



# **“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. XXXVIII No. 1**

**Fall 2014**

# **All Aboard!**



*Photo by G.D. Teelucksingh*

**THE TORONTO SKYLINE LOOKED GREY AND CLOUDY AS WE LEFT THE PIER. AN HOUR LATER, THE SUN CAME OUT (SEE PHOTOS INSIDE).**



## The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada

# *Christmas Dinner & Dance*



*Saturday, November 29th, 2014*

**at Elite Banquet Hall • 1850 Albion Road, Rexdale**  
*(West of HWY 27 & Albion Road )*

**Time: 6:00 p.m**

**Dinner: 7:00 p.m**

**Dress: Formal, Cash Bar**

**Music by:**

**DJ InVINCEable International  
& Panache Steelband**

**Tickets:**

**\$50 • Members**

**\$55 • Non Members**



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*Printing Broadcast for the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada since 1999*

*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.*

## 2014-15 NAAC Executive

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## CREDITS

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## President's Message

This may be a step in the right direction as we welcomed two new members to the Executive Committee at our Annual General Meeting on May 17, 2014.

Richard Jaikaran and Colin Ramdeen were nominated and willingly joined our team. They are forging ahead with innovative ideas that should help us to move forward and keep the NAAC membership inspired.

Richard is ready to help boost the coffers with ideas for fundraising. He is also prepared to get out there and find Iere High School alumni and bring them in.

Colin's knowledge of computer technology will help us to improve our website and hopefully gain more readership. Although his aim is to attract young adults into the Alumni by introducing activities that will satisfy their interests and talents, he does not exclude the seniors - e.g. at the 'paint nite' that was held in June, there were senior members, a child, and young adults.

I wish to compliment all the members of the Executive for May 2014 – April 2015 for the work that they are doing. I would like to recognize two very dedicated members who have volunteered their time to serve on the Executive for almost 10 years: Merle Ramdial has been our President for 8 continuous years

and has been unstinting in her service to NAAC. She continues to volunteer her time as Communications Chair and to editing and publishing of *Broadcast*. Norma Ramsahai has been holding the purse strings for some 10 years. Because of her expertise NAAC's investments are in good shape. Norma knows how to share her time between family life and NAAC, not excluding her own enjoyable activities!

I see it as no great challenge to continue our quest for new members. They are out there - somewhere in Ontario. The first step in getting alumni to volunteer is simply to approach them. Some are waiting to be asked. Others will naturally volunteer. A few will volunteer to help with organizing an event that is being planned and in time will enjoy our camaraderie.

I know that the first baby steps have been made, since I noticed that some of our members do invite their adult children to attend our events. How wonderful it was to see some at our Dinner & Dance November 2013 and at our Boat Cruise on Sept.13, 2014.

Our long-standing members may wonder whether I am hinting that they could sit back and relax, but no, NAAC will NEED MENTORS if our new members are to come from the category of Associates. Our 'pioneer members' still cling to the fact that although they are no longer active, they owe their allegiance to Naparima Alumni Association of Canada.

Do you share the same sentiment?

**Cynthia Ramdeen**

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## From the Editor's Desk...

Here I am, Editor of *Broadcast* for another year, making this my 10th anniversary at this job!

The little notes that I receive from readers letting me know that they appreciate the news and articles that are published keep me at it. I received just that kind of letter from Ruby Samlalsingh in which she enclosed a cheque to NAAC to assist with the cost of publishing *Broadcast*. Thank you Ruby!

I hope that you like the interview and in-depth review written by Ramabai Espinet of Lolita Hernandez's book titled, *Making Callaloo in Detroit*. The title alone is intriguing, so here's hoping that you'll read the book. Thanks again Ramabai.

The story on page 10 is from Clarence

Madhosingh's personal recollections of happenings in his life. He is not reticent about sharing situations that he has found himself in, even embarrassing ones. Clarence, we'll laugh along with you.

When I was young, I attended Mrs. Kemp's Sunday School up on Paradise Hill, where Dr. & Mrs. Kemp lived. The piece on page 8 that Ken Rajkumar Maharaj wrote about the Middle Years when many of the Canadian missionaries that I knew served in Trinidad, brought back memories. Not all of them were fond ones, for example, when Mrs. Kemp would call me up to the front to sing while she accompanied me on her hand organ which sometimes squawked painfully. Panic!

**Merle Ramdial**

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## Finance Report

This report reflects the Association's financial information as at August 31, 2014. Annual Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2015 will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

### BINGO ACCOUNT

Bank of Nova Scotia	\$8,466.00
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### GENERAL ACCOUNT

Bank of Nova Scotia	\$18,196.00
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<b>TOTAL BANK ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>\$26,662.00</b>
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### NAAC INVESTMENTS

Bank of Nova Scotia – Term Deposit	
-Balance at August 31, 2014	\$ 1,211.00
Investment Planning Counsel – Inter Pipeline Fund	
*1600 Units – B.V. per unit \$10.00 (M.V. \$54,048.00)	\$16,000.00
*Dividends earned – Apr/14 – Aug/14	\$ 860.00
**Riocan Real Estate Inv T/U (M.V. \$22,205.00)	\$22,516.00

<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>	<b><u>\$40,587.00</u></b>
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\*Market value of the Inter Pipeline Fund as at August, 2014 was \$33.78 per unit. This reflects an increase of 238% over book value. The fund continues to earn dividends at the rate of \$172 per month which translates to a return of 12.9% per annum on that investment.

\*\*Market value of Riocan REIT as at August, 2014 was \$27.08 per unit a decrease of 1.4% over book value. Dividends earned on this stock shows a return of 5.2% per annum.

The Association has honoured its commitments to the schools in Trinidad in the amount of \$3,760.00 in September, 2014. At our last executive meeting a decision was made to reduce the amount donated to each of the five family of schools by \$500 which was previously used for the purchase of resource materials for student use. This became

necessary because bingo revenue is no longer a source of income for the association and we need other sources of funding to carry out the programs in the Toronto schools. 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. We have also sent down two additional bursaries in the amount of \$500 each to Naparima Girls' High School and Naparima College on behalf of Marjorie David who made a presentation to the association for \$1000 at our Christmas Dance in November 2013.

The events for the current fiscal year were a paint nite in June and a lunch cruise in the Toronto Harbour on September 13, 2014. The harbour cruise was well attended with over 80 members and friends. Both the paint nite event and the harbour lunch cruise were not considered fundraisers. We are still in the process of tabulating the bottom line for the harbour cruise. Our biggest fundraiser is our Christmas dinner and dance which will be held on November 29, 2014. Net profit from this event is used to help fund the bursaries sent to the schools in Trinidad.

In our previous Broadcast you will have noted that nil revenue was earned from Bingo sessions for our last fiscal year ending March 31, 2014. Volunteers continued working the bingo sessions until the end of June 2014 in the hope that we would see some income from that source. However, that wasn't the case, and a decision was made at the AGM that the Association would resign from doing Bingo sessions until the hall returns to a profitable status. We have been put on a waiting list by the City of Toronto to continue with bingo sessions when the hall becomes profitable, but to date that has not been realized.

Respectfully submitted  
**Norma Ramsahai**, Treasurer

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## Membership Report

### MEMBERS As of April 2014

#### TOTAL MEMBERSHIP — 276

HONORARY MEMBERS	16
LIFE – REGULAR	156
LIFE – ASSOCIATE	40
ANNUAL – REGULAR	43
ANNUAL – ASSOCIATE	17
ANNUAL – FAMILY	3
ANNUAL – STUDENT	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>276</b>

*This report is less of an account of our membership status to-date, but is more of a tribute to existing members, and a special message to friends, colleagues and family that are not quite members as yet.*

I am a younger NAAC member who recently joined the NAAC Executive, and even though I have always been familiar with the Naparima community, my recent involvement has opened my eyes to the true sense of community that lives within the NAAC membership.

The story of how NAAC was founded is inspiring and the passion that has continued over the last 36 years to keep this organization alive is a task that is difficult to understand from the outside looking in.

