



ST. ROSE'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (Toronto)

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Newsletter No. 54
April, 2005

A NEW YORK STATE OF MIND



New York, New York.....
Let's get into a New York state of mind !

Have you registered for the International Reunion in New York yet? Make a mini-holiday of it with your friends and family. Contact your classmates, your relatives, and make every effort to be there by car, bus or plane. Special hotel rates have been negotiated although many people may have relatives or friends willing to offer accommodation. On this page you will find the planned programme of events.

Our New York Chapter is working diligently to try and confirm their bookings and dates at the various venues. As you can all appreciate this is a huge task which is time consuming and involves great detail and planning. There are commitments which must be met, if not, some of the events or even the reunion itself can be in jeopardy of being cancelled.

We have attached a Registration Form for your convenience. **Please** take the time to consider these options and reply before the deadline of May 31, 2005 as requested by the International Planning Committee in New York.



Programme of Events

Saturday, July 23

Registration/Service/Brunch/Cultural Evening — Crowne Plaza — La Guardia

Sunday, July 24

- **Day tour** of various neighbourhoods with an opportunity to Shop, sightsee, taste the cuisine etc: China/Italy/USA in New York City; Guyana/India in Queens; Portugal in New Jersey. Each group will be accompanied by member (s) of the NYC Chapter.

- **Nostalgia Night & Karaoke** (7.00 p.m.) at For Goodness Steak Restaurant, Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn. *Reminisce about the "good ole days" with music, folklore etc. presented by talented performers.*

Monday, July 25

-**Tours of New York City (Day Tours)** from 9:00 a.m. Ride a double-decker Bus through the Streets of New York with hop-on hop-off sightseeing opportunities at some of New York's major attractions.

- **Cruise at Night (Party Cruise)** around the Island of Manhattan in comfort and style; dance to popular sounds.

Tuesday July 26

- **Atlantic City** – 9.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. Spend the day in the Casinos, visit the shops on the Boardwalk, or enjoy the beach.

Wednesday, July 27

- **Grand Ball** at Russo's On the Bay, Howard Beach, NY - 8.00 p.m. to 1.00 a.m. Cocktail hour from 8.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. then to the Ballroom for an evening of dinner and dancing.

Thursday, July 27

- **Closing Ceremony** - St. Catherine of Genoa Catholic Church at 11:30 am & Bus to Canada at 2:00 pm for those interested.

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Upcoming Events -

**April 29, 2005
Games Evening
Holy Spirit Parish Hall**

**August 1, 2005
LAST LAP LIME
Woodbridge
Fairgrounds**

**International
Reunion - 2005
in New York
July 23-29, 2005**

**Tea Party
in Toronto
September 18/05**
It's going to be High Tea!
(wear your hat & gloves if you so desire)



From the Editor's Desk

The Ursuline Retreat Center in Kingston, Jamaica, is being run by the Ursuline sisters. It is open to Christians of all denominations. In addition, the facilities are used for workshops, training programmes, cursillos, marriage preparation and other activities related to spirituality or education. There is a small chapel, and the Ursuline community prays the Liturgy of the Hours in the mornings and evenings.

While on a recent visit, I met with **Sr. Mary Bernard Albertsen**, the current Prioress, **Sr. Valerie Ngui**, and **Sr. Marie Therese Gomes**. **Sr. Sheila George** and **Sr. Claudiet Jones** from Guyana are also stationed there. The Center accommodates 34 people, and the Sisters are in need of plastic, twin size mattress covers for the beds.



Sr. Marie Therese conducts the Sewing classes, in its fifth year since inception. Through an earlier appeal, she had received sewing patterns, but these have become "worn out", and she would be grateful to receive patterns in the larger sizes. She is also running a Breakfast Club, consisting of bread and butter with tea, served to elderly, homeless men and women. This is a project worthy of our consideration for monetary contributions.

The Convent houses a small library, used by children from impoverished homes in the community. There is a need for story books for ages four to fifteen, but mainly beginner reading level. I have been in touch with Pixie Gomes who was sorting the many boxes of books received from alumni for St. Rose's, and she has set aside three boxes for this purpose. I am looking for a way to get these boxes to the nuns in Kingston.

