

SLCAO UPCOMING EVENTS

- AGM - 02 November, 2 -5 PM at Heron Rd Community Center
- Xmas Party -13 December at Ukrainian Banquet Hall, Ottawa

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

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2014

October..

October usually has mixed weather. Few beautiful, sunny, mid temperature days, few rainy days accompanied by wind here and there. In some years, we have experienced even snow. Most sought after events in October are the Thanks Giving and the Halloween. During the



Photo credits: warmcoffeeandnugglyswaters.tumblr.com, trueendeavorsblog.com

long weekend of Thanks giving families look forward get together and enjoy the time.

Kids of all ages anxiously await the arrival of Halloween evening to go trick-or-treating dressed up in Halloween costumes.

We hope that you all had a fabulous thanks giving. **SLCAO wishes you all a safe and enjoyable Halloween!**

PhotoMath - A cool app!

Phil, a colleague of mine is in to gadgets. This week he showed me a write-up and a demo on a phone app developed by a company called **MicroBlink**. The app is called "PhoneMath" and this app is capable of solving a mathematical equation just by hovering the phone over the equation on a text book. Not only it gives the answer, but summarizes the steps for the solution. I thought it was pretty cool. Check the website <https://photomath.net/> to read more about it and to get this free app.

MicroBlink specializes in Real-time Text Recognition and this free app has been developed to promote their main products.

My colleague Phil's son Nicholas is only 4-year old, but way smart for his age. So, when I asked Phil whether he is going to show this app to his son, he said that he himself will use it to check his

son's homework. I was thinking to myself "Yes, this PhotoMath app may not be good for our commu-

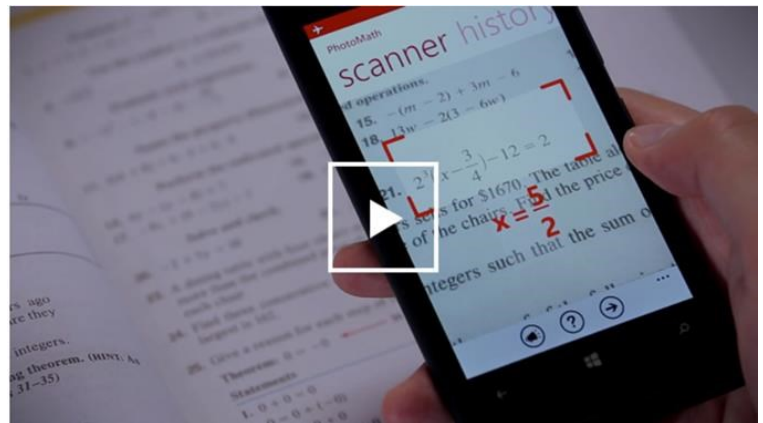


Photo credit: <https://microblink.com>

nity either because our kids are way too smart". Anyway judging from the demo and the reviews, it looks like that this company may produce some revolutionary products in the future. Keep a tab on this company!

COLONEL HENRY STEEL OLCOTT



Colonel Henry Steel Olcott was the founder and first president of the Theosophical Society. He was the eldest of a family of six siblings and was born on August 2nd 1832 in Orange, New Jersey (USA) as a Christian. He was the first well-known person of European ancestry to make a formal conversion to Buddhism. He

converted to Buddhism on May 17th 1880 at the Vijayananda, pirivana at Welivatta, Galle.

Sinhalese Buddhists light candles in his memory every year on the anniversary of his death. Monks offer flowers to his golden statue in Colombo. The Sinhalese embraced him with enthusiasm during his visits. They especially were thrilled when a white foreigner knelt to a large statue of the Buddha and publicly received the precepts.

Colonel Olcott's life is better remembered in Sri Lanka. He was the architect who designed the six colored Buddhist Flag that has gained universal recognition. Even though in the flag it only shows 5 strips of color, the sixth color is a conglomeration of the five. He created this flag to mark the revival of Buddhism in Ceylon in 1880.

Henry Olcott's studied at the University of New York, specializing in the science of agriculture. He was only twenty-three when his success at the model farm of Scientific Agriculture he set up near Newark, led the Greek Government to offer him the Chair of Agriculture in the University of Athens. He declined the honor, After attending the College of the City of New York, Henry Olcott entered Columbia university. The failure of his father's business caused him to withdraw from Columbia without graduating. He went to live with relatives in Ohio and developed an interest in farming.

