



# SAINTS NEWS & VIEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE (GUYANA) ALUMNI SOCIETY  
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Editorial

## UNDERSTANDING CHANGE

Benjamin Franklin, the well-known great American polymath who was a leading writer, scientist, inventor, statesman, diplomat, editor, printer, publisher, a political philosopher, a Founding Father of the United States, a drafter and signer of the U.S. Declaration of Independence, and the first U.S. Postmaster General (*whew!*), is credited for saying in 1789: *Nothing is certain except death and taxes*. No one today would question the veracity of his statement! But, there is an implied corollary to his statement – everything else in life is uncertain!

If there is only uncertainty (except in the two cases given by Franklin), it means that things are always in a flux, and change is a way of life! As we review our career through our lives, we easily discover the many changes which we have made or which have influenced us in our path. This does not mean that we either liked the changes or even understood them!

Change occurs in every aspect of our lives, but there are two changes in the English language which has “bothered” me for some time. Don’t get me wrong. English is a very living language in that it will adapt and include words or phrases from other languages e.g. *alma mater*, *raison d’être*, *hors d’œuvre*, etc. Compare that with the French language for which the Académie Française is the principal French council for matters pertaining to the French language and which decides what is acceptable or how to say something. For instance, the ordinary French person quickly accepted the English word “*le weekend*” for Saturday and Sunday, but the Académie Française refused to accept this. As well, they banned the use of the English word “computer”, seeing this as an “impurity” to the French language, and decreed the use of “*ordinateur*” in its place. To me, the French language is really a “dead” language, being very inflexible.

The first is the use of the word “gay”. The Oxford English

Dictionary (OED, before at least 1960) gives the meaning as: merry, full of fun, light hearted, bright and colourful, etc. There was no sexual reference. Today, the only meaning of the word is “homosexual”. I wonder what those, born after, say, 1970, would make of the 1934 movie “The Gay Divorcee”, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers? They would be in for a big surprise!

The second is not just a change in the meaning of the word but is a result of a malaprop (see Sheridan’s play *The Rivals* (1775)). Those without a good grounding in English grammar mix up the two similar-sounding words: career and careen. “Career” has two main meanings (OED): a person’s course or progress through life, and a swift, running course. “Careen” means: to turn a ship over on one side for cleaning or repairing. This error occurs very often in the media (both written and spoken) by so-called (especially American) journalists who obviously qualify for their jobs by having received an incomplete education in English grammar.

More currently, the use of the word “woke” has completely mystified me. I was taught that “woke” was the past tense of “wake”, but I just cannot reconcile this to its current use. I have talked to many others about this, and they seemed to be just as mystified as I am.

Recently, I read an article in the local newspaper, the *National Post*, which not only gave a meaning which I understood but which went on to expound on the current use in society. Since it could explain far better than I ever could, I received permission from the author, Mr. Philip Cross, to reproduce his article in our newsletter, and it can be seen elsewhere in this issue. We thank Mr. Cross for his kind permission. In future issues, we shall continue to publish articles (if given permission) which will help us understand similar changes in the world.

## CONSERVATIVES SAW WOKENESS COMING

By Philip Cross

*National Post, Thursday 22 February, 2024*

### *The Voting Public Identifies Wokeness With The Left*

Conservatives have always ridiculed the rise of the woke movement and identity politics. Traditional liberals have recently joined in, most notably the philosopher Susan Neiman in her 2023 book *Left is Not Woke*.

In part, these liberals are attempting to reverse declining public support for left-wing political parties, which the public now associates with woke’s inherent extremism. But more traditional left-liberals fail to acknowledge their role in encouraging woke ideology, which conservatives warned for decades was the inevitable outcome of modern liberal thought.

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**Conservatives saw wokeness coming** (Continued from page 1)

What is the woke movement? According to Andrew Doyle in his 2022 book, *The New Puritans*, its first use was in the mid-20th century, referring to people who were “alert to injustice, especially racism”. This evolved into identity politics, which asserts both that particular groups have been denied justice and that identity determines political views. Group identity supplants the individual and replaces money at the heart of power. Woke ideology replaces the left’s traditional emphasis on redressing economic inequalities with “obsessive focus on race, gender, and sexuality” as the source of all disparities in power, according to Doyle. Being woke means believing language reflects the reality of power; hence the proliferation of trigger warnings and cancel culture, which are de facto censorship. For the woke, individual “lived experience” based on group identity trumps data as evidentiary proof. (Is there any other kind of experience?)

