



Echoes from S.H.Y...

The most exciting event was yet to be !!! After dinner, the students of Std. X dressed in typical Christmas scene went around all the Dormitories, Staff, Sisters', Workers' Quarters singing Carols to all the Children, Teachers, Domestic Helpers, Sisters and our Chaplain distributing sweets and wishing us A Happy Christmas and A Bright New Year. The celebration ended with a drink and snacks in the Nuns' Refectory - a joyous time with the Sisters and students of Std. X together.

Christmas lunch was served to all the students on Sunday.

09 December 2011: Basket Ball Finals between the Annes and Marians was held in the evening in which Marians emerged successful.

10 December 2011: An air of seriousness set in as the Half Yearly Exams commenced for the whole school.

17 December 2011: Sr. Nancy attended the Meeting of the Heads of A. I. Schools in Chennai.

20 December 2011: All the students accompanied by their parents went home for the long awaited winter holidays till 17th January 2012 leaving the Sisters in a relaxed mood to enter into the joyous Spirit of Christmas Season.

21 December 2011: All the sisters who were able participated in the 'Christmas Get Together of Cluny, Yercaud' in the Novitiate with a meaningful prayer service followed by games and dinner.

23 December 2011: Sisters were kept busy doing Christmas decorations and making the Crib in the Chapel.

25 December 2011: We had midnight Mass followed by snacks with all those present in the well decorated children's refectory.

Christmas Lunch was served to all the inmates of Anbu Illam.

27 - 28 December 2011: 12 Sisters from S.H.Y. and 7 from other communities attended the S.P.S.A. Reunion - 2011 in Namakkal which was well planned, efficiently organized and managed by the 12 members of the Organizing Committee 'Salem Namakkal Chapter'. They had the theme: **"celebrating the past and the future..."** which was very apt especially as we were at the last lap of the Old Year ushering the New Year.

As the curtain comes down on 2011, we welcome the year 2012 with a song in our hearts and prayer on our lips: **"From the fullness of His grace, we have all received one blessing after another."** (John 1:16)

January 2012:

"And whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me." Jesus (Mathew 18:5)

A year of new beginnings...

01 January 2012: At the stroke of 12 at midnight we heralded the New Year celebrating the Holy Eucharist lifting our hearts high and placing our hopes in Him who will guide and go with us through our days. Later we had snacks in our refectory wishing each other and those who attended Mass. Our workers came to wish us 'A Happy New year' after the 8.30 a.m. Mass in the Parish Church.

09- 10 January 2012: 13 sisters left early morning on 9th to Velankanni and returned on 10th evening after a fruitful and enjoyable trip.



Echoes from S.H.Y...



Sr. Jennifer left for San Jose Nivas, Salem to participate in PAN India Assembly being held from 10th - 20th January wherein 125 delegates from the 6 Indian provinces, Superior General and 4 English speaking councilors from Paris are expected to be present.

15 January 2012: All the community sisters were busy on their feet from morning in the kitchen and senior refectory preparing lunch for 67 delegates of the PAN India Assembly. It was a heartwarming scene of all the sisters from North, South and Abroad mingling so freely and interacting with each other in the true spirit of Cluny!

17 January 2012: The boarders returned to school after the long winter holidays. Contrary to the usual, we had a beautiful, sunny day welcoming them back to their 'second home'.

18 January 2012: Sr. Morag Collins, our Superior General from Paris visited us and had lunch with us.

21 January 2012: 26 of our Christian students from classes 5 - 9 attended the Programme and Exhibition at Epiphany Centre, Salem organized by the diocese as part of the 'Year of Catechism' accompanied by Sr. Laetitia and Ms. Jemsy. Music Theory Examination results are announced with 27 Distinctions (above 87%) and 7 Merits (above 75%). Well done Students and Sr. Jennifer!!!

23 January 2012: Sr. Bernadette Pinto, one of the General Councilors from Paris paid us a visit.

26 January 2012: 62nd Republic Day celebrations was held in a grand manner. Children had a 'day out' in Vasambadi Estate which they thoroughly enjoyed.

