



**ANNUAL REUNION & BRUNCH**

The Annual Reunion and Brunch took place this year on Sunday, September 18 at the Rembrandt Banquet Hall in Scarborough, Ontario. Emcee **Anne Marie Seymour** welcomed the gathering which included overseas alumni from England and New York. The opening prayers were said by **Phyllis (Lewis) Henery**, followed by the singing of Serviam, led by the **Serviam Choir**, and once again a delicious brunch was served.

Newly appointed president, Cheryl (**Surrey**) **Braz** addressed the group which was smaller than in previous years. A suggestion was made to reach out to alumni to attend these reunions by arranging transportation. Cheryl spoke about the Annual General Meeting, the Casino trip next month, the upcoming pre-Christmas Dinner Dance, the Circle of Friends, and the projects for the School including ongoing bursaries and prizes. She announced that the older part of the school will be undergoing reconstruction, and not the Marian Wing. She gave a warm welcome to **Anne Marie Seymour** who returned to the rostrum in her role as M.C. this year, and congratulated St Rose's student, Fatima Karim, on achieving the Top Student Award in the country at the CXC CSEC examinations.

Entertainment was provided by Pannist - Kerry-Ann Wright, Victor Shim - solo Saxophonist and a contemporary dance performed by Alicia Nero, grand-daughter of **Elizabeth (Gobin) Solomon**.

The traditional collection organized by **Lorraine (Lackenlall) Cornelius** raised \$645.00 for the St. Ann's and St. John Boscoe Orphanages in Guyana. The afternoon concluded with the singing of the Holiday Hymn.

**LAST LAP LIME**

Last Lap Lime was held on Monday, August 1st, 2016, at the Woodbridge Fair Grounds, Vaughan, Ontario. This is the last year that our Association will be having a partnership role in this event and we would like to thank all our Alumni volunteers over the years for their leadership, commitment and contributions. We thank our representatives on the Board this year, **Shaaron (Rohlehr) Pollard**, **Anne (Dummett) Castanheiro** and **Carol (Harris) Munroe**, for all their work and efforts. Thank you also to all those who supported this event by their attendance year after year.

**2016 UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Pre-Christmas Dinner & Dance, November 26, 2016** at Sts. Peter & Paul Banquet Hall, Scarborough.
- **Games Evening—Spring 2017** (date to be advised).

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Reunion and Brunch	Page 1
Last Lap Lime	
Pre-Christmas Dance	
School News	Page 2
Alumni News	
Editorial	Page 3
Posthumous Awards	
More Alumni News	Page 4
From the Mail Bag	
Condolences	



**PRE-CHRISTMAS DINNER AND DANCE**

Our Pre-Christmas Dinner and Dance will be held this year on Saturday, November 26th at Sts. Peter & Paul Banquet Hall, 231 Milner Road, Scarborough (off Markham Road). Cost of the ticket is \$55.00 which you can obtain from any Committee member (see Dance Flyer attached). Entertainment will be provided by **THE FUH-FUN BAND AND DJ SPINZ**. Plan to buy your tickets now as this event is always **SOLD OUT**.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

The renewal fee for subscription to our newsletter and being a financial member of our Alumni Association is \$25.00. Please remit payment now, if you have not done so already for the year.

We thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

"I can't control what life did to me, but I can control how I react. Therein lies the difference."

---George Bernard Shaw



## ST. ROSE'S SCHOOL NEWS

### CXC CSEC TOP STUDENT

Congratulations to St. Rose's student, **Fatima Karim** who became the Top Student at this year's Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examinations. She pursued 20 subjects and earned 19 Grade One and one Grade Two, and was motivated to do this in order to earn a scholarship offered by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) to further her studies. Fatima said: "I was really, really excited and proud of myself, really happy.....the hardest subject for me was Office Administration alone."

### ALUMNI NEWS

It is with sadness that we learnt of the passing of *Alumna Bernice Perry* on September 25th. After graduate studies, Bernice taught French at St. Rose's from 1968 to 1969, followed by teaching in France for one year before she joined the Guyana Foreign Ministry. She was posted as a diplomat to the High Commission in Ottawa from 1970 to 1980.