The result, argues Neiman, is that woke folk abandoned the traditional liberal values of “universalism over tribalism, a firm distinction between justice and power, and a belief in the possibility of progress”. By emulating the left’s traditional appeal to emotions of empathy and indignation, highly visible woke movements, such as Black Lives Matter and #MeToo, became what the public perceives to be the dominant force in today’s left-wing politics.

The problem for the left is most people reject the divisiveness encouraged by woke identity politics. One poll found only eight per cent of Americans agree with woke views. Woke support seems greater because of its domination of academic social sciences, the media, and the civil service, in all of which traditional liberals have meekly ceded their hold to woke militants.

Woke ideology’s fundamental shallowness is now being exposed by its former liberal allies. Partly, this reflects its lack of serious intellectual underpinnings, where experience and feeling are substituted for reason and evidence. Woke’s reliance on cancel culture and censorship reflects its inability to offer rational arguments, offering instead what Doyle terms “thought-terminating clichés”.

Woke’s appeal has always been limited by its proponents’ tactic of misrepresenting and insulting the very people they needed to persuade. In practice, implementing woke remedies has often produced disastrous results, offering mostly infantile solutions to complex problems. More fundamentally, Doyle observes, the *New Puritans* “are cannibals; they devour each other soon enough” as different groups vie for prioritization of their own victimhood above oth-

ers’. The conundrum for liberals remains that the voting public identifies wokeness with the left. This fuels popular support for right-wing parties, who have a virtual monopoly on addressing the economic issues that drive voting intentions, now that left-wing parties are perceived to be obsessed with cultural issues. In their recent book, *Where Have All the Democrats Gone?*, John Judis and Ruy Teixeira blame the sinking fortunes of U.S. Democrats on “cultural insularity and arrogance” and a focus on social issues that have “alienated working-class voters” preoccupied by the economy and immigration.

Falling support for left-wing parties is motivating more traditional liberals such as Neiman and Doyle to attack wokeism before it costs the left more elections. But liberals seldom acknowledge the key role they played in the rise of wokeism. Affirmative action and employment equity established the principle that equal distribution of benefits to particular groups superseded individual merit. More important, the rise of wokeism, especially among the young and in academia, reflects the erosion of educational standards after the adoption of liberal values and biases. Doyle admits wokeness reflects “a general failure over a number of years to instill critical thinking at every level of our education”, but does not acknowledge liberals’ role in it.

Conservatives have warned for decades that traditional liberalism would end in the excesses liberals are now trying to disown. In 1965, William F. Buckley Jr. decried the intolerance of liberals who “claim to want to give a hearing to other views and then are shocked and offended to discover there are other views”. Irving Kristol, doyen of neo-conservatism, observed in 1994 that we were living through a “prolonged spasm of liberal fanaticism”. *Washington Post* columnist George Will anticipated by a decade the Judis and Teixeira critique cited earlier, writing in 2013 that after the Kennedy administration “liberalism became less concerned with material well-being than with lifestyle and cultural issues such as feminism, abortion, and sexual freedom”.

Had liberals paid more attention to conservative thinking, they would have seen how their movement was veering into wokeism. Now they struggle to dissociate themselves from the monster conservatives warned them they were creating.

*Philip Cross is a Senior Fellow at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute.*



**A VISIT TO THE COLLEGE IN OCTOBER 2023**

*By Alumnus (71-76) Malcolm Barrington*

In October 2023, I paid a visit to Guyana after a period of 13 years absence. The initial focus of my visit was to attend the activities of the ex-Officers of the Guyana Defense Force's reunion celebration. It may be worth noting that the current Chief of Staff of the GDF is also an Alumnus. The celebrations of the ex-GDF Officers allowed me the opportunity to visit Saints and identify all the fantastic work in which both our Ontario Alumni as well as the local organizations have been participating to ensure that Saints remains in the vanguard of secondary school education in Guyana.

My visit had many highlights which included an introduction dinner, at the New Pegasus Hotel, hosted by the Board of Governors (BOG) of the College in my honour. At the dinner were members of the BOG, including the Head Mistress, teachers, and staff, as well as the Head of the Parent-Teacher Association. The meal was a great reminder of the fantastic Guyanese Cuisine (the authenticity of which, being abroad, does not allow one to sample), and there with positive discussions on the current state of affairs at Saints. It was a fantastic evening, and I would like to thank Chris Fernandes (Chairman of the BOG) and his team for hosting me.

