



“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. XLII No. 2

Spring 2019

Spring in the City



Winston Poorn

Greater White-fronted Goose



Winston Poorn

Male Hooded Merganser



Winston Poorn

Male Common Merganser

Another good year for T&T Schools - see details inside

NAAC 2018 Bursary Winners



Omar Baboolal is pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce degree at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. He graduated from high school with an Ontario Secondary Schools Diploma (OSSD) and an International Baccalaureate Diploma.

During his Grade 11 year, he was elected by his peers across the school board to be their Student Trustee – to be an advocate for them at the Peel District School Board.

Omar has varied interests, among them a passion for music, dance and theatre.



Crystal Chandoo is currently studying criminology at Wilfrid Laurier University. Upon completing her four-year undergraduate degree, she intends to study law.

During her years at high school, Crystal took part in theatrical performances – directing a play and acting and dancing in a musical production.

Prior to entering university, she spent two summers as a counselor at a children's camp.



Nyla Noel is enrolled at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario in the Film Studies Program. Her goal upon graduation is to create short films and documentaries.

At Laurier she started an American Sign Language (ASL) Association for undergraduate students, faculty and staff.

Nyla has been creating her own screenplays in an effort to share her views on matters dear to her heart.

*Photos by
Brian Teelucksingh*



2018-2019 NAAC Executive: *From L to R: Cynthia Ramdeen; Norma Ramsahai; Vilma Ramcharan; Richard Jaikaran; Wendy Rostant; Ia Sirju & Merle Ramdial (Absent: Ras Shreeram).*

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.

2018 – 2019 NAAC Executive

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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.

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President's Message

At last, the view from my balcony has drastically changed from piles of drab, dirty snow and ice to the many shades of spring green that fill the ravine through which Sixteen Mile Creek runs here in Oakville.

I feel fine now and looking forward to what the other seasons have in store for me. I wish all our members and their families a safe and happy spring and summer!

I've shared a short report that I received from two members of the Naparima Alumni Association of Quebec, who were tasked with dissolving that Unit. (p. 9) At the last meeting of their Executive in the summer of 2018, the final decision was made.

Forty years was a good run, but I was still quite saddened by the news, although I knew that dissolution was inevitable.

Our own NAAC Executive members are quite aware of the struggle to encourage members who

no longer have the get-up-and-go. So far our events continue to be well-attended because of the many friends of our Association, who recognize the good work that we do through our programs.

I am not sure how many of you had Miss Stephanie Shurland as your English Literature teacher. I did and looked forward to hearing her read to us in her mellifluous voice. I read of her passing at age 94, but very little was said of her years at Naparima Girls' High School as a student and later on as a teacher.

I've been reading articles on the subject of age and time with headlines like:

Physics explains why time passes faster as you age;

Why Does Time Seem to Speed Up with Age?

Science Says Time Really Does Seem to Fly as We Get Older.

In a nutshell... if you want to slow time down again, do something different and delight in the new experience.

Merle Ramdial

From the Editor's Desk...

When I started to put together this issue of Broadcast, I had very little news from the schools we support in Trinidad. But after searching social media, I am pleased to share a number of articles of their successes, not only in academics, but in soccer, chess, cricket, debating, cheerleading and of a joint Naparima College/Naparima Girls' High School panside that competed at this year's Secondary Schools Panorama competition. I was thrilled to hear and see that performance on YouTube and so can you.

On page 13 I included a very short article on a new study done by a team at the University of Toronto on hearing loss. I thought it was interesting enough that I decided to read more on the findings of the study in the *Canadian Journal of Aging*.

Our front cover pictures were taken by Winston Poon, who is among other things, a birdwatcher. He is one of those birders who track through snow and ice in the middle of winter for these sightings. I, on the other hand, have been known to dash for my binoculars and get to my balcony to see some

unusual flying object outside, but I don't see myself walking the icy trails to see birds with my own eyes. I prefer to switch my channel to National Geographic.

In response to a few enquiries... if you had your picture taken at the Christmas Dinner & Dance by our volunteer photographer, Brian Teelucksingh, and you would like an e-copy, send me a message.

Remember, without your submissions, Broadcast cannot continue, so send me your news and views.

Merle Ramdial

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in the next issue
of Broadcast,
contact:*

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at rasras@rogers.com

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Finance Report

This report reflects the Association's financial information as at December 2018. Annual Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019 will be presented at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for May 25, 2019.

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Bank of Nova Scotia \$15,662.92

NAAC INVESTMENTS

IPC portfolio:

* Inter Pipeline Fund

*1600 Units – B.V. per unit \$10.00 \$16,000.00
(M.V. \$30,944.00)

*Dividends earned – Jan/18/ to Dec/18 \$ 2,692.00

****Riocan Real Estate Inv T/U** \$21,785.00
(M.V. \$19,516.00)

820 units - B.V. per unit \$26.56

Dividends earned – Jan/18 to Dec/18 \$ 1,178.00

TOTAL INVESTMENTS \$ 57,317.92

*Market value of the Inter Pipeline Fund as at

December 2018 was \$19.34 per unit. This reflects an increase of 93.4% over book value. The fund continues to earn dividends at the rate of \$224 per month which translates to a return of 16.8% per annum on that investment.

**Market value of Riocan REIT as at December 2018 was \$23.80 per unit, a decrease of 3.0% over book value. Dividends from Riocan REIT are approx. \$96.00 per month or 5.4% per annum.

The Association met its financial commitments to the schools in Trinidad in the amount of \$3,760 which was remitted in September 2018. This is the sum of the following amounts to each of the five schools: NGHS, Iere, & SAGHS in the amount of \$820 each, Naparima College in the amount of \$620 and Hillview College in the amount of \$680.

At our 40th Annual Christmas Dinner & Dance on November 24, 2018, we gave gifts to those lucky enough to have their numbers drawn from the ticket stubs instead of having a raffle. Our profit was \$2,820 which was approximately \$2,000 less than the profit from our 2018 Christmas Dinner & Dance.

*Submitted by Merle Ramdial
for Norma Ramsahai
Treasurer*



NOTICE OF NAAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, May 25, 2019 • 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church

4156 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough, ON

Refreshments will be served at Noon • Meeting will commence at 1:00 pm

Social Report

I'm sometimes hesitant to welcome spring; maybe spring, like so many of our legacies, they are the best of both worlds.

The sun is out, from time to time, and soon enough we will be basking in its warmth, or looking to run for shade, to get away from the infernal heat. The flowers are not yet out, and the jack rabbits in my part of the world have only just begun to make their presence known.

Many thanks to our members for making the 40th Anniversary Dinner and Dance a success. This year we ran a prize giveaway instead of a raffle. Thanks to all those who donated gifts. For Christmas 2019, we will revert to having a raffle which will be run by Wendy Rostant.

The event's attendance was down just a bit from the year before, but we had a great time. The music and the food were a hit with the guests in attendance and Elite Banquet Hall's service was outstanding.

Our new year begins with a spring matinee at the Herongate Barn Dinner Theatre in Pickering

on May 26th. We have reserved a limited number of seats at a special price for our members and their guests. We will be having lunch and viewing a Neil Simon play "*The Last of the Red-Hot Lovers*". I've been told that our members will thoroughly enjoy this event and may even come away with some tips.

