

ISSUE 03 - DECEMBER 2024

# WITNESS



# ABOUT US

THE **LEO CLUB OF KOLONNAWA** IS A VIBRANT AND DYNAMIC COMMUNITY OF **YOUNG LEADERS**, UNITED BY A SHARED COMMITMENT TO **SERVICE, LEADERSHIP, AND PERSONAL GROWTH**. AS PROUD MEMBERS OF THE **GLOBAL LEO MOVEMENT**, WE STAND FIRM IN EMBRACING THE VALUES OF **LEADERSHIP, EXPERIENCE, AND OPPORTUNITY**, CHANNELING OUR BOUNDLESS ENERGY INTO **INITIATIVES THAT INSPIRE CHANGE, UPLIFT COMMUNITIES, AND CREATE A LASTING POSITIVE IMPACT**.

FROM TACKLING **SOCIAL CHALLENGES** TO PROTECTING **OUR PLANET**, EVERY PROJECT WE UNDERTAKE IS A TESTAMENT TO OUR DEDICATION TO **BUILDING A BRIGHTER, MORE INCLUSIVE FUTURE**. WHETHER IT'S **EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION**, LENDING A **HELPING HAND** TO THOSE IN NEED, OR RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**, WE ARE DRIVEN BY A MISSION TO **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**. EACH STEP FORWARD IS POWERED BY **TEAMWORK, INNOVATION, AND AN UNWAVERING SENSE OF PURPOSE**.

BUT WE ARE MORE THAN A SERVICE CLUB — WE ARE **A FAMILY OF CHANGEMAKERS**, BOUND BY THE BELIEF THAT WE GROW STRONGER WHEN **WE LIFT EACH OTHER UP**. WITH THE GUIDANCE AND MENTORSHIP OF THE **LIONS CLUB OF KOLONNAWA**, WE CONTINUALLY SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO **LEAD WITH INTEGRITY, LEARN THROUGH EXPERIENCE, AND INNOVATE WITH COURAGE**. WE CELEBRATE EVERY ACHIEVEMENT AS A MILESTONE IN OUR SHARED JOURNEY OF GROWTH.

AT KOLONNAWA LEOS, WE **SERVE WITH COMPASSION, GROW WITH EXPERIENCE, AND CREATE RIPPLES OF CHANGE** THAT EXTEND FAR BEYOND OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY. TOGETHER, WE **DREAM BIG, ACT BOLDLY, AND INSPIRE OTHERS** TO JOIN IN OUR MISSION TO **SHAPE A WORLD WHERE KINDNESS AND SERVICE PREVAIL**. LET'S MAKE EVERY STEP COUNT—BECAUSE **CHANGE BEGINS WITH US**.

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# PRESIDENT'S NOTE

**Dear Leos, Lions, and Fellow Readers,**

It is with great pleasure that I pen this message for the **3rd consecutive issue of the Leo Newsletter of the Leo Club of Kolonnawa, The Witness – December 2024 edition**. As we reflect on the journey of our club, I am filled with gratitude and pride for what we have achieved together. Although small in numbers, it is the **unwavering dedication of our members that has enabled our club to thrive with a legacy spanning 26 years and counting**.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to every member who has contributed to our success, and I must specially acknowledge **Leo Sanidi Rovinya** for her boundless passion and creativity, which have brought this newsletter to life. Your efforts inspire us all.

As we look forward, I encourage every member to actively participate in our ongoing and upcoming projects. **Your innovative ideas and enthusiastic involvement** are crucial to our continued success. Let us remain united and committed to our goals, ensuring that the impact we create grows stronger with each passing day.

One of our most exciting upcoming ventures is the launch of our **club website, kolonnawaleos.org**. This platform will soon serve as a **central hub for Leo news** and a testament to the incredible work we do. I am confident that it will bring our vision closer to the world and strengthen our connections.

As we embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead, let us remember that our mission is not just about projects or events but about making a lasting difference in the lives of others. **Together, we embody the true spirit of Leoism—service, leadership, and friendship**.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Let's step into the future with **renewed enthusiasm, purpose, and unity**. Here's to another month of excellence and impact.

**Yours in Service,**

**Leo Nandeesh Geeganage**  
**President,**  
Leo Club of Kolonnawa



# DISTRICT SECRETARY'S NOTE

Dear Leos,

It is with great enthusiasm and pride that I write to you as the District Secretary of Leo District 306 C1. It's always inspiring to connect with such an energetic and dedicated group of young leaders, and I am honored to be a part of this journey with you.

As Leos, we do much more than serve the community – we empower and inspire those around us, while also discovering and nurturing the leaders within ourselves. Through our actions, we lead by example, creating a ripple effect that uplifts and motivates others to join us in making a difference.

As young blood, we have the strength, passion, and determination to drive meaningful change in the world. Our generation holds the key to shaping a better tomorrow, and through leadership, innovation, and compassion, we can rise to meet the challenges of today and make a lasting impact on society.

As a district, our vision is to build a generation of young individuals who can lead our society toward a better future. In this journey, your club plays a crucial role, and we are immensely proud of the contributions you've made.

We've recently achieved some great milestones, particularly during the Leo Stride event. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to your club members for their dedication and hard work, especially in the District PR efforts. Your contributions have helped bring our mission to life and made a significant impact on the success of the event.

Your club's ongoing commitment to service, leadership, and excellence is highly valued. As we move forward, I am confident that your club will continue to shine as a beacon of leadership and compassion, not only within our district but across the entire community.

*"You don't have to be in charge to lead. Leadership is about inspiring others to act."*  
~John C. Maxwell

**Leo Chehara Oshadhi**  
**District Secretary 2024-25**  
Leo District 306 C1

# OFFICIAL VISIT

OF

DISTRICT LEO CLUB CHAIRPERSON

PMDP PDP LEO LION DILRUK TISSERA



As members of the Leo Club, we have the privilege of hosting various district officials at our meetings.

