

# **MAKERERE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI GROUP 2020**

*(1966-1973)*

*(CELEBRATING MAKERERE UNIVERSITY CENTENARY)*

## **HISTORY BOOK**

*(STORIES-JOURNEYS AND MEMORIES)*



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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*Professor Sultan Karim, Former Faculty Member, Makerere University, for the special message.*

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## **PUBLICATION**

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## FOREWORD

by

**PROFESSOR BARNABAS NAWANGWE, VICE CHANCELLOR, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**



I thank Makerere University Alumni Group 2020 Admin Team (Diamond Lalani, Abdallah Daar, Dilzar Gulamhusein, Yusuf Karbani) on compiling this book as part of the activities to mark one hundred years of Makerere University's excellent service to humanity. Thank you for being part of the story of Makerere's journey, during which she has produced gallant alumni who are helping to make life better globally.

Starting as a humble technical school in the heart of Africa in 1922, Makerere has grown through the decades to become one of the top universities in the World. The University has produced great leaders in all aspects of life, including the politicians who in the 50s and 60s fought for the independence of their countries, great writers, medical workers, political scientists, agriculturalists, engineers, and others. Through the years, Makerere has been inspired by her motto: "WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE". It is this inspiration that has driven the zeal by many scholars to enter the gates of Makerere in search of a quality education. And Makerere has not disappointed them. Makerere University Alumni Group 2020 represents that crop of resilient alumni that contribute to transforming societies across the entire globe.

As Makerere University celebrates one hundred years of excellence and looks boldly to the future, we are cognisant of the contribution made by our more than 400,000 alumni. They have lived to the truthfulness of our motto. By compiling this book, Makerere University Alumni Group 2020 members are telling a part of the story of Makerere. The reader is able to get the most authentic information from people who have lived the Makerere story. Enjoy reading this original story about Makerere!

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, KAMPALA	Page	01
SPECIAL MESSAGES		
PROFESSOR SULTAN KARIM	Page	02
DR. AZIM NANJI	Page	03
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI GROUP 2020		
MEMBERS SUMMARY	Page	04
MEMBERS LIST-PROGRAMS	Page	05
MEMBERS PHOTO-COLLAGE	Page	06
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FAMILY STORIES-JOURNEYS	Page	07
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI GROUP 2020 MEMORIES	Page	237
REMEMBERING DEPARTED FELLOW MAKEREREANS	Page	262

## MAKERERE UNIVERSITY KAMPALA, UGANDA



*Iconic Main Administration Building: University's Main-Hall, Printery, Vice Chancellor's Office.*

Makerere University is Uganda's largest and oldest institution of higher learning first established as a technical school in 1922, it became an independent national university in 1970 <https://www.mak.ac.ug/>

In 1949, Makerere became a University College affiliated to the University College of London. In 1963, Makerere University College became one of the three constituent colleges of the University of East Africa.

Makerere University was alma mater to many post-independence African leaders, including the former Presidents Milton Obote, Julius Nyerere, Benjamin Mkapa, Joseph Kabila, and Mwai Kibaki.

Makerere University is currently constituted of nine academic colleges and one school of law offering programmes for about 35,000 undergraduate and over 3,000 postgraduate students.

In the years immediately after Uganda's independence, Makerere University was a focal point for the literary activity that was central to African nationalist culture.

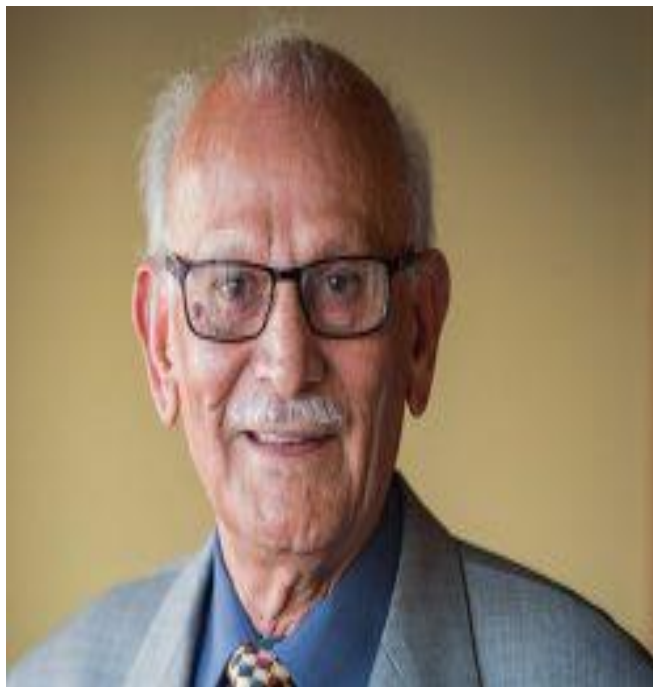
Many prominent writers, including Nuruddin Farah, Ali Mazrui, David Rubadiri, Okello Oculi, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, John Ruganda, Paul Theroux, V. S. Naipaul, and Peter Nazareth, were at Makerere at one point during their careers.

Because of student unrest and faculty disenchantment, Makerere University has been closed three times between 2006 and 2016 and reopened in January 2017.

The Iconic Main Administration Building, with its unique 20th century British architecture, completed in 1941, is easily Makerere University's most recognisable symbol.

In 2022, Makerere University is celebrating One Hundred Years of Excellent Service to Humanity <https://100.mak.ac.ug/>

## SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR SULTAN KARIM



*Formerly,  
Professor and Head  
Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics  
Makerere University Medical School, Kampala, Uganda.*

*At Makerere University, Dr. Karim became interested in a cluster of hormones that is released from the umbilical cord after it is cut, and that is responsible for preventing blood loss during childbirth. Dr. Karim's observations would lead to the pioneering application of these hormones, or prostaglandins, in the field of obstetrics – forming the basis of what the New York Times called “one of the most promising fields in the biological sciences.”*

*Served as,  
Research Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and  
Professor of Pharmacology at NUS, Singapore.*

*Currently,  
Clinical Professor Emeritus  
University of BC Medical School, Vancouver, Canada.*

During my five years at Makerere University from December 1967 to December 1972, my main interaction was with medical students. It was a pleasure to teach Pharmacology (lectures and laboratories) to a well-behaved group that was highly motivated to pursue the career they had chosen. Many were interested in research projects in the Pharmacology Department and some volunteered to participate in clinical trials, and some also joined various research groups during their academic term-breaks. This exposure helped them in deciding future career.

The country went through major upheaval during this period including coups, indiscriminate arrests, and deportations. Politicians, academics, and professionals were singled out as targets. The students coped admirably during this period by complying with new laws and concentrating on their studies. They had expected to be exempt from Idi Amin's expulsion order, but this did not happen.

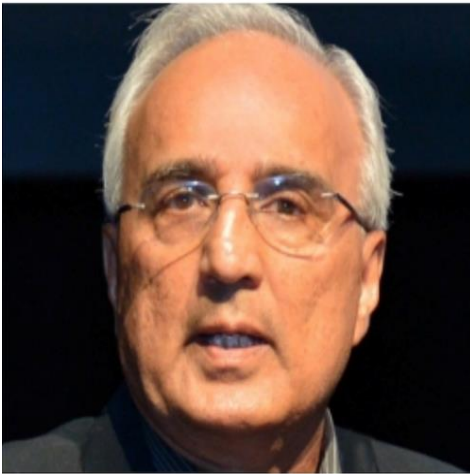
There were 72 medical students who were not permitted to continue their medical studies and had to be relocated. Because Makerere Medical School had good international reputation, we were able to relocate all displaced medical students after personal visits to Medical Schools in the UK, Canada, USA, and Australia. As far as I know all of them graduated in their chosen Profession. Some opted for family practice while others chose different specialization or academic career.

I have managed to keep in touch with many through mutual contacts, reunions organized by students and other means. I am surprised at the number of former MU students I run into while traveling, at airports, conferences, weddings, and other places.

The MU Alumni Group 2020 History Book provides valued information on Makerere students.

Congratulations and well-done MU Alumni Group 2020.

## SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM DR. AZIM NANJI



*Makerere University Alumnus  
(1964-1967 Joint degree in Literature and Religious Studies).*

*Served as,  
Professor and Chair, Department of Religion, University of Florida.  
Director of the Institute of Ismaili Studies, London, U.K.  
Senior Associate Director of the Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies at Stanford University, California, USA.*

*Currently,  
Member, Board of Directors, Global Centre for Pluralism, Ottawa, Canada.  
Member, Board of Directors, Aga Khan University, U.K.*

### A TIME AND PLACE

We do not choose the time and place in which we are born. But both can dramatically affect how our lives unfold. A generation of young people studied at Makerere University during a time of tumultuous change in Africa and indeed the world. The 1960s and 70s brought independence to many African countries, including Kenya, Uganda and then Tanganyika. These countries had chosen post-independence pathways of development often constrained by the shadow of their colonial heritage and a global world order polarized by the Cold War. Makerere University, though not unaffected by the world around, offered amidst its tree-lined campus, a relatively serene environment and solid, traditional academic preparation for individual pathways. As an institution it continued its colonial educational heritage, though there were strong voices that struggled to articulate a more independent and contextually grounded direction.

This volume pays tribute to Makerere University and some of its graduates, who built on the opportunities offered and charted pathways that have in most cases made them products and agents of change for their families and communities, and the places across the world, they call home. They imbibed and embraced intellectual tools but also more enduring qualities that would influence their lives, such as the spirit of cosmopolitanism, ideals of service to others and the capacity to negotiate change. Love of learning and an academic career became central to my personal aspirations. I remain very grateful for the gift of time and place. Makerere University stands on a hill and affords the possibility of gazing beyond it to possible horizons. It remains an indelible part of me.

Makerere University was also where I met Razia Jinha who was born in Kampala, Uganda, and attended the university from 1965-68 and graduated with majors in Geography and Education. We got married in 1968 in London, England. We are currently based in Toronto-Canada.



After Makerere, Razia Nanji Nee Jinha also achieved M.A. in Education, from McGill University, Montreal, Canada as well as Master of Library Science, from the University of Western Ontario, London, Canada.

Razia served as Head of African Languages Materials at the University of Florida Library {Africana Collection}.

*Photo: Razia with fellow students at MU in front of the well-known Birth Mural by the famous Ugandan painter Theresa Musoke, also a Makererean.*

## Makerere University (MU) Alumni Group 2020

Makerere University (MU) Alumni Group 2020 was launched in April 2020 to reconnect the Alumni, many for the first time in 50 years. This group of Alumni, with a common history of having to leave East Africa and resettle in new countries, is made up of bright people who have a wide spectrum of experiences and expertise and wisdom. This was mainly a result of our precious time at Makerere University, where a combination of great education and hard work led to a solid start in our professional careers and personal lives. This has continued for half a century.

MU Alumni Group 2020 is absolutely unique with much history that started with two precious things in common. We were part of the privileged few to have been admitted for education at a world class university, one of the most famous, elite, and top-ranking in Africa in the 1960s and 1970s. At Makerere we lived on campus in a very pluralistic environment, respecting diversity, over 50 years ago. While at Makerere, these group members were incredibly hard-working, fun-loving, happy and friendly; and even today they remain the same friendly, fun-loving, and happy people.

When we resettled in different parts of the world as a result of upheavals in the East African countries in 1970s, our excellent education, sound moral and ethical values, and sense of adventure and courage helped us to build successful professional, family and community lives wherever we lived. With immigration, along the way, we made significant changes and adjustments in professions and careers and life journeys, and acquired diverse experiences, as well as, most importantly, families with children who are amazing individuals with successful professions and careers and businesses.

Some of the members have achieved high professional recognitions and are known nationally and internationally for their work. Many have been involved in voluntary work alongside their professional duties, living in the developing world to fulfil their commitments in voluntary service. With the majority of us now retired or semi-retired, we find much happiness in reconnecting and enjoying networking with each other, sharing our expertise, stories and memories. MU Alumni Group 2020 also plans to hold a in-person reunion to collectively celebrate our respective lives and successes.

As the Makerere University Alumni Group 2020 we have compiled a digital History Book of our great stories and photos from our pre-MU years, our MU years as well as our post-MU journeys, along the way documenting successes and challenges about our careers and life and friendships and volunteer work, that will be shared widely. With 30+ inspiring stories spanning half a century, we hope that the History Book will be a legacy and inspiration that we will leave behind for our children, future generations, and their friends so they can understand our collective history.

While we plan to engage our extended families to achieve our dream that future generations will continue the group and networking, we believe the History Book will also have significant impact on our respective communities and institutions; on students who are seeking mentors and guidance for career planning and development; on governments that are looking to share examples of successes in immigration; on promoting Makerere University itself in having educated us; and on the East African governments to reflect on the loss of skilled human resources, represented by these MU Alumni.

MU Alumni Group 2020 is made up of 52 Alumni (sadly one of our colleagues, Shiraz Lalani, passed away while we were compiling this book). They currently reside in Canada, USA, UK, and Australia, and they come from a background of several different professions and careers in science, medicine, healthcare, mathematics, information technology, arts, business, accounting, auditing, law, financial planning, teaching, consulting, banking, research, writing, editing, and others.

Members of MU Alumni Group 2020 have expressed their continued bonding with Makerere University, and many have also expressed their desire to give back in kind.

MU Alumni Group 2020 Admin Team

Diamond Lalani, Yusuf Karbani, Dilzar Gulamhusein, Abdallah Daar.



Name	MU Years	MU Program
Abdulla, Alnoor	1970-72	Medicine
Abdulla, Ramzan	1966-71	Medicine
Alibhai-Brown, Yasmin	1969-72	Arts (Literature)
Chandarana, Dilshad Nee Valji	1967-70	Arts (Economics and Political Science)
Daar, Abdallah	1968-72	Medicine
Daar, Shahina Nee Jaffer	1969-72	Medicine
Dattoo, Mirza Rajabali	1967-72	Medicine
Daya, Mohamed	1967-72	Medicine
Devji, Zulfikar	1968-71	Science (Economics and Applied Statistics)
Dhanji, Sherbanu Nee Mawji	1969-72	Arts (Comparative Literature)
Esmail, Tazdin	1968-71	Science (Chemistry)
Gulamhusein. Amir	1966-69	Science (Anatomy and Zoology)
Gulamhusein Dilzar Nee Kara	1967-72	Medicine
Hajee, Rehman	1966-70	Science (Economics and Accounting)
Hajee, Yasmin Nee Bandali	1966-69	Arts (Economics)
Jamal, Shamim Nee Gillani	1969-72	Medicine
Jamal, Shaukatali	1969-70	Science (Math and Physics)
Janmohamed, Nazma Nee Tejani	1969-72	Arts (Political Science)
Kanani, Amita Nee Nathwani	1969-72	Science (Biochemistry)
Kanani, Subodh	1969-72	Medicine
Kanji, Almas Nee Kanani	1968-71	Arts (Economics and Accounting)
Karbani, Yusuf	1968-71	Arts (Economics and Accounting)
Kassam, Zarina	1968-72	Medicine
Kassamali, Sultan Amirali	1966-71	Medicine
Lalani, Anil	1971-72	Researcher (Physics Department)
Lalani, Diamond	1968-71	Science (Math and Chemistry)
Lalani, Shiraz	1969-72	Arts (Economics)
Lalani, Zulfikarali	1971-72	Veterinary Medicine
Manji, Mohamed	1966-71	Medicine
Merali, Amir	1968-71	Arts (Economics and Accounting)
Merali, Arzina Nee Kassam	1969-72	Science (Chemistry)
Mohamed, Nasim Nee Bandali	1970-72	Business (Commerce)
Mohamed, Shiraz	1968-73	Medicine
Motani, Azeem	1971-72	Business (Commerce)
Mussani, Anil	1970-72	Medicine
Mussani, Nizar	1968-72	Medicine
Noonan, Khatoon Nee Pradhan	1967-70	Science (Zoology and Biochemistry)
Noronha, John	1968-71	Arts (Geography)
Pradhan, Taj	1970-72	Medicine
Rajabali, Sultaneih Nee Abraham	1968-72	Medicine
Rajwani, Barkat	1969-72	Business (Commerce)
Raval, Bharat	1966-71	Medicine
Rupani, Yasmin Nee Kassam	1967-70	Arts (Economics and Accounting)
Sarangi, Farida Nee Karachiwalla	1970-72	Science (Biochemistry)
Shivji, Gulzar Nee Jamal	1966-72	Arts (Geography and Political Science)
Sorathia, Sharmin Nee Ladha	1969-72	Science (Statistics and Economics)
Sorathia, Shiraz Sumar	1969-72	Science (Chemistry)
Sovani, Abdul	1970-72	Agriculture
Sunderji, Gulzar Nee Tarmohamed	1967-70	Science (Math and Physics)
Sunderji, Shiraz	1967-72	Medicine
Sunderji (Valani) Kamru	1971-73	Business (Commerce)
Vyas, Bakul	1969-72	Arts (Rural Economics and Development Planning)
Vyas, Zabunnissa Nee Antria	1967-72	Medicine



*Abdulla, Alnoor*



*Abdulla, Ramzan*



*Alibhai-Brown, Yasmin*



*Chandarana, Dilshad*



*Daar, Abdallah & Shahina*



*Dattoo, Mirza*



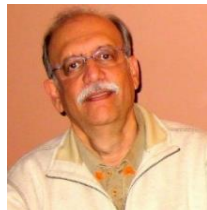
*Daya, Mohamed*



*Devji, Zulfikar*



*Dhanji, Sherbanu*



*Esmail, Tazdin*



*Gulamhusein, Dilzar & Amir*



*Hajee, Rehman & Yasmin*



*Jamal, Shamim*



*Jamal, Shaukatali*



*Janmohamed, Nazma*



*Kanani, Subodh & Amita*



*Kanji, Almas*



*Karbani, Yusuf*



*Kassam, Zarina*



*Kassamali, Sultan*



*Lalani, Anil*



*Lalani, Diamond*



*Lalani, Shiraz*



*Lalani, Zulfikarali*



*Manji, Mohamed*



*Motani, Azeen*



*Merali, Arzina & Amir*



*Mohamed, Nasin & Shiraz*



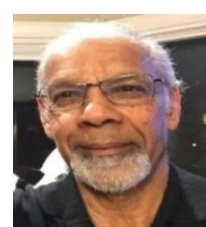
*Mussani, Anil*



*Mussani, Nizar*



*Noonan, Khatoon*



*Noronha, John*



*Pradhan, Taj*



*Rajabali, Sultaneih*



*Rajwani, Barkat*



*Raval, Bharat*



*Rupani, Yasmin*



*Sarangi, Farida*



*Shivji, Gulzar*



*Sorathia, Sharmin & Shiraz*



*Sovani, Abdul*



*Sunderji, Shiraz & Gulzar*



*Sunderji, Kamru*



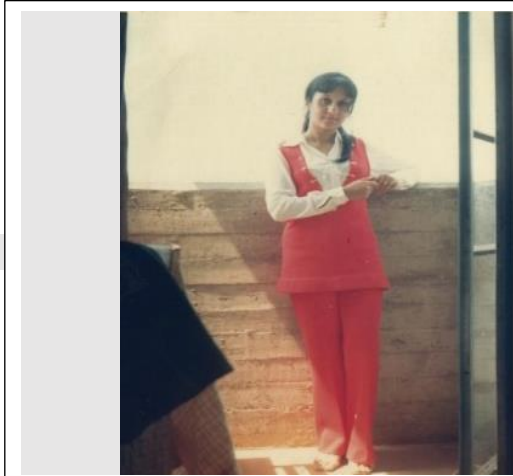
*Vyas, Bakul*



*Vyas, Zabunnissa*

## ALIBHAI-BROWN YASMIN (1969-72 ARTS: LITERATURE)

**1969-72 *The Best and Worst Days of Our Lives* (Extract from *The Settler's Cookbook: A Memoir of Love, Migration and Food* by Yasmin Alibhai-Brown - Copyrighted)**



MU 1970



UK 2019

Next stop Makerere, to the women's hall of residence, Mary Stuart Hall, a ghastly sixties tower block, for me very heaven. It was the end of 1969 just as the country was getting calamitously close to fragmentation. The campus swept up a hill lush with grass, green as the colour of life itself. Nandi flame trees, and others high and wide and ancient provided shade for students reading books and debating ideas. The main building stood at the top, white and imposing with a bell tower. Shoots of new possibilities were all round us. We would re-tell the story of our country. Africa was neither intellectually barren nor uncivilized before the white man came. We were determined - black, brown, and white Makerereans- to make Uganda proud and great one day.

I joined the literature department. The European cannon was still faithfully taught but had to compete with compelling new voices. Paul Theroux excited us with his indefinable but extraordinary talent; we were reading James Baldwin and emerging black American writers, African dramatists, and novelists such as Wole Soyinka and Chinua Achebe and V.S Naipaul who never returned the love we had for his books.

Some African tutors were systematically unfair to the Asians and possessive of the emerging nation - making up for history, I guess. But mostly it felt like we were travelling together to another country where race was irrelevant, and rainbows appeared every day.

I was intellectually stimulated like never before, surrounded by friends, music, books, drama. I shared a room with two African girls, Jane and Sophie, young women who, like me never imagined they would, one day, be at university. Such cross racial room sharing was still rare.

Sophie was tall and big with a laugh to shake Kilimanjaro. Her life holds the serial tragedies of Uganda- relatives killed by Obote and later Amin, exile, HIV, and the funeral procession that never seems to end. Jane was beautiful and distant so irresistible to men. Messages were left for her on the message board, sometimes the whole board. 'Come and jig with me O lady Jane'. Unfortunately, she fell for Anton, the black Californian with a tight body and mean eyes, a poseur and cheat who wore a Che beret.