Please make a note on your calendar of this May 26th event and add one more date for our annual dinner and dance at Elite Banquet Hall on November 23rd, 2019.

You may contact any member of the executive to reserve your ticket.

Herongate Barn Dinner Theatre is located at 2885 Altona Road, Pickering

If you would like to join our NAAC team, please contact me at richardjnaac@gmail.com or any member of the executive.

For event announcements, please check our website.

Respectfully Submitted by

Richard C. Jaikaran

Chair, Social Committee

Communications Report

Our members in Ontario should have received e-mail notification from NAAC about a spring event at Herongate Barn Theatre where we will have lunch and see a Neil Simon play, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, on Sunday, May 26th. NAAC reserved 40 seats, so if you have not booked as yet, please make sure to call any member of the executive to see if there are still spaces available. The cost is \$62.

If you want to be notified of upcoming events, please let me know your e-mail address so that I can add your name to the NAAC list of members

and friends. Remember as well to inform me if you have recently changed your email account. I've had several "undelivered" messages.

if you signed up to receive print copies of Broadcast, make sure to let me know if you have moved and give me your new postal address.

Advertisements help to defray the cost of publication of this newsletter, so if you are interested in placing an ad, please contact Ras Shreeram at rasras@rogers.com or 416-743-1331.

Submitted by

Merle Ramdial

Chair, Communications Committee

Congratulations...

To third-time grandparents, Anand and Glenda Ramsahai.

And to

Rufus and Pamela Rambharack on the birth of their first grandchild.

Steelband Report

This second semester of the after-school steelband program was negatively impacted by bad weather to the extent that the Toronto District School Board twice issued closures. To add to those two Wednesdays, the forecast of freezing rain and strong winds deterred many from attending classes for a few more Wednesdays. However, with three upcoming gigs on the schedule and with spring in the air, attendance has picked up and practices are in full swing.

Thanks to Winston Poon, who has been leading the practice sessions for both the Beginner and Advance classes during this semester. Winston

has been steadfast in his role and we all applaud his commitment to doing this job for which he volunteered.

Panache performed at the Brampton Christian Family Church on March 3rd and on March 23rd for a charity ride to raise funds for building a school in Haiti. Feedback from this last gig...a great time was had by pan players and bike riders alike.

Submitted by
Merle Ramdial, Steelband Liaison

Membership Report

Our Membership enrolment remains stable at 270

HONORARY MEMBERS	15
LIFE MEMBERS	191
ANNUAL REG. / FAM. MEMBERS	40
ASSOCIATE/STUDENT MEMBERS	24

Though the NAAC Committee seems dormant to some of our members, we are working on plans for this year. It would seem that getting together for social events is no longer the time when we can look forward to meeting many of the senior members who were always present at our events in the past, since some of these older members have resigned themselves to staying indoors. This is where we need the active members to assist, by making friendly calls, or helping them to get to our events.

This year NAAC lost two Life members, Letitia Goberdhan-Yerex and Phyllis Ramcharan-Ramjattansingh, as well as one Annual member, Merlin Seukeran. A few of our NAAC members also lost family members. Condolence cards were sent from the President and members of the Executive Committee.

NAAC welcomes three new Life Members, Beths Suepaul, Vegentie Ramkhelawan and Stacey Persad. We are also very pleased to add four new

Associate members to our NAAC family, Richard Narayansingh, Nancy Molnar and Student Members, Anthony and Stephanie Teelucksingh.

For members who have recently joined us, you can keep abreast with news of the NAAC by visiting our website www.naactoronto.ca

See you all on May 25th for our Annual General Meeting.

Cynthia Ramdeen
Chair, Membership Committee

REMINDER TO RENEW YOUR NAAC MEMBERSHIP

*Please remember to
renew your
NAAC Membership.*

*The membership
year runs from
January to December.*

Music Notes from West Humber Collegiate Institute

www.whcimusic.com

Joe Cullen, ACL The Arts April 2019

As I write this article for the newsletter, we are just twelve days away from our five-day trip to Chicago! In case you missed it, the WHCI Steel Bands were invited to travel to Chicago to play the year-end concert with amazing *Paganini of Pan*, **Virtuoso Liam Teague** and the **Northern Illinois University (NIU) Steel Band!** Liam was in Toronto in Feb 2018 with the Hannaford Silver Band, and WHCI steel pan had the opportunity to perform with him as part of this show. Liam himself then invited us to go to Chicago and perform as his special guests!

It has been a VERY busy year for all of us. Students have been fund-raising steadily, selling chocolate almonds for over a year now. We have rehearsed at least twice a week during lunch hours, and played countless hours in class, getting all the parts correct and musical. I have written some new pan arrangements and Liam Teague sent us a few to learn and use in the NIU concert too. This is going to be an amazing opportunity. Liam will be soloing with the WHCI steel band as he did in Toronto last year!

Collecting passports, health cards, permission forms, deposits and payments, phoning parents, constantly revising the itinerary and having early morning music council meetings has been exhausting, but not unusual or unexpected. I am taking 52 students and it has been literally non-stop since we announced the trip back in April 2018. It was much easier when Howard and Kathy Sammy organized the Etobicoke Teacher's Steel Band trip to Trinidad back in 1998. Thankfully, they did all of these things for us!

Some of our students are improvising pan solos during the concert, which is an exciting part of the show every time. Since we have guitar and drumline class students also coming with us, some of them have worked hard to learn to play a song or two on the pan and join the very large pan ensemble! This is really special, seeing a senior guitar or drumline student suddenly become a beginner pannist! Many laughs and funny faces occur as they try to figure out where the notes are on the pan! I think the NAAC members



West Humber CI Senior Steel Band with Rachel Read, steel band teacher at Havergal College

would be amused and proud to see pan expanding further and further beyond just playing songs. The pan soloists at NIU are truly remarkable (just check out YouTube) and I know this will be an experience that our students will never forget.

Our senior steel band played Havergal College, a private girls' school in Toronto this week. Their music teacher was a student of mine in the UofT Pan Ensemble. She fell in love with pan and now has a steel band at Havergal! We presented a hands-on master class that included teaching almost 60 students to play a song for the afternoon assembly and also presented the history and evolution of the steel pan.

Special thanks to the NAAC for a donation that helped two of our students complete their final payment. As always, support from the NAAC makes a huge difference in our community, motivating students to work hard to achieve their highest potential.

Spring Arts Night will be on Thursday May 16, 2019. We hope that Panache will be able to be our guest artists for this show, if their schedules allow. Our students love seeing and hearing Panache every time they come. We would also love to see NAAC members come out if possible. We will have a short slide show of the Chicago trip WHCI and Liam and NIU steel band to show during the evening.

National Award For Naps Graduate

The late Francis Seupaul of Debe, Trinidad, who resided intermittently in Scarborough was posthumously awarded the Public Service Medal of Merit, Gold Medal, for his dedicated work in education, religion, sports and community service at Trinidad's Republic Day National Awards ceremony held on September 21, 2018, at the National Academy for the Performing Arts (NAPA) in Port of Spain. The prestigious medal was received by his eldest son, Everal, who travelled to Trinidad from his North York,



Canada home. It was presented by Her Excellency, the President, Paula-Mae Weekes, in the presence of the Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley, ex PM's Basdeo Panday and Kamla Persad-Bissessar and other dignitaries.