I congratulate and offer my respect not only to the members who have risen to the occasion to provide leadership in the association, but most of all to the members of the NAAC community that have been loyal supporters of the NAAC cause.

As we look towards future years, I would like to encourage those that have been on the sidelines cheering on our pioneers, to take a step forward to offer their skills, talents and leadership abilities to build a community of Alumni that demonstrates not only strong support for social campaigns, but also one that is socially responsible and philanthropic in our Caribbean community.

Membership isn't about numbers. It is about reaching a higher level of member engagement and developing a community that translates to high membership value.

There may not be one person that can step onto this Executive, and offer a membership experience that caters to the every need of such a diverse group... it requires more of a holistic approach to understanding our membership's needs, and we must evolve with our members' changing lifestyles and needs.

Our aim for the next coming year is to analyze our membership's diversity, their social and lifestyle preferences, and build a series of social, educational and professional development events that will appeal to all age groups and offer them value compared to everyday alternatives

We encourage our members at large to become more involved in our many committees, as we transform our offering to make NAAC a more integrated and influential part of your lifestyle.

I look forward to volunteering my time towards the sustainability and growth of this NAAC Community and look forward to meeting new members and volunteers.

**For more information and to find out how to become a NAAC Member, please Contact:**

Colin Ramdeen

E-mail: [Colin.ramdeen@gmail.com](mailto:Colin.ramdeen@gmail.com)

Tel: 647-802-4250

#### **\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS \*\***

Please attend our upcoming General Meeting to learn more and to participate in discussions that will influence future member benefits, social activities and community engagement (**Notice on Page 6**).

Respectfully submitted

**Colin Ramdeen**

*Chair, Membership Committee*



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## Social Report

Our recent Boat Cruise on September 13<sup>th</sup> offered a relaxed and inviting atmosphere for approx. 80 guests aboard the Obsession III. Special thanks to the initiative and planning of Angela Jutlah and the excellent coordination of Merle Ramdial for this remarkable experience.

Congratulations to Sandy Pelechaty whose lucky ticket was drawn for the 50/50 draw.

As a new member of the Social Committee, it was a pleasure being able to meet and interact with many of you, and receive feedback that your new social committee can build on.

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, a small group enjoyed a leisurely Sunday afternoon painting at the Markham Paint Lounge. The group of 11 gathered in a real artists' studio where they received professional guidance as they painted whatever inspired them.

Our ever-popular Annual Dinner and Dance event will be held at the recently renovated Elite Banquet hall and will feature the popular DJ InVINCEable along with familiar Panache Steelband. This event offers an excellent opportunity for reunions with old friends and alumni. Please contact any member of the Social Committee or the Executive for tickets. (\$50 for members and \$55 for non-members). Details below.

On behalf of the social committee (below), we are looking forward to bringing you many more innovative, fun and educational events that will not only offer you value but also allow better inter-networking and relationship building across our NAAC community.

Please join us at the General Meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup>, as we will share important updates that are meant to improve our ability to plan, promote and create a new level of interactivity amongst the membership through website enhancements, newsletters, and quite possibly even social media.

We are always open to event suggestions, and if you are interested in volunteering or joining the social committee please contact:

- Wendy Rostant: [twrostant@gmail.com](mailto:twrostant@gmail.com) 905 542 3548
- Merle Ramdial: [merle.ramdial@gmail.com](mailto:merle.ramdial@gmail.com) 905 844 1254
- Colin Ramdeen: [colin.ramdeen@gmail.com](mailto:colin.ramdeen@gmail.com) 647 802 4250

### UPCOMING EVENT\*\*

Please join us at the upcoming Dinner and Dance where you can reminisce and celebrate with friends in one of the NAAC's most glamorous and memorable social events. See ad on inside front cover.

*Colin Ramdeen, Chair, Social Committee*



*Paint Nite  
Group,  
June, 2014*

## Communications Report

Maintenance of our website continues with regular updates to the news and membership pages. We have had discussions about improvements to our site by adding email accounts as a means of contacting NAAC personnel, instead of using individual personal accounts. We have also discussed re-instating our Facebook presence, with some additional safeguards against spam-type postings. The expectation is that these additions will make it easier for members to find out about the activities of the Association in real time.

Look for these additions later on in the Fall.

We recognize that there are members who are not

connected to the internet and so may still require that personal phone call.

If you would like to add your name to the list of members who would prefer to read an e-copy of Broadcast when it is posted to our site ([www.naactoronto.ca](http://www.naactoronto.ca)), please send me a message at [merle.ramdial@gmail.com](mailto:merle.ramdial@gmail.com)

Thanks to Ras Shreeram for volunteering yet again this year to solicit advertisements from small businesses. I truly appreciate that you try in spite of rejection from many quarters.

Respectfully submitted

*Merle Ramdial, Chair, Communications*



## NOTICE OF NAAC GENERAL MEETING

**Saturday, November 8, 2014**

**12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Knox Presbyterian Church**

**4156 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough, ON**

*Refreshments will be served at Noon*

## NAAC Canadian Bursary 2014

*The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada (Toronto) is pleased to announce its 23rd annual Canadian Bursary Program. A minimum of two bursaries, each valued at \$500 will be offered to successful applicants. See pages 27-28 for Guidelines & Application or download forms from the NAAC web site: [www.naactoronto.ca](http://www.naactoronto.ca)*



## Steelband Report

As reported elsewhere - see the Financial Report - NAAC will no longer be participating in the running of bingo sessions at the Ultimate Bingo Hall in Toronto. The money that we have in the Bingo Account will likely be sufficient to fund our NAAC steelband program for a few years only. Looking ahead, the Executive decided to raise funds by increasing the steelband class fees to \$40 per semester, which is approximately \$2 per class, and by adding one more NAAC fundraising event for the year that will be dedicated to the Steelband Programme.

Beginner classes have already started at Cedarbrae C.I. (on Mondays) and at West Humber C.I. (on Wednesdays). The NAAC Panache Steelband will

continue to meet on Wednesdays at West Humber C.I. The twice-yearly tuning of pans will still be offered to the schools as will the bursaries and awards.

**To recent retirees and their grandchildren!** We have both ends of the city covered. You know you always wanted to learn to play pan, but your parents never let you near a panyard in Trinidad, so grab this opportunity to learn in a safe, congenial atmosphere with other beginners from ages 8 to 80.

If you've played before, come on out and join the advanced students. You may even get to play with our Panache Steelband once you learn the repertoire.

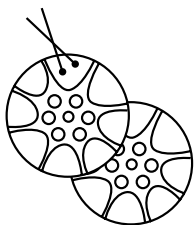
Respectfully submitted

**Ian Ramdial,**

Steelband Liaison



*NAAC West-end steelband classes celebrating last day of the second semester.*



## NOTICE:

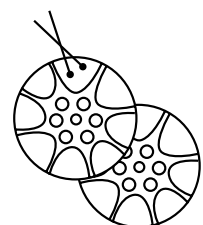
### Steelband Classes 2014/2015 Season

**Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute • Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

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

**West Humber Collegiate Institute • Time: 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

Contact: Ian Ramdial • Tel: 905-844-1254  
email: ian.ramdial09@gmail.com



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# *The Middle Years of the Mission*

*by Ken Rajkumar Maharaj*

We are all very familiar with stories of the early Canadian Mission, and its founders. Less is written of the middle years of the Mission, the first half of the twentieth century; but it was a fruitful and industrious period. By the turn of the century, under the constant direction and development of the two founding missionaries, the 30-year-old mission was very well established. Its crowning achievements, as markers of its progress, had been set in place, notably: a theological college (1890), a teacher's training college (1892), a boys high school (1894) with a girls high school soon to come (1912); the Iere Home for Girls (1904); the Archibald Institute in Tunapuna; scores of elementary schools in every village in south and central Trinidad; two fine churches in San Fernando and Tunapuna; and a handful of native Presbyterian ministers - all based on thousands of converts to the Presbyterian church.

