



**ST. JOSEPH'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
(GUYANA)**



TORONTO CHAPTER
19-2555 Victoria Park Ave., suite 340
Scarborough, Ontario
M1T 1A3

E-mail: info@sjhstoronto.com

Web site: www.sjhstoronto.com

**ST. JOSEPH'S ASSOCIATION (GUYANA) TORONTO CHAPTER VOL. 1 ISSUE 7 January
2005**

Happy New Year from Janice Harrison, your Association President



Happy New Year to you and your family! Yes, we have to be thankful for all our blessings over the past year among the challenges and adversities that the nations in the world are facing! Yes, we have to be happy that we are blessed with great family and friends and for all that have been bestowed upon us. This past year we faced many challenges as St. Joseph's chaired the Last Lap Lime on August 6. This event took a lot of time and energy as we endeavoured to do our best so that it would be a success...more on this story on page 5. Another accomplishment was our Annual General Meeting on September 19. It has been two years since the last committee was formed and we now have some new members, who bring fresh talent and perspective to our committee, so please join me in congratulating them. To our outgoing members, Regina Spencer and Claire Singh, we extend our gratitude for their support over the years.

As we look forward to 2005, we will continue to provide you with many activities and we encourage you to bring forth anything you feel will get us together for a grand old time while raising funds for the school. For the New Year, I hope that there will be a lot of opportunity to get together with your loved ones and friends cherishing the moments together, for once gone, it cannot be retrieved! Reach out, where possible and help those who are less fortunate for they are looking forward, like you, for someone to share a special moment! Pray for those around the world, as we are experiencing challenging times.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to wish you and your family a healthy, happy and prosperous 2005!

God Bless!

Alma Mater Update

This past year, we had challenges trying to coordinate the requirements of the school. There is a need to complete a Computer Laboratory. We were informed that this project would be funded from within Guyana and therefore we may need to divert our support into a different way. However, we have been advised that the funding is not going to occur, so we will be in purchasing and sending computers in 2005. The US Chapter has recently sent two computers that were received in good order, so this has ensured us that our shipping to Guyana will be fine. The staff and students of St. Joseph's High School greatly appreciate the love and concern expressed in your support, and has pledged to do their part to uphold the high confidence placed in them.

Annual Fall Brunch



Once again, we had a successful Brunch with 182 members and their families in attendance. The meal provided by the Rembrandt was tasty with the addition of Salt fish and bakes! Our theme this year focused on the various teachers throughout the years, this theme stimulated conversations which were interesting to hear as you passed by the tables. As per the previous year, our array of entertainment was superb! We had several talented folks from Jazz, Indian and Hip Hop Dancers to a young 10 year old prolific speaker, Shalon Hunte. Bernard Heydorn, one of the first male teachers reminisced of the time's back then, which was interesting. A must replay was Barry Singh, his unmatched humor of Guyanese folklore kept us in "stitches". The highlight of the afternoon was the Limbo Dancers; their colourful costumes and their means of engaging the audience had everyone rocking! So make sure you do not miss our Fall Brunch in 2005, it promises to be great company and entertainment that is without a doubt, FANTASTIC!

For those of you who would like to better understand the Historical events of Guyana starting as early as 1593 can read on. It may be a document you want to keep.... Submitted by Donna Danney

1593 – The earliest account of the territory of Guiana is made in a dispatch to the Royal Council of Spain by Governor of Trinidad, Antonio de Berreo in which he describes his journey down the Oronoco and his attempt to explore Guiana.

1594 - Sir Robert Dudley makes inquiries about the rumored Empire of El Dorado when his ship puts in to Trinidad. A small boat is sent to investigate and its crew returns to say that the natives had told them of gold mines so rich that the people of the country powdered themselves with gold dust. And far beyond them, they said, a great town called El Dorado, with many other things.

1598 – The Dutch make their first voyage to Guiana.

1621 – The Dutch West India Company receives charter for the Essequibo.

1640 - Slaves arrive in the colonies from Africa.

1657 - Small Dutch settlement established on the Pomeroon River.

1666 - War breaks out between England & Holland.