***"Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase.
Just take the first step."***

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929 - 1968)

Sr. Catherine.





Elegy on SHYians' "Green Dorm"

By Coral D'Mello

"Remembrance wakes with all her busy train,
Swells at my breast and turns the past to pain."
To see "GREEN DORM" S.H.Y.'s century's crown-
Brick and beam, wood work and walls brought down.
No more those wooden floors on which to slide,
No more those cubicles in which to hide.
In shapeless ruin now that famed belfry tower
To tell tales of hide-and-seek has lost its power.
The ding-dong bell has lost its tongue,
Its praise will never more be sung.
The landing on the wooden stairs,
A Looker on the midnight fares.
No trace of stairs is left behind,
Yet engraved are they on our mind.
"Dust thou art, to dust thou shalt return,"
That living "GREEN DORM" now has its turn.
No less heart-broken when I found
Seats of knowledge raised to the ground.
Classrooms, that echoed poems and tables,
No more are they the Tower of Babel.
O gone, gone, gone is thy charm known to more than few,
"The old order changeth giving place to the new." R.I.P.

By Coral D'Mello (1938 - 1945; 1963 - 1987)





15th AGBM...

12th August 2011



"Let us desire nothing but the Holy Will of God and let us place our trust in God."

It gives me immense joy and pleasure to share the memories of the 15th SPSA Annual Meet held on August 12, 2011. The memories are indeed to be treasured. I am really fortunate to be associated with this Association Meet at the Old Concert Hall, a place that heralds its name for a lot of very special occasions.

The very mention of the name 'Sacred Heart Convent' brings back to our mind all the noble values that our institution has inspired through the century. Our school is not known merely for the quality of education, but also for the development of the personality, the poise, the maturity and the confidence that it has inculcated in us and above all the essence of love and concern for others. I am always filled with pride, joy and boundless happiness whenever I step into the Campus (and now of course everyday as a Staff member).

It was a pleasant evening on 13th August 2011 when I entered the Old Hall for the SPSA Meeting. I felt as if thousands of butterflies lingering in my heart, anxiety of course seeing the small number of members eagerly waiting for the arrival of more. At last, all arrived; but very few !!! The honorable presence of Mrs. Teresa Bhattacharya, Our Chief Guest for the Sports Meet on 14th August 2011, past Student of S.H.Y. 1963 batch at the Meeting accompanied by Mr. Bhattacharya lifted our spirits. We exchanged many memories of S.H.Y.

The Meeting started with the Prayer followed by Welcome, President's Report, Secretary's Report, Financial Report and election of the new Office bearers, committee members crowning with a high colorful drink specially prepared by Mr. Vishu Kaliappa, resident Vice- president of the Association. With the clicking of the group photograph the meeting came to a happy conclusion.

The highlight of the evening was the arrival of Sr. Bernard and all the sisters for the Social. It thrilled us to the core, making us feel like 'Home to Mamma'. A few well prepared, interesting and unique games followed which were thoroughly enjoyed by all of us. I was indeed a spun back to 30 years. We really enjoyed the delicious Hi- tea (dinner in fact) with numerous varieties of new snacks. The time kept moving fast when I suddenly realized that all the members were bidding good bye to one another bringing the AGBM 2011 to a joyous end.

Though the leaves of our life turn grey each year, the memories alone stay fresh green in our mind. My Best wishes and prayers for all the sisters and the members of SPSA. My special thanks to Sr. Catherine and my gratitude also goes to the Office bearers and committee members for organizing a special occasion as this.

Uma Nagarajan (1972 - 1984)





15th AGBM...

12th August 2011

Memories of the 15th Annual General Body Meeting:

Came August 12, 2011, 3:00 p.m., we were assembled for our last committee meeting before the AGBM and since it was held in the Old Concert Hall, as you can expect, as always a lot of memories were showing up... And apart from all that there was this eagerness to meet the past students who would be attending the meeting... The committee meeting started, ended, and there we were sitting for the AGBM in the hall with all the committee members present as always and a few past students.