These visits offer us a valuable opportunity to update them on the progress and achievements of our club.

It is also a chance for us to meet and interact with district leaders, allowing us to gain insights into their perspectives on our work.

The feedback we receive from these officials helps us understand how we can improve and continue to grow as a club.

This month, we were honored to host our **District Leo Club Chairperson (DLCC), Lion Dilruk Tissera**, who visited us on **30th November 2024** at the **Leo Activity Centre, Colombo 07**.

The visit provided us with an opportunity to showcase our recent efforts and discuss how we can continue to serve the community with even greater impact.



Lion Dilruk's speech was both insightful and lighthearted. While his pointers were incredibly valuable and gave us much to reflect upon, it was also a session filled with a sense of camaraderie. His approach made the experience enjoyable for all of us, ensuring that we learned while having fun.





The meeting concluded with a session of **fellowship and refreshments**, where our members had a chance to connect, chat, and build stronger bonds with one another.

It was a great way to wrap up the visit, leaving us energized and motivated for the tasks ahead.

A special thank you to **Lion Dilruk Tissera** for being with us despite the gloomy weather and for his patience throughout the session (we may have had a few hiccups in the schedule, but your understanding was much appreciated!).

We would also like to thank all the Leos who participated in this meaningful event. Your presence and enthusiasm made the day even more special. We look forward to continuing our journey of growth and service, with the guidance of our district leaders and the dedication of our members.



# FRIGHTMARE

Halloween isn't a festival typically celebrated in Sri Lanka, but on **November 2nd, 2024**, the **Leo Club of Colombo Centennial** brought the eerie magic of **Frightmare Fest** to life, creating a truly unforgettable experience. It was a night of **creativity, collaboration, and camaraderie**, and we, the **Kolonnawa Leos**, were thrilled to be part of this unique celebration.

Hosted at the **Lions Club House in Battaramulla**, the event transformed the venue into a haunted haven filled with **pumpkins, gravestones, and the kind of spooky vibes** that would rival any Halloween party around the globe. Yet, what made Frightmare Fest extraordinary wasn't just the cobwebs and costumes—it was the people.

Adding a touch of inspiration to the evening, **Leo District President Nisal Dulmith and Multiple District President Navod Kiriwaththuduwa** graced the event with their presence.

Their participation underscored the importance of such gatherings in fostering **teamwork and innovation** within the Leo movement.

Leos from all corners of **District 306 C1** came together, from Colombo to Kandy and Trincomalee, to make the event a success.

It was a rare and wonderful opportunity to **meet fellow Leos** from different clubs, each bringing their **unique flair and energy** to the table.

Conversations flowed as freely as the laughter, and **friendships were sparked** that will undoubtedly grow stronger with time.

For us, **Kolonnawa Leos**, the event wasn't just about Halloween. It was a chance to **contribute, collaborate, and showcase our creativity**. From **designing photo booth props** to capturing the essence of the countdown with **eye-catching social media flyers**, we immersed ourselves in the spirit of the festival.

The **photo booth**, decked out with quirky, custom-made props, was a major hit, giving attendees **memorable snapshots** of their ghoulishly glamorous night.

Beyond the fun and festivities, **Frightmare Fest was a celebration of teamwork**. Every detail of the night—be it the **face-painting station**, the **cosplay performances**, or the **rhythmic energy of the dance floor** reflected the **collective effort of 13 Leo Clubs**.

It was a testament to what we can achieve when we **work together**, blending diverse ideas and talents into something truly remarkable.





But the event wasn't just for Leos. **Opening its doors to non-Leo participants**, Frightmare Fest introduced our **mission and values** to a wider audience. It was heartening to see **potential members and supporters** engage with our activities, experience the vibrant Leo spirit, and perhaps even feel inspired to join our movement.

As the night came to a close, it was clear that **Frightmare Fest was more than a Halloween party**. It was a celebration of **community, creativity, and connection**. For us at the **Leo Club of Kolonnawa**, it reaffirmed the joy of being part of something **bigger than ourselves**—a network of passionate young leaders making a difference while having a great time doing it.

**Frightmare Fest was proof** that even a festival as unfamiliar as Halloween could be **reimagined to resonate with our local culture**, creating an event that felt both fresh and familiar. With **leaders like Leo District President Nisal Dulmith and Multiple District President Navod Kiriwaththuduwa** inspiring us, we left the event motivated to take on new challenges with confidence.



As we look back on that spirited evening, we carry forward the **lessons learned and the memories made**, excited for the next adventure that awaits the Kolonnawa Leos.

**After all, every great story begins with a little magic—and perhaps, just a hint of fright!**



# නිරෝගී හෙටක්

**Health** is at the heart of every thriving community. When individuals are healthy, families flourish, and societies progress.

**Lions and Leos worldwide** dedicate themselves to initiatives that ensure **better health and well-being for all**, echoing the belief that a **healthy community is a stronger community**.

On **Saturday, 9th November 2024**, the **Leos of Kolonnawa and CINEC** joined forces with the **Lions Club of Gothatuwa New Century Leos** and the **Lions Club of Gothatuwa New Town** for a transformative day at the **Gothatuwa Paramitha Viharaya**.

The event, aptly titled **Nirogi Hetak (A Healthier Tomorrow)**, brought together **Leos, Lions, and volunteers** to serve the local community through various **impactful health programs**.



## A Day of Service and Care

Under the esteemed presence of District Governor Lion Saman Jinadasa MJF MAF, the initiative focused on improving access to essential healthcare services for individuals of all ages. The event included:

- **Eye Screenings and Spectacles Distribution**  
Over 200 pairs of spectacles were distributed to individuals, helping to restore clarity and improve quality of life.
- **Diabetic Check-Ups**  
Participants were provided with critical screenings, raising awareness about diabetes and its management.
- **Blood Donation Camp**  
A significant number of donors stepped forward, contributing to life-saving blood reserves.
- **Childhood Cancer Awareness Program**  
Awareness sessions educated parents and children about early detection and preventive care for childhood cancer.
- **General Health Screenings**  
Comprehensive health check-ups were conducted, offering participants insights into their overall well-being.
- **Dental Check-Ups and Treatments**  
Dental care services ensured better oral health, a crucial aspect of overall wellness.