The Sisters charge a very low fee to use the Retreat Center, and I found out that this can barely meet their living expenses, so if you can help with any of these requests, please contact me.

Margaret Levy



LAST LAP LIME - Event for Volunteers - May 15, 2005

Please hold this date! Sunday, May 15, 2005. You are invited to attend a Volunteer Reception to launch our 10th Anniversary at **Hibiscus Restaurant, 1410 Victoria Park Ave** from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The schools in Guyana are appreciative of the efforts made over the years to assist them in their endeavours to provide a better learning environment! And, Guess what! We could not have done it without you! Thanks for volunteering in the past and as we celebrate this milestone, we look forward to seeing you and any potential volunteers whether, friends or family who can assist us in this pursuit!



This year we have identified and recognized the need to improve the organization and would like to present you with our vision of the 2005 Lime which is going to be even bigger and better this year.

We are excited with the changes and want to share them with those who have helped or are willing to make a difference in the lives of the students! We know you would not want to miss out, so we urge you to make a special effort to attend. Please pass the word along to anyone who you know has volunteered in previous years or anyone who you think may be interested. For more information, please contact any one of us by 'phone at 416-449-8293 or email srhtoronto@yahoo.ca



REMEMBERING ANDY (LAM) LEE

Alumnus Andy Lee (née Lam) passed away on Sunday, March 20, 2005, in England after a long illness. She is survived by her two sons, Davin and Chad. Her husband, Robin Lee, had died in a tragic incident in the Bahamas in 1994.

Andy was one of the founding members of the Alumni Chapter in London, England,

In 1992, she undertook a mission to search for her ancestral roots and later collaborated with Trevor Sue-a-Quan, who was working on his first book, "Cane Reapers", to find and clarify the ancestries of the Chinese of Guyana. Trevor has credited Andy with "speaking to many Chinese Guyanese, particularly of the older generation, searching various archives in London, Cambridge and Oxford" that provided him with useful material for this book.

Andy went to Guyana to see what archival material could be found to further clarify the family histories. In an effort to continue her ancestral search, she later visited and worked in China and, according to Trevor, wrote "detailed accounts of her encounters with the natives and their usual routines and quirks, especially in relation to food, accommodation and facilities (or lack thereof). The various accounts that she wrote about her observations of today's fast-changing China are filled with insight, concern, resignation, delight and humor about China and her people."

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Andy's family and close friends. It is fitting that Trevor has compiled a short story about her experiences in China which he plans to use in the last chapter of a future book about Chinese Guyanese as immigrants in other countries.

Margaret Levy

Alumni News

Sandra (Rodrigues) Henriques and her husband Dennis are to be congratulated on the birth of a grandson. Their daughter, Davana and her husband Andrew had a baby boy ... Jayden Andrew... weighing 8 lbs 14 ounces on January 21. The proud, parents live in Florida.

Hazeline (Timothy) Featherstone, Alumnus, retired this month after working for 30 years within the U.N. system. She was the immediate past executive secretary of the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Panel of External Auditors and was the first woman to be appointed executive secretary of the External Board of Auditors and an auditor at the professional level in the Internal Audit, the Precursor Office of OIOS.

Anne (Dummett) Castanheiro is to be congratulated on the birth of a new granddaughter — Lorelle Leanne McWatt, who was born on April 13. The proud parents, Peter and Monalie, are thrilled to bits now that Christophe has a little sister!

OUR WEBSITE IS ONE YEAR OLD ON APRIL 18/05!

In the eleven months of its existence we have had close to 6500 hits. !! That's pretty good going.

REMEMBER to register your name when you visit our website -www.strosetoronto.org. Personal information recorded there is **not** shared with the world-wide web.

Leave a message for a friend in the guest book or check on our Upcoming events.

Listen to Serviam on the site!



BOOKS FOR ST. ROSE'S

Alumni who attended our Reunion on September 26th heard Marilyn (Leung) Trotz's appeal for books for the children of St. Rose's.

