



The AD ASTRA PER ASPERA Newsletter



VOLUME 17#1

DECEMBER 2022

ICHSAA EMBRACES NEW ERA of communication with our school

Respectfully Submitted by
Carol Case



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message 2

Getting to know the new
principal 3

What's happening at
ICHS 4

Congratulation—You
make us proud 6

ICHS and its Alumnae Associations have a new communication process in place.

Recently, it was agreed that the ICHS Principal will collaborate with the president of ICHSAA (Jamaica) on projects and support needs of the school, this information will be passed onto the presidents of all ICHSAA chapters. The current Chapters are Florida, New York, Europe, International and Toronto.

Each chapter will review the briefing with executive committee and members, then prepare a formal response to be conveyed to the president of the ICHSAA (Jamaica) who will forward it to the ICHS principal.

ICHSAA (Jamaica) will implement and execute the planned support on behalf of all chapters of the Immaculate Conception Alumnae Associations.

Toronto Chapter remains unchanged in our commitment of support in "REBUILDING ICHS FOR THE FUTURE". Ultimately, we exist so ICHS students succeed in reaching AD ASTRA PER ASPERA.





Warmest greetings from the Toronto Chapter, the "true north strong and free." Coming out of pandemic restrictions feels like waking up from hibernation. Life continued nevertheless and so did the needs of our Alma Mater, ICHS. I am proud that despite the obstacle of COVID, all the Alumnae Chapters kept working hard to support the Academic, Aesthetic and Athletic endeavours of the present students. Toronto Chapter in collaboration with the other Chapters had coordinated the refurbishing of the Food and Nutrition Labs as well as the Water Harvesting project at ICHS and the Convent. Kudos to Katy Sani, Carol Case, outgoing president Novelette Graham-Hart and the rest of the team who worked tirelessly on this project. It was a massive and necessary undertaking.

A lot of new changes have taken place while we have been sheltered in our supposedly "virus free bubbles." Please allow me to introduce myself as your new president of the ICHSAA, Toronto Chapter. Also, at this time, our beloved ICHS has a new principal, since the passing of Sr. Angela. For the first time in its history, the school will be led by a "non-religious," a civilian, Mrs. Stacy Reynolds, who was the former principal of our sister school, Mount Alvernia High School in Montego Bay. This marks a new chapter for our school and for the legacy of the Franciscan Sisters of Alleghany, to whom the school belongs. I know you join with me in wishing Mrs. Reynolds well in this complex but rewarding task and assure her of our unwavering support in providing for the various needs of the ICHS students in Jamaica. This is our primary purpose, to keep the #MacGirlMagic alive and well for generations to come.

Our new initiative upon request from the principal, is to bring the classrooms and Science Labs into the 21st century by upgrading to Smart Boards, Smart Projectors and providing new microscopes. Again, the magnitude of this project will be achieved more effectively through collaboration with our sister Chapters. I would like to acknowledge the steadfast leadership of Katy Sani as Treasurer 'extraordinaire,' coordinating all the monies from the Chapters for the previous collaborative projects: Food and Nutrition Labs, Water Harvesting for the school and Convent. To this end, she has been unanimously chosen this year as Toronto Chapter's nominee for the ICHSAA Hall of Fame hopefully happening in March of 2023.

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December 2022
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I.C.H.S.A.A. (TO) Newsletter

Editorial Staff and Webmaster
Heather Bubb-Clarke

Cheryl Naylor Membership

I.C.H.S. Executive Committee 2021-2023

Karen-Marie Siyanbola-Ellington	President
Sandra Hardie	Vice President
Cathrine Sani	Treasurer
Jo-Anne Haddad	Assistant Treasurer
Cheryl Naylor	Corr. Secretary
Deborah Banderob	Recording Secretary

Floor Members

Heather Bubb-Clarke	Novelette Graham-Hart
Carol Case	Nicole Lyew
Michele-Ann Cardozo	Yvonne Lyew
Peta-Gay Nash	Tanya Tenn-Hugh
Jeanette Chin	Francine Leung
Jacqueline Lue	Ina Williams
Patricia Oliver	Annette Wong
Patricia Chung	Sadie Wong
Lorraine Chung	

I acknowledge the efforts of all of our "phenomenal women" for the time, talent and treasure shared to facilitate the success of our present ICHS students, especially from a distance. I must mention the handmade moccasins by Heather Bubb-Clarke in our school colours blue and white that have been globe-trotting on various ICHSAA feet along with Sr. Maureen Clare and Sr. Celia. They are truly a "labour of love." Heather, who is responsible for our newsletter and website was honoured this summer as one of Toronto's first female DJs. She, as Livewire Disco, has played for many ICHSAA Toronto fundraising dinner/ dances. A big shout out to you!"

