



ST. ROSE'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (Toronto Chapter)

JUNE 2016

NEWSLETTER NO. 86

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting took place this year on Sunday, April 24, 2016. The new slate of Officers was presented and elected to serve on the Executive Committee. They are: **Cheryl (Surrey) Braz**, President, **Sheila (Georges) DeGannes**, Past President, **Penny Lee**, Treasurer, **Beverley (Rowe) Jones**, Secretary and the following were elected Directors: **Anne (Dummett) Castanheiro**, **Carol (Harris) Munroe**, **Cheryl (D'Ornellas) Devers**, **Dean Massiah**, **Desiree (deAbreu) Buckley**, **Jennifer (Dummett) Welshman**, **Jennifer (DaCambra) Cheong**, **Joanne (Ross) Davis**, **Shaaron (Rohlehr) Pollard**, **Shanta (Naraine) Persaud**, **Suzette Zaum**, **Terry Kim Katchay** and **Tessa (King) Ng See Quan**. This will take effect immediately until April 2017.

GUYANA's JUBILEE YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE



Alumna Yvonne (Joseph) Triesman's brother, **Conrad Joseph** and his wife, **Annie**, were in Guyana for the 50th Independence Anniversary celebrations. He reported that "..... *One of the memorable events that we attended was the St. Rose's Cultural Evening - "Arts Fest 2016" held at the impressive Marriott Hotel on May 30.....The cultural events consisted of dancing, singing, skits and steel band music, all performed by the talented pupils of St. Rose's, and were of the highest caliber. The evening's organization was superb and well attended.....The auction was a tremendous success as well. Mr. Nigel Hughes, the auctioneer, did a fantastic job, getting the audience to open up their wallets.....My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed the evening.*" **Alumna Cathy (Cholmondley) Hughes** opened the first bid at the auction.

NEW PRESIDENT

Cheryl (Surrey) Braz has been elected to serve as President of our Association to replace **Patsy Russell** who had stepped down to relocate to Guyana. Our thanks to **Jennifer Welshman** who held the position as Interim President for the past several months.

LAST LAP LIME—21 YEARS LATER



The 2016 Last Lap Lime will take place on **Monday, August 1st, 2016, at the Woodbridge Fair Grounds, Vaughan, Ontario**, from 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. This popular event, which is a collaboration of five Guyanese High Schools' Alumni Associations, is always very well attended. We urge you to buy your tickets which are available from any of our Committee members.

A Launch party was hosted by the Last Lap Lime Committee on May 29th at the Tropical Nights Restaurant and Lounge in Scarborough, to thank our volunteers who have worked with us in previous years, and to welcome new volunteers.

Our representative this year on the LLL Board of Directors is **Anne (Dummett) Castanheiro**. **Carol (Harris) Munroe** represents us on the Project Planning Committee

Admission is \$10.00 in advance (before August 1st) and \$20.00 at the gate. See flyer on Page 5 for details, and where to purchase tickets.

Please put this in your calendars, and come out to support this fund-raiser. Tell your families and friends !

2016 UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Last Lap Lime**, at Woodbridge Fairgrounds, August 1, 2016.
- **Annual Reunion/Brunch**, at Rembrandt Banquet Hall, September 18, 2016.
- **Pre-Christmas Dance**, at Sts. Peter & Paul Banquet Hall, Scarborough, November 21, 2016
- **Casino Trip to Rama**, date to be announced later.

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ST. ROSE'S B.O.G. LAUNCHES ARTS FEST

The first annual St. Rose's Alumni /Board of Governors fund-raiser, "**Arts Fest 2016**" took place on May 30th, at the Guyana Marriott in Georgetown. It was an evening of Music and other performing Arts, including a Dutch Auction. The event was a big success and received the support of both U.S. and Toronto Chapters.

"Never stop doing little things for others. Sometimes the little things occupy the biggest part of their hearts."



TRIBUTE TO MS. ERCELLEN CUMMINGS-ARCHIBALD

— by Past President Sheila (Georges) DeGannes

"Shakespeare said, "All the world's a stage
And all the men and women merely players:
They have their exits and their entrances;
And one man in his time plays many parts"

Ms. Eccellen Cummings-Archibald in her time played many parts: daughter, mother, student, teacher, Head Mistress and more. My relationship with Ms. Cummings was brief, productive and rewarding. We met by correspondence during my tenure as President of St. Rose's Alumni Association, Toronto, from 2011 to 2015, and she was Head Mistress at St. Rose's. I was privileged to communicate with Ms. Cummings during the culminating years of her nine-year leadership role at the school. I was always impressed with her fierce determination to do and to seek every opportunity to acquire the best for her students. She struck me as a human being who always strove to achieve the best within the circumstances of the times. As she herself once reported, "The realities impacted significantly as we faced our financial constraints and tried our best to implement programs." It was a joy to finally meet Ms. Cummings in person during the 20th. Anniversary Celebrations of the U.S.A. Chapter of our Alumni Association held in New York over the Labour Day weekend in 2012. She was so very warm and welcoming. I remember during that visit to New York I got a glimpse of Ms. Cummings, the daughter, as her mother who lived in New York, 'took in' unexpectedly, was hospitalized and eventually passed away. Ms. Cummings spent long hours at her mother's bedside and I was touched by her caring concern and expressions of tremendous gratitude to have been in New York at that time as her mother's health declined.