1763 - Berbice Slave Rebellion breaks out led by Coffy. It begins on one estate, but spreads to others along the Berbice River. The few hundred white settlers are soon overwhelmed, and the uprising will only be put down after the arrival of warships and with the help of troops from as far

away as Barbados. Coffy commits suicide three months after the revolt and his followers were hunted down.

1781 - War breaks out between England & Holland. The colonies of Demerara, Essequibo & Berbice are taken by the English.

1782 - The French, who are also at war with England and who are the allies of Holland under the command of the Marquis de Lusignan take the three colonies. The French build Fort Dauphin at the mouth of the Demerara, and begin building a new town - "Longchamps".

1783/4 - The colonies are restored to Holland. Longchamps is chosen as the site of the new colonial capital, later called Stabroek. The Dutch move the seat of Government Demerara territory down river to the town of Stabroek, which is built in a geometrical 'grid-iron' system of streets, divided by canals in the manner of their home country. The Dutch also build a series of sluice-gates or kokers at points where the canals meet the Demerara estuary. At high tide, the kokers form a barrier between the Atlantic Ocean and the canals.

1796 - War breaks out again between England & Holland. Colonies are taken by England, for the second time.

1802 - At the peace of Amiens, Guiana is returned to the Dutch. English settlers are given three years to wind up their affairs and leave.

1803 - War breaks out again between England and Holland. In September, Hood arrives at the mouth of the Demerara and demands the surrender of the Colony. Guiana is handed over without fighting.

later become the first St. George's Cathedral.

1843 - The corner stone for the Public Buildings (now the Parliament Buildings) is laid in Georgetown.

1843 - The end of the first indentured period. Many of the laborers return to India. The 1840's - England suspends the indentured laborer system. Immigrant labor from India, Portugal (mainly Madeira) and China is permitted, under Government control.

1844 - Queen's College is founded.

1848 - The Demerara Railway Company introduces the railway in British Guiana. The railway runs from Georgetown for 60 miles down the Atlantic coast, to Rosignol on the Berbice River.

1853 - January 12th. The first contract Chinese laborers arrive in British Guiana on the "Glentanner". Most are assigned to Windsor Forest, Pouderoyen and La Jalousie estates.

1856 - February 18th, Georgetown riots - property of Portuguese destroyed.

1860 - March 11th. The first female Chinese laborers arrive on the "Whirlwind".

1864 - The Mahaica Bridge is opened.

1870 - Members of a geological survey team discover the Kaieteur Fall on the Potaro River in central Guyana.

1874 - The last contract Chinese laborers arrive in Demerara.

1879 - Between 1879 and 1884 the Botanical Gardens are laid out on the site of an abandoned sugar plantation - Vlissengen. Located at the eastern end of the city limits, the gardens are laid out by a Trinidadian - J. F. Waby, from plans previously prepared by another Trinidadian - botanist H. Prestoe.

1880's -The Stabroek Market is built. This structure is inspired by the Dutch style of building. It is a long gabled building framed in iron with a facade of white and brick-red painted wood, with a central clock tower, capped by a red pyramid supported by slender posts on a balconied roof.

1882 - As a barrier, the 'kokers' are inefficient; the sea and the river are constantly encroaching on Stabroek. In 1882, construction of the Sea Wall is completed, and keeps the water under control.

1884 - The Promenade Garden is extended to its present (21st century) proportions on an entire city block (east of State House). This area was once used as a public display for the hanging of slaves who were connected with the 1823 East Coast rebellion.

1884 - Sir Everard Im Thurn ascends Mt. Roraima.

... Continued on page 7

Focus 2005

As mentioned, our newly formed committee will be working earnestly on two key items over the next year, the first is the Membership Drive. We need to re-capture our members and seek out new ones within the St. Joseph's community. So, look forward to a friendly phone call or email from one of your committee members.



The Computer Laboratory that is being built will need computers. In the first quarter of 2005, we plan to send a number of computers. If you know of any deals out there, let us know...a saving here and there provides more items to Guyana.

In August 2006 the Canadian Chapter will be hosting the next reunion. We are trying to align this with the Last Lap Lime Festivities. Our counterparts in the US and Guyana are as excited as we are and be will be participating. If you have any ideas for a week of activities, we urge you to contact us. We would like to speak to anyone who has Event Planning skills to assist us in this event so, please let us know if you are aware of someone and, kindly ask them to contact us. Any assistance is appreciated.

