



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR ALUMNI

May the good times and treasures that this year bring be the golden memories of tomorrow — and may you have the hope, courage and strength to face and overcome any hurdles, disappointments and sorrow you may face.

2019 BRUNCH: TORONTO CHAPTER

The Toronto Chapter's Annual Reunion and Brunch was held on September 22, 2019 at the Rembrandt Banquet Hall in Scarborough, Ontario. **Ann Marie Seymour** emceed the proceedings and **Phyllis (Lewis) Henery** said the opening prayer. "Serviam" was sung by the Serviam Choir led by **Carol (Lopes) Chung**.

In the absence of **Suzette Zaum**, our President, her report was read by **Sheila (Georges) DeGannes**. The report highlighted our financial contributions to our Alma Mater in 2019 :- monetary awards for the First Place and Most Improved students at CSEC and CAPE levels at the Prize Giving Ceremonies; the Custodian's salary; equipment and furnishing to outfit the Home Economics Department—thereby providing the necessary resources for Food and Nutrition as well as Home, Health and Resource Management. Adding to the list of contributions was the purchase of a Public Address System; upgrading the Industrial Technology Department with equipment and software compatible with the new syllabus; and upgrading the Library and Computer Lab. Three Robotics kits were also donated during the academic year to enable the establishment of STEM/Robotics Club.

Sheila (Georges) DeGannes also gave an account of the International Reunion which was held in New York in August. A video, entitled "Toronto Talk Show", which was produced by the Toronto Chapter for the Cultural Evening in New York was very well received, was presented at the Brunch for guests to enjoy.

The traditional collection for the orphanages in Guyana amounted to \$603.00. Musical entertainment was provided by Martin Grimmond and the meeting concluded with the singing of the **Holiday Hymn**.



2019 PRE-CHRISTMAS DANCE

We held our Pre Christmas dance on November 23, 2019 at a new venue, the Scarborough Convention centre. The venue's decor sparkled as did our guests creating an elegant event as always. The band, "Triple Play" delighted the guests with their crowd pleasing "jump up" and familiar "rent a tile" ballads...the dance floor was never empty! This event continues to be a popular start to the Christmas Season so getting tickets early ensures you and your friends a table.

Thanks to all of our sponsors who continue to support us and congratulations to our many winners. Special thanks to our Committee, especially to Joanne (Ross) DeCastro (who creatively enhanced the table decorations) and all those who worked with her and in other areas to make this event a success. Hope to see you all on November 21, 2020!

GUYANA CHAPTER OF OUR ASSOCIATION RE-ESTABLISHED

With the assistance of Alumna Lorraine Croft-Farnell, who was in Guyana for the St. Rose's annual prize giving and Graduation, and co-ordinated by Alumni Kemie Williams, Keon Smith and Dr. Raquel Thomas-Caesar, the **Guyana Chapter of St. Rose's Alumni was re-established** at an Alumni meeting which was held on December 1st, 2019, in Georgetown. Elections were held and the following alumni were voted as members of the Executive Committee:- Ms. Waynetta Naughton-PRO, Mr. Robert Forrester-Treasurer, Ms. Denise Hodge-Asst. Secty./Treasurer, Mr. Michael Gordon-Secretary, Mr. Ronald Kisson, Vice President and Mr. Keon Smith, President. Plans are in progress to register as an NGO, prepare Bylaws, fund raise, and plan a Career Day.

WALK FOR ST.ROSE'S

We are presently planning a Fundraising Walk and would like to hear from those of you who would be interested in participating at srhtoronto@yahoo.ca. It will also be good exercise while meeting your fellow alumni and friends.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Annual General Meeting March 29, 2020**
- **Games Evening—May 1st, 2020**
- **Annual Reunion & Brunch—September 20, 2020**
- **Pre-Christmas Dance—November 21, 2020**

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's Annual General Meeting will take place on **March 29, 2020**, at the offices of Century 21 Camdec Real Estate, 4544 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough, Ontario.

All financial members are encouraged to attend.



2019 ST. ROSE'S ANNUAL PRIZE GIVING & GRADUATION

Alumna Lauren (Ahwah) Harry was in Guyana for the St Rose's Annual Prize Giving and Graduation ceremonies, held at the Cultural Center, in November 2019. Lauren presented our Chapter's awards for the 13 First Place and 13 Most Improved Lower School Students. Lauren reported that St. Rose's did very well this year; and she observed that the school had come a long way over the last five years. She remarked: "I was so pleased that when the graduating class sang "Serviam", it was clear that it meant something to them. It is the first time I have seen this since I have been attending the graduations - I got quite emotional and felt as proud as the parents and teachers of the graduates."



Pictured on the left are the representatives from Toronto's and New York's Chapters, flanked on either side by teachers. On the right, from left to right are Alumna Lorraine Croft-Farnell (N.Y.); a graduate; Alumna Denise (Harris) Durant (N.Y.); Alumna Lauren (Ahwah) Harry (Toronto); and Headmistress, Paula Hamilton.