## Impact and Reflections

This event exemplified the **strength of collaboration** within the Leo and Lion communities. The combined efforts of these organizations created a **meaningful impact**, reaching hundreds of individuals in need.

Each activity not only addressed **immediate health concerns** but also emphasized the importance of preventive care and early intervention.



## A Rewarding Experience

Being a part of the **Leo community** is an immensely **rewarding experience**. Events like **Nirogi Hetak** reaffirm our **commitment to creating lasting change**.

They also serve as a reminder of the profound difference we can make when we work together.

As Kolonnawa Leos, we take pride in our role in fostering healthier, happier lives. By prioritizing health and well-being, we continue to build a stronger, more vibrant community.





Being a Leo is not just about community service—it's about fellowship, building strong relationships, and coming together as a community.

The Lions Family Get Together is a prime example of this, where Lions, Leos, and their families unite for a day filled with fun, laughter, and activities for everyone to enjoy.

It's a time to bond, not only among the Lions and Leos but also with their family members, creating memories and strengthening connections.

**DEVIL**

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**KING COCONUT**

On 24th November 2024, we, the Kolonnawa Leos, were excited to host our Devilled Manioc and King Coconuts stall at the Lions Get Together at the NCC Grounds, Colombo.

While the event is primarily organized by the Lions, we play a supporting role by contributing our stall, which has become a highlight among the attendees.

Our stall, known for its delicious Devilled Manioc and refreshing King Coconuts, continues to draw in Lions and their families, with many returning year after year to enjoy our offerings.

This time, we also served mini bites, adding to the variety and making our stall even more popular.





While the day is filled with games and activities, it also provides us, the Kolonnawa Leos, with an opportunity to raise funds for our upcoming projects.

The stall serves as a key source of income for our club, allowing us to support important initiatives like our annual blood donation campaign in March 2025.

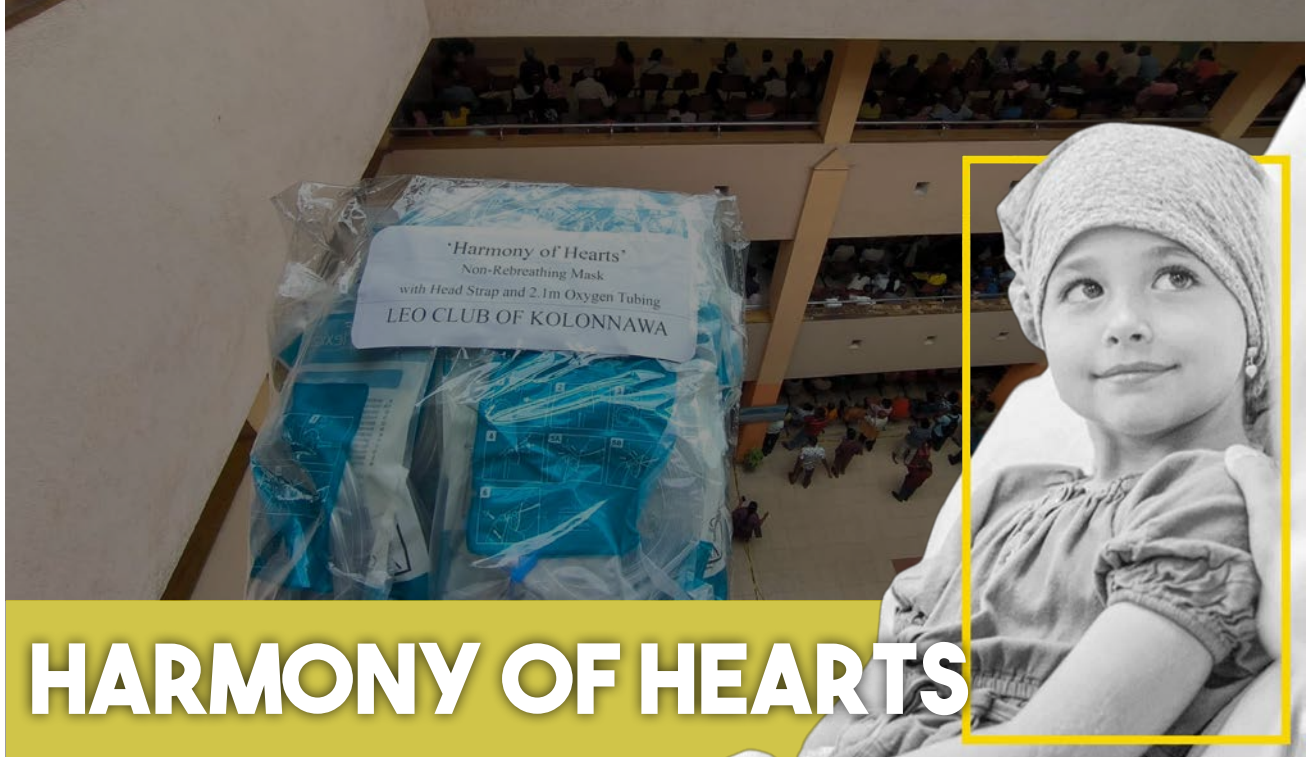
The funds raised will help us carry out more meaningful projects, benefiting the community and beyond.

By the end of the event, our stall had raised more than enough funds for the blood donation campaign, and we are incredibly grateful for all the support we received.

A big thank you goes to all the participants, our Lions, and everyone who contributed in any way.

The success of this fundraiser allows us to continue making a difference in the lives of others, and we, the Kolonnawa Leos, are thankful for the opportunity to serve and strengthen the bonds within our community.