The meeting went on smoothly with the new office bearers being elected and then... we had our dear sisters join us for the rest of the evening and it was very nice to have Mother Bernard join us for the evening too. We had a few rounds of games which were very interesting and well organized... thanks to Ms. Marie D'Cruz, Lisa D'Cruz, and Ms. Sudha! It was good running around and playing with the sisters... something that we never got to do in school...

Once the games were done, we were treated to a Hi-Tea prepared professionally by Mr. Vishu Kaliappa which was simply superb... What yum food!!!! Really mouth-watering delicacies of cucumber salad, chapatti rolls, chunk of chocolate, potato smileys, chicken dipped in peanut butter, cinnamon rolls, and of course the colorful "Welcome Drink"...

Finished the food which I just happened to peck through coz I had to leave early... And then what next... Hmm, as all good things must come to an end... Bid farewell to the sisters and all present at the AGBM and left with a heavy heart... Back to routine life...

Prashanthi M.(1982 - 1994)

BACK TO S.H.Y... Memories....

I passed out of S.H.Y. in 1993, it's been almost 19 years now. After all these years, it feels great to be a part of the S.P.S.A. Committee. I felt nostalgic entering the S.H.Y. gates, memories came flooding in. I have no words to express how excited I was to meet Mother Bernard, Sr. Sophie, Sr. Catherine, Sr. Rosa, Sr. Helen and Mrs. Escrader who played an important role in my life by molding me to what I am today. Meeting them took me back to my school days. Those twelve years of love, laughter, fun, friendship, excitement, morning assembly, sports, homework, exams, punishments, innocent fights, etc.... So many memories surfaced in the mind in so little time is just fabulous. I then realized that some memories never fade away, they linger in your heart forever.

It is S.H.Y. that I made my first friend, gave me values and taught me the first lesson of life. The memories of the teachers and sisters who encouraged, motivated, guided and supported me on every occasion is so fresh in my mind, it feels like yesterday. SHY is something which was, which will and which will always be close to my heart.

After seeing the old buildings demolished, a partially new image of the school is being mirrored in my mind. S.H.Y. has changed physically with the new buildings; just as S.H.Y. has changed, it has become more beautiful. The school is more organized with the modern facilities for the children. I am happy to see the spirit of the school - the love, care, warmth and support the sisters and teachers give to the children has not changed.

I am grateful to Sr. Nancy for having given admission to my daughter in S.H.Y. It feels like I am living those beautiful moments of my school life all over again. Those were the greatest and happiest days of my life and those memories bring out the widest smile on my face. The best part of my visit was reconnecting with Mother Bernard, Sr. Sophie, Sr. Catherine, Sr. Rosa, Sr. Helen and Mrs. Escrader who were responsible for making my school life a memorable one. I just wish to thank God and my parents for having given me the opportunity to study in S.H.Y.

Mariam Omer (1981 - 1993)



15th AGBM...

12th August 2011



DOWN MEMORY LANE....

Hailing from a very Orthodox family with a Modern outlook, I was sent to S.H.Y. when I was 5 years old. An auspicious day and time was chosen for me to join school. The day was auspicious for me too, as I kick started the long 12 years in S.H.Y., the best part of my life.

Reaching S.H.Y. at the onset of twilight, Sr. Catherine was my guiding candle as Sister showed me to the Dormitory. Sr. Felicia took great care of me during the first 2 years in Chamblanc Dormitory. I did miss home, but this became a home away from home after we found Class time friends, Dorm friends ...

In the Refectory, Sr. Lidwina used to take care of us and occasionally Sr. Helen who made me eat my veggies, laying the foundation stone for healthy habits. Oh, those innocent days!!! Waiting outside the Chapel during our 'milk time' for Mere Marguerite Marie and Mother Marie Joseph to give us beautiful Holy pictures which was a prized possession also proving that big surprises came in small packages. Mere's Birthday was always unforgotten, when Mere used to come to our refectories, stand on a stool and we sang for her with side effects.

