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| Presented by: Malcolm Dias    |
| Year of 1966                  |

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## INTRODUCTION

At the request of President Aruna Abeykoon, this is my humble attempt at producing a bulletin for SACKOBA USA Branch. This inaugural issue is due to be sent out in December 2025 and hopefully, with the help of the Antonian Fraternity in the USA, we will be able to produce many more enjoyable and informative bulletins for the Antonian brotherhood spread around the world.

I have been in the USA for the past 16 years and believed that there were only a handful of Antonians here. However, when Mr. Chitral Amarasiri introduced me to the SACK OBA USA WhatsApp group, I was pleasantly surprised to find St. Anthony's is well represented here in the USA.

As a former Secretary of the Colombo Branch, I have been assisting Editor Shane Balthazaar to format the Colombo Branch bulletin for the past several years, which I believe all our USA Members are familiar with. I hope to follow a similar style in formatting this bulletin unless members have any better suggestions which I will gladly consider.

The cover design has been adapted from the Home Page of the sackobausa.com web site. Hopefully it is acceptable and any suggestions for change and or improvements are most welcome.

In conclusion, I wish to inform you that I am currently a resident of Longwood, FL 32750 and am in the process of moving my residency to Pittsburgh in the near future.

You may share any thoughts for the bulletin and any newsworthy items with me for publication through WhatsApp 412 908 9239. I am also available on G-Mail at <Malcolm.and.bernie@gmail.com>

Thank you everyone and here's to the success of another project to strengthen the fabric of our Antonian family across the world.

Malcolm F. Dias.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### SACKOBA–USA News Bulletin (2023–2025)

Dear Antonians,

As we bring our inaugural term to a close, it is with tremendous pride and deep gratitude that I share this News Bulletin - a reflection of the remarkable journey we have travelled together over the past two years.

The very first seed of SACKOBA-USA was planted quite unexpectedly, at a cricket tournament in Las Vegas. It was there that I met Dinusha Heenkenda, Sajith Fernando, Tissa Subasinghe, and Susantha De Mel and in the warmth of those conversations we realized how much we missed the companionship, identity, and brotherhood that defined our Antonian days. That simple encounter evolved into something of greater magnitude.

Soon after, we created a WhatsApp group to reconnect Antonians scattered across the United States. From there, the dream of organizing a Dinner Dance took shape, even before SACKOBA-USA was formally established. What began as an informal idea matured into a vision for a lasting organization, one that could unite Antonians across the country, support our College, and serve as a home for generations to come.

When we officially incorporated SACKOBA-USA as a nonprofit organization, that first dinner dance became the inaugural **SACKOBA BALL USA** - a milestone that symbolized both our unity and our aspirations.

Throughout this journey, we have been uplifted by the support and encouragement of the global SACKOBA family. Branches around the world, and especially leaders who reached out early to help guide and inspire us during our formative phase. In particular, I remain grateful to Mr. Nimalka Perera of SACKOBA New Zealand, whose mentorship and early guidance helped shape the direction we would soon pursue. His encouragement, along with the goodwill of fellow SACKOBAs worldwide, reminded us that we are part of a far-reaching, tightly knit fraternity. We are equally grateful to Rev. Fr. Henry Wijerathna, Principal of St. Anthony's College, his blessings and support from the inception.

From those early days, I fondly remember the outpouring of support from everyone in the USA who later became part of the Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, as well as those who contributed wholeheartedly without taking an official position. Your willingness to step forward, contribute, and believe in what we were building transformed an idea into a vibrant, functioning association.

