

Vol. XXXVI No. 1

Fall 2012



Celebrating NGHS' One Hundredth Anniversary



A beautiful painting of the Tamarind Tree was given as a gift to NGHS from the Principal, Staff and Students of St. Joseph's Convent, San Fernando on the occasion of the school's one hundredth anniversary.
(Photo at Left) Mrs. Dinna Bainey, Principal (Left), made the presentation to Mrs. Patricia Ramgoolam, Principal of NGHS (Right).



OUMARALLY, BABOOLAL



Aneesa Oumarally, B.A., (Hons.) LL.B. Selwyn R. Baboolal, B.A., (Hons.) LL.B.

Please note our NEW ADDRESSS:

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The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada (NAAC) was founded in Toronto in 1978 and includes graduates of Naparima College, Naparima Girls' High School, St. Augustine Girls' High School, Hillview College, Iere High School, Naparima Teachers' Training College and St. Andrew's Theological College. Among other things, it supports programmes at alma mater schools as well as a steelband programme in schools in the Toronto area. All graduates coming to Ontario are invited to join the Association.

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CREDITS

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President's Message

I am back as President for a fifth successive term, 2008-2009 to 2012-2013. This is the first time in the history of NAAC that this has occurred, but this streak will be broken next May. This year's Executive Committee was boosted by three new members, Angela Jutlah, Larry Large and Shivana Ramkissoon, all NAAC Life members. They lead busy lives and also volunteer in other organizations, so I offer my personal thanks to them for giving some of their time and energy to NAAC's causes.

At the Annual General Meeting held on May 26, 2012, a major decision was taken to amend the NAAC Bursary Guidelines. This was based on the fact that the last time that bursaries were awarded to NAAC student members was four years ago. The present membership list indicates that there are no prospective applicants at this time. With this in mind, the Executive proposed a review of the guidelines. The following changes were voted on and approved by the House.

The first change was to remove "First-year university/college student" to "any student member enrolled in a university/college program". The second change was to the stipulation that the applicant "must be a NAAC Student member for two years" by replacing this with "the applicant must be sponsored by an NAAC member". The New NAAC Bursary Guidelines for 2012" are reproduced on pg 24, so please take the time to read them.

As the years go by and we have more time to consider longevity within our own families, the following seemed like simple good sense. Someone sent me an article written by a journalist about his parents. In it he includes the best advice I've read this summer, so I'm sharing it with you, the NAAC members in my age group. "His elderly father asked him if he knew the secret to a long life... NO LEFT TURNS. Since most accidents that old people are in happen when they turn left in front of oncoming traffic, don't turn left. Three rights are the same as a left, and that's safer."

From the Editor's Desk...

I heard it through the grapevine ... two NAAC members attended NGHS' Gala at the Hyatt in Trinidad. Jennifer Ragoonanan, who now resides in Florida, agreed to write of her experience at the finale of the 100th Anniversary celebrations. (pg. 8) Jennifer sent me pictures that were taken by the event's official photographer.

NAAC Life members, Gemma & Ronald Mahabir, also attended the gala along with their daughter and two grandchildren. Thanks Gemma for sending me your photos.

On page 23 is a review of Fred Thornhill's book," Dyslexia: Different not Disabled". I have known Fred for at least thirty-five years and had no idea that he was "different". Fred is a long-standing NAAC member who served as President for part of the first year of our organization's existence and for the whole of the second year, 1978-1979.

The pictures of our summer event at Woodbine were taken by G. Desmond Teelucksingh and Ian Ramdial. I can't thank Desmond enough for lugging his big camera bag wherever NAAC members are gathered. The results speak for themselves – photos that reproduce well. I also thank Rajiv Persaud of Bluetree Publishing and Design for doing a great job of putting together the issues of Broadcast. The finished product arrives in the mail with vibrant colours that pop.

It is heartening to receive submissions from brand new members, so keep sending in your articles, poems and news items. Without your input there won't be anything for me to do!

Merle Ramdial

La Pique 100 Fund Donations are being accepted up to December 31, 2012. Individual donations now stand at \$7,479

Merle Ramdial

Finance Report

This report reflects the Association's financial information as at August 31, 2012. Annual Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2013 will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

Bingo Account				
Bank of Nova Scotia	\$18,898.00			
General Account				
Bank of Nova Scotia	\$18,854.00			
TOTAL BANK ACCOUNTS	\$37,752.00			
NAAC INVESTMENTS				
Bank of Nova Scotia - Term Deposit				
– Balance at August 31, 2012	\$ 1,208.00			
Edward Jones GIC @ 2.0%	\$12,001.00			
Investment Planning Counsel - Inter Pipeline Fund:				
*1600 Units - B.V. per unit \$10.00				
(M.V. \$33,472.00)	\$16,000.00			
**Dividends earned – Apr/12 – Aug/12	\$700.00			
Riocan Real Estate Inv T/U				
(M.V. \$15,191.00)	\$14,654.00			

TOTAL INVESTMENTS

\$44,563.00

*Market value of the Inter Pipeline Fund as at August, 2012 was \$20.92 per unit. This reflects an increase of 109% over book value. The fund continues to earn dividends at the rate of \$140 per month which translates to a return of 10.5% per annum on that investment. **Market value of Riocan REIT as at August, 2012 was \$27.62 per unit an increase of 3.7% over book value. Dividends earned on this stock shows a return of 5.2% per annum.

The Association will be financing its commitments to the schools in Trinidad in the amount of \$6,260.00 in September, 2012. This is the sum of the following amounts to each of the five schools : NGHS, Iere, & SAGHS in the amount of \$1320 each, Naparima College in the amount of \$1120 and Hillview College in the amount of \$1180.

The money raised by the La Pique 100 Committee including funds from the dinner and dance held in June, 2011 plus donations after the committee disbanded totaled \$9,608.07. A cheque in the the amount of \$15,000 was sent to the NGHS Building Fund in Trinidad. This translates into a contribution of over \$5,000 from the Association's general account.