Francis taught for over 40 years at several Presbyterian Primary schools eventually retiring in 1984 as Principal at Debe, his alma mater. He graduated from Naparima Boys College in 1941, and from Naparima Teachers Training College in 1944. Two of his sons graduated from Naparima Boys College - Everal (1963) and Rawle (1964); his daughter Ann Seupaul-Dabideen (1970) also served on the NGHS staff for over a period of 25 years.

Francis Seupaul was a key member of the Debe Presbyterian Church where he served as Elder, as Chairman of its Official Board and lay preacher. In sports he was one of the founders of Debe's famous Paragon Sports Club (volleyball, cricket, football, table tennis). He captained Paragon Volleyball team when they won Trinidad's championship trophy for 5 straight years, 1956-

1960. As a key member and vice-captain of Trinidad's National Volleyball team for many years he toured the then British Guyana and Venezuela to play in the regular annual tournament for the Lighthouse Trophy.

In his home town of Debe, Francis was actively involved in community work in helping and counselling people seeking advice on personal matters, land disputes, family problems; in writing letters of recommendations for those seeking employment and

in helping community members navigate the unfamiliar bureaucratic processes. He was a founding member of the Debe Village Council, here he served as Chairman for many years and lobbied to get much needed public service for Debe from the various levels of Government. He was the Secretary/Treasurer of the Debe/Wellington Road Agricultural Credit Society, a role in which he was able to obtain substantial low interest loans for many of Debe's farmers. This was at a time when the Oropouche lagoon was the major agricultural producing area in Trinidad with the Debe sector being the largest and most productive area. After retirement, he travelled extensively to many countries including India, and visited his ancestral town in Uttar Pradesh; England; the European continent; USA and of course Canada where several of his children reside. In 2003, the Debe Recreation ground was renamed the "Francis Seupaul Recreation Ground" in his honor. His family has maintained contact with the Debe community

(Continued on next page)

National Award For Naps Graduate

(Continued from previous page)

and has contributed several trophies in his name at Debe public schools and sporting events.

Francis is lovingly remembered by those he served as a humble man of quiet intellect who spent many years selflessly serving the interest of his people and country for no remuneration. He was a gentleman of high moral character, honesty and integrity, dearly loved by all those whom he met and served and has truly left a legacy for all.

The Public Service Gold Medal of Merit is one of the high points of his legacy. Undoubtedly, there are numerous individuals who similarly can be considered for public recognition. Nominations forms usually become available in April via advertisements in the Trinidad and Tobago newspapers. These forms are very precise and all applications are screened by the National Awards Committee with the final choice made by the Prime Minister. The Seupaul family hopes that this article will prompt other families and members of the community to nominate well-deserving individuals for consideration for these prestigious awards.

(Submitted by Everald Seupaul, NAAC Life Member).

NOTICE: Steelband Classes 2018/2019 Season

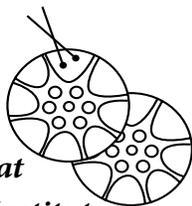
At the Music Room at
West Humber Collegiate Institute

- **Beginners:** 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- **Advanced:** 7:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Contact: Winston Poon

• Tel: 905-824-3589

email: wpoon354@rogers.com



Cassandra Khan: A “Golden” Moment

by NGHS Editor

“I was overjoyed and shocked when I found out that I received the Presidents’ Medal Gold for my outstanding performance at CSEC. Pursuing 11 subjects at the CSEC level was definitely a challenge and required a lot of time management, perseverance and determination. These subjects were: English A, English B, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, French, Spanish, Additional Mathematics and Theatre Arts Dance.



My achievement could not have been possible without God, my hardworking parents, my diligent teachers and my friends who encouraged me. One of my favourite bible verses which has always kept me motivated is Philippians 4:13 which says “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Participating in extra curricular activities has also helped me by relieving stress and providing motivation by keeping me active and healthy. I was/am actively involved in ISCF, choir, dance club, Ecclesia Youth Group and Sunday school at my church. I was also a part of The Sound of Music, our school’s musical in 2017. I believe that it is of utmost importance to have a proper balance between work and play.

My advice to my fellow students who will be writing exams is to never give up. The moment you decide to give up is the exact moment you fail. Set goals and pray, persevere and work hard to achieve them.

I am now pursuing Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Communication Studies and Caribbean Studies at the CAPE level.”

Dissolution of the Naparima Alumni Association of Quebec

February 1, 2019

To: NAAC Executive

From: Ralph Paltoo and Marjorie Mullahoo

Re: Dissolution of the Naparima Alumni Association of Quebec

Prelude

As founding members of N.A.A.Q about 40 years ago, we have fond memories of the various activities we did in realizing the aims and objectives of our association according to our constitution and charter

When Naparima Alumni Association was founded, our constitution was patterned after that of Toronto's.

It was later discovered that the constitution did not provide for the dissolution of the Association in the event that the Association would not be able to continue its operations and fulfil its mandate.

That provision was subsequently encoded in the constitution requiring two thirds of the members vote to dissolve and that specific conditions that would require dissolution be followed.

Conditions

In the summer of 2018, it was decided by the Executive committee and voted upon by the members to dissolve the Association. The reasons are as follows:

1. An aging membership.
2. No available source to recruit new members to continue the operation of the Association.
3. The administration of the Association would have been too burdensome for the current members to continue, given their current age and health status.

The main reason is geopolitical in nature. New graduates from TT do not stay in Quebec because of the language issue. It is because of these two factors that we were compelled to dissolve the Association.

The Process

A letter was sent to inform the Quebec Government stating that we will no longer be operational after December 2018.

A decision was made to distribute the funds equally among the six schools that we usually offer assistance to in TT.

The money was sent to these schools under the terms and conditions of the constitution as at December 2018. Our Resident Internal Auditor will be following up with any schools which have not yet cashed their cheques as of the end of the first quarter of 2019. The idea is to close our bank account as soon as possible.

In conclusion, NAAQ has left an indelible mark in Quebec in terms of entertainment and social activities provided, not only to members but to the public at large. We all had the satisfaction of contributing to an amazing organization, that will be remembered for many years to come.

May God's blessings be with N.A.A.C

Submitted by:

Ralph Paltoo Internal Auditor

And

Marjorie Mullahoo

Book Review: The Naipauls of Nepaul Street: A Memoir of Life in Trinidad and Beyond by Savi Naipaul

Trinidad's First Family of Literature

Anu Kumar (anukumar0811@gmail.com) is a writer and journalist based in the United States.

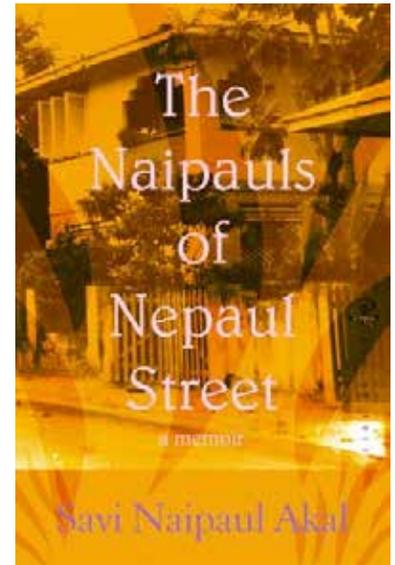
The Naipauls of Nepaul Street: A Memoir of Life in Trinidad and Beyond by Savi Naipaul Akal, Leeds, England: Peepal Tree Press, 2018; pp 210, £13.99.