# HARMONY OF HEARTS



Cancer is a word that instills fear in the hearts of many. It's a diagnosis that shakes the very foundation of life, leaving patients and their loved ones grappling with uncertainty.

Hearing the news that one has cancer is a terrifying experience—one that many of us hope never to face.

Despite the many advancements in treatment and early detection, cancer remains unpredictable.

While certain risk factors, like smoking, poor diet, and environmental toxins, can be avoided, there are times when cancer strikes without any obvious reason.

This uncertainty is what makes cancer such a formidable adversary. It can affect anyone, regardless of their lifestyle or history.

It is this unpredictability that drives the Leo Club of Kolonnawa to dedicate ourselves to raising awareness, promoting prevention, and supporting those affected by cancer in any way possible.





On 26th November 2024, we, the Kolonnawa Leos, took part in a project close to our hearts—Harmony of Hearts—to offer support to the patients at Apeksha Cancer Hospital, Maharagama. While we can't cure cancer, our goal is to make even a small difference in the lives of those who are battling this disease.

As part of our contribution, we donated King Coconuts, which are rich in nutrients and help keep patients hydrated, providing them with the energy and electrolytes needed for their recovery.

Additionally, we provided non-rebreathing masks, essential for patients who require oxygen therapy.

These masks are designed to deliver a higher concentration of oxygen, ensuring that patients receive the necessary support to breathe more easily during their treatment.

Though cancer remains a challenge we can't fully overcome, we, the Kolonnawa Leos, strive to make a meaningful impact through small acts of kindness and support.

Every effort, no matter how small, contributes to easing the journey of those affected by cancer.



# GHOSTS IN THE INBOX: CLICK AT YOUR OWN RISK

IT ALL BEGAN WITH A SINGLE EMAIL. THE SUBJECT LINE READ: "**YOUR ACCOUNT IS AT RISK: IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED**." JASON'S HEART RACED AS HE OPENED IT.

IT WAS FROM HIS BANK OR AT LEAST IT SEEMED LIKE IT WAS. THE LOGO LOOKED PERFECT, THE LANGUAGE PROFESSIONAL, AND THE THREAT, ALL TOO REAL. A DEEP, UNSETTLING FEELING CREEPT OVER HIM.

COULD HIS ACCOUNT REALLY BE COMPROMISED?

## THE PHANTOM LINK

JASON HOVERED OVER THE LINK, HIS FINGER TREMBLING ON THE MOUSE. **HE DIDN'T KNOW IT YET, BUT THIS SINGLE CLICK WOULD PULL HIM INTO A DIGITAL NIGHTMARE.**

THE LINK OPENED WHAT SEEMED TO BE HIS BANK'S LOGIN PORTAL A NEAR- ANLESS COPY, DOWN TO THE EXACT SHADE OF BLUE IN THE BANNER. BUT SOMETHING WAS... OFF



**YOUR ACCOUNT IS AT RISK:**  
Immediate Action Required.



**THE URL WAS SUBTLY WRONG, JUST A MISPLACED LETTER THAT COULD EASILY GO UNNOTICED. DISMISSING HIS UNEASE, JASON ENTERED HIS CREDENTIALS AND WATCHED AS THE PAGE BLINKED AND REFRESHED. HE THOUGHT IT WAS A GLITCH.**

WHAT HE DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT A **SHADOWY FIGURE THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY WAS WATCHING, WAITING. JASON'S TRUST HAD BEEN EXPLOITED. HIS ACCOUNT WAS COMPROMISED, AND THE SHADOWS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD WERE CLOSING IN.**

HACKED?

THE GHOST IN HIS LIFE

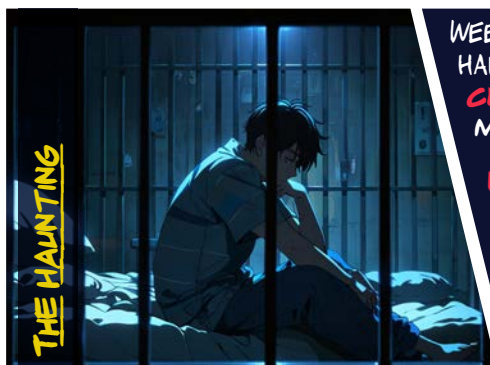


DAYS PASSED AND JASON THOUGHT NOTHING OF THE EMAIL. BUT ONE EVENING, THERE WAS A KNOCK AT HIS DOOR. TWO STERN-FACED GOVERNMENT AGENTS STOOD THERE, DOCUMENTS IN HAND. **HIS BANK ACCOUNT HAD BEEN LINKED TO SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY. LARGE SUMS OF MONEY HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO DANGEROUS GROUPS ABROAD, AND THE ACCOUNT IN QUESTION? - JASON'S.**

HIS BLOOD RAN COLD. HE HADN'T MADE ANY SUCH TRANSFERS, BUT IT DIDN'T MATTER. THE GOVERNMENT HAD FOLLOWED THE MONEY TRAIL, AND **JASON WAS ACCUSED OF FINANCING TERRORISM.**

IN AN INSTANT, HIS LIFE WAS TORN APART. HE WAS ARRESTED, FACING THE UNIMAGINABLE PROSPECT OF A LENGTHY PRISON SENTENCE FOR A CRIME HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE HAD COMMITTED. JASON WAS THROWN INTO JAIL, HIS LIFE **SHATTERED BY A SINGLE CLICK.**





WEEKS TURNED INTO MONTHS AS JASON LANGUISHED IN HIS CELL, HAUNTED BY THE MEMORY OF THAT EMAIL. **EVERY TIME HE CLOSED HIS EYES HE SAW THE MESSAGE.** HE RELIVED THE MOMENT HE INVITED THE DIGITAL GHOSTS INTO HIS LIFE.