These black Americans were root seeking they said. Actually, they were a pain. Anton called Jane his 'jungle bunny' and she, smitten, smiled with much pleasure. He took her money. Sophie warned her: 'Jane are you foolish or what? Sister get some sense' But Love, as I too later discovered, makes you lose all sense.

Food was terrible at Uni- over-fried eggs, posho- red beans, stringy meat and matoke, tasteless mince and soggy rice. Precious home-made pickles made it edible. Jena sent over jar after jar of marmalady mango concoction, a favourite among Asians and African students too who had not previously been exposed to Asian cooking. They loved it so much they stole many of my jars.

***Hot mango marmalade***

*1 lb unripe, large green mangoes*

*1 ½ cup granulated sugar*

*4 sticks cinnamon*

*5 cloves*

*1 ½ tsp chilli powder*

*½ tsp salt*

*280 ml water*

*Grate the mangoes and boil in the water for about 6 minutes.*

*Drain mangoes and return water to the pan.*

*Add sugar and spices to the water and cook until the syrup is sticky*

*Add mangoes and carry on stirring and cooking until thick*

*Stir in chilli powder and salt cook for a couple more minutes*

*Cool and store in airtight jars which have been previously filled with boiling water to sterilise them.*

*Terrific with everything especially eggs on toast.*

You can call that emerging integration, a small sign of unity. However, away from campus the mood was bleak. Africans were adjusting to Obote's brutal leadership while Asians hid in their dens of comparative plenty, retreated into remembered previous lives.

Some Asian undergraduates developed two personas, one obedient and yielding to family traditions and old structures, exaggeratedly so, to conceal the other who was free and liberal and in revolt against the apartheid that had served their people well once. In my second year I made a lifelong Asian friend, another oddball like me, but more of a loner. Farial was a medical student from Dar-es-salaam and a non-conformist Ismaili. She was quiet and sulky and determinedly dowdy. I was loud and sparkly and fashion mad. Unfathomable why we were drawn to each other. We remain firm buddies- even though she is a patriotic American doctor in Pittsburgh permanently perplexed by what I do and why.

In mosque, as times got harder, the low tables of food offerings were over laden. Only now the simple food had gone. The mood had swung the other way. It was time for extravagant dishes, desperate measures, hopeless hope. Sugar had gone up shockingly in price, so more atoning sweetmeats were brought in and the seero, small bites of semolina given to congregations at the end of service with holy water.

One morning I heard no birdsong. It was the 25<sup>th</sup> of January. I opened the yellow cotton curtain of my small room in college on Floor 6 and a baby bat fell on the floor. It was softer than I expected when I touched it and dead. After about half an hour, students started going down for breakfast and normal life seemed to resume as I got dressed. Then Sophie, my roommate the previous year, rushed into my room. Her black skin had lost its brilliant sheen and appeared more ash grey than black:



'Yasmin, stay in, stay in, don't go anywhere, I'm telling you. The military has taken over - Obote is out, we don't know any more, don't go anywhere I am telling you'.

Round and round she went around the same words, again and again, sometimes actually turning herself, not stopping so I could ask her questions, just filling me with the encircling dread she felt.

Now our tall tower residence block itself seemed to ululate, spasms and waves were felt as if the building was swaying. Loretta, a Bagandan, a brilliant and beautiful English undergrad rushed into my room with a knife in her hand. She said she wanted to kill herself before soldiers killed her. It was a scene from a melodramatic movie- she hysterical, her hair literally standing up, wearing only bra and knickers pushing the knife into her heart as I yelled for help. The dead bat stopped her. She saw it where it was still lying and screamed like she was being murdered. This cry brought the others in, and they took the knife off her. We threw the bat into the valley below from the balcony and it fluttered down, through the silence outside, thick as a fog.

The radio played My Boy Lollipop all day interspersed with horrible warnings from military men of curfews and announcements about the new order which would not tolerate any troublesome opponents. (Throughout Africa, opponents are always thought too much trouble.) 'Uganda is being cleaned up'.

The next day there was rejoicing in the streets. The Bagandans were delirious. Obote, who had destroyed their king and kingdom was out, the man of the people Idi Amin was in. Students celebrated by taking time off lessons and making daytime love in their rooms. Another bright beginning; another dark ending. Asian businessmen were well pleased. That communist Obote would no more get his hands on their assets. Some of them knew Amin and had bribed him often. But they were nervous too during this uncertain time.

Asian parents drove over and took away their girls. Only three Asian were women were left behind, two who came from outside Uganda and me. We stayed, drank lots of sweet tea made of evaporated milk to steady the nerves. It was a test of sorts, and we didn't cope with dignity. Often lying tight in one bed the three of us whimpered like lost children in dark fairy tales. Mamti, the Sunni Muslim prayed eight times a day instead of five, double prayers. Her prayer mat was always with her and if any of us touched it, she went quite berserk. It had become her comfort blanket; my yellow quilt was mine.

Makerere seemed to be full of quiet men watching us. We whispered even when with trusted friends in private spaces and soon mistrust spread. Metaphors were used, codes made up and changed frequently. You quickly learn how not to say the wrong thing, it becomes second nature.

Amin's soldiers were seen in the college bar, the canteen (run by Kanubhai, a man with one ear, always lugubrious and after the coup, suicidal) and the main hall where we once we bopped with the energy of a new nation. If they found groups of friends walking and talking it was considered a plot.

One day in May 1971, we gathered on campus to protest against the regime. Tanks suddenly appeared at the main gate. Tear gas was released, shots were heard, eight students were snatched and taken, never to return. I was there, in a checked mini dress, a scarf around my head (it was a bad hair day), knee length socks and the bravery of a drunken fool who walks up in front of fast cars I have a photo of that too, of us fleeing with smoke and panic all around us.

After that day, the process of extermination of intellectuals gathered pace. Like Pol Pot, Amin knew the country would be easier to subjugate if he could rid it of academics, lawyers, constitutionalists, writers, artists, journalists, and educators. He also suffered from a pathological inferiority complex. It was payback time for those of high education who made Amin feel low.

The President turned up at Makerere that Jun for graduation day. He was dressed in full academic gear and insisted he was going to conduct the entire ceremony, personally shake hands with all those who had passed their finals. Students who tried to walk out of the hall were roughly pushed back in by soldiers. I was wearing the shortest, silky yellow dress, sunny and bright even though we were living through the most terrible period of history. Put it down to irrepressible, obtuse optimism.

Then the night raids started, suddenly at about three o'clock we would hear heavy jackboots striding up the stairs, floor after floor. You started and shook when the hard steps approached, then a sobbing relief would overcome as the footsteps got more distant, then faded into a faraway echo. Rather than go out into the corridor to the toilets we used the box-shaped, opaque, glass ceiling lampshades instead.

One night they took away Esther and her twin Mary, students of agriculture, fun, always popular with the boys. Esther came back a week later, shuffling painfully and unwilling to talk. Both sisters had been taken to the nearby barracks to be gang raped until the soldiers grew bored of them and needed new meat. They, both went back home without graduating. They would have been the first young women in their extended family to get to this level of education, but it was not to be. All that money saved and donated by their village and relatives came to nothing as the young women were wasted.

There was worse to come. Doors were kicked down, every night and the screams ricocheted. Soon it became clear that they were carefully selecting the Bagandan and Langi females and most of all Acholi women from Obote's tribe. Names were all on the doors, so tribes were easily identified.

Some of the women the soldiers came looking for hid in the rooms of the Asian students because strangely enough, the soldiers never touched us during this orgy. It is as if we still had around us an aura, a circle into which they didn't dare step, men with guns and nothing to lose.

A handsome student who was a part-time newsreader on TV was escorted every night to the studios by soldiers, for by that time we were living under an interminable series of curfews. Rocky was his nickname, and he played the trumpet like no other. One night, a few weeks on, Rocky's protectors said they felt they wanted to shoot a part of him. He was free to decide which bit. Before fear turned his words to gibberish, he chose his left foot. They shot it and laughing all the way, drove him to hospital.

He too left Makerere and vanished into the vast countryside.

Victor Hugo wrote in *Les Misérables*: 'Liberation is not deliverance'

Ugandans by this time knew exactly what that meant.

Independence had given them two dictators and fast rivers of blood.

Makerere University, where so many of us had the best days of our lives, lost its joy, purpose and intellectual energy. We need to keep those alive through our memories.



**CHANDARANA DILSHAD NEE VALJI (1967-70 ARTS: ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE)  
CHANDARANA PRAFUL (1966-71 MEDICINE)**



*1969 MU*



*2020 Canada Calgary*



*2012 Canada*

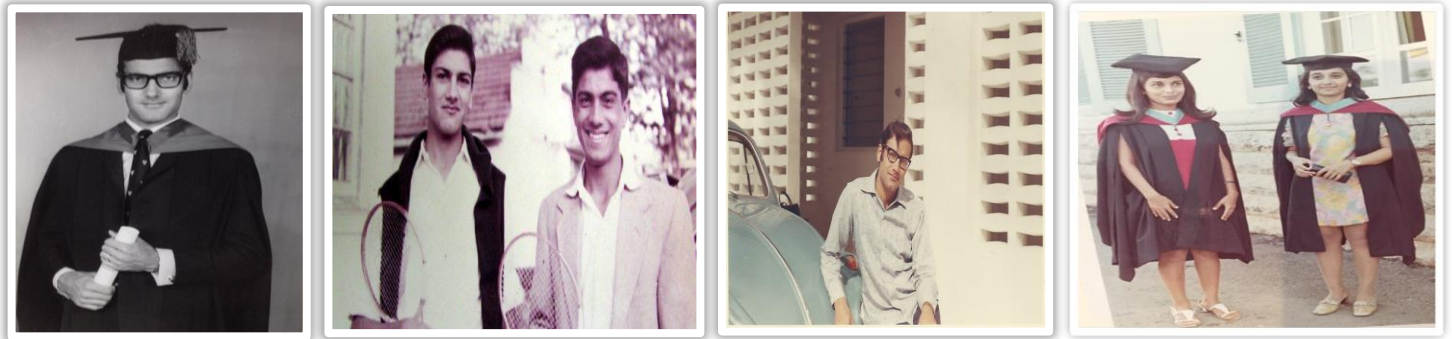
***THE STORY OF OUR LIVES IN MAKERERE AND BEYOND***



Praful was born in Nairobi, Kenya and was one of twelve siblings. His father was an accountant. Like many families during those days, the eldest son was called upon to help finance the education of the younger siblings. So, my father-in-law, with the help of his eldest son—who held a senior position in a pharmaceutical company—educated four sons as accountants, two as doctors, and three daughters with secondary school education. The two eldest daughters married at an early age.

I, on the other hand, grew up with a smaller family of just five but in a very similar fashion. My father was born in India and moved to Kisii, Kenya to help his older brother run a bicycle business. We eventually moved to Kampala, Uganda when I was eleven years old. My father owned a dairy, and coincidentally, used to supply milk to Makerere University. My eldest brother was an accountant and graduated from Nairobi University. He helped my father to raise and educate my siblings and me. They sent my younger brother to England to study accounting, one of the sisters to England for secretarial course and I went to Makerere University. Like most of the Ugandan students I was lucky enough to be given full scholarship by the government.

My eldest sister got married quite young and helped my brother-in-law with Jamatkhana duties. They were Mukhi and Mukhiani several times. My brother-in-law was also in charge of preparing food for the Jamat (which consisted of 30,000 people) on several occasions and, also whenever Hazar Imam visited Toronto-Canada.



Praful attended the Duke of Gloucester school in Nairobi for his secondary school years. It was a very prestigious school. He was chosen to be the Head Prefect in 1961. He joined Makerere University in 1965 as a medical student and lived at Mitchell Hall. A year later, in 1966, I enrolled in the B.A. program at Makerere University, majoring in Economics and Political Science. I lived at Mary Stuart Hall where I made many friends: Yasmin Bandali, Parin Thobani, Shobna Patel, and Gulzar Shivji, just to name a few.

Apart from his activities like squash and his regular studies, Praful became the Chairman of the Bharatya Dharmik Sanstha (Indian Student's Association). At that time there were a hundred students of Indian origin. This is where he displayed, his leadership qualities. He organized many social events like "raas-garbas" and plays for Diwali. This is also where we met, and our friendship grew.

One of our main highlights together at Makerere was climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. Praful climbed it once, whereas I climbed it twice. We had absolutely no training and our clothing was not appropriate for the adventure ahead of us. Rehman Haji was in our group, and he was the only one that was an experienced climber (I also remember his love for baked beans). His climbing advice was invaluable. After climbing for three days, we had to embark on the final climb which was grueling. It was a six-hour climb that started at midnight so we could reach the peak before sunrise. This final stretch was more difficult because it was covered with snow. None of us had ever seen snow! We had to switchback across the mountain so that we would not slip down Kilimanjaro's steep mountainside. We didn't have any boots, jackets, or gloves, but even in that extreme cold, we made it. When we arrived at the peak, the guides crowned us with a garland which they had made with flowers they had collected along the way. This is a memory that I will cherish and never forget. Apart from this kind of outdoor activity, our outlet from studying was going on nightly excursions to Kanubhai's canteen, where we would all meet and have coke and chocolate. I graduated in 1970 and Praful graduated a year later.

Once Praful graduated from medical school, he moved to Nairobi where he did his internship at the Government Hospital. We got married in 1972 and moved to Limuru where he opened his general practice. Two years later, his quest for higher learning made us come to Canada. He redid his internship at St. Joseph's Hospital in Toronto, and I worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers as a secretary and did some accounting.

A year later Praful was offered the choice of a psychiatry residency in Victoria B.C., Ottawa, and London, Ontario. We decided to move to London, Ontario as it reminded us of Nairobi. I worked as a travel agent while Praful did his residency in psychiatry at the University of Western Ontario.



When our two boys were born, I gave up my job and decided to be a stay-at-home mom. I stayed at home until my eldest son was about ten years old and decided to go back to university. I completed a partial degree in Visual Fine Arts while Praful attained Associate professorship at the University of Western Ontario.

Praful taught in the Department of Psychiatry for 34 years, leaving behind the legacy of an interviewing skills course. This course prepares psychiatry residents with the knowledge and skills they need to successfully pass their final Royal College exam. The course started with 6 residents and by the time Praful passed away, there were 230 residents participating. They not only came from Canada but from Britain, Singapore, India, and Nigeria. He also made sure that he involved only the lecturers that were experts in different fields of psychiatry. This course was very near and dear to Praful's heart, and he managed it with much dedication and care. So much so that this course, has been named after him. It is called the P. Chandarana London Psychiatry Review Course—25 years later, it continues to teach psychiatry residents to this day.

In 2014, Praful passed away after a gallant battle with pancreatic cancer. His colleague and our friend Emmanuel Persad, Professor Emeritus, Western University, has gracefully written a tribute to Praful's academic career:

*"I am honoured to be invited to provide a tribute to my friend and colleague, Praful Chandarana. We first met when I relocated to London, Ontario in 1988, to assume a leadership position in Department of Psychiatry, University of Western Ontario. Praful had already established himself as a great teacher and was eagerly sought out by residents and medical students. I recall our early meetings to discuss a course in clinical interviewing skills for residents preparing for the final Royal College's certification. He singlehandedly started a pilot course for our own residents. He took it on the road across Canada with great success. The genius of this course was that it was able to reflect changes in the examination format.*

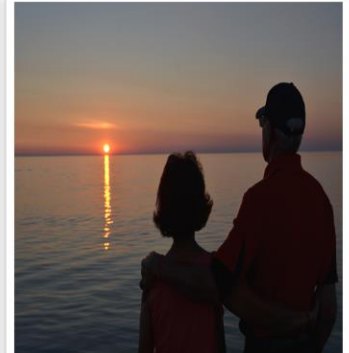
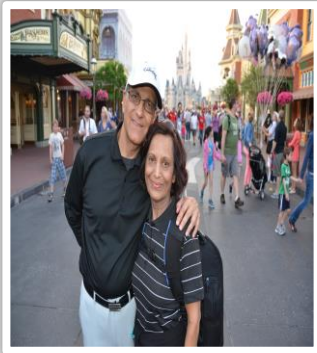
*As Chair of the Department of Psychiatry, I recognised that the Department's administrative structure could be improved by the appointment of a Vice-Chair and Praful kindly agreed to accept the position while he continued as the Director of Post Graduate Education. Praful made a significant contribution to education in the Faculty of Medicine and was a regular lecturer to medical students. Praful and his wife, Dilshad, opened their home to the residents with frequent get togethers including a final year ceremony. Praful named the ceremony, "The Order of the Boot". He was such a kind and generous man. He was also an excellent photographer and loved playing tennis. His demeanour reflected a man of culture and of humanity. He saw the education of our students to improve their effectiveness as healers. He was that kind of academic visionary. He was a very proud father and his children have gone on to great success in medicine and business, respectively.*

*I last saw Praful in hospital a few weeks before he passed. We spent time reminiscing. Near his bed he had some files about the interview skills course which he reviewed with me. He was keeping up to date on every aspect of the course. It is very fitting that the course, now known internationally, bears his name.*

*I feel privileged that Praful was my friend, colleague, and counsellor. He is greatly missed but his name lives on."*

As much as he was passionate about his academic work, he shared with me a love for travel, adventure, and sports specifically golf. He was also very creative and, as Emmanuel mentioned, had a knack for photography. His photographs hang in many houses. He is remembered for photographing weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, and new babies. But nothing could come close to the love he had for his sons and their growing families.





Our sons, Shamir, and Anuj, make us both very proud. Shamir finished his undergraduate degree in Health Sciences at Queens University and carried on to University of Western Ontario for medical school and then residency in otolaryngology (ENT). To subspecialize in micro-surgery (head and neck surgery), he trained at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. This training led him to Calgary, Alberta where he practices as a head and neck cancer surgeon at the Foothills Hospital.

Our second son, Anuj, graduated with an MBA from Ivey Business School at the University of Western Ontario. Once completed, he joined Google at their headquarters in California as a compensation manager. He lived there for two years, but now lives in Toronto while continuing to work for Google on the Canada Management Team for HR and is a partner with country managers in Brazil, Argentina, and other Latin American countries. His responsibilities include monitoring performance, employee learning, health, and compensation.

Our daughter-in-law Renu is married to Shamir. She graduated from the University of British Columbia with a B.A. in English Language and went on to pursue a second degree in Applied Arts—specifically Broadcasting and TV production from Ryerson University. Renu has worked as a TV producer, a freelance writer, and as a not-for-profit project manager. They have two daughters.

Our daughter-in-law Nandini, married to Anuj, also graduated with an MBA from the Ivey Business School at the University of Western Ontario. Upon completion she taught finance and accounting and then moved to Proctor and Gamble as an account executive. Now, she is working for Boston Consulting Group and is a career development and alumni relations manager. They have a son and a daughter.



It has been so heartwarming to read everyone's different journeys since leaving Makerere. We have learned, we have loved, we have laughed, we have lived. I will never forget all the wonderful memories that we made at Makerere University. Thank you for the opportunity to share ours with you.

**DAAR ABDALLAH (1968-72 MEDICINE)**  
**DAAR SHAHINA NEE JAFFER (1969-72 MEDICINE)**



*1970 MU*



*1970 MU*



*2018 Canada-Toronto*

#### **ABDALLAH - CHILDHOOD**

I was born in Dar-es-Salaam (Dar), which in Arabic means “abode of peace”, and indeed it was a peaceful city, where we kids could be out all day without our parents worrying about us, or even knowing where we had been. Dar was the capital of Tanganyika, which had at one time been ruled by the Germans and was taken over by the British after they defeated Germany in World War I.

In January 1964, the nearby strategic islands of Zanzibar witnessed a violent revolution that overthrew the Sultan; he escaped to live in Portsmouth, England. Many Zanzibaris were of Omani/mixed Arab/African origin and many of those emigrated to Oman. Soon after the Zanzibar revolution, Tanganyika and Zanzibar merged to become the United Republic of Tanzania.

During my childhood I was surrounded by, and was part of, the Swahili culture, a beautiful amalgam of African and Arab cultures with influences from Indian and other cultures. I grew up speaking Swahili, and I still speak it well.

One of my earliest childhood memories was seeing the British flag lowered and Tanganyika’s flag raised on Independence Day, December 9, 1961. The president of Tanganyika was Julius Kambarage Nyerere. I was a real fan and admirer of Nyerere: he was honest, a Pan-Africanist, and one of the few Africans who stepped down as president when he thought the time had come. He introduced a political philosophy of Ujamaa, a form of native, communal socialism.

Tanzania fought a war with Uganda from October 1978 to June 1979 that ultimately forced Idi Amin to flee into exile. Nyerere left a legacy of a strong democratic system in Tanzania, with presidential elections held every five years, and peaceful handover of leadership- a system that survives with only slight alteration to this day.

Our father (Salim Said Daar) was a butcher and cattle trader, and our mother (Jamila Said Saleh) was a homemaker. My mother was the most influential person in my life.

I was one of eleven siblings- three brothers and eight sisters. My father passed away in 1969, and in the following years most of my family moved initially to Yemen where most of them found scholarships or obtained family support to study abroad, becoming professionals (an engineer, a psychologist, a radiographer who later changed to a research administration, a dental surgeon, a pilot, etc.). In time they married and have settled in various parts of the world.

My two eldest sisters passed away a while ago, and my older brother (who was a businessman) passed away in 2021. From my childhood in Dar and until very recently when he passed away in Toronto, my best friend was Ajmal Andani. We both went to Aga Khan Boys' Secondary School in Dar.

