as possible for donations, including the folks overseas. The response was heartening and greatly appreciated. It was decided to request people to send photographs and names of relatives to be remembered. Photographs and names came by hand, mail and e-mail. It is a pity that there were some names without supporting photographs. Altogether, the photographs and names numbered 150.

The programme commenced with the 'Opening Prayer' sent specially by Ernest Corea, across the miles from Washington. This was followed by the 'Lord's Prayer' recited by the Congregation. The oil lamp was lit by the most senior Coreas numbering 11 persons including Eugene, the incumbent President and Past Presidents Vijaya, Deva, and Sangabo, followed by Eunice Perera, Kumar Corea, Ernestine De Silva, Surangani Amerasekera, Allick Jayasekera, Gerry De Alwis and Neville Weerasekera. During the lighting of the lamp, "The hymn for Sri Lanka" was sung by members of the "next generation" of the family Union.

The Congregation, then sang 'O God our help in ages past' before the Scripture reading - Psalm 103 read by Nirmali Jayasekera.

Young Daniel Weerasekera then sang "Amazing Grace" after which a song recorded in Canada by Shehan and Lishni Salgado was played. The next Scripture reading by Deva Corea was from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. "Through all the changing scenes of life" was sung by the Congregation. The next item was a Sinhala song sung by Manel Fonseka "Himi pada wetha awa" supported by Manahari Abayasekera and Ayesha Perera. Sangabo Corea read the third Scripture, reading 1 Corinthians 15:53-58. Savithri Thambapillai supported by Manahari and Ayesha, next sang "On The Wings of a Snow White Dove". "The Lord's My Shepherd" was sung next by Kumar Corea. Thereafter, Vijaya Corea delivered the Eulogy. Sashika Corea Mahiman and Viran Corea then sang "The Old Rugged Cross". The climax of the service was the "Candle Light Vigil". A candle lit silence was observed during which a presentation featuring the photographs and names of family members who have passed before us was projected on to an overhead screen to the accompaniment of the instrumental rendering of well loved tunes such as "You raise me up" and "Candle in the Wind".

The presentation was developed by Manoj Abayasekera while Gamini de Silva arranged the electronic equipment. The programme for the service, including the list of 150 names of relatives being remembered, was prepared by Manahari Abayasekera, Christabelle Aturupane accompanied the Congregation and the individual vocalists on the church piano. Everyone present was given a bible bookmark with compliments from Sangabo.

The celebration concluded with the blessing given by Rev. Melvin de Silva, Vicar of St. Paul's Church, Milagiriya and the hymn 'How Great Thou Art' sung by the Congregation. There was a time of fellowship in the church garden thereafter.

The DVD of the 'Choral Celebration' is available with Neville at Rs.300/- each.

### E.C.F.U. SING-A-LONG ... A NIGHT TO REMEMBER - Christabelle Aturupane -

The Grand Ballroom of the Galadari Hotel was the venue for the Edirimana Corea Family Union, fund raiser for the welfare of Cancer patients, held on 20th November 2011.

It was the best ever "Sing-A-Long" thanks to the single-handed effort of that incomparable Compere and family member, Vijaya Corea. The E.C.F.U. Banner, the decor, the beautiful table arrangements of fresh flowers, all added up to an extraordinary ambience. The evening began with the Patron of the E.C.F.U., Vijaya Corea coming on stage to speak a few words about the Corea clan and their aristocratic lineage dating back to King Parakrama Bahu VI. In conclusion, he remarked that a person's Kingly heritage can be seen not just by inheritance but by the character of Life witnessed by others. "The display of Love, Compassion, Care and Concern in human relationships would identify you as being respectable." he said.

Now it was time for Nalin & the Star Combination to strike up the Band. The audience, participated enthusiastically, selecting their favourite numbers from the elegant song books. A panel of judges moved around picking the better singing tables, where ultimately three tables were given the chance to come up front and compete for an attractive prize. The night was still young and beautiful music from a vintage that offered perennial favourites and evergreens filled the air! Compere Vijaya Corea was on his toes ensuring that there was never a dull moment. In between the music and Ticket draws the Compere's bubbling humour kept the audience in fits of laughter! The Entrance ticket draw saw the lucky winner walking away with an air-ticket. Many other prizes were won by lucky winners while the Business card draw also saw some lucky winners walking away, delighted.

