



“BROADCAST”

Newsletter of the Toronto Unit

Naparima Alumni Association of Canada

*Naparima Teachers' Training
St. Andrew's Theological
St. Augustine Girls'
Naparima Girls'
Naparima
Hillview
Iere*

Vol. XXXII No. 2

Spring 2009



Photo by G. D. Teelucksingh



Barristers and Solicitors

OUMARALLY, BABOOLAL



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

3351 Cedar Creek Drive
Mississauga, Ontario
L4Y 2X9

T: (905) 366-5400
F: (905) 366-5404
e-mail: aneesa@oblaw.ca

Real Estate

Criminal

Personal Injury

Civil Litigation

Wills & Estates

Corporate Commercial

Family

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.

2008-09 NAAC Executive

President	Merle Ramdial	905-844-1254	mjramdial@hotmail.com
Past President	Selwyn Baboolal	905-366-5400	selwyn@oblaw.ca
Treasurer	Norma Ramsahai	416-283-0675	npramsahai@rogers.com
Secretary	Vilma Ramcharan	416-284-5198	viram@rogers.com
Assistant Secretary	Ras Shreeram	416-743-1331	rasras@rogers.com
Executive Member	Pam Rambharack	905-275-4201	prambharack@hotmail.com
Executive Member	Sheila Satram	905-812-5182	isatram@rogers.com

CREDITS

"Broadcast" is the newsletter of the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada, Toronto Unit and is published twice a year. The views expressed in articles published are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Executive or of the Association unless specifically stated as such.

Editor: Merle Ramdial
 Advertising: Ras Shreeram • 416-743-1331
 Layout & Printing: Bluetree Publishing & Design
 416-878-5218

Contributions and Correspondence should be forwarded to: The Editor, "broadcast"
 NAAC,
 Bridlewood Mall Postal Outlet
 P.O. Box 92175
 2900 Warden Avenue
 Scarborough, ON M1W 3Y9

Web Site: www.naactoronto.ca

CONTENTS

President's Message	2
Editor's Note.....	2
Finance Report	3
Communications Report	3
Bingo Report	4
Membership Report	4
Social Report.....	5
Steelband Report	6
Music Notes: West Humber Collegiate.....	7
NAAC Literary Awards Report, 2009	8
Christmas Dinner and Dance 2008.....	9
Naparima A.A. U.K./Europe.....	11
Christmas Dinner and Dance 2008 Photos	12-13
Mahal and De Concrete In De	
Middle Ah De Road	15-17
Tribute to Jerry Ramlochan	19
Condolences	19
News from SAGHS.....	20
News from NGHS	21
News from Iere High School	21
Tracing Bhojpuri roots in 'Chini-Dad'	22-23

President's Message

Congratulations to the Naparima Alumni Association of Quebec on their 30th Anniversary. Many of us from Toronto will celebrate with you on May 23, 2009 in Montreal. Our own Panache steelband is looking forward to making the trip to Montreal to perform at this special event and we ask our Toronto members for their support of our fundraising event, the Spring Fling Dance, on April 25, 2009, at St. Clements Roman Catholic Church in Etobicoke. Funds raised will go a long way in defraying the costs of transportation of pans and players to and from Montreal.

NAAC's Annual General Meeting will take place on May 30, 2009. A member of the nominating committee will be contacting you with an invitation to serve on the executive of your Association. Please give careful consideration to this request as we have been carrying on the Association's business a bit short-handed for the past year. If you would like to put your name forward, please call one of the members of the Nominating Committee - Selwyn Baboolal at 416-366-5400 ext.16, Norma Ramsahai at 416-283-0675 or Ras Shreeram at 416-813-1331.

We just had to do it! That is, make our very first increase in membership fees in 30 years starting in 2010. Canada Post made many changes to postal rates over the years and I don't know of any other organization that was able to hold out this long. We will honour our commitment to existing Life members, but we kindly request a voluntary contribution to offset the costs of mailing the newsletter to you. The mailing costs for overseas and U.S. members is close to \$10 per year. The alternative is that you can send us your updated email address and we will let you know when the newsletter is posted to the website and you can read it online.

By the time you get this issue of Broadcast, my term as President will be over. It was a pleasure serving and I wish to thank the other members of this Executive for their cooperation and assistance in looking after the business of the Association. Thanks to other senior members of the organization to whom I went for guidance and counsel in dealing with thorny issues.

All the best to the incoming Executive for the 2009 -2010 year.

Merle Ramdial

From the Editor's Desk

Members who attended the General meeting at 1050 McNicoll Avenue in Scarborough have seen the most recent award that NAAC received this past Fall. The 2008 Consul General's Diaspora Award for Excellence is displayed there. But for the members from far and abroad, we've included two photographs – one that enables you to read the inscription and another that was taken on the evening of the presentation at a gala held at the Harbour Castle Westin called "Steppin Out".

I am extremely pleased to include a piece written in Trini vernacular that took place at a well-known intersection in San Fernando, Sutton Street and Prince Alfred Street. (pg 15) I had to

have this story read to me so that I could fully appreciate the cadence.

On page 22 is a review of Peggy Mohan's book *Jahajin*. Peggy launched her book in Trinidad last Fall when she received extensive media coverage.

This is my last crack at editing *Broadcast* before the election of Officers for NAAC's new year and I must thank not only the contributors but the advertisers who continue to support our newsletter. Special thanks to Ras Shreeram who was in charge of advertising and to our publisher Bluetree Publishing & Design.

Sincerely,
Merle R.

Finance Report

This report reflects the Association's financial affairs at February 28, 2009. Annual Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2009 will be presented at the Annual General Meeting on May 30, 2009.

Bingo Account

(BNS) \$6,287.00

General Account

(BNS) \$30,617.00

TOTAL BANK ACCOUNTS \$36,904.00

NAAC INVESTMENTS

Bank of Nova Scotia - Term Deposit

– Balance as at Dec/08 \$ 1,185.00

Edward Jones – GIC @ 4.5%

– Balance as at Dec/08 \$10,936.00

Scotia McLeod - Inter Pipeline Fund:

1600 Units - B.V. per unit \$10.00 \$16,000.00

**Dividends earned - Apr/08-Mar/09 \$1,344.00

TOTAL INVESTMENTS **\$29,465.00**

**Market value of the Inter Pipeline Fund as at Feb 28, 2009 was \$7.49. This is reflective of the current general market conditions. The fund continues to earn dividends at a rate of \$112 per month which translates to a return of 8.4% per annum on that investment.

The Association has met its financial commitment to the schools in Trinidad and Tobago for the current fiscal year. The executive looked at the possibility of reducing the funding to the T & T schools after the T & T government started funding university education in terms of fees. But after further investigation it was decided to continue our support since the cost of books etc. is quite high and the bursaries would really make a difference to the needy students.

For the current fiscal year the main events that contributed to the Association's revenue pool were the 30th Anniversary Dinner & Dance, Christmas Dinner & Dance, Bingos, and Panache Steelband. Details of income and expense by each project will be presented in our Financial Statements for the fiscal year at the Annual General Meeting in May/09

Norma Ramsahai, Treasurer

Communications Report

At our Association's General Meeting held on November 8, 2008, three decisions were made concerning NAAC's communications.