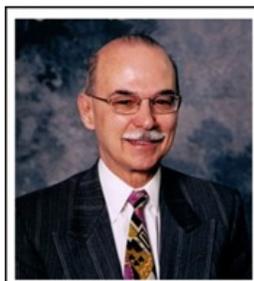
*Alumna An Yin Choo* attended St. Rose's from 1987 to 1992. She further pursued studies at the University of Guyana, Beijing Language and Culture University in China, and the Nations University and School of Business in Georgetown. She is currently the Head of the Diaspora Unit, Senior Foreign Service Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Guyana since July 2011, engaging the Guyanese diaspora structurally to contribute to Guyana's national development inter alia. Her previous posts were Charge d'Affaires, Guyana Embassy in Beijing, China, Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Cooperation, and working as a Foreign Service Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She also served on the Board of Governors of St. Rose's High School from October 2007 to June 2008.

### BBC NEWS: GUYANA'S GIFTS TO THE WORLD

To mark the 50th anniversary since the colony of British Guiana became independent, BBC News recently highlighted some of the positive contributions from the land of our birth: "*The Lost World*" in which famous author, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle featured the Guyana Highlands, notably the Mount Roraima tabletop shape, in his Sci-Fi adventure book; and an inspiration for the Disney/Pixar film "UP"—Kaitour which is the world's longest single drop waterfall—Demerara sugar, a natural sugar, so good that it was named after the river—The Man Booker Prize, reminiscing on the days when Booker's controlled much of Guyana's sugar industry prior to Independence—Bourda Cricket Ground—where the West Indies won its first Test Match in 1930, the first such match venue in mainland South America and the only one in the world that is below sea level. Among our citizenry are prominent and well known people such as Baroness Valerie Amos, the first black woman in the British cabinet, singers Eddy Grant, Cy Grant and Rihanna (whose mother was Guyanese), John Agard, recipient of the Queen's Gold Medal for poetry, author E.R. Braithwaite ("To Sir, With Love"), and famous cricketer Clive Lloyd. (*Editor's note: Of course, we are proud of many, many more of our fellow countrymen, as well as our rice, bauxite and diamond industries, not mentioned in this article.*)

My philosophy is that not only are you responsible for your life, but doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment."

—Oprah Winfrey



**A. Rupert De Castro, CMA**  
Broker of Record

Office: 416-298-2800

Cell: 416-817-7604

adecastro@trebnet.com



CAMDEC REAL ESTATE LTD. 4544 Sheppard Avenue East  
Toronto, Ontario M1S 1V2  
Brokerage\*

CENTURY 21® International Award Winning Office

"When young, build assets... Then build cash flow"



### ***From the Editor's Desk:***

It is the 21st century, the year is 2016. We have advanced in technology and are witnessing a major and fundamental shift in world culture since the Industrial revolution, the automobile and television, where online communications and social media, in particular, have revolutionized the way we communicate and share information globally. Many of us are from that generation where a fountain pen and ink, blotter, and pretty stationery, and handwritten letters were the mode of keeping in touch, but this has drifted from our lives, and could easily disappear completely from our world. Modern technologies now surround us that are ubiquitous and automatic. Our lives, personal and in school and business, are defined by interacting with computers, cell phones and other digital portals, using social media tools such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Flickr and You-Tube (grassroots technology). Gone is the Remington typewriter and shorthand and dictation, unbeknown to the millennials today, replaced by the internet, email, video and text messages.

Slow communication is out. Everything is fast and instant with emails and text messaging. The English language has fallen victim to the evolution of this technology with online computer slang, blogging, hashtags and text messaging abbreviations—changing the way we speak and write. And what more do we lose? Solid writing skills, for the art of letter writing is fading; spelling, grammar and vocabulary as Spell Check and Text Messaging discourage correct spelling, the misuse of grammar and improper vocabulary and the value of words and emotions, yes, words do matter. When writing a letter, it is important to consider how your words will be interpreted by the recipient. It is a slower process and you have more time to erase and rewrite what you want to say. With emails and text messages, sent in seconds, the significance of words is often overlooked and sometimes there are negative effects. What we have also lost is that personal and stronger connection or bond, like those sentimental postcards and choosing the paper for handwritten letters. No doubt, the rhythm of our lives has been profoundly disrupted as we depend on these electronic devices.

We are keeping up with this high-tech age, going digital, lest we risk being called old fashioned by our children and grand children. We are talking to our loved ones via Skype or Facetime, sending emails, which lets us stay in touch with loved ones and friends all over the world—virtually, instantly and at no or little cost, text messaging which permits instant feedback, Googling our favourite recipe, or to find information. Advancement in technology must be accepted, but we should not forget the traditional letter writing, and should encourage our families to use this 'old' method of communication before it becomes obsolete as the aging population disappears from earth.