Our present girls have achieved much and are standing proudly now as members of Jamaica's athletic elite in bringing home medals alongside the traditional stalwarts, coming second internationally in Robotics, continuing to excel academically as still the "number one high school for girls" on the island and blowing us away in amazement with their talents in Art and Music, evident in the singing by the Glee Club and wow, by the most recent performance by the ICHS Orchestra.

Ladies, you are living examples of "paying it forward" by your steadfast service and will always be blessed for this. We have to keep the torch lit for the next generation so we can pass it on. Youth have never been known to learn from listening well, they learn from following examples. Keep on "doing" for as long as you can. Remember our motto: *Ad Astra Per Aspera*.

Karen-Marie Siyanbola-Ellington
ICHSAA, Toronto Chapter

GETTING TO KNOW THE NEW PRINCIPAL (extracts taken from the ICHS Monthly E-letter)



What schools were you at before Immaculate?

I started out as a librarian at St. George's College then I taught for 21 years there. I then spent 4 years and 8 months as principal at Mount Alvernia High School.

What are some recognitions or achievements you have received?

At the end of my tenure at Mount Alvernia High, for little girls to look at me and say they wanted to be like me when they grew up, meant a lot. The way they described me and the way they saw me in the short space of time that I was there was very special to me. I remember one student in grade 9 who wrote me something that I later framed, which said that I taught her what it was like to be a lady. Not to be soft, but to be strong because typically they are told that ladies must be soft and behave a certain way, but I took it out of that box. That made it very hard for me to walk away from them, for them to tell me the words 'Miss I love you' is the biggest recognition of my life so far. Another recognition was within the four and a half years at Mt. Alvernia, when the principals of the high schools in St. James had a surprise party for me. For my colleagues in the profession to do something like this for me and to look at me and say 'You made us better' or 'You made our jobs as principals better, was really touching.

Which schools did you attend? *Merl Grove High School and St. Aloysius Primary School.*

What is your most memorable pastime? *At this point in my life, my hobby is shopping. I love shopping and taking a book, sitting in front of my television, having a shower and just sitting down until I fall asleep.*

Mrs. Reynolds understands the value of discipline. She prefers to be respected than to be liked and has the best interest of her ladies at heart. Though she is strict, that strictness originates from a place of love



Mrs. Reynolds modeling ICHS –T shirt which can be purchased in the school's bookstore.

Did you know the following :-

Deans of Discipline



Mrs. Sade Smith—Josephs



Ms. Latoya Thomas



Mrs. Andrea Hitchener
Lower School Vice
Principal



Ms. Brigitte Pinto
Upper School Vice
Principal

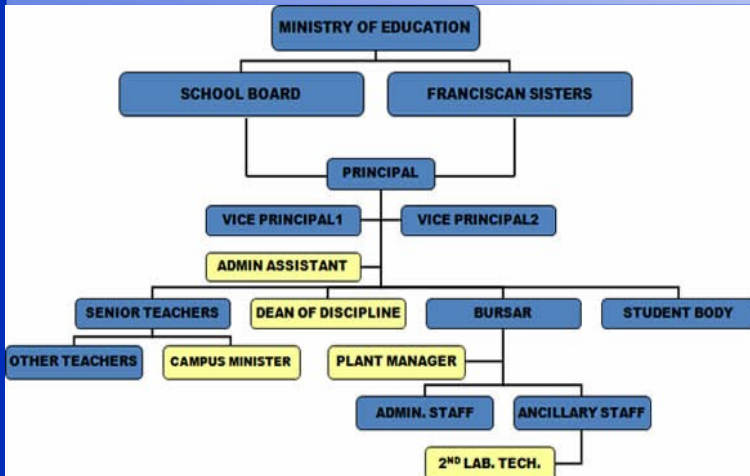


Ms. Carol Anglin
Board Chairperson



Mrs. Shermelia Dawkins
Brown
Guidance Counsellor

ICHS has a student population of approximately 1,663 ranging in age from 11 to 19. Pupils assigned to the school are drawn from a cohort of almost 80,000 Primary Exit Profile (PEP) candidates. Examinees placed at ICHS are among the top 1000 candidates in the PEP examination.



