

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UVA WELASSA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

LEO TIMES

VOLUME 17 | EDITION 06 | DEC 2024

KNOWLEDGE OPENS
DOORS TO OPPORTUNITIES.
SKILLS PAVE THE WAY
FOR EXPLORATION
AND GROWTH

SNEHALOKA

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HOME ALONE

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LEO CLUB OF
Uva Wellassa University



Leos of Sri Lanka
& Maldives
INSPIRING LIVES



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MESSAGE FROM LEO CLUB ADVISOR LEO CLUB OF UWU



**LEO CLUB OF
UVA WELLASSA UNIVE**



Everywhere we serve, every time we give, we bring kindness and compassion, change and hope. And we make our mark on the lives we touch, the communities we serve and the world we share.

From the first day of school to graduation, capturing the essence of your educational journey can be challenging while doing so much of social services as an active leo.

There's a leader inside every Leo. And leaders know that, through collective action and individual commitment, we can inspire and empower whole communities. Making them

I am very much concern and happy about the projects you have done so far and the most valuable projects you have been planning to do.

Your team work and commitment that I always appreciate and I believe your team can make a difference for the younger generation as well as the adults.

Your work as Leos is extraordinary. Great marketing and public relations can help you tell your story and capture the attention—and imagination—of your community. So promote your service to inspire others to join us as Leos & Lions.

Best wishes with love

**Leo Club Advisor
Lion Shiraz Sally**

President Lions Club of Uva Capital 2016/2017
Motivational Trainer - Faculty of Lions International C2 Sri Lanka DLLI
Global Leadership Team Coordinator GLT 2017/2018 - 2018/2019 - 2022/2023
Head of Marketing & Communication Lions International c2 2023/2024
District Quiz Master - 2018/2019 / Qualified Guiding Lion C2
Trained Trainer of Regional Lions Leadership Institute - RLLI
Advisor - Leo club of Uva Wellassa University
Trained English Teacher City & Guilds UK & Qualified in NLP
Qualified in Leadership Training & Personality Development
Executive Director - London English School & Training Centre
Director Linda Educational Services - Linda International
Managing partner - Merikta Cakes & Foods

*Shiraz
Sally*

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR OF FUNDRAISING LEO CLUB OF UWU



Hello, my fellow Leos and dear friends!
I am Tharushi Sewwandi, and I am truly honored to have been appointed as the Director of Fund Raising for the 2024/25 Leoistic year for the Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University.

This opportunity fills me with excitement as we embark on a journey to make a meaningful impact through our fundraising initiatives. Together, we aim to support impactful social work and execute community-centered projects that bring positive change. I believe that with innovation, teamwork, and dedication, we can overcome challenges and achieve remarkable outcomes.

As we step into this new Leoistic year, let us unite with a shared passion for service and an unwavering commitment to uplifting those in need. I am excited to work alongside such an inspiring group of individuals to make our projects successful and impactful. Together, we can shine brighter and build a legacy of giving back to society.

Here's to a remarkable year of service, growth, and unity!

Leo Tharushi Sewwandi
Director of fundraising
LEO Club of
Uva wellassa University

*Tharushi
Sewwandi*

MESSAGE FROM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN FUNDRAISING LEO CLUB OF UWU



Dear Fellow Leos,
It is an incredible honor to step into the role of Assistant Director in Fundraising for the Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University in this leoistic year. I am truly inspired by the passion, dedication, and commitment that each one of you brings to our club. Together, we can achieve great heights and make a meaningful impact in the communities we serve. As the Assistant Director in Fundraising, my primary focus will be on creating innovative, impactful, and sustainable fundraising initiatives that align with our club's vision and values. I firmly believe that with teamwork, creativity, and determination, we can transform challenges into opportunities and achieve our goals. This year, I am eager to collaborate with each of you to organize dynamic fundraising campaigns that not only empower our club to undertake impactful projects but also inspire others to join hands in service. Let's push boundaries, think outside the box, and work together to reach new milestones. Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility. I look forward to your unwavering support as we embark on this journey of growth and success. Let's make this year unforgettable for our club and the communities we serve.

Leo Lenmini Somaratne
Assistant director in fundraising
LEO Club of
Uva wellassa University

*Lenmini
Somaratne*



ROARING
EVENTS OF THE
LION'S HEART

Snehaloka 2.0

Extending Hands of Love to the Underprivileged

We are proud to announce that the Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University is going to conduct our philanthropic project, Snehaloka, for the second consecutive year. This selfless project, Snehaloka, hopes to soothe and console patients undergoing treatments at the Cancer Unit and the Mental Health Unit at Badulla General Hospital.