The second half of the evening took another turn. The singing gave way to Dancing. To the lift and beat of the excellent dance music





belted out by the Band, the participants stormed the dance floor, even spilling over to the corridors! They sang and danced to their hearts content!

Next, Annesley Malawana took over. He began by extolling the virtues of the Corea clan, mentioning Sangabo, Vernon and Vijaya who had helped in launching him into the music and entertainment scene. He then entertained the audience to the Sinhala pop hits of the 70s and seeing Dilhani, Sangabo's daughter in the audience called her up to join him in singing "Dilhani" the record breaking hit that Clarence Wijewardena was inspired to compose for her when she was just a few months old! After a kiss and with his arm around her, together they sang the song that created a sensation in topping the Sinhala, English and All-India Hit Parades! The applause that followed spoke for its never ending popularity!!

The concluding item was the Baila Competition, which went on in full swing! Sujeeva and Asitha were adjudged the winners and they, together with the Runners-Up delighted the audience with a power-packed exhibition dance!

The "Sing-A-Long" with all tickets sold out six days in advance, was staged for a worthy cause. Out heartfelt thanks go to our Patron, Vijaya Corea who spared no pains to make this a Night To Remember. To all the E.C.F.U. members, their families and friends who were present and supported this worthy cause - a BIG THANK YOU. To the members who were unable to be present at this Sing-A-Long, I can only say, "You missed a truly unforgettable event!!"

## A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS

The Edirimana Corea Family Union, very specially thanks Annesley Malawana for consenting to be the Guest Artist, in spite of another engagement and graciously waiving off a charge for his performance, which needless to say was worth a million and enjoyed by all!

## Playing the Piano with Pure Passion

Tanya Ekanayake,  
a talented musician cum linguist, on a visit back home speaks to  
Namali Premawardhana



Her mother, Indira, being a piano teacher and her father, Asoka, an amateur violinist, it must have been inevitable that Tanya started piano lessons as young as five. But unlike for most of us, playing the piano-performing- was not just another extra curriculum activity for her, but the development of a relationship.

Tanya knew and her parents recognized that "from a practical point of view, it is a very risky thing to make a career out of music - especially in this country." And so, along came academia. Tanya's father was a professor at the University of Peradeniya, and thus she grew up on the campus premises, constantly exposed to the "academic" kind of atmosphere of the place. Not a surprise then, that she was admitted to the English Honours programme of the university in 1999.



She narrated the experience of undergraduate studies with well-known linguist Thiru Kandiah. "I was very fortunate, he really inspired" she enthuses. Unable to give up her first love, yet falling headlong into her academic interests, Tanya began at this stage to fuse language studies with music. Her undergraduate thesis was on a combination of the two, and earned her a place on the staff at the Department of English at Peradeniya soon after graduation.

"Oh, it was lovely!" she says of her first experiences as a lecturer, adding with laughter that she learnt more during this time "cos they just put you in the deep end. But it was fabulous" she says to sit with Prof. Kandiah and have "long discussions about everything."

In 2007, Tanya was offered a scholarship to read for an MSc in linguistics at the University of Edinburgh, again bringing music and linguistics together in a study of language mixing in Sri Lankan pop-music.

Tanya, has also continued to teach in the linguistics and music departments at Edinburgh and it was while practising on a piano at the department that she was heard by a more senior member of the staff and "quite by accident" launched into an international career in music performance.

Her performances gained Tanya the reputation that finally led her to the highlight of her career so far, becoming the first Sri Lankan to play in the 'Pianists of the World' series at St. Martin-in-the-Fields in 2010. "It was a huge honour" she says quietly, humbly. The performance also marked the first occasion on which one of her compositions was part of the programme, as well as the first time a Sri Lankan composition was presented at that famed site. Since then, each of her concerts has featured an original composition (most of these - some found on You Tube - based on Sri Lankan tunes from her childhood). And these concerts too, have been many.