I recall being very happy at school. After secondary school in Dar, I went to Mkwawa High School in Iringa, in the Tanzanian southern highlands. After observing a tenant in our house in Dar who was a GP, my mother was very keen that I should take up medicine. Luckily, from high school I was chosen by the government of Tanzania to go to Makerere to study medicine- at that time Makerere had the only medical school serving Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, who were members of the East African Community. Soon after that both the University of Dar-es-Salaam and University of Nairobi started their own medical schools.

My friend Ajmal decided to become an entrepreneur and ended up running a successful sportswear manufacturing business in Toronto. Whenever I was in Toronto, I visited with him at least twice a week. Sadly, he passed away in early August 2021.



*Ajmal and Shahina*



*Ajmal and Abdallah*

## **FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

We were all incredibly lucky, to be selected to go to medical school at Makerere and a large proportion of us were from Asian backgrounds. Tanzania (and also Kenya and Uganda) was investing in us; it is so unfortunate that the majority of Asian students had to leave Uganda because of Idi Amin. For many this deprived them of the opportunity to give back to their countries of birth.

For me Makerere was probably the happiest time of my life. It is where I first met my future wife, Shahina, who was from Nairobi and was also in medical school in the year below me.

My closest friends at Makerere were Yusuf Mnyusiwala, Sultan Abdulali (who was best man at our wedding), Ashni Behal, Zephania Gaya and Naphtali Agata.





*MU Days Naphtali, Abdallah, Zephania / Shiraz Mohamed (on my Right), Naphtali (Behind me) / Mulago teaching Hospital*

Agata went on to become Chair of the Board of Management of the Kenya Medical Research Council; Gaya became a general surgeon in Eldoret. Ashni became a radiologist practising in Ohio; Yusuf became a radiologist practising in Waterloo, Ontario.

Although medical students had to work very hard to complete the requirements of the medical degree, I personally enjoyed all aspects of the 5-year course, especially after we began to see patients in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year onwards.

### **SHAHINA FIRDOS JAFFER**

Shahina was born in Nairobi. She went to the renowned Kenya High School and from there went to Makerere to do medicine in 1969.

When Idi Amin decreed that Asians had to leave Uganda within 90 days, Shahina was doing an elective at Bristol University in the UK. She was immediately accepted there to complete her medical schooling.

While we knew each other only as friends at Makerere, we kept in touch in England and ultimately got married in 1975.

She became interested in haematology early on in her career and did postgraduate work in haematology at the Hammersmith postgraduate school in London and at Oxford. She subsequently completed a DM degree (clinical equivalent of a PhD) at Bristol University.

She specialized in thalassaemia, an inherited blood disorder, becoming one of the leading experts in this field. She has published extensively on this subject. She became Professor of Haematology at Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat, Oman.

### **INSPIRING PROFESSOR AT MAKERERE**

There were so many professors who inspired me but two were stand-outs: (Sir) Ian MacAdam, a Brit, was head of surgery; and Raphael Owor, a Ugandan, was head of pathology. MacAdam was a larger-than-life figure and a great surgeon and mentor. Owor was a quiet, dedicated professor whom we all admired- he taught us pathology so well that until today I often think of surgery as applied pathology!

Unfortunately, Idi Amin came on the scene and disrupted our education and, more importantly, our lives. The 90 days in 1972 before we had to leave Uganda, a country that we loved so much, were harrowing and dangerous.

In my case being a Tanzanian was itself a risk factor because of the constant irritations between Amin and Nyerere, who supported Milton Obote, the president whom Amin had overthrown. Towards the end of the 90-day period in 1972 I left with some of my friends. We initially went to Nairobi and from there to London, England.

**An interesting story:** A visiting medical student to Makerere from London University, Anna Lawson, became a life-long friend. After graduating from St. Thomas' Hospital Medical School, she went on to become a physician and for a while worked in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. One day she was called to see a patient who had become very ill. That patient turned out to be Idi Amin and it was Anna Lawson who signed his death certificate!

## **LONDON AND OXFORD**

After leaving Uganda in 1972 I completed medical school at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School, University of London. Then, after internship in Portsmouth and a spell as professor of anatomy in Houston, Texas, I went to the University of Oxford, where I completed training in surgery (FRCS) and internal medicine (MRCP, later FRCP). I also did a PhD (they call it D. Phil in Oxford) in immunology and a fellowship in organ transplantation. I was appointed to the faculty of Oxford University in a position of lecturer (equivalent to assistant professor in North America) and remained in academic surgery at Oxford University for the next several years. My great mentor at Oxford, Sir Peter Morris, is still alive and I keep in touch with him every month.

Then out of the blue I received a call while in Oxford to go to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to set up a kidney transplant program and help establish a medical school there. I had always wanted to go to work in a developing country and I saw this as an opportunity to start on that path- so I accepted the offer and with Shahina and our three young kids we moved to Abu Dhabi. During the next three years I was able to establish a kidney transplant program and joined the foundation committee that established the first medical school in the UAE. In addition, I established the first biomedical research center in the country.

3 years later I was recruited to the Sultanate of Oman to help set up another medical school and take up the post of Chair of Surgery in the newly established University and medical school there. While in Oman I performed the youngest cadaveric donor kidney transplant in history- this was registered as a world record and that record stands to this day.

## **TRANSITIONING TO GLOBAL HEALTH AND BIOETHICS**

After the death of my eldest sister from malaria in Tanzania in the late 1990s I decided to re-orient my career and move into global health. I did this because I wanted my work to have a bigger impact. I took a sabbatical year from Sultan Qaboos University in 1999 and spent half of it at Stanford Centre for Biomedical Ethics and the other half at the University of Toronto Law School, where I was appointed as visiting professor of health law. When I returned to Oman after the sabbatical, again out of the blue, I received an offer from the University of Toronto and so at the beginning of 2001 I accepted a position as full professor of clinical public health; global health; and surgery at the University of Toronto.

The next two decades were among the most academically productive of my life: I published about 400 papers in peer-reviewed journals (including several in *Nature* and *Science*) and about 80 chapters in books, and published 7 books, the last being a single author book, *Garment of Destiny*, which is an autobiography with some philosophical reflections.

A large proportion of the research with my colleagues, and the research carried out by our graduate students, was initially largely funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. However, in time we were also well funded by other organizations like Genome Canada. Much of the research was aimed at improving health in low- and middle-income countries. For me this was one way to give back to my country of birth, Tanzania

In 2010 Peter Singer and I established a global health innovation funding organization called Grand Challenges Canada (GCC)- this was itself funded innovatively through the foreign aid envelope of the government of Canada. It was very satisfying to see that GCC went on to fund many projects in Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda.

Undoubtedly the personal highlight of this period of my life was the climb to the summit of Kilimanjaro when I was aged 65!



*With Medical School Classmates  
(Yusuf Mnyusiwalla and Ashni Behal)*



*Summit of Mount Kilimanjaro*

## **HONOURS**

My career, following my interests and opportunities that opened out to me, were therefore in surgery (and internal medicine); organ transplantation; bioethics, (which I entered initially via transplantation ethics); and global health.

Some of the honours include Hunterian Professorship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics of Science; membership of UNESCO's International Bioethics Committee; and appointment to the Scientific Advisory Board of the United Nations Secretary-General. Among other honours, I became a Fellow of the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study and a member of the board of the World Diabetes Foundation. A few years ago, I became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and after that was made an Officer of the Order of Canada.

About three years ago I became emeritus professor at U of Toronto and since then I have focused most of my work on advancing knowledge and research in Africa, working with the African Academy of Sciences, the African Union, and the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study.

## **IMMEDIATE FAMILY**

Shahina retired from her position as Professor of Hematology at Sultan Qaboos University in Oman about four years ago.

We have been blessed with three children: our son Marwan, who obtained a PhD from York University in Toronto now works in IT in Toronto- he is an expert in developing algorithms for use in artificial intelligence applications.

Our middle daughter Lamees, who studied environmental resources at Waterloo University, went on to become Executive Director of the Oman Environmental Society- she is currently studying for an MSc at Harvard University.

Our youngest, Nadia, who studied economics at U of Toronto and then obtained a Masters Degree in Political Science from York University- is now Head of Oxfam International in Washington, DC.

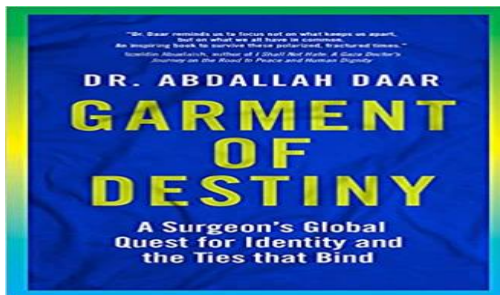
We delight in watching our grandchildren growing (*family photo below*)



Family L to R: Abdallah, Marwan, Shahina, Xara, Lamees, Azlan, Nadia, Kyle (carrying Ayla) and Tarik

**MY WORK:** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdallah\\_Daar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdallah_Daar)

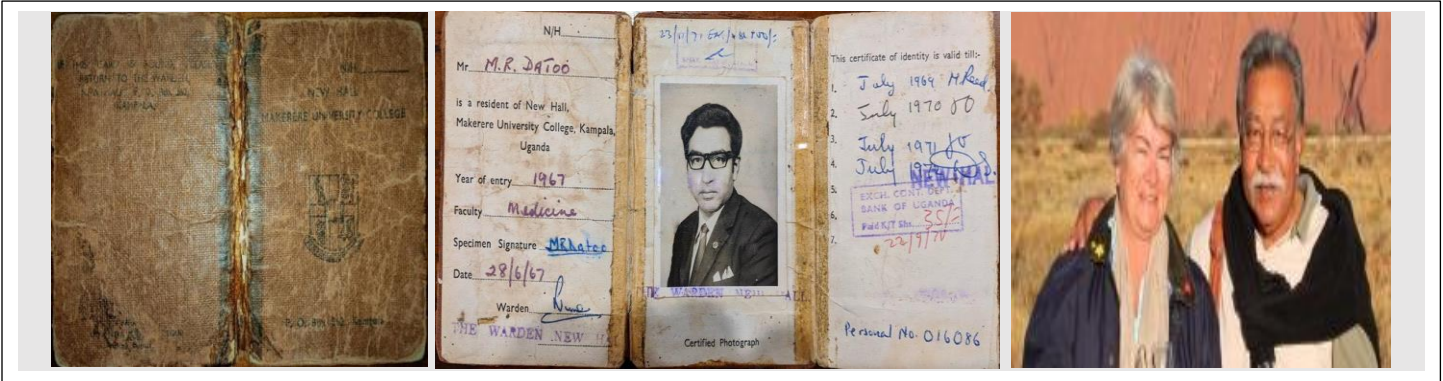
**MY BOOK:** Garment of Destiny



<https://www.amazon.ca/Garment-Destiny-Zanzibar-Surgeon%C2%92s-Identity/dp/1988025346>



## DATOO MIRZA RAJABALI (1967-72: MEDICINE)



1967-72 MU ID Card New Hall

2020 Australia with Sherryn

### PRE-MAKERERE

I was born the 7<sup>th</sup> of 10 children in a small Tanganyika village of about 400 people about 2 hours from Arusha. My father was a dukawalla and I was educated firstly at the local Catholic Mission. When I was about 12, I went to the Aga Khan School in Morogoro where I lived with my uncle. It used to take me 2 days to get to or from school by train & bus. I was there for 2 years and then went to Arusha Aga Khan School as I was then able to stay with my eldest sister who now lived in Arusha. Then to Arusha Secondary School in 1962–64.

Then it was off to Iringa to Mkwawa High School which used to be St. Michael & St. Georges School for expatriate children before independence. In Iringa, I met a lot of Indians – mainly Ismaili students who then went on to Makerere University Medical School. I was at Makerere University from 1967–72 and resided in New Hall.

### MAKERERE UNIVERSITY



1969 Histology Class



1969 Public Health Class



1969 Public Health Class



Masaka Trip with Iqbal Lillani and PG's Sister

## POST-MAKERERE UNIVERSITY



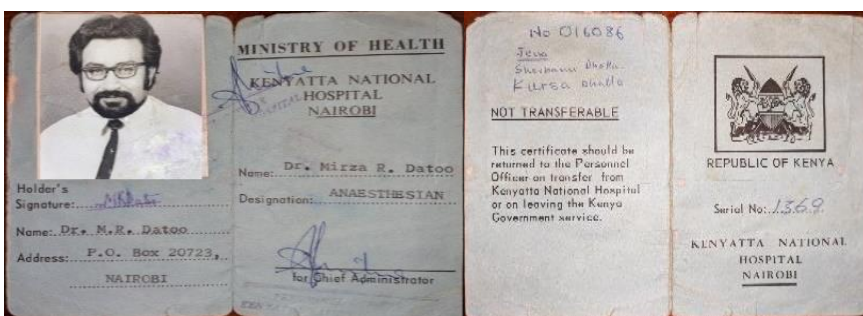
When I left Makerere University in 1972, I went to Nyeri, Kenya at the foot of Mt Kenya where I did my internship.

Nyeri was a beautiful area that was the base to go to the Treetop Lodge where Princess Elizabeth was staying when she got the news that her father, King George IV had died.

*Photo: 1972 with Nurses Nyeri-Kenya.*



The coronation of Queen Elizabeth was celebrated by the commencement of the East Africa Car Rally that still runs today.



From 1973 -1976 I was at Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi where I was working in the Dept. of Anaesthesia & Intensive Care as a registrar. *Photo: 1973 Kenyatta Hospital Nairobi Kenya ID Card.* On occasion the Head of Anaesthesia would rearrange my roster to suit him, and he would spirit me off to a private hospital to give anaesthetics for his private patients. Mind you I was never paid for

those! While there, I was seconded to the East Africa Flying Doctor Service as an anaesthetist with the surgical team. We operated in remote hospitals, in Northern Kenya, where there were few facilities like oxygen & refrigeration.

On the plane I was allowed to take an EMO anaesthetic machine, 1 oxygen cylinder, 2 bottles of ether Pentothal and muscle relaxant. The surgery undertaken included thoracotomy, laparotomy & orthopaedics. We went for a week at a time and had to make the supplies last the distance. I saw a lot of Kenya that I would have not seen except for these trips.



## AUSTRALIA



Next, I was to go to the UK to complete my fellowship in Anaesthesia, but politics got in the way and instead I ended up migrating to Australia. I was hoping to continue in Anaesthesia in Australia. Unfortunately, that didn't eventuate. Instead, I became a rural General Practitioner / Anaesthetist in a rural NSW town, called Murrumburrah – Harden, where I spent the next 20 years. It was a small town with a population of 4,000 people but it was within easy reach of the nation's capital, Canberra, and 4 hours from Sydney. It was mainly a farming community in a mixed farming area.

*Photo: 2008 Cootamundra Hospital Theater*

In Cootamundra, the next town, where I was giving anaesthetics and assisting with emergencies, I met a nurse called Sherryn, and subsequently, we married and had 4 sons.



1983 Sherryn and Mirza



2000 Mirza and Sherryn



2011 Sherryn and Mirza



2015 Sherryn and Mirza

The children grew up in Murrumburrah where we lived just outside the town on 12 acres of land, in a beautiful granite house that was built in 1880. As well as running a busy general practice, I gave anaesthetics for 4 surgeons in 3 surrounding towns. During this time, I became a Fellow of the Australian College of Rural & Remote Medicine.

I continued my love of anaesthetics and emergency medicine and was called for many interesting cases for resuscitation and subsequent transfer to a tertiary Hospital. I was the only anaesthetist in the area for a long time and as most of the calls were to Cootamundra which involved more and more travelling.

in 2000, with the boys away at school, we moved to Cootamundra and set up practice there. Cootamundra was a bigger town needing more medical services and a lot of my patients travelled the 40kms to continue seeing me in my new practice. One of the most interesting emergency calls, I had, was a young man who had been stabbed in the heart. It was his lucky day. Two surgeons were close by, and we rushed him to theatre. He had cardiac tamponade which was relieved by the surgeon who opened the stab wound with artery forceps to relieve the pressure in the pericardium. It was decided that we needed to do a thoracotomy and suture the hole in the heart. So, I anaesthetised him, and his chest was opened (without any of the proper thoracic instruments) and the hole was sutured successfully. The Helicopter Retrieval Team arrived from Canberra, and he was transported there. He survived this to end up in jail! One of the local policemen asked the surgeon why he had bothered. The surgeon replied, "I was practising – next time it might be you!"

I worked in Cootamundra as solo practitioner for next 7 years and then most of the other medical practitioners and I constructed a purpose-built Medical Centre in an effort to attract younger doctors to our area. Most of the medicos were approaching retirement age and needed exit strategy. This was successful and while I worked in the new medical centre for next 4 years, I was able to leave my patients catered for with new doctors in the centre.

## RETIREMENT



When I retired from General Practice I continued to work in Rural communities as a locum for 5 years, providing cover for doctors in remote locations who were usually the only doctor for many miles. We combined this work with travel and visited many communities in our country and saw many beautiful areas of Australia. I retired to Canberra in 2011 and was recognised for my service to rural and remote medicine in Australia with an Order of Australia Medal.

*Photo: 2018 Governor General of Australia Presenting HIGHEST AWARD IN AUSTRALIA (O.B.E.) to Mirza Datto.*

## FAMILY PHOTOS

*2013 Full Family*



*2013 Sons Harim, Riaz, Amir, Imran*





## DHANJI SHERBANU NEE MAWJI (1969-72 ARTS: COMPARATIVE LITERATURE)



Uganda Passport

1973 Switzerland

2020 USA (San Diego)

*Visiting from San Diego, California, Sherbanu was interviewed for this article by VIVJ at the Speke Hotel, 10/05/09 in Kampala, Uganda. Vali Jamal is on the verge of publishing his opus magnum on the Ugandan expulsion of 1972.*

### PREFACE BY VALI I.V. JAMAL

*Sherbanu is the granddaughter of Jeraj Mawji, my mother's first cousin, also coincidentally named Sherbanu Premji Dhanji. Sherbanu Mawji married Zahir Premji Dhanji - my first cousin. By way of Switzerland, Sher ended up in Canada, got married in Vancouver in 1977, and moved to San Diego with her husband, Zahir, in 1978, where she continues to live and work as a writer.*

*Sherbanu has a Masters Degree in Instructional Design and Educational Technology from San Diego State University, and has straddled the instructional design and technical writing professions for the past 30-plus years. Currently a technical writer with a financial company in San Diego, she wears a third hat - continuing to teach corporate writing workshops – her passion (and has also taught technical writing and business writing classes at two local universities for 12 years).*

*Here are some of her experiences as “an instant refugee” in her own words.*

### UGANDA EXPULSION EXPERIENCE

On graduating from Makerere with a B.A. in Comparative Literature in June 1972, I suffered from withdrawal and a sense of loss – perhaps others with a useless liberal arts degree may have experienced similar feelings. No more hiding behind the walls of a university with its false sense of security for 3 years, which let me enjoy freedoms denied to me in a military-like, rules-bound high school under the steely gaze of a McCourt-like principal.

At college, this newfound freedom was intoxicating. No one cared if I attended classes, did my homework or not. No one to supervise me every second of a boring day. True confession: I skipped logic classes at Makerere to sharpen my squash game (my passion, along with swimming), sparring with male medic students.

When all too soon the day of reckoning arrived and this comfort blanket was rudely stripped away, I was forced to confront stark reality, adulthood, and the dreaded word “responsibility.” I had to earn a living; support myself. But doing what? What was I qualified to work as? I had never given the thought a Ugandan minute.

*“What will I be when I grow up?”* I asked my professor and personal adviser, Mrs. McPherson, who advised, *“Go teach. I see a teacher in you.”*

## CONTINUING STUDIES IN SWITZERLAND

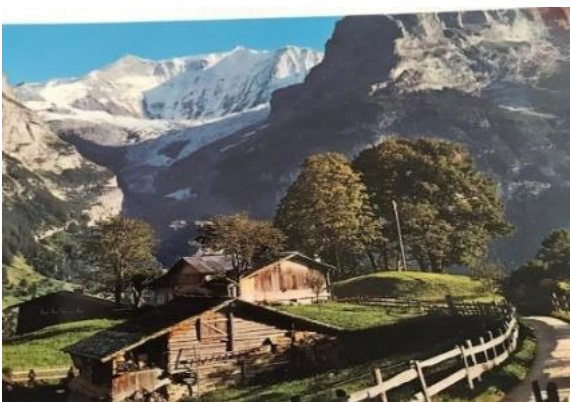
Believing in the *power of visualization*, and having read Hemmingway’s *A Farewell to Arms*, set in Switzerland during the war, I also pictured myself in Lausanne, Switzerland. So, I packed my bags and set off for Lausanne, in September 1972, a month before the expulsion deadline, after briefly teaching English and literature at the Old Kampala Secondary School. Acting on Mrs. McPherson’s advice, I would teach English (my first love) and French, by pursuing a PhD at the L’Universite de Geneve, fascinated and inspired by Balzac’s massive body of work – *La Comedie Humaine*.

Once I got to Lausanne, the hostel I was staying at closed in December for the winter break, so I had to find new lodgings. My classmate and Swiss friend at Makerere, Verena Mbiti (married to Professor John Mbiti – prolific author and Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Makerere), had asked me to contact her friend Elisabeth Billeter in Bern, which I did.