Overview of the Project

Snehaloka 2.0 is the continuity of our club's mission for change and its positive impact within our community by providing all forms of support necessary to people in ill health. The project aims at donating food, dry goods, and other essential items to patients currently undergoing treatment.

How You Can Contribute

We would like to invite the university community and extended circles with open arms to join in this noble cause. Your participation can bring a huge change in the lives of such patients, helping fill their hearts with love and hope during these difficult times.

Why It Matters

These patients are both from the Cancer Unit and the Mental Health Unit. They suffer much, not just physically but emotionally and psychologically as well. It is our hope that these basic necessities and our concern somehow lighten their burdens and inform them that they are not alone in their fight.

Get Involved

The Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University invites everybody to be a part of this great cause. A small gesture by you will bring a significant change to somebody's life. So, let's stretch our hands of love to bring a positive change into the community.

Snehaloka 2.0 is more than just a donation drive; it's a spread of compassion for eternal difference. So let us join hands forward and show them the true spirit of Leos with our support towards the people in need.

For more information, contact the Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University on how you can contribute or participate in Snehaloka 2.0. Let this be an even bigger success compared to the forerunner so that we can continue with our services to the community with more commitment and heart.





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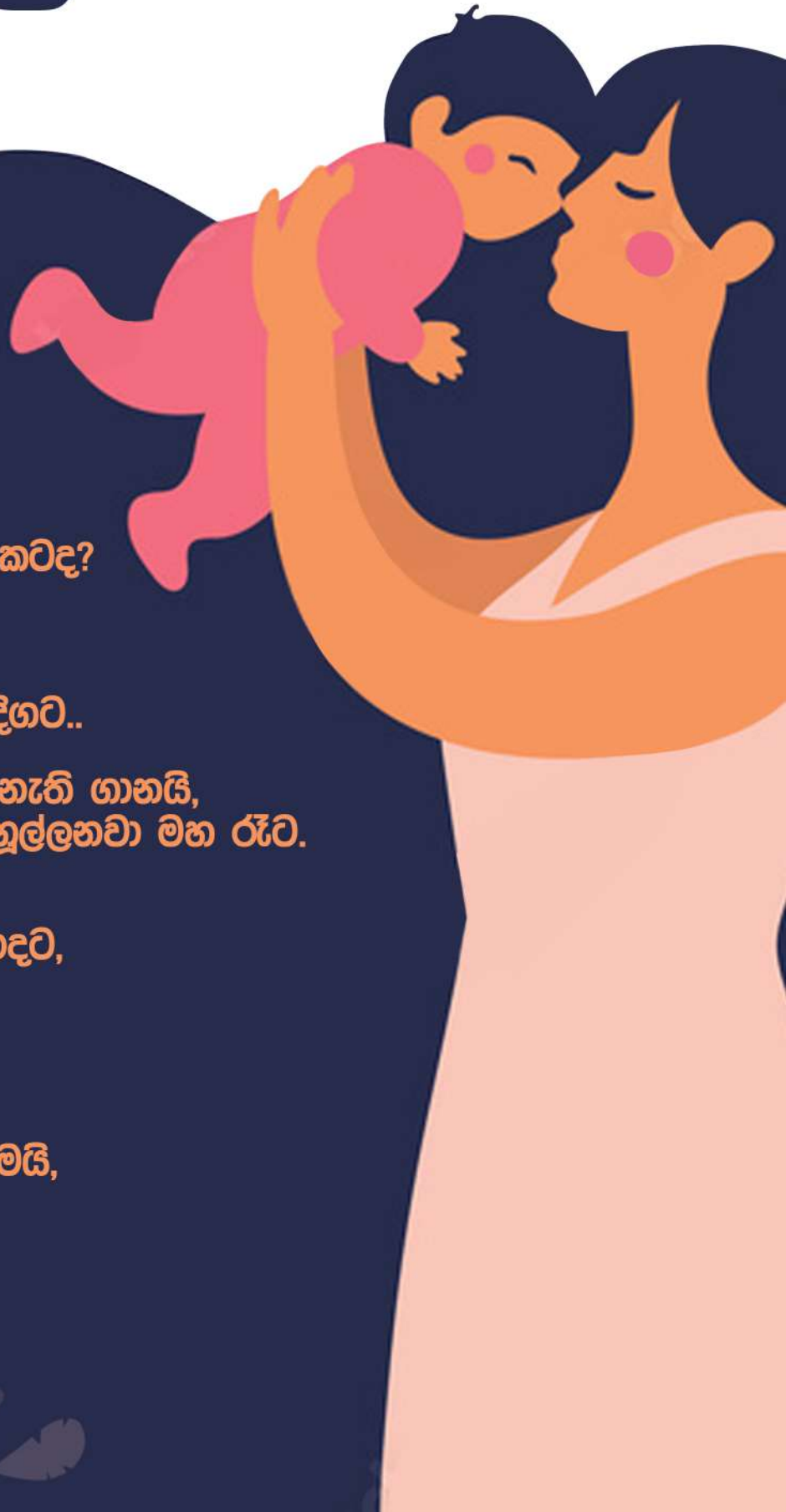
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Leo Shalika
Dulanjani
Export Agriculture
Degree Program