## *Middle Years of the Mission*

Dr. Morton passed away in Tunapuna in 1911; Dr. Grant formally retired in 1917. How to pass on these historic changes in Trinidad society must have been an issue that confronted them as they contemplated their retirement from the field. Their answer lay partly in finding and placing their trust in a new generation of like-minded, understanding missionaries – and they need not have worried. The middle years of the mission were in good hands with those that took the torch.

This second generation of the faithful appeared on the Trinidad landscape in the form of missionaries like Miss A. J. Archibald, Miss M. G. Beattie and Mrs. Sarah Morton (wife of the founder); local personnel like Rev. Laltoo, Rev. Lal Behari, Miss Doon, and numerous “catechists” from the native population; ministers like Dr. Coffin (San Fernando), Rev. Green (Couva), Rev. Harvey Morton (Tunapuna) and Rev.

Macdonald (Princes Town) - and the redoubtable Rev. Dr. H. F. Kemp (San Fernando), for some forty years following the founders' personal retreat.

Theirs were household names in the homes of Trinidad Presbyterians, as between 1920 and 1950, the latter began to experience something like a middle-class working life within the Mission.

## *The role of Women Missionaries*

In today's world when there has been so much concern for gender equality in recent times, it is remarkable to look back on a movement that more than a century ago, assumed that women should be educated and given similar opportunities as men. Although they did not always command the spotlight because they were not ordained ministers, women played as dedicated a role in the Mission as did the men. The Women's Foreign Missionary Service in Canada played a constant role in soliciting financial and material support for the efforts “in the field” in Trinidad. Long-serving women missionaries such as Miss Adella Archibald (Archibald Institute) and Miss M. G. Beattie (NGHS) made contributions as monumental as the men; and inspired similar leadership careers of many TT-born girls.

Other examples: In the 1890's, Mrs. Bronson of Ottawa gave a quarter of the capital needed to purchase the existing Naparima lands at Paradise Pastures. (La Pique was acquired entirely through a personal donation from Dr. Coffin). In 1915, Mrs. Sarah Morton pushed for the construction of a dormitory at La Pique, where generations of girls stayed under the overall tutelage of Miss Beattie and Miss Doon. In 1921, the Teachers Training College opened its curriculum to women, suddenly opening entirely new career fields in education where previously women could aspire only to more

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traditional roles. In 1922, Miss Beattie and Mrs. Kemp pioneered the “TGIT” (Trinidad Girls in Training) movement, patterned on the CGIT in Canada. In the 1930’s, Mrs. Walls was instrumental in bringing the Red Cross to Trinidad.

Considering that today, the prime minister of TT is a woman who grew up in the social framework created by the Canadian Mission, and attended its schools, it does make one ponder on the long reach of history.

### ***Educators and Ministers***

The Mission was educational as well as religious. Apart from their sustained efforts in the schools, all the ordained ministers had congregations in various churches. They performed christenings, marriages and funerals – and even participated in bhajans at village gatherings. Typical of the Missionaries of the middle period was Dr H. F. Kemp.

Dr. Kemp, like many of the missionaries, came from a small rural community in Nova Scotia, obtained his academic credentials at Pine Hill in Halifax, and once wedded to the mission in 1914, served steadily and consistently in all areas of its administration and development for 40 years. Like Dr. Coffin, he was principal or headmaster of a fledgling Naparima College for two years; and then

in subsequent years taught at the theological and training colleges; and then, working out of Couva, became the “go-to” practical administrator for most of the Mission’s elementary schools in south and central Trinidad. At various times, he was the Moderator or pastor for local congregations.

Thus, generations of native workers within the Mission met Dr. Kemp at high school, then were taught by him (and other Mission ministers) at teachers’ training college for example, and then were more or less indirectly under his guidance for the rest of their careers; or knew him as their minister. This is a cradle for legend and fond personal regard, though nothing in Dr. Kemp’s personality projected or encouraged this. He was a combination of modesty and firmness of duty - both characteristics that coincided with ideals of religions other than Christianity.

Our parents and grandparents grew up and lived in the middle years of the Mission. Their social values, and many of our own, came from the exemplars of the time. Religion aside, if there is one thing we learn from looking back on this stirring part of our own collective history, it is the living example of our missionaries, in forming ideals and holding fast to them in all circumstances throughout life – a fine value for passing on to new generations.

## ***Congratulations...***

- *Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary to Clifford & Beverly Ramcharan*

- *NAAQ on its 35th Anniversary which was celebrated with a dinner/dance on June 14, 2014.*

- *Prof Brinsley Samaroo, an historian and lecturer, who received the Chaconia Medal (Gold) for long and meritorious service in the sphere of education and public service.*

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# *My Last ICTA Grand Ball*

The Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture was the forerunner of the University of the West Indies in Trinidad. During the early 1950s when I was a student at that venerable institution, it was still enjoying the status as the bastion of research and academics for the British Empire in the tropics. It was an arm of the British Colonial Office in London, which administered all the far-flung colonies in the Pacific, Africa, the West Indies and south and central America. Although the College was located in Trinidad, it remained aloof of most things local. Life on the campus was wholly colonial British including a manned bar with billiards and darts, formal dining, soirees, maid services, shoe and boots services, rugby, tennis and the rifle club. Post graduates from the UK spent a year here before embarking on senior positions in the colonies. They learnt something about tropical agriculture but more about the social and administrative nuances that were practiced in the colonies. Commonwealth undergraduates were trained to be the effective technical link between the British administrators and the local institutions. Their academic regime was much more strict and extensive. Failing even a mid-term examination meant returning to their home colony. My class started with twenty-five students in September 1950. At the Christmas mid-term, eleven failed and left. There were no second chances. Seven of us made it into the second year and three of us graduated in 1953.

The student population of about 80 comprised mainly men with no more than about six women in any one year. For the College dances, the men had to find “dates” outside the “gates” in the local community. This was never difficult as the reputation of the quality of the College dances were renowned and the invitations were in demand and enviable.

The social events at the College, particularly



*The Main Building, the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, St. Augustine, Trinidad, W.I.*

the annual year end balls, were of special interest to the local young white female socialites and their parents. For here was a group of young professional white eligible bachelors who already had jobs in the Colonial Overseas Service with good potential for advancement to senior positions and an almost guaranteed life of ease and relative luxury in the better social circles wherever they were posted - with servants, prestige, power and protection. Nevertheless, all students were afforded the same opportunity to invite whomever they wanted to the social gatherings at the College. The events were all grand affairs and always very classy.

The last College ball in 1953 was a particularly memorable one for me. Although the College was quite liberal in its student drinking rules and indeed ran a full bar in the Hostel, I never drank anything alcoholic during my three years there as a student. Even the administration was aware of this. To them this was, interestingly, a negative characteristic, for social drinking of alcohol at home parties, soirees, and administrative events were considered a necessary part of the lifestyles in the colonies. This was not always easy for me as I was many times the brunt of jeers for this

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abstinence. Most of the students drank, some quite heavily. After one party, Michael Nurse, a classmate, was found by a house maid the next morning, sitting in reverse and sleeping on the toilet with his head resting on the water tank. He missed his 10:00 am flight home to Barbados.

For this last Ball, my classmates, the “Septem Magnum”, (the seven out of thirty who passed every examination so far) were discreetly planning to get me drunk by continually slipping me camouflaged rum punches. I was tipped off to be careful. Sure enough, as the evening started, the convoy of drinks started coming my way. I decided to go along with the prank while being careful not to have too much. However, since I imbibed infrequently, I misjudged my ability to “hold my drinks”. I recall getting happy and becoming a bit uninhibited.

I was quite shy then and I was starting to feel more relaxed and self-confident. A couple of classmates challenged me to ask Mrs. Brooks to dance. I remembered walking across the floor and asking her to dance and actually dancing with this beautiful young woman. But this was the last thing that I remembered of the evening..