Elisabeth became a close friend, a guardian angel, a surrogate mother: in short, a godsend. She took a total stranger – a poor refugee from Uganda under her wing and invited me to stay with her during my December break, in Bern, and also found me a job at a news organization, that I needed badly. This job helped me buy warm boots – my first pair of fur-lined boots that kept me warm and comfortable, especially during a long, cold Swiss winter. No praise for this classy lady will ever be enough to describe her warmth, generosity, affection, grace, and kindness – which I can never repay in this lifetime. We remained close friends and visited each other over the years.

So, while I was spending my winter break at Elisabeth’s apartment in Bern, I happened to mention my friend, Molly (a friend who with her sisters co-owned Gulpa, a tony beauty salon in Kampala), who I knew was in a Ugandan refugee camp “somewhere” in Switzerland (being geographically challenged at that time). When I expressed a wish to visit my friend Molly and her family, Elisabeth, a social worker, effortlessly made my wish come true.

No sooner had I mentioned the Ugandan refugee camp then we were on a short train ride to Erlenbach, on the outskirts of Zurich, where some of the Ugandan refugees were being housed. It so happened that Elisabeth’s friend Hanna Siegenthaler, also a social worker, was in charge of the Ugandan refugee camp. Call it a small world, but the plot thickens. Hanna just happened to be the sister of Verena Mbiti, my classmate and close friend at Makerere, who had introduced me to Elisabeth Billeter. Because of Verena’s further introductions to her Swiss friends and relatives, my stay in Switzerland turned into the most wonderful experience of my life. The Mbitis have visited me and I them, the last time was at their home in Burgdorf, 2014. Sadly, Professor Mbiti passed away last year.



My first sight of Erlenbach, a village nestled among the snow-clad Swiss Alps on a frigid December morning, left me awestruck, sending tingles of pleasure up and down my spine. Never had I seen or experienced such beauty. *“This is a refugee camp?”* I asked myself. The refugees were housed in a beautiful five-star hotel and fed sumptuous meals. The scenery was breathtakingly beautiful. However, I still remember thinking how cold it was. (Sights and sounds always manage to color our first impressions). But then, at lunch, one refugee turned to me and said: *“I know we are surrounded by unspeakable splendour and beauty, but can we please go home now?”* Photo: Grindelwald, Switzerland

I often felt the same way. So homesick and lonely was I that for a month after my arrival in Lausanne, I refused to unpack my suitcase, hoping that I could go home again. Except there was no going back. Ever.

Idi Amin, in a mercilessly mad and brutal dictatorial act, had issued an edict to expel Ugandan citizens, and British passport holders of Asian descent, within 3 months, thus propelling all Asians into instant refugee status on 9 October 1972, rendering us homeless and penniless, spitefully ripping up citizenship certificates willy-nilly.



That cold, grey December day, I met my dear friend Molly, her brother, and confused parents – looking so old and frail, shoulders drooping, weighted down by what must have seemed to them insurmountable problems at that time: rendered homeless amid strange surroundings and German-speaking strangers, a language they had never heard before. Though it was heartbreaking to see them like that, I couldn't help feeling exhilarated at the same time, overcome by bifurcated emotions. *Photo: Molly and Sherbanu*



*Molly and Sherbanu with Salim (RIP).*

Unexpectedly finding myself among friends from home, my sad cloak of loneliness crumpled and fell away! I couldn't believe my eyes. The last time I had seen Molly was at her upscale hairdressing salon on Kampala Road, as she coiffed my hair into the latest style – Easy Dora – she called it.

Nothing, but nothing, at that moment could have given me more joy than to take in the familiar face of an old friend in that cold, wintry village, light years away from my warm tropical home. Oh, it felt so good. I saw my reunion with Molly nothing short of a miracle, thanks to my wonderful new friend Elisabeth.

Subsequently, Elisabeth and Molly also became great friends. Elisabeth has visited Molly in Australia, where Molly now lives with her husband (Fatah Ladha), a doctor, and her daughter Malika, also a doctor.

Below are some more pictures of happier times at the ski resort in Grindelwald, where Elisabeth's family owns a cabin, and where she took me several times during all the seasons – along with other students she had taken under her wing: Kizito (RIP) from Kenya and Jaroslav from Czechoslovakia (escaping from the Dubcek regime - now a professor at Bern University with a PhD in Physics and Rocket Science under his belt. He is like a son to Elisabeth and took exceptional care of her during her later years).





*1972-73 Grindelwald: Kizito, Sher, Salim, Elisabeth, Molly / Molly, Jaroslav, Sher hiking in the Mountainous Grindelwald.*

Note: Since I wrote this article, Elisabeth has passed away. She died on December 18, 2014, shortly after I visited her at her nursing home in Bern, Switzerland in October 2014, at her request.

Elisabeth's move to Domicil Schwabgut, the nursing home she detested, precipitated her rapid decline into a deep depression. When she saw me, she apologized for being unable to host me at her apartment. With deep concern, reflected in her vacant, sad eyes, she asked me, "Who is feeding you?" and "I am sorry I can't take you to Interlaken or Shilthorn," iconic Swiss spots we had visited together; caring to the last. I assured her I was well taken care of by Jaroslav (who spent a lot of his time taking care of her) and his wonderful wife Regula and was receiving no less than the red-carpet royal treatment – and all this after 40 years.

*True friends who've elevated the meaning of friendship to new heights: sincere, kind, gracious, loyal, and affectionate. In other words - goodness personified.*

## HOW I GOT TO CANADA FROM GENEVA

From Lausanne, I transferred to the L'Universite de Geneve in 1973, where odd jobs through the university's job lottery program and later a more stable job with the Ghana Mission to the UN helped sustain me. I also got invited to some fancy UN parties, so that in 1974 after a chance meeting with a woman called Uschi Reinhardt at a UN party, who provided the impetus and advice on how to emigrate to Canada, I went to Bern to apply for a Canadian immigrant visa.

It was a breeze – and before I knew it, visa in hand I sadly left Geneva (a beautiful city that had grown on me) in the summer of 1974. After a brief stopover in Manchester, England, to see my parents, I arrived in Toronto in the fall of 1974 (encouraged to move to Toronto rather than Winnipeg, where I was offered work after getting my visa, by my bosom buddy, the late Feroza Fancy, whom I had met in Karachi in 1970). After living and working for 6 months in Toronto, I moved to Vancouver in the spring of '75, swayed by my brother Saifu and his wife Nazira who had come to Toronto to see me, en route to Vancouver. In 1976, I met my husband Zahir in Vancouver, got married in '77, and moved to Seattle and then to San Diego in 1978, where I've lived since.

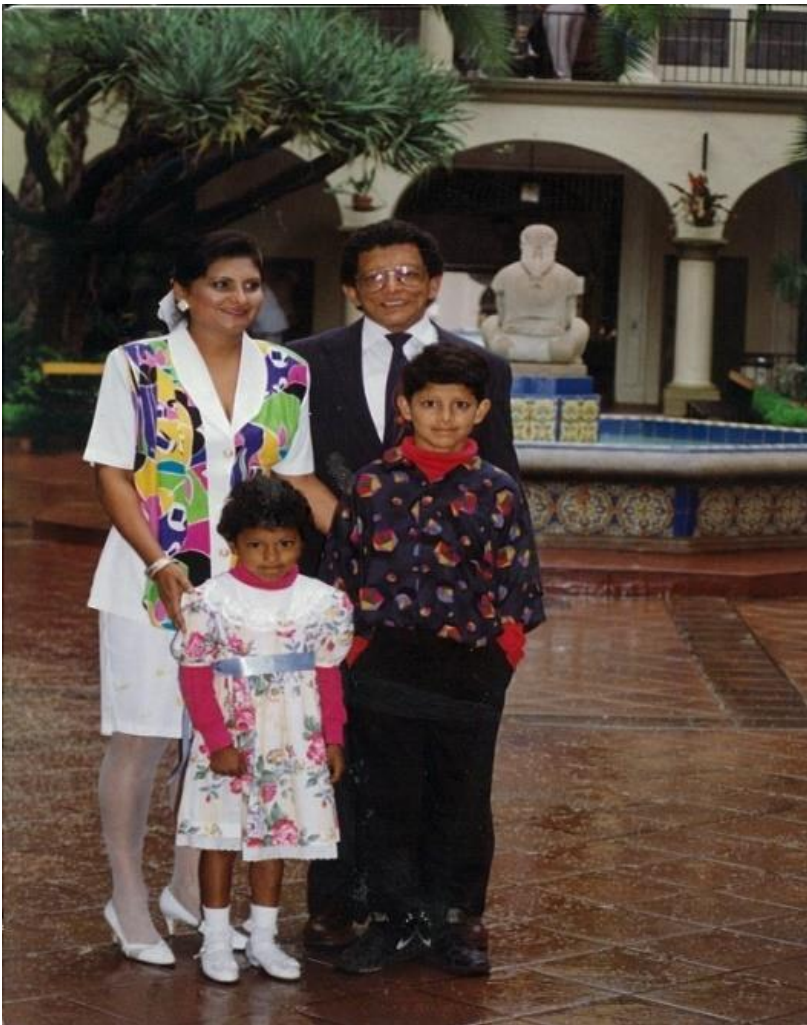
However, I feel compelled to add that my years in Switzerland still remain some of the happiest of my life – despite the sadness and loneliness at the beginning.

By the time I left Geneva, I had made so many friends, that even years later, when I revisited Switzerland in 1997 with my two children during our Europe tour, they welcomed us with warmth and affection, picking us up from train stations or airports, whisking us off to their homes, providing a warm bed and tasty food. Elisabeth took me and my children back to her family's cabin in Grindelwald, reviving beautiful memories of a time well spent; my children even skied the Jungfrau-joch (the highest peak in Europe known as the top of Europe) in the summer of 1997, again thanks to Elisabeth.

## MOVING TO SAN DIEGO IN 1978

### My Husband's Family

I consider it a privilege to have married into such a noble family; I am truly indebted to them all, including Zahir's two wonderful sisters and brilliant cousins on both sides (coming from a nuclear family myself, having so many cousins to engage in fun activities with every weekend was nothing short of euphoric – a novel experience); and especially my saintly and spiritual late mother-in-law, Roshan Premji Dhanji, whom I loved dearly. Guileless and kind, loving and gentle, she treated me as her own daughter; her sisters and our beloved aunts, Farida masi and Dolu masi; my brilliant, wise sister-in-law Zainul, whose wisdom and counsel has buoyed me through good times and bad; and our dearest cousins (and also my best friends), Salim and Alice, who share my interests in skiing, body-surfing, the vibrant San Diego theatre scene (we watch many plays together – my all time favourite being Allegiance, a musical about the Japanese internment camps), and eating at tony restaurants. Our children grew up together happily frolicking in the ocean at Carlsbad, whenever we joined my sister-in-law and her daughters at their beachfront condo. Precious halcyon days!



*Photo: 1993 Picturesque Balboa Park, San Diego with Family: Sherbanu, Zahir, Shaheen, Aly (this was our last family photo taken at a wedding).*

My husband Zahir was an angel – a beautiful gift - sadly on loan to me and my children for what now seems like a miniscule moment in time. However, after his passing, his family has filled a deep void, been my rock over these many years – and continues to be the most valuable gift one could ask for; I thank God for such a gift.

My journey began in Kampala and has brought me to a city I now call home - where each day is a day in paradise, where the sun always shines, and a daring dive into the cold Pacific surpasses any high - a constant reminder of God's many bounties. Winter sunsets resemble a beautiful painting – with vibrant shades of pink, purple and orange splashed across a vast canvass of pale blue skies – unparalleled beauty witnessed from my kitchen window.

And a leisurely stroll on the beach – with family or friends - never gets old; in fact, it fills me with so much happiness that I can't think of anything else more fulfilling: pure, simple joy that no amount of money can buy. I do believe I hit the jackpot!

Thank you, Idi Amin Dada.



It has been a long journey since 1972. But through all the travails and happy times, I am grateful for the one constant in my life: my precious children, my many friends, my family, and especially my late husband's family.

*Photo: Our backyard in San Diego, where we love to entertain family and friends.*

## MY BIRTH IN BOMBAY

Whereas my brother Saifu and I were born in Bombay, India, my younger brother was born in Kampala. My dad and grandpa – after moving to Bombay from Kampala – successfully invested in two silk mills in Bhiwandi, a textile/industrial hub outside Mumbai. My parents, along with my grandparents, lived a charmed life at Javer Mahal on Marine Drive (the actress Nargis was a neighbor), that included a hectic social life, with a wide friends' circle, mostly non-Ismailis (including Parsees and Bhoras). Belonging to the prestigious CCI (Cricket Club of India - where both Saifu and I celebrated our birthdays), my dad played tennis every day (a passion that he later continued at the Lugogo stadium in Kampala). Both my parents enjoyed ballroom dancing - my father being an excellent Viennese Waltzer.

Born and raised in Bombay, my Mum was educated at a convent school and spoke impeccable English, and Hindustani - that we also spoke at home. My friends mostly admire and remember my Mum for her sartorial elegance and style – whether tastefully draped in beautiful saris or sporting western clothes, redolent with the scent of French perfume (that a friend recently reminded me of - her unforgettable sweet scent) – in addition to her friendly nature, and a penchant for amassing friends.

Among her favourite maxims were: “Clothes maketh a man,” and “Your hair is your crowning glory.” Then came the partition, upending this Utopia. After suffering business losses in the aftermath of a bloody partition in a newly independent India, on the advice of Mawlana Sultan Mohamed Shah (48<sup>th</sup> Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims), my father moved us all to Kampala from India.

## BACK TO KAMPALA

After a few challenging years, my dad went to London to study dry-cleaning. On his return, he built a factory and warehouse at 7 Industrial Area, Kampala, establishing a lucrative dry-cleaning business, assuring him of a monopoly for many long years. Although my dad's friends teased and called him “dhobi,” questioning his wisdom at starting such a business, he succeeded beyond his wildest dreams in a newly independent Uganda, with its newly minted middle class.

(His financial success enabled him to fulfil his most ardent wish - tour the world, including going behind the iron curtain, visiting the Soviet Union, along with all its satellite countries, when few travelled for pleasure in the fifties).

An avid reader, my dad instilled a love of reading in us as well. Always surrounded by books, he generously got us all subscriptions to magazines and comics (my brother ordered all four British weeklies – Beezer, Dandy, Topper, and Beano). I became a voracious reader, impatiently looking forward to our weekly jaunt to the Kampala Public Library, that opened up an entire new world to me. At 8 years old, I read Homer's Iliad and Odyssey. Being shy I took refuge in my books. My greatest comfort and constant companion was an open book on my lap whenever my parents dragged me, a reluctant teenager, to dinners and lunches at their friends' homes.





My dad's pride and joy was our custom-built home at 9 Mackenzie Vale, Kololo. My doting, broad-minded parents provided my two brothers and me a comfortable lifestyle and upbringing. Growing up there was much laughter and teasing in our home; both my brothers and dad being the source of this humour and levity. But my dad - with his wicked sense of humour – became the life of every party. Adored by all in his social circles, the women at parties would beg him, "Jokes sambrowoh neh, Nazmubhai, hasauo amney, please." Ordinarily reticent, Nazmubhai happily acquiesced after a peg of whiskey – that he fondly dubbed "Scotland Nu Pani"!

Over the years we visited my maternal grandparents - who spoiled us rotten - first in Bombay and later in Karachi. As a child I still remember my Mamujan – an inveterate foodie – navigating tight narrow "gullies" or streets by car to treat us to specialities like "Phool Guli Ki Ice Cream" and "Nakpada Ka Nanchap," Bombay eateries tucked away out of sight known only to local gourmands.

During the 1970 Makerere Spring break, I flew to Karachi to see my beloved Nani for the last time. Regrettably I couldn't fulfil her dying wish to visit her again in 1982 due to my pregnancy. Well-read and self-educated, my wise Nani freely shared her wisdom with me. A conservationist even then, she would admonish us to conserve water by taking shorter showers, and to leave the planet in a pristine condition for those to follow. She often reminded me that we owed zakat – a tax – for the water we used and air we breathed and earth we walked on, which we should tread gently. Looking back, there were too many "don'ts" in her "mashwara," which included scary images of hellfire for cavorting with men. Thus, I was the only one among my friends who never dated.

Then along came Idi Amin Dada to shake things up; my loving, generous father (who never denied me anything) once again lost everything in 1972. After the expulsion, my parents went first to Manchester to join my brother and his wife, and later to Toronto, but returned to Kampala in 1992 to reclaim their properties.

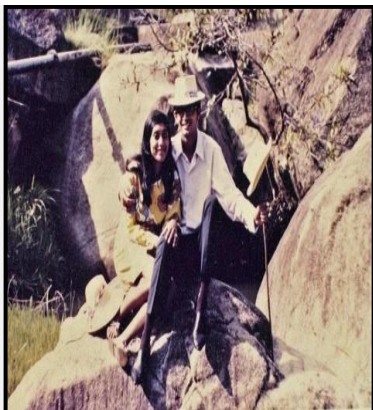
My husband's untimely and sudden death in Kampala, in 1994, shook my dad to the core. Shattered and heartbroken, he became inconsolable as a dark gloomy shroud enveloped him; I never saw him smile again. His dying wish in Toronto was to be buried in his beloved Kampala, where he died in 1997, at age 75.

## EDUCATION

I went to the Aga Khan Nursery School, the Aga Khan Primary School and finally the Aga Khan Secondary School, all within a tiny radius for 12-plus years, and then to Makerere University, although initially I had applied to colleges in U.K.



## GULAMHUSEIN AMIR (1966-69 SCIENCE: ANATOMY AND ZOOLOGY)



*MU Days*



*2019 UK Dilzar and Amir*

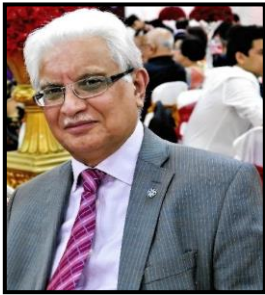
### INTRODUCTION

Stories are told by individuals in which there are main characters. In my story written in this Story Book of Alumina of Makerere University where I enrolled (October 1966), studied (October 1966 - July 1969) and graduated (July 1969), I was one of the main characters during this period. Subsequent to my graduation from one of the best and prestigious universities in Africa at that time, my academic career, professional life, and personal life unfolded over a protracted period of nearly three decades in the United Kingdom and later, for a decade in Pakistan. This is what I will call my **life story** in which I recall my experiences that I have had, what my life has meant to me personally and to others with whom I have known, contacted, and worked, both personally and professionally in various capacities over many years. My story is constructed from my memories and experiences of the past. It is in this way for me to make sense of my own life and perhaps, inspire and motivate others in the societies in which I happen to live at present.

In narrating this story, which in itself, shapes myself personally, I describe circumstances that I encountered to explain what it meant to me in my life and how this led to future development of my career, in both professional, communal, and personal spheres of activities. Every story is **“unique”** in itself and articulates those life experiences that shaped my life and what it meant at every juncture of my progression from one situation to another. Having to write about my experiences at Makerere and then from then until my retirement in 2019 was to quite an undertaking after many years but nevertheless a pleasurable experience. To share these memories with others is equally worthwhile. In the same manner every story writer articulates what was far oneself and family to seek enrolment and education at Makerere and how their life experiences there impacted their future career progression after graduation from one of the most prestigious academic institutions of repute at that time.

It is in this context my story includes names of individuals both academic, personal friends and acquaintances at my Alma Matar, at academic and subsequent institutions that inspired and motivated me to achieve a truly memorable life. This is precisely the reason to mention their names as a tribute to all of them during my career and achievements at Makerere and thereafter. At Makerere University, the ambience of cultural and social pluralism, enjoyable interactions between students and academic staff, respect for the institution hierarchy, accommodation and living support on the campus and generous full financial support provided by respective governments throughout the period of education and comradeship were amongst the values that impacted on my life experiences at and beyond the period since leaving the university. Narration of a journey of personal growth through joyful and professionally fulfilling engagements forms the bedrock of my life story.

Encounters, experiences, ideas, initiatives, and creative efforts to “bring in best practices” during the period between 1972 and 2019 led me to assume several positions of leadership, appreciation, and respect in various academic and community institutions as recognition of my personal qualities, ethics and values that were acquired during the formative period of my academic life at Makerere University.



Many Ismaili students, by no means all, who attended Makerere University in the 1960's and beyond into the '70s until the expulsion of predominantly Asian students from Uganda in 1972, had their secondary education at excellent schools in East Africa, such as the Aga Khan Secondary School in Kampala and elsewhere in Nairobi (Kenya) & Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania) and other schools of eminence in smaller cities of East Africa. Higher secondary educational attainment enabled them to seek entry into one of the best university colleges in East Africa. Before enrolment at Makerere University in 1966, I had completed my Higher School Certificate examinations at the Aga Khan Secondary School in Kampala. At the school I was in a class of 25 students of higher achievers, 22 of my fellow classmates gained university entry places. Some of the classmates such as Daulat Tejani, Parviz Lakhani (late) Zeeba Najak (late), and Aziz Dhalla (late) joined me at Makerere University in 1966 and studied until their expulsion of from Uganda in mid-1972. At the time of my entry at the university, there were a few other senior Ismaili students (such as Azim Nanji, Aziz Esmail, Mohmad Virji, Mahmood Verjee, Rashida Khakoo, Gulzar Kassam and Parin Ahmad all of whom were at various stages of completing their degree courses in academic studies and medicine and left Makerere soon thereafter. Some of them achieved distinction in their professions in the countries of their settlement and residence. I recall fond memories of Azim Nanji (with whom I played cricket and was a member of the Makerere University cricket team) and Aziz Esmail who were both at that time undertaking degrees in the discipline of religion studies under Professor King. Azim Nanji, after attaining prominent university professorial positions in Canada and USA, assumed the position of the Director of the Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS) in London and is now at Stanford University in USA. Azim Nanji has held and continue to hold a number of steering committees, board membership positions and other designations within the AKDN agencies. Aziz Esmail lectured at the University of Nairobi in Kenya and then later joined the Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS) in London as the Dean for many years and is presently retired from its Board of Trustees. I was privileged to meet and worked alongside with both Azim and Aziz during my tenure as the Chairman of the Shia Imami Ismaili Religious Education Board (ITREB, UK) from 1990 to 1996.