***Margaret (Man-Son-Hing) Levy***

### **POSTHUMOUS AWARDS IN HONOUR OF GUYANA'S 50th ANNIVERSARY**



The Canada-Guyana 50th Independence Awards Gala was held on October 1, 2016 at the Brighton Convention & Events Center in Toronto. Five Posthumous awards were presented: Doctors Rudy Grant and Percy Anderson (Education), Norman Sue and Peter Piltamber (Business Excellence) and **Alumna Joan (daSilva) DeBarros (Community Service)**.

Joan was a stalwart example of commitment and service, living her life based on our *Serviam* motto, and the tenacity of her faith—and deserving of the moniker ascribed to her by many who knew her as “*Guyana's Mother Teresa*.” She was devoted to works of charity and was one of the founding members of Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Ltd, the Guyana Burn Foundation, now known as Caribbean North Charities Foundation, St. Rose's Alumni Association, St. Bartholomew Catholic Women's League and the Stella and Flávio daSilva Scholarship Foundation. She, along with her husband, Desmond were the recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008. Her active community service has inspired many Guyanese-Canadians to do the same. Joan will be forever remembered.



## MORE ALUMNI NEWS

### MAILING ADDRESS:

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

### WEBSITE ADDRESS

[www.strosesalumntoronto.org](http://www.strosesalumntoronto.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

#### ADVERTISE NOW IN OUR NEWSLETTER.

For more information, please  
contact our Newsletter Editor  
at [srhtoronto@yahoo.ca](mailto:srhtoronto@yahoo.ca)



### CONGRATULATIONS GO OUT TO:

—**Alumna Donna (Meikle) Benjamin** on the birth of her grandson, Maël Mélik Rousseau Francis born on Sept 2, 2016, to her daughter-in law, Jessika and son, Marlon.

### FROM THE MAILBAG:

—**Alumna Sheila (Georges) DeGannes'** daughter, Nehassai DeGannes recently performed in the Litmus Theatre's production of a new stage adaptation of Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* at the Theatre Passe Muraille Mainspace in Toronto. The show concluded on October 16.

### OUR SYMPATHIES GO OUT TO:

—**Alumna Thelma (Carter) Nobbs** whose husband, Edgar Nobbs passed away on July 2, 2016 in Wellington, Ontario. He was 94 years old and they were married for 70 years.

—**Alumna Tessa Ng See Quan** whose mother-in-law, Elaine Quan passed away on July 23, 2016 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. She was 91 years old.

—**Alumna Jackie Christiani** whose uncle, Captain John Hilary Gerard "Gerry" Kranenburg passed away on August 5, 2016 in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada.

—**Alumna Lynotte Cruickshank** whose sister, **Alumna Monica (Cruickshank) Huchinson-Cook** died on August 12, 2016 in Lincolnshire, England. Lynotte was a former Executive Committee member of our Alumni Association.

—**Alumnae Elizabeth (Chin-A-Loy) Dos Ramos** and **Donna (Chin-A-Loy) Greer** whose mother, Carmel Gwendolyn Chin-A-Loy passed away on August 26, 2016 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Carmel was also the sister of **Alumna Yvonne Claire (DaCosta) Jerred**.

—The family of **Alumna Marisha Asha Bowen** on her sudden and tragic death on September 9, 2016 in Nassau, Bahamas.

—**Alumna O'Donna (Collins) Alsopp**, whose cousin, **Alumna Bernice Perry** passed away on September 25, 2016, in Ottawa. Our condolences go out to all of Bernice's relatives.

—**Alumna Monica (Serrao) Gomes** whose sister, **Alumna Yvonne (Serrao) Gomes** passed away on September 25, 2016 in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

—**Alumnae Sandra Pollard** and **Marlyn Pollard** and the entire Pollard family, whose mother, Gwendoline Agatha Pollard passed away on October 15, 2016 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

—**Alumna Jeannette (Creighan) Rowan** whose husband, Ed Rowan, passed away on October 16, 2016 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

—**Alumnae Cheryl Vogleson** and **Pearl (Vogleson) Forrester** whose mother, Emilda Vogleson, passed away on October 17, 2016 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

—**Alumna Pixie (DeLima) Gomes** whose brother, Albert DeLima died on October 17th, 2016 in Florida, U.S.A.

MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE. AMEN