Houses have their own stories. Long ago, I read Lila Majumdar's *The Jorasanko House* (National Book Trust, New Delhi, 1978) that narrated the tale of the Tagore household; about an extended family, headed by patriarch Debendranath Tagore (Rabindranath's father), where numerous sons—occasionally daughters too—honed their respective talents. Haworth Parsonage, today the Brontë Parsonage Museum in Yorkshire, was where the three Brontë sisters, Charlotte, Emily and Anne, composed their best-known works. The Bloomsbury group, named after a London area, comprised those not just a part of the Leonard and Virginia Woolf household, but an entire panoply of writers, poets and artists who haunted the area in the early 20th century. There have been similar families where talent across a wide spectrum has flourished: the Dutt family of late 19th-century Calcutta, the Huxley brothers and the Amis father-and-son duo, Kingsley and Martin.

The story of the Naipauls, a family that gave the world two novelists, is well-known, owing in the main to VS Naipaul, the Nobel Prize-winning writer, and his younger sibling, Shiva Naipaul, who died young at the age of 40 in 1985. But, there are other writers who make up part of the extended Naipaul family: novelist and short story writer Neil Bissoondath, and poet Vahni Capildeo.

The Naipaul myth has a viable internet presence as well. Lion House, the house built in Trinidad by

Pandit Capildeo (VS Naipaul's maternal grandfather), who later left his family for India, has a website. The house at Nepaul Street, where Seepersad Naipaul, his wife Droapatie, and their seven children—Kamla, Vidiadhar Surajprasad (VS Naipaul), Sati,



Savitri (Savi Naipaul Akal), Mira, Shiva and Nalini—came to live, finally on their own, is now a heritage building looked after by the Friends of Mr Biswas' Society. This house was the model behind VS Naipaul's *A House for Mr. Biswas*, arguably his best known work of fiction.

Mr Biswas was modelled on Seepersad Naipaul, the first writer of the family. It would, however, be a mistake to assume that the book under review, written by Savi Naipaul Akal (henceforth Savi), is merely a non-fiction version of the older one. Or that her book is just about V S Naipaul (henceforth VS), a writer acknowledged for his perspicacity and clear-eyed prose, and whose life and the myths that have formed around it will forever now partly judge his later writing. VS figures in a lot of ways in Savi's book, as a writer in the making, later as famous writer, and also—and more valuably for the reader—as son, brother and uncle to a whole host of nephews and nieces.

Savi's book is a memoir about the family, Naipaul—the parents, their seven children and then the extended clan of Capildeos, and the families the children married into—the Bissoondaths (later Bissoondath) and the Akals.

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Family and Nation

VS's appearances impart to the book some of its interesting contradictions and complexities, its surprising revelations. Readers looking for more "Naipaulia" might find in this book, details on how VS, the writer, was made, how he subsequently "unmade" himself from his earlier avatar, during his years at Oxford University, and then his writing, the finest of which, as many writers have said, has been about the Caribbean. Savi's book is also, in some senses, about how writers are made, their role within the family, how families sustain them and secure for them a necessary cocoon of comfort and security, giving in the process, the very isolation writers seek and need.

But, there were not just writers in the family, the daughters—Savi and her sisters—went on to teach in schools and colleges, while members of the extended family distinguished themselves as lawyers, doctors, and politicians. Apart from Savi who chose to return to Trinidad with her husband (a doctor), and her sister Sati, who married young, other children, siblings, and cousins all moved away; some to the United Kingdom (UK), others later to Canada to study and make a life.

They made up part of the generation, Savi writes somewhat sadly, who were pushed out by the political volatility in Trinidad and Tobago that prevailed during the 1950s and 1960s. The book stresses, and Seepersad was a pioneer within the family in this regard, the value of education. The older women, Soogie (his mother-in-law) and Droapatie (his wife), lacked a formal education, but well understood the value it imparted to their children. These women took on the burden of running the household, kept detailed accounts, and managed within a meagre income. These are tales of equal heroism almost similar to that of Seepersad's own story.

But, a family's story comes within a certain

framework: the dreams, ambitions and fortunes of most in the family were determined by political developments of Trinidad and Tobago in the 20th century; a country that Bishop Desmond Tutu, in the 1980s, called a "rainbow nation." Its different ethnic groups comprised, among others, early native American groups; the descendants of the Spanish, Portuguese, and French settlers; the Chinese and Lebanese emigrants; British administrators; descendants of former Afro-American slaves; and the Indian indentured labourers (the *girmityas*) who arrived here from the 1840s onward, once the slave system ended. These different groups made for "a small and complex nation" as Savi describes her country.

Twin Islands

Trinidad and Tobago make up twin islands, north of the land mass of South America, north-east of Venezuela. The different ethnic groups appeared seemingly harmonised during colonial rule but increasingly jostled for power, during a period beginning from the 1950s, to the country's independence in 1962, and in the years that followed. Questions of belonging, of origin, that created divides between those "of the soil" and "outsiders," made for new uncertainties, insecurities, and fear, emotions well-exploited by parties like the People's Nationalist Movement (PNM), headed by Eric Williams, that came to the forefront in the early 1950s.

The period before, that is, the 1930s onwards, was a vital one, and prosperous for the country too. The Allied powers, mainly the United States (US) and Britain, had a visible presence here during World War II, drawn by its strategic position as well as the prospects of oil and gas that helped Trinidad and Tobago thrive after independence. Its economic resources have sustained the small country despite all the political volatility. Much of this from the late 1980s onwards, Savi writes, has

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left her dismayed. The 1990 coup attempt by the militant Jamaat-al-Muslimeen was violent and wreaked havoc in the urban areas, before it was suppressed.

The Book-loving Patriarch

Seepersad Naipaul lost his father in his infancy. Growing up in an uncle's house, he was driven by a love of education, and writing. He also had a neat hand, was adept at making banners, for his brothers-in-law who were traders, and, later in life, was an avid gardener at his house in Nepaul Street.

Yet, from very early on, he was driven by a "strange" ambition to become a writer. This determination and passion made Seepersad a rebel, not overtly, but in quiet, insistent and stubborn ways. Savi recounts a story entrenched in family lore of her father's "latrine resistance," when he refused to board a ship leaving for India and hid himself away. This determination to be a writer, the veneration he had for great writers, was passed on to his son. The need to succeed in life was imbibed by every one of his other children.

Seepersad married young, and found work in the country's main newspaper, the *Trinidad Guardian*. To sustain his writerly passions, Seepersad endeavoured to stay aloof, but he shrewdly realised the value of family. Uncles or brothers-in-law invariably stepped in when a loan was needed for a child's studies, or when he had his first book published, *The Adventures of Gurudeva and Other Stories*.

The story of how father (Seepersad) and son (VS) related to each other is well known, and quite obviously, there are some bits in this book about Seepersad's devoted attention to his older son (Shiva was born much later; he was 10 when his father died), the letters they exchanged, the expectations Seepersad had of his son, the hope that his son would help get him published in

London. But, VS in England found himself on an unsure footing; he was still uncertain of his own place there. His arrival in England, like those of the "Windrush generation" who came in the late 1940s, appeared an enigma these first years, hard to understand. Seepersad remained ever hopeful, secretly ambitious, and Savi writes with a certain poignancy, of her father's dreams and despair.