The other major highlight of my time in Guyana was attending a "morning assembly" and having a tour of the facilities. The memories, of which walking the corridors reminded me, were so vivid that I could not imagine that I last walked the corridors as a student in 1976.

During Assembly, I had the honour of delivering a message to the students on behalf of the Toronto Alumni, and distributing nine bursaries to deserving students on behalf of

Rupert DeCastro and Albert Sweetnam. These bursaries were gratefully received, and it was heart-warming to see that a parent of one of the recipients was in attendance. The pride in that parent's eyes was very evident and clearly demonstrates how meaningful and impactful is our contribution to the students.

I toured the school and saw the Science lab (which the Toronto Alumni continue to support) as well as the well-advanced Media Room.

I was very impressed by the students' uniforms as well as their discipline as the Head Mistress took me on a tour of the classrooms.

There is a lot of positive activity happening at Saints, and it would be remiss of me not to say that my visit was enhanced by the developing of a deep relationship with Kofi Dalrymple (an alumnus who attended Saints quite a few years after me) who also is playing a major role in the activities at Saints. It is important that we (Alumni) continue to offer all the support we can to the College as this will allow it to remain in the forefront of Education in Guyana.

Since returning to Canada, the Toronto Alumni Society has committed to the outfitting of the athletes at next year's sports day. The participating athletes will all be presented with uniforms in the colour of their respective houses.

I urge any Alumni reading this to find a way to contribute to the continued development of the College and students. Please feel free to contact any member of the Toronto Alumni Executive to identify how you can contribute meaningfully.

I cannot wait for my next visit to the College.



*In the left-hand photo, Malcolm Barrington is seated 2<sup>nd</sup> from right, next to Chris Fernandes, Chairman of the College Board of Governors, at a dinner held in honour of the visitor from Toronto.*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

The following is some information about the Society's upcoming events for 2024. As you can appreciate, some of the events are still in the early stages of planning, and you will be informed as the planning crystalizes.

**Spring Dance**

This is set to occur on Sat. 13 April, from 7:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., at the West Rouge Community Centre, 270 West

Rouge Drive (Hwy 401/Hwy 2/ Port Union Rd.). The cost is \$65 per person, which includes dinner (from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) and all drinks.

**Boat Cruise \*\*\*NEW\*\*\***

We are investigating a boat cruise (in the inner Toronto harbour and through the islands) of about 4 hours on an evening in early July. Refreshments,

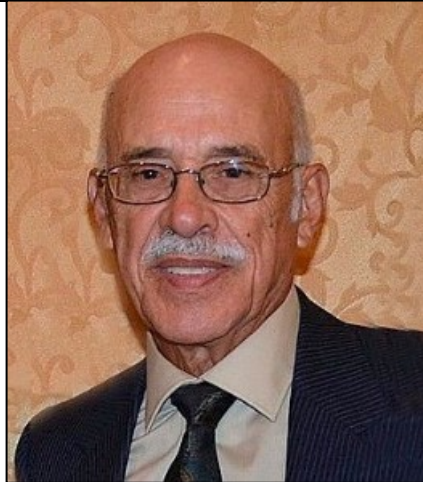
*Continued on page 4*

**OBITUARIES**

*Gerard Ignatius Castanheiro* peacefully passed away at the age of 81 on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2024, surrounded by his loving wife of fifty-seven wonderful years, Elsie, and his three devoted children, Lisa (Joseph Yatco), Kevin, and Julianne. He also leaves behind his beloved grandsons, Matthew and Anthony, and his siblings, **(alumnus 50-55) Joseph**, Margaret, Bernard, Rosalind, and Andrew, and many treasured nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother Adrian. He will be missed also by his best friend and dance partner, his adoring Yorkie KJ.

Gerry was born on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1943, in Georgetown, Br. Guiana, to the late Oscar and Cyriaca Castanheiro. He lived an active life and started with the Royal Bank of Canada in 1962 as a clerk. His career spanned an impressive forty-three years which included travels and time spent in Trinidad & Tobago, St. Lucia, and then back to Guyana.

In 1976, he migrated to Canada with his family and continued with RBC which helped him advance his career into managing various branches in Toronto. From there, he furthered himself to inspections which had him travel to various parts of Ontario and then eventually throughout the Caribbean.