Many other Ismaili students from Uganda and other parts of East Africa also attended Makerere University during and after my period of study. I am not knowledgeable about their experiences at Makerere but knew them on social occasions and group trips outside the university on celebrate our Ismaili festivals. Their pictures are included in this story and who, I hope, will be recounting and remembering their experiences at Makerere when they write their own stories like mine. My personal recollections and experiences at Makerere University includes mentions of some names of those individuals and eminent academic figures who motivated, inspired, and encouraged me at the university and later beyond after obtaining my degree in my chosen career as a scientist, teacher, and academician in the discipline of anatomy and in other related basic sciences. These experiences and recollections are in educational institutions at Leicester and London in the UK and then overseas in Pakistan over a period of five decades from 1969 until 2019.

#### **UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: MAKERERE UNIVERSITY FROM OCTOBER 1966 – JULY 1969**

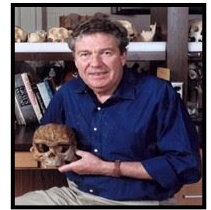


I enrolled for my B.Sc. degree at Makerere in October 1966 and studied Zoology, Botany and Chemistry in the first year. In the second year and third year my subjects were Zoology and Anatomy. To study human anatomy meant joining registered M.B.B.S students at Mulago Hospital Medical School where in the third year I studied specialised anatomy and embryology under the supervision of two of the most eminent professors at Makerere from whom, later in my academic and professional life, I was inspired and motivated to proceed further in the teaching and research in anatomical sciences. At that time, I was the only student from my B.Sc. degree studying anatomy from the university and thus had the fortune and opportunity to be taught the Human Anatomy by late Professor Wheeler Haines (Professor of Anatomy & Embryology) and Primate and

Human evolution by late Professor Alan Walker, a Paleoanthropologist who studied primate and human Evolution from fossilised specimens. These two had a profound impact on my future career as an anatomist. My decision to study anatomy at that time was to seek entry into the medical school to train as a doctor after graduation in 1969.

Professor Richard Wheeler Haines was a well-known international anatomist and botanist of eminent repute having taught anatomy as professor in various countries before assuming the position of Professor of Anatomy at Makerere. His well-known publication "*Handbook of Human Embryology*" studied by students at the Medical School and at other medical schools internationally was a favourite amongst all medical students as it taught human embryology through simple line illustrations and by observing handmade sculptures prepared by himself in the embryology lectures. I still possess his book as memorabilia in my collection of medical literature. I fondly remember Professor Haines gardening (his other avid interest in botany) in the evenings and at weekends outside his house which was opposite Livingstone Hall at Makerere College where I was a resident during my undergraduate years.

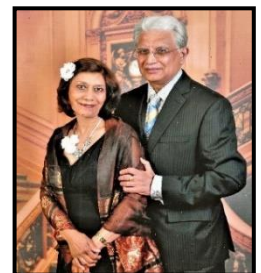
Professor Walker was a member of the team led by the well-known Drs Richard & Mary Leakey studying human evolution fossils in East Africa; Professor Walker himself was responsible for discovery of the Black Skull near Lake Turkana in Kenya 1985. There were other anatomists, such as Professor Sebuwufu, Dr Zivanovic, and Dr John Church to whom I pay tribute *to for* having impact on my academic career in teaching and learning of various disciplines of human anatomy, human embryology, histology, human evolution, and primatology at various stages during my future employment as career anatomist. Dr Srdoljub Zivanovic studied morphological characters of East African mandible of special interest to dental surgeons practicing in Uganda and in East Africa. His idiosyncratic conduct of *viva voce* examination was feared by students who were assigned to him for this purpose. In my own experience, he deducted 10 points for every wrong answer given during the *viva* leading to more than five wrong answers resulting in a failed score below 50%. From Dr John Church who taught us histology, I learnt how to identify accurately human tissue structure without having to view it under microscope. This skill served me incredibly well during teaching histology to medical students many years later at the Leicester University Medical School in UK and at the Aga Khan University Medical College in Karachi, Pakistan.



Professor Peter Sebuwufu (pictured with his wife) taught neuroanatomy. He was well known for demystifying anatomy and making it a simple and lovely subject through his great sense of humour and frankness. When I once asked him what sort of questions would be asked in the upcoming examination. He looked in my face and answered: "**Common things occur commonly**". I met Professor Sebuwufu again after many years in England on his visit to the anatomy department at University of Leicester Medical School where I was at that time the Head of Anatomy and where his son, Dr Richard Sebuwufu was employed as an Anatomy Demonstrator in the Dissecting Room. He chuckled profusely when I reminded him of our interaction at Makerere University Medical School.



A very happy event took place during my 2<sup>nd</sup> year at the Mulago hospital while studying human anatomy with 1<sup>st</sup> year medical undergraduates. In the dissecting room I met Dilzar Abdulsultan Kara who had chosen to study medicine at Makerere after completing her secondary education in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. We fell in love and later got married in 1971 and, Insha'Allah, will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding ceremony in 2021. When recalling this episode with fond memories and amusingly in my personal life to others and particularly during my anatomy teaching at the medical school and in the Dissection Room classes with medical students at Leicester (UK) and in Karachi (Pakistan), I talked about meeting my wife during dissection period.



During the 3<sup>rd</sup> (final) year of my undergraduate education, I had applied for a Ugandan Government Fellowship to enrol for a postgraduate degree at the University. Having won a distinguished Swinnerton Prize in Zoology in my final year, I was informed that I had been awarded a prized Fellowship from the Ugandan Government. I was one of the first Ugandan Asians to obtain a such a prestigious award, only given to other five graduates at the university at that time.



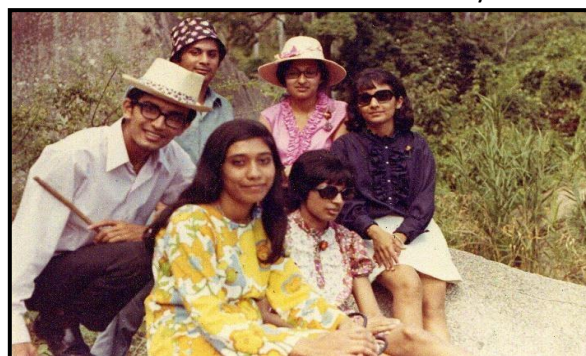
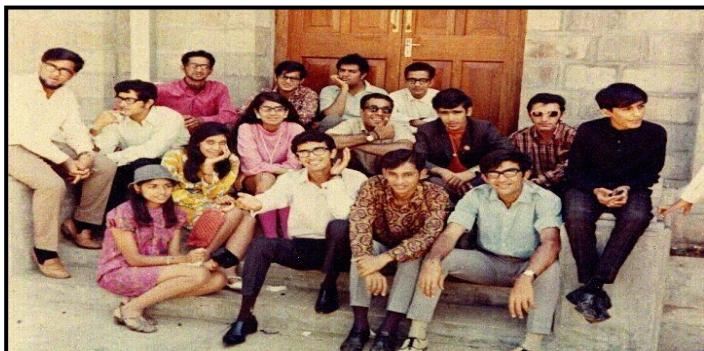
This was at a time of Africanization process that the Government of Uganda had recommended the Makerere University to adopt widely. At the time of the award, Professor William Banage was the first African Head of Department of Zoology having served as a Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Government of Uganda. Another contemporary zoology academic, an invertebrate expert, was Dr Neil Chalmers, who after departing from Makerere University became the Dean of Science of the Open University in England. Many years later he was appointed as the Director of National Science Museum in London. I have fond memories of Dr Chalmers who, I was informed by a fellow colleague, had to check the accuracy of my degree essay on reproduction in molluscs by visiting the campus University Library.



In July 1969, I graduated from Makerere University College with a B.Sc. (Upper Class Honours) in Anatomy and Zoology. After my graduation I sought advice from my academic colleague Dr I. White at the Zoology Department as to whether it would be prudent to pursue postgraduate studies in East Africa or elsewhere. He advised me to apply overseas placement in the UK with financial support by the Ugandan Government Fellowship Award. After applications to universities and research institutions in England, I was offered a placement in London at the Wellcome Institute of Comparative Physiology of Zoological Society of Great Britain. After arrival in London (UK), I was registered as an internal student for a Ph.D. in Anatomy and Embryology at the London Hospital Medical School, University of London in October 1969. I left Uganda in October 1969. I left Uganda in October 1969.

### **SOCIAL LIFE DURING THE PERIOD OF STUDY AT MAKERERE**

All throughout my period of study at the university, I was in residence at the Livingstone Hall, one of the halls of student residences scattered around on the campus. There I met and formed years of friendship with medical and other undergraduate students (Ashraf Bandali, Mohamad Daya, Aziz Dhalla (late) and Iqbal Lilani (late) who came from other cities in East Africa. All of us were active socialites and enjoyed life at the university to the full. Over the three years on campus, in addition to pursuing academic studies, we enjoyed life as young students being away from home. Three of us later married our fellow female medical students; Ashraf Bandali married Perviz Hasham, Aziz Dhalla married Fatima Khaki and I married Dilzar Kara in subsequent years after graduation. As a group we ventured out of the campus in the evenings and weekends to the city visiting numerous restaurants and cinema houses. On occasions, in the evenings, we met with other students on the campus outside Kanubhais Canteen and participated in the singsongs lasting several hours in the night. These activities, for me and others, remain as fond memories of an enjoyable period at the university. During these three years I met many other Ismaili students like Rehman & Yasmin Hajee, Mirza Datoo, Mohamed Manji, Diamond Allidina (who married my school classmate Parweez Lakhani), Shiraz Esmail, Diamond Kanji who were in residence at other halls (Northcote, New Hall, and Mitchell Hall) on campus. In addition to meeting in the Jamatkhana on campus for regular prayers, we observed and celebrated our religious festivals both on campus and away on a trip to Kisumu, Kenya for the Imamat Day Khushiali (pictures below with other Makerere University alumina).

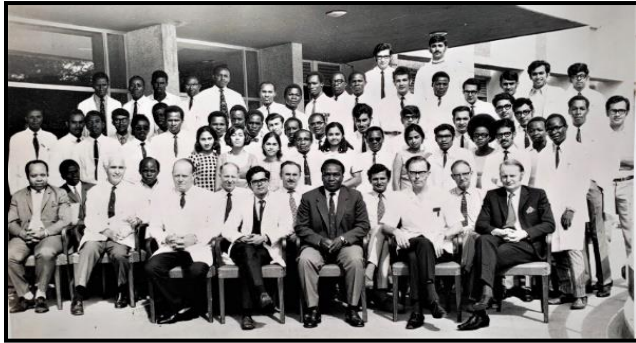


We participated fully in religious festivals of Diwali and Christmas and other important celebrations with all students on campus held at the Main Hall in the University Administrative Building enjoying playing Dandia Raas and dancing to Eastern, Western and African music. MU's environment during my period of study was truly Pluralistic with students from all ethnic communities of East African countries mixing freely, studying, and enjoying life on campus.



## POSTGRADUATE STUDY IN LONDON & EMPLOYMENT AT UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

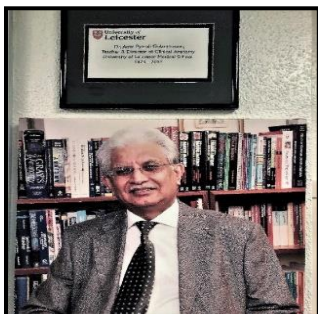
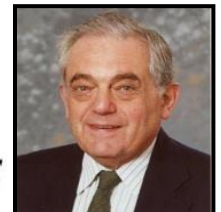
My postgraduate study for Ph.D. was in the field of Reproduction. The research work was carried out at two premises in London with two internal supervisors (Dr I.W.Rowlands at the Wellcome Institute and Professor Felix Beck at London Hospital) from 1969 to 1972. I was awarded a Ph.D. in 1973. In the summer of 1971, I returned to Kampala, Uganda for my wedding to Dilzar Abdulsultan Kara in August. While in Uganda, I met Dr. Sultan Karim



who had established himself in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology and was working at Makerere University in Uganda as Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics. His pioneering work on prostaglandins, in the field of obstetrics – forming the basis of what the New York Times called ***“one of the most promising fields in the biological sciences.”*** At that time, he was involved in setting up a research institute in human reproduction. See Professor Karim, his academic colleagues, practising physicians and surgeons and medical students at the Mulago Medical School (photo with Prof Karim). The prospect

of joining this institution after my Ph.D. graduation seemed a good opportunity to return to Uganda and join the new institute. However, this was not to be as in July 1972, the then President Idi Amin ordered the expulsion of country's Ugandan Asians. Professor Karim was involved in finding medical school placements in the East Africa, United Kingdom, USA, Canada, for many of the medical students who were expelled from Uganda at that time.

I returned to UK after my wedding to continue and complete my postgraduate studies and graduated from the University of London with a Ph.D. in Anatomy and Embryology in 1973. Professor Felix Beck who was my Ph.D. supervisor offered me a two-year (1974-1975) Research Associate post in the Department of Anatomy at that time of the newly established medical college at the University of Leicester in January 1973. In January 1975,



I was appointed to a position of Lecturer in the Department of Anatomy and was fully involved in setting up the department together with other colleagues well before the intake of medical undergraduates in October of that year. With this appointment my career as an anatomist began to unfold which lasted for more than three decades until 2011, as one of the longest serving members of the medical school holding several senior academic positions as a teacher, Heads of Anatomy, Head, and Integrated Medical Sciences Unit and as the Director of Clinical Anatomy which the University accorded to me of my contribution to teaching and learning of clinical and applied human anatomy in medical education. Teaching of human anatomy in medical education has been on learning functional, applied, clinical anatomy and its relevance to modern medical practice.

## EMPLOYMENT AT THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL, KARACHI, PAKISTAN.

In 1983, I learnt that His Highness the Aga Khan had established a Medical College in Karachi, Pakistan. The medical college was recruiting basic medical sciences professionals to undertake educational and training activities for students at the college to train as medical doctors for Pakistan. I realised that it would be appropriate for me to express my interest in joining the medical college given my experience at the newly established medical school in Leicester, knowhow and expertise in anatomy and being aware of the fact that there was, and still is, an international shortage of professionals in this important discipline of medicine. My desire to pursue this wonderful opportunity was to serve professionally by joining the medical college in early years of its establishment. My inspiration and motivation to go to Pakistan was to fulfil His Highness's wish, expressed

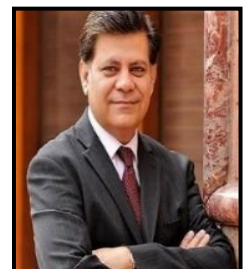


in His guidance to our community to contribute time, knowledge and best expertise for some years working at the Aga Khan institutions in the developing countries. I was interviewed in London in the summer of 1984 by Professor Camer Vellani (picture right) and Zahir Janmohamed, an Alumnus of Makerere. Dr. Vellani, a Cardiovascular Physician and an eminent scientist and researcher was at that time the Associate Dean at the Medical School and then was the Rector of AKU University for many years. Upon his retirement, he was granted the accolade of Emirates Professor and the first Distinguished Professor of the Aga Khan University. Zahir Janmohamed was the Director of Human Resources at the Aga Khan Hospital in Karachi. I was offered the position of **Associate Professor of Anatomy** in the Medical School in Karachi which I accepted and then travelled with my family to Pakistan. 1984. I was one of the Foundation Faculty of the Department of Anatomy, serving as an Associate Professor from Oct1984 to Dec1985. At the Department of Anatomy, I was involved with academic colleagues in organising the teaching of anatomy to medical undergraduates by dissection and other pedagogies in anatomy, histology, and embryology. I was allocated the responsibility to prepare the anatomy teaching programme for the students, which was admired by my colleagues. During this short period, we prepared and published a laboratory handbook for learning human histology by medical undergraduates.



I returned to the UK in December 1985 to resume my academic position at University of Leicester. Since my departure from AKU in 1985, I was offered full anatomy professorial position at AKU which I declined to accept because of personal and family circumstances. However, my heartfelt desire was to return to AKU Pakistan when opportunity was to arise. While at Leicester, I was invited by Dr Mushtaq Ahmed, the Associate Dean of the planned Aga Khan University Medical College in Nairobi, Kenya, to participate in seminars and discussions pertaining to the development of an innovative medical and social sciences education curriculum for undergraduates to be recruited from the East African Community countries. I worked along with Dr Anil Walji, a distinguished Professor of Anatomy and Surgery from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, to prepare some education curricular materials.

After my departure from Leicester University in 2011, I was approached the senior professorial faculty of the Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences (DBBS) of the Faculty of Health Sciences at AKU to take up the position of Professor of Anatomy to assist in the teaching and learning of courses in Anatomy, planning of the curriculum and develop teaching facilities for medical students in the early years of their training in medicine. I accepted this opportunity to return to the Aga Khan University Medical College in 2012. This academic involvement and contributions in the DBBS have continued for over 8 years. My academic, scholastic contributions to the AKU were very much valued and appreciated by my faculty colleagues both in the DBBS and in other departments who have witnessed my continued efforts over the years to improve medical education strategies by introducing novel ways of pedagogy and Assessment methods (e.g. concept based LCFs, clinical applied anatomy, and introduction of short answer questions in modular assessments) which the senior faculty and students have appreciated. The former Dean of Medical College, Professor Farhat Abbas (picture right) had commented very favourably of my contributions to medical education at AKU to enhance early education strategies for medical students to acquire abilities and skills to address challenges of modern medical education and clinical practice. Professor Abbas stated the following: *“Dr. Amir G. Hussain continues to play a superb role as a senior Professor of Anatomy, as an outstanding teacher/mentor, as an intellectual contributor and a seasoned member of AKU community. His diverse contributions are highly useful to DBBS and AKU and I wish him the best for years to come. Superb teacher and wonderful faculty member. Excellent contributions towards the establishment of ASLS at MC. I look forward to his ongoing teaching/educational contributions in Anatomy”*. Medical students focused their study on morphology and relations between structures by examining plastic models, skeletal materials, multimedia 3D resources and textual resources much more than actual structures and their real-life anatomical variations and malformations. I felt it was necessary to seek more appropriate sources of learning human topographical anatomy which would overcome the vital learning deficiencies of the on-going methods of learning.



In 2015, I approached President of the AKU, Dr Firoz Rasul, about the necessity of upgrading and refurbishment of the Dissection Hall in the MC to meet the requirements of modern medical education of the discipline of Anatomy. The

existing facility has passed its date (when constructed at the time of the establishment of the MC in the early eighties) and required a new design feature, learning resources, latest IT equipment, ambience and suitability for modern medical education and training of surgical and other medical faculty. President Rasul was supportive of this requirement and requested that Dean Farhat Abbas of the Medical College to be involved in the realisation of this project. Planning, construction, design features and upgrading of the existing Dissection Hall into a State-of- Art facility began soon after and completed in late 2018. The new facility was designated as the Anatomy and Surgery Learning Studio (ASLS) and inaugurated in December 2018. The project, costing over \$3million USD, was underwritten by a private donation and supplemented by the University. The ASLS was formally inaugurated in December 2018.

For me, this achievement is a distinctive contribution to educational resource to AKUMC in pursuing energetically the establishment of the ASLS at the Medical College as a State-of-the-Art facility for medical education using excellent human plastinated specimens depicting intricate and detailed anatomical features of high quality (which are an excellent resource tool for all physicians, residents, along with surgeons and their trainees) and a sophisticated IT resource (e.g. Body Viz). The ASLS is first of its kind in Pakistan at the Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan. With the establishment of the ASLS, students are able to study anatomy examining real human cadaveric specimens (prepared by a novel preservation technique) that show very high degree of detail, accuracy and, interestingly anatomical variations in some cases. A new interactive 3D anatomy software (Body Viz) has been introduced which provides students and faculty unlimited access to real human anatomy and is able to render real patient data directly into interactive 3D MRI and CT visualisations by which they can virtually dissect and explore the body in great detail.



The software slices of real patient MRI and CT scan data into thousands of layers which can then be stacked on top one another creating incredibly accurate and interactive 3D anatomical entity. President Firoz Rasul (picture left) of AKU complemented me on achieving this endeavour. *“The gratitude should come from me to you for your initiative, persistence, and commitment to AKU and bring best practice to AKU”*. Zahir Janmohamed (picture right) Director General, Resource



Development, AKU: *“The credit goes to you for initiating this project and for persevering in getting it completed”*.

The establishment of ASLS facility has afforded unfolding of opportunities in the coming years for medical education of our students, clinical faculty, physicians, residents, along with surgeons and their trainees. In addition to this, students, their supervisors, and faculty from all disciplines allied to medicine (such as trainee nurses and faculty from the AKSON, qualified nurses employed at the AKUH, physiotherapists, neurologists, and their support staff) will have access to this facility to enhance their learning of importance of human anatomy in practice of their professions. This new hands-on learning facility is a very important addition to the MC and DBBS along with the newly establishment of the Centre for Innovation for Medical Education (CIME) which utilises stimulated patient learning resources. Not since the establishment of the MC in the early eighties has there been such an investment for educational facilities such as these two buildings for medical students, nurses, clinicians, and others.