Assistance with Pre-Retirement Planning



As we move into our middle-aged years, we begin to realize that retirement may not be that far off. While some relish the notion, many dread the thought of being unproductive, or fear surviving without a salary. The facts are, with today's increased life-span, retirement is going to be a major life stage, accounting for a third of our life. With this in mind, it makes sense to put some thought into lifestyle and financial planning well before we get there. But even if the date is fast approaching, there's still

time to put plans in place for a more fulfilling retirement.

Recognize that retirement from work doesn't mean retirement from life. Devote time to self-assessment to help identify future activities that will provide a sense of purpose through hobbies, volunteerism or some level of employment. Then develop an action plan for each of the activities you'd like to implement.

Here are some questions to help start the self assessment process:

- What are your 6-8 best skills? What core values must be met in retirement?
- What do you wish you could have achieved or done in life, that you haven't done?
- Would you like to do volunteer work or find a job?
- What hobbies or interests would you like to go back to or learn more about?

Where could you find out more about these activities? Whose help could you enlist? You should also review practical needs like accommodation and consider options. Importantly, future income needs should be assessed. Will goals need to be modified to fit predicted income? Could the ideas below help you increase future income?

- A home with a lot of equity can be used as collateral for a Reverse Mortgage, providing additional income.
- Working a few more years can make a big difference to retirement income.
- Debt payments, including mortgages, can take up the majority of your income. Aim to pay off debts prior to retirement.

Start scaling down living expenses now. Put money saved into your retirement your retirement nest egg.

DEM A SEH – Guyanese Proverbs ~Excerpt from Healthy Living article

“Angel ah day, ah devil ah night” **“ Yuh cyant kill elephant wid sling shat”**

Translation: the angel by day is usually the devil at night.

Translation: You cannot kill an elephant with a sling shot.

Interpretation: Those who appear very pious when everybody can see them usually very different persons when they are out of the public gaze.

Interpretation: You cannot accomplish great deeds with little preparation. (2) You cannot embarrass great persons with petty accusations. (3) You have to have the appropriate tools if you want to do a great job.

Our Feature Story – Perspective of Guyana's Future - Submitted by Karen Williams



GEORGETOWN, GUYANA...I would like to thank once again President Jagdeo and Chairman Corbin for inviting me to visit Guyana. I have had an opportunity to meet with a wide range of organizations and individuals,

which all have given generously of their time and have shared their opinions and suggestions. I had productive discussions with Mr. Corbin and other leaders of the People's National Congress Reform, President Jagdeo and the Central Executive Committee of the People's Progressive Party/Civic, members of parliament of both ROAR and WPA/GAP, the chairman and commissioners of the Ethnic Relations Commission, the speaker of the National Assembly, the chancellor, chief justice, and president of the bar association, representatives of the private sector and trade unions, the Rights of the Child youth group, the international donor community, and others.

Although my faith in the Guyanese people remains, it has been a sobering visit. Except among a few political party leaders, there have been almost universal expressions of concern about the present condition and future hopes of Guyana, based on a failure of political leaders to heal the incompatibility and animosity that characterize their relationship.



When I first met Dr. Cheddi Jagan more than 12 years ago, he expressed a desire to heal the political divisions and ethnic polarization in Guyana and, with the approval of President Desmond Hoyte, The Carter Center assumed the responsibility of monitoring the election of 1992. Since then, we have worked for several years with political leaders and private citizens to develop a National Development Strategy, which prescribes a future for Guyana based on a shared commitment of private citizens and political leaders working in harmony, regardless of their social status, ethnic origin, or political party affiliation. This plan was developed under the direction of Bharrat

Jagdeo, who was then an official in the finance ministry. One of its key provisions was a call for participatory democracy, in which opposition parties would share fully in shaping policies of the nation. Subsequently, there were promises of constitutional reform that would fulfill this commitment.



Instead of achieving this crucial goal of inclusive and shared governance, the Guyanese government remains divided with a winner-take-all concept that continues to polarize many aspects of the nation's life. Most members of parliament are directly dependent upon and responsible to the political party that chooses them, and not to the people whom they profess to represent. There are only spasmodic meetings between political leaders, and publicized agreements reached during those rare and brief sessions have not been fulfilled. The promises of constitutional reform have been frustrated.