We have acted on that appeal and have already collected a number of books which will be shipped this month through the kind auspices of Guyana Christian Charities. As mentioned before, Marilyn Trotz has committed to be responsible for the safe delivery of the books to St. Rose's. **Our thanks go out to Guyana Christian Charities as well as Marilyn for this assistance.**

Our heritage was rich with literature. Literacy was a norm when we were growing up. Any little thing we can do to promote and increase the literacy of the children who walk the halls of the buildings where we were educated will be greatly appreciated.



Drop-off points were established in the West End at Barbara-Jean (Lopes) Man-Son-Hing's home and in the East End at Pixie (DeLima) Gomes' home where everything from the West End was transferred. Pixie & Andrew Gomes have been literally walking around boxes of books in their garage, hallway and kitchen. Cheryl Braz had to assist by keeping some of the boxes in her garage. **A big thank you to Pixie and Andrew who were inconvenienced the most.**

We have now had to suspend the collection of books specifically designated for St. Roses. Thanks to all contributors.

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Calling the Class of 1965



The class of 1965 is organizing a reunion in September, 2005. This reunion is planned to culminate with the Tea Party being held in Toronto.

Please contact Pixie (DeLima) Gomes as soon as possible at srhtoronto@yahoo.ca if you are interested in participating. Any information about how to contact other alumni from the Class of 1965 would be greatly appreciated. Thanks —



Cheryl Braz hands baton to Tessa Ng-See-Quan

Happy and Prosperous New Year to everyone. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to making my tenure as president of the association a successful one.

For the past two years our Games Evening has thrived despite the SARS epidemic which lowered attendance. Joan deBarros and her team ably support us each year with contributions of food and donations for door prizes. I thank Joan and the team for the unstinting support. Whenever I called on Joan, she was there, as was Betty Jailall who manages the kitchen for us at the Games Evening. St. Ann's and St. John's orphanages are very appreciative as beneficiaries of this event.

Our annual reunion/brunch, as usual, is always a fun time as the committee work to develop some form of entertainment, be it a skit or a show. Unless you are involved in planning for this event you would not realize how much talent there is on the committee for it is there that the writers and editors showcase their talent. Jennifer Welshman, our stalwart committee member, was always there with creative ideas and suggestions. Few know the amount of work involved in producing a reunion that flows smoothly on the actual day. I thank the entire committee for their support, as I have no creative talent.

Our Xmas dance is one that everyone looks forward to. Each year

our talented committee and friends create magic and for one night we get to bask in their shadows. My thanks go out to Elizabeth Solomon, Judy McKenzie and the rest of the gang for an astounding display of talent in creating our Winterlude and Fire Dances these past two years. These dances are a collaboration of many individuals - the committee, members, their families, their friends. I am grateful that we have such committed members who all work together to ensure our events are successful.

At long last, the computer lab project was completed. For the past three years, this has been a roller coaster activity. Lack of power to the room, an unsafe roof, just to mention a few of the challenges faced. In September 2004 we, along with our sister chapter from New York, were witnesses at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Last Lap Lime. Our alumni have come out in force each year working alongside our brothers and sisters from the other four participating schools to ensure a safe and successful event for everyone.

Again I thank everyone who ensures that the spirit of Serviam stays alive and well in our Chapter. To Tessa Ng SeQuan, our incoming President, I extend all the best as we continue to face the challenges of assisting in the rebuilding of our school.



Cheryl Braz
Past President

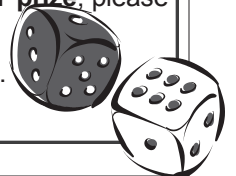
GAMES EVENING : APRIL 29, 2005



Our annual Games Evening will once again take place at Holy Spirit Parish Hall, Sheppard Avenue E. on Friday, April 29. The Entrance fee remains at \$6.00 per person — remember to bring your own board games and/or playing cards with you. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. We will be happy to reserve a table for you !

As usual, we will provide each table with tasty snacks (patties, sandwiches etc.) and coffee or tea. Pop and water will be available for sale. Door prizes will be in abundance. If you will like to **donate a door prize**, please contact a committee member.