While I may have laid the first bricks, **the house was truly built by all of us**. Every activity, every event, every sponsorship, every donation, and every initiative, from scholarships and school support programs to roadshows and community gatherings - has been a collective achievement powered by your commitment and brotherhood. While our primary mission in this inaugural term was to **properly situate and establish SACKOBA-USA as a formal organization**, we went **above and beyond**, carrying out **nearly 30 meaningful projects** and donating **approximately \$10,000** to St. Anthony's College and the Antonian community. These efforts included the launch of the **Future Forward Excellence Scholarship (FFES)**, **cricket and rugby development sponsorships**, **Artificial Intelligence Challenge for Antonian Youth (AI-CAY)**, support for college events such as **ICT Day**, the **Talent Show**, and contributions to the **College and OBA Refurbishment and Development Funds**. We expanded our outreach through the **Mentorship Board**, organized **Workshops**, and strengthened unity through our nationwide **Antonian Roadshow**, connecting alumni from coast to coast. We also brought the community together at two memorable Dinner Dances under the banner **SACKOBA BALL USA** and executed our first **Membership Drive** built on an inclusive and sustainable funding model. Each milestone stands as a testament to the passion, generosity, and teamwork of this remarkable Antonian fraternity.

As we prepare to hand over leadership to the next Executive Committee, I remain deeply grateful for your trust, partnership, and friendship. SACKOBA-USA stands today on a strong foundation, ready for greater heights and broader impact in the years ahead.

Thank you for being part of this journey, for believing in its purpose, and for walking beside me from the very beginning.

**LUX DE COELO**

**Aruna Abeyakoon**  
*Founding President*  
**SACKOBA-USA**





## EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Year 1: Inaugural Year in Review (2023–2024)

**Inaugural General Meeting in Las Vegas** – SACKOBA-USA officially launched on Nov 15, 2023

**SACKOBA Ball USA 2023** – first-ever Old Antonians Dinner Dance held in Las Vegas

**Membership Drive & Plus One Campaign** – launched to grow participation and reach

**Mentorship Board** – formed to provide professional guidance for Antonians in the USA

**AI Challenge for Antonian Youth (AI-CAY 2024)** – introduced AI to students in grades 9 and above

**Cricket Sponsorship** – supported the 42nd Trinity–Antonians limited-overs cricket match

**Tag Rugby Tournament (DC)** – SACKOBA-USA team won the inter-school Tag Rugby 7s

**Support for Key Projects at SACK** – funded major school initiatives including OBA HQ, Badminton Club, ICT Day, and Cricket Ball 2024

**Souvenir Shop & Social Media Outreach** – launched to expand engagement

### Year 2: Growing Stronger Together (2024–2025)

**SACKOBA Ball USA 2024** – second annual dinner dance held on *Dec 7, 2024*

**Rugby Sponsorship** – Rs. 1,000,000 donation to develop rugby at St. Anthony's College

**Membership Poll: “You Spoke – We Heard”** – gathered member feedback to shape the new membership model

**Membership Drive** – launched the *All-Inclusive Model*: a \$100 annual membership covering all projects and sponsorships for the year

**Know Your Immigration Rights Workshop** – educational session clarifying US immigration enforcement issues

**Rugby 7s in Washington DC** – participated for the second year and became *Plate Champions*

**SACKOBA-USA Roadshow 2025** – connected Antonians nationwide through gatherings in:

Chatsworth, CA (*June 28*)  
Silver Spring, MD (*Aug 31*)  
Orlando, FL (*Oct 19*)  
Fishkill, NY (*Oct 31*)  
Austin, TX (*Nov 16*)

## **Board of Trustees**

**Mr. Chitral Amarasiri**  
**Dr. Bathi Kasturiarachi**  
**Dr. Lakshman Denepitiya**  
**Dr. Priyantha Perera**

## **Executive Committee**

### **Board of Directors**

**President.** Mr. Aruna Abeyakoon  
**Secretary.** Mr. Randima Chavy  
**Treasurer.** Mr. Dinusha Heenkenda  
**Vice President.** Mr. Jude Jayatilleke  
**Assistant Secretary.** Mr. Musthaq Nayeem  
**Assistant Treasurer.** Mr. Basker Ganesan