In 1996, he proudly accepted a transfer to the Eastern Caribbean head office in Barbados. This opportunity allowed Gerry to share his knowledge, experience, and expertise, gained in Canada, with the West Indies, lasting for nine years.

In 2005, he retired and returned to Canada. He spent his retirement years enjoying golf, tennis, dominos,

outdoor activities, listening to his extensive music collection and, most of all, cherishing time spent with his loving family.

Gerry was loved by all who knew him and will be forever remembered as always kind, openly generous, extremely quick-witted, and for his warm inviting smile.

**Alumnus (58-66) Dr. Geoffrey Michael Luck** died suddenly on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2023. He was the son of the late Samuel and Olivia Luck (nee Choo-She-Nam), and is survived by Alana (nee Headecker) his loving wife of 50 years,



his only son Michael (Adriane), and his adoring grandchildren Evan and Christian. He was the eldest of 5 children: Tom (d. 2010) (Mary), Samuel Patrick (Anne-Marie), Roger (Denise), and Kathy

Malcolm (Richard). He was also a beloved uncle and friend to many.

After attending Saints, Geoffrey studied medicine at the

University of the West Indies in Jamaica and Trinidad. His sense of adventure, and the love of a girl he would eventually marry, led him to Canada for a 'short' visit in 1972. A chance stop at St Michael's Hospital in Toronto led to an internship, and the rest, as they say, is history. He would eventually settle in Oshawa and open a private practice as a family physician. He retired from the Oshawa Clinic in 2016.

A passionate traveler, Geoff also loved spending time at the cottage but cherished time with family and friends most. He will be fondly remembered for his kind soul, his big heart, generous nature, and his infectious smile. He was a wise and brave man who could do anything he put his mind to. A great storyteller (unless he broke down in laughter), he could always cheer you up when you were down.

Geoffrey's legacy of hard work and generosity will live on through those who knew him.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

*(Continued from page 3)*

music, and dancing will be available.

**Golf Tournament**

We are aiming towards a date of Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> July, with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Negotiations are still underway about the course, but it will not be at Lebovic (as last year) due to the change by the Lebovic Foundation and Golf Course to their approach of supporting charities holding golf tournaments.

**Caribjam**

That's right folks, mark your calendars! After a couple of years off, the ever-popular St. Stanislaus Caribjam is back for 2024, and it will be held on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> August. There is a twist for 2024. Actually, there is more than one twist.

Traditionally, Caribjam is held on the Friday of the Carnival long weekend but, try as we might, we could not find a venue that wasn't already booked for Friday night (the city is still feeling the lingering effects of the pandemic). We couldn't find a venue that was available on Saturday or Sunday either but, we heard you and were determined to bring back Caribjam this year.

Our solution to this dilemma? We will be partnering with one of our sister charities, the Guyana Christian Charities (GCC), to hold a joint Caribjam on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> August. GCC had already reserved a venue, and agreed to team-up with us for this function which will be held at the Chesnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex (formerly the Pickering Recreation Complex),

*Continued on page 7*

**MEMBERSHIP**

The following is the list of alumni who are currently paid-up members in 2024. Membership is based on the calendar year.