REPORT ON THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR —by Mrs. Paula Hamilton, Headmistress

“At the beginning of the academic year 2018- 2019 there was a total of five hundred and forty nine (549) students.....The major curriculum is broken down into ten disciplines namely: Mathematics, Language Arts, Social Studies, Natural Sciences, Agricultural Science, Allied Arts, Home Economics, Modern Languages, Industrial Technology and Business Studies.....Some of our students with additional gifts and talents were able to extend their abilities beyond the level of academia and participated in competitions and curricular activities such as: the Ministry of Education’s Annual Mashramani Competitions, J.O.F. Haynes debating competitions, Fitness challenge competitions, Inter-House/School/Zone Athletics and Field Championships. Steel Pan Orchestra, Rosamund Addo Inter-House Debating competition (this year, Brescia House participants emerged as the winners); Internal Science Fair. We were also able to launch our first ‘cook-out’ competition among year groups in which students from all classes, at the various levels, were able to participate with great enthusiasm.....Of the eighty eight (88) students who sat the CSEC Examinations this year, eighty seven (87) of them will be graduating today.Furthermore, we have achieved 93% overall pass for both CSEC and CAPE Examinations. The results of the examinations show an improvement in the quality of the results. There was an improvement of the CSEC matriculation rate from 88% in 2018 to 92% in 2019. It was, therefore, no mistake that in this year’s National Award Ceremony, the Ministry of Education adjudged **St. Rose’s High School** as the *Most Improved Senior Secondary School* in the country.” Mrs. Hamilton congratulated the 2019 Graduands for their excellent academic performance, and went on to thank the Parent Teachers’ Association and the Board of Governors for their continued support and service, the Toronto and New York Chapters for their contributions to the School, and the Sisters of the Ursuline Convent for providing an alternative entrance to the compound since the Church Street entrance no longer existed, and the businesses and organizations which have also supported the School.

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GREENHEART WOOD

(*Chlorocardium rodiei*), also called bebeeru, is a large timber tree of the laurel family. It is dark green, grows to a height of 40 metres (130 feet) and is native to the Guianas. The bark and fruits contain bebeerine, an alkaloid once used to reduce fever. Greenheart wood, which is both strong and dense, is used chiefly in Europe for underwater applications, such as pilings for wharves and bridges and in ships. Its excessive weight makes it largely unfit for other purposes.





FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

A new year with 2020 vision has begun. No pun intended. It is a time again for us to reflect on memories of our lives and in particular friendships. In this issue, I have published a letter in which Sister Marie Therese Gomes is engaged in conversation with Alumna Marie (Forte) Cholmondeley and this is as precious as it can get. Sister Marie Therese is the oldest and longest serving Ursuline nun and teacher still alive today, and in such good spirits. I am sure she would love to see all of you who were so fortunately taught by her, and knew her. She had a contagious smile and her love for her pupils was sincere.

I encourage you, this year, to reach out to a school chum you have not seen or not been in contact with for sometime, or an old friend; and, if possible, plan a reunion. It does not have to be on a grand scale; small gatherings are intimate and very enjoyable; they are valuable connections. If you are unable to travel overseas, use your home as your base. Our roads have diverged over time, taking us to the opposite sides of the world. I know that years ago, in Guyana, it was easy to jump on your bike or walk, if you did not have a car, to visit families and friends. Living in big cities today, factoring in distances and weather conditions, it takes time and effort to plan.

I always like to think that getting in touch with my classmates, or old friends brings an air of youth along with memories rushing to the forefront of my mind. It is a beautiful feeling. A reminder of the way things once were or maybe the person you used to be, and the happiness experienced growing up. Friends, generally speaking, aren't easy to make – especially since life becomes more complicated and more difficult with age. The older we get, the more independent we become. Frankly, the older we get, the less we need friends. Or, rather, the less we believe that we need friends. But friends are a fundamental part of our lives and it was easier to find real friends when we were younger than we do now. As adults, we tend to develop more acquaintances.

A New Year's thought: if this year will be the best year of your life, what would you do? Think about it, write it down and, if you want to achieve this, make it happen. *Margaret (Man-Son-Hing) Levy*

60 YEARS LATER—CLASS OF 1959 REUNION

In October 2019, several of the graduating class of 1959 gathered in Toronto where they met to celebrate their 60th anniversary since leaving St. Rose's High School. The celebration took place over three days, starting with a lunch at the CN Tower, followed on the next day by a visit to the Aga Khan museum and lunch, and meeting at the Mandarin restaurant to say goodbye. Conversations were reminiscent of school days and everyone's well being and families, with the exchange of photos, and remembering those classmates who were not able to attend and who had passed away. These endearing moments were spent embracing the long and warm friendships over 6 decades. The vibrant mood was going back to reliving those days spent at St. Rose's in *Serviam*.