There are Seven Houses: DAVIDICA, FRANCISCAN, IMMACULATA, St. JOAN OF ARC, St. ROSA OF LIMA, St. CLARE, St. TEKAKWITHA

CLUBS AND EXTRA CURRICULARS

SERVICE CLUBS :-

- 1) Service Clubs
- 2) Angela of Love
- 3) Emerging Global Leaders
- 4) Girl Guides
- 5) Health and Wellness
- 6) Girls with a Cause
- 7) Heritage Club
- 8) Interact Club
- 9) Junior Activism Movement
- 10) Key Club
- 11) Operation Help the people
- 12) Red Cross
- 13) Tourism Action Club
- 14) United Nations
- 15) Youth Empowerment
- 16) Symphony Orchestra
- 17) Immaculate Science Environment Technology
- 18) Health Club

RECREATION CLUBS :-

- 1) Animation & Graphic
- 2) Art Club
- 3) Aviation Club
- 4) Between the pages
- 5) Business Club
- 6) Chess Club
- 7) Christian in Action
- 8) Coding
- 9) Computer Club
- 10) Concert Band
- 11) Debate Society
- 12) Drama Club
- 13) Energy club
- 14) Engineering Society
- 15) Fil Club
- 16) Gardening Club
- 17) Guitar Club
- 18) Immaculate Conception Environmentalists
- 19) I-Enter
- 20) ISCF
- 21) Immaculate Society of United Mathematics
- 22) Jamaica Automobile Association
- 23) Japanese Culture
- 24) Journalism Club
- 25) Med Club
- 26) Modern Languages
- 27) Paws
- 28) Peer Counsel
- 29) Photography Club
- 30) Pop band
- 31) Prefect Council
- 32) Productivity Club
- 33) Robotics Club
- 34) Savings Society
- 35) School 's Challenge quiz
- 36) Sign Language
- 37) Sixth Form Association
- 38) Sixth Form Fitness
- 39) Spanish Club
- 40) Steel band
- 41) Stem CC & Club
- 42) Tutoring Club

SPORTS CLUBS :-

- 1) Artistic Swimming
- 2) Water Polo
- 3) Swimming
- 4) Hockey
- 5) Karate
- 6) Lacrosse
- 7) Netball
- 8) Table Tennis
- 9) Tennis
- 10) Track and Field
- 11) Dance Troupe



Soccer Team



CHAMPS 2022

POINTS STANDING GIRLS

SCHOOLS	POINTS
1. Edwin Allen High	175
2. Hydel High	127
3. St Jago High	109
4. Holmwood Technical	77
5. Excelsior High	49
5. Wolmer's Girl School	49
7. Immaculate Conception	29
8. St Catherine High	27
9. Camperdown High	25
10. Clarendon College	22



We made it to the top Ten!!!

We stand Proud as we watch our girls perform at this year's CHAMPS. We congratulate to the team and coaching staff on their outstanding performance.

ROBOTICS



Two ICHS students (in the yellow and black shirts) from the School's Robotics Club flew to Geneva, Switzerland to represent Jamaica at the First Tech Challenge Competition on October 10th, 2022. The girls were chaperoned by New York Chapter President Karen Wilson – Robinson (seen behind Jamaica Chapter President Kim Mair—right front) New York Chapter's President also presented a cheque of J\$400,000 to the school for the Robotics Club programme. The Jamaica Team played 4 matches to start the competition. They lost the first game, won the next two, and tied the 4th match with a score of 160 that brought their ranking from 78 to 56. "YOU MAKE US PROUD!"