"I've always felt that in Sri Lanka people are very very fond of music" she laughs that it's a silly thing to say. "There's a real interest, even though there is - ironically - very little scope for someone to make a career out of it. People want to sing and talk about music in a very uninhabited sort of way ... and I think that's wonderful. And I think that is why there is a lot of talent here. It is sad though, that this whole classical music business is restricted to a certain class of people." Tanya believes "that if the musical sphere were to be opened up and broadened out, out of that would come the new sounds of our generation. Of course it is inevitable that a lot of confused sounds will be emerging out of that endeavour, but that is natural, and you absolutely need it. Look at Bach and Beethoven - that's what they did. They messed around with what was there before them, and made it their own and did something new - and it was new pop music at that time!"

With her education, her experience, her stunning looks, her achievements and fame, one expects Dr. (yes, Doctor) Tanya Ekanayake to be overbearing and superior. But we find the opposite. The slim girl with the dainty step is still very much aware of where she comes from, and her character driven by two things: love of music and love of home.





## THE WEDDING OF

Thusharadevi Claire Corea to Caton Montgomery Walker  
an eye witness account by Deva Corea (uncle of the bride)



On the 14th of April 2012, Thusharadevi Claire Corea, younger daughter of Uttum and Dinky Corea, wed Caton Montgomery Walker, the son of Melinda Walker and Kelly and Jan Walker at the 'Doc Chimeneas' Ranch in Round Top, Texas.

'Doc Chimeneas' (in English meaning "Two Chimneys") is named for the 160 year old log cabins, one of which features two Chimneys, a rarity for pioneer cabins of that era. The wedding was solemnized on the verandah of this log cabin by the Very Reverend J. Pittman McGehee in the sight of a large gathering of friends and relatives, many of whom had flown in from different countries and continents.

A radiant bride was driven to the venue with her father, in a horse drawn carriage. When seven tornados hit different parts of Texas that day, the dark gloomy clouds that overshadowed the event were

dispelled as if by a miracle that brought out bright sunshine that lit up the wedding ceremony. The ceremony ended with the couple driving off in the same carriage. The reception that followed with dinner and dancing was held under a large marquee that housed more than 250 guests.

Caton, in his address spoke of a visit to London when he was sent on business by his firm. Speaking on the telephone to

his London contact, he claims it was love at first sound as he fell hopelessly in love with that voice and then feared that when they met it would turn out to be a fat and ugly lady. It was love at first sight as well, so much so that he persuaded his company to post him to London where it took him several years to persuade Thushara to accept his hand in marriage. The couple, have now settled down in Houston, Texas and we wish them well and pray that the Lord will be with them every step of the way.

The Edirimana Corea Family Union warmly welcomes Caton to the Corea Family!

## Mahiman marries Sashika

The Church of St. Paul, Milagiriya was looking beautiful with natural flower arrangements to suit the occasion when Sashika, daughter of Vijaya and Ranjini Corea was getting married to Mahiman, son of Siva and Damayanthi Sivasundaram on 3rd September 2011.

The Bishop of Colombo, Rt. Revd. Dhilloraj Canagasabey officiated with Rev. David Fernandes, who had known Sashika from her childhood having come all the way from Australia to deliver a



heartwarming homily. It had every Anglican tradition meticulously planned by Sashika under the able guidance of her father who had close connections with the church.

The Merry-Ann Singers comprised the choir filling the air with heavenly music. The blessing was sung by Viran, the bride's brother soon after Sashika and Mahiman had exchanged rings. Family members and friends gathered in overflowing numbers to wish Sashika and Mahiman both at the

church and at the Oak Room of the Cinnamon Grand Hotel. The guests, who arrived at the hotel first met in the foyer for a time of fellowship and cocktails after which they took their seats anxiously awaiting the arrival of the beautiful bride with her handsome bridegroom.

Soon after the couple cut the cake the toast was proposed by the Bestman, Joshua Stephen, moments after Viran had spoken lovingly, yet not without humour of his sister. After dinner, the father of the bride, Vijaya was on his feet to propose the vote of thanks and gave thanks to Jesus Christ for curing him of a cancer and enabling him to walk his daughter up the aisle as a bride. Dr. Felix Senanayake who was the radiologist in the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, England when Vijaya was flown out there for treatment was among the invitees to witness the amazing grace of God. Ivan Corea also flew down keeping to his childhood promise that come what may he will be there in a big way at Shashika's wedding!