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දෙවන සිත්තම



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Prasansa
Haputhanthri
Export Agriculture
Degree Program

INTERNATIONAL **HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

World Human Rights Day is celebrated on December 10 every year to honor the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. The UDHR was the first international document to set standards for human rights, declaring that every person, no matter their race, religion, or nationality, has the right to dignity, equality, and freedom. Since then, it has become the foundation of global human rights laws and has inspired many countries to create laws that protect people's rights.



INTERNATIONAL **HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

Each year, World Human Rights Day focuses on a different theme to highlight important issues affecting human rights around the world. This theme encourages people, governments, and organizations to take action and make sure that everyone's rights are protected. The day draws attention to issues like inequality, racism, gender-based violence, freedom of speech, and the rights of refugees and migrants.

Even though there has been progress in protecting human rights, many challenges still exist. In many countries, people still face discrimination, violence, and a lack of basic freedoms. World Human Rights Day is a time to both celebrate the progress made and remind the world that there is still much work to do. It encourages governments to respect human rights and gives power to citizens and groups to speak out against injustices.

World Human Rights Day is not just about raising awareness but also about taking action. It reminds us all to work together for a fairer and more just world where everyone's rights are respected. By following the ideas in the UDHR, we can help make sure that human rights are real for all people, everywhere.





WRAPPING 2024

A YEAR OF LESSONS ABOUT PEOPLE

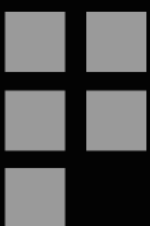
Looking back at 2024, I realize this year has taught me the most about people. I thought I was good at reading others, but this year proved me wrong. Some people come and go like seasons, and it's fascinating (and sometimes painful) to see how much people can change over time. I've witnessed people going through mental breakdowns, all because of the ones they love and respect wholeheartedly.

It's surprising how much people can change. There are times when we think having someone in our life to listen to us is the best thing, but other times, I feel like being alone is exactly what we need. What I've learned is that it's not really people who change—it's our minds that shift constantly, minute by minute.

I don't know if others will agree, but I've found that expectations often hurt the most. We tend to expect others to treat us the same way we treat them, but the truth is, we're all different. We need to stop expecting the same things from everyone, because it's just not fair.

One of the biggest lessons I've learned in life is that people are like seasons—they come and go. We don't need to please everyone, and we don't need to be friends with everyone. It's okay to say no to things that don't align with our values or comfort.

To wrap it all up, I just want to say: Stay positive, no matter what life throws your way.



HOME ALONE

MOVIE FRANCHISE

The "Home Alone" franchise, a cherished collection of holiday comedies, has delighted audiences since its debut in 1990. The original film, directed by Chris Columbus and written by John Hughes, introduces Kevin McCallister, an eight-year-old boy portrayed by Macaulay Culkin. After his family accidentally leaves him behind during their Christmas vacation, Kevin must defend his Chicago home from two burglars, Harry and Marv, played by Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern.



This heartwarming tale of resilience and cleverness became an instant classic, resonating with viewers worldwide. The success of the first film led to a sequel, "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York," released in 1992. Once again, Kevin finds himself separated from his family, this time navigating the bustling streets of New York City. The film retains the original cast and director, maintaining the charm and humor that made the first installment so beloved. The sequel continues Kevin's adventures, blending slapstick comedy with heartfelt moments, solidifying the franchise's place in holiday cinema.

Over the years, the franchise expanded with additional films, each introducing new characters and scenarios. "Home Alone 3" (1997) features a different protagonist, Alex Pruitt, who defends his home from international criminals. "Home Alone 4: Taking Back the House" (2002) and "Home Alone: The Holiday Heist" (2012) continue the tradition, though with varying degrees of connection to the original storyline. The latest addition, "Home Sweet Home Alone" (2021), brings a fresh perspective to the series, introducing new characters and challenges.