The next morning I missed breakfast and had a heavy head as I walked to the dining room for lunch. Several students looked at me with strange smiles. Several of my classmates told me that I was



ICTA Diploma Class, 1953. Author front row left.

in big trouble with the new entomology professor, Mr. Brooks. Everyone was being cynical and mischievous about what happened at the dance but no one would explain what had really happened. Obviously their plan to intoxicate me at the dance had worked and it appeared they got a bonus out of it and they were enjoying it to its fullest. Several suggested that I call Professor Brooks and apologise but they would not tell me what about. I could not tell whether this was a continuation of the prank or whether I really needed to apologise for something I did the previous night. I started to really worry and soon after lunch I decided to call Prof. Brooks.

Prof. Brooks was one of the newer, younger British members of the College staff. I called him at his residence and told him that I would like to apologise for whatever happened at the party. I explained that I was not aware of my actions later in the evening because of the plot by my classmates to get me drunk and that I may have done something that required an apology. His answer was: “Well, well, it is you Madhosingh. How do you feel today after what happened last night?”

I became very concerned about what all this was about. Here I am speaking to Prof. Brooks and I still don’t know what had happened. The tone of his voice gave no clue to his reaction of whatever occurred. A classmate had remarked earlier that day: “Remember, the entomology exam papers are not marked yet!!” One act of misdemeanour was enough to repeal one’s graduation. I had just completed three years of hard work and study and I had topped my class in every subject in the past two years, by a large margin. Last night now appeared like a nightmare and I was waiting for a judgment that could erase the three most productive years of my life.

“Sir, I really don’t know what happened.” I said. Brooks replied: “That was fairly obvious to everyone there last night. But this is a matter

(Continued on next page)



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*between you and Mrs. Brooks and I am sure that she has been expecting to hear from you. Hold on for a moment while I get her."*

My knees were now shaking. I pulled up a chair and sat down. This was real agony. I thought that this 'phone call would have been a quick short apology for whatever and over with by then. Here, after five minutes conversation, I was nowhere closer to the mystery of last night but now I was deeper in fear than I was ever before.

"Hello, Madhosingh" and before I could start my anxious apology for I don't know what, Mrs. Brooks continued: *"You had quite an experience last night. I hope that you haven't got a terrible hangover. We heard that the chaps in your class had planned it all."* This was getting to an unbearable point and I blurted into the 'phone: *"Mrs. Brooks I apologise for what happened last night."* She burst into a sudden fit of laughter and said: *"Really, there is nothing to apologise for, Madhosingh. You gave me the best compliment I have ever had since I married Michael and that's the truth."*

She was still chuckling and I was still unaware of what all this was about but her jovial attitude gave me some relief. I said that I was happy for that but asked if she would please tell me what happened as it seemed part of the plot to prolong my agony about last night's event as long as possible. "Well", she said, *"your chappys wanted Michael and me to join in this prank but I told them we would have none of it so I was not surprised when you asked me to dance."* I interjected: *"That was the last thing I remembered about last night."*

She said: *"Well, my dear man, the best was yet to come. You see, the music had stopped, everyone cleared the floor, but you kept on dancing with me. You were mumbling something which I could not quite understand and then suddenly, to my great surprise, you were on your knees proposing to me. That's when your friends came over and took you away to your dormitory room with a hearty round*

*of applause from everyone. Your chaps looked after your dance date who by the way, was aware of all that was going on. So there, you see, it wasn't all that bad, after all."*

I told her that I was sorry if I did embarrass her and thanked her for taking it in such good spirit. I told her also how relieved I was because of the fears I had because I did not know what had happened. To top it off, Mrs. Brooks said: *"Come over for tea at three o'clock so we could have a good laugh about last night. I think Michael wants to tell you something also."* So, the drama was not quite over.

The tea event was comfortable and informal - different from the teas with the older profs. While Mrs. Brooks prepared the sandwiches and cakes, Prof. Brooks chatted amiably and asked what my plans were after graduation from the College. He suggested that I should continue graduate studies at a university abroad. "By the way" he said, *"I just finished marking the entomology examination papers and you have topped the class again - congratulations. You have done exceptionally well in your three years here. Keep it up and you will have a great future."* When I was about to leave, I thanked Mrs. Brooks for the tea and for absolving my worry, she said: *"We will all remember last night always, wouldn't we?"*

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## *NAAC Harbour Cruise & Luncheon*



*Photos by: G.D. Teelucksingh*



# NAAC Harbour Cruise & Luncheon



Photos by: G.D. Teelucksingh



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## Yerette?

*I was talking to a friend who recently returned from a visit to Trinidad when she mentioned that the highlight of her trip was going to the hummingbird sanctuary up north in the hills. She was fumbling for the name, so I suggested the Asa Wright Nature Centre. No, it was not, since she had been to that centre many years ago.*

*After a few hours, she remembered the name and it was “Yerette”. I had never heard of this place and just had to find out more. Seems I have been away from T & T too long, so any Trini that I have met since, I ask them if they have heard of this “Hummingbird Sanctuary”. So, just in case you have not heard about this lovely place, I’ll share this bit of information with you. (Editor).*

## Hummingbird heaven in famed Trinidad garden

*By Diane Slawych (Special To QMI Agency)*

PORT of SPAIN, Trinidad -- The largest concentration of hummingbirds in the Caribbean can be found in a nondescript neighbourhood in the lush Maracas Valley town of St. Joseph -- or to be more specific, in Theo and Gloria Ferguson’s garden.

Hundreds of the birds visit on an average day, including 13 of the 17 hummingbird species that can be found on the dual-island nation of Trinidad and Tobago.

“Twelve of those 13 should be here today,” says Theo, who has worked diligently to attract the birds by planting their favourite flowers and installing dozens of bird feeders.

Two years ago, in 2011, the couple decided to share their avian paradise with visitors and opened Yerette, which is the Amerindian word for hummingbird. It has since become **one of the island’s top tourist attractions.**

Any day is a good day to see hummingbirds but once in a while -- for some unexplained reason -- an extraordinarily large number will show up in a single day. Theo calls that a “hummingbird shower.”

“We had over 3,000 birds here on Christmas Day.



That was extra special. We’re not sure why but once a month we get that kind of invasion. And it just leaves everybody stunned.”

The tour begins on the garden patio, where Theo introduces our small group to the world of the hummingbird, as dozens of the tiny creatures chirp, tweet and flutter behind him.

“Listen to the sounds and you hear buzzing -- that comes from the beating of the wings, but do

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you know how fast they beat?” Theo asks. “Very fast, between 80 and 100 times every second,” he adds, clapping his hands for effect.



The birds, which exist only in the Americas (mostly in the tropics), burn the human equivalent of about 150,000 calories a day. Their tiny hearts beat up to 1,200

times per minute and their aerial manoeuvres include the ability to fly backwards and upside down!

“Hummingbirds,” Theo says, “are the biological extreme within nature.”

They are also a powerful national symbol of Trinidad and Tobago, which is known as the Land of the Hummingbird. Images of the bird appear on the national coat of arms, the \$20 note and the passport. One of the country’s national awards is the Hummingbird Medal. The bird is the main insignia of the army, coast guard, air guard and police as well as being the logo of Caribbean Airlines, Trinidad’s national carrier.

The metallic iridescence of the hummingbirds has prompted some to call them “flying jewels” or “living gems.” Unfortunately that beauty once had a down side for the species.

In the 19th century they were captured, killed and exported to Europe to be used as adornments by the fashion industry, Theo tells us. One shipment alone that arrived in London contained over 400,000 of the birds. Today the species is protected by international law and it’s illegal to capture, own, buy or sell a hummingbird in many places.

Inside the cozy art gallery that is part of the Ferguson’s home, Theo’s stunning photographs adorn the walls. We watch a photo presentation of the hummingbirds on a high definition TV, enhanced by our host’s live narration. We see the birds sunbathing and rain bathing and examples of a manoeuvre Theo calls the “body slam.”