The event for the current fiscal year was a day at the races at Woodbine Race Track in August 2012. This event was intended to be subsidized by the Association to its members. Revenue earned was \$2,175 and expenses were \$2,265 which resulted in a subsidy of \$90 for the event.

The Association's revenue pool was supplemented by revenue from bingo sessions with a net return of \$5,200 as at the end of August 2012.

Respectfully submitted *Norma Ramsahai*, Treasurer



NOTICE NAAC GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 10, 2012 • 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church

4156 Sheppard Avenue East , Scarborough, ON

Refreshments will be served at Noon

Membership Report

MEMBERS

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP now stands at 295HONORARY MEMBERS27LIFE – REGULAR153LIFE – ASSOCIATE39ANNUAL – REGULAR52ANNUAL – ASSOCIATE20ANNUAL – STUDENT4TOTAL295

Thanks to all members who have renewed their membership for 2012.

Welcome to our new Executive members, Shivana Ramkissoon, Larry Large and Angela Jutlah, who have heeded our call for support. All three are Life members.

To our Annual Members, you are reminded that fees are due in January of each year.

NAAC hopes to celebrate the 35th Anniversary in May 2013.

As you are aware NAAC has been the longest surviving T&T alumni here in Canada.

How would you like to see us celebrate this great achievement? We do hope that everyone will bear this in mind.

As someone described aging "*as the birthdays come along*...." Well for NAAC we'll say "*as the anniversaries come along*".....yes we are aging too! We keep hoping that younger members will join us and keep the Naparima enthusiasm alive. Could we make this a goal for the 35th year?

Are there any *'thirtyfivers'* in our midst? Maybe, our offspring? They may not have attended any of our schools in Trinidad but will most certainly have the NAAC influence.

If you have never been to a General Meeting, why not make this one a first time.

We look forward to seeing you on November 10th. 2012.

Bingo Report

Bingo sessions are currently run at Ultimate Bingo Charity Association, 2355 Keele St., Toronto, Ontario. The hall manager has informed us that this location will change at the end of the lease in December 2012. The future location still has to be finalized.

For the current fiscal period April 1st 2012 to August 31st 2012, NAAC was responsible for 13 bingo sessions. Revenue earned for that period with an estimated projection for July & August 2012 amounts to approximately \$5,200. This averages out to about \$400 per session, and reflects a decrease of about \$100 or 20% per session over the same period last year.

This decrease in revenue reflects to a certain extent bigger payout prizes and a slight decrease in attendance. Hopefully this is only temporary and our revenue would increase to around the \$500 per session mark. We need revenue from bingo funds of approximately \$12K annually to financially manage our steelband and bursary programs at West Humber Collegiate Institute and Cedarbrae Collegiate to maintain the status quo. For this fiscal year, bingo revenue was used to pay honoraria to steelband instructors at West Humber Collegiate and Cedarbrae Collegiate, bursaries at WHCI, plus covering 50% of the cost of steelpan tuning at WHCI and at Cedarbrae Collegiate.

Special thanks to all our volunteers and our team leaders, Vitra Mungal, Ian Ramdial, and Norma Ramsahai for their help and commitment in running the bingo sessions. We look forward to your continued contribution and support.

Norma Ramsahai Bingo Manager

Cynthia Ramdeen Chair, Membership Commitee

Communications Report

Although the deadline for submissions to the Fall issue of Broadcast was set for September 27th, we have had to wait for confirmations of several dates before sending the files to the printer. You should all have received your copies of Broadcast just after Canadian Thanksgiving. We continue to solicit advertisements from small business owners. The ads are very reasonably priced at just \$25/quarter page (B&W), \$50/ half page, \$75/three-quarter page and \$100 for a full page. The inside back cover is priced at \$150. Contact Ras Shreeram at 416-743-1331 or rasras@ rogers.com.

Over the summer months, regular maintenance of the website continued with updating of the online files i.e. membership lists, names and contacts of the new executive members, notices etc. If you know HTML and would like to lend a hand with the website, please contact me at: 905-844-1254 or mjramdial@hotmail.com

I have five copies of the book "Zalayhar: The Life of a First Lady" please call me if you would like to purchase a copy.

Merle Ramdial

Chair, Communications Committee

- REMINDER -

NAAC MEMBERSHIP

Please remember to renew your NAAC Membership. The membership year runs from January to December.

Social Report

At the first meeting of the new Executive, the Social Committee Chair was appointed. Along with Wendy Rostant as Chair, new Committee members Shivana Ramkissoon and Angela Jutlah have volunteered to work on this team.

The first event for the new NAAC year was the Woodbine event which was held on August 26th. Everyone enjoyed the buffet lunch and afternoon at the races. (See Angela's take on the event on pg. 7). This was not intended as a fundraiser for NAAC, but as a true "social".

Our next event is planned and tickets are in the hands of members of the Executive. Call or email any member to book your tickets for our Annual Christmas Dinner & Dance being held on Saturday, November 24th, 2012. The advertisement on page 11 has all the details.

The year 2013 will be the 35^{th} year of NAAC's existence.

How shall we celebrate?

Here are some suggestions in no particular order:

- Visit the Finger Lakes District, NY for a few days
- Go on a 5-7 day cruise
- Have a brunch with entertainment in Toronto
- Pay a visit to Atlantic City by train or bus
- Have a special dinner & dance in the Spring

OR if not any of the above, please let's hear your suggestions. Call or email any member of the Executive or Social Cttee:

Wendy Rostant • Tel: 905-542-3548 E-mail: rostant@idirect.com

Shivana Ramkissoon • Tel: 416-803-6496 E-mail: fanaticdolphin@hotmail.com

Angela Jutlah • Tel: 416-445-8302 E-mail: ajutlah0508@rogers.com

Wendy Rostant Chair, Social Committee

Steelband Report

After-School Community Teaching Program:

Steelpan classes resumed at both the West Humber C.I. and Cedarbrae C.I. venues in September. It's looking like another great turnout for the Beginner class at West Humber. Randolph Karamath will be teaching the classes at Cedarbrae and Al Foster will do the same at WHCI. In the Beginner class at WHCI some basic music theory will be included in every session in an attempt to better prepare the graduates who strive to join the Panache steelband.