First, that the online website album project be scrubbed. It was felt that the additional monthly costs to procure more space on the server could not be justified. The cost for hosting the www.naactoronto.ca site as it is now is \$16.75/month. If we were to accommodate an online album, the cost would increase to just over \$55/month.

The second decision was to create a Facebook page for NAAC to share news of upcoming events in the hope that we would reach a younger audience. Aneesa Oumarally volunteered and a page was set up. We can already see the tentacles reaching out.

A third item that had the approval of all present was to utilize the free community calendar in one of the ethnic newspapers, The Caribbean Camera, to advertise NAAC's upcoming events. We have done so and will continue to use this forum in the future.

If you know of other avenues for free publicity, please let us know.

Discussion at the GM also resulted in agreement that although we were raising the membership fees starting in January 2010, that early Life membership holders be solicited for donations to offset the higher cost of mailing the newsletter. Please send your donation to the NAAC P.O. Box listed on page 1. (\$10 per year will cover the cost of mailing to our overseas & North American members).

We continue the regular work of collecting and soliciting articles for *Broadcast* from the T & T schools as well as from the other stakeholders here in Ontario. We thank you for your submissions thus far and look forward to hearing from other members soon. We always welcome relevant photos, so look through those photo cards and send us your best ones.

With the help of Ras Shreeram, our Committee expects to procure new advertisements. Ras may be reached at rasras@rogers.com or 416 743 1331.

Merle Ramdial

Chair, Communications Committee

Bingo Report

Bingo sessions are run at Ultimate Bingo Charity Association, 2355 Keele St., Toronto, Ontario. We are fortunate in that NAAC has been granted more bingo sessions from **one** per month for the period January to June 2008 to **two** per month beginning July 2008 to the current date. This would mean a 100 % increase in our monthly bingo revenue starting July 2008.

For the current fiscal year April 1st 2008 to March 31, 2009, NAAC was responsible for 21 bingo sessions. Revenue earned for that period with an estimated projection for March/09 amounts to approximately \$11,000.00. This averaged out to about \$525.00 per session, an increase of about \$200.00 per session over the same period last year.

The increase in revenue per bingo session is good news and this profitability means that we would be able to financially manage our steelband and bursary programs at West Humber Collegiate Institute and Cedarbrae Collegiate with bingo funds.

Special thanks to all our volunteers, especially our team leaders, for their help and commitment in running the bingo sessions. We are always in need of volunteers and it is a great opportunity to share some fun and camaraderie with your fellow members. As Ras says if we lose bingo sessions his social life will go down the drain!! So give me a call at 416-283-0675. It is really easy and the team leaders will guide you along.

For this fiscal year, bingo revenue was used for the most part to fund the following programs:

Awarding of \$1000 of bursaries to Toronto students.

Funding the steelband programs at the two high schools which includes the payment of honoraria to steelband instructors and 50% of the cost of steelpan tuning.

Details of the individual items will be contained in the Profit & Loss statement to be presented at our Annual General Meeting on May 30th, 2009. Hope to see you all there.

Norma Ramsahai
Bingo Manager

Membership Report

As of March 31st, 2009 our membership stood at 324, made up as follows:

Honorary 28
Life 189
Annual 107

57% of the annual members are currently paid up.

30% are outstanding from 2008 and

13% are outstanding from 2006/07.

Telephone calls have been made to all the local area annual members that need to renew and they are being encouraged to register as 'life' members.

We welcome the following new members to NAAC:

Mr. Frank Basdeo, Mrs. Syntra Basdeo, Mr. Ken Boodhoo, Mrs. Lynette Boodhoo, Ms. Susanna Cluer, Mrs. Brenda Ramlochansingh Holman, Mr. Larry Large, Mrs. Barbara Large and new Life members Ms. Marline Price-Jones, Mr. Curtis Rampersad, Mr. Winston Look Foe & Mrs. June Look Foe.

Please note that effective January 2010 the membership rates will be increased as follows:

New Membership Rates as passed at the NAAC General Meeting, November 8, 2008

Member/Type	Single	Life
Reg	\$15	\$150
Associate	\$20	\$200
Student	\$10	NA
Family (Reg-Reg)	\$25 (15+15-5)	\$200
Family (Reg-Assoc)	\$30 (15+20-5)	\$250
Family (Assoc-Assoc)	\$35 (20+20-5)	\$300

Ras Shreeram

Chair, Membership Committee

— REMINDER —

NAAC MEMBERSHIP

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

Contact: Ras Shreeram

Social Report

Your Social Committee has been busy making plans for the following events.

Please mark your calendars!

Date	Event	Details
Saturday April 25, 2009	NAAC Spring Fling Dance St Clements Roman Catholic Church 409 Markland Drive, Etobicoke Price \$20.00	Time 8:00 pm to 1:00 am Cash Bar. Food and Beverages on Sale Music by DJ Sting and Panache Steelband
Saturday May 9, 2009	Fallsvew Casino, Niagara Falls Bus Trip Contacts: Pam Rambharack Tel# 905-275-4201 Sheila Satram Tel# 905-812-5182 Price: \$20 <u>Optional: Scheduled Show</u> 6 CHIX Avalon Theatre Sat: 3pm Show Tickets start at \$20 and available online	Pick up Locations and Times <u>East/Central</u> 1) 10 York Mills Road (Yonge and York Mills, across from Shell Gas station. Parking available) Pick up @ 10:30 am <u>West</u> 2) Kiss and Ride Hwy 10 (Hurontario St) and Hwy 401. (North of the 401) Pick up time @ 11:15 am Departure from Niagara: 7:00 pm
Saturday May 23, 2009	NAAQ 30 th Anniversary Dinner and Dance Montreal, Quebec See ad on page 19	Toronto Contact: Merle Ramdial mjramdial@hotmail.com 905-844-1254
Saturday June 6, 2009	NAAC's Jerry Ramlochan Memorial Golf Tournament Royal Ontario Golf Club See ad on Inside Back Cover	Contact: aneesa@oblaw.ca selwyn@oblaw.ca rasras@rogers.com
Sunday Sept. 27, 2009	Trini-Kaleidoscope II presented by NAAC's Literary Awards Committee Luncheon & Entertainment Elite Banquet Hall 1850 Albion Road, Etobicoke	Watch for details on our web site later on: www.naactoronto.ca
Saturday Nov 28, 2009	NAAC's Annual Christmas Dinner & Dance Elite Banquet Hall	More information later on

Submitted by: Sheila Satram, Chair, Social Committee

Steelband Report

NAAC Community Steelband Teaching Classes

Cedarbrae CI: Under the guidance of Randolph Karamath the NAAC-sponsored teaching program class at Cedarbrae CI currently has 20 members. It consists of both youths and adults with the youngest being 10 years old. Some of the students have previous experience and assist the newer players. The class is progressing very well.

WHCI: Under the guidance of Al Foster the NAAC teaching program at WHCI continues to thrive. Currently there are 20 members in the beginner's class. Some Panache members attend the beginner's class to assist the new players. In September, a number of players from last year's beginner class were invited to join the Panache band. They were given the opportunity to attend a second practice every Thursday to learn the repertoire in order to be gig-ready for upcoming open gigs. I am pleased to say that most of these players joined Panache at the Trail of Lights gig in December 2008 at Downsview Park with much success.