**BUT JASON'S STORY IS NOT UNIQUE.** MILLIONS FALL PREY TO PHISHING SCHEMES EVERY YEAR. IN 2021 ALONE, PHISHING ATTACKS INCREASED BY 29%, WITH **OVER 255 MILLION INCIDENTS REPORTED WORLDWIDE.** THE SHADOWS NEVER STOP MOVING, CONSTANTLY EVOLVING, FINDING NEW WAYS TO TRICK THE UNSUSPECTING.

## DON'T BE THE NEXT VICTIM!

AS YOU READ THIS, **THERE MAY BE A PHISHING EMAIL WAITING IN YOUR INBOX.** IT COULD LOOK LIKE A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BANK, A FRIEND, OR YOUR FAVORITE ONLINE STORE.

IT MAY ASK YOU TO ACT QUICKLY, PROMISING REWARDS OR WARNING OF DIRE CONSEQUENCES. BUT REMEMBER **EVERY CLICK COULD SUMMON THE DIGITAL GHOSTS** READY TO STEAL YOUR INFORMATION, YOUR MONEY, AND YOUR PEACE OF MIND.



**STAY VIGILANT. THE GHOSTS OF PHISHING ATTACKS NEVER SLEEP.**

AND SO, THE HORROR OF PHISHING CONTINUES, LURKING IN THE SHADOWS OF THE DIGITAL WORLD, WAITING FOR THE NEXT VICTIM TO CLICK THE WRONG LINK.

## RED FLAGS IN JASON'S STORY:

- **Urgent, threatening language:**  
The email claimed Jason's account was "at risk," urging him to act quickly—a common tactic used in phishing attacks.
- **Suspicious link:**  
The URL was almost identical to his bank's but with a slight, nearly imperceptible difference. Scammers often create fake websites that look real but have minor inconsistencies in their URLs.
- **Request for login information:**  
Phishing sites mimic legitimate ones to capture sensitive information like usernames and passwords, which was the case here.
- **Delayed consequences:**  
Jason initially saw no immediate damage, a hallmark of phishing schemes that lie in wait to exploit victims over time.

Stay safe. **Phishing attacks often start with just one email—but they can turn your life upside down.**

A STORY BY LEO DYLEN WOLFF



Victory, a small word of seven letters. But to achieve victory, Bangladesh had to go through a **long 9 months bloody war**. At the cost of **3 million lives**, Bangladesh achieved its **victory on December 16th, 1971**.

Since then 16th December has been celebrated as **“Victory Day”** in Bangladesh.

At the national level, the day starts with the firing of cannon 31 times, hoisting the national flag, playing the national anthem in capital Dhaka.

At the beginning of the day, the national flag is hoisted in all public and private buildings, the national anthem is played in the Govt. and educational Institutions. People lay wreaths in memory of the martyrs at the “National Memorial” in Savar, Dhaka and in other memorials.



In the divisional cities and districts, district administration & city corporations arrange parade & display competitions. Educational Institutions (school, college), state civil agencies, social organizations take part in these competitions.



Signing of the Instrument of Surrender during the Bangladesh Liberation War

To signify this day's importance, newspapers publish special articles, electronic media shows special programs the whole month. Educational Institutions arrange seminars, quiz programs, art, sports and cultural competitions to celebrate Victory Day.



Social organizations arrange blood donation programs, special service activities like food distribution programs in hospitals, orphanages, Child care and old age homes etc. In major cities, a fair called “Bijoy Mela” is organized.

In the evening, cultural organizations arrange cultural programs containing songs, dances and stage plays about our liberation war.



In Bangladesh, people celebrate victory day with family and friends, helping others, above all paying tribute and remembering all the martyrs of our Historic Liberation War.

# BANGLADESH VICTORY DAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

**Leo Sheikh Muntasir Mamun**  
Immediate Past President

**Leo Club of Chittagong**  
**Leo District Council, District 315-B4, Bangladesh**





## LEO CLUB MOVEMENT: A GLOBAL YOUTH REVOLUTION

The Leo Club movement is a youth movement worldwide, championing service, leadership, and compassion. From bustling cities to serene rural communities, Leos are a global force of young volunteers making an extraordinary impact through acts of kindness and community service.

December 5 stands as a monumental date in the history of Leoism—this day marks **International Leo Day**, commemorating the official recognition of the **Leo Club Program** by **Lions Clubs International** on **December 5, 1975**.

# THE LEGACY OF DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>

## THE BEGINNING OF LEOISM:

### A HUMBLE START WITH A GRAND VISION

The story of Leoism traces back to **1957**, in Abington, Pennsylvania, when a group of high school students at the Abington High School Leo Club initiated what would become a global phenomenon. Under the sponsorship of the **Glenside Lions Club**, these students were encouraged to cultivate the values of leadership, experience, and opportunity—qualities embedded in the very acronym LEO.

They started small, with local community projects, but their passion for helping others and creating positive change quickly drew attention.

As these young leaders demonstrated the power of youth-driven service, Lions Clubs across the United States began to recognize the potential of nurturing young leaders to carry on the Lions mission of service. By 1967, the concept of Leoism had spread internationally, and Lions Clubs International officially launched the Leo Club Program, inviting young people worldwide to join this journey of service and leadership.

But it wasn't until December 5, 1975, that the Leo Club Program received formal recognition from Lions Clubs International, cementing its position as a core Lions initiative and granting it a prominent place in the global Lions community.



## DECEMBER 5, 1975:

### A MILESTONE MOMENT IN LEO HISTORY

The formal recognition of the Leo Club Program on December 5, 1975, was a defining moment that gave the Leo movement an official platform to grow and thrive. This recognition meant that Leos would now have dedicated support, resources, and guidance under the Lions Clubs International umbrella, enabling them to broaden their impact on communities across continents.

December 5 was later designated as International Leo Day, a day dedicated to celebrating the spirit of Leoism and its commitment to nurturing youth leaders who inspire change.