School Partnership Program:

NAAC plans to continue its support for the day school steelband program at both Cedarbrae C.I. and West Humber C.I. by providing bursaries and awards to students and sharing in the cost of tuning pans.

Panache: Since the report in the last newsletter, Panache has performed at a number of private gigs. In April, several students from the West Humber day school steelband program played with Panache at the school's annual Music Night ... a performance that was well received. In April we entertained volunteers from the Peel Children's Aid Society at their annual appreciation dinner and we were invited to play in June for their Executive Director's retirement affair. In July, the band performed in a televised benefit concert at the New Life Covenant Centre in Malton. Panache also performed at the Mt. Sinai NICU Picnic at High Park.

Larry Large Steelband Liaison

Music Notes from West Humber CI

A quick update on recent events at WHCI: Firstly a big thank you to the NAAC for their continued support of our steel band program at West Humber CI! Award winners for the 2011-2012 year were: Phuong Lam: recipient of the NAAC Steel Band Millennium Scholarship, Mandy Leung: recipient of the NAAC



Phuong Lam, recipient of the NAAC Steel Pan Millenium Scholarship, 2012

Steel Band Bursary; Ilwad Mukhtar: recipient of the **NAAC Steel Band Award**. The awards provide much incentive for our students to strive for the highest levels of excellence, while at the same time enjoying the art of playing steel pan in an ensemble setting. Award winners are all attending post-secondary institutions and are putting their awards to good use, helping to cover book and tuition costs. All three were extremely dedicated to the steel band program, playing for over 30 performances in their last year alone. They also shared the history of the steel pan, the evolution of the instrument, and other interesting facts during their presentations at schools, assemblies and church performances. Thanks again to the NAAC!

WHCI Music visited **Cleveland**, **Ohio** in May 2012, returning to Ravenna High school, with whom we have visited in 2002 and 2010. It was a great visit once again, with a combined concert featuring steel bands and soloists from both schools, and WHCI's Drum Line and Motown Bands and vocalists. We also visited *Panyard Inc.* and saw many other great sites along the way! More information at www.whcimusic.com.

Joe Cullen, ACL The Arts

NOTICE: Steelband Classes • 2012/2013 Season

West Humber Collegiate Institute Start Date: September 25, 2012 Time: 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Instructor: Al Foster Contact Larry Large: 905-813-6015 email: llarge@rogers.com



Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute Start Date: September 17, 2012 Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Instructor: Randolph Karamath Tel: 416-283-4152 email: ramachez@hotmail.com

The Woodbine Event

As well as our spiritual nurture, NAAC engages in a wide variety of social events with wonderful opportunities for members and friends to get together. The Woodbine event on Sunday August 26th was one such opportunity - and the first venture of its kind for NAAC!

A group of fifty-seven members and friends were greeted in the Favourites Dining Room at the Woodbine Race Track and taken to assigned tables, overlooking a spectacular landscaped setting. For a few, it was the first visit to a racetrack. For others, the extensive remodeling at Woodbine that now includes multiple race courses, was a great learning experience.

Woodbine Race Track opened in 1956 and is acknowledged as Canada's premier horse racing track. No longer is it one track for thoroughbred horse racing and one for harness racing. There are now three race courses. The outermost E.P Taylor track is turf, irregularly shaped, one and a half miles long and is used for Thoroughbreds. Inside the Taylor track is the main Polytrack synthetic dirt course, also for Thoroughbreds, oval and one mile long;



and inside the dirt course is a third course made of crushed limestone for standardbred racing. What we saw were the Thoroughbreds in action.

Of course the complex racing program, which we all had at our tables when we arrived, included terms, unfamiliar to many of us in a racing context. "Purse", "maiden", "scratch", "also-ran", "underlay", "across the board" and "exacta" were only a few. But I think we all knew when we were "in the money" or when we were not or when the horse for which we were rooting, was in a "dead-heat".



Over a hearty casual buffet and with an excellent view of the entire track, in particular, the finish line, on a remarkable summer day, there were many smiling faces and lots of chitchat.

It was a great opportunity to socialize and enjoy the excitement of horseracing at Woodbine's spectacular racetrack.

For some, the afternoon ended when the live racing wrapped up around 5 PM. Others extended their stay and luck by going to the slot machines using the free coupons that everyone received from Woodbine as part of the NAAC group contract.

NGHS 100th Anniversary Gala Ball by Jennifer Ragoonanan

NGHS marked its 100th anniversary in January of 2012. To celebrate the occasion, the institution has been hosting a series of events which culminated in a Gala ball held at the Port Of Spain ballroom of the Hyatt Regency in Trinidad. The Gala was held under the distinguished patronage of her Excellency, Dr. Jean Ramjohn-Richards, First Lady of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and patron of the Centenary activities. The theme of this event as per all other activities was 'Youth Undaunted' which is the name of our school song. Past students, teachers and friends both from home and abroad were all gathered in this one place for a sold-out Gala that was a resounding success.

I was fortunate to be part of this celebration. On arrival at the Hyatt, guests were greeted by the welcoming smiles of the centenary committee. We were presented with a beautiful silver gift bag decorated with purple accents which I did not delve into until later that night.

As we entered the bar area, we were treated to a non-alcoholic cocktail which was a tamarind drink, symbolic of the Naparima Girls' High School(NGHS) iconic Tamarind tree, the logo of the Centenary Celebrations.

Since I was anxious to enter the ball room and to find our table, I greeted some of my friends and proceeded to the ballroom where I was mesmerized by the beautiful coordination of colours.

The ballroom was transformed into an enchanted space with varying shades of lilacs, blues, silver, purple, plum and pink. Each table was covered with purple and white table cloths, a center piece of a branch signifying the tamarind tree, decorated with strings of clear beads. When you examine closely this tree branch, there were even tiny tamarind tree leaves in silver and pink to complete the décor. This is the creativity that is nurtured by our institution Naparima Girls High School.