Anyone interested in enrolling in classes at West Humber can contact Sheila Satram by phone at 905-812-5182 or isatram@rogers.com. For classes at Cedarbrae, please contact Randolph Karamath at 416-283-4152 or ramachez@hotmail.com

School Partnership Programme

As part of NAAC's partnership agreement with both West Humber CI and Cedarbrae CI, each year NAAC helps to fund the maintenance of steelband instruments (tuning of pans) and, when possible, contributes to the purchase of new instruments. As well, two bursaries are awarded yearly, to graduating Grade 12 students who have excelled academically and are enrolled in first year post-secondary studies at an Ontario college or university. At least one of these bursaries is made to a student who has participated in the school's steelband programme. In addition, a steelband award is made each year to an outstanding student in any of the steelband music courses. This award is also extended to students at North Albion CI.

Awards made at last commencement exercises were:
Steelband Award – Kiranveer Dhillon (CCI), Jason

Quach (WHCI), Ashley Mathew (NACI).

NAAC Open Bursary – Denise Als (CCI), Razeena Bacchus (WHCI)

NAAC Steelband Bursary – Shanna Joseph-Campbell (CCI), Amardeep Lalli (WHCI)

In December 2008, Cedarbrae was invited to perform at over a dozen schools in the community attesting to the success of the school's steelband program and its performance bands. On April 2, 2009 the steelband was selected to perform at Massey Hall in Toronto and also at Panfest 2009 grand finale at the Bickford Centre in Toronto.

For details of steelband activities at West Humber CI, please see Joe Cullen's article following this report.

Panache Steelband

After a relatively quiet 2008 summer, the Panache gig schedule has been pretty steady. In November, there was an impromptu performance at Mangoz in Mississauga to celebrate the Obama victory and our regular command performance at the 2008 NAAC Christmas Dinner & Dance. Between November 2008 and February 2009, the band performed at six gigs, four of which were charity events.

Their calendar seems quite busy in the upcoming months with nine scheduled gigs as follows:

April 18/09 SNAPSO

April 23/09 West Humber CI Music Night

April 25/09 NAAC Spring Fling Dance, Etobicoke

May 23/09 NAAQ 30th Anniversary, Montreal

June 6/09 NAAC Golf tournament

June 12/09 Canadian Cancer Society
– Relay for life, Etobicoke

June 14/09 Mt Sinai Hospital

June 27/09 Lakeshore Yacht Club

Sept 13/09 Knox United Church, Caledon

Under the leadership of Al Foster we are busy learning new pieces to add to our repertoire for upcoming performances. Panache classes are held on Wednesday evenings following the Beginner class.

Panache is in negotiations with Wild Water Kingdom to resume our practices and performances during the summer months as we did in previous years.

Sheila Satram, Steelband Liaison

Music Notes: West Humber Collegiate

It's been an exciting year at West Humber for the music department! With over 25 performances between the steel bands, Motown bands and Drumline, there have been many opportunities for the students to travel and be heard. The highlight for the steel bands was the Dr. Martin



WHCI steel band members at Applewood United Church, 2009

Luther King Celebration Concert at Hamilton Place in January.

WHCI's Drumline played a solo for the pre-show and performed for the finale; the rhythm section backed nearly all the other acts, and the Motown band had a feature piece: "Superstition" by Stevie Wonder. Members of the Grade 11 and 12 steel bands performed "I Can See Clearly Now" with two vocalists, and also backed up R&B stars Divine Brown, Obie, and RENT Broadway star Kevin Spencer! It has been the fifth year in a row that WHCI music has been selected for this prestigious event.

Other music events included the Commencement and Awards Ceremonies, Remembrance Day, the Holiday Assembly, two Black History Assemblies, a retirement reception at Albion Library, pan music for a Braeburn formal dinner, pan performances at Camp Manitou, and playing for a multicultural music lecture class at University of Toronto Scarborough campus.

We also played entire Black History services at churches in Etobicoke, Mississauga, and Bolton, and the "Shop til You Drop" event. We are slated to do hands-on pan workshops and concerts at some schools in May, play downtown for the Music Monday event at Yonge and Dundas Square along with several other events.

Another highlight was a guest visit by Pan Superstar Duvone Stewart, who came to WHCI and played with the WHCI steel bands and spoke about being a professional pan player. This was absolutely amazing! Spring Music Night is Thursday April 23 at 6:30pm, and will feature the NAAC Panache steel band as special guests, under the direction of Al Foster!

The Drumline has had its best year ever, with several high-profile events such as the MLK show at Hamilton Place, the half-time show for the All-Ontario Football Championships at the Rogers Centre; and a live performance at the Royal York Hotel with R&B star Kreesha Turner for the Canadian Radio Music Awards. This event will be televised later this month. The Drumline is also featured in a six-part mini-series on Kreesha Turner due later this month as well!

Once again, WHCI is very appreciative of the support given by the NAAC for pan tuning. We also share a wonderful long-term partnership, and several of our pan graduates perform regularly with Panache. It's something that many of our pan players look forward to after graduating high school, filling that need to play pan and enjoy the reggae, soca and calypso music!

For more information, videos and pictures, check out www.whcimusic.com

Joe Cullen



Pan Superstar Duvone Stewart plays at WHCI!

NAAC Literary Awards Report, 2009

NAAC Literary Committee embarks on this year's fund-raising Trini Kaleidoscope II event, on September 27th, 2009, greatly motivated by the positive feedback on the focus that this initiative has had in the schools concerned. The Award starts as a financial incentive and in the process of students achieving, it opens wider channels of collaborating, researching, show-casing different works of literary genres and highlighting influence of art. Without doubt, the NAAC Community and Executive must be commended for adding this initiative to its list of other commitments, so we feel the need to add to the funds as we seek to increase the amount of the Award.

On a recent holiday to Trinidad, a short visit to NGHS peaked my pride and my interest in our several Alma Maters in the role of education of youth in Trinidad. It could be commented that beyond the mirage of the beauty of place and people of Trinidad, the cost of living is particularly high. Yet, people generally make great sacrifices for their children.

In a conversation with Mr. Roy Ramlogan, Principal, at Iere High School, he noted that the Award was 'a great incentive' to promote the Arts in a school environment where interest in Science is mostly dominant. It raises the importance attached to the Arts. The first Award recipient, Kavita Rajpath (previously published in one of our newsletters) is now pursuing Film Production, a new development in the Faculty of Arts at University of the West Indies. Kavita and her mother returned to their school for an Assembly and spoke of her incentive to pursue Film Production, and the scope and attractiveness of studies it entails. Mr. Ramlogan further remarked that a sixth form text could cost around \$600.00 so having a monetary award is valuable to a student. 'Your (NAAC) Association must be commended for giving a platform for promoting the arts.'

Closer to the city, the Principal of St. Augustine Girls' High School, Mrs. Kathleen Anderson, also underscored how a monetary award is appreciated. Despite the government's provision of free tuition, lunch and one book per subject per student, teachers note many cases of parents' inability to provide transportation and other basic necessities that result in student absences and non-participation in some school activities. The school pays attention and tries

to help. She also has observed that many students are multi-faceted, having ability in Science as well as the Arts. Her school has used the award to focus on students who show more interest and inclination in the Arts and help to facilitate their talent, thus raising the attractiveness of the Arts. An example was last year's winner, Maria Cardinez, who had set up a bulletin board for poetry, and over a period of two years, students worked at collaborating, evaluating and posting their work. It was a dynamic project. One cannot but feel humble to be part of any project that helps youth to find their path.

