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The newsletter of Sri Lanka Canada Association of Ottawa (SLCAO)

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SLCAO UPCOMING EVENTS

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Image Credit: www.happynewyear2015quotes.net

SLCAO Xmas Celebrations 2014

The 2014 Annual SLCAO Christmas celebrations were held at the Ukrainian Banquet Hall, Ottawa on the 13th Saturday of December.

Over 250 guests attended the celebrations. Acting



High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in Canada Mr. Waruna Wilpatha and staff members also attended the party. Rev. Father Thyagan Fonseka started the proceeding with a Christmas prayer.

SLCAO President Mr. **Nardha Kodithuwakku** welcomed the dignitaries and the guests. Vice President **Anura Ferdinand** presented a video tribute to the SLCAO volunteers, supporters and sponsors. Click here to view video:

<http://tinyurl.com/q3ztq7p>

Christmas carols from the SLCAO kids attracted everyone's attention. In addition to the carols, a colorful Christmas play including kids of all ages was also staged.

Guests were treated to a sumptuous buffet dinner (Manoj special). The local band "**Lankan Hurricanes**" provided dinner time music featuring community singers. The specialty item was the kids music presentation including the first ever Ottawa youth band.

The raffle draw led by a LG 42" LED TV" sponsored by **Mr. Nantha Aiyadurai**, kept the attendees excited. After that, the crowd settled in to boogie with the DJ music which continued in to wee hours of the morning.

SLCAO wishes to thanks all the attendees, volunteers who helped in various ways to make this event a great success!

(please check Page 4 for related photos.)

Information, views or opinions expressed in the SLCAO newsletter originates from many different sources and contributors throughout the general community. Please note that content does not necessarily represent or reflect the views and opinions of SLCAO or the editor. Any feedback or contributions are most welcome. ec@slcaottawa.com

A Christmas Village?

I have seen lot of houses displaying outdoor decorations and lighting during the Christmas season. Over the Christmas holidays I had the opportunity to visit Anoma and Max. I was pleasantly surprised to see a very nicely put together miniature Christmassy village in their dining room. It was so well thought out and painstaking put together, I thought of writing about it.



Satahan: *what made you think of doing such an elaborate decoration?*

Anoma/Max: About 15 years ago in Windsor, I went for a x'mas dinner at one of my Canadian friends and her grandmother had a Christmas village like this. I was amazed and couldn't take my eyes off of it. I still have the photograph I took that day. It was only half of the size of the village I have today

Satahan: *I came to know that you have been doing this for couple of years now, each year adding more items. Where do you get your components?*

Anoma/Max: This is the 4th year and yes, I add new items every year and it's always a different set up each year too. I only collect the Lemex brand buildings and accessories and I buy them from Canadian Tire. There are couple of other brands too.

Satahan: *Did lot of people come to see this magnificent decoration?*

Anoma/Max: I have couple of parties during Christmas every year and my guests always enjoy the village regardless of their age.

Satahan: *How long are you keeping the structure up so that any interested people can have a look?*

Anoma/Max: Usually I take it down by the 2nd weekend of January

Ten years since the 2004 deadly Tsunami

On the Boxing day, ten years ago, we witnessed through news media in horror and sadness how a massive tsunami claimed more than 230,000 lives in fourteen different countries, mostly in Asia. This was one of the deadliest natural disasters ever recorded. In the last 10 years, many of the communities have recovered, though painful memories and some ruined structures remain in place. On the Boxing day this year, memorials were held in remembrance of the thousands of victims across Asia.

Sri Lanka was one of the countries struck by the tsunami. Sri



Lankan authorities reported 30,196 confirmed deaths.

The south and east coasts were worst hit. One and a half million people were

displaced from their homes. Over the years, with the donations and aid provided from various universal organizations and local organizations, the country and the surviving tsunami victims appeared to have recovered.

Some of you may remember that SLCAO then were very active in helping the affected communities in Sri Lanka.

Let us take a moment to remember all the victims and their suffering...