Swim Team



CANCER AWARENESS - October 12, 2022



MUSIC



Stephanie Williams
The Lisa Narcisse Awardee



The ICHSAA Florida Chapter presented Principal Reynolds with funds to assist with exam fees for students who have financial challenges! They also contributed to the sporting development of the school by funding sneakers for the netball team, which reached the semi finals.

Nancy Cera, Treasurer of the Florida Chapter made the presentation along with Jamaica Chapter's President Kim Mair (2nd left) and Judith Mercurius, President of the Florida Chapter (far right). Student council reps were also present.

CONGRATULATIONS : YOU MAKE US PROUD



Kathy McDonald (Parris) appointed Trustee of the Peel District School Board, Brampton, wards 3 and 4. Kathy works tirelessly to help each child realize their full potential and works with the community to support student success for all students and dismantle systemic discrimination. She is a coordinator of a community youth steel band, a children's storyteller of Jamaican folktales, a member of the Congress of Black Women Brampton Chapter and a member of the United Achievers' Club and was previously chair of the Caribbean pavilion for Carabram, Brampton's multicultural festival. Kathy received an award of Excellence as one of the 100 Most Influential Black Canadians.

Dr. Mary Anne Chambers, a former Ontario cabinet minister, author, longtime champion of the University of Guelph and lifelong education and community advocate, has been named as the University's next chancellor. Mary Anne is the 10th Chancellor appointed to this role. Among her honours, she was named to the Order of Ontario and has received the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee medals, the Prime Minister of Jamaica's Medal of Appreciation, a University of the West Indies Vice-Chancellor's Award and a YWCA Toronto Woman of Distinction Award. She is currently a governor of Canada's International Development Research Centre, a senior fellow at York University's Glendon School of Public and International Affairs and is the special advisor for the City of Markham's anti-Black racism strategy. On Oct 29/22, Mary Anne received an award of Excellence as one of the 100 Most Influential Black Canadians. Recently, she released her first book called "From the Heart"



Audrea J. Golding, recently attended the Women, Influence and Power in Law Awards dinner in Washington, DC, where she along with her partner Carmita Alonso were named 2022 WIPL Awards honorees and were recognized by Corporate Counsel for their commitment to advancing the empowerment of woman in law.

Dr. Yolande E. Chan, joined McGill University's Desautels Faculty of Management as Dean and James McGill Professor in August 2021. Prior to joining Desautels, Yolande served as Associate Dean of Research, PhD and MSc Programs, and the E. Marie Shantz Chair of Digital Technology at Smith School of Business at Queen's University. A gifted educator, she received the Commerce Teaching Excellence Award and the Commerce Professor Student Life Award given to the professor who has contributed most to the student life of the graduating class. Dean Chan has also received the Queen's University Distinguished Service Award, the Queen's University Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision, and a Smith School Researcher Achievement Award. She has previously served as Queen's University's Associate Vice-Principal (Research). Before joining academia, she worked with Andersen Consulting (now Accenture). Dean Chan is a Fellow and Distinguished Cum Laude member of the Association for Information Systems. She is entered in the Canadian Who's Who, the Who's Who of Canadian Women, and the Who's Who in Canadian Business Directories.



Donette Chin-Loy Chang, recently received honorary degrees from Toronto Metropolitan University and the University of the West Indies. She is a member of the Black North Initiative board, the Caribbean Canada Institute board and serves on the Onyx Initiative Advisory board and the National Coalition of Canadians Against Asian Racism Committee. Donette has recently joined the TIFF Board of Directors.

Dawn Marie James, Class of 1967, was the recipient of the National Chorale of Jamaica (NCOJ) Medal of Excellence and who has also distinguished herself in the field of classical music at the international level. Dawn Marie is an Jamaican International Opera Singer who resides in Atlanta, Georgia. She is the older sister of Katy Sani and Carol Case.