The ball room filled up very quickly with everyone busy locating their respective tables but sometimes lingering to greet familiar faces. The ladies were all exquisite in their ballroom gowns and the men



NGHS Principals

equally complemented them, looking very handsome in their formal attire. Everyone was walking around meeting and greeting until we all had to stand at our tables to welcome their Excellencies President George Maxwell Richards and Dr. Jean Ramjohn-Richards, First Lady of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Also in attendance were the Minister of Public Administration Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan, MP for San Fernando West, former principals Mrs. Jean Bahadur, Mrs Mavis Leewah, current principal Mrs. Patricia Ramgoolam, Dr. Jennifer Yamin-Ali, Chairman and other Members of the NGHS Centenary Committee.

The formal part of the evening included the launching of the 'The Non Nobis Foundation' by her Excellency Dr. Jean Ramjohn-Richards. The purpose of this foundation is to promote volunteerism within the NGHS community. This name 'Non Nobis' was taken from "Non nobis solum sed omnibus' part of our uniform badge and school motto, which means 'not for ourselves only but for all'– not for Presbyterians only but for all young women of Trinidad and Tobago.

As soon as the formal part was over, we were entertained to the beautiful sound of violin music provided by Anselm Walters. Anselm played music for our dining listening pleasure, while we sipped wine and enjoyed our four-course meal.

After dinner, some of us visited the ladies room. (continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

This was the ideal place to meet ladies close up and converse at length without disturbance. There were several conversations at once.

There were pictures being taken as we met friends whom we had not seen in years. Past students from Toronto, Miami, New York and of course Trinidad met to share memories from La Pique as Naparima Girls' is sometimes called. The camaraderie, the bonding, the feeling of sisterhood was felt strongly in this room. It did not matter which year we

graduated or what part of the island we lived. At this moment, we were one family and it felt good.

When I returned to the ballroom I decided to walk around and meet some of the guests. I was pleasantly surprised to meet principals past and present, my former teachers and colleagues and even a few of my students. At this point I felt as if I was on the hill again and had to conduct myself as was expected of a Naps girl but then, the music started. We were being entertained by the live band Louis and the Lynx. It was difficult to resist dancing to such good music. Soon I was relaxed again and started moving towards the dance floor.

Everyone was dancing and still socializing on the dance floor. When the band stopped playing, we were dancing to the music of DJ Scoobie. Some of us even danced the electric slide while others were entertained by the performance. During the course of the night, a professional photographer was busy taking photographs of the guests, some candid shots and others staged with groups of friends.

The music stopped at a certain point to allow for the drawing of door prizes. It was only now

I decided to look into my silver gift bag and so did everyone else. I was pleasantly surprised to receive a souvenir pen accompanied by a scroll which was an invitation for a monetary pledge towards the Non Nobis Foundation. This was a clever way of telling us that we could use our new pen to write a cheque



NGHS alumnae framed by some of the elaborate decorations.

for the foundation. Soon after, we were invited to dance again to the music of DJ Scoobie. We danced the night away until the Hyatt regency staff began to remove the table cloths which signaled to us that it was time to go home. What an enjoyable nostalgic night this was! I will remember this night forever.

NGHS has been providing secondary education to girls since 1912. The institution has produced young women who have excelled in all walks of life, both at home and abroad. These NGHS graduates have made positive contributions to their respective societies. NGHS was fortunate to have some of them present at the Gala ball.

Tonight's celebration has reminded us of the importance of this institution which continues to be at the forefront of Education in Trinidad and Tobago. This is reflected by the number of scholarships and awards they have received over the years.

Congratulations to the centenary committee and all Naps girls and associates who have worked so diligently to ensure the success of these activities to celebrate the school's centenary.

In 1912 the Canadian Missionary, Reverend Dr. Fulton Coffin had the vision to provide

secondary education for girls in south Trinidad. He accepted this challenge and so NGHS was born. 'Happy 100th anniversary NGHS and may you have continued success in the years to come'.

The First Woman to Enter Naparima Boys' College

The year was 1931, the year I, Tennyson A. Haqq, was born in Trinidad. My sister Josephine H. Haqq was attending Naparima Girls' High School until 1930, but wanted to continue her studies to obtain her Cambridge School Certificate. Her girls' high school did not have adequate facilities to offer courses for the Senior Cambridge School Certificate, so she sought an alternative option.

She was advised to write the entrance examination for the Naparima Boys' College Senior Cambridge Class along with other male and female students from the island. To the surprise of many, she topped the group. That year the top student was to be awarded free education at the Naparima Boys' College. The authorities at the Boys' College had not expected that a girl would be the top student and tried to suggest to her to forego the award and to seek alternative options, such as marriage and raising a family. But she had learned the value of education from her father, David A. Haqq, who was a Head Master in the Canadian Missionary school system and insisted that Naparima College should honor the award and accept her into the class.

After some discussion, the College decided to accept her into the Senior Cambridge class at the Naparima Boys' college, but were unable to house her on the boys' campus. Arrangements were then made for her to live on the girls' campus and to attend classes at the boys' school before and after lunch.

To add to her challenges with her studies, I was born on the 5th October 1931, and she was called upon to assist our mother who had six other children at home. After a few weeks of missing school she returned to continue with her studies. In December that year she wrote the Senior Cambridge examination with the Naparima Senior Cambridge class and was the only student to obtain the Senior Cambridge School certificate.

Josephine, who knew the importance of education, continued her studies at the Naparima Training College for teachers and later began her teaching career with the Canadian Missionary Schools in Trinidad.

In 1937 our mom passed away, and in 1939 our



dad also died, leaving her to care for nine other siblings. But these challenges did not deter her from instilling in us the importance of education. All siblings completed high-school and six went on to obtain University degrees.

Josephine was married to Stephen S. Alisharan in 1944 and had four children of her own. Not to be outdone by her siblings, her four children as well as her husband, also obtained university degrees, followed by respectable careers.