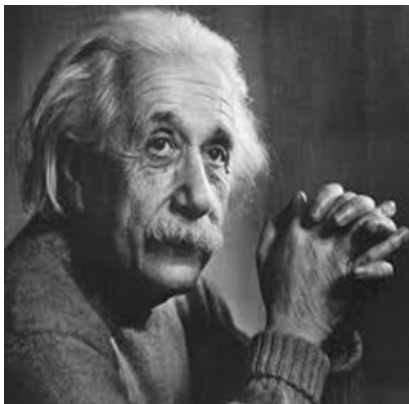
Satahan: *It is a long way from next Christmas. But, are you thinking of adding more items to this beautiful structure next year?*

Anoma/Max: Of course yes. I am thinking of adding a Golf course, just for you **Satahan Man**

Satahan Man: *Thanks very much for the thought. Hopefully, I'll be still there to see it...*



ALBERT EINSTEIN



Albert Einstein was born in Ulm, Germany, in 1879, just a century ago and was born to a Jewish Origin. He is one of the small group of people who remake the world through a special gift, a talent for perceiving old

things in new ways, for posing deep challenges to conventional wisdom.

For many decades he was a saintly and honored figure, the only scientist the average person could readily name. Einstein had specific creative thinking techniques that you can emulate to get creative breakthroughs in any field of endeavor. The primary creative mindset of Albert Einstein is that of possibility thinking. Basically this means giving yourself the permission to think extraordinary things. Part of giving yourself permission to think in exceptional and creative ways is also giving yourself the opportunity to do so.

Nearly everyone knows who Einstein is. When Einstein was younger, it wasn't obvious that he would go on to become the most famous scientist ever. As a child Einstein showed little indication of what was to come. Einstein eventually completed his high school and university education, but he didn't do well enough at university to get the teaching job he wanted. Instead, Einstein went to work in a patent office. Luckily for us, his job was so boring that it gave him lots of time to think. This is where Einstein developed his most famous ideas.

This famous scientist had a passion for music and started taking violin lessons in Munich at the age of 5. He did not truly fall in love until discovering Mozart at age 13. Einstein once said that *"If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician. I often think in music. I live in my day dreams of music. I see my life in terms of music"*. Music was not only a relaxation to Einstein; it also helped him in his work.

Israel elected Einstein as to be the leader of the country

after World War two but he didn't agree to this offer. Einstein's equation $E = mc^2$ from the special theory of relativity was used to create the atomic bomb which Einstein did not get involved in. The result of that project led to the death of hundreds of thousands of Japanese citizens in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In December 1932 during the time world war two was happening Einstein decided to leave Germany forever. It became obvious to Einstein that his life was in danger. A Nazi organization published a magazine with Einstein's picture and the caption "Not Yet Hanged" on the cover. There was even a price on his head.

On April 18, 1955, the great mathematician and physicist Albert Einstein died, He was 76 years old. Although Einstein's body was cremated, his brain was saved by Dr. Thomas S. Harvey a pathologist. He did many test to see what was special about him but he did this without the permission of Albert Einstein or his family. Einstein didn't want his brain or body to be studied; he didn't want to be worshipped. He had left behind specific instructions regarding his remains: "cremate them, and scatter the ashes secretly in order to discourage idolaters," But Harvey took the brain anyway, without permission from Einstein or his family. When the fact came to light a few days later, Harvey managed to solicit a reluctant and retroactive blessing from Einstein's son, Hans Albert, Harvey soon lost his job at the Princeton hospital later.

Einstein is famous because he is the father of modern physics. He revolutionized the way we look at the world. His most famous theory is the theory of relativity Einstein showed that Newton was right about most things, but wrong about how gravity affected very large and very distance objects. Albert Einstein won the Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on the photoelectric effect, first published in 1905.

In my opinion he is one of the smartest people to live on this earth, his ideas improved this world for the better. He showed that people are smart in their own way. No one should be considered dumb, like Albert Einstein once said *"Try not to become a man of success but a man of value"*. Also learn to believe in yourself because that is what truly matters in life, it doesn't matter if no one else does be proud of what who you are and believe that you can accomplish anything because when you believe you can do anything, not giving up really matters specially to move forward in life.

Fun Facts: Did you know that it's stated that humans generally only use 3-5 percent of their brain but Einstein used 7.

Few highlights from the SLCAO Christmas Celebrations - December 13, 2014

Ukrainian Banquet Hall, 100 Byron Avenue, Ottawa (Photo Credit: Manoj de Silva)