#### **AKU INAUGURATES STATE OF THE ART ANATOMY, SURGERY LEARNING STUDIO DECEMBER 15, 2018.**



*Inauguration of the Anatomy and Surgery Learning Studio (ASLS)*



A new anatomy and surgical skills lab, introducing the latest available learning aids was opened at The Aga Khan University Medical College here on Friday. According to AKU officials the facility to be functional in an enlarged space will help students to learn about the human body structure, and enable residents, practicing physicians along with surgeons to rehearse difficult and complicated surgical procedures before performing them on real patients. Mentioning that anatomy is a cornerstone of medical education, officials said renovation of the old Anatomy Lab and adjacent spaces to create additional teaching and learning spaces has integrated state-of-the-art technology and interactive learning with the classic anatomy dissection experience to better prepare students to become great clinicians. Medical, nursing, dental students and other disciplines allied to medicine will all learn about human anatomy in the new Learning Studio using different approaches including didactic lectures, practical sessions based on models, prosected materials, radiological images, cadaveric dissection as well as newer methods using interactive computer-based software. The Learning Studio also features **BodyViz**, the latest in anatomy software that will allow students, both undergraduate and graduate, to explore and better understand anatomical concepts. The software fuses advances in visualization technology with the accuracy of radiology, as it renders interactive 3D visualizations directly from MRI and CT data on a laptop, PC, and iPads. —APP



## ANATOMY & SURGERY LEARNING STUDIO PICTURES



*Anatomy & Surgery Laboratory / Anatomy Study Table & Seminar Station / Surgical Dissection Demonstration Station*



*Plastinated Human Anatomy Learning Station / Anatomy Museum Demonstration of using Body Viz Software Learning Resource*

At the 2019 Aga Khan University Convocation Ceremony in Karachi, I was presented with an Award of Distinction in recognition of individuals who have contributed constructively and consistently to the development of the University. This award was a highlight in my career for being able to contribute meaningfully to sustain the Aga Khan Institutions and bring in best practices through knowledge and experience in accordance with the wishes of the Chancellor of the Aga Khan University, His Highness the Aga Khan.

***“In reviewing your nomination for the Award, the Board of Trustees recognised your distinguished contribution to basic science education and mentoring, especially in Anatomy, and for your outstanding leadership in the planning and establishment of the state-of-the-art Anatomy and Surgery Learning Studio at AKU” Firoz Rasul, President, AKU.***





*Receiving Award of Distinction from the Chief Guest, President Rasul & Member of Board of Trustees, (AKU).*



*University Awards Recipients Back row (L-R): Dr Murad Moosa Khan, Dr Amirali Pyarally Gulamhusein, Dr Rashida Ahmed, Mr Louis Ariano, Professor Yasmin Noorali Amarsi, Dr Mohammad Perwaiz Iqbal, Dr Rumina Hasan, Mr Asif Fancy, Professor Nelofer Halai. Front row (L-R): Dr Abul Faizi, President Firoz Rasul, Trustee Zakir Mahmood, Provost Carl Amrhein, Dr Zulfiqar Bhutta.*





My appointment at the AKUMC terminated at the end of 2019. My colleagues at the Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences organised an event in recognition of my dedicated services to the University and the Medical College. At this event, the Chair of DBBS, Dr Kulsum Ghias (picture right), presented me with a memento in the presence of the Dean of the Medical College, Professor Adil Haidar, an Alumina of the Aga Khan University. Upon departure I donated all my anatomy educational resources (textbooks, anatomy monographs by ancient anatomists, videos, and other IT packages) to be used by anatomy faculty and students at the ASLS. I presented a bronze-resin anatomy sculpture for display in the studio premises.



My passion for teaching during my academic career enabled me to become a voluntary religious educator teacher in my community's Religious Education Institution for many years. This service was formally recognised by my institution by giving me a title of a religious education leader, *Al Wa'z*. The picture on the right illustrates the award of the title by the Institution Chairman and a Member of His Highness's Secretariat at the Ismaili Centre in London in 2001. All my other voluntary contributions over a period of many years are articulated in the section of "*Voluntary Contributions to the Ismaili Local, National and International Institutions*" in the succeeding pages of my MU Story History.



## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

### *Research Activity in Leicester*

The most productive period of my research took place between 1973 and 1990. During this time, my research (carried out individually and in collaboration with colleagues) resulted in significant findings, which advanced knowledge in the field of experimental teratology and post-implantation mammalian development and differentiation *in vitro*. My field of study, interest and expertise was in the culture of mammalian embryos and embryonic tissues (e.g. yolk sac and limb buds), morphological studies and analysis (histology, histochemistry, transmission and scanning electron microscopy) of cultured tissues. These techniques allow the study of development and differentiation *in vitro* with a view to understanding developmental events and their modifications by teratogens thus aiding the understanding of aetiology of congenital malformations and birth defects. Most of this work was carried out between 1980 and 1990 and resulted in 27 peer-reviewed publications, 26 abstracts and peer-reviewed proceedings in leading scientific journals and presentations at national and international conferences held in reproduction related scientific organisations.

In collaboration with other members of the staff in the Departments of Physiology, Biochemistry and Obstetrics & Gynaecology, I was involved in the publication of the book entitled "Human Reproduction – an integrated view" (1980) which grew out of a course of lectures to understand the normal human pregnancy and the phenomenon of birth. This publication was used by students (medical and science) at Leicester University, UK and overseas. While at the Department of Anatomy at the MC in 1984–85, I participated in and contributed towards the preparations of a laboratory manual entitled "A Guide to Histology Practical" for medical students. This manual was produced to be used by students at the Aga Khan University. My research activities ceased due to increased responsibility (when appointed as Head of Department of Anatomy in 1990), the restructuring of the School of Medicine (appointed Head of the Department of Pre-Clinical Sciences in 1995) and with the introduction of New Integrated Medical Sciences curriculum.

## POSTSCRIPT: TRIBUTE TO MY PARENTS AND FAMILY

I was born in Kampala, Uganda. My late father, Pyarally Gulamhusein who was born in Mumbai, India emigrated to Uganda in early 90's to join my late grandfather, Gulamhusein Esmail Tarmohamad, who was resident in Kampala at that time. My late mother, Fatmakhanu Pyarally Gulamhusein was born in Bombo, Uganda. I was one of the eleven children (2 boys and 9 girls) in the family. My father had a couple of cloth and cloth-making businesses and owned a number of houses in the city. He was very well known for his generosity, kindness, and trustworthiness among his African clients in offering credit without security of any kind. This was unique to my knowledge and many of his friends admired him for demonstrating such lofty qualities.

All the siblings were enrolled and supported in full in the nursery, primary and secondary education at the local Aga Khan School in Kampala. My father paid all the expenses such as tuition fees, uniforms schoolbooks and other costs year after year. Today I reminisce with immense gratitude to him as how he managed to support all of us throughout our education. My elder sisters assisted him in running the businesses while others were at school or education locally or overseas. Our big household was looked after by my mother who worked tirelessly to ensure that all of us were happy and well cared after. Two of us, myself and my younger sister, Azmina, went to university. She qualified as a dentist and is now resident in St. Lucia in the Caribbean.

While in primary school, I was sent away for three years to Aga Khan School in Mombasa, Kenya and lived in an Ismaili hostel. These three years from 1959 to 1961 had an important impact on the formation of my character, both educationally and lifestyle. I became very disciplined in looking after myself independently and endeavoured to excel in my studies. I returned to Uganda to complete "O" Levels and "A" Levels Certificate Examinations from 1962 to 1965. In July 1966 enrolled for a B.Sc. at Makerere College, University of East Africa.

## MY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO LOCAL, NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL ISMAILI INSTITUTIONS

I arrived early at Leicester in January 1975, having been appointed as Lecturer in Anatomy, and to continue my academic and research work at the University of Leicester Medical College newly constructed building on the University Road. At this time, working with Professor Felix Beck, the Foundation Professor of Anatomy and Embryology, we set about preparing the Anatomy Dissection Hall teaching laboratory academic and research facilities in the Medical Sciences Building. This was in anticipation of the first intake of medical students at Leicester University due in 1975. At the time of my arrival in Leicester with my wife Dilzar, the local Ismaili Jamat population, consisting primarily of those murids who were expelled from Uganda in 1972, was about 100 persons. The Jamat used to congregate for religious activities in a small lecture hall in the city's Leicester Polytechnic Building. Later a slightly larger premises for Jamati religious and religious educational activities ("Mission Class") for the children was acquired on Westcotes Drive which became a hub of gatherings for the Jamat for many years until a purpose-built new Leicester Jamatkhana Building was constructed in the Hamilton area for religious, social, and cultural activities.

At the Leicester Jamatkhana premises on Westcotes Drive, Mission Classes for religious education were held on Saturdays in four rooms on the upper floors of the building. **Being a lecturer at the Leicester University, I offered as a teacher to conduct classes for the children in Islam and our Ismaili Tariqah. This was my first voluntary contribution and service for the local Jamat.** In order to acquaint myself for sufficient advanced religious knowledge, more than that was acquired during my childhood years by attending mission classes in Kampala, Uganda, I decided to study further by visiting University of Leicester Library during my lunch breaks from academic teaching in the Medical School. The university library had a very large section on books and other publications on Islam and other Faiths. This study venture allowed me to gain a good grounding education in the religious history and cultural heritage of, not only Islam and Ismaili Tariqah, but also of other Faiths and their communities. This acquired knowledge by extensive study of religions was instrumental in actively contributing religious educational activities for the children and adults for the Jamat nationally in the United Kingdom and in Europe by being a member on the Ismailia Association, whose mandate was for the religious formation and education of the Jamat.

## **VOLUNTARY WORK WITH MEMBERS, STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS AT THE ISMAILIA ASSOCIATION (UK)**

Serving as a voluntary religious education teacher for a number of years, I was becoming a regular contributor on religious education on the Ismailia Association for the United Kingdom. I had an opportunity to work alongside two of the most distinguished and respected religious education teachers, Late Alwa'z Jehangir, and Late Alwa'za Maleksultan Jehangir Merchant. From these two colleagues, I learnt and acquired even more knowledge on our faith. I pay tribute to these two marvellous and respected individuals who were my devoted mentors at the Ismailia Association and later at newly established the Shia Imami Ismaili Religious and Education Boards (ITREB) for the United Kingdom in 1987 where they were employed as wa'zeen, teachers and academic staff. In 1987 I was appointed as a serving member of the ITREB, and I worked very closely with the late Merchants. I have the privilege to serve as a voluntary member with late President Badrudin Rajani, President Aitmadi Aziz Kurwa and President Noordin Kassam during their terms of office at the Ismaili Association.



During my voluntary services with Ismailia Association (UK), I had contributed to many religious education programs for children and adults (e.g. Family Oriented Religious Training - FORT). I served as the joint editor of the popular UK Ismaili Magazine (Ilm) with late Alwa'z Jehangir Merchant and Dr Arzina Lalani, currently employed at the Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS) in London. With the approval of the Ismailia Association, I organized a seminar held at Leicester Jamatkhana premises on Ismaili history, philosophy, doctrines, literature, and religious practices by inviting the then Ismaili scholars (Dr Farouk Topan, Dr Sadek

Aasad, Dr Latima Peerwani) from the IIS and other local Ismaili scholars (Dr Alymohamed Rajput). *Photo: Ismailia Association (UK) Seminar in Leicester.* During the Silver Jubilee of Mawlana Hazar Imam, working with late Jehangir Merchant, we organized a Symposium on Fatimid Caliphate held at the Imperial College in London at which the chief guest speaker was Professor Abbas Hamdani (picture right), a Da'udi Bohra Ismaili expert scholar of Islamic history and philosophy, especially on Fatimid Caliphate, and whose family has donated their collection of manuscripts and other scholarly materials to the Institute of Ismaili (IIS).



## **VOLUNTARY WORK WITH THE SHIA IMAMI ISMAILI TARIQAH & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BOARD (UK): 1987 – 1996 AND HIS HIGHNESS ISMAILI COUNCIL FOR EUROPEAN UNION: 1999 - 2002**

With the promulgation of the new Constitution of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims in 1986 by His Highness the Aga Khan, the Ismailia Association (UK) was replaced by the inauguration of the Shia Imami Ismaili Tariqah and religious Education Board (ITREB) for the United Kingdom. I was appointed as a Board Member to serve for the period July 1987 to July 1990 and also as the member on the His Highness the Aga Khan National Council for the United Kingdom and its senior



leadership members. In July 1990 I was appointed as the Chairman of ITREB (UK) to serve until July 1993 and then reappointed for a further three years until 1996. These appointments, for me were significant as this was the first time a senior appointment as the Chair of ITREB (UK) was made outside London.



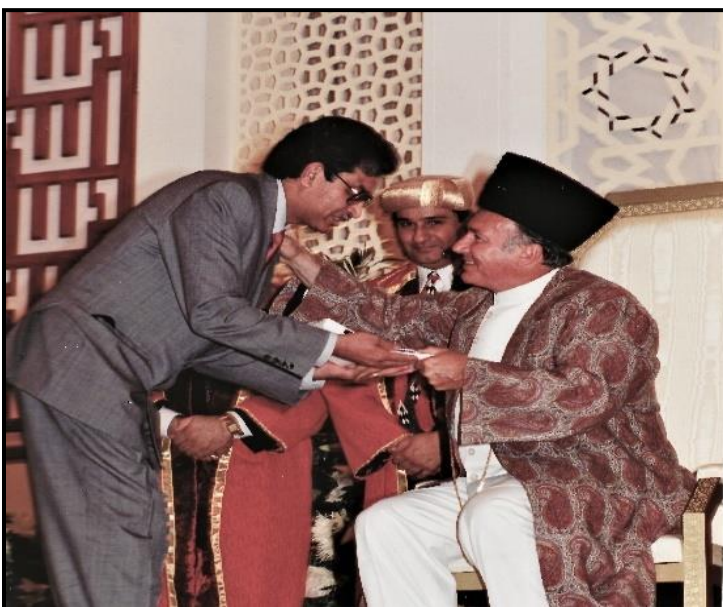
*ITREB UK 1987–1990 / His Highness the Aga Khan National Council for UK (1990) with Senior Leadership of National Council*

In July 1999, I was appointed as a member on the His Highness Ismaili Council for European Union to serve until July



2002. All of these National and International Institutions appointments were in recognition of my voluntary work for the Community Institutions in UK. During the period of my appointment in August 1994, a very significant event took place in the United Kingdom. His Highness decided to visit the Ismaili community for duration period of 10 days. For me this long duration visit was unique for the community. As the Chairman of ITREB (UK), I was delegated the onerous task of preparing a detailed program of all the 10-day visits of His Highness's meetings at the Ismaili Centre in London and at Earls Court Hall in Kensington, London. It was a privilege and honor for me to be trusted with this endeavor by the UK National Council. *Photo: ITREB UK 1993-1996.*

During the course of the visit, I had the privilege and honor to meet His Highness on numerous occasions. The most significant occasion for me was when I had the honor of presenting a gift to His Highness's family member on the occasion of a Darbar held at Earls Court Hall.



*1994 UK Visit: Amir Gulamhusein Presenting a Gift to His Highness for His Family Member, and Welcoming His Highness*

## GULAMHUSEIN DILZAR NEE KARA (1967-72 MEDICINE)



1970 MU



2019 England

### PRE MAKERERE

It was a bright Sunday afternoon, as I stood on Moshi Railway Station Platform waiting for the East African Railways Train travelling to Kampala, it suddenly dawned on me that here I was, at the age of 19 years, at the threshold of new phase of my life. I was surrounded by my loving family, my parents who were standing beside me with pride because



their eldest daughter had succeeded in being amongst the first few youngsters in our town to gain entry to a First-Class University in East Africa, Makerere University, to study Medicine. However, there was another very important person present with me that afternoon, my dear grandfather, who had influenced me in this decision of my life. I remember the time when I was only eight years old and when I had helped my grandmother to look after him during a short illness, he had said to me that he wanted to see me become a doctor. I had been deeply touched by that remark at the time and the memory of that statement stayed with me for the rest of my early childhood days. I knew then that I

wanted to become a doctor and I believe that this gave me the motivation and the inspiration to strive for this achievement in the future. I looked at my grandfather on that sunny afternoon as I was waiting to board the train and felt a sense of satisfaction and happiness in knowing that I would, hopefully, be able to fulfil his wish.

As far as our family is concerned, both my father and my mother had limited Schooling in their childhood as they grew up in India and later in Tanzania. My mother had some Secondary education but even with the finite education she had acquired, she was able to hold a teaching position in the local Primary School. This was due to her remarkable determination and belief in herself. Our families migrated to Tanzania in the early 1900s from Jamnagar, India and settled in small places, Moshi, and Dodoma. My grandfathers on both sides became small shop owners and brought up their families with limited physical means but abundant love and care. My father followed in the footsteps of my grandfather by setting up a small shop selling groceries in small packages to the local native customers.

My parents provided for every need of their children, in spite of all the hardship and difficulties and as children, we were never made to feel deprived of our physical, emotional, or mental needs. We were initially brought up in a house with a tin roof and wooden windows. I mention this in my story as being a fact of immense significance as I look around at my own surroundings now and wonder at **the Miracle of the Transformation** in my and my children's lives in every aspect.

Remarkably, both my parents taught themselves to read and write in their later years in spite of all the pressures of bringing up a family and working hard to make ends meet and eventually became avid readers in English and wrote excellent English. My father progressed from a shopkeeper of a small 'Duka' to become the Manager of a large car dealership in his thirties. They were ambitious, highly motivated individuals and their most important aspirations for all

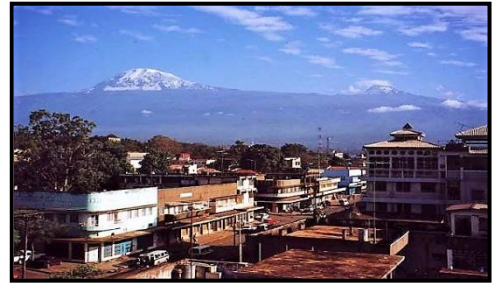


their four daughters were good education and successful career and personal lives. I am proud to say that their ambitions were fulfilled as my three sisters, Shaida, Shain and Arzina are very successful professionals and family women as well, living in Canada now, after my family decided to emigrate to Canada in the early seventies. Our lives in the small town of Moshi were very happy, and we developed into dependable contended individuals in later life because of our rich childhood experiences. I had a loving and united extended family on both side of the family and holidays were spent in visiting our families in Dodoma, Mombasa, Iringa, and Da es Salaam. Those were happy and carefree days. At the same time, I was also beginning to develop a sense of responsibility and confidence within this nurturing and caring environment. As we all stood together on the platform that sunny day, my past years flashed by as I started saying my goodbyes, and the realization of what I was leaving behind dawned on me when I stepped into this big steam engine train which was going to take me away from all that was so dear to me.

Even to this day, I have vivid memories of my humble and yet very happy childhood days in the sleepy little town of Moshi at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro. I had been used to seeing this beautiful snowcapped mountain every day from



my bedroom window through the large Jacaranda tree, when I woke up in the morning and it loomed above me throughout the day. The sad part is that I never really took much notice of it. Nowadays I often wish for a sight of that majestic mountain. The same goes for many other childhood experiences with which I was brought up, a loving extended



family, a comfortable home and a happy fulfilled social life. We were an ordinary Family which managed its affairs with sincerity and hard work. My parents had struggled very hard to bring up four daughters with very limited material resources. However, there was always abundant love and care within the family. We were well provided for in every way but the paramount gift which we were given by our parents was the sense of confidence and strength to face difficulties and to strive for the best in everything we attempted to achieve. The Most important of these achievements happened to be the acquisition of excellent education.

I was brought up to believe in myself and to try and achieve the highest goals in all my endeavours, a quality of character which I cherish even today and a quality which has served me well throughout my personal and professional life. As far as my studies were concerned, I was fortunate to be able to stay on top of my class most of the time because of hard work, encouragement and support from my family and good caring and motivating teachers who had sacrificed so much to provide a good educational experience for us. I remember my English Literature teacher who had come from England with a young family. Very sadly, her eldest son passed away in Moshi in an accident while riding his bike. I will never forget that tragic event. She stayed on after this incident to make sure we were prepared for our Final Exams. Her kind nature and enthusiasm for reading and writing good English has given me a lifelong love for reading varied and inspirational literature. Most of my teachers have left a lasting impression on my mind because they were interesting, some eccentric, and all of them had compassionate natures and creative ways of teaching. Some were very strict, and I remember being hit on the palm of my hand when I had been chatting to my friend next to me at the age of seven. Something unheard of in these day and age!

I managed to pass my Cambridge "O" Levels Examinations with a First-Class Pass but ran into difficulties in gaining admission to Higher School Certificate or "A" Levels Courses locally in Moshi. However, due to my father's sheer determination for me to continue my education in order to gain entry into a university, I ended up going to Dar-es-Salaam Aga Khan Boys School to do an HSC Science Course in Mathematics and Science for two years. I was amongst a group of four girls in a whole class of typical young teenage lads. But we developed a great relationship with each other during the process of finishing our HSC course. This was my first experience of leaving my family and my hometown in pursuit of further education. Indeed, this was a common experience of many of my peers at the time as places of Higher Education were often in bigger distant places away from home.