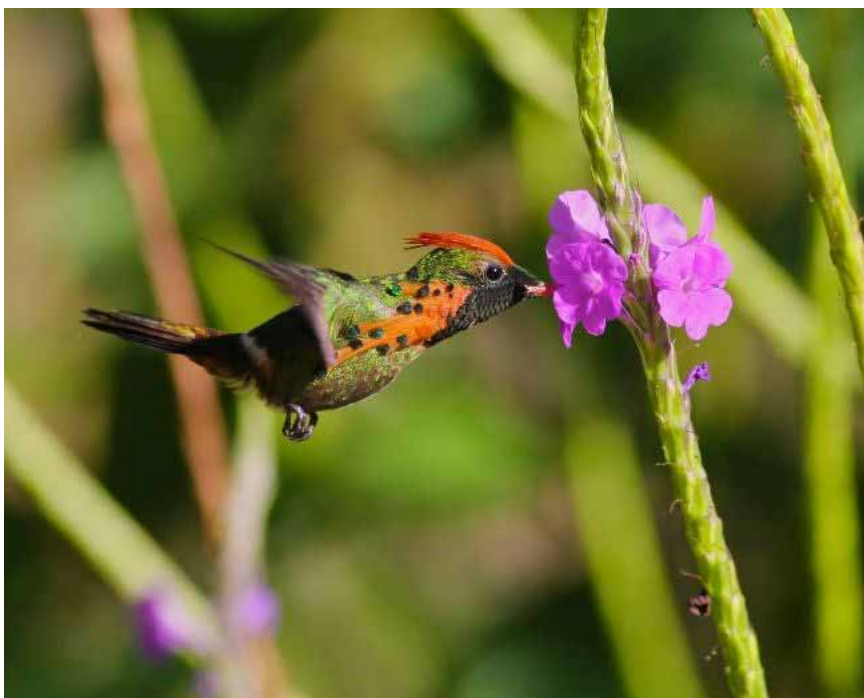
There are images of the Tufted Coquette -- the world’s second smallest bird (length 17 cm) and the Ruby Topaz -- which Theo calls one of the most beautiful hummingbirds.

“I love the gold on the rump of the Black-throated Mango,” he enthuses over another image.

“Here’s the most iridescent bird now, the Blue-chinned Sapphire -- that’s my wife’s favourite.”

As for Theo’s favourite? “I don’t have one,” he insists. “They’re all my children.”

Yerette is at 88 Valley View, Maracas Valley, St. Joseph in Trinidad. Visits are by appointment only. To arrange, check [yerette.com](http://yerette.com) or call 1-868-663-2623. Admission is \$25 US. Among species you can expect to see are the White-chested Emerald, the Black-throated Mango, the Ruby Topaz and the Green Hermit.



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# *An Interview with Lolita Hernandez*

*by Ramabai Espinet*

**1. The question of audience - who are you writing for (please don't say everybody because that's a given) and more to the point, who is the audience that you are in conversation with, through your writing?**

While everybody may be on my shoulders (and I mean such an assortment of people that I question their origin and purpose), I try my best to ignore them. I find myself in conversation with myself and my characters, which are, of course, manifestations of me. I am always trying to figure out the real meaning of whatever in order to make sense of it all. Still trying.

**2. Some of the stories are concerned with political issues related to union activism, workers' rights etc. Can you talk a bit about your involvement in this area and how and why it is related to your writing?**

I was born and raised in Detroit, and although I graduated from university, I ended up working in a Detroit auto factory. This was not unusual for the 60s/70s when intellectuals found themselves in the plants. My parents were dismayed, but I was ownway as they say and worked for General Motors over thirty-three years in a variety of capacities. For example, I spent five years on the motor assembly line at Cadillac Motor Car Company and then moved on to become the first woman in the Cadillac Engineering Auto Layout and Design Trade, which is a fancy way of saying I was an engineering mechanic. The stories in my first fiction collection, *Autopsy of an Engine and other Stories* from the Cadillac Plant, are fiction documentations of that period. And, of course, Detroit continues to be one powerful and strange political animal.

**3. Explain your own deep connection to things Caribbean even though you were born here. Does this interest extend to the Region itself, as well**

**as the diaspora? If it does, tell us how. If not, any thoughts about this?**

You have to understand that my parents were staunch Trini, even my mother, who was from St. Vincent. They were islanders through and through. So I grew up with island culture, values, language even, the whole nine yards. Of course, I apprehended the islands from my parents' memories and from their connection with the small island community in the city at that time. I have family back home and visit as often as possible. And I visit family in Toronto. The ties to T&T are important to me.

**4. Your writing explores a deep, almost mythic, connection to W.I. cuisine. Can you explore this connection as it represents itself in your work or in your everyday life?**

When you are in the process of writing literary fiction, you may not fully understand the inspirational source. I now realize that my parents introduced foods with stories: pelau and the Sunday lime at Maracas; the mystique of bakes; how to properly eat zaboca (and the seed's indelible ink); pastel and parang;; sancocho (which we always ate with mondongo; I remember the day she introduced it to me at a long table of people I didn't really know at the time); trips to the Puerto Rican Market on the southwest side of Detroit, the only place to get provisions back then; schtew chicken (a staple for us and Mama was the Queen of schtew chicken); and my beloved buljol – magic food. I have too many salt fish stories.

**5. Signs and omens of death in Caribbean folk belief are prominent themes in this collection. Maybe you can expand on this in whatever way you are comfortable with.**

I come by my relationship with the spirit world

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naturally. Spirits exist, that's all. I grew up with jumbies at crossroads at midnight, soucouyant, visits from the departed, and countless stories and myths about the last moments. I am proud to say that my mother blessed me with the sign of the cross on her death bed. I have always felt protected because of that. So to my delight, all of that spirit activity was occurring (and still does) in Detroit, the former industrial heartland of the United States.

**6. How do you relate to Caribbean Literature? Do share your thoughts about this - any favourite (or hated) writers? Themes? Preoccupations etc.**

I look to Caribbean literature for language, rhythm, history and approach to story. My favorite writers are Jamaica Kincaid, Robert Antoni, Colin Channer, Earl Lovelace, V.S Naipaul. I am

also, a big fan of Gabriel Garcias Marquez, Isabel Allende, Nadine Gordimer. The list goes on.

**7. Can you share something about the general direction of your writing? Where do you hope to take it? Any new works in the making that you care to talk about?**

I am working on a novel, still based in Detroit, but anchored with Caribbean characters, some from the English-speaking islands, some from the Spanish-speaking, as well as the usual assortment of Detroiters. It's a story of assimilation, memory, food, music, love – the usual themes. Octavio Paz, the great Mexican Nobel Laureate, once said that we write about the same themes over and over again. That's me. Same themes, same city, revolving characters with different names and back drops, same food. Only the songs change.

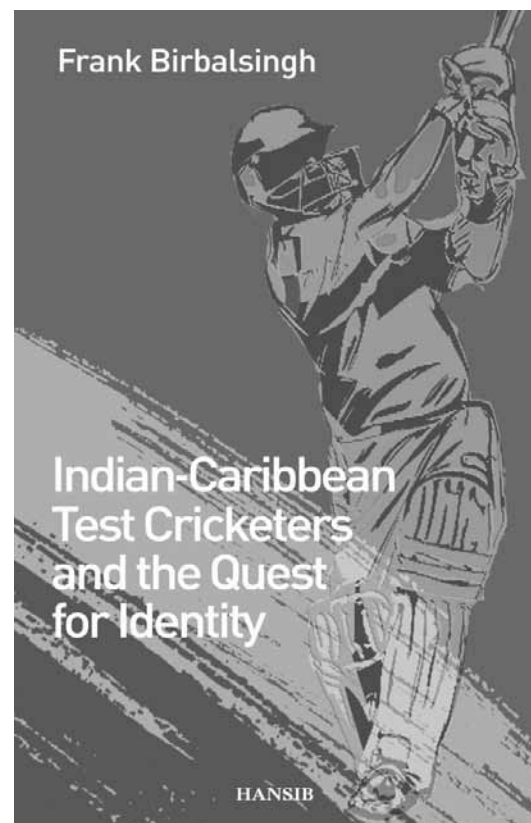
## HOT OFF THE PRESS

Frank Birbalsingh.

*Indian Caribbean Test Cricketers and the Quest for Identity.*

London: Hansib, 2014.