Returning to Mrs. Patricia Ramgoolam, Principal, Naparima Girls High School, where the first project was launched, Art has a profile. She said that her school has instituted a Creative Writing Club, which with the stimulus of the award being recognized at Speech Days, enhances student interest. She notes 'students like rewards'. Even more remarkable is that one of NGHS' graduates has gone on to establish her own publishing company and has kept up connection to the school. The creative writing culture of the school has been enhanced. I want to add that I felt the prominence of art and culture during my short visit there when I heard the sweet sounds of Pan orchestra coming from a class in session, housed in the Music Room in the Old Dorm. How different the world is now and we want to help the young women to try and keep up.

This award has been a cause we are passionate about, and the various schools adapting it to their particular school culture is great. There is enthusiasm and ownership. We feel that our next fund raising event should present the same smashing variety of excellent performances of Trini-Canadian artists in various art genres. With your support, we should be able to raise even more funds. We are proud of our heritage and we want to add to NAAC outreach to attract more young women to the Literary Arts or Arts in general.

See you in the Fall.

P.S. The NAAC Executive has approved an increase in the amount of each of the awards from C\$150 to \$1000 TT.

Karma Naike,

Chair, Literary Awards Committee

Committee Members: Ramabai Espinet,

Myrtle Gopeesingh & Brenda Holman

Christmas Dinner And Dance 2008

The annual Christmas Dinner and Dance, which was held at the Elite Banquet Hall on November 29th, 2008, drew a large crowd of approximately 300. Master of Ceremonies, Selwyn Baboolal, entertained the guests with his usual humour adding new anecdotes to his repertoire.

Merle Ramdial, President of NAAC, gave a brief report of the year's activities. Of special note was NAAC's acceptance of the 2008 Consul General's Diaspora Award for Excellence, which was presented on September 27th at a gala at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel in Toronto. The award recognizes NAAC for its charitable work in schools and communities, in Trinidad and Tobago and Toronto.

After the varied and scrumptious buffet dinner, Mr. Michael Lashley, Consul General for

the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, brought greetings to the guests. He lauded NAAC as the longest surviving Trinidad and Tobago organization in Toronto, praised NAAC for its charitable work, and remarked on the high standard of the news magazine *Broadcast*.

Panache, NAAC's own Steelband, distinguished itself in providing music for our entertainment. The guests showed appreciation for both Panache and DJ Packnin by dancing non-stop. In fact the dancing was in progress before the function officially started. Guests were truly in the holiday spirit and the spirit moved everyone to heartily support our raffle. The Social Committee received many donations of gift baskets for door prizes and raffle prizes and for this we thank our donors.

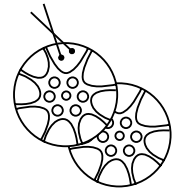
Submitted by
Vilma Ramcharan

NOTICE - Steelband Classes

Steelband classes for the 2008/2009 season continue at the following two venues:

West Humber Collegiate Institute
Time: 6:30 – 9:30 pm
Instructor: Al Foster

Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute
Time: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Instructor: Randolph Karamath



Steelband classes are held weekly.

Anyone interested in joining the classes can contact
Sheila Satram at 905-812-5182 or Randolph Karamath at 416-283-4152

BEST WISHES To ...

Zita Ramkay-Stanley

From:

All of us at NAAC
We are thinking of you as
you undergo treatment
for your illness.

Wayne Brown

REAL ESTATE SALES REPRESENTATIVE

**Professional and Personal Service
with the Power to Move You**

Office: 905.338.6550

Mobile: 905.330.7644

E-mail: wayne@waynebrown.ca



Prudential

Town Centre Realty Inc.
Brokerage

An independently owned and operated member of The Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.



In the Tradition of the DRUPATI's Taste

We are happy to announce

Drupati's Fine Dining
(LCBO Licensed)

Just Like Mom's Cooking

OPENING SOON

At

**4550 Ebenezer Road
Brampton, Ontario
Massey Corner Plaza
(Gore Road/Hwy 50/Hwy 7)**

YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME

For further information

Call: 416 745 4189

News From Naparima Alumni Association- U.K./Europe

PRESIDENT - The Reverend Canon John Metivier

MARCH 2009

How wonderful to report on Trinidadian successes.

Firstly, we must congratulate our President, John Metivier. He received a Gala Award, at the end of 2008 at the Imperial Banqueting Suite. These awards are made every four years, by the Trinidad and Tobago London Mission in association with the Trinidad and Tobago Professionals Network in the U.K. These organizations recognise contributions made for the promotion of the country and for personal achievements. John points out that there were awards for two other Naparima old boys: Dr. Kameel Khan, a prominent judge in the U.K. Tax Court and Mr. Krishna Ragbir, who received his award for long service in the Commission.

Secondly Ansel Wong writes as follows:

This is a record of another historic event for the T & T Diaspora in the U.K. Prof. Andrew Ramroop at his investiture for the award of his O.B.E.

In addition to his services to bespoke tailoring, Prof. Ramroop is a Sponsor of our Carnival Band, a recipient of the Chaconia Gold Medal from the T&T Government and an award from the British Associations of Steel Bands, for his contribution to Pan music as a player and aficionado.

He is also Windball Cricket Champion and Captain of our team as well as a celebrated All Fours Player.

There is a lot to him beyond just the expertise to dress the nation's most celebrated individuals, actors and influencers and gatekeepers of the high societies of the U.S.A., Russia and other countries.

OTHER NEWS

Leilia Sanowar McKee has sent us information re NGHS' 100th Anniversary from Facebook. It

is a message from Selma Mohan Lee: "In 2002 the late Miss Beulah Meghu suggested that the Alumnae produce a 'Book of Past Students' Writings'. As part of the Centenary celebrations coming up in 2012 we are going to do just that.

Having embraced this brilliant idea, a committee headed by Mrs. Ishmael has been formed. The committee's main purpose will be to collect writings from NGHS Alumnae, to be compiled, edited and published.

The Book Launch will take place as one of the Centenary Celebration functions in 2011. All past and present students are invited to submit photographs, anecdotes of friends and teachers, poems or any piece of creative writing. We ask that these contributions be e-mailed by July 2009."

To- naparima@tstt.net.tt or you can mail hard copies to- The Coordinator, Book of Past Students' Writings, Naparima Girls' High School, 4 La Pique Road, San Fernando."

COMMENTARY – on our recent events

Gerard Seeberan writes- "The Naparima Alumni annual cricket match, against a Buckhurst Hill cricket club Sunday eleven, was again a complete success for the alumni. This has become one of the Alumni Calendar successes and as such we would like to see more friends and families this year, at the match on Sunday 9th August.

Due to the poor availability of alumni players we had to have some players from the club play for us.

This was the first year that Naparima beat the home side, so everyone had a very good time, even the members who had to do the clearing up afterwards.

So this year can we look forward to seeing more people and more helpers in August?"