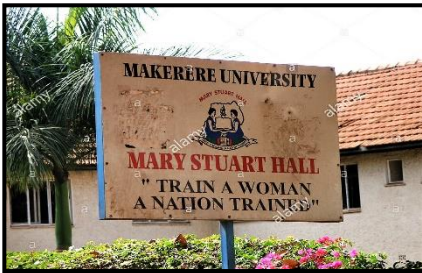
When I finally boarded the Train on my way to Kampala, and as it started moving, I looked out of the window and saw the faces of my loved ones getting smaller and distant. I was leaving one phase of my life behind me and was starting another exciting one. As I turned back into the compartment, I started becoming acquainted with my future friends and fellow Makerereans, who had been on board from earlier stations. Our journey became the start of the formation of friendships which would last for years in a new exciting place, our university.



## MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

So, when I sat down to put my thoughts on paper, I realised that the central theme of my account of my life at Makerere University during 1967 to March 1972 and the journey to Makerere and from there to the present day is that of a humble, sincere and dedicated life filled with many aspects which often appear unexplained and sometimes a little mysterious.

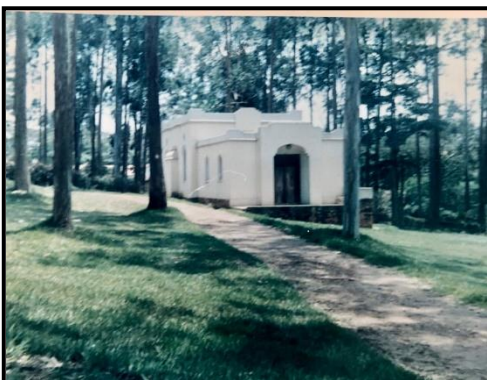
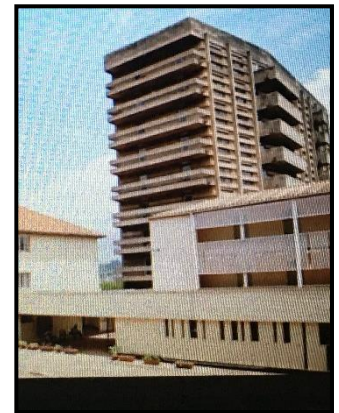
As I look back on my past many years of a life which has taken me through many phases, that of a happy childhood, an adventurous and interesting youth, a fun filled exciting student life which was equally demanding and tough, a fulfilling career and parenthood, I recall many memorable events such as that first day of arrival at Makerere University Campus and Mary Stuart Hall. The first sight of the University Campus and the Mary Stuart Hall which was going to be my home for the next five years, created a great sense of happiness and excitement. Mary Stuart was a place of comfort, fun and friendships throughout the five years of my stay. In the first year I shared a room on the eighth floor with Fatima who has remained a friend for many years. It also transpired that my life partner, Amir was



also a childhood friend of Fatima's future life partner, Aziz.

One remarkable fact about the stay at Mary Stuart Hall was that, in spite of, the presence of a large number of Residents of different backgrounds, colour, customs and origins, there was a feeling of tolerance, respect and friendliness amongst the residents. We all got on with each other and tolerated each other and I had an enjoyable, peaceful, and pleasant time.

The first days were busy and really exciting. The Campus offered a pleasant and beautiful setting to start meeting friends and forming new acquaintances. It was also a good time to renew old friendships from my "A" Levels days at the Aga Khan Boys School. The swimming pool was a favourite meeting place for many of us. As time went by, we discovered other venues for holding our gatherings, impromptu parties and sing along sessions. Kanubhai's Canteen is one place which has remained in the recesses of my mind forever.



to make it for dinner time.

My day used to start early with a sumptuous breakfast followed by a brisk walk to lectures on the Campus or at Mulago Hospital through Wandegaya, during the Clinical years with a Group of other Medical Students. Most evenings started with a visit to the beautiful Jamatkhana on the Campus. It was time for dressing up and walking down the pleasant route from Mary Stuart with other fellow Ismaili girls. I used to love the peaceful ambiance inside, engaging in prayers and beautiful recitations. I also remember the trips to the Hoima Jamat Khana on Fridays. These were arranged by the Leaders of the Community, a real act of care and compassion. We were very touched by their concern for our wellbeing and pleasure. Usually, after attending the Campus Jamat Khana, we used to rush back to the Hall in order



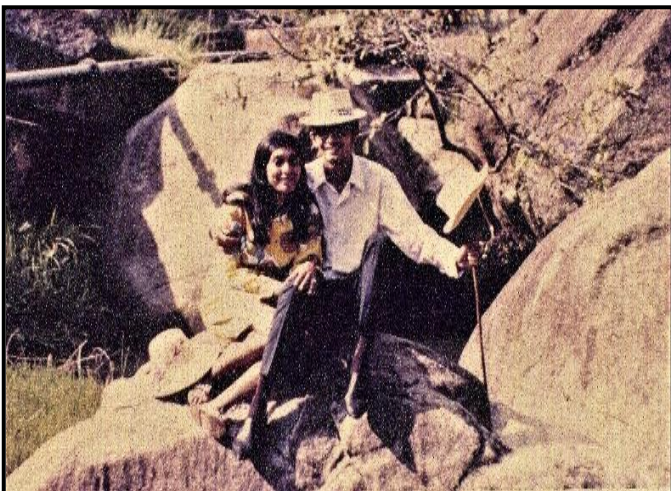
Meals at Mary Stuart are worth mentioning here. Although we would have to line up outside the dining hall before each meal time, the meals laid out were worth the wait. Did we put on weight with all those breakfasts of toast with butter and fresh marmalade, the lovely cakes and biscuits for tea and the delicious curries and other interesting dishes in the evening?

Surprisingly, most of us maintained a healthy physique as we used to walk to all places. These used to be walks to Mulago Hospital, walks back to the campus, walks into Kampala Town Centre on Saturdays to have coffee and pies at the Ethnicon Bakery, walks back to the campus at night after a visit to the cinema.

Those were happy and busy days when we worked hard and played even harder. We led healthy happy lives on the campus with likeminded friends. Makerere turned out to be a place where friends would stand up for each other. Everyone was equal and each person was respected for his or her Individuality. Even pranks were accepted with grace and good humour.

As the saying goes: ***“We didn’t realise we were making memories, we just thought we were having fun.”***

As far as studies were concerned, I remember that I seemed to sail through my Medical Degree Course, with relative ease but not with accolades or extraordinary achievements. I have tried hard to remember details of the experience of sitting in Exams, appear for the dreaded vivas, attend field trips and practical and clinical sessions and I struggle to bring back vivid memories of all these events. I have put this down to the fact that the Academic side of my life was enjoyable and was an experience which I accepted with gratitude as it was giving me an opportunity to achieve my goal of becoming a Physician. Nothing was much of a challenge simply because I was able to accept this and take it in my stride. I learned that I could do most things if I put my mind to it. We were very fortunate to have exceptional Teachers and Lecturers, many from abroad, for whom our success in our studies was important. I believe that this quality in my teachers engendered a sense of responsibility and commitment within me towards my studies. As I was beginning to settle into a happy and a somewhat hectic life at the university during my first year, my life took another memorable turn.



I met Amir Gulamhusein, in fact, across the dissection table in the Medical School, and our early friendship blossomed into a more serious relationship. This was the beginning of a beautiful partnership which has lasted for over 50 years. We got married while I was in my final year and immediately after Graduation in March 1972, I travelled to the UK to join Amir who was doing his PhD Course in London. Prior to this, the years at Makerere passed with comparable ease and comfort, and term times were interspersed with trips home during vacation. I used to look forward eagerly to these visits and used to travel now on bus from Kampala to Nairobi on the Akamba Bus and then onto Moshi, a journey of approximately twenty hours with the pleasant stop a Eldoret for a hot Nescafe Coffee in a small café in the small hours of the night.

During vacation time at home, I used to go to our Local Government Hospital on three to four day every week to offer voluntary support on the Wards. A good start to my ethos of future voluntary work. As far as my University life was concerned, there were many activities in addition to intense studies. We were very fond of



having music parties, enjoyed social events at the weekend at the Main Hall, trips to other towns and of course regular visits to the cinema and Drive-in Cinema. We would all pile up in Amir's sister's Morris Minor and enjoy all new releases at the Drive-in Cinema.

Graduation Day was very special as my mother had travelled from Tanzania, amidst the unrest at the border of the two countries, Uganda, and Tanzania, to be present with me to celebrate **our success and achievement with each other**. The time before graduation had been tense and hectic, and there were anxieties about the future for many of us because of rapidly changing political situation in the East African Countries. I was unsure about my future career plan back in Moshi after graduation. In fact, my future plans were more or less decided for me as my husband, Amir was already in UK. It made sense for me to travel to join him in London immediately after graduation.



## POST MAKERERE - UK

The thought of trying to find my first house jobs to start my Medical Registration in an advanced country with a sophisticated Health System was quite daunting. However, to my relief, this task proved to be less difficult than I had imagined. Makerere University had an international reputation in the Medical World in England and my Qualifications were a passport into Medical Practice. After completion of my house jobs in Brook General Hospital and Elizabeth Garrett Hospital, London, we moved to Leicester in 1973 because of job relocation. It was impossible to return to Uganda because of the expulsion of Asians from the country in August 1972. In Leicester, I worked in ENT for a short time and then had a career break in May 1974 when I had our son Zaheer. Four years later, our son Muhammad was born. Having my two sons has given me a real purpose in my life. I love being a mother and as parents we have always endeavored to ensure our family's security, stability and happiness. On return to practice after my children's birth, I was offered the possibility of entering Psychiatry, Family Practice or Paediatrics. I chose Paediatrics in which I developed a lifetime of Career Path.

I joined the Leicestershire Paediatric Services and became involved in delivery of Clinical Care to children at the local hospital, Leicester Royal Infirmary, in the Acute and Community Setting, looking after the Health of Children from birth to nearly adulthood. In later years of my Paediatric Practice, I progressed to a being appointed as Lead Clinician Consultant for the County of Leicestershire and Leicester City, with responsibility for organization, planning and delivery of services for Safeguarding and Social Care for Vulnerable Children. I held this position for 20 years, until the time I retired from service. I worked hard to fulfil my responsibilities and formed good associations and affiliations with Allied Professionals to deliver high standard services to these children and their families. I have always felt contented in the knowledge that my work must have made a difference to their Lives in the long term.

As I look back at thirty-seven years in this rewarding Specialty, I do believe that I have managed to create a lifelong impact in the lives of many of these children, young people, and their families. It taught me to be aware of not only the holistic needs of my patients but also of the entire Family unit, including parents, brothers and sisters and grandparents. This realization is so profound and a lesson in life for the present times, more than ever before, every individual has to recognize that he or she is part of a very large global family, with huge responsibilities. I hope that I have been hugely inspired to change myself to be a kind, generous, fun loving, enthusiastic and inquisitive person over the years by my wonderful and amazing patients and my colleagues.

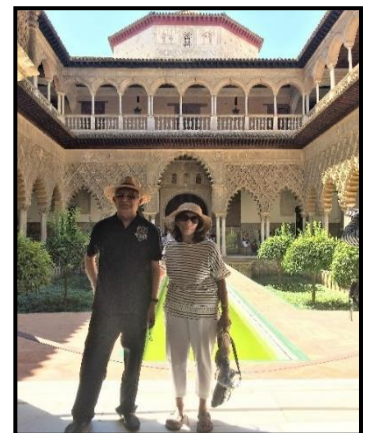


During my very busy Professional life, I managed to fit in regular Voluntary activities within our own Ismaili Community, contributing my services to Local and National Committees and the Aga Health Board for the UK during 1996 to 1999 and also with involvement within the wider Medical Fraternity in Leicester. The Quality of Service to others was Instilled in me from a very Young Age as I had Learnt to Share in the Care of my Younger Sisters and also help my Family in Achieving Happiness and Success in Our Lives. My Voluntary Service within the Ismaili Community is Continuous even today.

Soon after retirement, I was offered the opportunity to accompany Amir to Karachi, where he was appointed as a Professor in Anatomy at The Aga Khan University. This gave us an excellent opportunity to spend eight years in a developing country. I have learnt a lot about the challenges and issues which are faced by professionals and local citizens in these places and the resilience and courage and innovation with which people try and overcome their many problems and attempt to make their lives successful. We have continued to assist families with ongoing financial support since our return. During my stay in Karachi, I attended Clinics in a couple of Child Health Centres in one of the most deprived areas of Karachi (Orangi Town) as part of a voluntary service. This whole experience has given me a humbling realisation of my own successful and worthwhile life, made possible by the past and present good fortunes and blessings, good education, right set of circumstances, supportive individuals and favourable times.

*" The end of all knowledge should be service for others." (Cesar Chavez)*

I have had a fruitful life with rich relationships with family and friends, travels to beautiful and interesting places such as the mountain areas of Northern Pakistan and many other interesting places, many fulfilling hobbies, blessings of sharing my humble possessions and knowledge with others through charitable and humanitarian acts, an abode and life of peace and to top it all surrounded by my family's love.



Our Sons, Zaheer and Muhammad, and Eliza (our Daughter-in-Law, Zaheer's wife) have followed successful career paths in Financial Services, the Voluntary Sector and Business Management. They are individuals who are particularly interested in seeking a deeper perceptive from life.

Both Zaheer and Eliza are very interested in Esoterism (from a Western Perspective) and Zaheer completed



an MA in this subject at Exeter University. He has gone on to write about various aspects of this subject in publications around the world. Creativity in the broadest sense is a core interest in all of them, with a focus on Music specifically. Both Muhammad and Zaheer played in an Ismaili Band at an early age, providing live music for Raas Garba at Regional Ismaili Community events. Muhammad is an avid Vinyl Collector and also a very good drummer and has played in a band in the past, and

Zaheer (who plays Synthesisers) has written and produced Electronic Music independently and also for International Labels, distributed digitally and physically on vinyl, CD and Cassette. Eliza is an artist in her spare time and has designed the majority of releases for Zaheer's music, as well as producing other merchandise including T-Shirts. Eliza has also Studied Islamic Geometry, Calligraphy, Marbling in her spare time and has exhibited some of her Art Work at Exhibitions and also Online.

I am happy that they are well-grounded, sincere, and dependable adults with a deep sense of responsibility towards Humanity and Creation. My parents are no longer with us but my sisters and our families have remained very close and are a great support for each other.

***As I look back at my Life, I cannot help thinking that so much of it was meant to be, and as I progressed in life, Blessings, Inspiration, Hard Work, Determination, Intuition, Faith, and LOVE were always and still are an Integral Part of it.***

***In the twilight years of my Life, I have been Blessed with Opportunities to Reaffirm Love, Rekindle Friendships and fall on my Knees and say Thank you for Life's Good Times.***



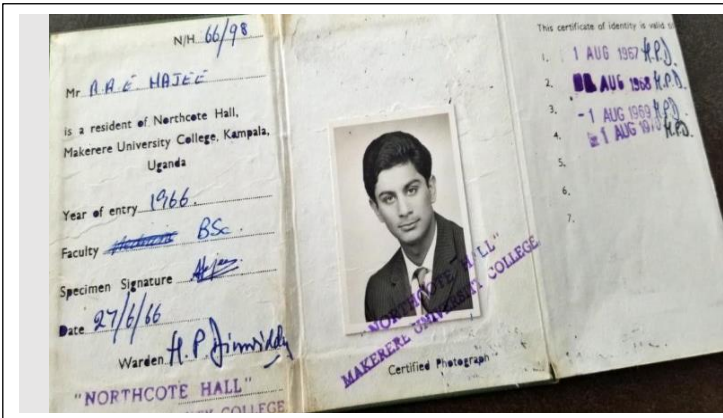
Finally, to all my friends, I dedicate this poem:

#### ***Friend of Mine***

*True friends are hard to find and worth their weight in gold,  
An ear always to listen, and sometimes a hand to hold,  
They share with your fond memories, and all those precious things,  
That after a glass or two of wine, make you belly laugh and sing,  
They remind you of the times you've had, now how long has it been?  
Surely, we are not that old? I only feel nineteen,  
They live through your relationships. The good, the bad and the rest,  
And survive like you to tell the tale, they really are the best,  
Life is full of highs and lows, and precious is our time,  
So, make sure you appreciate them, like I do, Friend of Mine  
(Author Unknown)*



## HAJEE REHMAN (1966-70 SCIENCE: ECONOMICS AND ACCOUNTING) HAJEE YASMIN NEE BANDALI (1966-69 ARTS: ECONOMICS)



1966 MU ID Card Northcote Hall



1969 MU



2019 Canada-Vancouver

### PRE-MAKERERE YEARS

#### YASMIN HAJEE NEE BANDALI

I was born in Mpigi, Uganda, the eldest of five siblings, Nazmin who lives in Vancouver, Amin (RIP) also was at Makerere, then is Nasim, married to Shiraz Mohamed who are both Makererans, also living in South Surrey, a suburb of Vancouver. Azim is the youngest who lives in Edmonton with his family.

My parents lived in a small village (Kamengo) in Uganda with no Schools, so I lived with relatives in different towns, till I went to The Aga Khan School and completed my "O" and "A" Levels and then went on to Makerere University from 1966 to 1969, married Rehman Hajee in 1970, and we both moved to Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

I Have worked for The Bank of Canada in Ottawa, Department of Agriculture, and Manpower and Immigration Canada for about 12 years, took some time off and later worked with The Investors Group (Financial Planning).

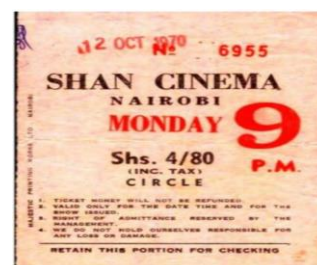
#### REHMAN HAJEE

During various phases of my life, I have been called by different names. My legal name is Abdulrehman, but during my youth, including High School, I was Rehman; once in Makerere, I was Hajee; then when I entered Queens University, I was Abdul; and now in Vancouver, I am Ray.

I was born in Nairobi, capital of Kenya, my Father was born in Kenya and Mother was born in Karachi, Pakistan. My Mother's Father was a judge in Pakistan and moved to Nairobi with his family. My family was blessed with wealth and my siblings include an elder Sister, a younger Brother who passed away some years ago, and four younger Sisters. We were all very lucky that we were provided with many luxuries; however, except for myself and my youngest Sister who became a Nurse, no-one studied beyond "O" Levels.



Our business enterprise in Nairobi was established in 1903, Alibhai & Co. It was a menswear store that also made Uniforms for Schools, the Army, the Railway, and various other Institutions and Manufactured Tents and Tarps. *Photo: Illustration of a jacket from the Nairobi Railway Club made by Alibhai & Co.* Other businesses included the Shan Cinema in Nairobi, where I watched Hindi movies regularly, many of them several times and even more than once a day on weekends, and I became fairly fluent in Hindi.



I was enrolled in Boy Scouts, completed The Duke of Edinburgh Award, Bronze, Silver and Gold, which was converted to Kenya Award. This Award was presented at Kenyatta House (which was given to the Government of Kenya by The Aga Khan), by President Jomo Kenyatta. I was one of the first 5 Recipients of this award.

My Mother was a Member of The Aga Khan Council and at that time, communication was slow and mostly by mail so when there were messages from the Council, Kamatu who worked for the Council would come home on his motorbike to deliver the Messages and whilst he was there, I would grab his bike and ride around the block and a few times, I fell and bruised myself.



During my early days in Primary School, I used to sneak out every morning at 5am to go to Swim with Sultan (Baglo), a tenant who rented a suite in our house. He used to open the Pool at the Aga Khan Primary School and I would come back home and get into bed before my Mother would wake me up thinking I was still sleeping. I did this for several years until there was a Swimming Exhibition when Hazar Imam came to the School. It was at that point that my Mother found out I had been Swimming for so long without her knowledge (Swimming was a NO NO!!).



The toughest challenge in my youth was attending the Outward-Bound Camp in Kenya. This was a three-week Camp at the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro, in Loitokitok, where the Outward-Bound School was located. The three-week Camp included training which culminated in Climbing to the UHURU Peak of Mount Kilimanjaro, over 19,000 feet high. Every morning at 6am, we had a roll call after which we had a short run to the Swimming Pool where we had to jump into the ice-cold water continuously flowing into the Pool from the mountain ice melt. I think these cold-water swims are the reason I don't feel cold when Golfing in the early mornings when my Golf Partners are layered up for the cold. Later on, I was able to guide a High School Group and a Marerere Group to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro.



Hobbies in my youth were Music, Art, and Woodwork. I also did my "A" Levels in Art. During my time between High School and entrance to Makerere, I taught at the Aga Khan High School. *Photos: Some samples of my artwork during High School.*



*These were cut from Plywood with a Fret Saw.*



## MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

When I arrived at Makerere in September of 1966, I was admitted to Northcote Hall. The Dean of the University and of Northcote Hall, Mr. Dinwiddy welcomed every student arriving by name. I joined the Faculty of Medicine, but later changed to Economics with the intention of joining the family business which was well established. At Makerere, I played Music with Kid Damani for Khushiali Dandia and other Functions and was Mukhi for the Makerere Jamatkhana with Fatima Khakhi as Mukhianima.