*The world needs leaders who are not only driven to succeed but are also motivated to serve.  
The world needs Leos.*



## THE EVOLUTION OF LEOISM:

### GROWTH AND GLOBAL IMPACT

Since its inception, Leoism has evolved into a global movement that empowers youth in more than 140 countries. With over 200,000 members in approximately 7,200 Leo Clubs worldwide, the program has grown from a small group in Pennsylvania to a worldwide network of young leaders united by a shared passion for service.

Today, Leo Clubs embrace a diverse array of projects that address pressing community needs—from environmental conservation and hunger relief to educational support and mental health advocacy.

Leos work hand-in-hand with Lions, gaining valuable mentorship and experience while contributing their innovative ideas and youthful energy. The program has provided generations of young people with the opportunity to develop leadership skills, broaden their horizons, and make lifelong connections. This unique dynamic between Leos and Lions exemplifies the power of intergenerational collaboration in driving social impact.

### LEOISM TODAY:

#### A MOVEMENT ROOTED IN SERVICE AND INNOVATION

As the world evolves, so does the Leo movement. Today, Leo Clubs are at the forefront of innovative solutions to modern challenges. The 2020 global pandemic underscored the resilience and adaptability of Leos, who quickly embraced virtual service projects and online engagement.

They showed the world that service has no boundaries, whether physical or virtual. This adaptability has allowed Leo Clubs to maintain their impact, even in uncertain times, and reinforced their position as an essential force for good.

Leo Clubs of the Future are poised to make even greater strides, with Lions Clubs International providing new leadership development opportunities and resources tailored to the digital age. Leos today are not only learning how to lead but also shaping what leadership looks like in a rapidly changing world.

### DECEMBER 5:

#### A DAY OF CELEBRATION AND COMMITMENT

International Leo Day on December 5 serves as a reminder of the remarkable journey Leo Clubs have undertaken. It is a day to celebrate young people's passion, resilience, and commitment to creating a better world through service. But it is also a day to look forward—to encourage even more youth to join the Leo movement and to envision the endless possibilities for positive change that lie ahead.

In a world that increasingly values collaboration, compassion, and innovation, Leoism stands as a beacon for young people ready to make a difference. As we celebrate December 5, let us honor the journey of Leo Clubs from a small initiative in Pennsylvania to a global youth movement—and let us look forward to a future where the spirit of Leoism continues to inspire generations of young leaders.



#PROUDLEO



# TOP

## 5 MOVIES

### TO PUT YOU IN THE FESTIVE MOOD

Article by : Prospect Mariyam Shafeek

As the holiday season approaches, it's the perfect time to immerse yourself in heartwarming tales and festive cheer. Whether you're a movie buff or a book lover, this December, let the magic of the screen and the allure of stories brighten your days. Here's a selection of the top five Christmas movies that cater to all tastes—making this holiday season one to remember!

## 1 HOME ALONE

*An endearing classic filled with laughs and heartfelt moments for the whole family!*

When Kevin McCallister is accidentally left behind during his family's Christmas trip, he has to protect his home from two clumsy burglars. **Home Alone** is a beloved holiday film packed with hilarious antics, memorable moments, and a touching message about the importance of family.