I remember Ms. Cummings as the proud parent when her son was called to the bar as a lawyer in Georgetown. I remember the glimpse into her mind-set as a student, albeit a graduating student, when she told the 2011 graduating class at Prize Giving, "Graduation is wonderful too because it is another step toward upward mobility... Today reminds me of how I felt years ago when I graduated from the University of Guyana." But it was in her role as Head Mistress and School Administrator, that I interacted with Ms. Cummings as she and the Board of Governors identified and prioritized areas of need at St. Rose's which our Alumni Associations then sought to address. We had the good fortune to work on several projects, for example the refurbished basketball court, which are evident around the school today.

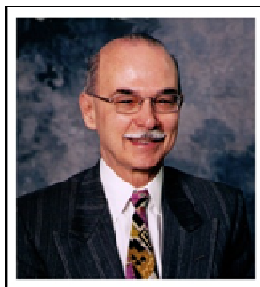
Ms. Cummings was very generous with expressions of appreciation for all projects completed. Despite her busy and demanding schedule, she took the time to keep alumni informed of progress and activities at the school by copy of her annual Principal Report which she presented each year at Graduation and Prize Giving Ceremonies in November, as well as with the occasional letter, and sometimes a surprise 'Thank You' plaque from the students. In one of her last emails to us, Ms. Cummings commented on the performance of St. Rose's students at the 2013 CSEC's, which was the last External Exams that she oversaw as Principal of St. Rose's. She reported, "Once again, continuing the legacy of success, St. Rose's High School has performed exceptionally well at the 2013 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate Examinations and beaten out Bishop's High School and St. Stanislaus College to take the spot as second best performing school at the CSEC 2013 Examination after Queen's College."

I feel blessed to have known and worked with this dutiful daughter, proud parent, mindful student and dedicated Head Mistress of St. Rose's !"

2016 ANNUAL REUNION AND BRUNCH

The Annual Reunion and Brunch will take place this year on Sunday, September 18, 2016 and will be held at Rembrandt Banquet Hall, 930 Progress Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario (just south of the Markham exit off the 401).

Reunions are a wonderful opportunity to see your classmates again and to renew friendships. If you have not attended one recently, please come out to this event. Enclosed in this newsletter is the Membership Form and Registration.



A. Rupert De Castro, CMA
Broker of Record

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From the Editor's Desk:

Our active Alumni Association has flourished over the past years and our goals could not have been achieved without the generosity and support of our Alumni members and the commitment, hard work and dedication of our Executive Committee members. St. Rose's High School has benefitted tremendously from the various fund raising events that were held, resulting in a marked improvement in the high standard of education that the students have achieved, both in Academics and Sports. Here is a summary of the disbursement of monies to our Alma Mater from 2005 to 2015 in the following categories –

Refurbished Basketball Court/ Multi Purpose Court - \$27,986.00.... Technical Drawing Tables and Stools - \$7,900.00...Combination Desks - \$13,340.00...Desks and Teachers' Retreat - \$1,747.00...Scanner, Colour Printer and Fax Copier – \$285.00....Procured and Shipped Chemicals and Equipment for Science Labs. - \$17,264.00....Lab Equipment - \$12,962.00....Home Economics Lab (refurbished by Toronto) and 50% cost of Biology, Physics and Chemistry Labs (joint project refurbishment with the U.S. Chapter) - \$30,217.00... Sharp Photocopier and Risograph Machine (both a joint project with the U.S. Chapter) - \$2,740.00.....Marion Wing Water Pump - \$2,206.00Monetary Awards to Students (First Place, Most Improved, CSEC and CAPE) - \$4,155.00 ... Toronto Chapter 25th Anniversary Essay Competition Prizes – \$450.00....Assistance to Individual Students providing Backpacks of stationery supplies and toiletries – \$986.00....Assistance with Airfares for Cricket Team representing St. Rose's in Barbados at the Garfield Sobers Cup Competition – \$3,610.00....Compensation to Staff: providing Custodian fees (alternating with the U.S. Chapter), one-time emergency compensation for School Counsellor, one-time compensation for I.T. teacher (prior to this position being fully funded by the Government), one-time compensation for security coverage, special one-time Teacher honorarium – \$18, 996.00.... 2015 Reunion Seed Money Donation and NU2U Shipment - \$1,655.00....St. Ann's and St. John Bosco Orphanages (proceeds of annual games evenings) - \$8,517.00....Uncle Eddie's Home (special Brunch collection at our 25th Anniversary in 2012) - \$755.00....2005 Guyana Flood Relief - \$1,300.00....Canadian Charities (mandated portion of Last Lime profit) - \$1,074...Hurricane Katrina special collection - \$105.00. The total amount expended is \$158,250.00.