Josephine was wise and gentle. She demonstrated to all what hard work and perseverance could accomplish. My sister was not the fighting radical type, but rather the quiet and unassuming individual who showed by example how to work diligently within the system for change. She sacrificed many of the personal rewards of life for the sake of education. She, being a pioneer, opened the gates of Naparima College to accept students who met the required entrance qualifications, both male and female. She had fought for the right of all female students to be educated at that prestigious school. It is no wonder that many of her siblings entered the educational field after graduating from university.

She was born on 18th October 1915, in Trinidad, and died on 16th March 2011, at age 95, in Richmond, BC, Canada. She lived a long life and was proud of the educational accomplishments of her family. Her remains are buried in the Tunapuna cemetery in Trinidad.

P.S. This tribute was written in collaboration with Josephine's daughter, Joy (Alisharan) Hamblin.



NAAC Photos



Panache setting up to perform at a picnic in High Park, Toronto.



NAAC member Gemma Mahabir & daughter Sherry at NGHS 100th Anniversary Gala Ball





NAAC member Jennifer Ragoonanan with NGHS Principal Patricia Ramgoolam at 100th Anniversary Gala Ball

Woodbine Event Photos













Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for Marilyn White

Marilyn White (née Ramasra) (NGHS, NC) was recently awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal by Jeunesses Musicales Canada (JMC) for her 20 years of service as a volunteer with the Fort Town Concert Association (FTCA), Prescott, 10 years of which she served as Chair of FTCA's executive committee. www. ieunessesmusicales com



jeunessesmusicales.com . www.ftca.ca

JMC, headquartered in Montreal, is the Canadian affiliate of Jeunesses Musicales Internationales (JMI), which was founded in Belgium in 1940, to promote Youth and Music as a means of "combating the forces of racism & intolerance". FTCA, a centre on JMC's touring circuit, is celebrating 30 years of presenting classical concerts in Prescott. Some of the youthful musicians that played in Prescott through JMC include contralto Maureen Forrester, the Orford String Quartet, cellist Ofra Harnoy, violinist James Ehnes, baritone Russell Braun, & pianist

Jamie Parker. "We heard them first!"

Marilyn dedicates this honour to the memory of her parents, Clement (NC, NTC) and Mildred (NGHS, NTC) Ramasra, who nurtured her love of music from the beginning, and to her husband Peter who remains the still point of her turning world.



Coo-coo for Canada

By Cecily Asson, Trinidad Newsday, Thursday, May 3, 2012

The wife of the Governor General of Canada, Sharon Johnston, yesterday requested a slice of coo-coo to take with her on her flight back to Canada, in the event the food being served on the plane was not tasty enough.

Johnston made the request for the local cornmeal dish during her visit to Naparima Girls' High School, San Fernando yesterday morning. Naparima Girls' High School is known for its culinary skills as they have produced several cookbooks which is used at home and abroad.

Johnston was at the all girls Presbyterian secondary school to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the institution by the Canadian Presbyterian ministry.

She was introduced to coo-coo which was on display in the school's kitchen. She was in the kitchen to show off her baking skills.

Johnston donned her apron and rolled up her sleeves as she took over the cooking class and showed the girls how to bake her popular cinnamon buns, which she is said to be well known for all over Canada. Her request for coo-coo caused an immediate stir among nutrition teacher Sherry Ann Pragg and her students and arrangements were made for her to get the dish to take away with her.

Johnston's down-to-earth style captured the girls' attention and moments after leaving the kitchen and chatting with them she made her way into the school yard where a tamarind tree was planted to mark her historic visit. A few feet away, an older tamarind tree planted 95 years ago still stands.

Johnston, who accompanied her husband David Johnston on a three-day visit to Trinidad, had addressed school students, telling them that they have good role models in female leaders such as Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and Dr Jean Ramjohn-Richards, wife of President George Maxwell Richards. Ramjohn-Richards, who was present, is a past student of the school.

Johnston, 69, a mother of five and grandmother



Sharon Johnston, Vice-Regal Consort, donning an apron to learn how to make coo coo.

of eight, said to the students, "Starting with Her Excellency, (Ramjohn-Richards) who is among the exemplars and who only two years ago gave up a full time medical practice, last night (Tuesday) we were with your Prime Minister who is an example of a very attractive woman, someone who openly talked of the pressure of her job."

Johnston said Persad-Bissessar revealed to her that to stay healthy she took up badminton.

Telling the students that they are the leaders of the future, Johnston went on to say that as they grow older and assume leadership roles their lives must continue to be exciting.

"So like your prime minster, she is a very good example of someone who is a driven person ,who is leading a coalition government but at the same time she knows it is important to be attractive, to be intelligent."

She said it was also important to sustain long relationships whether it is with friends or in marriage. Johnston said she keeps fit with bike rides and swims regularly across the lake in her hometown. She has also managed a one acre farm, breeds horses and baked and sold cinnamon buns door to door.

La Trinidad by Zita Hinson

Get your Zabuca, Sapodilla and Mango Over here! Over here! Chenet, nice ripe fig and don't squeeze the tomato Fresh fish, goat meat and oxtail A nice, nice souse you can make with pig tail Make your man happy keep him healthy and hale Last call! Before we go home can't make all this good provision waste We closing now! The raucous voices calling, cajoling, while packing up in haste You have now entered the fascinating world of the open market place

From the Northern coast of Port-of-Spain right down Icacos way Come and bathe in the salty waters of Mayaro, Las Quevas and Maracas Bay Hear the steel band play See the bodies sway Dust, noise, heat, jump to the Calypso beat Fete, Carnival, Bacchanal Feel the rhythm, taste the excitement, it's phenomenal

English, French, Hindi and Spanish are but a few These are the languages that make up a fine Trini callalloo Black and yellow, brown and white make up the island's population And out of many, emerged one unique nation

Now Columbus lost his sense of direction Perhaps from bad Spanish rum or running to and fro from a bowel affliction He kept getting lost and more lost every day So he decided to pray He raised his eyes to the sky And Behold! Three peaks he espied Thank God! Land in sight, talk about glad So glad that he named it Land of the Holy Trinity – La Trinidad

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From East to West

by Ronald Mahabir

Peaceful lived the humble people Rich in love in values high Malice dwelt not in their customs And their language told no lie.