## **Special Committee Chairpersons**

**Sports Outreach Chair:** Mr. Sajith Fernando  
**Fundraising Chair:** Mr. Susantha Jayamaha  
**Academic Outreach Chair:** Dr. Bathi Kasturiarachi  
**Media & Publicity Chair:** Mr. Saliya Yapabandara  
**Mentorship Board Chair:** Dr. Lakshman Denepitiya  
**Membership Development Chair:** Mr. Vasabha Senerath  
**Entertainment & Recreation Chair:** Mr. Channa Monnekulama



### **From L to R**

**Mr. Susantha Jayamaha, Mr Saliya Yapa Bandara,**  
**Mr. Sajith Fernando, Mr. Dinusha Heenkenda,**  
**Dr. Bathi Kasturiarachi, Mr. Aruna Abeyakoon,**  
**Mr. Chitral Amarasiri, Mr. Randima Chavy, Mr. Basker Ganesan,**  
**Mr. Jude Jayatilleke, Dr. Priyantha Perera, Mr. Mushtaq Nayeem,**  
**Mr. Vasabha Senerath, Dr. Lakshman Denepitiya.**  
**Absent: Mr. Mr. Channa Monnekulama.**

## MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

### You Spoke. We Heard.

An overwhelming 93% of you voted in favor of the All-Inclusive Membership Model over the Flexible Contribution option. In response, we're proud to announce the launch of the Annual Membership Drive—built around your choice.



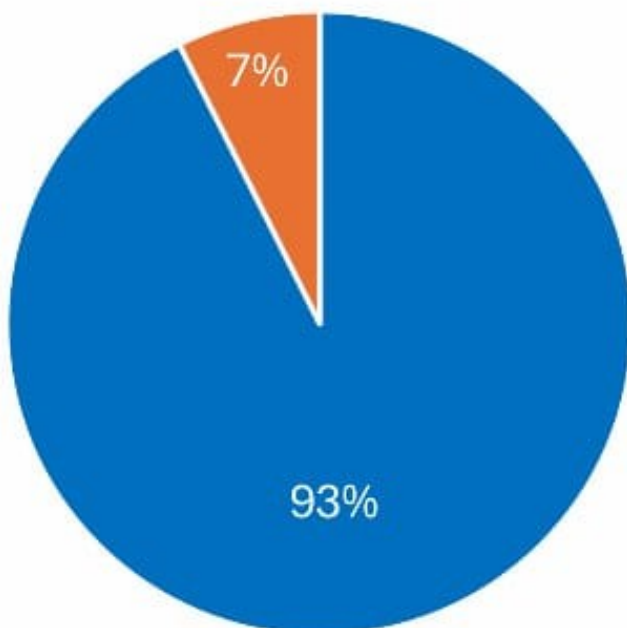
Sign up now using the link below to become an official SACKOBA-USA member.

🎁 Bonus: Every official member will receive a customized car badge with your name—your Antonian pride on the move!



sackobsusa.com

### Poll Results: Which Membership Model Do You Prefer



- Option 1: All-Inclusive — One-time annual membership fee of \$100 covers all activities and projects for the year (sports, education, etc.). No separate asks during the year.
- Option 2: Flexible Contribution — Lower annual membership fee of \$75, with separate fundraising requests for each project (Cricket, Rugby, Education, etc.) as they arise.

## CONGRATULATIONS, HON. A. L. SHIRAN GOONERATNE!

We are immensely proud to celebrate the appointment of **Hon. A. L. Shiran Gooneratne** as the **Acting Chief Justice of Sri Lanka**. A distinguished Old Antonian, Hon. Gooneratne has been recognized for his exemplary legal acumen, integrity and unwavering service to justice.

Your Antonian family salutes your remarkable achievement and wishes you continued success in upholding the rule of law and serving our nation with distinction. May you continue to inspire and lead with excellence!

**#AntonianPride #HonShiranGooneratne**  
**#ActingChiefJustice #AntonianAchievements**  
**#LeadershipExcellence #LuxDeCoelo**



# Congratulations



**Hon. A. L. Shiran Gooneratne**

The Newly Appointed Acting Chief Justice  
- Old Antonian -

We wish you even greater accomplishments  
in all your future endeavours.