Thanks to Past President, Sheila (Georges) DeGannes for putting together this report.

Margaret (Man-Son-Hing) Levy

Earlier this year, Guyanese-born Professor and a Scholar of Linguistics, Walter Edwards, visited Guyana. He was invited to speak to an audience who were delighted with his theory of "Reduplication in Guyanese Speech." The older citizens were filled with nostalgia as he regaled them with half-forgotten expressions of Guyanese Creolese such as: "Eh-eh; bam-bam, bun-bun, lef-lef, pim-pim, dan-dan, putta-putta and din-din."

Professor Edwards pointed out that "reduplicated words such as back-back (back-up) and one-one (one at a time) are consistent with morphological trends among African languages, and thus reveal part of the linguistic heritage of Guyanese speech".

He is also the Director of the Humanities Center, at Wayne State University, U.S.A.

Poem On Friendship
by Muhammad Ali (1942-2016)

*"Friendship is a priceless gift that cannot be bought nor sold,
But its value is far greater than a mountain made of gold.
For gold is cold and lifeless, it can neither see nor hear.
In time of trouble, it's powerless to cheer.
It has no ears to listen, no heart to understand.
It cannot bring you comfort or reach out a helping hand.
So, when you ask God for a gift, be thankful if He sends,
Not diamonds, pearls, or riches, but the love of real true friends."*

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

St. Rose's Alumni Association
19 Robertsfield Crescent,
Scarborough, ON M1R 2X1
Phone: 416-449-8203

WEBSITE ADDRESS

www.strosesalumnitoronto.org

Your 2016—2017 Executive Committee

- Cheryl (Surrey) Braz,
President
- Sheila (Georges) DeGannes
Past President
- Penny Lee, Treasurer
- Beverly (Rowe) Jones,
Secretary

DIRECTORS

- Desiree (de Abreu) Buckley
- Anne (Dummett) Castanheiro
- Jennifer (Da Cambra) Cheong
- Joanne (Ross) Davis
- Cheryl (D'Ornellas) Devers
- Terry Kim Katchay
- Dean Massiah
- Carol (Harris) Munroe
- Tessa (King) Ng-See-Quan
- Shanta (Naraine) Persaud
- Shaaron (Rohlehr) Pollard
- Jennifer (Dummett) Welshman
- Suzette Zaum

*Be the change that you wish to see
in the world."*

- Mahatma Gandhi

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LETTER.** For more information,
please contact our Newsletter
Editor at srhtoronto@yahoo.ca

**ALUMNI NEWS**

On March 8th, 2016, International Woman's Day, **Alumna Iris de Freitas Brazao** was honoured by the Aberyswyth University in Wales, where she attended and read Law. A room in the Hugh Owen Library of the university was named after Iris in recognition of her being the first female lawyer in the Caribbean and British Guiana.

CONGRATULATIONS GO OUT TO:

—**Alumna Margaret (Valladares) Rodrigues** on the birth of her grand daughter, Heidi, on February 19, 2016. Proud parents are her son, Wayne and his wife, Andrea.

FROM THE MAILBAG:

Sr. Leonie DeCosta, O.S.U., Administrator of St. Ann's Orphanage, wrote to acknowledge the bank drafts of Cdn.\$210.00 and \$500.00 received last year. *"I would like you to know that I am touched by the effort that the Association makes to raise money to keep us afloat here. Please be assured of our continuous prayers each month for you and our generous benefactors when you are especially remembered at Mass in our Chapel."*

OUR SYMPATHIES GO OUT TO:

—**Alumna Margaret (Valladares) Rodrigues** whose mother, Gertrude Valladares passed away on March 27, 2016, in Toronto. She was 96 years old.

—**Alumna Lorraine (Lackanlall) Cornelius** whose sister, Elita Lackanlall died on April 30, 2016, in Guyana. Elita was also the aunt of **Alumni Alicia (DeSouza) Yorke** and **Donna (DeSouza) Jones**.

—The family of **Zireen Asim Majid**, who was a past teacher at St. Rose's and had a long teaching career. Ms. Majid died on May 15, 2016, in Markham, Ontario, Canada.

—The family of **Mrs. Ercellen Cummings-Archibald** who was Head Mistress of St. Rose's for nine years at the time of her retirement early in 2015. Mrs. Ercellen Cummings-Archibald passed away in Georgetown, Guyana, on April 29, 2016.