He was known as the White Buddhist because of the many things he had done for our kind. Although he made some return visits to the U.S., Olcott considered India and Sri Lanka his homes for the rest of his life. He died in India in 1907.

In 1880 there were only two schools in Ceylon managed by the Buddhists. Due to the efforts of Olcott the number rose to 205 schools and three colleges in 1907. He was the pioneer who was responsible for the establishment of National Schools such as Ananda College. He realized the need to provide Buddhist children with an appropriate Buddhist environment through a systematic objective, he established the Colombo Buddhist Theosophical Society on June 17, 1880.

(continues on Page 3)

An article by KASUNI DE SILVA

Same Sun; Different Settings

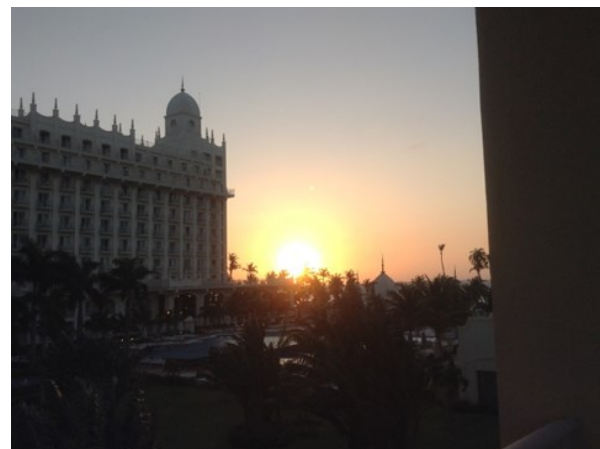
Photographs by *Kumudini Nicholas*



The Indian Ocean (2010, Sri Lanka): *Bathing Brothers*



The Monument Valley (2011, USA): *Glorious End*



The Caribbean Sea (2014, Aruba): *Resort(ful) View*

October: a Month for Giving Thanks

By Martin Nicholas

I have a lot to be thankful. It does not mean that life has been rosy with no ups and downs. I have seen unfairness and at times done something to counter it. At other times I have learned to live with it. But, at all times I have been vigilant to note who or what I have to give thanks for enriching life. Oprah suggests that the more grateful you become the more you receive.

I live in the space of thankfulness – and I have been awarded a million times over for it. I started out giving thanks for small things, and the more grateful I became, the more my bounty increased. That’s because what you focus on expands, and when you focus on the goodness in your life, you create more of it. Opportunities, relationships and even money flowed my way when I learnt to be thankful no matter what happened in my life - OPRAH

Thank you to each one of you who have enriched my life by what you have done for the Sri Lankan Canadian community in Ottawa. I wish that all readers enjoyed a happy Thanksgiving. May your lives be blessed by partaking in a bountiful harvest of giving and receiving thanks, gifts and favors among friends, family, neighbors and colleagues!

Miscellaneous information for October:



October is Women’s History Month.
It is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Canada.

(Colonel Henry Steel Olcott, continues from Page 3...)

He thought that the future prosperity of the nation will depend on the good conduct and education of the living children, and therefore purchased a building at Maliban Street, where the Colombo Buddhist Theosophical Society office was established and subsequently used the same building where an English school was established with 37 children.

Buddhist Theosophical Society was able to establish 460 Buddhist schools, including leading colleges such as Ananda, Nalanda, Dharmapala, Dharmaraja, Visakha and Musaeus. Olcott directed Sri Lankans towards advancement at a stage when Sinhala Buddhists had forgotten their good culture and traditions. Olcott impressed the Buddhist to the English rulers to prove that Sinhalese are a great race, even though he was an English man.

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF BREAST CANCER

- Be a non-smoker and avoid second-hand smoke
- Eat a healthy diet
- Be physically active on a regular basis
- Follow cancer screening guidelines
- Visit your doctor if you notice any change in your normal state of health



Find ways to reduce your risk here: <http://bit.ly/hcdnsbcpin>

He has done many great things to Sri Lanka to bring it to what it is now. He built schools/colleges to improve education in our country. He got approval from the government to make Vesak Day a holiday. He also designed our Buddhist flag and has done great deeds and didn’t ask for anything in return not even name something after him. He did it for the people , he did it because this made him happy. He was a great man with great ideas; he will always be honored and respected in our hearts.