**SACKOBA**

# CANADA ANTONIANS WIN PLATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Congratulations to SACKOBA Canada for winning the Trinity Vs. St. Anthony's 2025 Big match cheers.**



## CANADA ANTONIANS WIN PLATE CHAMPIONSHIP



# CANADA ANTONIANS WIN PLATE CHAMPIONSHIP



## **CALL TO MEMBERSHIP**

**Come, Antonian Brothers, Answer the Call  
Boys of St. Anthony's, valiant and true,  
Across oceans wide, we still stand with you.  
From Kandy's green hills to the skies' vast blue,  
Our hearts beat Antonian, forever and through.**

**We built our dreams on that chapel hill,  
With prayers at dawn, our hearts were still,  
Yet in the laughter of field and class,  
We found a bond that will never pass.**

**Now here in the USA, it's time to renew,  
The brotherhood strong, the friendships true.  
To honor the past, to build the way,  
To stand by each other, come what may.**

**Let's gather, dear brothers, with purpose and pride,  
Bring your stories, your laughter, your families beside.  
Let's build a chapter, strong and bright,  
Guided by faith, with hearts alight.**

**"Boys of St. Anthony's, valiant and true,  
Your Alma Mater is calling you."  
Join the fold, let your presence be,  
A gift to your College across the sea.**

**For it's not just dues, or a line on a page,  
It's a legacy living from age to age.  
A chance to give back, to mentor, to cheer,  
To keep St. Anthony's memory near.**

**Sign up, dear Antonian, don't wait or delay,  
Your brothers await you, join us today.  
For we are Antonian, steadfast and true,  
And St. Anthony's spirit still lives in you.**

***Basker Ganesan***

## **SACKOBA–USA Roadshow Initiative**

**In a year when we made the mindful decision not to hold the annual Dinner Dance, we still recognized the importance of keeping our Antonian brotherhood connected, engaged, and energized. Out of that need, the SACKOBA–USA Roadshow Initiative was born - a series of regional Antonian Gatherings hosted across the United States.**

**The purpose was simple yet powerful:**

**Bring Antonians together in person, city by city, to strengthen our bonds and expand our reach.**

**From the West Coast to the East Coast, the Roadshow created meaningful opportunities for Antonians to meet, reconnect, and welcome new members into the fold.**

**Each stop, whether in CA, MD, FL, NY, or TX — reflected the warmth, hospitality, and spirit that define our community.**

**Beyond friendship and fellowship, these gatherings helped us:**

**Identify and connect with more Antonians across the country**

**Strengthen our membership drive**

**Build momentum for future events**

**Showcase the unity and diversity within our alumni network**

**The Roadshow has now become one of the defining achievements of the term, a reminder that even without a formal ball, the Antonian spirit travels, gathers, and grows wherever we come together.**

### **LUX DE COELO**

**SACKOBA-USA Roadshow 2025 – connected Antonians nationwide through gatherings in:**

**Chatsworth, CA (June 28)**

**Silver Spring, MD (Aug 31)**

**Orlando, FL (Oct 19)**

**Fishkill, NY (Oct 31)**

**Austin, TX (Nov 16)**

## THE CALIFORNIA GATHERING

**Kicked off the Roadshow with an amazing Antonian Gathering in Chatsworth, CA! Grateful to everyone who turned up and set the tone for the rest of the tour.**

**A heartfelt thank you to Sajith Fernando and his wife Moureen for graciously hosting us and giving the Roadshow a perfect start. A wonderful evening of reconnecting, reminiscing, and celebrating the brotherhood.**

**Los Angeles truly started us off in style!**

**And the show goes on.**



## THE CALIFORNIA GATHERING



## THE DISTRICT OF COLOMBIA GATHERING

Our Antonian Gathering in Washington, D.C. was a fantastic stop on the SACKOBA–USA 2025 Roadshow. A big thank-you to **Shabeer, Vasabha**, and the entire team of players for their commitment and energy throughout the tournament. Grateful also to everyone who joined this gathering and rallied around the team with true Antonian spirit. And a special shout-out to **Chitral Amarasiri** for making a surprise appearance straight from the airport.