<p><b>CANADA (75)</b>                  Paul Abdool                  Howard Amo                  Alwyn Appiah<sup>1</sup>                  Paul Archer<sup>1</sup>                  Glen Armogan<sup>3</sup>                  Bernard Arokium<sup>1</sup>                  Marcellus Arokium<sup>4</sup>                  Bernard Austin                  Michael Barrington<sup>2</sup>                  John Rene Bayley                  Teddy Boyce<sup>2</sup>                  Ian Camacho<sup>1</sup>                  Alfred Carr<sup>5</sup>                  Joseph Castanheiro<sup>3</sup>                  Bob Chee-a-tow                  Sydney Chin<sup>4</sup>                  Gerry Chin-sam<sup>1</sup>                  Ivan Choo                  Tony Clarke<sup>5</sup>                  Paul Crum-ewing<sup>2</sup>                  Richard DaCosta<sup>2</sup>                  Edward DaSilva                  Derek D'Andrade<sup>3</sup>                  Terry DeAbreu                  Gregory DeCastro                  Rupert DeCastro<sup>3</sup>                  Peter DeFreitas<sup>4</sup>                  Andre DePeana<sup>1</sup></p>	<p>Raymond Dias<sup>2</sup>                  Jerome D'Oliveira                  Paul Duarte                  Joe Faria<sup>3</sup>                  Raymond Fernandes                  Keith Fletcher<sup>1</sup>                  Andre Fredricks<sup>3</sup>                  Darwin Fung<sup>4</sup>                  James Fung<sup>1</sup>                  Richard Gomes<sup>6</sup>                  Harold Gonsalves                  Ken Hahnfeld                  Albert Hamilton<sup>1</sup>                  Paul Hazlewood                  Monty Henson<sup>1</sup>                  Desmond Hill<sup>3</sup>                  Andrew Insanally                  Richard James<sup>2</sup>                  Clayton Jeffery                  Anthony Jekir<sup>4</sup>                  Gregory Kellawan<sup>1</sup>                  Vibert Lampkin<sup>5</sup>                  John Lopes<sup>1</sup>                  Colin Nurse<sup>1</sup>                  Anthony O'Dowd                  Michael Persaud                  Compton Pestano<sup>1</sup>                  L. A. Phillips<sup>3</sup>                  Marcelline Ram-</p>	<p>charan<sup>3</sup>                  Linden Ramdeholl                  Joseph Schuler<sup>4</sup>                  Savitri Seenauth                  Maurice Serrao                  Robin Shaw                  Michael Singh<sup>4</sup>                  Albert Smith<sup>2</sup>                  Peter St. Aubyn<sup>3</sup>                  Cecil Subryan<sup>2</sup>                  Albert Sweetnam                  Michael Texeira<sup>1</sup>                  Arthur Veerasammy<sup>4</sup>                  Paul Vincent                  Howard Welshman<sup>4</sup>                  David Wong<sup>4</sup>                  Brian Yhap<sup>1</sup>                  John Yip<sup>5</sup>                  Angus Zitman<sup>1</sup></p> <p><b>AUSTRALIA (1)</b>                  Lennox Yhap<sup>2</sup></p> <p><b>BARBADOS (1)</b>                  Geoffrey DeCaires<sup>4</sup></p> <p><b>DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (1)</b>                  Deep Ford<sup>1</sup></p>	<p><b>GUYANA (1)</b>                  Fitzgerald Yaw<sup>3</sup></p> <p><b>TRINIDAD (1)</b>                  P. I. Gomes<sup>7</sup></p> <p><b>U.K. (6)</b>                  John DaCosta<sup>1</sup>                  Julio Faria<sup>1</sup>                  Leyland Grant<sup>1</sup>                  Neville Jordan<sup>5</sup>                  Charles Kennard                  Raymond Pancham  <sup>1</sup>(dec)</p> <p><b>U.S.A. (34)</b>                  Clydewyn Anthony<sup>2</sup>                  Mark Anthony<sup>2</sup>                  Mark E. Anthony<sup>2</sup>                  Wayne Austin<sup>2</sup>                  Lloyd Barker<sup>2</sup>                  Stephen Budhu<sup>2</sup>                  Rev. Andrew Chan-a-sue<sup>1</sup>                  Ronald Chanderbhan                  Dalip Etwaroo                  Bernard Friemann                  Trevor Gibbs<sup>2</sup></p> <p><b>VENEZUELA (1)</b>                  Michael Chin-a-loy<sup>2</sup></p>	<p>Edward Gouveia                  Philip Greathead                  Leyland Hazlewood<sup>2</sup>                  Michael Heydon  <sup>1</sup>(dec)                  Lloyd Houston<sup>3</sup>                  Edward Isaacs<sup>2</sup>                  Wilfred Jack<sup>1</sup>                  Kenneth Jordan<sup>3</sup>                  Jolyon King<sup>4</sup>                  Nevrindra Mangru<sup>2</sup>                  Christopher Martin<sup>2</sup>                  Vince McBean<sup>4</sup>                  Carlyle Moore<sup>1</sup>                  Godfrey Nurse<sup>1</sup>                  Hugh Christopher Patrick<sup>2</sup>                  Horace Persaud<sup>2</sup>                  Hugh Rodrigues<sup>3</sup>                  Peter Rodrigues<sup>3</sup>                  Richard F. Rodrigues<sup>3</sup>                  Gyanda (Eric) Shivnairain<sup>4</sup>                  John Sparrock                  Leyland Thomas<sup>3</sup>                  Jolyon Williams<sup>2</sup></p>
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There are 121 paid-up members. (dec - deceased)

**Notes :**

- 1. These (26) alumni have paid in advance through 2025.
- 2. These (25) alumni have paid in advance through 2026.
- 3. These (18) alumni have paid in advance through 2027.
- 4. These (15) alumni have paid in advance through 2028.
- 5. These (5) alumni have paid in advance through 2029.
- 6. This (1) alumnus has paid in advance through 2031.
- 7. This (1) alumnus has paid in advance through 2032.