The evening ended with everyone joining in to sing the much loved hymn - "How Great Thou Art"

## NIHAL COREA



I had not met Nihal until I joined Lever Brothers (Ceylon) Limited. That was to be expected with his father, Sir Claude Corea, being Ceylon's High Commissioner in the U.K. accredited to France and Belgium and was later appointed Ceylon's Ambassador in U.S.A. and Permanent Representative of the United Nations with Nihal, spending a good part of his youthful days in London and Washington.

Nihal, was by nature, a simple, unassuming and yet very much the reserved type who will not make friends with people he met for the first time. He was very selective when it came to choosing his friends. And those who counted him as a friend knew him to be a gentleman and a rare human being endowed with sterling qualities!

He was the Head of Market Research, at Levers and widely acknowledged in business circles as having no equal insofar as knowledge and experience in market research was concerned. He was the only male in the department with a bevy of good looking females working under him as field investigators and tabulators. It came to pass that outside institutions readily sought Nihal's expertise to conduct market research surveys for their brands and services, paying a premium price for the quality of work he produced.





When from Sales I came into Marketing I had the pleasure of working with people who were unbelievably friendly and nice and Nihal certainly topped the list! The more I worked with him the more I began to admire his sterling qualities and his style of managing people and winning their support. All the ladies who worked for him I am sure had one thing in common - the highest regard and respect for him! Needless to say, the nicest thing that happened to Nihal was having Shirani working for him in office and later on doing a full-time job in his home! To be in his company was delightful and he put everyone at ease with his extraordinary sense of humour. It was too soon for him to go, leaving a void which couldn't be filled. Shirani and the children are indeed blessed to have shared their lives with him.

What I will never forget about Nihal is the big kick he got out of teasing people. He made it a point to tell everybody in office that I was his uncle and I in turn told them that this was one nephew who had forgotten how to respect his uncle by standing up each time I walked into his cubicle! I excused him on the count that these are Sinhala customs which he had forgotten due to his upbringing in foreign countries! He had no reply to that!!

I was happy to hear from Shirani that one of the two sons is a carbon copy of the father. This world will be a much better place to live in if there were more like Nihal Corea in it. He truly was a gem of a person and trust me when I say that Nihal was an embellishment to society in general and to his friends in particular!!

*Sange*

### *Sange's Icebreaker*

Lady on the Telephone

"Sir - I want to meet you and talk to you.

You are the father of one of my kids."

The man is stunned and says "Oh my God!"

"Are you Rasika?"

No.

Sirimali?

No.

Punyakanthi?

No.

Samanmalie?

No.

Kalyani?

No.

Dharshini?

No.

Lady in confusion

"Sir, I am your son's Class Teacher".

### **CATHOLIC COFFEE MORNING IN ROME**

Four Catholic men and a Catholic woman were having coffee in St. Peter's Square.

The first Catholic man tells his friends,

"My son is a priest, when he walks into a room, everyone calls him 'Father'."

The second Catholic man chirps,

"My son is a Bishop. When he walks into a room, people call him 'Your Grace'."

The third Catholic gent says,

"My son is a Cardinal. When he enters a room everyone bows his head and says 'Your Eminence.'"

The fourth Catholic man says very proudly,

"My son is the Pope. When he walks into a room people call him 'Your Holiness'."

Since the lone Catholic woman was sipping her coffee in silence,

The four men give her a subtle, "Well...?"

She proudly replies, "I have a daughter,

SLIM ...TALL ...36 INCHES BREAST ...23 INCHES WAIST and ...36 INCHES HIPS.

When she walks into a room, people say,

**"O My God."**

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



our young ones together during the period under review.

Dear Family, in the year that was, our ECFU developed significantly. We met more frequently as a family and worked together as a family unit. The Union's bank balance too has doubled. So clearly we have given more for the family. A serious attempt was made to bring

On behalf of us all I extend my grateful thanks to those whose commitment & enthusiasm made it possible for the ECFU's progress, namely our Patron, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice - Presidents, Assistant Secretary, Committee Members, those whose names are mentioned in the reports in these pages plus all of you who took the trouble to participate in our activities.