Proceeds are donated to St. Ann's & St. John's Orphanages.





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Newsletter No. 54

April, 2005



Your 2005 Committee

Tessa (King) Ng-See-Quan – President
Cheryl (Surrey) Braz – Past President
Alice (Sweetnam) Bhyat – Treasurer
Maureen (Cheong) Webb – Secretary
Elizabeth (Gobin) Solomon – Director
Jennfer (Dummett) Welshman – Director
Karen Lewis – Director
Lynotte Cruickshank – Director
Marilyn (Edghill) D’Ornellas – Director
Pixie (DeLima) Gomes – Director
Terry Kim Katchay – Director

OUR SYMPATHIES GO OUT -

To Alumnus **Cecelia (Dolphin) Upton** on the passing of her mother, Sybil Clarke, on January 4, 2005 here in Toronto.

To Alumni, **Jackie (Man-Son-Hing) Fraites, Cathy (Man-Son-Hing) Harris and Toni (Man-Son-Hing) Lord**, whose father, **Jerry Man-Son-Hing**, died on January 25, 2005 here in Toronto.

To Alumnus **Joan (Applewaite) DaSilva** on the loss of her husband, **Paul**. Paul died in Kitchener, Ontario on March 6, 2005.

To the **Sweetnam family** on the death of their stepmother, **Thelma Lynne (Fernandes) Sweetnam**, which took place quite suddenly on March 11th in Toronto. All of Lynne’s stepdaughters are alumni - **Alice Bhyat, Ann Sheobaran, and Joan Uher**,

To **Marcelle Willock**, Alumnus, whose brother, Michael Willock passed away suddenly on February 7, 2005 in Houston

To **Wendy Cummings-Nielsen, Ann-Marie Steele, Carol Persaud, Christine Cummings, and Patricia Cummings-Leonard**, all alumni on the death of their sister, **Beverly Cummings-Webster**, Alumnus. Beverly died at the age of 48 on April 3rd, 2005 in Clearwater Florida, after a protracted illness. She was the youngest daughter of the late Justice P.A. Cummings and **Mrs Urmia Cummings**, former Headmistress of St Rose’s High School.

To **Bridget (Pinkey Fernandes) da Silva**, Alumnus, whose older sister **Bernice Ahn nee Fernandes**, Alumnus, passed away Mon. 11 April, 2005 in Florida.

To **Maxine (Chung) Everson and Jackie (Chung) Balls**, Alumni, on the death of their brother Barry Chung on April 11, 2005 in Toronto.



May all of their souls rest in peace.

E-mail us at
srhtoronto@yahoo.ca

LAST LAP LIME—10th ANNIVERSARY



We are excited to report that this annual Guyanese event takes place on **Monday, August 1st** at a new location this year! Tickets are \$10.00 if purchased in advance, and \$15.00 at the gate.

These grounds are home to the Woodbridge Fair and are at Kipling & Highway 7. The Woodbridge Fair has been held there for many years and the **location is ideal** for our event.

We have negotiated a five year lease for the first Monday in August with the management. A new Planning Committee is in place and is working diligently to make this another grand occasion to meet old friends, get our kids acquainted with what it is to be a Guyanese and generally have fun on the last day of the Caribana weekend. (see more on page #2)

Flood Relief

Your committee, like all Guyanese, was shocked on hearing the news of the horrific floods in Guyana. We immediately tried to find some way to assist in the crisis.

We are sure you knew, the Guyanese diaspora rose to the occasion and there were many worthwhile groups that were quickly formed to raise funds and provide assistance. We chose to support the Alicea Foundation on behalf of St. Rose's, Toronto Chapter.

Our contributions were as follows:-

- \$1,000.00 cash
- 300.00 cash
- 500.00 cash from Australia (the Martin family & friends).
- 48 tubes antibiotic cream shipped
- 48 bottles calamine lotion shipped
- 1 Jumbo barrel of clothes shipped

Secretary, Maureen Webb, was in Guyana on personal business in February and visited St. Rose’s to determine how much flood damage was experienced. We were relieved to learn that there was no significant damage to the premises.