A compelling analysis of the game focusing on the careers of six Indian Caribbean test players. Birbalsingh deftly shows how social and political elements influence the selection process. The commentary on each player's style and artistry is riveting. Five of the six are Guyanese; only one (Ramadhin) is Trinidadian. This in itself is revealing in terms of understanding the forces at play in the Region. Cricket, lovely cricket.



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Book Review:

## ***Making Callaloo in Detroit - Lolita Hernandez***

*A review by Ramabai Espinet*

Lolita Hernandez, *Making Callaloo in Detroit*.

Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2014.

Reviewed by Ramabai Espinet

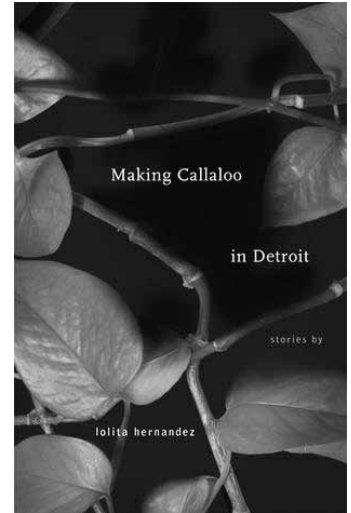
Home is a place of belonging, a secure anchor for one's daily journey into the world, ideally a place of love, comfort and ease, but also an imaginary fortress, a creation sculpted from stories, memories, sounds and smells – a place that differs even among siblings who inhabit the same house. The complicated story of home is the meat of Lolita Hernandez's intricate array of stories in this fetchingly titled collection.

The conversational tone is immediately apparent and one is drawn into a prolonged and intimate exploration with the author about the details of life in Detroit. The cast of characters is extensive and the narrative voice switches between the personal and the omniscient. Switching proves to be an effective device to hold the reader's attention as the creative personality of the text reveals its Caribbean origins while simultaneously dwelling upon the hidden stories of the peripheral inhabitants of the city. The text concentrates on the voices of these marginalized individuals and peels back the layers of ethnic stereotyping to reveal the individual joy and suffering of the closed faces of the city. Any big city is like that, we are reminded, as we enter the world of callaloo making in the heart of the auto industry.

Callaloo bush entwines itself into these stories, becoming a central metaphor for the lives of the small Caribbean community in Detroit, bound by pumpkin-vine relationships, the dasheen bush plant itself becoming a thick impenetrable vine (reminiscent of JA callaloo bush) protecting an old relative, Tante, from the intruding cityscape as she lies on her deathbed, greets the ancestors from elsewhere and celebrates her movement into death with a spectral

callaloo dish. Foodways form the cultural matrix of Hernandez's text – the taste of home, the safe haven conjured up magically by the ritualistic preparation of buljol, bakes and souse, reassures the narrator that she is anchored in a Caribbean reality that persists, even in the depths of MotorCity.

The attached interview with the author shares something of her own history in the auto industry in Detroit. As she puts it, in the 60s intellectuals often deliberately sought out workers' habitats and she informs us that she worked her way up from the motor assembly line into the design and layout aspects of car manufacturing. These stories of the auto industry are engagingly concerned with union politics, with the plight of workers versus corporate managers, with ordinary human beings' daily lives at the mercy of the juggernaut of capitalism and the tyranny of profit-making. Hernandez displays an acute ear for the different voices of this random collection of auto workers at a moment of crisis, when layoffs and cutbacks are being announced. It is no surprise to learn that her previous book is entitled *Autopsy of an Engine and Other Stories from the Cadillac Plant*, nor that it won a PEN Beyond Margins Award in 2005. A political commitment to equity and social justice is evident in the perspectives offered by these tales, the author's engagement with the complexity of marginalized people's lives emerging with an ear sensitively attuned to the varying speech patterns of



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a Detroit population with multiple origins – Puerto Rican, Caribbean, Black American, working class American.

“Five Workers Report on How the Deal Really Went Down” offers five different perspectives on a deal being offered to workers who listen and comment, all the while knowing that “the devil was always somewhere lurking in agreements with the company.” The desolation in the short piece, “Sadie and Marqway” achieves a frightening intensity as we are led to ponder the absence of possibility in the life of eighteen-year old Sadie. “No Puedo Bailar” takes us into a Friday night party of Mexican migrants celebrating the end of another week. In spite of the dancing and loud laughter, the alienation and loneliness of these people, separated from home while they toil in the service of their kinfolk left behind, brings home the stark reality of the workings of the American engine of prosperity, propelled by the labour force of the undocumented.

The diasporic positioning of this author is interesting in that she herself is not a migrant. Born in America into a Caribbean family, growing up as children of migrants tend to do, assimilating into the mainstream for purposes of survival while maintaining ties to their parents’ culture, she is particularly skillful in keeping her American and Caribbean personas separate, indifferent almost, to any possibility of a crossover. The deep mythic connections are reserved for “home” – the place of rampant lushness, encircled by a veritable forest of callaloo bush, its unnatural vines and tendrils reaching out to the diverse group of migrants who, although several times removed, are simply “family” in their Detroit environment.

The aroma of souse and callaloo, coffee and “cocoa tea” pervade the text; as does the unmistakable, lingering smell of death. The smell is described as a “stink” yet there is no fear on the part of those who recognize it. Signs and symbols of death create another overlay of cultural positioning; in the interview Hernandez

offers no discussion or contestation about the spirit world. She simply states that spirits are there. Apart from the signal from the other world emitted as the stink of death, the unseen ancestors gather around and are in full view of the dying person who welcomes them. The fear of death is absent in the act of dying. Death as a persona is also presented as a universal/cross-cultural presence. In “Process Server”, in the midst of a block party on Memorial Day, the time of the first planting in anticipation of a summer bounty, three old women sitting together–Italian, Black American and German- catch sight of a well-dressed stranger on official business searching for the right address and together they register his presence: “the man had brought strange vibrations with him that each of the women realized were harmful and bode ill.” Earlier on, as soon as Maria saw the man she had whispered “he’s come for one of us.” No one else on the block takes notice of the stranger and the occasion passes without incident. The three women, however, now share an intimate experience of foreboding and their friendship deepens.

*Making Callaloo in Detroit* is a collection of stories positioned as part of a diasporic chain of being. Two worlds collide, overlap, merge and remain isolated from each other, all at the same time. It is the experience of the children of migrants who must navigate an even trickier path than the one trod by their parents. Their task is to manage the process of assimilation within self-imposed boundaries, instead of the somewhat plainer process of accommodation to an alien culture. A wonderful and satisfying read, a trip down memory lane, nostalgia without sentimentality, plain speaking about difficult subjects, and a searing honesty about the world as it is – such is Lolita Hernandez’s accomplishment. Her collection is a notable addition to the growing body of the literature of the Caribbean Diaspora.

**Available from the press online and  
also at amazon.com**

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# ***Double Rooks - Youth chess blossoms in south***

*By Carl Jacobs, The Trinidad Guardian (October 2, 2014)*

If proof of the pudding is in the eating then, chesswise, David Martin has passed the test with flying colours.

In the short span of six years, the energetic southern businessman has single-handedly produced an unprecedented blossoming of young chessplayers in the San Fernando area. He started by creating the largest and best equipped chess club in the country among students of Grant Memorial Presbyterian School.

From an initial membership of ten, the GMPS Chess Club has grown to a total of 157 students, setting in the process an impressive record of tournament success and academic achievement.

Under Martin's personal tuition and encouragement, the club produced primary school champions in the last two years and age-group champions in the Under Eight, Under Ten and Under Twelve categories. Overall so far, club members have amassed a total of 347 trophies and 89 medals in competition together with 204 participation certificates. Underscoring the value of chess in academics, one club member emerged the top SEA student of 2013.

Six and seven others placed respectively in SEA's top 200 in 2013 and 2014.

Inevitably, the success that Martin has achieved with GMPS Chess Club has prompted appeals from other schools in the South for similar programmes. In response, he now teaches chess at Bien Venue Presbyterian on Friday afternoons.

A time schedule is being worked out for him to start a programme at Naparima College. He has also committed himself to teach the mind game at Naparima Girls. And he is also considering requests from Cipero RC Primary and Vessigny High School.