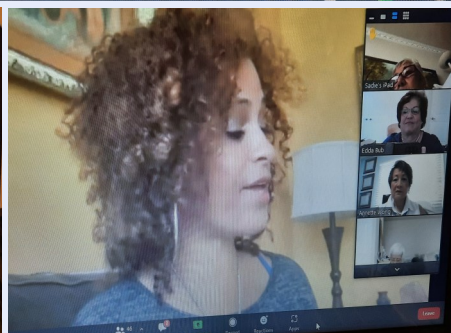
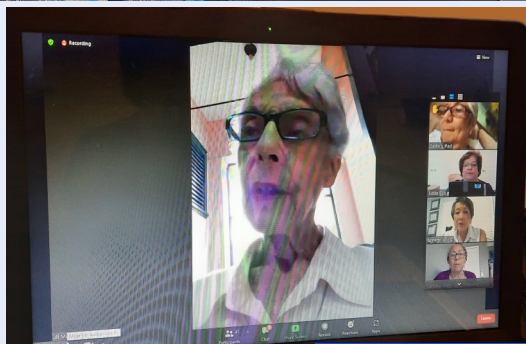
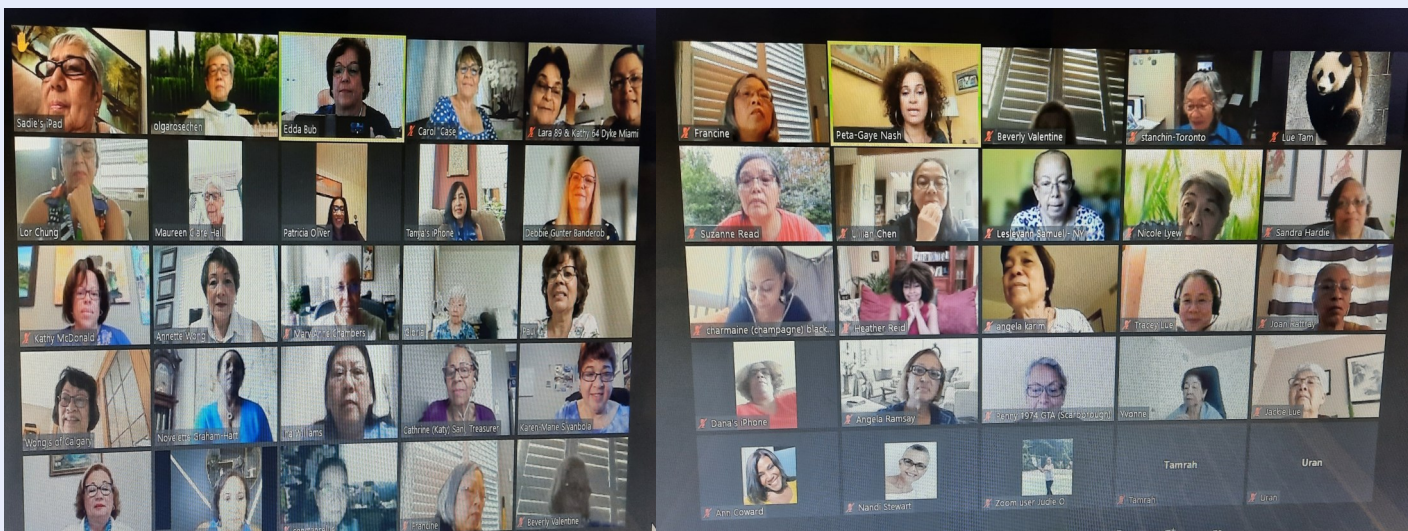


ICHSAA TORONTO CHAPTER JOINS THE VIRTUAL PLATFORM

On September 26,2021 at 2pm. ICHSAA Toronto Chapter held it first virtual Annual General Meeting via Zoom . Sister Maureen Clare was our invited guest along with Peta Gay Nash. In attendance, there were individuals from Calgary, Florida, Miami, St. Kitts, New York, England and Jamaica, who previously may not have had the opportunity to attend in person.

The election of the new Executive Committee took place electing the following individuals for the term 2021-2023: President - Karen-Ann Siyanbola Ellington (Richards), Vice President - Sandra Hardie, Treasurer-Catherine Sani, Asst. Treasurer Jo-Anne Haddad, Recording Secretary –Deborah Banderob, Corresponding Secretary –Cherly Naylor. Floor Members Heather Bubb-Clarke, Carol Case, Michele-Ann Cardozo, Jeanette Chin, Mary Chow, Lorraine Chung, Patricia Chung, Tamrah Edwards, Novelette Graham-Hart, Tanya Hugh, Francine Leung, Jacqueline Lue, Nicole Lyew, Yvonne Lyew, Peta-Gay Nash, Patricia Oliver, Kathy Parris-McDonald, Ina Williams, Annette Wong, and Sadie Wong. All of their monthly meetings are now held on the Zoom platform.