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**(Alumnus)**

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**SPECIAL NOTICE ON MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is paid by calendar year i.e. January to December. Therefore, membership up to 2023 expired on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023. If your name is not in the above list, you are no longer a paid-up member. Please submit your membership fees as soon as possible. See page 8 for the membership form and address, or pay electronically at [www.torontosaints.com](http://www.torontosaints.com). The fee is \$25 (Can) per year but, if you pay \$100 (Can) for 4 years, you will receive an extra year for no further charge. Selecting the multiple year membership will mean that you will not need to worry about having to remember to pay the fees for the next five years.

- Ambiguity & Idiosyncrasies to ponder**
- For those who love the philosophy of ambiguity, as well as the idiosyncrasies of English:
- 1. One tequila, two tequila, three tequila.....Floor.
  - 2. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
  - 3. If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes?
  - 4. If you try to fail, but succeed, which have you done? .

### HAPPY NEW(ISH) 2024 YEAR!

*By Alumnus (67 – 72) Paul Abdool*

It feels strange to be writing a piece on New Year’s Eve that will be read in April!

In retrospect, when the Editor of our *News & Views* requested a story on our 2023 New Year’s Eve Gala, I agreed without giving it much thought. It was only sometime after agreeing to do the piece that I began to realise the challenges such a task posed. After all, it would be almost four months after New Year’s Eve that the next edition of *News & Views* would be published and read; would it be appropriate to wish readers a Happy NewISH Year four months after the fact? Furthermore, would anyone care four months after the fact? How fair would it be to ask about resolutions knowing full well that upwards of 80% of all New Year’s Eve resolutions fail by April? How many months into the New Year does the year stop being “new”? These and a hundred other reasons pointed to the fact that writing this piece was a bad idea.

Our Editor is a persuasive, convincing, and eloquent individual, and it is very difficult to say no to him, although I wanted to. On reflection, I am now glad that I didn’t listen to my logical, inner voice. Writing this piece allowed me to revisit a very special evening – an evening spent with old and new friends and family, an evening filled with the excitement of welcoming a brand new year. It was a wonderful celebration of the proverbial new beginning and all of the anticipation and hope that rejuvenation represents.

Our cocktail hour officially began at 6:30 p.m. in the lobby of the grand ballroom, but guests began arriving at 6:00 p.m., eager to begin their evening of celebration early. By 6:15 p.m., the hall was almost full with most of our 350 guests already in attendance a half an hour early. The entire cocktail hour was a buzz of excitement as old friends excitedly got re-acquainted with each other while enjoying a delicious assortment of hors d’oeuvres and cocktails. Guests then sat down to an elegant 4-course dinner which began promptly at 8:00 p.m. in the grand ballroom. The band and DJ were in fine form as evidenced by a packed dance-floor. Four large screens in the ballroom got guests in the mood by displaying the countdown to midnight, beginning at 11:30 p.m. Attendees donned top hats and tiar-

as, and armed themselves with whistles and noisemakers in preparation for the arrival of midnight. On the stroke of midnight, our 8 confetti cannons and the band helped the revellers welcome the year 2024.

At 12:30 a.m., guests took a break from dancing to replenish their energy at our midnight snack table – a delicious assortment of pastries, tea, and coffee. Then, it was back to the party that at times appeared to have no end. As folks left for their homes and hotels (we had out-of-towners from Hamilton, Kitchener/Waterloo, New York, Texas, and New Jersey, to name a few), they were greeted with the surprise of snow-covered cars in the parking lot, but no one seemed to mind – after all, this is Toronto. The gleaming newness of the unspoiled snow seemed appropriate; it signalled a new beginning, optimism, a fresh start. It was an omen... 2024 was going to be a great year!

Regrets? Yes - our function was sold out in early November. In excess of 100 disappointed folks were on a waiting list in the hope that tickets would become available, but to no avail. We would love to accommodate everyone who wants to attend, but are restricted by the size of the available venues.

Plans are already underway for New Year’s Eve 2024, as I write this. We hope to accommodate everyone who wants to attend in the future and, hopefully, we’ll find a venue that can hold more than 350 people. Time will tell.