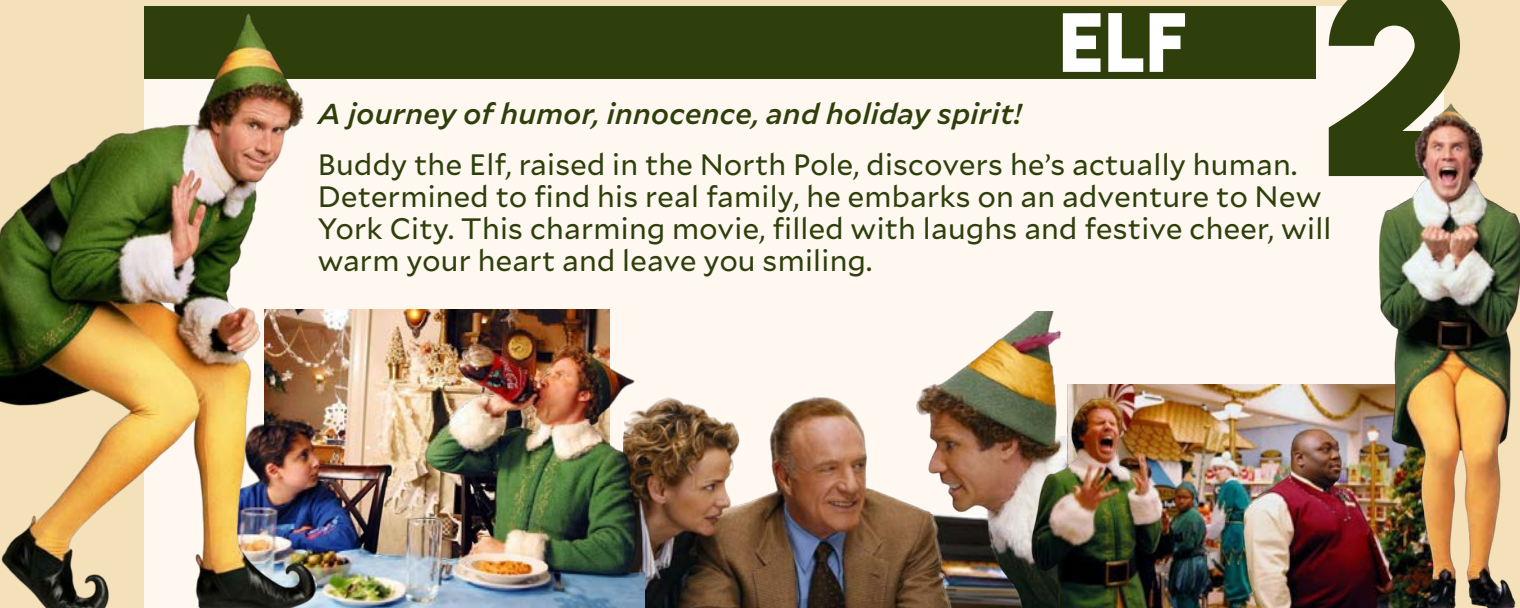


## ELF

# 2

*A journey of humor, innocence, and holiday spirit!*

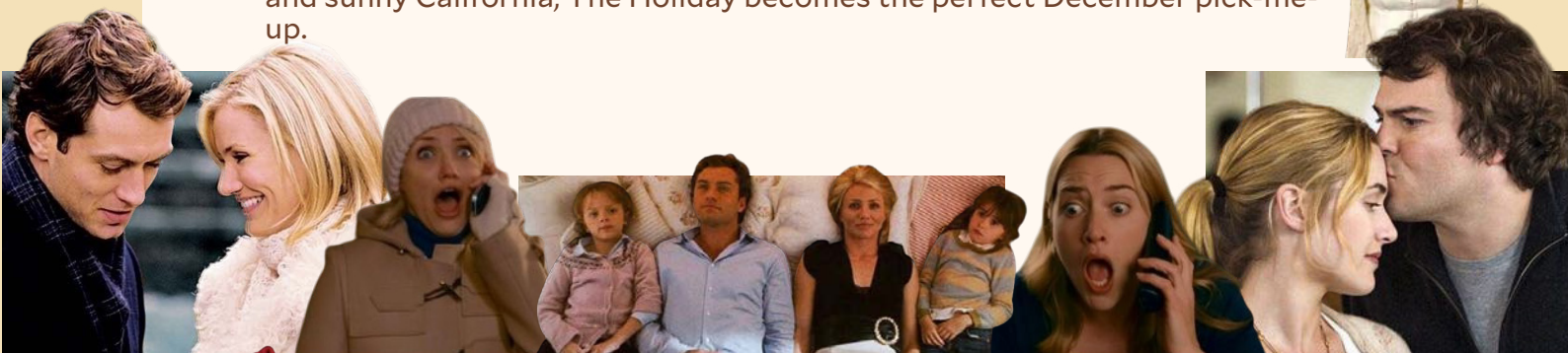
Buddy the Elf, raised in the North Pole, discovers he's actually human. Determined to find his real family, he embarks on an adventure to New York City. This charming movie, filled with laughs and festive cheer, will warm your heart and leave you smiling.



# 3 THE HOLIDAY

*Snow, romance, and fresh beginnings beneath the mistletoe.*

This heartwarming romantic comedy follows two women who swap homes for the holidays. As love blossoms amidst the snowy English countryside and sunny California, *The Holiday* becomes the perfect December pick-me-up.



# 4 THE GRINCH

*A timeless tale of redemption and the true meaning of Christmas.*

Jim Carrey brings Dr. Seuss's classic story to life in *The Grinch*. Join the grumpy green grouch as the lively Whos of Whoville teach him to embrace the joy of Christmas in this hilarious and touching holiday favorite.



# 5 LITTLE WOMEN

*A story of love, resilience, and sisterhood.*

Greta Gerwig's adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's novel is a masterpiece. The March sisters' journey, intertwined with beautiful Christmas scenes, reminds us of the value of family and finding happiness in the little things.



## Celebrate the Holidays with These Classics

Whether you're cuddled up by the fireplace with loved ones or hosting a festive movie marathon, these films will bring joy, nostalgia, and holiday magic into your December. Share them, gift them, and let the enchantment of the season create lasting memories.

***Happy Holidays!***

# TOP 10 THINGS I LOVE ABOUT BEING A LEO

A LEO'S POV BY LEO DYLEN WOLFF

Being a Leo is not just about service it's a journey filled with **leadership, growth, and meaningful connections**. Each moment brings us **new opportunities to make a difference, inspire others, and create memories that last a lifetime**.

Here are the **top 10 things I love about being a Leo**, shared through personal experiences to motivate and inspire every Leo.

**\* DON'T MISS THE BONUS POINT AT THE END IT'S A GAME-CHANGER FOR EVERY LEO!**



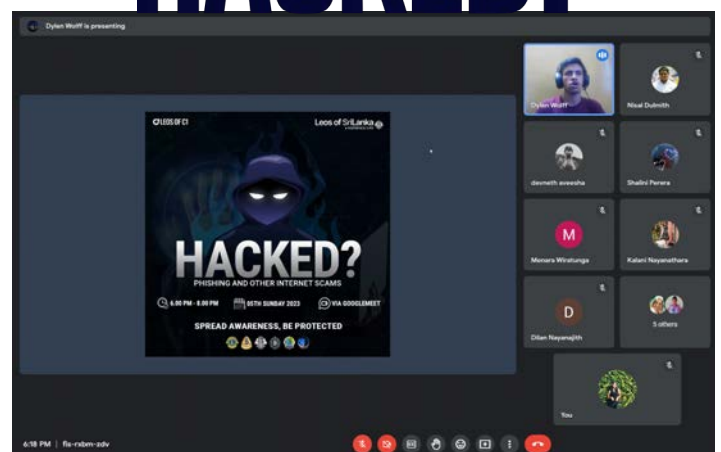
## 1. LEADERSHIP, EXPERIENCE, AND OPPORTUNITY - THE FOUNDATION OF LEOISM

The foundation of being a Leo lies in **Leadership, Experience, and Opportunity (LEO)**.

I'll never forget when **PDP Leo Kojitha Gamlath** explained how these letters form a pathway: **opportunities lead to experiences, and through those experiences, we develop leadership skills**.

That perspective transformed Leoism from just a community to a **place of unlimited opportunities**.

For example, when I encountered a **social media scam targeting a friend**, I turned that challenge into an opportunity to learn. Today, I'm part of a project called **Hacked**, which educates others about **social engineering and how emotions can sometimes work against us**.