Mrs. Walter an awesome person, my teacher in Std. 1, can never be forgotten. The doll house in the classroom and the huge water tank outside the class stays etched in my memory. Sr. Benigna in Std. 2 strict but full of love and care, made us do our work and copy write our letters home neatly and uniformly. No news for our parents differed a wee bit except for the names of our brothers and sisters. Mrs. Marie D'Cruz, our Std. 3 teacher, we being her first batch proved to be a Novice in her skills making us display our knowledge with more confidence and excellence.

Yes, we were promoted into Std. 4 which was announced by a very bright pink Report Card displayed to our glee and achievement. Oh! Another great milestone we have crossed. Std. 4 was made more fun packed and hands on thanks to the incomparable Mrs. Escrader. She made for us little water saplings, took us on Nature Walks, prepared for us edible gum which sent us finger smacking during Craft Workshops. Our trip to the Silk worm Farm had our pocket picks of cocoons. There was Mrs. Isabel for Std. 5. More than her lessons, her well manicured nails left an imprint portrayal in our minds. Sr. Rosa's snap of fingers or skills in Ruler Multiplication Tables gave us jitters. My first failure was in History which of course was a history gone down.

Std. 6 graduation from Primary level to Secondary level of naughtiness. Poor Sr. Agnes had to bear the brunt of it. Std. 7 was the ultimate peak of naughtiness especially poaching the fruits from the Orchard. Sr. Rosa, our class teacher was the epitome of patience. Mrs. Mariamma was our P.T. teacher and Science teacher. We were a set of hooligans, never studied our daily lessons until and unless there were tests or examinations.

Our reading habits started off with 'Noddy' in Std. 5 and then to 'Famous Five' being our favorite. We, friends enacted skits in the small playground on Famous Five and we had named ourselves after the characters, me being Julian.

Guitar classes and Piano classes were wonderful learning experiences. Sir Berry Ignatius was a wonderful tutor, who would always encourage and patiently explain the notes of music to us. Sr. Eulalia with big rolling eyes was strict but a caring guide to me. She had always encouraging words for me. Sr. Eulalia, the unforgettable!

In Std. 8, Sr. Sophie was my class teacher. She taught us Mathematics in a very interesting manner and also confiscated our secretly hidden tuck, the culprit invariably was me! All the hidden snacks were taken to Sr. Sophie cum Sr. Catherine's Office but later returned to us and the whole class as united as we were in everything finished our little treats.



15th AGBM...

12th August 2011

We also learnt the art of not studying and copying not from one another but directly from our text books for class tests and finally getting caught by our dear History and Geography teacher Mrs. Chandra Mohanraj. My History and Geography lessons remain ever fresh in my mind, the credit of which goes to my dear History teacher. Bunking our letter writing classes was another exciting event, secretly cooking tin food with candles during the letter writing hour.

Std. 9 reminds me of Sr.Bibiana, our English teacher, a typical example for being young at heart. English and pronunciation classes with Sr.Bernard trained us to roll our 'r's' and correct 'h's'. In Std.10, Sr. Catherine, whom we fondly called 'Cathy' stressed and made us realize that this is the crucial year of our lives. Of course, only stress could trigger off our relaxed attitudes. Sr. Catherine, our Mathematics teacher was the 'Shakuntala Devi' of S.H.Y.!!! Sr.Alphonsa's rhyming tune to Kabir's Dohai (couplets) would set Kabir smiling and are carved out deeply in my memory.

Std.11 brought me back to school with new classmates. Much time and energy were spent planning for the Farewell parties for Stds. 10th and 12th. Preparing for S.H.Y. Christmas was another happy event, when we learnt to appreciate our domestic workers and helpers by giving them gifts. Without doubt, our hot favorites were BATH MARY, SAVARI, DRIVER ANTHONY, LATHA AKKA AND FREDDIE who were credited with getting the loudest applause from us.