Savi, however, takes care to balance out her book. Even her criticisms of VS, the details she reveals of his relations with other women, are not quite so salacious as Patrick French's biography, *The World Is What It Is*. She is non-judgmental and there are even moments of humour and empathy. VS, after all, set out to make of himself a great writer, and never let anything stand in the way, especially relationships.

Women in the Shadows

However, this book is also about the many Naipaul women, matriarchs and others, who willingly shouldered responsibility: Droapatie, the mother; Kamala, the oldest child and daughter, who also secured a scholarship to the Banaras Hindu University, where she fell in love with an Indian émigré from Fiji, Vincent Richmond, but had to give all up and return, owing to her father's ill-health (VS remained in England).

Indeed, Savi's intentions were first to write a memoir about her mother, Droapatie, the indomitable and ever patient matriarch of the family. A woman who does not say much in the book, but her presence holds the family together.

Besides being a memoir and a social history, Savi's book is also a detailed excursion into Trinidad's politics (Tobago, the smaller island does not feature much in the book). The wider history of Trinidad mirrors the family's story. A family, whose first generation, had interests in land and petty trading, insisted on an education for the generation that followed, who, in turn,

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and considering the times, were drawn to the bigger world outside, that is, England. It was to England, where those who secured the two island scholarships given to bright students, went. London, where the publishers were, drew first VS and later, Shiva and their uncles and cousins. London was where Seepersad longed to be.

Most returned to Trinidad to work as lawyers, teachers, or joined politics; the later generation, Seepersad's grandchildren moved away to the US, UK and then Canada. Savi's uncles, Seepersad's brothers-in-law were members of the Democratic Labour Party, who opposed the PNM, a party Savi criticises for fanning ethnic differences. Rudranath Capildeo, Savi's uncle, a mathematics professor in the UK, served for a while as Leader of Opposition; he died young at 50.

Seepersad's stubborn insistence on leading a life of the mind worked off, in subtle and myriad

ways, on his extended family. How a family's fortunes can change over a generation, how a new one emerges from the shadow of the older and shapes itself in a different and yet symbiotic way, is a process that almost parallels how a nation shapes itself over history. Members of a family move out, yet the family exists, an amorphous structure, bound by filial links. The nation with its different groups jostling for attention, appears amorphous as well, despite the temptation to violence and aggrandisement of resources by certain groups. A nation, however, to remain one, is bound by certain values, enshrined mainly by a constitution. And despite the attempts at imposing something definitive as an identity—on an individual, a collective, even a nation—the matter of who one is, and what one would like to be, is always in flux; the process of becoming is never constant, nor is it ever in stasis.

Your “Forgetfulness” Could Be a Sign of Another Problem—and It’s Not Alzheimer’s

by Emily Cappiello

Memory loss and confusion are among the most frightening aspects of aging: Is it a sign of dementia? Alzheimer's disease? A new study from the University of Toronto suggests that at least some forgetfulness may be due to hearing troubles.

The research, published in the *Canadian Journal on Aging*, analyzed cognitive screens in a group of elderly people who were complaining about forgetfulness and other mental processing issues that suggest dementia. The researchers found that while most of the patients' brains were functioning fine—it was their hearing that was suspect. Yet only 20 percent were wearing a hearing aid. The researchers point out that you can't remember something you never heard. Plus, following directions is tough if you can't hear them. Look out for the 5 signs of hearing loss many people ignore.

The Canadian research builds on previous studies linking hearing loss to dementia. If you feel like your memory is giving you trouble, talk to your doctor about a hearing screen. According to a report on the study, people that have untreated hearing loss could eventually lead to dementia. People who have trouble communicating are at risk for social isolation and loneliness—conditions that can contribute to dementia. Only a fraction of the people who need hearing aids wear them—it's a national healthcare crisis.

Book Review: Golden Child by Claire Adam – which son would you choose?

This debut novel about a missing twin in rural Trinidad is a sensitive depiction of family life with the page-flicking urgency of a thriller

by Rowan Hisayo Buchanan • *The Guardian* • January 3, 2019

Lost in Trinidad ... A father searches the island for his missing son. Claire Adam's debut novel is set hours from Trinidad's capital in a part of the island that one character describes as "only bush-and-bandits". In a modest home, with cracking walls, Clyde Deyalsingh is trying to build a future for his family. He has twins, Peter and Paul, who share a bed, under which their books are kept. Clyde's wife asks him to buy shelves, but he is saving for a bigger dream. He has bet all his efforts on Peter's prospects.

Genetically, the twins are identical, but in character and comportment, they are as different as can be. Peter is the golden son. He walks tall and proud. From a young age, he is acknowledged by everyone to be special. In exam after exam, he scores top marks. His father hopes he will win the Golden Medal that will award him the prize money to study in America.

According to family lore, Paul is "slightly retarded" due to a problem at birth. At 13, he wears his hair so long and wild that everyone in the neighbourhood calls him Tarzan. He is a daydreamy kid, who finds that when he tries to read, the letters "look like ants crawling around on the page". Paul dreams of leaving school, getting a job, and using the money to buy baggy jeans and Ray-Ban sunglasses. The rest he would give to his mother in "a big wad of cash". Then one night, Paul disappears. Clyde skips work to search the island for his ungolden child.

If there's enough money, there isn't enough time. If there's enough time, there isn't enough patience

When I realised Adam's novel was about a missing twin, I expected mistaken identities or impersonations: essentially gimmicks. What

I got was an examination of parenthood. As I read *Golden Child*, an old expression flickered on the edge of my consciousness – rob Peter to pay Paul. We all know that feeling of being stretched between obligations, the dread that we will fail someone dear. For many that's just parenthood. If there's enough money, there isn't enough time. If there's enough time, there isn't enough patience. Children wonder: why do I have to inherit her hand-me-downs? Why is he always forgiven, when I am punished? Is he better looking? Is she smarter? Am I loved less? Am I worthy of the love I receive? With luck and kindness, when the siblings grow up these differences can be joked about over lunch: the bitterness adds flavour like salt to good bread. But what if the stakes are higher? What if only one son can have the future the father dreams of?

I won't give away the plot, but I will say there comes a moment when Clyde must choose between his two sons. His anguish is delicately rendered. He worries for the safety not only of his children but of his wife. He tries so hard to walk the straight and true path. He believes the kind of man you have for a father determines your future, and "nobody can control what kind of father they get". Clyde spends all his effort on being the right kind. He is willing to sacrifice leisure, his father's home, his own pride, anything it takes for his sons. It should be enough to care for two boys. But somehow it isn't.

Although Clyde is our guiding eye, the narrative stretches beyond him. We see Paul's inner life – one that is entirely hidden from Clyde. Paul has an artistic eye and appreciates "the bright, round moon" and "the pinpricks of stars". We discover

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that much of his apparent stupidity is actually shyness. He is afraid of exams, of school, and of his father's rage. We find out that he is kind: at night, he lets his brother take more than his share of the bed. We view the family from the outside through the eyes of Father Kavanagh, a priest who is giving Paul private lessons. Father Kavanagh does not believe Paul to be "retarded"; to him, Clyde appears extreme in his fixation on securing a bright future for his golden son.