# ASHRA



## 2. BECOMING A LEADER THROUGH TEAMWORK

Leadership in the Leo movement is built through **shared experiences and teamwork**. One of my most memorable moments **was planning and executing our club's installation ceremony**.

It was my first event with the team, and the collaboration and camaraderie we shared made the experience unforgettable.

Every project reminds me of **the power of teamwork** **how diverse ideas and collective efforts** can lead to impactful outcomes.

## 3. MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

Community service is the soul of the Leo movement. Projects like **Hacked**, which raises awareness about scams and manipulation, **address real-world problems while empowering people**.

Another project close to my heart is **Good Old Days**, where we visit elders' homes and spend time with the seniors there. Hearing their stories and seeing their smiles is a reminder of **why we serve as Leos**.



## 4. BUILDING LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS AND NETWORKS

Being a Leo isn't just about service; it's about **forming connections that matter**. Our club brings together **people from diverse professional and cultural backgrounds**, offering new perspectives and insights.

As time passes, I've also come to realize that **mentorship is one of the greatest blessings**. **Guiding new Leos**, sharing experiences, and **watching them grow into confident leaders** is an opportunity few others get.



## 5. PERSONAL GROWTH & OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

The Leo journey has its challenges, but each one is an opportunity to grow.

Balancing personal life, work, and Leo responsibilities has taught me valuable time management skills.

These lessons have not only boosted my confidence but also prepared me to face challenges across all areas of life.



## 6. FUN, LAUGHTER, AND HEARTWARMING MEMORIES

The Leo movement is not just about work; it's about joy and memories. Whether it's our monthly meetings or project planning sessions, every gathering with fellow Leos brings laughter, strengthens bonds, and creates unforgettable moments.



## 7. BEING PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT

The Leo movement connects us with like-minded individuals globally. Knowing that we're part of the world's largest youth service organization is both humbling and inspiring.

Projects like Silent Heroes and Lead to Read, which involve international collaborations, remind us that together, we're making an impact on a global scale.



## 8. RECOGNITION AND MOTIVATION

Recognition isn't just about awards; it's about the acknowledgment of our efforts and the impact we create.

Each compliment or "job well done" reinforces our commitment and motivates us to push boundaries.

At every level district, multiple district, and international our Leo Club has been recognized for its innovative projects and outstanding contributions.

These accolades encourage us to aim higher and achieve more.



## 9. LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

The Leo movement offers countless opportunities to learn and grow. From leadership workshops to service projects, each experience helps shape us into better individuals and leaders.

Through Leoism, I've discovered a clear path for my personal and professional goals, and I'm grateful for the guidance and opportunities that have come my way.



## 10. INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

One of the most rewarding aspects of being a Leo is the opportunity to inspire and mentor the next generation. Whether it's guiding new members, sharing experiences, or encouraging others to take on leadership roles, helping others grow is a privilege.

Watching younger Leos step into their potential reminds us of the enduring impact of our journey and the legacy we leave behind.



### BONUS POINT:

#### Finding Your Special Someone

One of the most unexpected and beautiful aspects of my Leo journey has been sharing it with someone special. My girlfriend, who introduced me to the Leo movement, has made all these experiences even more meaningful. Together, we've built memories that combine our shared passion for community service and personal growth.

Who knows? You may find your special someone in this movement too a person who shares your enthusiasm for making a difference and growing together.

After all, Leoism doesn't just impact the community; it adds incredible value to your personal life as well!



## SECRETARY'S NOTE

Dear Leos,

As 2024 draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been an extraordinary first half of the Leoistic year for the Leo Club of Kolonnawa. It's hard to believe how quickly time has passed, but what's even more remarkable is how much we've accomplished together.

This year has been a testament to our collective strength and dedication. Each one of you has contributed your time, energy, and passion to make a lasting impact on our community. Whether behind the scenes or in the forefront, your efforts have been the driving force behind every success. We've faced challenges, embraced opportunities, and most importantly, stayed true to the values that make us Leos; service, leadership, and friendship.

As we look back, I am filled with immense pride in how much we've achieved as a club. But the journey doesn't stop here. The second half of the Leoistic year lies ahead, filled with new opportunities to grow, serve, and create even greater change. Let's continue to build on the momentum we've gained, taking on new challenges with the same energy and passion that have brought us this far.

As we step into 2025, I am excited for the future and for what we will accomplish together. Let's keep pushing the boundaries of what we can achieve as a club, inspiring those around us and making a difference in our community.

Wishing all of you a Happy New Year filled with new beginnings, fresh perspectives, and endless opportunities. Let's make the second half of the Leoistic year even more memorable and impactful!

Subhani Embuldeniya  
Secretary,  
Leo Club of Kolonnawa



## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Gentle Reader,

It is with great pleasure that I bring you the 3rd consecutive Leo Newsletter, The Witness – December 2024 edition. This edition is a reflection of the collective passion and effort of our Leo members, who have dedicated their time and creativity to making this newsletter possible. Without their contributions, this endeavor would be nothing but a lost cause, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

This time, we have chosen to focus on Leoism while expanding our horizons by including articles from beyond our club, district, and multiple districts. This exciting step forward includes features like Bangladesh Victory Day, written by a member of the Leo Club of Chittagong, District 315-B4, Bangladesh. I hope this initiative strengthens our bonds beyond borders and inspires even greater collaboration in the future.

To those who contributed articles, photos, and creative content, thank you for your invaluable support. Your efforts are the lifeblood of this newsletter, and I encourage all readers to join in by sharing your thoughts, feedback, and ideas for future editions.

Let this be a reminder that Leoism thrives on creativity, unity, and innovation. Together, we can continue to explore new possibilities, break boundaries, and leave a lasting impact through our shared stories and values.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. Let's make every edition of The Witness a celebration of our shared journey, our service, and our mission to make a difference.

Yours in Service and Creativity,

Leo Sanidi Rovinya  
Editor-in-Chief,  
Leo Club of Kolonnawa

# WITNESS



@kolonnawaleos