Eugene Corea

## NEWS BREAKER

EDIRIMANA COREA  
FAMILY WEBSITE

The Edirimana Corea Family Website is being readied for launching, funded by Uttum Corea. This is a long felt need and it is hoped that every family which constitutes the ECFU will take full advantage to bring themselves, their spouses and their children into the spotlight, focussing on their skills and achievements. If the head of each family fails to take over this responsibility you have only yourself to blame for not being fair by the family.

The family chart initiated by Henri Corea needs to be up-dated. Someone, in each family must shoulder the responsibility of getting the names of the entire family into your family history with documents and photographs in support which will be scanned and returned. To be included in the Edirimana Corea Family Chart we need to have a Profile of each family member which can run into 2 A4 size papers. Furnish (a) Name (b) Profession/Occupation (c) Brief History (d) Noteworthy Achievements (e) Spouse & Date of Marriage (f) Parents (g) Children (h) Grand-children (i) Date of Birth (j) If Deceased - Age at Death - Date and Place of Death (k) Educational Institutions Attended (School/University) (l) Outstanding Achievements if any (m) Any related Web-sites (n) Press Cuttings/Articles (o) Photographs Old/New.

We recommend that each individual should prepare his/her own history first and thereafter go through it with the other members of the family just to make sure that everything worth mentioning has been included.

The following have been nominated to collect the data in respect of family branches...

**Vijaya Corea - 2584873 \* Sri Sangabo Corea - 2856601 \* Deva Corea - 2784191 \* Amal Jayasekera - 071-2718888 and \* Christabelle Aturupane - 2712534.**

All information furnished must be factual and supported with documentary proof, where necessary.

All particulars forwarded will be vetted and edited by a Committee assisted by professional web-site developers.

for clarification contact  
Deva Corea : 077-3400802





## PRESENT :

THE HONOURABLE SIR JAMES PEIRIS KT  
 THE HONOURABLE BRIGADIER A.C. GIRDWOOD,  
 C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O,  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. A.G.M. FLETCHER,  
 C.M.G., C.B.E.,  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. M.T. AKBAR, K.C.,  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. F.G. TYRRELL, C.M.G.,  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. W.W. WOODS, C.M.G.,  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. F.A. STOCKDALE, C.B.E.,  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. N.H.M. ABDUL CADER  
 THE HONOURABLE SIR PONNAMBALAM  
 RAMANATHAN, KT., K.C., C.M.G.  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. W. DURAISWAMY  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. E.W. PERERA  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. E.R. TAMBIMUTTU  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. A.C.G. WIJYEKOON  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. C.W.W. KANNANGARA  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. K. BALASINGHAM  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. A. CANAGARATNAM  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. C.E. VICTOR S. COREA  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. C.H.Z. FERNANDO  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. H.R. FREEMAN  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. T.B. JAYAH  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. H.M. MACAN MARKAR  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. G.E. MADAWALA  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. A. MAHADEVA  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. A.F. MOLAMURE  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. I.X. PEREIRA  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. S. RAJARATNAM  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. D.S. SENANAYAKE  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. M.M. SUBRAMANIAM  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. V.S. DE S. WIKRAMANAYAKE  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. G.A.H. WILLE  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. W.A. DE SILVA  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. P.B. RAMBUKWELLA  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. T.M. SABA RUTNAM  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. T.L. VILLIERS  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. K. NATESA AIYAR  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. W.E. WAIT,  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. L. MACRAE,  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. S. OBEYESEKERE,  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. GEORGE BROWN  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. H.A. BURDEN,  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. M.J. CARY  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. G.R. DE SILVA  
 THE HONOURABLE DR. V. VAN LANGENBERG,  
 THE HONOURABLE MR. C.E. DE VOS