## THE ORLANDO GATHERING

**Had a fantastic Antonian Gathering in Orlando! A big thank you to Basker Ganesan and his wife Jebitha for hosting us with such warmth, great food, and true Antonian hospitality. Appreciation also to all who joined from near and far to make this roadshow stop a memorable one. The camaraderie, laughter, and brotherhood made it a gathering to remember. Orlando showed the spirit in full!**



# THE ORLANDO GATHERING



## THE ORLANDO GATHERING



## THE ORLANDO GATHERING



## THE NEW YORK GATHERING



Our Antonian Gathering in **Fishkill, New York** was another outstanding stop in the SACKOBA–USA 2025 Roadshow.

A heartfelt thank you to **Saliya Yapabandara and his wife Champa** for their warm hospitality and for hosting a wonderful evening filled with laughter, great food, and true Antonian fellowship.

**A memorable gathering that highlighted the strength and spirit of our East Coast Antonians.**

**And the show goes on**

# THE NEW YORK GATHERING



# THE TEXAS GATHERING

Led by Randima Chavy, they gathered all TX Antonians to form the band.



[Click here](#)



Shavinda de Silva - Sound Engineer  
Shevon Coorey —Drums  
Shanith Coorey - Keyboards  
Laknath Samarawickrama - Bass Guitar  
Randima Chavy - Rythem -Guitar

[Click here](#)



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DG 7'S RUGBY PLATE CHAMPIONS

We are truly grateful to everyone who played a part in the success of our tournament. Thanks to your support, dedication, and teamwork, we proudly won the Plate Championship!

A heartfelt thank you to all the individuals who contributed—whether on or off the field—to help us reach this achievement. Your efforts made a real difference, and we couldn't have done it without you.

Let's continue to grow, support each other, and aim even higher in the future!  
Shabeer



DC Rugby 7s, plate champs

# SACKOBA BALL 2024





## SACKOBA BALL 2024



## WORKSHOPS

As part of our Mentorship Board's ongoing efforts to identify and address topics of importance to the Antonian community, SACKOBA–USA organized an informative workshop on immigration rights. Recognizing the rising concerns around enforcement and legal protections, this session was held to equip our members and their families with accurate guidance and practical knowledge.

### KNOW YOUR IMMIGRATION RIGHTS!



Worried about how immigration enforcement might affect you or your loved ones? Join us for an interactive session with **Immigration Attorney Chanaka Ramanayake** to get the facts, understand your rights, and learn how to navigate challenges with confidence.



**Date & Time: Sunday March 2nd 2025 @10am Pacific/ 1pm Eastern** 📍 **Location: Virtual via zoom**

Organized by  
**St Anthony's College Old Boys Association USA**



**SACKOBA USA**

# **FUTURE FORWARD EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP**



SACKOBA USA is pleased to announce the FFES Fund, a program designed to assist University students financially.



## **Maroon Eagle Award**

For incoming College  
freshmen in the USA  
**\$1,000.00**



## **Light Blue Lux De Coelo Awards**

Students in Sri Lanka  
Five SACK Students



## **Dark Blue Eagle Award**

Demonstrating  
academic excellence,  
leadership &  
community service  
**\$1,000.00**

visit [sackobausa.com/scholarship](http://sackobausa.com/scholarship) for details

## Future Forward Excellence Scholarships

SACKOBA-USA, proudly launched the **Future Forward Excellence Scholarships (FFES)**, a new initiative designed to support college-bound students who exemplify academic achievement, leadership, and community engagement. Through this initiative, SACKOBA-USA awarded **seven scholarships**, including two flagship U.S.-based awards:

**The Dark Blue Eagle Award:** A \$1,000 scholarship granted to the legal child of a SACKOBA-USA official member.

**The Maroon Eagle Award:** A \$1,000 scholarship granted to a U.S.-based student who meets the broader eligibility criteria.