Throughout its evolution, the "Home Alone" franchise has maintained its core appeal: a young protagonist outsmarting adversaries with ingenuity and courage. The films blend humor, adventure, and the spirit of the holiday season, making them timeless classics

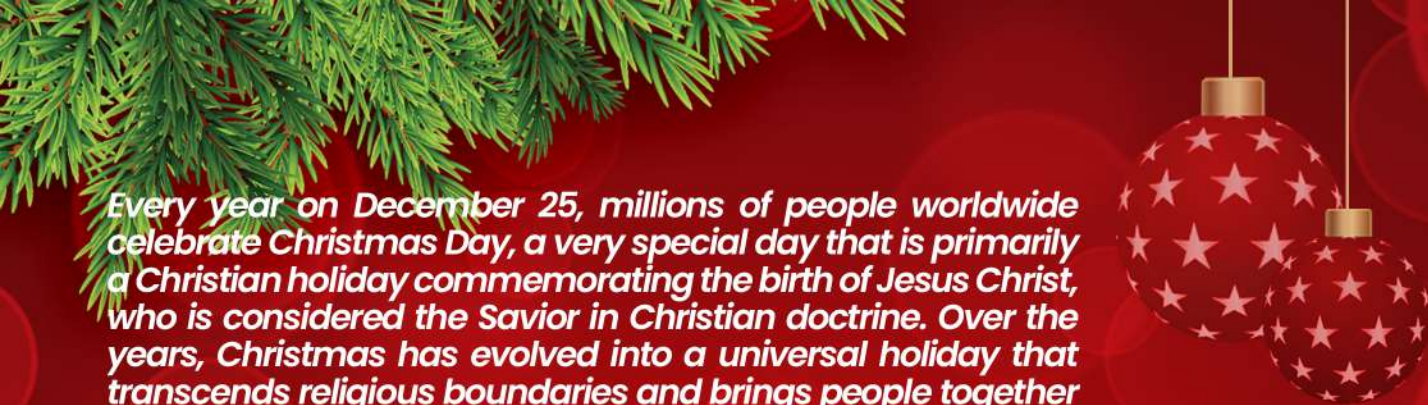
that continue to entertain audiences of all ages. Whether revisiting the original or exploring the newer installments, the franchise offers a delightful escape into a world where cleverness and heart triumph over adversity.

HOME ALONE MOVIE FRANCHISE



Tharul Jayasundara
**Industrial Information
Technology**





Every year on December 25, millions of people worldwide celebrate Christmas Day, a very special day that is primarily a Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, who is considered the Savior in Christian doctrine. Over the years, Christmas has evolved into a universal holiday that transcends religious boundaries and brings people together in joy, love, and giving.

Because of its traditions, Christmas is a highly unique and vibrant occasion. Homes, streets, and public spaces are decked out with gorgeous lights, colorful decorations, and beautifully adorned Christmas trees. A star or an angel often sits atop the tree as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem or the angelic announcement of the birth of Christ. Santa Claus, also called Saint Nicholas, is a well-known figure associated with Christmas who is famous for bringing gifts to children. Children around the world hang stockings and spread joy in anticipation of Santa, who is believed to travel on a sleigh driven by reindeer.

The origins of Christmas can be traced back to the early days of Christianity. The choice of December 25th as Jesus Christ's birthdate was influenced by the Roman festival of Saturnalia and the celebration of Sol Invictus, which honored the sun's rebirth after the winter solstice. Early Christians integrated their ideas into the dominant cultural norms by arranging the celebration to fit with pre-existing rituals. The German custom of the Christmas tree and the Dutch story of Saint Nicholas, which inspired the modern Santa Claus, are only two examples of how Christmas has borrowed customs from many other cultures throughout the years.

In addition to Christians, Christmas is now observed by people from a wide range of religious and cultural backgrounds. With festive dinners, gift-giving, and decorations, Christian minorities in countries like Japan observe the occasion as a secular event. In India, Christmas is a time for joyous festivities, with churches decked out and people exchanging candy and affection.

Ultimately, Christmas is a time for reflection, gratitude, and camaraderie. Whether celebrated as a religious holiday or as a cultural event, it brings people together and fosters empathy, hope, and unity. Because of its widely accessible message of love and peace, Christmas brings delight to everyone.



A Celebration of Joy and TOGETHERNESS





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Editor's
MESSAGE



Dear Fellow Leos
and Readers,

Welcome to another inspiring edition of our Leo Club newsletter from Uva Wellassa University!

As we reflect on the milestones achieved through our recent projects and set our sights on new goals, we are filled with immense pride and enthusiasm. This newsletter captures the essence of our club—dedication to service, leadership, and fostering friendships.

In this edition, you'll discover highlights from our impactful initiatives, ranging from empowering community projects to innovative environmental campaigns. We are particularly proud of our efforts to inspire and uplift the younger generation, creating a positive and lasting impact on their lives.

We also celebrate the achievements of our members, both within the club and in their personal academic journeys.

Their commitment is a true reflection of the Leo spirit: "Leadership, Experience, and Opportunity."

Let us continue to roar with pride as we strive to make a difference.

Pasindu Mihikalpa

Editorial Crew Member
Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University



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