How Martin will proceed to satisfy this growing hunger for chess knowledge among students of the South is a problem that only he can solve. The demand seems to be growing beyond the capacity of one man to satisfy, no matter how energetic, conscientious, technologically equipped and well-organised he

may be. Already, in fact, we may wonder at Martin's exceptional success at GMPS with a young family and a growing computer business competing for his time.

What all this demonstrates, in fact, is the great love for the game he developed as captain of St Benedict's College chess team.

This labour of love is now seen in the sacrificial time he spends teaching chess, accompanying children to tournaments, in preparation, research, Web site maintenance, correcting puzzles and the general up-keep of the club.

However, if Martin ever has to decline a request from any of the schools in the South seeking to have a chess programme it would be, in DR's view, something of a minor tragedy. If anything, it would expose quite starkly the abject failure of the national chess body to fulfil this basic responsibility, that is the need for a consistent development programme aimed at the country's young people. It is no coincidence then that advancement of the sport is now largely driven by the enlightened and selfless efforts of two men; Edison Raphael, president of the T&T Chess Foundation, and David Martin, president of the GMPS Chess Club, both of whom, at different times, have had to abandon their executive positions in the T&T Chess Association as a result of operational and policy disagreements.

It should now be obvious that the course taken by these two organisers has been in the best interest of developing this worthwhile sport in our country. Raphael's Foundation, formed 12 years ago, has been making history with its wide-ranging teaching programmes and tournaments both in Trinidad and Tobago. David Martin's initial success with Grant Memorial has begun to spread to other schools in the South. Both their efforts will eventually contribute to the mental stability of our country as we know from the inherent benefits of playing the royal game.

Finally, the contribution being made by Raphael and Martin stems from a love of both the game and country. In this sense DR regards them as true exemplars.

*Obituary:*  
***Pearl Margarita Seunarine (née Sankeralli)***  
***November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1930 – August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014***

Born in Trinidad & Tobago, W.I. in 1930, Pearl began her training in music that would be central to her life and she also started her lifelong career as a teacher. In December 1962 she came with her two children to Canada to rejoin her husband who was studying in Hamilton at McMaster University. The following year they had their third child. They set down roots in Westdale, Hamilton, and very soon Pearl started teaching with the Hamilton Public School Board where she became a pillar in the community and at Westdale United Church.



A going concern all her life, Pearl taught full time, first as an elementary classroom teacher and then many years of music, and finally ESL., earning her Bachelor's in Music from McMaster, running off to Church and Bach-Elgar Choir practices, going to this committee meeting or that organisation, such as the Caribbean Cultural Association, UNICEF, the Canadian Women's Club, entertaining countless numbers and hosting giant Carol Sings. Pearl was nominated for Woman of the Year in Hamilton.

*(Pearl was the wife of the late Fulton Seunarine, and mother of Mary, Atheling, and Clarence and sister to Ainsley Sankeralli of Edmonton, AB.*

*She was a part of NAAC from the early years and became a Life Member of the Association as soon as it was offered.)*

**Condolences to:**

- Winston Poon and his family on the death of his mother, Elizabeth, early in September.
- Liz Yeung and her family on the passing of her mother on September 10th.
- Sandy Pelechaty and her family on the death of her mother in June.

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# *Top three SEA students excited to be at NAPS Girls*

*By Laurel V. Williams (September 3, 2014)*

TOP performer in this year's Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) examination, Shivanna Chatoor, was so excited about attending secondary school she was unable to have a proper night's sleep on Sunday. Yet, Chatoor, of Siparia Old Road, Fyzabad, said she awoke at 5 am yesterday eager to attend Naparima Girls' High School in San Fernando.

"I was excited to come to school today and woke up about 5 am. The school is even bigger than I had expected. I met many students so far... My vacation was tiring. I had many interviews. Sometimes if I have things to do, I would wake up early," said Chatoor, 12. Chatoor, the daughter of a farmer and seamstress, attended the Avocat Vedic Primary School in Fyzabad and passed for her first choice.

She was speaking with Newsday yesterday at her school at La Pique Road in San Fernando, where the students of Form One as well as Lower Six had to undergo orientation.

Also making their first day appearance at Naps Girls were second and third place SEA students Cameel Juman and Arielle Rambharose, respectively. Both girls, like Chatoor, said they are looking forward to life at secondary school. Juman, who attended the Grant Memorial Presbyterian Primary School in San Fernando, said she too was very excited about attending school. "I got up 4 am and was looking forward to school. I could not sleep last night and I met a lot of new friends this morning. I am looking forward to doing my school work," said the soft-spoken Juman.

Rambharose, formerly of ASJA Primary School in San Fernando, was nervous but excited to be at Naps Girls. Principal Carolyn Bally-Gosine yesterday said that orientation will continue today for Lower Six and Form One students. The school has also invited a speaker to address the new students today about



*HAPPY TRIO: The top three SEA students, from left, Shivanna Chatoor, Cameel Juman and Arielle Rambharose are all smiles on their first day at Naparima Girls' High School in San Fernando.*

what is expected of them and what they can expect at the school.

Due to the orientation exercise yesterday there were no formal classes and the same is expected to continue today. "Orientation started on August 25 when their parents came in with them. They spent about two hours in the school and met with their fellow students. They are here for the whole day and tomorrow (today) is the last day for orientation," said Bally-Gosine. She added, "They would meet teachers, have fun activities, do some team building exercises, meet friends and get to know each other." The morning assembly is normally held outside in the school's courtyard but due to heavy rainfall yesterday morning, it was held in the students' respective classrooms.

"Thus far everything is running smoothly. The turnout is great. We did not expect any absenteeism today — staff and students are in full attendance," said the principal.



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# *SAGHS tops Secondary Schools' Film Festival*

*By Nigel Telesford (Sep 23, 2014)*

St Augustine Girls' High School (SAGHS) took home the lion's share of awards recently, as the Trinidad and Tobago Film Company (TTFC) celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Secondary Schools' Short-Film Festival (SSSFF) during its prize-giving ceremony, held at Queen's Hall in St Ann's.

With two separate groups from the same school entering the competition with two distinctly different films, SAGHS effectively doubled their chances of success and reaped four awards as a result.

Whilst Group 1 claimed the award for Best Original Score for their film, *Life After Death* with music composed and played by Samantha Joseph, Group 2 earned awards for Best Open Theme Film, Best Actress and Best Overall Film for their film, *Folk Lies*.

"This experience gave me the opportunity to work in a team where each person had a specific role to play," said Best Actress, Shannon Salick during her vote of thanks. "Together we learned time management, we were exposed to group dynamics and we sharpened our organisational skills. I thoroughly enjoyed this experience! In fact, I intend to pursue a career in the performing arts in the area of theatre of film."

This overwhelming impetus to pursue careers within the industry served as the secondary cause for celebration of the festival's 10-year contribution as TTFC CEO, Carla Foderingham made note of the fact that numerous new entrants into the UWI Film Programme have been participants in the festival.

"We've had just over 2,200 students participating in the SSSFF during the last decade," said Foderingham, "and the number of participants has risen steadily every year, so we think it's safe to say that the festival has successfully nurtured an entire generation into exploring various careers within the film industry. We must applaud Mr Derek Chin of MovieTowne for founding this initiative and thank all our tutors,

teachers, principals, sponsors, parents and of course, the students for participating and supporting the SSSFF. At the same time, we appeal to corporate Trinidad to come on board with us and support the next generation of filmmakers as we look forward to the next decade."

Other winners on the day included: ASJA Boys', Charlieville whose film, *Suicidal Thoughts* won the award for Best Social Awareness Film, while Holy Cross College star, Jarod Baptiste won the award for Best Actor in their film, *Hydro Heist*. The Pentecostal Light and Life High School won the award for Best Environmental Film with their production, *Eden* and St George's College claimed the award for Best Cultural Film with their entry entitled, *Bake and Zaboca*.