This was life in India's province This is how it was for years. But when England wanted workers Then life changed and brought new fears.

On the lookout were recruiters To beguile the innocent. Young and old they sought for labour Taking them to west they went.

One day grandma went job hunting Registered in Fisabad. First by train and then by steamship Bound for island Trinidad.

Taken to a sugar estate, Settled in a barrack room, Given peas and rice and saltfish, Cutlass, hoe, or spade or broom.

While the adults did the weeding Young ones dug out "Para grass". Sugar canes were cultivated For its sucrose and bagasse.

Rain and heatwave and hard labour Took their toll on strength and mind. A dispenser gave out quinine; Some field drivers were not kind.

Year in which Ramrajee passed on, It was nineteen fifty two. Leaving young and old descendants, 'Bout two hundred seventy-two Four reunions brought together Grandchildren from far and near. Joy in meeting, chatting, laughing, Life is precious here or there.

These were Ronald Mahabir's reflections on the life of his grandmother, Ramrajee.

Thomas Christie: Presbyterian Pioneer in a Trinidad Mission Field by Ronald Mahabir

Rev. Christie (1874) was the third Canadian Missionary following in the footsteps of Rev. John Morton (1868) and Rev. Kenneth Grant (1870)

> This book is available from "A Different Book List" 746 Bathurst St. Toronto M5S 2R6 Phone: (416) 538- 0889 *Cost: \$20.00*

Congratulations to

First time grandparents *Winston (Packnin) & June Look Foe* on the birth of a granddaughter Scarlett Ewa on July 11, 2012

Joy Sammy and Hugo Bohorguez on the birth of their first child, Mateo, born in May.

Congrats also to *Kathy Sammy*, proud grandmother of two now.

Christine Arjoonlal, grandma to fraternal twins born early August.



Condolences are extended to the following members ...

- *Norma Ramsahai* and her family on the sudden passing of her sister Gemma on July 30, 2012.

 Wendy Rostant whose mother died shortly after returning to Trinidad from Mississauga

– Angela Thomas on the death of her brother Leon Manickchand on June 22, 2012 in Sao Paulo, Brazil

- *Ras Shreeram* whose brother Rishi died on May 19, 2012

- Family of Manshad Mohammed, who passed away on May 3, 2012



Clyde Hosein

Clyde Hosein was born in Couva, Trinidad on April 24, 1940, the second of five children. His father, Lionel Clarence Hosein, was a teacher and a chemist. His mother, Vera Hosein, nee Hansraj Gangadeen, converted to Presbyterianism upon her marriage.

Clyde attended Naparima College until 1957. During his teens he began writing poetry, publishing in newspapers such as "Thunder," of Guyana. In 1960 he moved to London to study economics and slipped into the literary life of London. In 1962 he returned to Trinidad intending to go back to London. Instead he stayed in Trinidad, first working with the Caribbean Development Corporation., then with Radio Trinidad and various advertising agencies. He wrote the Trinidad Guardian column "Focus on the Arts" and other editorial pieces, was the presenter of "Book Talk" on Trinidad and Tobago Television. He produced a film "Theatre of the Streets" that was televised in the US. He worked in PR and

Awry by Clyde Hosein

If you travel fairly often on Toronto's public transit system, sooner or later you should come face to face with Felix Jaimungal, this fraud with whom I'm staying.

Gives me a cot behind a pile of his lost daughter's old clothes and toys while he and Frank, his current and sole student, share the big bedroom. Sometimes I pop in there to grab reading matter from that sea of books, files, papers garnered over a campus life of chronic studying and teaching. Or so he claims.

To tell you the truth, I don't know where I would have gone, had not this cramming pedagogue roped me that very day Annamaria went funny on me.

So I t-o-o-k, not stole, a few dollars from the bank, but what the hell! Annamaria can't boast a morally compliant progeniture. And I only took back what someone else took from me. Peter must pay for Paul, right? advertising and was a Director of the Lonsdale Hands organization in the Caribbean.

In 1971 he moved to Toronto and worked briefly in PR with the Ontario Medical Association. He was a contributor to CBC radio during the seventies and published in The Globe & Mail, Canadian Forum and other Canadian literary magazines. In 1978 he began writing short stories and was included in several Caribbean Anthologies. In 1980 his short story collection "The Killing of Nelson John" was published by London Magazine Editions. He continued writing short stories and poetry into the eighties. Clyde died peacefully on April 1, 2012 of congestive heart failure at Brampton Civic Hospital.

(Editor's note: We have permission to reproduce one of Clyde's short stories below. Thanks to Ramabai Espinet for making this possible through her contact with Clyde's wife, Jennifer Peacocke.)

Her family was always sucking up to the better dictator, before Castro came on the scene. Everybody can still remember that Juan and Roberto Haddad, like the Bacardis, ran off to far-flung lands. Her two uncles moved the pesos around and out in the belief that they were exercising their rights.

And now Jaimungal is making jokes about my name-change. He, a man whose foot swells up as soon as he lands a job! He has a money allergy, or so he says. If you ask me partner, it's sheer laziness crying indigence to palliate incompetence.

This is the man who said he was kicked out of the mosque for being a Sufi, out of the Hare Krishna for eating beef, out of the Synagogue because he believes that God is everything, out of the Buddhist pagoda for fulminating against atheists, out of the Lachine, Quebec library for running a cult.

"OPERATION GENESIS," his literature says. "We will teach poor kids. We will detoxify drug addicts. We will enlighten the rejects and the fatherless in

Fifty years later...

How many of the Naparima College staff members do you recognize?



(Editor's note: The original 1962 photo was taken by student Ken Rajkumar Maharaj. He was in his last year at NC and was walking by with his camera while the masters were getting ready to be photographed by the official Olympian photographer. He scanned this photo with a hand-held scanner way back in 1996 and posted it to his website www.naparima.org. Thanks for the memories Ken.) See page 22 for staff members' names.