Though much time is devoted to the psychology of his brother and father, the novel dips only briefly into the mind of Peter, the golden child. I wish

the son after whom the book is named had been afforded a few more pages, but in those that we are given, Adam is subtle and delicate in her portrayal of the unique stresses of being the favourite child and the one on whom the future rests.

Overall, this book manages to combine two things rarely bound together in the same spine: a sensitive depiction of family life and the page-flicking urgency of a thriller. And it will leave you wondering what you would have done in Clyde's place.

(Editor's note: Golden Child is available from Amazon in both Hardcover and Paperback editions.)

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SAGHS' Ladies of Change

by Rishard Khan • Trinidad & Tobago Guardian • October 26, 2018

Graduates of the St Augustine High School (SAGHS) are hoping they can live up to the advice given to them today at their graduation on Thursday.

Graduates Naila Badre-Maharaj and Amelia Kelly, who are currently first-year University of the West Indies medical sciences students at Mt Hope, said they intend to be agents of change in Trinidad and Tobago.

In an interview after the graduation ceremony, Badree-Maharaj told the T&T Guardian, "I want to do a lot of volunteer work. Med Sci already is a very gratifying field, you know? So I'm really excited and looking forward to those opportunities."

She added: "It fills your heart, honestly, it is very gratifying. Seeing the difference you can make in someone's life, especially after the flood. In Mt Hope we had a flood drive...it's been really life-changing to see how your small change, how it can impact these people's lives."

Kelly, who initially had dreams of becoming a chef, has bigger aspirations and now envisages herself working with the United Nations and Doctors Without Borders after she finishes medical school but also donates her energy to helping others.

"Even in med school there are all these clubs we take part in like Roteract, Leadership Council – they all do a lot of volunteer work."

Gabrielle Balgobin, who is currently taking a year off from studying to write the SAT examination, meanwhile hopes to get into the field of computer science.

"I think that's a fast growing field and I want to go into cybersecurity and cryptocurrency."

Asked what she intends to do after accomplishing this, she said, "Well I think Trinidad needs it so I'm hoping to come back here and open up my own firm, offer consultant services, especially to all the banks and government sectors because you see people like Scotiabank always getting hacked and I think cyber-



St. Augustine Girls' High School students, from left, Shaneil Peters, Dana Phagoo and Danielle Pierre show off the plaques they received for attaining eight ones in exams. Photo by NICOLE DRAYTON

security is a field that people in Trinidad don't really acknowledge too much and we really need to get with the times and the systems."

Sushmita Samsundar, who won five awards on the day, said she intends to get into bio-medical surgery or medicine and hopefully do research into genetics with a focus on cancer and cell biology.

Speaking to the students at the graduation ceremony, School Supervisor III Joy Griffith told the young women, "If it's one thing you remember when you leave here this morning, is each one of you has something special to offer that will benefit Trinidad and Tobago."

"I am depending on you girls to use what you have received at St Augustine Girls' High School to solve some of the ills of our nation. You have what it takes to bring out the engineering designs to alleviate flooding...to do what it takes to ensure every home gets a decent home living."

Also speaking to the students was GDM Ltd. director Neisha Ghany, who gave the students the hope to accomplish their goals. "In today's world, you have to agree that much of the 'glass ceiling' has been shat-

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tered by those who have gone before. So many of the fixed notions of career and success have been debunked that you are now freer than ever to choose your own way,” Ghany said.

“Make some quiet time to search your mind and your heart and see what thoughts, beliefs and perspectives define you currently. Choose the ones you want to keep and move past those that are holding you back.”



A section of graduates during the ceremony.

Photo by AISTO ALVES

NGHS wins ABS Debate!

by NGHS Editor • Feb 2, 2019

On Thursday 31st January 2019, three UVI students: Melanie Baboolal, Marquita Belgrove and Danya James, proudly represented our school at the ABS (Access Benefit Sharing) debate held at the Hilton Hotel, Port of Spain.

The debate targeted Secondary schools across Trinidad and was hosted by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

It aimed to highlight the need for legislation to protect our biological resources which are being used in Bioprospecting. Bioprospecting is the process of discovering and commercialization of new products based on biological resources. Our school’s arguments focused mainly on conservation of genetic resources, plants and animals in developing countries and the relevance of the Nagoya Protocol to our Caribbean nations.

Naparima Girls’ High School placed 1st, with Trinity College, Moka placing 2nd and Presentation College, San Fernando placing 3rd. Naparima College and Queen’s Royal College placed 4th and 5th respectively.

Thanks to the Principal, Vice Principal and the Science Department for the opportunity given to these three students to participate in this exciting and unique event. A special thank you to Mrs. Bachoo-Ramsook who selflessly gave of her time to prepare the



students by helping them develop their debating skills and speeches.

Thank you to Mr. Zaheer Hosein of UWI St. Augustine, and the other members of the Regional branch of the IUCN for organizing this debate and for their helpful communication and arrangements to make the day a comfortable one for our students.

A special thank you to the other competitors and their schools for making it a memorable one. The last debate against Trinity College was especially challenging so heartfelt appreciation to the students of Naparima College and Presentation College who assisted in a brainstorming session for the last impromptu debate and supported our students in their victory.

We do hope that the Nagoya Protocol is achieved in our region and that there is fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

Naps honours pan champs

Rishard Khan, February 27, 2019



Students of Naparima Boys' and Girls' High School students celebrate their victory yesterday with their teachers, arrangers, principals, and San Fernando Mayor and sponsor.

San Fernando Mayor Junia Regrello yesterday celebrated the victory of Naps Combined saying they restored an over four-decade dry spell for the city.

Regrello was speaking at Naparima Girls' High School where students who took part in Sunday's competition were honoured by their respective schools for their victory in the Secondary Schools Panorama competition.

Regrello told the students that it has been 44 years since San Fernando has won a Panorama competition and he hopes that another band based in the city, CAL Skiffle would be joining Naps Combined in a similar victory at the National Panorama Finals on Saturday.

The celebration took place in both schools; first at Naparima Girls' in the morning for a formal thanksgiving while after lunch, there was more of a full-on celebration with rhythm sections at Naparima College. In their second attempt at the

competition, the Naps Combined steel orchestra managed to bump the reigning champions in the secondary schools' category of the competition, St François Girls' College, down to fifth place with their rendition of No Weapon by LFS Music.

It was an occasion filled with tears as they acknowledged their journey to victory filled with hard work and sacrifices, and thanked all those who made their success possible. Vice Captain of the orchestra, Jada Clarke said this year's competition was stiff as they placed fifth in the preliminary round of the competition and was going up against bands with a history in the competition.

"We went onto that savannah stage with confidence that can only come from faith. The faith from our parents and teachers, the faith from our friends and supporters and the faith Shaquille and Desree (band's arranger and drill master) had in our efforts, our faith in each other as band members and above all, our faith in God," she said.

This year was her last year with the band but she encouraged younger students to take up the mantle.

Advantages of Buying Pre-Construction Condos and More!