Guyana is blessed with extraordinary human and natural resources, which President Jagdeo and other leaders are struggling heroically to utilize. However, there is little prospect for either substantial economic or social progress unless there is a truce in the political wars. No one party should bear the blame. The traditions and culture of both major political parties are deeply entrenched and have their roots in 50 years of fierce rivalry that denies the legitimacy of the other party's concerns. This problem can be solved only with basic constitutional changes in the system of governance. Based on many years of observation and my recent conversations with Guyanese citizens and members of the international community, I have shared with President Jagdeo and Robert Corbin my thoughts on some steps that might be taken to ensure political harmony, peace, and stability.

1. The political leaders should consult with each other regularly, beginning with the implementation of agreements already reached, as described in the May 6, 2003, communiqué and other documents.
2. Representatives of the People's National Congress should return to their posts in the parliament.

3. All the provisions of the National Development Strategy should be debated in the parliament, with as many as possible implemented into law.

4. The Standing Committee on Constitutional Review should be reactivated to implement proposals for substantive governance and election system reforms, drawing heavily on civilian participation. The two party documents on governance represent a starting point.

5. An independent civil society forum should be created to lead a structured national discussion on a vision for governance of the country to promote reconciliation and the NDS. I hope civil society will organize itself in a nonpartisan fashion for this purpose. The Carter Center and other international organizations will be eager to assist in these official and unofficial efforts and also to help ensure the integrity of future national elections, as requested by Guyanese leaders and civil society. In addition, the Center promotes legislation ensuring access to information and political campaign financing and has offered this service to the government of Guyana.

Of all the countries I have visited in the world, Guyana has the most unrealized potential. It is my hope and prayer that the future will be filled with peace, harmony, mutual respect, and economic and social progress.

BURSARY AWARD 2004 – submitted by Joy Khan and Claire Singh

This year's St. Joseph's Bursary Award was awarded to Dianna Prabhu Das and Nancy Hugh to recognize and encourage these students in their pursuit of an education and career.

Dianna has a BSc. Honours degree in Biology from Wilfred Laurier University and is currently enrolled in the Medical Program at McMaster University specializing in Ophthalmology. For the past two years, she has been actively involved with the Canadian Society for the Blind in Waterloo where Dianna helps the visually impaired develop independent skills. Dianna was born in Canada, but lived in Guyana for eighteen years and plans to return there upon graduation, to serve the Guyanese community who are in need of eye care.

Nancy Hugh has a Bachelor of Physical Education and Health from the University of Toronto and is currently enrolled in the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College because of her academic success in university. Nancy is currently pursuing a 4 year Doctorate Program. She has tutored children of abused women. She has received three MVP awards, two MIP awards and one Female Sports Woman of the Year award, the latter for achieving her black belt in Karate.

We congratulate these two fine young women and support them spiritually in their career pursuits.

We encourage you to contact one of your committee members for an application for next year's bursary, which is presented at our Annual Fall Brunch in October.

The Bursary Award provides assistance to candidates toward their University tuition and books. Eligible students qualify if a parent, grandparent or an aunt/uncle is a paid-up member in good standing of the association.

Last Lap Lime Update – submitted by Janice Harrison

2004 was a very good year despite the many challenges we faced around the increased cost for the site and unfortunately this filtered into our profit margin this year. But all in all, the volunteers who are the backbone of our success came out in grand splendor. We want to express our thanks and gratitude to them, for without their support we will not meet our targets.

2005, LLL, the **10th Anniversary** holds much promise. The five schools have decided that the LLL must be run like a business because of its tremendous growth over the past years. We thank all those who have contributed in building this wonderful experience for our family and friends to participate in. We are currently seeking a new location that we can call home. Over the years, we have searched for a place that would suit our needs as we have grown and we hope 2005 will bring us that place, so look out for new and exciting things to come.