The ladies embrace technology when, they held their first virtual bingo party on March 8th, 2022 called “St. Patrick’s Pot of Gold Bingo”. It was a huge success for the ladies as they were not all that tech savvy, and after several rehearsals, they had it down pat...what **fun night** it turned out to be. Kudos to all.




**ICHS ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION
TORONTO CHAPTER**
Established on June 19, 1978


Invites you to
St. Patrick's Pot of Gold
Virtual Online Bingo Fundraiser

Friday March 8th, 2022
Time : 8:00 P.M.
Ticket: \$10 or (3) \$25

Link To Purchase Tickets:
Zoom link to play:





On October 28,2022 over 50 members of the graduating Class of 72 along with members for 71 and 73 reunited at the Grand Bahia Principe, Runaway, Jamaica. The idea for this reunion began more than 7 years ago, with a small of group of the graduating class spearheaded by Arlene Fletcher. After years, months of planning and uncertainties with COVID. The event came to fruition, ladies came from Europe, United states, Canada and Jamaica to make it a most memorable three days of sisterhood. The three days were packed with events such as Meet and Greet, Remembering Loss Classmates, Yoga, Seventies Dinner and Dance, Sports Day, Assembly, A tour of ICHS and Mass. Kudos to the planning committee– Sharon Bogues, Megan Deane, Janina Fisher, Cloe Fong Kong, Marcia Magnus, Arlene Nelson, Patricia Patterson, Althea Wright. The Assembly, Mass and School visit were arranged by Dr. Arna J Brown, Christine Hammond and Alison Payne. Ann Lake created the reunion logo. Heather Bubb-Clarke created, crafted and generously donated ICHS leather pouches, bags and moccasins. Sister Maureen Clare was gifted a special designed ICHS moccasins from the Class of 72 (seen in the photo below).





ICHS ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION
TORONTO CHAPTER

Established on June 19, 1978



*Sweet N Dandy -
Turn Up the Music*

Save this Date - June 3rd, 2023

We are going have some fun



CONGRATULATIONS - Sweetie Pies



Patricia (Sasso) and Peter Chinn are proud grandparents To Veya Chinn born 2020 and Ayla Chinn born 2022. Congratulations Aaron and Alanna

Congratulations to Dr Yolande Chan on the birth of her first Granddaughter Seraphine Phyllis. Born on October 23, 2022



Congratulations to Annette Wong on the marriage of her son Justin to Nicole. June 26, 2021



ICHS ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION
TORONTO CHAPTER

Established on June 19, 1978



ICHS Masks

now available !!



Get yours today !!

(1) for \$15 or (2) for \$25

Contact: ichsaatoronto@gmail.com

Gone But Not Forgotten—In Loving Memory



Norma Constantia (Jervis) LaHaye, died peacefully, with her children by her side at Bella Senior Care, shortly after her 94th birthday. Beloved wife of the late Joseph LaHaye (2020). Predeceased by her previous husband, Derek E. F. Nash. She will be lovingly remembered by her children Dawn-Marie (Errol) James, Cathrine (Anthony) Sani, Carol (Carl “Tony”) Case, Christopher (Janice) Nash, and the late Derek E. A. (Pauline) Nash. Grandmother of Aaron (Luarne), Stephany (Jason), Jonathan (Nicolle), Jessica (Chase), Eric, Danielle, Blake (Randi-Lynn), Derek A. F. (Colleen), Xavier, and 12 great-grandchildren. Dear sister of Peter (Margaret) Jervis and the late Lloyd Jervis.

A graduate of the prestigious Immaculate Conception High School in Jamaica, Norma was glamorous and sparkled with a Joie de vivre. She was an accomplished pianist who was passionate about music, dancing and singing. A member of the Jamaica Amateur Operatic Society, Norma later joined the Sweet Adelines in Atlanta, Georgia. She was diligent and conscientious in her professional life not only as a business owner but also in the banking industry.