Buying a home is one of life's biggest decisions. It ranks right up there with selecting a career path, and choosing a spouse. However, rising prices for single-family homes in large cities, combined with Canada's reputation as a safe haven from global financial storms, have driven condo development in Toronto, York, Peel, Halton, Durham, Waterloo, and other areas. It attracts young professionals, aging boomers, and investors. Toronto is the most popular location, accounting for nearly 50% of all new condominium sales in the GTA.

As an informed consumer, you are fortunate to have several choices depending on your budget, wants, and needs. One option you have as a first time home buyer, retiree, or investor is purchasing a pre-construction condo, or other type of home. Buying in the pre-construction phase is still a good opportunity, as there are laws in place to protect consumers. New condominium sales remain relatively strong, despite recent economic challenges.

Why is buying a pre-construction condo a viable investment:

1) One of the best benefits realized by investing money in pre-construction condos in Toronto is that often times, the initial price for such condos is lower than ones already completed. Hence, you have the opportunity to take advantage of market appreciation.

2) In some cases, with a few financial institutions, it is still possible to lock-in today's low mortgage rates until final closing.

3) Brand new, giving you the ability to select your finishes, and customize certain items, such as appliances, cabinetry, flooring etc.

4) As the deposit to the builder is staggered over a time period, you have time to save money for the payments, and final closing. Generally, the deposit to the builder adds up to about 20% of the purchase price by the time of occupancy, depending on builder's deposit structure.

5) Assist in your long-term financial planning by increasing your equity.

6) Increasing concern for our environment entices builders to develop 'Greener' buildings, using the latest construction materials. For the most part, ensuring that systems are more energy-efficient resulting in lower maintenance fees.

Can the 2019 government plan help you? It will help millennials (first-time home buyers) granted that the combined Household income is below 120K per year (may be subject to change), Canada's Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) will advance up to 10% of the purchase price. The Buyer needs to provide 5% down payment of their own funds (repayment has not been outlined). This program is only available with less than 20% down payment of the amount of the insured mortgage. Plus, the CMHC incentive would be capped at four times the home buyers' annual incomes, or up to 480K. Moreover, you may buy a home through the plan between 500K and 600K depending on the size of your down payment. Indeed, the new incentive would only be available for CMHC-insured mortgages.

Additionally, an increase allowance of Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) for home purchase without tax consequences from 25k to 35k, slightly sweetens the pot for the first time home buyer!

If you are considering purchasing a pre-construction condo it is a good idea to consult your Real Estate Broker and Mortgage Broker to find out your best option. Whether you will live in your new or resale condo as first time home buyer, keep it for retirement, or invest and rent it out, you will come out ahead (of the pack)...!

The information contained in this article does not constitute legal or financial advice. The author makes no claims about its accuracy, completeness, or up-to-date character, and that applies to any site linked to this article as well.

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‘Shurland was the best’

by Carol Matroo

Former Bishop’s girls:

Stephanie Shurland served as the principal of Bishop Anstey High School (BAHS) from 1964-1981. She was an institution upon herself, she was BAHS, a Hilarian.

Shurland died on Carnival Tuesday. Her funeral will be held next Saturday at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Port of Spain. She was said to be in her 90s and had Alzheimers. She lived with her sister in Valsayn.

Former BAHS student Sherron Walker-Harford said one of the most important things Shurland taught her was when one made a mistake, the correct thing to do was not only to acknowledge it, but atone for it and use it as a foundation and a lesson.

Walker-Harford said, “I was suspended from school for fighting with my older sister over a ten cents cold, red Solo. For my O levels, I was told I had to go to Ms Shurland’s office for my results. I was terrified. She looked at me and said you need to know how proud I am of you.

“That day Stephanie Shurland invited me to Sixth Form and handed me an eraser to erase my suspension from my record. Nothing in life was a permanent scar, and nothing in life was a permanent privilege. We worked for everything. Today when you say someone is a Hilarian it is a badge of honour. Those of us who met her were honoured and privileged that she showed an interest in us.”

She said Shurland brought students up to be strong, but not hard.

“She brought us up to think. She invited us to come back for Sixth Form. She said up until O levels what we did was learn and retain information, but at Sixth Form that was when we had to start using our education.

She was stern for our own good. We had rules that taught us the value of discipline. We walked on the left-hand side of the corridor, we greeted people, we were respectful and taught to appreciate the education we were receiving. She taught us work ethic, to accept how lucky we were, to accept how mistakes were made and go through the process.”

Past student Kathryn Stollmeyer-Wight said while Shurland was her mother’s friend, as a student she was

“terrified of her.

“She was such an authoritative figure. She was not approachable to me because I felt I was not smart enough. She walked those halls in sensible heels and she looked very much in control. She would smile, but she was very much in charge and you felt she demanded respect. She asked the best of you and I always felt I was not really giving my best.

“But she really was the best. What a headmistress and a leader. Her attitude was not only a rounded education, but it was for us to be leaders. We were not chosen to be wives and mothers only, and that we could all do with more women leaders, and we all were.”

Stollmeyer-Wight said Shurland mentored all girls who went on to do A levels.

“She was very hands-on in the school, she lived in the school in an apartment above our library. I never imagined her world outside of our walls. Somebody said she taught at Naparima Girls, but I always thought she belonged to us. I never thought we shared her with any other school. I heard she taught in Nigeria, I didn’t know that. To me she was Bishop Anstey High School.”

Shurland never married and had no children. Stollmeyer-Wight said Shurland once said the most painful love was unrequited love.

Another past student Pat Ganase said when Shurland recommended she would be a good candidate for a scholarship offered through the US Information Service, to a small girls college in Virginia, she did not think she was that good, but she went.

On her Facebook page yesterday, Ganase said before she left for the US. Shurland gifted her with three books: Mario Puzo’s *The Godfather*; *On Socrates*; and *The Song Celestial*, Sir Edwin Arnold’s translation of the *Bhagavad Gita*.

She never questioned those choices.

“But I felt then, and still do, that she was beyond my workday challenges, my ordinary life. She was legend, and I couldn’t touch that.”



Naparima crowned National Intercol champions

Photos by: Ansel Jebodh • Wednesday 5 December 2018 • Newsday

Naparima College's captain and custodian, Levi Fernandez, produced a spectacular performance in the final of the National Coca-Cola Intercol by flying exceptionally well throughout the game before saving three penalties in an intense shootout. San Juan North Secondary fell victim to a 4-3 loss from the spot at the Ato Boldon Stadium, Couva, after the match ended 0-0 in regulation time. With penalty kicks deciding the newly crowned 2018 Champions, Fernandez saved his side's perfect season and captured the title which eluded them for the past three years.

San Juan's winger, Isaiah Chase, tested Fernandez in the early minutes of the match by taking two shots from distance but the goalkeeper was well alert to the tasks at hand. Naps thought they had opened the scoring in the 22nd minute from a set piece but the goal was ruled offside despite Isa Bramble placing the cross into the back of the net.

Fernandez was in flying form when he saved a powerful shot from San Juan's captain, Ronaldo Boyce in the 47th minute. Two minutes later Chase skied his effort from outside the box. Naparima's midfielder, Mark Ramdeen, then crept into the game when his shot struck the post in the 63rd minute. Fernandez was then called to action in the 72nd minute when he had to dive low to deny Chase of a goal from a shot inside the six-yard box.