For more information, visit the web site ...www.lastlaplime.com

Recipe Corner - Mango Fool – Recipe found in an old Guyanese cook book

Ingredients

1 lb. Ripe but firm mangoes
sugar to taste

2-3 tbs. water

small piece cinnamon stick

2 tbsp. cream or evaporated milk

¼ pt. Custard (1/4 pt. Milk, 1 egg yolk,
sugar to taste, vanilla)

Method

Peel and slice mangoes and stew with water and cinnamon. Rub through sieve.

Make custard and cool

Add the custard to mango puree, sweeten to taste

Half whip the cream and to it add the fruit and custard mixture.

Pour into one bowl or individual bowls. Chill and serve.

Note: any soft fruit may be used and water may be added where necessary.

Lemon juice and lemon rind may be added to give flavour.

We Help Others and Need Your Help!!!

Over the last year, we contributed to Canadian Charities and most recently a \$1000 Cdn. to the Hurricane Relief Fund through the Red Cross for our Caribbean friends. We will also make a contribution to the Tsumani Relief fund in South East Asia. We encourage you to give what little you can in money, clothing or by volunteering.

In aiding your Alumni, once again we are counting on your generosity. We are still looking for articles to send to the school for the Home Economics Dept., the Music Dept. and the Agriculture Dept. Any books for recreational reading or for Exercises in Math or English etc. would be greatly appreciated. Please contact any member of our committee, if you have items for donation or to be picked up. Thank you in Anticipation.

Membership Corner

We are at the start of another membership year. Renewals for 2005 are now due. Thank you for continuing to support the local Alumni and their efforts to keep you in touch with friends. We had 45 paid up members in 2004 and we need to grow our membership in 2005.

Each new member brings a wealth of knowledge to our association and as we embark on another year, we are earnestly looking for new committee members. Our current members have been dedicated to the cause for several years now and would like the opportunity to pass the torch so that others may help us achieve the goals of the Alumni and Alma Mater. So please solicit anyone you know that attended St. Joseph's and encourage him or her to join the Association and become a member of the Executive Board. Come and enjoy the benefits of membership. For more information, contact any of the committee members. For membership renewal, complete the enclosed form and return, email at the address at the top of the Newsletter or contact Donna Danney @ 905-454-5658.

Note: If you need to connect with other association members, please use our web site

Our Notice Board

2005 Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT
January 28	Games Night at Neilson House, 1575 Finch Ave, 1 block S of Finch Paid up Members are free. Guest \$5.00. Light Refreshments will be served From: 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
To be determined	Casino Rama
March 19	Spring Dance – Venue to be determined
May 01	Tea Party – Venue to be determined
October 02	Annual Fall Brunch – Rembrandt Banquet Hall

Please feel free to attend any of our meetings that are held on the first Wednesday of every month. For more information on the location of any of the above events, kindly contact a committee member.

2004-2006 Committee Members:

Carol Abdool 416-297-7585

Jackie Bryce 416-467-5057

Karen Williams 416-579-0609

Terry DeFreitas 416-438-5992

Joy Khan 416-496-0251

Janis Longe-Alexander 416-286-0878

Donna Danney 905-454-5658 – Vice President

Janice Harrison 905-456-8453 – President

Marlin Taylor 705-435-6588 – Secretary

Penny Jaundoo 905- 294-1731 – Treasurer

PROFILE --THE SOPRANO SENIORS STEEL PAN – by Terry DeFreitas and Janice Harrison

I would like to introduce this wonderful and energetic team of folks who were formed in 2001 as they expressed a musical passion for the steel pan. Under the direction of Mike Marks, who arranges, coordinates and trains them, this team of enthusiasts perform for Charitable organizations and at Old Folks Home. Their greatest accreditation to date has been their performance at Roy Thompson Hall in 2003 and based on their exceptional performance, which was exciting and engaging, they returned for an encore in 2004.

I am proud to say that three members are St. Joseph's "girls" which just speaks to the wonderful talent we have within. So, the message here is to always pursue your dreams and aspirations in life for the pleasure and achievement is beyond boundaries. For more info on booking the Soprano Seniors Steel Pan group, contact Terry DeFreitas –see number above.

Members of the team are: Terry DeFreitas, Norma Whitting, Joan Muss, June Anne Sealey, Ivor Gonsalves, Dick Whitting and Yvonne Ayen.