Contact:

Joint Secretaries

Lynette Hubah – 02085276057 or

Elizabeth Metivier - ejmetivier@googlemail.com

Christmas Dance 2008 - Highlights



NAAC 2008-2009 Executive

*Standing (L to R): Pam Rambharack, Sheila Satram, Selwyn Baboolal,
Norma Ramsahai & Ras Shreeram*

Sitting (l to R): Merle Ramdial & Vilma Ramcharan (Photo by Tony Sladden)



Consul General Mr. Michael Lashley & Mrs. Lashley taking a “five” from the dance floor

Christmas Dance 2008 - Highlights



(Above) Panache steelband serenading us during the cocktail hour.



(Left) Greeters and Seaters: Norma Ramsahai and Pam Rambharack



*Mrs. Bessie Dayfoot, NAAC
Honorary Member*

(Photos by G.D.Teelucksingh)



NAAC Honorary Members, Rev. Arthur Dayfoot and Mrs. Cynthia Seunarine



*Regulars David Seemungal
& Bobby Oumarally*

Your help is needed...

- **Allen Flemington** was a teacher at Naparima College from 1939 – 40. He joined the war effort and was killed when his plane was shot down. Flemington House at Naparima College was named in his honour. His niece, Mrs. Anne Hill of New Brunswick, daughter of Allen's twin brother is searching for any information about her Uncle's stay in Trinidad. Mrs. Hill and her husband, Roly, were to visit Naparima College on Wed. Mar. 19/09 but the ship she was on bypassed Trinidad at the last minute due to "political unrest in Port of Spain".

Anyone with information may contact Mrs. Hill at: eanne@nb.sympatico.ca

- **Dusty Archives.** Dr. Michael Dowlath, Principal of Naparima College would like to establish proper archives at Naparima College. Howard Sammy is the contact person if you wish to help. The school office is open all year round. Howard may be found at kathy.sammy@gmail.com

**NAPARIMA ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION OF QUEBEC INC.
(NAAQ)**

30th Anniversary Dinner & Dance
— May 23rd, 2009 —

**Holiday Inn Aeroport Dorval
6500 Côte de Liesse, Montreal, Québec.**

Cocktails at 6:00 pm
Dinner at 7:00pm
Dress: Formal / Cash Bar

Music:
Panache Steelband & D.J. Touch of Class
Tickets: \$50.00

Contact:
Montreal: 514-696-2516
or keccle@sympatico.ca

Toronto: 905-844-1254
or mjramdial@hotmail.com

Lena's Roti & Doubles

416-745-0009



LUNCH COMBO SPECIALS
DOUBLES, MEAL & POP \$4.99
MONDAY TO FRIDAY 11:00AM TO 1:00PM

All Day Specials
Monday to Friday
Mini Chicken Roti
2 for \$5.00
(tax included)

JUMBO DHALPURI \$2.25
JUMBO PARATHA \$2.25

We Cater For All Occasions
1152 ALBION ROAD (AT ISLINGTON)

LENAS ROTI & DOUBLES • 416-745-0009

Mahal And De Concrete In De Middle Ah De Road

AUTHOR'S NOTES

These excerpts are from a book of anecdotes based on experiences while growing up DONG BY DE CORNAH. A specific location, with unique characteristics that transcend their time and space, it believed its own myths, thus creating in the minds of its inhabitants the notion that we were special. The arrogance of self-conferred special status has led to this publication.

Ah write it in Trini lingo, a livin, thrivin, creative, spoken dialect.

Wen I wuz little an goin to school
Dey tell we doh talk like some chupid fool.
Dey wuz right an dey wuz roun
Dis language wuz we freedom song
De language mek we strong

Writing in the vernacular has its peculiarities. Normal rules of grammar are suspended since story-telling in the oral tradition is the most important objective. Body language and simultaneous trends of thought cannot be replicated to have the same impact when pen is set to paper. Imagery, portrayed in different ways, elicits responses in readers based on their individual knowledge and experiences. Spelling is neither standardized nor consistent. Authors try to differentiate nuances that would be portrayed by body language when telling the story live, with variable spelling, incomplete imagery and grammatical liberties that frees the readers imagination to interpret.

We talk wid plenty tongues
Wen we meet an talk among
All de tribes dat make up WE
Who mek dis new country
An we learn to live wid WE

A unifying characteristic of our social interaction is "de lime." The term is unique to T&T and its derivation has been researched by scholars without conclusive findings. How our Language Mek We Strong is best observed in such a setting.

And when, of course we spoke
To the English ruling blokes
Most ah we could invoke
De Queen' English; no joke!
Bilingual are we folks

As a whole, we still love playing with words.

FOR PERSONS FINDING THIS HARD TO READ

- *read out loud in a sing-song voice*
- *listen to de music ah de words*
- *if spellin is your concern, doh read furthur*
- *punctuation, pronunciation, grammar and composition: metaphors, similes and personification, alliteration, depiction, dialectic conversation and rubrics and wordgames of far reaching permutations - ALL requiring clear explanations, definitions, examples and precision are used frequently in unorthodox ways*
- *find a nice Trini to cuddle up to and learn to talk de talk!!!*

Finally, ah usin a pseudonym, J. MUCUNA PRURIENS, because ah dont want me muddah to know how ah waste she money by writin so!

****** from the unpublished poem "We Language Mek We Strong".*

(continued on next page)

Mahal And De Concrete In De Middle Ah De Road

(continued from previous page)

Mahal And De Concrete In De Middle Ah De Road

Dey jus' paint de concrete. It nice an' shiny in de mornin' light. Whitewash on top an' black paint below. A stone hol' dong a cardboard wid a sign, so it eh fly away. De boy read de sign an' say, "WET PAINT TODAY. STAY AWAY". Dey never do dat befo', people say. Dey mus' be see dat from away.

De Princes Town bus does pass every day. Everybody does say "PrinceSS Town". Dey does look at me dotish when ah say "is man, not 'ooman, dat it name fo' dat way." Dey tink ah stupidee, even crazy maybe, buh mih muddah wuz dey wen dey change de name to honour de day Prince Albert an' Prince Alfred?.... nah, was George come dat way. Victoria wuz dey muddah. I proud to say, is mih muddah orange dey eat dat day.... wuz 'roung 1880 - ish dey did come . Dey went to see de mud volcano by Devil Woodyard.... ah tink George get to be king later".

So, as ah wuz sayin! de Princes Town bus does pas' dat way. Mahal wuz drivin de 7.00 o'clock bus. Dat is not wen it leave Princes Town; it does reach de cornah sevenish. Dey say it wuz a bran' new Bedford from England make fuh de war - buh de war en' in 44 before dey sen' de bus 'dere.... so den dey sen it here to stay. So de bus cruisin' dong Sutton St. nice an' slow. De people gett'n ready to hops out w'en dey take de cornah. It eh really suppose to stop dere buh Mahal does ease up de boys going to Naps if dey behave good, by droppin dem dey. Is a shorter walk from dere to de school dan from de Library or de wharf where he does park. Besides! De V.P. livin right dey so dey bettah watch dey Ps an' Qs w'en dey walkin dong de road.