When we started our New Year’s Eve Gala seven years ago (interrupted by two years of the pandemic), we never thought it would grow into the very special annual event that it has become. You are a big part of that success, and we remain grateful that you choose to spend your New Year’s Eve with us. We couldn’t ask for better company. Thanks to my Editor for triggering a wonderful memory of a very special evening.

**Happy New(ISH) Year, everyone.**

**Wishing you all health, happiness, and peace of mind.**

**Have a great year in 2024!**



*Table settings at the 2023 New Year’s Eve Gala*



*Guests in the lobby during cocktail hour*

**ALUMNUS APPOINTED AS GROUP CEO, MASSY**

The Board of Directors of Massy Holdings Ltd. announced the early retirement of President and Group Chief Executive Officer Gervase Warner on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2024, and welcomed **alumnus (76-82) David Affonso** in his place. David held the position, within Massey, of Executive Vice-President and Executive Chairman of the Integrated Retail Portfolio (IRP).

David's tenure at the Massey Group spans over three decades during which he has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication to the organization's growth and success. Having served on the Board of Massy Holdings Ltd. since 2019, David's extensive experience and keen business acumen have been invaluable assets to the Group. David has held various leadership positions within the Massy Group, particularly in the Retail and Distribution sectors. As Chairperson of the IRP, David has overseen a period of remarkable growth, with double-digit increases in both profit and revenue over the past five years.

Under David's guidance, the IRP has become a cornerstone of the Group's operations, accounting for approximately 65 percent of the revenue and 50 percent of the profit before tax in the last financial year. With operations spanning seven countries and employing over 7,500 individuals, the IRP operates 66 supermarket doors and seven food and non-food distribution businesses across the Caribbean, extending from South-east Florida, USA, to Guyana.

David's strategic vision and hands-on approach have positioned the IRP for continued success and expansion, as evi-



*President and Group's Chief Executive Officer, Gervase Warner (right) congratulates David Affonso.*

denced by the acquisition of a chain of seven supermarkets in Jacksonville, Florida, in 2023, marking its foray into markets outside of the Caribbean region.

David's contribution to the Massy Group exemplifies his unwavering commitment to excellence and his ability to drive sustainable growth and profitability. As he assumes the role of Group CEO, we are confident that his leadership will usher in a new era of continued success and prosperity for the organization.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

*(Continued from page 4)*

1867 Valley Farm Road, Pickering.

Caribam is all about the music, and we are supplying it in triplicate this year. Entertainment will include the popular band Triple Play, plus DJ Tee Cee, and DJ Raak. Admission to the function is a modest \$40.00. Refreshments will be available on sale at the event.

We will be furnishing you with information on how to reserve your tickets and on other details of the function as they become available. In the meantime, please reserve Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> August, of the Carnival weekend for us. As

usual, it promises to be a heck of a jam! See you there!

**Fall Dance**

We hope to hold this again in October after an absence of several years due to the epidemic, and we are still working on finding a site for an appropriate date.

**New Year's Eve Gala**

By popular demand, this again will be on at the same place as the last two years. This has always been a sold-out event with a waiting list so, as soon as we have announced it formally, get in your reservations so as not to miss out on this popular event.

**Saints students participate in Mashramani 2024**

*The Melting Pot Of Culture*



**COLLEGE NOTES**

**SAINTS HOCKEY CLUB SHOWS IMPROVEMENT AT HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**

In a remarkable showcase of talent and resilience, the Saints Hockey Club (SHC) recently marked its presence at the 19<sup>th</sup> International Invitational Indoor Hockey Tournament hosted by the Ventures Hockey Club in Trinidad. The club’s strategic long-term development plan saw both boys and girls teams participating, further solidifying their commitment to providing international exposure and opportunities for their players.



TT Police team in the group stage and Queens Park in the semi-final, the boys exhibited resilience and adaptability, ultimately securing the third position in the tournament. Head Coach Robert Fernandes expressed confidence in the team’s ability to learn and adapt quickly, emphasizing the importance of international exposure in athletes’ development. Fernandes

To ensure seamless participation, the SHC raised funds to cover entrance fees, accommodation, meals, and transportation for the team in Trinidad. Notably, the SSC Board of Governors generously funded the airline tickets for five female students from the College. The team, comprising 10 males, 10 females, a Coach, and a Manager, embarked on their journey on 3 January and returned on 7 January.