WE DID IT! ROT ROT D WE CREATED THE WORLDS LARGEST Bus-up-Shot; Dhal Puri & Doubles at the Albion Islington Festival 200 (check out www.rotirotirestaurant.com or on Youtube: Worlds Largest Paratha	9
PARATHA or DHAL PURI single	Still only \$2.00 Each
WEDDING SIZE PARATHA (*feeds up to 12 people)	Still only S. 9.99 Each
DOUBLES WORLD'S LARGEST	Still only \$1.40 Each BUY 5 & GET 1 FREE
MINI ROTIS (your choice of Boneless chicken, goat, beef, shrimp or veggies)	2 For ^{\$} 7 ^{.00}
WEEKEND BUFFET BREAKFAST (sada roti, fry bake, Paratha, plantain, saltfish & tomatoes, bhaji, roast bigan choka, carilly, channa & alloo and lots more) FREE COFFEE OR TEA OR OVALTINE + FREE REFILLS FOR DINE-IN CUSTOMERS.	+ TAXES WHERE APPLICABLE
979 Albion Road, Etobicoke,	DTI ROTI Gear or a chance to win free Roti Roti Gear. Call Mr or Mrs Roti Roti today 416–745–9208 LUTELY NO ROTI IS COOKED BEFORE ITS TIME" [®]

Awry by Clyde Hosein (continued from page 19)

my School of Compassion."

Cult, my foot. Playing provincial and city governments for grants, is more like it. The man is a symbol, a talisman, a *thakur* of his race. He has "FREELY GIVE and FREELY TAKE," posted on his refrigerator door and on the mirror in his bathroom.

You see, we brought these Kulis from India to the Caribbean to cut cane, and some of their sons and daughters went off to London, Leeds, Loughborough to gain an English education which went awry on some of them, Like Fe.

He came out of it speaking of the group trance: the conspiracy between Freemasons, the Jesuits and the Pentagon.

When I met him he was on the Bloor Street subway platform on his way to change to the Yonge Street line north.

"Wait nah, wait nah," the Trini singsong rang in my ear. I turned and stared into big eyes under oily curls. Don't tell me," he had continued. "Farfan... Bryden..." "Honore de Bergerac is the name, my man," I had replied and held tighter to my zip-up hairbrush pouch with my gold wafers, put my other hand in my pocket with the money from my lastcashed social assistance cheque.

Honore de Bergerac heard the pink apartment street door click behind him, then the drone of Highway 401 rose to his right, alleviated by the chirps of silvery sparrows among the dry October's red and gold ever-changing windswept carpet.

Along Old Yonge Street to St. John's Church car park, a sharp wind reddened his powdery face, nipped his small ears.

Down the hill's footpath to Yonge Street, an image of the Party Leader pacing the dimness of The Cock and Bull intruded upon de Bergerac's contemplation of Jaimungal's imperviousness to advice.

"Forget this education malarkey," de Bergerac had told Fe. "Nothing but surrealism, my man; it has meaning only for losers." He was glad that student Frank had been sent across the road to the Loblaws to buy milk, bread, granting a clear forum for his lecture.

"Join something at which you have a chance at the top," de B. had concluded.

As the subway train roared into York Mills station, its host of cold seemed to push from the tube of its path and settle around de Bergerac. He hated Canada for this. And he loved it.

He felt for a moment, as he boarded, that he could deliver to the Party the riding of Rosedale if only he were allowed to use his family's history in the campaign, to display his crest above his name.

This is what he told the Party Leader and Aide as soon as he arrived to find candidates and workers in the pub drinking Turkish coffee and rearing for debate.

Now the leader, a computer software designer, stood, rattled a teaspoon in an empty mug, said. "First off, we have to get the Bank Act repealed. Banking must become government's exclusive territory.

"It's the only way to fight our rearguard action against this grievous esprit de corps, this agony they call civilization. Which is nothing more than gruesome distribution; attractive only to an enslaved mind.

"And to the enslaved mind, patriotism is the last refuge."

thought de Bergerac this man ought to meet my friend Salah Jung sometime. And he pictured the meal over which this meeting of intellects might occur. De Bergerac, imagining Szechwan shrimps and curried crab, swallowed his drool, and realized how hungry he was.

Book Review: Critical Perspectives on Indo-Caribbean Women's Literature

Critical Perspectives on Indo-Caribbean Women's Literature (Routledge Research in Postcolonial Literatures Series). Edited by Joy Mahabir and Mariam Pirbhai. New York: Routledge, 2012.

This book is the first collection on Indo-Caribbean women's writing and the first work to offer a sustained analysis of the literature from a range of theoretical and critical perspectives, such as ecocriticism, feminist, queer, post-colonial and Caribbean cultural theories. The essays not only lay the framework of an emerging and growing field, but also critically situate internationally acclaimed writers such as Shani Mootoo, Lakshmi Persaud and Ramabai Espinet within this emerging tradition. Indo-Caribbean women writers provide a fresh new perspective in Caribbean literature, be it in their unique representations of plantation history, anti-colonial movements, diasporic identities, feminisms, ethnicity and race, or contemporary Caribbean societies and culture.

The book offers a theoretical reading of the poetics, politics and cultural traditions that inform Indo-Caribbean women's writing, arguing that while women writers work with and through postcolonial and Caribbean cultural theories, they also respond to a distinctive set of influences and realities specific to their positioning within the Indo-Caribbean community and the wider national, regional and global imaginary. Contributors visit the overlap between national and transnational engagements in Indo-Caribbean women's literature, considering the writers' response to local or nationally specific contexts, and the writers' response to the diasporic and transnational modalities of Caribbean and Indo-Caribbean communities.

http://www.routledge.com/books/ details/9780415509671/

Joy Mahabir is Associate Professor in the Department of English at Suffolk County Community College of the State University of New York, U.S.A. She is the author of *Miraculous Weapons: Revolutionary Ideology in Caribbean Culture* (2003) and the novel *Jouvert* (2006).

Mariam Pirbhai is Associate Professor in the Department of English and Film Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. She is the author of *Mythologies of Migration*, *Vocabularies of Indenture: The Novels of the South Asian Diaspora in Africa, the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific* (2009).