Std.12 began with Investiture Ceremony which made us proud leaders of the S.H.Y. dynasty. Retreat Fete, Montfort Sports in the first term were pink collar days to look forward to. Miss India would have lost against us in dressing to look our best, in vain for the 'Montfort Potatoes'!! S.H.Y. Sports, Inter House Dramatics, S.S.G.Y. Programmes, long English Plays by Retreat Brothers, S.H.Y. Fete, Choral Singing, Guides' Cooking, Trekking, Camp Fire, having snacks in the Sisters Refectory for S.H.Y. Christmas night, S.H.Y. and Montfort Prize Nights, Sisters' Jubilees, Feast days of Sacred Heart, St. Joseph and Bl. Anne Marie, Farewell Parties, Picnics to different Estates, Sunday Evening long Walks etc. remain close to my heart and memory.

I thank all the Sisters Sr. Florentine, Sr. Jude, Sr. Juliette, Sr.Nirmala, Sr. Dominica, Sr. Michael, Sr. Simon Mary, Sr.Lissy, Sr. Grace Therese and all the other Sisters who took good care of my all round welfare even though I must admit that I drove you up the wall many a time. I also thank all the teachers Ms.Rabia, Ms. Celine, Ms.Sharmila, Ms.Vincy, Ms.Vanitha, Ms.Amala and all the other teachers for moulding me into what I am today.

My treasure chest of memories is full to overflowing ...

Rajshree Pradeep
Rajshree Raja K. (1982 - 1994)





117th Annual Sports Meet

Chief Guest Mrs. Teresa Bhattacharya's address

13th August 2011



117th Annual Sports Meet held on 13th August 2011 presided over by Mrs. Teresa Bhattacharya and Mr. Bipul Bhattacharya

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to be here today at the Annual Sports of my Alma Mater, Sacred Heart School, Yercaud.

Sports Day is a red letter day on every School calendar. It is a major event for the whole School and for every student in the School whether you are competing in the track and field events, or taking part in the displays and March Past, or cheering your team from the stands.

During the last few weeks, the usual school routine of class, studies, home work and so on would have taken a back seat, and the whole School would have been humming with Sports related activity: - the heats, the events to select the final participants, - putting up of the flags, banners and decorations, all the preparations in the run up to the Finals.

Now, we have just spent a most enjoyable morning witnessing the finals of the SHY Sports and Athletics Meet, and shared in the excitement of the participants as they put in their best efforts to run faster, jump further and cheer louder than anyone else.

It has been a day of sportsmanship and good spirit as everyone pulled together to make today's Sports a most successful and memorable experience. I would like to congratulate the winner's of today's events. As with all other endeavors in life, success in Sports is only partly due to natural ability and equally, if not more, to hard work, training and practice.

I hope you will keep up your sporting interests, and aim at higher achievements in the years ahead at State and National levels.

I also congratulate each and every one of you who participated in the different events and, whether you won a place or not, showed excellent fellowship and team spirit throughout the day's programme.

It is now universally recognized that it is very important for girls to regularly take part in games and sports. Games and exercise help you to keep fit and maintain a healthy weight. They are a great natural way to lift your mood and relieve stress and build up your confidence and self esteem. Working with trainers and teammates to win games and meet goals is also a good practice for success later in life. Participation in sports teaches you not just how to win, but also how to lose, how to take greater risks and reach greater goals without fearing failure.

In a boarding school like SHY, the opportunities for outdoor sports are tremendous, with large play fields, special games periods after school hours, the fresh air and cool weather of the hills all these are luxuries in cramped city schools.

I'd like to end with a few words about my old School. There's a French saying that the more things change, the more they remain the same. I have been visiting Yercaud from time to time over the years, after leaving School. Yercaud town has naturally been changing with the times rather gradually at first, but very rapidly during the last few years.

The cottages with gardens and hedges have been replaced by big structures with paved grounds and high stone walls. The old quiet country roads, with an occasional car or school van, are today noisy and cluttered with earthmovers, trucks, tourist cars and two wheelers.