A press release from the SHC revealed that the girls’ team, with most members aged between 14 and 18 years, exceeded expectations by showing remarkable improvement in each match. The highlight was their outstanding performance against the TT Police team, demonstrating tremendous progress from their previous encounter at the Diamond International Hockey Festival held in Guyana.

For the boy’s team who had experience from the previous year’s tournament, the tournament was equally challenging and promising. Despite conceding early goals against the

acknowledged the support from the St. Stanislaus College Board of Directors and the college alumni, stating, “We believe our objectives, on and off the court, were achieved on this tour.”

Reflecting on the overall progress, Fernandes added, “Considering that, in 2023, our boys’ team did not make it out of the group stage and, this year, they placed third, it shows that progress is being made.” He expressed optimism about witnessing similar improvements in the girls’ team after exposure in this year’s tournament.

The match results were as follows.

**Women’s Group Stage:** Lost to GCC: 0-3; Drew with TT Police: 1-1; Lost to Magnolias: 1-6;

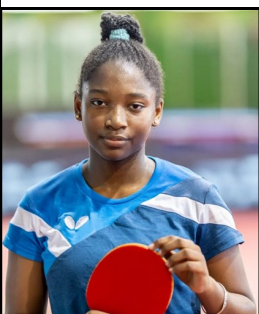
**Men’s Group Stage:** Defeated UWI Cave Hill: 2-0; Defeated Notre Dame: 4-1; Lost to TT Police: 2-5;

**Men’s semi-final:** Lost to Queens Park: 2-4;

**Men’s third place play-off:** Defeated TT Police: 3-1

*(Guyana Chronicle)*

**SAINTS STUDENT WINS THREE TITLES IN TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT**



At the recently concluded Mashramani Table Tennis tournament, a collaborative effort between the National Sports Commission and the Guyana Table Tennis Association, which was held at the National Gymnasium, a Saints student had a productive outing by winning three titles.

Jasmine Billingsy won the Girls Under-15, Girls Under-19, and Senior Women’s singles titles.

She defeated Seona Barker 12-10, 11-6, and 11-3 for the Girls Under-15 title. She then went on to defeat Akira Watson 11-8, 11-9, and 11-4 in the Girls Under-19 final, and finally finished first in the Senior Women’s round-robin playoff singles with four wins and no losses, topping Thuraia Thomas who had three wins and one loss.

**STUDENTS MEET PRESIDENT**

His Excellency President Dr. Irfaan Ali, an alumnus of St. Stanislaus College, met with a delegation of students from the College at the Office of the President on Shiv Chanderpaul Drive.

The students were preparing for a field trip, accompanied by their teachers, to Region Nine and will participate in a cultural educational exchange programme in Brazil.

During the meet-and-greet, President Ali entertained questions from the students and shared the Government’s vision

for the development of Guyana.





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St. Stanislaus College (Guyana) Alumni Society, with foundations in 1993, is devoted to making St. Stanislaus College the best educational institution in Guyana. It provides financial aid and other aid to the college, which was founded by Fr. Langton S. J. in 1866. Formerly run by the Jesuit Order of Catholic Priests, the school was taken over by the Government in 1976, with Government-appointed teachers replacing the clergy in 1980.

Saints News & Views publishes four issues each year. The articles published represent the opinions of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

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**COMING EVENTS**

Date	Event	Location	Cost
Sat. 13 April, 2024 (7:30 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.)	Spring Dance (Dinner 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)	West Rouge Community Centre 270 West Rouge Drive (Hwy 401/Hwy 2/ Port Union Rd.)	\$65 per person (all inclusive - dinner and all drinks)
Early July 2024 (tentative)	Boat Cruise	<i>Toronto Harbour</i>	<i>tba</i>
Sat. 20 Jul., 2024 (tentative)	Golf Event	<i>tba</i>	\$125 per person
Sun. 4 Aug., 2024	Caribjam (with Guyana Christian Charities)	Chesnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex 1867 Valley Farm Road, Pickering	\$40
Sat. 5 Oct., 2024 (tentative)	Fall Dance	<i>tba</i>	<i>tba</i>
Sat. 2 Nov., 2024 Mass - 1:30 p.m. Social - 2:30 p.m.	Mass to honour St. Stanislaus Kostka and College, followed by meet-and-greet with refreshments	St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church 432 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, ON (west of Bayview Ave.)	<i>Not applicable</i>
Tues. 31 Dec., 2024	New Year's Eve Gala	Scarborough Convention Centre 20 Torham Place, Scarborough	\$135 per person

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