MR. C.C. WOOLLEY

## ECFU Remembers



## THE HON. C.E. VICTOR S. COREA

Member for Colombo Town North - Legislative Council of Ceylon

...taken from the Hansard



Sir, I believe I had the privilege, as President of the Young Lanka League, of being the first among the Ceylonese to commend to the Special Commissioner the grant of manhood franchise to the people of this country. Since that time I have heard no arguments adduced, nor have I seen anything in the conditions of the country to make me alter my opinions on that point. There is certainly much to be said for the suggestion that the restriction of the franchise to

illiterates only would be an incentive to those who are illiterate to qualify themselves for the franchise by securing the necessary degree of literacy. But, Sir, we know that in this country education is a question of opportunity. The fact that so large a number of my countrymen are illiterate is their misfortune and not their fault. That after a hundred years of British rule there should be such a large percentage of illiterates is to my mind proof irrefragable that the administration has been in the hands of bureaucrats who have been absolutely callous to the needs of the people of this country. And the conviction is borne into one's mind with irresistible force that the people of this country should have a hand in the administration of this country so as to make for a large number of children of school-going age attending school, and to scatter night schools broadcast throughout the Island so that grown-up men who are now illiterate may become literate.

As regards the female franchise I may say that I, following the Congress principles, recommended a restricted female franchise. The restriction that I had in contemplation was in the direction of education and the property qualification. But the Special Commissioners have thought fit to adopt another sort of restriction-that of age. I have a strong suspicion that in placing that limitation in the way of female would-be voters they were, being shrewd men of the world, thinking of a way of restricting the female voters' register, for we know that very few women would care to come forward and publicly state that they are above the age of thirty. We all know from our knowledge of the country that as a matter of fact there will be a far larger number of females both willing and fit to exercise the franchise among those who are between the ages of twenty-one and thirty than those above thirty. It seems curious- I do not know if it has struck you, Sir, but I was struck by the fact -that for every seeming advantage that the Special Commissioners have conceded to the people of this country in their recommendations there has been a compensating disadvantage. Take, for instance, the question of manhood franchise. That gift has been made a sort of dead sea apple by the fact that the representatives of the people are to be rendered impotent as it were by the vast powers proposed to be given to the Governor. Then take this Council itself. It is proposed that this Council should be enlarged by about 100 per cent, but as against that we have to consider that the power they now possess-the power of the purse-about which so much has been said, is to be curtailed to the extent of about 50 per cent. I refer to the suggestion that the Public Servants are to be removed from the control of the legislature. We know that the emoluments of the Public Servants come to about 50 per cent of the general revenue. Then Sir, take the matter of the Ministers. There was a cry from this country that we should be allowed to have Ministers of our own and the Special Commissioners have granted us that and say we can have seven Ministers elected by the people, but these Ministers are to be handicapped by a number of Committees.

Then there is the question of female franchise. The females of this country are to be hampered by the galling condition that they are to come before the public and make a confession that they have passed the first bloom of youth. And the irony of it all is that all this is an age when thanks to the aid of cosmetics, the bobbing of hair, and the shortening of skirts we cannot







# Edirimana Corea Family Union

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (date not decided at the time of going into print)

### AGENDA

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Religious Observances</li> <li>2. Meeting of the 2012 Annual General Meeting is Called to Order</li> <li>3. Read the Notice convening this year's AGM, if not taken as read</li> <li>4. Obituaries and Observation of Two Minutes Silence in their Memory</li> <li>5. Adoption of Minutes of the 2011 AGM held on August 22, 2010</li> <li>6. Business or Matters Arising out of Agenda Item 05 above</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Address by Dr. Eugene Corea, President, Edirimana Corea Family Union</li> <li>8. Review and Adopt the 2010/2011 Union's Annual Report</li> <li>9. Review and Adopt the 2010/2011 Accounts</li> <li>10. Motions of which Due Notice has been given</li> <li>11. Announcements</li> <li>12. Any other Business of which Due Notice has been given</li> <li>13. Election of Office Bearers for 2012/2013</li> </ol> |
|--|--|

• Patron

• Two Vice-Patrons

• President

• Two Vice-Presidents

• Honorary Secretary

• Honorary Assistant Secretary

• A Committee of not more than Ten Members

• Honorary Treasurer

• Honorary Assistant Treasurer

• Honorary Auditor

14. Adjournment

NEVILLE WEERASEKERA  
Honorary Secretary



# Edirimana Corea Family Union



PRINTED MATTER

*Deva Corea*

If undelivered please return to:

**Neville Weerasekera**  
28, E.A. Cooray Mawatha,  
Colombo 6.