Mahal ease pass ah mule cyart by de Grant house near de top ah de road befoh it drop

donghill. His surprisingly shrill voice rose above the conflicted confusion of morning sounds. "Mornin Pak Choi", he call out as he had done for almost ten years in more or less the same spot at more or less the same timet'inkin as he had since he first saw him, whoever hear 'bout a Chinaman driv'n cyart in Trinidad. "Mornin Princesss Tong" replied Wu Li, who had almost forgotten his real name since Mahal had named him Pak Choi. Mahal's universe was unfolding as it should.

De bus reach de bottom ah de hill. Mahal find de bus coas'in' fas' today. He glance dong at de speedometer. T'irty - five MPH!!! De cornah rushin' up de road to meet him. He squeeze de brakes wid he foot to make de corner safe. Not ah fart happen! He mash de brakes hard; nutt'n happ'n still! By de time de Chiney laundry pass he goin' backward up de hill, he pumpin' brakes like a madman.....

Now everybody watchin know dat de bus goin' too fas' to make de corner safe. De corner stop breathing. It had 36 people on de bus. Mahal leggo ah cuss an shout, "Ramroop, Yuh eh fix de f.kin brakes". He pull up de han' brakes.de cable bus'.... Two donkey cyart turnin' across de road in front a he..... de cyart men runnin' fuh dey life.....

Somebody bawl, "OH GAWWWWD!!!!!!!!!"

Now Mahal love dat bus. He uses was to call it DouxDoux... wen nobody could hear. DoDo was de gyul he should ah He slammed de gear dong to firs an leggo de clutch..... de grinin' noise interrupted de silent tableau..... gear box mashup..... "for me DoDo; for me".

De fresh white paint on de concrete island in de middle ah de road mersmerised him. Gleaming in the morning sun de island beckoned with the allure of the Loreli. He nudged the steering

(continued on next page)

Mahal And De Concrete In De Middle

Ah De Road (continued from previous page)

wheel slightly right. The thought crossed his mind – one more coat ah paint an ah go have ah accident. He hear de DoDo - Loreli voice talk'n.....she/they were drivin'. Everyt'ing will be all right....allright.....allr.....

De bus hit de secon' pos' ah de island just behin' de front door. Wood splintered, metal screeched and shards of glass littered the roadway.. The bus pivoted about 60 degrees roun' de post and juddered to a stop. De radiator wuz steam'n an' hiss'n cuss words oil an water dripp'n from de engin refuse to mix. People say later de bus had vocabs to qualify foh ah English degree. Somehow de right front wheel opt out of de whole mess an lan' up leanin on de nex' island. Two schoolboys on board peed dey pants but overlooked the potential embarrassment under the careful ministrations of the student nurse who examined them. Five people had minor cuts and bruises, described in the Evening News as 'non life threatening injuries'.

Mahal right han' break buh nobody know. Wen dey come to look for him, nobody could fin' him. Den Mopsy man say he see he by de market goin up towards de library. De Sno Cone man see him too an hear him sayin "fuh me Doux Doux; fuh me". nevah had annuder accident. Every mornin' til he dead he drive roun' de corner sevenish, "fuh me Doux Doux; Fuh Me". His imaginary bus worked perfectly.

Since de bus lick way de island an seem to cuss it mightily, de rumshop crowd figure de bus was one ah we. It eh had no university in T&T to give no degree so SonnyBoy take de picture he had on he BROWNIE an' make up ah sign for de

"UNIVERCITY BY DE CORNAH
Sutton & Prince Alfred Campus
Ramlal Rum shop, Sando, T'dad"

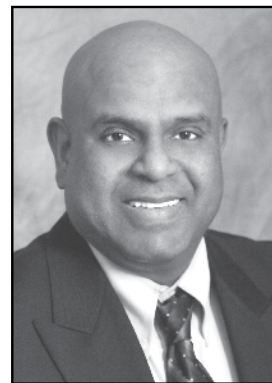
The regulars at Ramlals conferred an Honorary Doctorate degree to Doux Doux an Mahal for Excitement and Vocabulary and Service to Humanity. They got Ti'O to make a frame an Miss LC gave him some glass. Perkins painted the frame red, white and black and Ramlal gave everyone a free drink when they hung the degree.

"Dey put a chair on de bar an put Mahal in de chair at 7.10 after he make de cornah an stop de bus. Dey put a red cloth roun' he neck an dey make speech. De little boy who see de accident draw a picture. Dey roll up de picture like a scroll an tie it up wid brong string to give Mahal. After dat, Mahal always drive wid de red cloth roun' he neck and de scroll in he pocket."

"fuh me Doux Doux, fuh me."

IJAZ HOSEIN

Financial Advisor



Are your financial statements driving you mad?

In today's uncertain economic climate,
wouldn't it be nice to have some guarantees?
Guaranteed not to lose the money you invest!
Guaranteed growth on your investments!
Guaranteed income for life!

HELIOS • INCOME PLUS • ECOFLEXTRA • SUN WISE

Phone: 647- 401- 1608

Email: ijazhosein@rogers.com



Craig Hudson

Tel: (416) 919-YARD (9273)
Message Service: (416) 747-2864
Email: craig_hudson@rogers.com

26 Watercliffe Road
Etobicoke, ON
M9W 4E7

Professional, Guaranteed & Fully Insured Services Include:

- Consultation, Planning, Design
- Tree, shrub, annual, perennial planting, pruning, removal
- Grading, drainage, erosion control
- Excavations, bobcat
- Core aeration, sod, maintenance, organic solutions
- Decks, fences, arbors, gazebos, trellises, pergolas
- Interlock, concrete, installation, repair, sealing
- Rock & various stone work
- Retaining walls, steps, pathways, driveways
- Inground sprinkler & water feature installation, maintenance
- Outdoor lighting, patios, swimming pool decks

call 416.919.YARDTODAY !!

Tribute to Jerry Ramlochan

NAAC offers its condolences to the family and relatives of Jerry Ramlochan – indeed to all of his many friends and acquaintances – upon his unexpected death.

A life member of our Association, Jerry has always been an ardent supporter of NAAC and took pride in our accomplishments including our service to our alma mater institutions in Trinidad and our community work in Ontario.



He was a successful businessman, as the owner and President of International Telephone Products (ITP) and had a wide network of other successful businessmen whom he corralled into assisting in his charities. He was held in high regard in his community and seemed to have access to the right people in high places. His support of our 30th Anniversary Dinner & Dance will be remembered.

Jerry was also an avid golfer. In fact, over the past month, he was actively involved with an ad hoc NAAC committee in organizing a first-ever NAAC Golf Tournament. Selwyn Baboolal and Aneesa Oumarally were close friends with Jerry and procuring Jerry's sponsorship for this tournament was not a difficult task.

The organizing committee for the tournament has decided to name the tournament in his honour. The Jerry Ramlochan Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on June 6 at the Royal Ontario Golf Club in Milton. It will be a fitting tribute to a man who was well-liked by all who knew him.

NOTICE of NAAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



**SATURDAY
MAY 30th, 2009
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

**at
The Montessori
Teacher Training Centre
1050 McNicoll Avenue,
Scarborough, ON**

CONDOLENCES To ...

**OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE LOST
LOVED ONES RECENTLY...**

Sandra Lalla on the death
of her sister, Janice

Peter Mohan on the
passing of his mother
on March 8, 2009.