From left to right above: Judith (Hanoman) Ramprasad; Elizabeth (Zitman) Abdool; Margaret (Man-Son-Hing) Levy; Fay (Crum-Ewing) Fong; Felicity (Franker) Alexander; Sonia (Kawall) Gorzala; Nadine (Ramalho) Feijoo; Marilyn (Tang) Smith; Waveney (Campayne) Duarte.
Missing from photographs - Deleni (Singh) Naraine

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

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Scarborough, ON M1R 2X1
Phone: 416-449-8203
Email: srhtoronto@yahoo.ca

NOTE NEW ****WEBSITE ADDRESS**

[https://
www.strosesalumntoronto.com/](https://www.strosesalumntoronto.com/)

YOUR 2019-2020**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- Suzette Zaum, President
- Cheryl (Surrey) Braz, Past President
- Beverley (Rowe) Jones, Secretary
- Penny Lee, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

- Desiree (de Abreu) Buckley
- Jennifer (da Camara) Cheong
- Joanne (Ross) DeCastro
- Sheila (Georges) DeGannes
- Cheryl (D'Ornellas) Devers
- Terry Kim Katchay
- Carol (Harris) Munroe
- Tessa (King) Ng-See-Quan
- Shanta (Naraine) Persaud
- Jennifer (Dummett) Welshman

"Challenges are what make life interesting, and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful." —

Joshua J. Marine"

**MEMBERSHIP
DUES-2020**

**PLEASE NOTE THE
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION OF \$25.00 TO
THIS NEWSLETTER
IS NOW DUE.**

**FROM THE MAILBAG:**

—From **Alumna Marie (Forte) Cholmondeley**: *"I had an absolutely delightful visit with Sister Marie Therese last Thursday at the Convent. She was in fine form, great sense of humor and very alert to everything that is occurring in the country. She had had a fall and broke her hip a few years ago, which took a very long time to heal, rendering her only able to get around with a walker and not able to come downstairs easily. However, she slowly recovered and was managing without aid, sometimes a stick, if she felt she needed it. Alas, a few weeks ago, the kitchen of the convent was flooded, when she recounted she "gaily stepped in and promptly fell, injuring the same hip"; so she is back to her walker. Fortunately, the nuns procured an extra walker, so she doesn't have to depend on someone to bring the one upstairs and downstairs when she needs it. During the conversation, she revealed she is now 93!! She doesn't look it and really her faculties are functionally as good as ours! Her only impairment is her hearing, which is not so good, but once conversation is directed to the good ear, one would never know. I told her that you would like to write about her in the newsletter to which she laughed heartily and said: "tell her to forget it!" I tried to persuade her otherwise, but she seemed adamant, and said an article about her would only bring more questions as to "who is that!". In discussing names, she mentioned that her secular name was Joan, but when she had to choose her religious name, she opted for Marie Therese because of her attraction to the Little Flower. I know that after she gave up teaching at St. Rose's, she was in charge of the Orphanage for many years before retiring and overseeing the kitchen and meal menus for the nuns at the Convent. When I visited, there were two Indian nuns, stationed in the Pakaraimas, who had come to Georgetown for a short visit, so she was very elated to see new faces and engaged them in lively, playfully teasing comments.*

I promised myself, and her, that I would visit more often...the traffic is so terrible nowadays in that area that there is no parking at any part of Camp Street, from Lamaha to Brickdam, as cars are parked chock-a-block on both sides of the street! The nuns had to inform the security guard that, whenever I came, they should allow me to park in their compound. If you wish me to pursue Sister's permission to write about her, I will keep trying to twist her arm on the next visit; I plan to try for at least once a month...however you can certainly share this news of her with the girls at the reunion, which I'm sure will be going swimmingly! Love to you - and all!"

Marie

SMILE

- Housework can't kill you, but why take a chance? *-Phyllis Diller*
- Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing up is like shoveling the sidewalk before it stops snowing. *-Phyllis Diller*

OUR SYMPATHIES GO OUT TO:

—**Alumna Lorraine (Lackenlall) Cornelius** whose brother, Theodore Lackenlall passed away on October 15, 2019, in New York, U.S.A.

—**Alumna Yvonne (DaCosta) Ewens**, whose brother, Julian DaCosta passed away on December 25, 2019 in Toronto, Ontario. Julian was also the uncle of **Alumnae Elizabeth (Chin-a-Loy) Dos Ramos** and **Donna (Chin-a-Loy) Greer**.

—The family of **Alumna Yvonne (Gonsalves) Sadler** who passed away on January 23, 2020 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Yvonne was the cousin of **Alumnae Barbara (Lopes) Man-Son-Hing**, **Carol (Lopes) Chung** and **Alice Lopes**.

MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