The Viewer's Choice Award remains yet to be determined and will be announced by the TTFC following a week-long period of online voting on Caribbean web-portal, [www.overtimett.com](http://www.overtimett.com). All 26 films entered into this year's festival are now featured on the popular site and will remain there for the next year, even as the young filmmakers rally their supporters to vote for their films in order to claim the final award.



*All together: Winners of the 2014 Secondary Schools' Short-Film Festival pose on stage with sponsor representatives and TTFC executives following the completion of the annual awards ceremony.*

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# *Anendran homeward*

I, pilot on a sea of time  
red red running on the rim of doom  
cleaving gleam in cosmic gloom  
dread threading in a spaceless tomb  
bearing on a secret glyph  
freighted with an ancient myth  
dead reading thru a plasmic mime  
a fugue amid the primal rhyme  
framed in feral fabric weft  
veering gap and cosmic cleft  
scarce of chance and slip of room  
the screaming stabs of nothing loom  
red red running on the rim of doom.

the depths of suns and ion streams I parse,  
light-swift parabola, atemporal stop, black stars,  
diffracted in rainbow interstices or quoins of time  
a shift of radians, auras, and of numbers prime,  
in frames surreal neutrino spectred and arrayed  
in essence, soul and thought and motive made.

regions lie suspended where  
a moth doth float in limpid air  
a wraith behind a dove's eye peer  
an emerald sprite with beauty bare  
lightly quaff an orchid near  
fringed pools with poised manzana,  
ixora warm, sweet alamanda,  
hillside poui and jacaranda,  
canopied schefflera and poinciana  
philodendron torn and gold lantana.  
bougainvillea and coralita wreath  
the daylight into peace beneath  
the numbed evening drifting deep

in verdant sense and gentle swoon  
across blue reef and green lagoon  
to salve and calm and balm and sleep.  
puffs of feathery vapour tease  
the languid and lascivious breeze  
the gentle earth and sky to share  
and converse with sea and atmosphere

petrels pick and pitter prim,  
bleached crabs finger, furtive whim,  
gulls glide the upflow by the cliff then tour  
a seaward line of clashing surf and o'er  
casuarina hedges by marina edges,  
valiant sedges by tide-etched ledges  
aloe oleander and oleander red  
oleander in the sky and sunlight wed  
Cocorite and almond tree  
Green grottoes lee.

Brushed in daubs of setting light  
highest the fronded palms still rise  
in the cathedral of the night  
to watch the lonely paradise  
of the maker's favoured land  
in the writing of his hand.

krm

(c) 2006

### **NAAC Canadian Bursary Guidelines 2014**

The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada (Toronto) is pleased to announce its 23rd annual Canadian Bursary Program. A minimum of two bursaries, each valued at \$500 will be offered to successful applicants.

The following are the guidelines under which the program is administered:

1. Each applicant must be a Canadian citizen or a Permanent Resident and must be enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited Canadian post-secondary educational institution.
2. Each applicant must be sponsored by a member of NAAC.
3. Each application submitted must include:
  - a. A completed NAAC Bursary Application form. (See next page)
  - b. Proof of Canadian citizenship or Permanent Residency.
  - c. An official transcript of the applicant's academic record for at least the prior year of studies at high school or post-secondary educational institution, whichever applies. The transcript must indicate **final marks**, not interim marks.
  - d. Proof of full-time enrolment in an undergraduate year of studies at an accredited Canadian **University, College or Vocational institution**. Obtain a confirmation letter from the Registrar's Office.
  - e. A covering letter, outlining the applicant's relevant interests and accomplishments. Because credit is given for the applicant's participation in school or community activities, documentation to support such involvement should be included. Documentation may take the form of letters from teachers, articles, copies of awards etc.
4. All applicants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
  - Academic performance (grades)
  - Participation in school activities
  - Participation in community from a leadership perspective.

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

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

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

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## 2014 NAAC CANADIAN BURSARY APPLICATION

SURNAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GIVEN NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION LAST ATTENDED: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK THE ATTACHED GUIDELINES TO CONFIRM DOCUMENTATION THAT SHOULD ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.

### DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST

- Covering Letter
- Copy of Transcript of previous undergraduate year's record  
OR for first-year applicant, include official transcript of final Grade 12 marks
- Proof of full-time enrolment for this year in university, college or vocational institution
- Proof of Canadian status i.e. Citizenship or Permanent Residency
- Name of NAAC member sponsoring the applicant
- Documentation (letters, clippings etc.) supporting involvement in
  - (a) School or post-secondary activities
  - (b) Community and volunteer work

**THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS NOVEMBER 21st, 2014.**

Only successful applicants will be notified.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO:

SECRETARY, NAAC EXECUTIVE  
BRIDLEWOOD MALL POSTAL OUTLET  
P. O. BOX 92175, 2900 WARDEN AVENUE  
SCARBOROUGH, ON M1W 3Y9



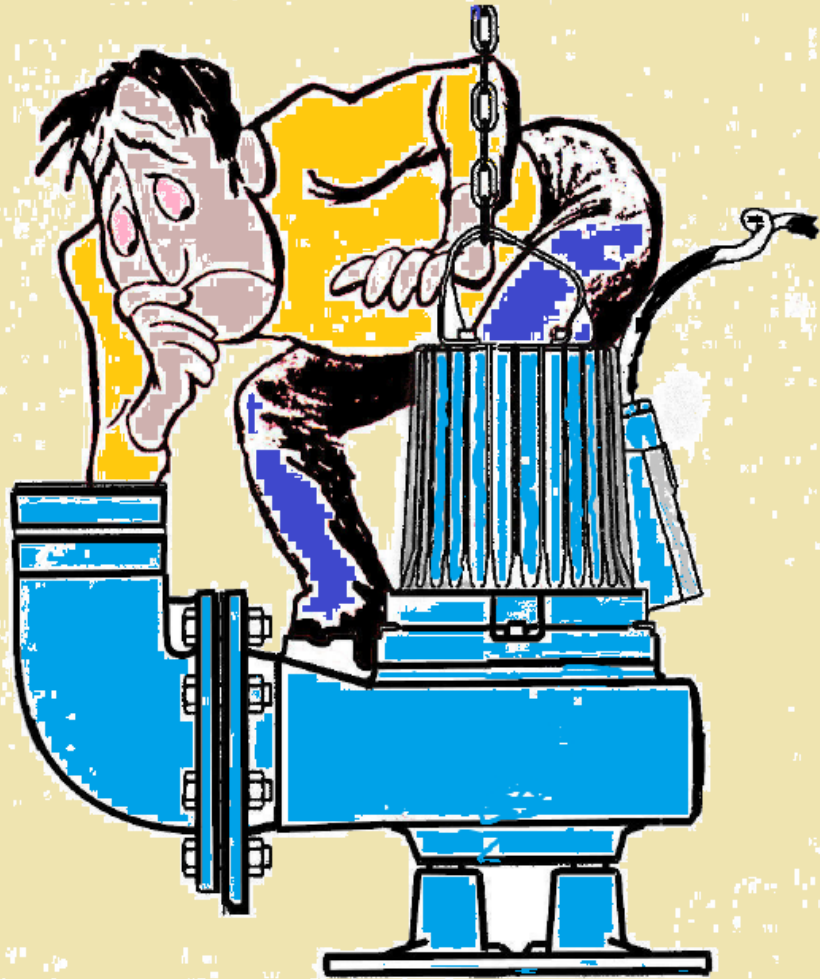
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# TPG Services and Machine Ltd

Canada: Tel: 905-728-6267; email: [info@townlinepump.ca](mailto:info@townlinepump.ca)

USA: Tel: 716-804-8408; email: [richard.tpgusa@gmail.com](mailto:richard.tpgusa@gmail.com)

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Get  
Caught  
With  
Your  
Pumps  
Down!**



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- **Booster Pump Systems for Domestic Water Supply**
- **Grey and Waste Water Transfer**
- **Fire Suppression Pumps**
- **Pumps for Reverse Osmosis Systems**
- **Pool and Spa Pumps and spare parts**
- **Mechanical Seals and O-Ring/Gasket Kits**



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## *NAAC Harbour Cruise & Luncheon*