Norma was an avid supporter of the Alumnae Association in Jamaica and after migrating to Canada became a member of the Toronto Chapter. She ensured that her daughters, Dawn-Marie (James), Katy (Cathrine Sani) and Carol (Case) continued the tradition of membership in the association by taking them to Alumnae Association meetings in Jamaica as soon as they graduated high school. Norma and her husband Joe not only attended many association events and were among the first generous donors to the Food and Nutrition Labs Rebuild. Thank you Norma for all that you did for your Alma Mater.



The newest acquisition to the Immaculate Conception High School Symphony Orchestra, donated in Memoriam of Norma LaHaye 2022, a Heinrich th. Heberlein 1914 German violin and a Karl Hofner bow.

On behalf of the ICHS Symphony Orchestra, I would like to convey our sincere gratitude for your very generous support. Thank you.

*Steven Woodham,
ICHS SO, Conductor*



Class of 45 - Age 17





Prayers and Condolence are extended to the families of ...

Betty Leung passed away peacefully, Mother of Allan and mother-in law to Francine .

Sister Magdalen Marie Newton, age 97, went home to the Lord early this morning, June 13. She had been ailing for some time but still had her engaging smile when anyone spoke to her. Three weeks ago she celebrated her 97th birthday. She was a devoted Franciscan Sister of Allegany for 68 years. Sister was born in Manchester, Jamaica and graduated from Maryknoll Convent School in Kowloon, Hong Kong; St. Elizabeth's Teachers College and St. Bonaventure University both in Allegany, New York. She taught at Marymount in Highgate and at ICHS. May she rest in peace.

Donna Haynes devoted ICHS teacher passed suddenly on November 25, 2022. Donna was dedicated Alumna, Class of 76. She touched millions of Jamaica with her talent and voice in various radio and television ads for the Jamaica Tourist Board and Sandals. Donna will be greatly missed by her family, friends and the public at large.



Over the past 12 months, many of our Membership have lost love ones.

We, the executive members of the ICHS Alumnae Toronto Chapter would like to extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to all that have experienced a great loss.

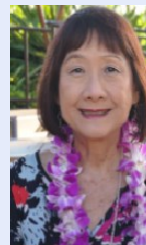
May their Souls Rest in Peace!



Maggie Lazarus died March 27, 2022 mother of Debbie Banderob and Stephen Gunter



Valerie (Penso) Levy passed in August, 2022. Class of 1951. She was inducted in the ICHS Hall of Fame in 2015. Leaving Desmond Levy, two children and four grandchildren. Rest in eternal peace.



Merline Heyha Watson, (Chen) RN, ICHS Alumna died Apr. 2, 2019. Leaving husband David, Daughter Michelle (Peter Blythe), Son Stuart (Nancy), Sisters Colleen & Margaret Chen, Brothers: George, Winston, Carl, Philip & Tommy Chen. May she rest in peace.

Sr. Catherine Figueroa OSM, a Servite nun. Sister of Dr. Anna Jarvis and Mark Figueroa died in her sleep on Thursday September 8th, 2022. She had been fighting cancer for a couple years. May she rest in peace.



Doreen Joyce Parris, died on September 10, 2022. Leaving Selwyn, children Stephen, Kathy McDonald (Lester) and Christine 'Nicki' grandchildren Benjamin, Dominic, Matthew, Daniel, Naomi, and Ruth.



Leonie Cynthia Chung died 21 March 2022. Mother of Carol Chen, Donna Lee, Terri Wong and David (Lorraine) May she rest in eternal peace.

Out of touch with class mates? Join Facebook



Remember to pay your Dues ... Only \$40 per year.





*May the Light of God fill your home this
Christmas Season.*

May God's Love fill your hearts.

*As the year closes we want to remember the Dear
Ones we lost and those who are less fortunate.
We pray for peace throughout the world.*

*The Executives of The Toronto Chapter
Wish each and everyone a safe, Holy and
Merry Christmas*

and

*A Wonderful and Bright
New Year*