The family of **Jerry Ramlochan**
who passed away
on March 21, 2009
after surgery in Toronto.

David Seemungal on the
death of his sister
in Trinidad March 2009.

Molly Dass whose
mother passed away
in March 2009.

News from SAGHS

Proud to wear the plaid!

Proud to be called a SAGHS girl!

This is what our students say.

At St. Augustine Girls' High School, Principal Mrs. Kathleen Anderson, Vice-Principal Mrs. Catherine Bahadur and a competent and professional team of teachers strive to provide the best environment for students, one that carefully sets high standards of moral and ethical behavior, academic performance, and social interaction. Leadership skills are consistently and carefully nurtured.

The all-round development of our girls remains of paramount importance, and is channeled through a multi-faceted approach: morning worship, unswerving discipline, and a broad core curriculum that includes art, dance, music, drama and information technology, in addition to the traditional content. The co- and extra-curricular programme involves students in clubs, sports and participation in competitions.

A recent initiative is the Annual Undine Giuseppe Short Story Writing Contest, begun in 2006, in honour of our past Vice-Principal and teacher extraordinaire, and for which a challenge trophy has been donated by her son, Mr. Neil Giuseppe.

We have much for which we are grateful. Our students continue to excel in their external examinations. In 2008, Open Scholarships were awarded to Kadine Matthew, Valini Ajodha and Sandhya Harnanan; there were 16 additional and further additional scholarships. For this past year, the students can also boast of awards in scrabble, swimming, lawn tennis, table tennis, badminton, judo, art and poetry. One of our more exultant moments was in becoming the National Secondary Schools' Parang Champions in December, 2008.

We also note the accomplishment of our past teacher, Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh (or "Ras" as he likes to be called), whose book "Caribbean – Flavoured



"Mrs. Carolyn Ali (left), widow of the late Ian Angus Ali - well-known Trinidad artist and TV personality - presents a cheque to Mrs. Kathleen Anderson, Principal of SAGHS. The cheque represents the proceeds of the sale of three of Ian's paintings that were donated by Mrs. Dawne Mahabir for an auction to raise funds for her alma mater's building fund."

Presbyterianism" was published last year.

As we work to meet the inevitable challenges of a changing society, we have welcomed the Ministry of Education's appointment of Heads and Deans at our school. Our middle management team is now almost in place. We have also had the opportunity to partner with the National Gas Company in developing a new Emergency Response Plan, and are currently putting together our own crisis management team. Embracing the possibilities of new technology, teachers now access the Staff Computer Lab, complete with printer and scanner.

Sadly, we note the retirement of two long-standing, loved and respected teachers, Mrs. Christine Benjamin in November 2008, and Mrs. Pamela Stewart in February, 2009. We do however know that they move on to other activities in dynamic and purpose-filled lives. We thank the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada for the chance to share this quick update on our school. We are gratified that the spirit exemplified by the Presbyterian High Schools and Colleges in Trinidad is alive and well in Canada. Congratulations.

*Written by Carolyn Harnanan,
English Department, SAGHS*

News from NGHS

Naparima Girls emerged on top once again in the award of National Scholarships, securing the highest number of National scholarships by any school. The President's Gold Medal in the non-science category went to Jennisa Nandoo.

Here is a full listing of scholarship winners this year:

Jennisa Nandoo	Languages Open/President's Gold
Kerlina Gopaul	Math Open
Safa Omardeen	Math Open
Khadine Singh	Math Open
Menakshi Prajapati	Science Open
Raquel Winchester	Visual Arts Open

The Additional Scholarship winners are:

Yogeshi Maharaj	Business
Victoria Maharaj	Environmental
Kimberly Silochan	Environment
Safiyyah Hyatali	Mathematics
Aneila Ramsabhag	Mathematics
Sayada Ramdial	Visual Arts

And in the Science Category:

Andrea Arindell	Christel Mohammed
Lindsey Aziz	Krystal Ramdin
Shivani Chackan	Dayna Ramkeesoon
Tabitha Goetz	Amy Ramlal
Yasmin Hosein	Cherisse Ratiram
Varsha Maharaj	Kerala Saugh
Franchesque Manickchand	Victoria Seebalack
Amy Mohammed	Kristal Sooknanan

Some of these girls also secured UWI Scholarships.

Other news...

NGHS' plans for its Centenary Celebrations in 2012 are well under way. A Centenary logo has already been selected and was unveiled at the dedication of the extension of the auditorium on January 12, 2009.

News from Hillview College

The recipients of the 2008 NAAC Awards were:

Christophe Persad

Book Award for Excellence in CSEC & GCE "O" Level Examinations

Mark Sagar

Citizenship Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Corporate Life of Hillview College

Shaun Warris

The Arthur Siblal Memorial Award for Excellent All-Round Performance in Form 5

Deepchand Gangasingh

Bursary for High Education

Congratulations! And to the thirteen(13) National Scholarship winners – five (5) in the Open category and eight (8) in the Additional category – we wish them every success in your future studies.

News from Iere High School

The NAAC Awards were presented at the 2008 Graduation and Prize Giving Ceremony. We offer our congratulations to the following recipients:

Ranita Secharan	Bursary
Nalisha Dinoo	Civic Award
Alyssa Permanand	Book Award
*Laura Roberts	The Iere-Wagar Literary Award

*Thanks to IHS Principal, Mr. Roy Ramlogan for forwarding samples of Laura Roberts' work. Reproduced on pg. 24 is one of her poems.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

Roderick & Vashti Charles, who are proud grandparents of their first grand,
Ashlyn Infinity Charles.

Our congratulations also go out to
Ashlyn's parents, Christopher & Tanya.

Tracing Bhojpuri roots in 'Chini-Dad'

Book: 'Jahajin';

Author: Peggy Mohan; **Publisher:** Harper Collins;

Price: Rs.295. Calcutta News.Net

About 130,000 Indians travelled to Trinidad as indentured migrants in the 19th and 20th centuries. The early migrants went from villages in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and spoke variations of Bhojpuri, Khari Boli, Braj Bhasha, Bundelkhandi, Urdu and Hindi. Many could not understand each other. But over the years, Bhojpuri emerged as the dominant language of the Indian community on the sugarcane estates and other dialects and languages faded away. Peggy Mohan's engrossing tale is well-researched history leavened with the beguiling memories of 110-year old Deeda, who travelled alone to 'Chini-dad' (as the migrants called Trinidad) with her young son, Kallo.

Jahajin is the story of a Trinidad-born linguist researching the roots of Bhojpuri in the Caribbean through interviewing old people who came on the indenture ships. Heavily drawn on the author's own experiences as a linguist, the book relates the history of the community and the experiences of the narrator's own family in Deeda's stories narrated in earthy Bhojpuri, rich in idiom and imagery.

The indenture migration has largely been written about as the migration of Indian men to the new colonies. But Mohan states that the migration became a self-perpetuating community in the Caribbean islands only after the arrival of Indian women. Under the indenture migration rules, about 30 percent of the recruits on every ship had to be female. Some women travelled with their husbands and children, but the narrator asserts that according to the records, most of the women were adults travelling alone. This statement, which is contrary to popular opinion, was accepted at a University of the West Indies' seminar only because it is corroborated

by interviews of old people conducted in Bhojpuri, a language forgotten by most of the audience.

