CCJ Staff End of Year Function: December 2011

The Court’s End-of-Year Staff Function, usually held in early December, is planned so that all judges and staff can come together in a social gathering to relax, have fun and embrace the spirit of the season.

A planning committee, comprising only staff members, came together to plan this event with the following objectives in mind:

- celebrate with each other the end of a successful 2011;
- achieve maximum attendance by staff and Judges; and
- build camaraderie among staff.

The culmination of the planning efforts was the CCJ 2011 End of Year Staff Function, which took place on 2 December, 2011 at “Drink Wine Bar” in Woodbrook in Port of Spain. This was the “inauguration ball” of sorts for the newly appointed President of the Court, Sir Dennis Byron. It was the President and his wife, Lady Norma’s, first Christmas with the CCJ Family and their first-hand view of how “Trini does lime.”
A short programme, featuring members of the clerical staff, was wittily emceed by Mr Garth Jerry, Court Usher, causing the audience to erupt into spontaneous bursts of laughter while under his command. Musical entertainment was provided in the form of a monologue titled “Trini Christmas”, performed by Ms Celeste Reid, a song, “The 12 CCJ Days of Christmas” written and performed by staff and the highlight of the evening, a performance by Los Alumnos de San Juan, a parang band. There was an encore for the paranderos that moved those in attendance to their feet to dance along to the sweet sounds of “Sai Sai Sai.” The event was well attended by all personnel, from judges to support staff, who deemed the event a success. A special note of gratitude was extended to the members of the planning committee for their hard work and dedication in ensuring that this event was executed seamlessly and enjoyably.

CCJ Panyard Crawl: February 2012

Affectionately referred to as a staple on the CCJ Calendar of Events, the Annual CCJ Panyard crawl, now dubbed “The Crawl”, was on its 7th year, crawling from panyard to panyard and mas’ camp to mas’ camp during the Trinidad and Tobago 2012 Carnival season.

This annual event seeks to create an opportunity to showcase the Carnival culture and art form of Trinidad and Tobago. As a regional court, with judges and staff representing countries from throughout the Caribbean region, this event provides an opportunity for the judges and staff, their friends and families to personally visit and meet with some of the leaders in the Carnival industry, while having fun.

On 10 February, 2012, the event was attended by approximately 165 ‘crawlers’, making this the Court’s biggest panyard crawl to date. Persons arriving at the departure park were greeted by the sweet sound of the steel pan being played by the Sapphonics Steel Orchestra.

Some persons were visibly stirred to ‘shake a leg’ while waiting for the crawl to begin. Large maxi taxis nicknamed ‘crawl buses’ were assigned to transport persons along the route. Crawl buses were named after the soca music front runners for the season, “Mr. Fete”, “I am Soca”, and “Bacchanalist”, to name a few. The CCJ Pan Yard Crawl 2012 visited the Desperados Steel Orchestra’s Pan Yard, Phase II’s Pan Yard, Trini Reveller’s Mas Camp, and Brian Mac Farlane’s Mas’ Camp. Crawlers enjoyed on-the-go pre-packaged snacks, reminiscent of a masquerader’s meal on Carnival Monday and Tuesday – geera pork, corn soup, boiled corn, mini rotis and pholourie.

For the Court President, an ardent pan lover, and his wife, Lady Norma, this was their first “official” crawl with the CCJ Family and friends. If one can judge from appearances, they had a fine time.

All in attendance reported that they were thoroughly entertained and that they were looking forward to 2013.
Fielding a CCJ Team: Judiciary of T&T Sports and Family Day: June 2012

Upon the invitation of the Honourable Mr Justice Ivor Archie, Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago, staff of the CCJ and their families were invited to field a team to join the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago at their Fifth Sports and Family Day, held on 2 June, 2012 at the Mannie Ramjohn Stadium in Marabella. The theme of the event was “The Golden Celebration” in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Court of Appeal.

The CCJ family and friends championed the call for marchers, runners and supporters and formed a team named “Regional Avengers”. The Avengers participated in the Inaugural Health Fair and Savannah Run held on 19 May, 2012, a lead-up event to the Sports and Family day. This saw team CCJ copping first place in the 1-lap Savannah run and the points earned at this event accrued towards the final placing. In the final count, Team CCJ – the Regional Avengers – placed third.

The extremely wide involvement by all levels of staff and their family members made this event a memorable one for the Court. Team CCJ looks forward to participating in the next Sports and Family Day.
CCJ End of Year Function: December 2012

Staff ended the year on a big note celebrating a year of hard work and camaraderie on 14 December, 2012. Themed “Nice, Naughty, or Misunderstood”, the President, Judges and staff all wore festive hats that favoured their choices.

A "Scouting for Talent" competition was the highlight of the afternoon which saw entertaining acts from staff members - a magic show by Ayinde Burgess and songs by Veronica Brooks, Semone Moore and Anson Figaro respectively. Semone Moore was the winner of the competition. The competition was judged by the NAPA's Fine Arts students, while auditors, Jacinth Smith, Carlene Cross and Venold O'Garro ensured that the judges scoring were in keeping with the criteria set out. The staff organized Christmas food and drinks that were native to countries from throughout the Caribbean region. A special guest performance was delivered by the NAPA's Fine Arts students, which reminded us about the importance of team work and the real reason for the season.

The event was well attended and many were looking forward to make it onto the "nice" list for 2013.

CCJ Carnival Lime- 'Iz we ting': February 2013

For the first time, CCJ stayed at home and hosted its very own Carnival Ole Mas’ Competition and Lime titled, "Iz We Ting" on 4 February, 2013.

The event, held in the Court's carpark, was designed to bring staff together, not only to celebrate the national event, Carnival, but more importantly to foster team-building activities that help strengthen bonds in a unique way that will be remembered for time to come.

Staff and their family were eager participants - preparing costumes, supporting team members - and willing competitors in the Ole Mas' Competition.

Necessary Arts Productions opened the program with traditional characters - jab molassie, moko jumbie, midnight robber and Dame Larraine. We created our own savannah stage, coconut vendor and all, and we were fortunate to have Ms Sarah Morris and Mr Araine Brown to assist with creating a Carnival atmosphere, Mr Dennis McComie as our “MC” and Ms Jacqueline Morris as the coordinator for the Ole Mas participants and artistes. Ole Mas categories included political and social commentary, office humour and comedy.

Selwyn Hart, Court Usher, emerged the winner with his witty portrayal called “Clean Sweep” which depicted the results of the recently concluded THA elections in Tobago. Sandra Dee Brown and Venold O’Garro copped second place with their portrayal “Section 34 Double J”, and third place to Wendy Lewis-Callender and Candis Cayona with “More Wuk”. Judges of the competition included Paula Pierre, Francis Barriteau and Daniel Maynard.

The CCJ was entertained by Sapphonic Steel Orchestra and popular soca artistes "Blaxx" and "Benjai". The staff was also entertained by the 3rd place winner in the Junior Young Kings Competition Sergio Francisco and Richard Gomez of Rosary Boys RC School.