... continued from page 2

1889 - The Town Hall (now the City Hall) is opened in the city of Georgetown. 1811 - The first St. George's Church is constructed in George Town (on site where St. George's school now stands).

1812 - Stabroek is renamed Georgetown.

1814 - Demerara, Essequibo and Berbice are assigned to England during the Great peace.

1822 – The town of New Amsterdam is laid out in Berbice.

1823 - Slave insurrection on the East Coast of Demerara.

1828 - Public Buildings (Parliament Buildings) building begins, it was completed in 1834.

1830 - The 103ft tall red and white striped Lighthouse is erected at the mouth of the Demerara River. It replaces the original wooden structure built in 1817 by the Dutch.

1833 – The Act Of Abolition of slavery is passed. The slaves are not granted full freedom, but are bound to their masters for three-quarters of each day for a period of seven years.

1835 - Portuguese laborers are imported for work on the plantations.

1837 - John Gladstone suggests East Indian indentured labor as a solution to the drifting of Africans from the plantations to the towns. Permission is granted to bring 'Coolies' for his two plantations.

1837 - Botanist Robert Schomburgk stumbles across a spectacular water lily of gigantic proportions. The chivalrous Schomburgk christens the future pride of botanical gardens "the Victoria Regia" in honor of the British sovereign.

1837 - Georgetown has its first Mayor and Town Council.

1838 - A floating light is placed on the Demerara 'Bar'.

1838 - August 1st, "Full and unqualified liberation of the Negroes".

1838 - 156 East Indians arrive from Calcutta on the "Hesperus". They are under indenture for a five-year period, and for the first part they are housed and given rations, but are not paid.

1838 - Schomburg discovers Mount Roraima.

1838 - The Colony is divided by ordinance into the three counties of Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice.

1839 - Four hundred German Rinelanders and Wurtembergers are enticed to British Guiana. Almost all succumb to tropical diseases.

1842 - Georgetown is declared a city.

1842 - In June, a new and larger St. George's is opened (on the present site) in Georgetown. This building will

1890 - Secondary diamond deposits are discovered in Western Guyana. Since 1890, Guyana has produced 4.5 million carats.

1892 - A new St. George's Cathedral (the fourth St. George's structure) is constructed in the city of Georgetown.

1899 - The International Tribunal establishes the country's borders.

1900 - October 18, Cheddie Jagan's parents, left Calcutta in the "Elbe". They arrived in Demerara on January 5th, 1901.

1904 - The demarcation of the boundary between Guyana and Venezuela in accordance with the 1899 Award of the Paris Tribunal is completed. In June the King of Italy hands down his award in the arbitration proceedings between Brazil and British Guiana.

1917 - The Government of India abolishes the indentured system. No more East Indian labor is allowed to enter Guiana.

1923 - The old drainage system, which provided an excellent breeding ground for disease and insects, is replaced by a pipeline sewage system. The introduction of the pipeline sewage system permits the filling-in of many of the central canals. (The avenue that runs down Main Street was once a canal filled with the Victoria Regia lily plants.)

1928 - The Constitution is changed, and women are given the vote on the same terms as men.

1946 - Census - population 375,819.

1950 - A piped supply of potable water is made available in Georgetown.

1953 - The Waddington Constitution is suspended on December 22nd. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers are dispatched to British Guiana to control any outbreak of violence that may follow the suspension. The House Of Assembly is disbanded. All political parties are forbidden to hold meetings, and certain P.P.P. leaders are forbidden to leave Georgetown. The Legislative Council is now composed of nominated and ex-officio members.

1954 - June 6, the British Guiana Credit Corporation commences its operation. This facility's objective is to provide credit for the development of small businesses. The construction of 18 low-cost houses (\$1,150.00 each) at east la Penitence Housing Scheme is started. The Potaro Hydro Electric Company Limited, which proposes to investigate the feasibility of exploring British Guiana's hydroelectric potential, is registered.

1955 - British Guiana Airways is purchased by the Government for \$823, 000 from Colonel Art Williams.

1957 - In June, the Clerical Workers' Union changes its name to The Clerical and Commercial Union.

1958 - The Legislative Council passes a resolution exhorting the British Government to grant Cabinet status to British Guiana, as it had conceded to both Trinidad and Jamaica.