Fifty years later... Naparima College Staff members

Front row L to R: Mr. Michael Hall (Dean of Studies), Mr. Ivan Bissessar (Vice-Principal),
Mrs. Joyce Matadeen, Mr. Wennel Best (Dean of Discipline), Mr. Percy Matadeen, Rev. James Seunarine (Principal), Miss Pearl Ojah, Mr. Selwyn Yamin Ali, Mr. John Sahadat (Dean of Residence),
Mrs. Joan Samlalsingh, Mr. Winston Mootoo (Sports Master), Mr. James Sammy.
Second row L to R: Mr. Allan McKenzie, Mr. Sukhbir Maharaj, Mr. Mahadeo Sook Maharaj,
Mr. Selwyn Jadoonanan, Mr. Ian Ramdial, Mr. Bissessar Maharaj, Mr. Edward Yee, Mr. Jim Baksh,
Mr. Trevor Turner, Mr. Stanley Algoo
Back row L to R: Mr. Errol Sitahal, Mr. Richard Kokeram, Mr. Ainsley Sankeralli,

Mr. James Lee Wah, Mr. Vernon Archer, Mr. Elmo Lennard

Book Review: Dyslexia: Different not Disabled

Publication Date: March 23, 2012

In *Dyslexia: Different not Disabled* Fred Thornhill suggests that dyslexia should not be viewed as a reading problem but rather as a different way in which some individuals relate to their environment. It is not limited to the classroom but influences all aspects of the person's life.

Fred was inspired to write the book through a conversation with Imogen Algoo who, after planting the seed, assisted him through out the process. She, along with Stanley read his early drafts and asked probing questions that helped Fred to unlock many of his hidden memories.

In this book Fred describes his experiences as an undiagnosed dyslexic as he journeyed from Balmain C.M. School through Naparima College and on to Sir George Williams University where he obtained his Master's Degree. On each step of the way he outlines the actions he took to cope with each new challenge starting with his Pre School years when his father mistook his difficulty to acquire reading skills as indicative of his inability to learn and the positive effects of his mother's interventions.

He describes how at Balmain C.M, Miss Eldica Baxter, his first teacher, who had no training in Special Education but guided by intuition and caring, devised teaching strategies to cater to his needs.

He recounts his experiences at San Fernando E. C. where Miss Sybil James mistook his perception difficulty for a vision problem and sent him to the Eye Clinic at the San Fernando Colonial Hospital. This caring is contrasted with the treatment he received at the hand of a cruel head master and the fun he had when, as an eleven-year-old, he was inadvertently placed in a class of teenagers.

Fred describes the challenges he faced at Naparima College and the strategies he devised to cope including his approaching Reverend Walls and securing permission to drop French, which was a compulsory subject. Dyslexia manifests itself outside the classroom. His experiences shed light on the way dyslexia affects the teenager. He shares his social misadventures with such sincerity, frankness and honesty that it allows the reader to feel his pain and to glory in his achievements.



He does not stop there but shares his experiences as an undergraduate and graduate student as well as his adventures in the world of work. Although some of the experiences were painful he was still able to see the humorous side and even to laugh at himself.

Dyslexia: Different not Disabled presents such revealing insights into the world of the dyslexic that it makes interesting general reading but compulsory reading for concerned parents and teachers.

About the Author

The author successfully navigated the Trinidad and Tobago and the Canadian educational systems despite the challenges imposed by undiagnosed dyslexia. His difficulties in reading and spelling were ascribed to him being lazy and careless. After obtaining the Masters Degree in Educational Technology from Sir George Williams University, he spent some years as Course Director in the Faculty of Education at York University, Toronto. At the faculty he was often invited to guest lecturer to the Special Education classes where he described his experiences as a dyslexic. The author also participated in workshops sharing his knowledge and experiences with Special Education Teachers, parents of dyslexic children and such children themselves both in Canada and Trinidad and Tobago

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- ISBN-10: 1467957259
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NEW NAAC Canadian Bursary Guidelines 2012

The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada (Toronto) is pleased to announce its 21st annual Canadian Bursary Program. A minimum of two bursaries, each valued at \$500 will be offered to successful applicants. The following are the guidelines under which the program is administered:

1. Each applicant must be a Canadian citizen or a Permanent Resident and must be enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited Canadian post-secondary educational institution.

- 2. Each applicant must be sponsored by a member of NAAC.
- 3. Each application submitted must include:
 - a. A completed NAAC Bursary Application form. (See next page)
 - b. Proof of Canadian citizenship or Permanent Residency.
 - c. An official transcript of the applicant's academic record for at least the prior year of studies at high school or post-secondary educational institution, whichever applies. The transcript must indicate **final marks**, not interim marks.
 - d. Proof of full-time enrolment in an undergraduate year of studies at an accredited Canadian **University, College or Vocational institution**. Obtain a confirmation letter from the Registrar's Office.
 - e. A covering letter, outlining the applicant's relevant interests and accomplishments. Because credit is given for the applicant's participation in school or community activities, documentation to support such involvement should be included.

Documentation may take the form of letters from teachers or organization officials, news articles, copies of awards etc.

- 4. All applicants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
 - Academic performance (grades)
 - Participation in school activities
 - Participation in community from a leadership perspective.

Financial need will be considered as a further criterion if a statement of need is included in the applicant's documentation. Consideration in this category will be over and above that given for academic performance and participation in school, community and NAAC activities.

Any information submitted regarding financial need will be kept strictly confidential.

5. All requests for information about eligibility, criteria and other related matters should be directed to the Secretary, Vilma Ramcharan at 416 284 5198 or viram@rogers.com

To download a copy of the Application form go to: www.naactoronto.ca



NGHS Preparatory School, Class of 195?

At extreme left, back row: Principal, Miss Pearl Ramcharan, Extreme right, back row: Miss Carol Goberdhan If you recognize any of the children in this photo, please let me know mjramdial@hotmail.com (Reproduced from Youth Undaunted, © NGHS, 2011)



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NAAC Toronto at Woodbine Race Track, August 26, 2012





Photos courtesy of G.D. Teelucksingh