In addition, **up to five Light Blue “Lux De Coelo” Scholarships** will be awarded to deserving students in Sri Lanka nominated by St. Anthony’s College.

*“Launching the FFES program has been a labor of love,” noted **Dr. Bathiya Kasthuriarachi**, Chair of the Education Outreach Committee. “It reflects our belief that talent is universal, but opportunity is not. Through these awards, we hope to close that gap for our youth.”*

The scholarships are funded by the SACKOBA-USA Corporate Fund, though the program is open to **external sponsorship**. Awards may be named after individuals, families, businesses, or organizations wishing to sponsor a scholarship, offering naming rights and promotional recognition.

*“This is not just a scholarship—it’s an investment in future leaders. We believe in empowering young minds to soar with confidence and purpose,” said **Aruna Abeyakoon**, President of SACKOBA-USA. “FFES brings to life our deep commitment to education, community upliftment, and honoring our Antonian legacy through tangible action. And we’re just getting started—our intention is to **scale up** the number of scholarships in all categories in the years ahead.”*

Applications opened on **September 7, 2025**, and closed on **November 20, 2025**. The applications are being evaluated at this time, and the winners will be announced by December 17, 2025.

This scholarship initiative is another significant step by SACKOBA-USA in **bridging heritage with opportunity** and reaffirming its role as a catalyst for **educational advancement and community impact**.

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CHALLENGE FOR ANTONIAN YOUTH

SACKOBA USA PRESENTS



# AI-CAY 2024

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CHALLENGE FOR ANTONIAN YOUTH

The St. Anthony's College Kandy Old Boys Association USA (SACKOBA-USA) is excited to announce the inaugural Artificial Intelligence Challenge for Antonian Youth 2024 (AI-CAY 2024). This event is organized and supported by the Academic Outreach committee of SACKOBA-USA, in partnership with several academic and industrial entities in the United States. This competition challenges Antonian youth to utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other accessible technology to design a versatile product that recreates the one-hundred-and-seventy-year history of St. Anthony's College from 1854 through 2024.

- **ENGAGE BY NETWORKING WITH AI FACILITATORS**
- **CREATE A CUTTING-EDGE PRODUCT USING AI TOOLS**
- **INNOVATE WITH INDIVIDUAL OR SMALL TEAMS**
- **WIN FABULOUS PRIZES:**
  - **FIRST PRIZE: \$500**
  - **SECOND PRIZE: \$200**



Scan for Information  
and Application

# SACKOBA USA

<https://sackobausa.com/ai-cay-2024>

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CHALLENGE FOR ANTONIAN YOUTH



## CONGRATULATIONS

The 115th Annual General Meeting of St. Anthony's College Old Boys' Association held at Thilanka Hotel, Kandy on 11th October 2025.

Mr. A. J. M. Mushtaq was elected as the President of the SACKOBA for the year 2025/26.



*Congratulations!*

**TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT**



**MR. A.J.M. MUSHTAQ**  
**GROUP 86**

We wish him every success to lead  
SACKOBA to reach new heights  
of excellence and service

**SACKOBA**



## **St. Anthony's College Kandy Old Boys Association USA Annual General Meeting 2025**

Dear Antonians,

You are warmly invited to the SACKOBA–USA Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2025, taking place on:

**Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2025**

**Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Pacific Time**

**Format: Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

[Meeting Link](#)

This AGM will review the key milestones and achievements of our inaugural two-year term, including scholarships, sponsorships, community initiatives, membership progress, and nationwide alumni engagement.

Your participation is invaluable as we reflect on our achievements and chart the course ahead for SACKOBA–USA.

LUX DE COELO

Warm regards,

ExCo SACKOBA–USA