Boyce then had his second attempt blocked five minutes later by the unbeatable custodian. The score remained 0-0 until the end of the match as both goalkeepers made their impact. Elisha Garcia managed to save two consecutive



Naparima College's Mark Ramdeen controls the ball in the Coca-Cola National Intercol final, against San Juan North Secondary, at the Ato Boldon Stadium, Couva, yesterday.

shots in the shootout for San Juan North but they were unable to captivate from their advantage.

Speaking after the match, MVP of the match, Fernandez said, "Being the captain of this spectacular side for this season it was a big responsibility for me and when everyone thought it was over in the shootout, I was still calm and confident in myself that I would save at least one penalty." He continued, "It is a remarkable feat to go unbeaten for the entire season and to keep five clean sheets in the Intercol. We know it would have been a physical game against a strong team but I think I did my job which was to keep the ball from hitting the back of the net and we give thanks to God for us achieving this prestigious milestone."

SAGHS to make World Cheer debut

Two TT school teams leave for Orlando today

by Andrew Gioannetti • Newsday • February 6, 2019

St Augustine Girls High School cheerleaders will be making their debut at the World Cheer Championships on Orlando, Florida this weekend.

THIRTY-TWO girls from St Augustine Girls High School (SAGHS) Star Firez and St Joseph's Convent (SJC) Port of Spain Scorpions will leave for Orlando, Florida today to showcase their talents at the World School Cheerleading Championships.

It will be for many of them a once-in-a-lifetime experience, competing at an International Cheer Union-sanctioned (ICU) event at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Walt Disney World Resort. The Championships start Friday and end Sunday.

SAGHS will make their debut in the medium size division (14 members), while SJC – set for their second appearance since 2017 – are in the large (18 members). Both are competing at Level II.

SAGHS' cheerleaders are confident and at ease heading to the event, having trained consistently since the TT Cheer Federation (TTCF) National Cheer Championship last year, where they dethroned long-time winners SJC Port of Spain for their first title in the intermediate division. Champions SAGHS and runners-up SJC qualified for the World School Cheerleading Championships from the TTCF national event.

The two teams had their final training at the



Jean Pierre Complex, Mucurapo, Sunday, where they were given the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the students from the other school.

Leading SAGHS as team captain is Shae-Marie Aaron.

Aaron, 18, is in her final year at SAGHS and said she wants to use the opportunity to encourage her peers and younger girls to get involved in cheerleading for the physical and psychological aspects to the sport, as well as the opportunity it provides.

She said, "When I started (four years ago), I was in swimming and football but now it's just cheerleading. I like the team spirit of football and cheerleading but then I like cheerleading more because of the difficulty. It's the same physical aspect but you also have to smile and perform,

(Continued on next page)

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so I liked that – and I like dancing. I like that football is physical, but with cheerleading you give a performance.”

Aaron said it was her friends who urged her to start cheerleading and she does not regret taking their advice.

She said, “I also like coming to practice and seeing my team-mates. They’re a great group of girls, so I like spending time with them. And then, at the end of practice, you just kind of feel accomplished because we do certain skills. Every time you hit a skill you feel accomplished.”

Aaron said the sport has helped her personally as well.

“I feel a lot more mature. It’s a very logical sport. You always have to think about what’s next,” she said, adding, “You’re never relaxed and it’s very challenging. It strengthens your core, your arms; everywhere gets more muscular.”

Undoubtedly, one of Aaron’s major plans for Orlando – as with most of her peers – is to visit Disney’s famous attractions.

With her time at SAGHS drawing to an end, Aaron wanted to thank her coaches, the school and federation, saying she hopes to continue to cheer at a university in Europe.

“This will be my last year at the school and with coach Sharon (Dookie), and I would like to say thanks (to her). I had an amazing four years and it’s taught me a lot and I would like to encourage others to join so the sport can grow and so they can enjoy everything I’ve enjoyed,” she said.

Coach Dookie said she has one objective for the team, which is to and show that TT can do the sport of cheer.

Dookie, a TTCF certified Level I & II coach who has worked with SAGHS for over five years and been on a previous trip to Florida,

said, “When we go out there, a lot of the US teams are shocked to see TT on the mat for cheerleading, so we – the federation on the whole – want to show the world that we can compete in the same sport.

“It’s to give a good show, to make sure the girls execute well and that when they leave the mat, they’ve left everything on the mat and they walk off proud – proud to know they represented their school and their country well.”

Dookie said the parents, teachers, current students and past students have all been very supportive of the SAGHS team’s endeavours through the various fund-raising initiatives.

They otherwise received support from the SAGHS’ parent-teacher association, Friends of SAGHS, SAGHS alumnae, Excellent Stores, Subway (Prestige Holdings Ltd), Brand Source and the TT Cheer Federation (TTCF).

SAGHS Star Firez squad: Shea-Marie Aaron, Amelia Ahwai, Adrienne Baptiste, Nadia Bhola, Robyn Bhola, Kamilli Campbell, Raejeanne Carrington, Dillana Clopton, Aquelah Francis, Shemiah Grant, Azara Hosein, Kurnisha Plowden, Amaya Perreira and Jaydah Smith.

St Joseph’s Convent Scorpions squad: Kaitlin Camacho, Chena-Marie John, Gabriella Thong, Gabrielle Gaulteau, Caitlin Gaulteau, Michelle Lue Fatt, Roshelle Lue Fatt, Chelsea Mc Comie, Aaliyah Mohan, Ttiana Mohan, Cecilia Qui, T’chelle Cedeno, Tyla Raghunanan, Sade Flemming, Kerisse Titre, Zahra De Freitas, Zoe Butts and Caylah Pereira.

Wednesday 6 February 2019

Andrew Gioannetti

Bushfire

(For Uncle Neville)

A break in the light
Provides a small glimpse
Of the road ahead
Marked by lightning
Scarred by bush fire

The bush fire crossed the road
We stopped the car and waited
Not sure ... we waited
Grasshoppers, birds, a bevy of insects
Thudded against the car windows

Sailed drunkenly
Through the flames
Some dropping heavily on the roadway
Through the smoke we discerned
A line of egrets

White, silent, waiting
Spaced out
At regular intervals
Patient, no crowding
Waiting for their fulsome feast

As the grassy green bodies
Dropped near their beaks
They scooped them up, silently
Each with his own serving
It seemed

We were witnessing
A different world
Attuned to its own rhythm
Indifferent to flames
Or car lights

Lightning
The smell of raindrops
Cutting into
The pitch road
Still hot from the day's sun

And the bush fire
Unrelenting
Still flushing out
Grassy green hoppers
For the egrets' feast

We took no pictures
Spoke no words
Witnesses to the egrets' bounty
The burning grassland
The roasting of grasshoppers.

Ramabai Espinet

Condolences to

*The family of **Merlin Seukaran** on his
passing on Monday, October 22, 2018.*

***Letitia Goberdhan Yerex**, a NAAC Life
Member, passed away on October 26, 2018.*

*Letitia attended Naparima Girls' High
School and later taught there.*

*Clifford Ramcharan and Pamela
Ramcharan-Alleyne on the passing of their
sister, **Phyllis Ramjattansingh**
on December 22, 2018.*

*Pamela Rambhrarack on the passing of her
mother, **Samdaye Bharath**. Her funeral
was held on February 22nd in Etobicoke.*

*Burke Lai Hing, whose brother
Courtney Lai Hing passed away in
Montreal in March.*

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