—**Alumna and Past President Sheila (Georges) DeGannes** and **Alumna Cathy (Georges) Mascoll** whose sister, **Alumna Margaret Georges** passed away on April 16, 2016, in New York, U.S.A.

—**Alumna Marilyne (Leung) Trotz**, former Chair of the Board of Governors at St. Rose's and formerly of the CARICOM Secretariat, whose beloved son, Garth Trotz passed away on April 16, 2016 in Brooklyn Heights, New York, U.S.A. Garth was the nephew of **Alumnae Brenda (Leung) Ely** and **Renee (Forte) Clarke**. Garth would have celebrated his 50th birthday on April 20th.

—**Alumnae Barbara Ramalho Rodrigues** and **Nadine (Ramalho) Fijao** whose mother, Carmelita Celine Ramalho passed away on April 30, 2016, in Brampton, Ontario, Canada. She was 99 years old.

—**Alumnae Mary (Cox) Martinez** and **Rosemarie (Cox) Forgenie** whose sister, **Alumna Moira "Pat" (Cox) McKoy** passed away on June 9, 2016, in Toronto. Pat was also the sister of **Alumna Mae (Cox) deMendonca** (deceased), and she was one of the oldest of our Alumni, who was almost always at our Annual Reunions and rarely missed our Games Evenings.

MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE. AMEN





2016 St. Rose's Annual Brunch

**HOLD
THE
DATE**

**CONTACT
YOUR CLASS-
MATES**

PLEASE JOIN US ON

Sunday September 18, 2016

12:30 p.m.

(doors open at 11:30 a.m.)

**REMBRANDT Banquet Hall (401/Markham)
930 Progress Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario M1G 3T5**

ALUMNI PRICE - \$30:00

GUEST PRICE - \$35:00

Please see attached registration form



COME AND MEET OLD FRIENDS AND MAKE NEW ONES



THE TORONTO CHAPTER'S ANNUAL REUNION AND BRUNCH

Our Annual Reunion and Brunch will take place this year on **Sunday, September 18** at the Rembrandt Banquet Hall, 930 Progress Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario. Remember this event is open to family members and friends of alumni. Please complete the registration form and return to us and, if you are bringing friends/family, please provide their name(s).

St. Rose's Alumni Association (Toronto)
c/o 19 Robertsfield Crescent
Scarborough, Ont. M1R 2X1

ST. ROSE'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (Toronto)
REUNION BRUNCH - Sunday, September 18, 2016
REMBRANDT Banquet Hall
930 Progress Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario M1G 3T5
Doors Open at 11:30a.m - "Serviam" is sung at 12:30p.m

REGISTRATION FORM IF ATTENDING REUNION BRUNCH (to be received as soon as possible – and no later than September 11, 2016)

Name: _____

Telephone No: _____

Address: _____

Brunch (Alumni) \$30.00

Annual Dues (if not already paid) \$25.00

Family /Friend attending
@\$35.00 per person \$_____

Email address: _____

Total Submitted: \$_____

PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP for 2016 (If Not Yet Paid and Not Attending Reunion)

Name: _____

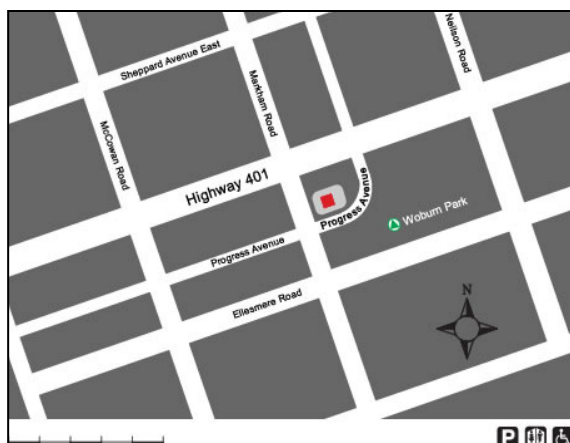
Telephone No. _____

Address: _____

Annual Dues: \$25.00

Email address: _____

Total Submitted: \$25.00



Rembrandt Banquet Hall is located in Scarborough right in front of Woburn Park, just south of the 401 on Markham Road & Progress Avenue. (See map to the left.) Ample Parking is within the vicinity of the building. The Rembrandt Hall and its facilities are accessible by wheelchair.



"COME AND CELEBRATE GUYANA'S 50TH INDEPENDENCE WITH US...LEH WE LIME."

LAST LAP LIME

**MONDAY,
AUGUST 1,
2016**

1:00PM TO 9:00PM

WOODBIDGE FAIR GROUNDS

100 PORTER AVENUE WOODBRIDGE (KIPLING & HWY 7)



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ADM: \$10 In Advance Before August 1st \$20 at Gate
(See Our Website for Ticket Outlets)

www.LastLapLime.com