1961 - Elections under Internal Self-Government Constitution. The PPP Party wins the election.

1962 - Arthur Schlesinger, U.S. Secretary of State visits British Guiana and concludes that Dr. Jagan's heart is with the Communist world, and although all alternatives to Dr. Jagan are terrible, he feels that if Mr. Burnham 'will commit himself to a multi-racial policy an independent British Guiana under him would cause the U.S. fewer problems than one under Dr. Jagan. The February Riot Commission sits from June 22 to 28th in Georgetown. Senior Counsel Lionel Luckhoo submits Dr. Jagan to a robust examination in which Dr. Jagan admits that he is a communist. The circumstances of this admission seriously affects the U.S. attitude to Dr. Jagan and to British Guiana and paves the way for their promotion of Mr. Burnham to political power in Guyana.

1963 - On June 21, as U.S. President John Kennedy and a high powered team prepares for a meeting with British Prime Minister Harold McMillan and his team at Birch Grove in the U.K., the State Department instructs its U.K. embassy by telegram to let it be known that McMillan had agreed that H.M.G. no longer has any faith in Dr. Jagan, preferring Mr. Burnham as the more manageable alternative. At the Birch Grove meeting, it is decided to establish a Burnham/D'Aguair Government and grant British Guiana independence. Five people including a High School student are shot and several people beaten as a new wave of violence hits the city on June 11 and June 12. Georgetown is declared a Proclamation Area and another ban is put on all public meetings. The Guyana Rice Marketing Board escapes being demolished when a large quantity of dynamite is discovered under the wharf. Two ships, one belonging to the Russian and the other Cuban, recently berthed, also escapes destruction.

1964 - Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Janet Jagan, resigns her post claiming she had no control over the police. Essentially her resignation is in protest of the police inaction to the violence perpetrated against Indians at Wismar/Christianburg earlier in May. Violence erupts on an intensified scale soon after the arrival on June 17 of a Cuban tanker M.V. Cuba bringing much needed fuel and gasoline to the colony. The forces opposed to the Government of the day had organized an embargo and as such, vital supplies of necessities were delayed. The Cuban vessel

is interpreted as breaking the embargo and the opposition parties let loose the 'Gods of War' in Georgetown and its environs. The Parliament Building is blockaded by angry protesters and assault Ministers and civil servants that dare to remain on the job. An incendiary device is thrown into the home of Mr. Arthur Abraham, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics, on Hadfield Street causing his death. Seven of his nine children also die. After the fire, four bodies are found huddled together on the stairway and three on the upper flat. Prime Minister, Harold McMillan, speaking in the House of Commons, on June 17, recommends that the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Meeting should consult on the crisis situation in British Guiana. On June 24th, Prime Minister DR. Cheddie Jagan concurs with the decision.

1964 - Proportional Representative System. A coalition Government of PNC and UF attains power.

1965 - A three storied building which houses the U.S. Consulate and the JFK Library is bombed on June 24. Shakira Baksh (currently married to actor Michael Caine) is injured in the blast. On November 15th, 1965 New "Bank Of Guyana" notes come into circulation in denominations of \$1, \$5, \$10, and \$20.

1966 - May 26th, the colony of British Guiana gains independence from British rule, and the name is changed to Guyana.

1966 - On June 23, officials from both Guyana and Suriname begin talks in London in relation to the countries' border dispute.

1966 - British troops leave Guyana.

1969 - Protocol of Port-of-Spain signed with Venezuela leading to a 12-year moratorium on the boundary controversy.

1970 - February 23rd, Guyana becomes a Co-operative Republic.
Moment of Reflection by Janice Harrison

The past year has seen the passing of some members, their parents or close friends. Life is a journey and we have to enjoy this journey on this beautiful earth by cherishing, enjoying and sharing how we have been blessed with our family and friends.

As we move into 2005, I would like to share some inspirational phrases I found on a Manpower calendar:

- INSPIRE.....One spark can create an extraordinary outcome
- EXPLORE.....It's not the destination. It's the journey
- SHINE.....Attitude is as much a reflection as performance
- ANTICIPATE.....Think ahead. Stay agile
- IMAGINE.....Never be limited by "what is." Instead, envision what "could be"

GROW.....Expand your reach