It is the women who build a home, teach the language, and hand down values and traditions to create a new community in a new land.

Caribbean Bhojpuri is similar to Bhojpuri that was spoken in the Basti region about a century ago, which was the time of peak migration from that area. According to Mohan, that was also the time of a surge in the number of women migrating - with a resultant increase in the number of children on the estates.

The small children were left in the care of an older woman called a 'khelauni' while the mothers went to work on the estates. This was the period when the children were learning their first language and slowly Bhojpuri emerged as the common language among the Indians. But a century later, Bhojpuri in Trinidad faced language death, a situation where only the older people speak it. The language was not passing on to the younger generation since their parents did not speak the language.

As the Indians left the fields on the estates to move into other jobs and later into white-collar occupations, they turned to Creole and then to English as their main language while some people stuck to a more formal Hindi.

The narrator's own family emphasis was on moving up in society - from estate worker to artisan (goldsmith) to office worker to highly educated linguist. As Deeda said: 'Things are plenty better now.'

Jahajin paints an evocative picture of an Indian community moving out from the estates to a comfortable urban life. Deeda's story is a string of memories - of the drought that makes her leave home, and the meeting with the arkatiya (recruiter) woman.

She recalls her first journey on a train, sitting

(continued on next page)

Tracing Bhojpuri roots in 'Chini-Dad'

(continued from previous page)

on the upper berth, the amazing new sights at the harbour, and boarding the ship with trepidation. Sailing the vast ocean meant long weeks of enforced idleness and violent storms - the time was spent making friends with other migrants, building bonds to replace the old family ties and forge new relations as 'jahajibhai' (ship brothers) to last a life time in the new land.

The narrator discovers that Deeda had travelled with Sunnariya, her great grandmother on the ship, Godavari; Deeda and Sunnariya were 'jahajin' and their stories are closely entwined. Deeda inspires the young linguist to retrace the steps of her own ancestor across the seas and to go back to ancestral land.

Running through the story is a magical folk tale related by Deeda, of Saranga and her lover, Sada Birij, a tale of loss and yearning, that weaves through the main story's narrative of relocation and identity and hope.

The narrator travels to India, but it is a modern India of the 1970s that is so different to the imagined homeland. There is, however a sense of reconnection in Patna when she meets a man who recognises her Bhojpuri as the language spoken by a very old woman in his village.

The book is an enthralling work in which all the strands of the narrative come together when an elderly man sings Saranga's song at the young linguist's ancestral village in Faizabad.

(Peggy Mohan attended both Naparima Girls' High School and St. Augustine Girls' High School).

Iere High School 50th Graduation Reunion - Class of '55

Events and Activities

Friday June 26, 2009

9:00 a.m. - Activities for Inaugural Students and Staff at Iere High School

6:00 p.m. - Variety Show at the Sankersinghs, Quarry V'ge

Saturday June 27, 2009

10:00 a.m. - Service at Akashbani Presbyterian Church, Siparia

6:00 p.m. - Dinner & Dance at China Garden Restaurant and Lounge, Railway Road, Siparia

Activities open to Alumni, Family and Friends

Sunday June 28, 2009

Picnic and Day of Fun for Inaugural Students and Invited Guests

For more information contact
Ben Seebaran : 604-431-9929 (Canada)
Evangeline Nathansingh : 868-649-9627 (Trinidad)

Male Parent

By Laura Roberts

Yesterday I was going through de dictionary
Looking for a definition of de word Father yuh see
De Oxford say that a father is a male parent
Dat was all! These people were really ignorant of the fact
that a father is much more than that.

A father is a man who loves his family
and works hard to give them all of life's necessities.
Toiling from morning till evening time,
he works hard and honestly to get a dime
because he knows he would be disappointing de Master
if he fails to be a good provider.

And talking bout the Master!
A father knows dat all his blessings come from de Creator
so he makes time to worship Him all day long,
Sometimes he's in prayer or just singing a song.
The love of God is always in his heart
and unto his children is this love he imparts.
A father knows dat dis world is a harsh place to live in
so he gives his children de needed training.
He teaches them to be humble and at times to be bold.
"Never boast", he says "and respect both young and old".
He encourages you to put your best into everything you do
because it has brought him many rewards and he wants the
same for you.
Discipline, Discipline, is a serious factor!
A father does make sure you "pull up yuh socks" when you
falter.
Thankfully he doesn't quarrel day and night like a mother.
He uses a few stern words and warns you never to repeat the
matter,
He clearly points out the consequences of your wrong doing
and shows you how it will lead you to ruin.
A father disciplines you because he loves you and wants you
to do right.
At the moment his discipline is harsh but in the end it will
lead you to life.

There's a time for everything under de sun.
A father knows when to be serious and when to have some
fun.
If yuh feeling sad, a father knows how to make yuh laugh
easy
When he done crack a joke yuh does laugh until yuh want to
pee.
A father is someone who can light up your day
just by the little things he may say.

So as you can see, a father isn't just a male parent.
He is a wise man who's truly heaven sent.
He is a God fearing man and a provider,
a disciplinarian, trainer and comforter.
To crown it all, he's fun loving and a hard worker.
Yes, father, that is what you truly are.

**NAAC Fallsview Casino,
Niagara Falls Bus Trip
— Saturday May 9, 2009 —
Price: \$20**

Details on Page 5

**DISCOVER
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
RESTAURANT
SPORTS BAR & BANQUET HALL**

De Great Iron Pot
55 Nugget Ave. @ Mc Cowan Rd.
416.915.0227

Famous for our
- Classic Caribbean Seafood Breakfast
- Great Caribbean Soul Food

Yes! We do Cater & Deliver

**Wednesday & Thursday 11:00am - 7:00pm
Friday & Saturday 10:00am - 3:00pm**

Extended hours beginning in April 2009



*The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada (Toronto)
Presents*

The Jerry Ramlochan Memorial Golf Tournament

Join us as we remember and celebrate Jerry's life

Saturday June 6th, 2009

Registration opens: 11:30a.m.

Shot gun start time: 1:00p.m.

\$160.00 per golfer

\$600.00 per foursome

Price includes golf, cart, golf shirt, dinner and
chance to win return trip to Trinidad for two

Steelband Music



Royal Ontario Golf Club
6378 Trafalgar Rd
Hornsby (Milton)
Ontario
www.royalontario.com



*Dinner to follow Golf
Chicken, Steak,
Vegetarian
Dinner tickets only:
(if not registering for golf):
\$45.00 per person*

*For a
registration package please contact:
Aneesa Oumarally: aneesa@oblaw.ca
Selwyn Baboolal: 905-366-5400 x16
Ras Shreeram: rasras@rogers.com or 416-743-1331*



Trinidad and Tobago Consul General Michael Lashley, left, and High Commissioner Camille Robinson-Regis, second from right, pose with the winners of the Consul General's Diaspora Awards for Excellence. (Photo: Tony Sladden)



From left: Eleanor Wiltshire Rodney of Hamilton, panman Earl LaPierre Snr. and Merle Ramdial, NAAC. (Photo: Tony Sladden)



NAAC's "young" and "not so young" pan players at Downsview Park's Trail of Lights concert (Photos: Anand Ramsahai)