We used to go to Kanubhai's canteen often and go into town every weekend and go to Christo's for coffee and meat pies, and also frequented Azaad restaurant for kheema curry and Bat Valley for biriani on Sundays. I participated in the Inter University Games and was Swimming Captain for the

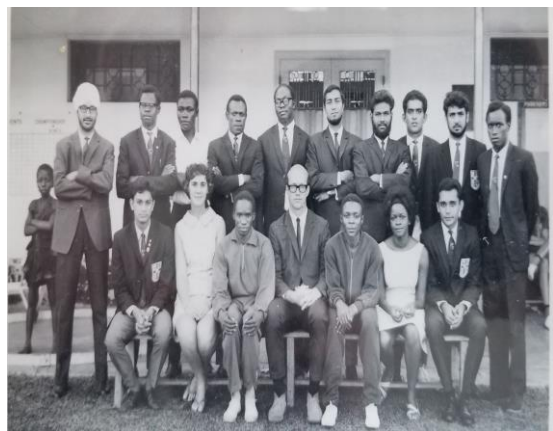


Makerere Team. *Photo Left: MU Swimming Team with Championship Trophy.* We went on several trips to Game Parks, and held Music Parties (in which I played the Flute) and also went on trips to Kisumu, Mbale, Masaka and various other cities. During the stay at Makerere, Hazar Imam visited Kampala and Prince Amin and Prince Sadruddin visited the campus.





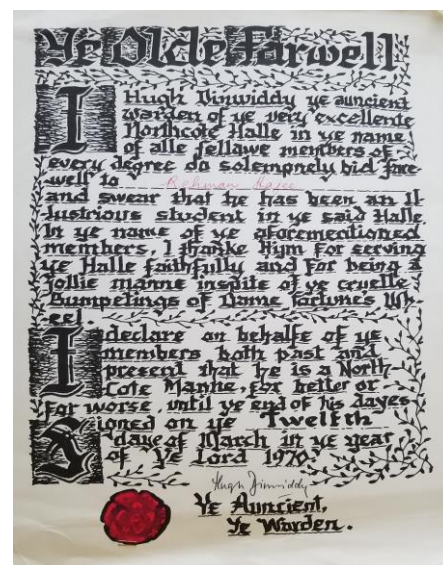
During my holidays after year 1, I went on a trip overseas, visited Lebanon where I went on a Geographical tour around the Country joining Salma Nurany (Paroo) RIP who was studying at the American University in Beirut, saw a mind-blowing show at The Casino du Liban, went on to Egypt, Italy, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, and Holland. My accommodation was in pensions where it cost about \$ 1.00 per night.



With the help of Late Amin Bandali RIP we took pictures at most functions and sports events at the University and developed the photos on campus and sold them to the participants soon after the events.



I painted pictures directly on the wall in my Northcote Hall room. *Photos: 1968 Northcote Hall Students and Paintings on the Wall.* My collection of Indian Music was huge, and we used to gather to appreciate the different Genres of Music including Indian Classical and the Group included Nizar Nurani, Azaad Lalani, Sulta n Kassamali, and many others especially from our Northcote Hall. I completed my BSc in Economics in 1970. During my stay at Makerere, I met my Soulmate who was also a Makererean, and we got married on May 1st, 1970.

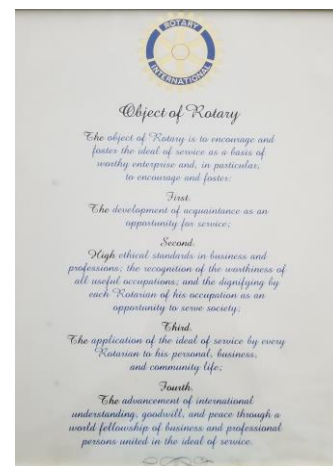


## POST-MAKERERE LIFE

I applied to many Canadian Universities, chose Queens University in Kingston, Ontario which was recommended by a Canadian working in the visa office. We arrived in Kingston, Ontario where I was enrolled at Queens University to further my Postgraduate Education. Kingston was a small University town, well known for the penitentiaries and the Military School. We stayed in an apartment rented from the University which was off campus and had a very International Group of Students that we socialised with. Yasmin was working whilst I was studying, and I completed my MBA from Queens in

1972. During my stay in Kingston, we applied for Landed Immigrant Status which we got just before leaving Canada to come back to East Africa. I had job interviews in Ottawa and accepted a job as a backup plan.

After arriving in Nairobi, Yasmin went to visit her family in Kampala when Idi Amin announced the expulsion of all Asians from Uganda. Yasmin flew back to Nairobi on the last flight at that time from Kampala to Nairobi and with all the uncertainties, my family asked us to go back to Canada and wait to see what happens. We flew back to Montreal on the next available flight, but due to the rush, we could not get any Dollars and once in New York in transit, missed our connection to Montreal and had to spend the night at New York airport with no US currency. We had to go without breakfast and held our luggage under our feet all night long. We took the next flight to Montreal where we were able to exchange Pound Cheques to Dollars and took the bus from Montreal to Kingston, and then on to Ottawa.



I started my new Canadian career in Ottawa with Burroughs Business Machines which was a Competitor to IBM, selling Computers, Programming, and Installing them. At that time, a \$50,000 Computer wasn't equivalent to today's \$1,000.00 Laptop in Performance. I developed the Program for Tax Billing for The City of Pembroke in Ontario.

We lived in Ottawa for the next four and a half years and bought our first townhouse, with 4 bedrooms and a walkout basement for \$27,000 with a mortgage rate of 7-3/4 % (a very low rate at that time). During our stay in Ottawa, we welcomed many families who were immigrating to Canada, and we were Kamadia and Kamadiani for the Ottawa Jamat for 1 year. We went to Toronto and Montreal often during weekends. We remember our first Khushiali in Toronto with a small jamat of about 40 - in those days, regular weekend jamatkhana was in a friend's apartment with about 15 people, until lots of Ismailis settled in Canada. I was a Charter Member and President of the Deer Lake Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow.

I got a job transfer to Vancouver in 1976 since my parents had settled there. Whilst my parents were waiting for their Landed Status, they were not able to leave Canada and so handed over his power of attorney over his Business shares and affairs to his two Brothers and that was the end of our Family Assets as the Brothers divided my Father's share between them. In Vancouver, my Father and my Brother bought a Supermarket and ran this Business for many years.

My journey went through some Business Adventures and finally joined up with a Friend to buy out a Collision Repair Shop where I learned about the Technical Autobody and Paint aspects of the Business and my Partner the Sales side. We managed that Business for 35 years and joined the Boyd Autobody Franchise after first 10 years as Galaxie Collision. We were proud that we successfully managed the Business working as Partners shoulder to shoulder all these years.

In 2008, we had a Makerere Reunion in Vancouver, had many attendees, and we were able to reconnect after years.





## FAMILY AND TRAVELS

We have a Daughter, Grandson who is 10, and Son-in-Law who live in Vancouver.

Our Grandson is also a great Artist.

Our son Naveed was 42 when he had a Cardiac Arrest during the Jubilee Celebrations in 2017 at BC Place Stadium and did not survive.

We have visited India several times, Vietnam and Cambodia, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Indonesia, Turkey, Egypt, and been on Cruises through Mexico, Panama Canal, and the Carribean.

Now we are both retired and go for walks; I play Golf regularly and we plan to travel again once the COVID-19 travel restrictions are over.



*Nani with Grandson Kayan*



*2019 Canada Vancouver Rehman and Yasmin*



*Daughter, Son-in-Law, Grandson*

## JAMAL SHAUKATALI (1969-70 SCIENCE: MATH AND PHYSICS)



2018 Canada Calgary



1970 Uganda Equator (Trip to Masaka)

### PRE-MAKERERE

My parents were born in India; I was born in Mbale, Uganda, my children were born in London, England and grandchildren are born in Canada. My father was born in Porbander, India into a farming family in early 1900. When he was nine years old, he took the steamship trip across the Indian Ocean arriving in Mombasa and then took the long trip to Uganda to join his older sister in Mengo in the outskirts of Kampala.

He later moved to Mbale to join some relatives and where there was a good mixture of Indian communities. There were many schools at all levels and many other amenities that attracted my father.

My father and his two younger brothers who had subsequently travelled from India started a passenger transport business using used trucks/lorries converted into buses. The business grew and eventually with investments from friends and relatives. The bus company was called Eastern Province Bus Company and had branches in Jinja, Mbale and Soroti. My father managed the Mbale branch until we had to leave Uganda.

My father also built quite a large building next to the Bus Company and to the main bus stop and depot/garage. The building had a great variety of businesses rented out and residences for five large families including us and some close relatives. The building also had a restaurant, bar, and bakery business that my mom and one of my brothers started to run after the previous tenants left. The other siblings also helped in the business after school.

Business was good because of its location next to the local market and the main bus depot and stop. It was a running business until our family left Uganda. My father had taken active participation in serving our community and the community at large through his role as the Manager of the bus company. He also built three single family homes for some of our close relatives.

I was born in Mbale where I did all my schooling - Aga Khan Primary and Junior Secondary and then Government Secondary and High School. I Taught English Literature and Maths at the Secondary School whilst waiting for University.

## **MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

Came to Makerere in 1969 at the same time as Barkat Rajwani, Shiraz Summar, Late Dear Agnelo Moraes (Poly), Zulfikar Khimji and Late Dear Shiraz Sarangi. All of us Mbale guys became residents of Northcote Hall. My roommate was medical Student Vinod Shah from Nairobi. Vinod's father had a shirt factory. Vinod was always very generous, and his mum always sent huge containers of ghanthia and chevro (savory Indian snacks) that we enjoyed after the night reading and when we wanted a break from the food in our Hall of Residence.

I remember the first day at Northcote. We were invited to Mukhi Rehman Hajee's room for a welcome party. I made a lot of friends at Makerere such as Late Dear Amin Bhandali, the official photographer. We had some great photos taken with President Milton Obote when we all went to the parliament building to protest against the racist policies of South Africa. I studied Physics, Chemistry and Maths for my BSc Degree. I left after the first year.

## **POST-MAKERERE**

I worked at the Kampala main branch of Barclays Bank and after a year at the bank, went for a holiday to visit my older brother in London England where he was studying Law. As things were beginning to become uncertain In Uganda, my brother encouraged me to remain in England. I signed a four-year Articleship with a very small Chartered Accounting (CA) Firm in Morden, Surrey. The British Government kindly granted me permanent residence instead, because of the situation In Uganda, when I applied for an extension of my student's visa. I was with the CA firm for six years.

Whilst in Kampala, I was going out with Shajsultan Sadrudin Lalani who was from Masaka. She was already studying in Manchester when I went to London England. In late 1972 when Idi Amin expelled all the Asians from Uganda, Shajsultan's parents, her sister and brother came to London; my parents and most of my siblings went to Canada; my younger sister and her family came to London, my eldest brother, an older sister and all their families instead initially went to Italy before eventually settling in Vancouver; many of our relatives went to Atlanta in the U.S. and one family settled in New Zealand.

Shajsultan and I got married in Spring 1973. Shajsultan worked for as a Secretary at the British Medical Association and the British Medical Journal for a few years.

In 1975 we visited my parents and other relatives in Vancouver. The trip was very enjoyable.

Later, we joined Shajsultan's family in owning and operating a Bed and Breakfast Hotel in South Kensington at Gloucester Road Underground Station. We ran the Hotel Business for almost two years.

In early 1981, together with Shajsultan's parents and her siblings we immigrated to Canada. Shajsultan's Parents and siblings settled in Vancouver and our family decided to join two of my brothers and their families in Calgary. Subsequently both my brother and sister and their families in London also settled in Canada.

Shajsultan and I started work in Calgary for small commercial firms and eventually both of us started to work for the Public Service.

Shajsultan sadly passed away in 2010 after a four-year battle with cancer.

Both our children and their families have settled in Calgary. Shajsultan and I are proud grandparents of three granddaughters and two grandsons aged between four and twelve years.



## JANMOHAMED NAZMA NEE TEJANI (1969-72 ARTS: POLITICAL SCIENCE)



*1979 Canada Vancouver*



*2022 USA Hawaii*

### PRE-MAKERERE YEARS

I was born in Kampala Uganda in 1949 at the Mulago Hospital. We were three sisters and two brothers. I was the youngest daughter and in between the two boys. The two sisters were respectively ten and fifteen years older than me. The oldest sister got married when I was only three years old, and the other sister went to the U.K. to study when I was thirteen. That left the three youngest at home.

I attended the Aga Khan School from kindergarten to Grade 3. I remember being “Thumbelina” in a musical we performed then. We then moved to Shimoni Kampala by the Parliament buildings and hence moved schools. I attended a private school called Demonstration School which was a school for teachers training. I was there till grade 8. Those were wonderful years being taught by brilliant teachers. I was amongst every nationality which introduced me to multiculturalism early in life. My only Ismaili school mate and then best friend was Yasmin Damji now Yasmin Alibhai Brown. We both went to the Kololo Secondary School and Makerere University. We both performed in 2 plays at that school, one in which I was Cinderella, and she was my sister, and the second in which she was Scheherazade, and I was her sister Yasmin.

My High School was Kololo Secondary School because by then we had moved to Kololo to live there. Again, wonderful years under wonderful teachers. I did Grade 12 and 2 years of High School Certificate there which is equivalent to college in North America. Here I was school prefect & produced a musical Dr. Faustus. I also took part in a 3-act Gujarati play where I played the leading lady “Shakuntala”, I learnt my lines through transliteration since I could not read Gujarati fluently. We travelled performing this play to Kisumu & Nairobi in Kenya.

### MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

I joined Makerere University where I studied Social Sciences majoring in Political Science from the Faculty of Arts (Social Sciences). At Makerere, there was so much excitement in the air. My first day on campus brought me to Mary Stuart Hall.

We were allowed to choose our roommates, I picked Dinu Davda from my high school and neighbor and Yasmin Kanji a friend from Aga Khan Elementary School. Both of them stranded me after the first semester and went to England instead.

So, I had a 3 people room and a new roommate Kiran Bhandari. Kiran and I both got along very well. We both enjoyed Indian dancing. We even performed together for a campus variety show. Kiran listened to C H Atma's "mo balamwa nahi aye" every night which became my lullaby too.

Sure enough, rookies were harassed - this was on a Saturday night when we were ready to go out. My neighbor Sultaneih Abraham a second-year medical student took me under her wings and hid me in her room! I was saved! That was the beginning of our friendship that during my 2<sup>nd</sup> year and her 3<sup>rd</sup> year, we shared a room. We are friends till today!

What can I say about life at Makerere? Those three years at Makerere University were the best years of my life. From Academics to Social life to becoming an adult.

Academics: The Head of our department was Professor Ali Mazrui. A man recognized internationally for his lectures, his knowledge, and the books he has written. I was very fortunate to have worked for him helping him with his research every spring break. Makerere's summer break was in the spring! We had international speakers come to the campus to talk to us on various subjects.

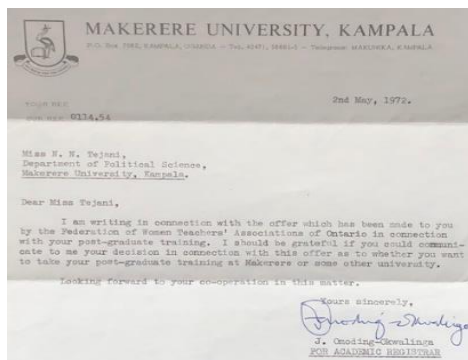
Social: We had foreign movies shown on the campus ever so often. One I remember in particular was "Siddharta". I thoroughly enjoyed it. We had foreign performers come and perform for us. One which I cannot forget was a group of Israeli dancers who had so much energy that the Main Hall shook, and the audience just loved it!

So multiculturalism was set in me since childhood. I played badminton with a local Ugandan Makererean who joined me for dinner at Mary Stuart Hall. Dinner was usually Matoke and Nyama which we got pretty used to. We just added some Indian Chutney or pickle to spice it up! Breakfast was toast and very weak tea. Once in a while we got eggs.

In my 3 years there, South Africa was supplied arms by Britain. Due to apartheid a lot of us marched in protest. The police came and sprayed tear gas on us and dispersed us! That was my only experience with tear gas-boy it stings the eyes!

I was involved with 2 groups on the campus. I was organizing secretary for Muslim Brotherhood where Mohamed Daar was chairperson. We organized educational and social events. I was also secretary for the Ismaili Students Association. Again, we organized social events to celebrate Ismaili events. I remember helping to organize an Eid event and a Valentines event both very successful. I was a regular attendee at the Ismaili Mosque on the campus both in the morning and evening. A habit that I have still kept and gives me lot of solace.

I remember taking 3 trips with fellow Makerereans - all fabulous trips. The 1<sup>st</sup> trip was with a whole bus load of students to Lake Manyara and the Ngorongoro National Parks in Tanzania. This was my first time to Tanzania and was ecstatic to see the game so much healthier than the ones in Uganda. It was a very well-organized and am sure everybody who went on it still remembers it. The 2<sup>nd</sup> trip was to Kisumu, again with a bus load of students and we had a wonderful time. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and last trip was organized by the social science students and was a low budget trip. I remember 2 unforgettable things from this trip. One, my mattress was full of bugs and kept me up all night! Second, a big bird did his thing on my head which stunk up the whole bus, but my fellow students said it was Good Luck!!



I was very fortunate to have graduated in June 1972. Just before President Idi Amin made his announcement about expelling all non-Ugandans. Hell broke loose. There was curfew and an issue of safety on the campus! I heard the announcement on the radio on a Saturday night on my way to a party in Port Bell. Nobody partied-we just sat around a transistor radio listening to the news.

My whole life changed. I was accepted to do Post Graduate studies at Makerere (photo: 1972 Letter of Offer from the Academic Registrar for PG in Political Science), but the mind set was to leave Uganda. I was not a citizen. President Idi Amin gave us 3 months to leave the country with bare minimum!

## **POST-MAKERERE DURING THE PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY IN UGANDA**

Life at Makerere sure changed. 180-degree turnaround. 7PM curfew so all socialization stopped. We heard of soldiers harassing women at their dorms. Conversations were all about “What now?”

I heard that campus girls were raped by soldiers. There was safety in moving at home. However, since we lived in Shimoni again by the parliament buildings, we had soldiers with guns resting in our garden. Our curtains were closed all the time, so we practically lived in the dark. That did not stop the soldiers, they knocked our door asking us for Chai and a transistor radio. We would open the door slightly and give them what they asked for. There were sleepless nights...

I was very fortunate to have graduated but did not attend the graduation ceremony for safety reasons. We lived in town so again I was more fortunate than the other students who lived out of Kampala. Since we held British Passports, we had to make some life changing decisions. Again, we were lucky since I had two brothers, a sister-in-law, a niece, and a cousin who lived in British Columbia Canada. There was no thinking - this is where we were going.

Fortunately, the Canadian Government did not waste any time and started interviewing the refugees - US. When I say I, I mean my family. Some of our passports were expired so the first thing was to renew our passports. Of course, there was thousands who needed to do the same thing so every morning we lined up for something or the other.

It was renewing passports or getting passport pictures taken or medical examinations or lining up for interviews for the Canadian embassy. We would be in lines for most of the day. One time my cousin called me from the UK and said I saw you on TV - well of course we were on the news all over the world!

My parents had 2 restaurants and our home. We left all that behind. Our car which I sold to a fellow Makererean, and for which never got paid. Our furniture and belongings which we sold at a giveaway price. Our jewelry we packed along with our belongings to ship which never arrived. My father left all our cash with his boss who said he would send the money to Canada which never arrived.

Before Canada sent their first flight to lift the refugees, we had bought our tickets and were on our way. There was me, my mom. dad, grandma aunt and uncle. I had 5 senior citizens who had hand luggage that felt like it weighed a ton. I had to take turns in helping them all. We dropped my aunt and uncle in London and then made our way to Vancouver.

## **RESETTLEMENT IN CANADA – VANCOUVER**

We were on our way to Canada now. Mom, dad, Grandma, and me. Mixed feelings, we were excited to meet our family and sad to have left a country which was home to us. When we landed in Vancouver, the family was waiting for us. My younger brother grabbed me and twirled me...till today I have not forgotten his welcome!

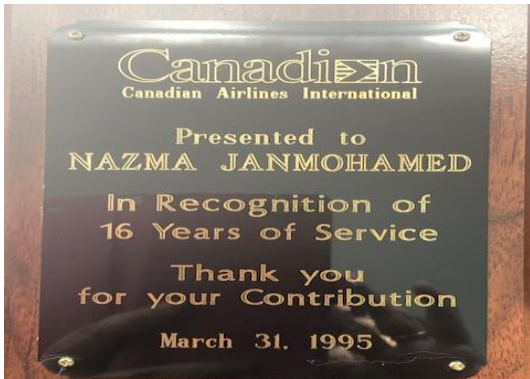
At the same time at the airport, I met Mike Alibhai who I believe was a fellow Makererean who told me my best friend then, Yasmin Sayani was heading back to Scotland and had just gotten engaged who turned out to be my husband's best friend. That came as a shock since I had not heard from her since Idi Amin's announcement.

Any way we stayed with my brother in a cozy little home in Richmond B.C. Soon my other sister arrived with her husband and four children. Now we were fourteen in this small two-bedroom home. At night we lined up sleeping bags and slept on the living room floor. Simple large meals were cooked. My niece and I did all the dish washing, I had never washed so many dishes in my life.



Within the first week, my niece and me both found jobs at Woolworths for \$1.75 an hour! She was in the coffee shop while I was in the bakery. I was giving all wrong change back because who had ever heard of dimes, nickels, quarters, and loonies? There was no choice but to find jobs - we had a lot of mouths to feed.

Dad and I took bookkeeping in the evenings. I went to apply for post graduate studies, but they wanted me to do the final year again! I was working full time and had no idea how I would cope doing my final year again! Did not take long before I found a bookkeeping job with Grassie Firkbank. Now I made \$2.25 an hour! I did this for a while and then took a Travel Agent course.



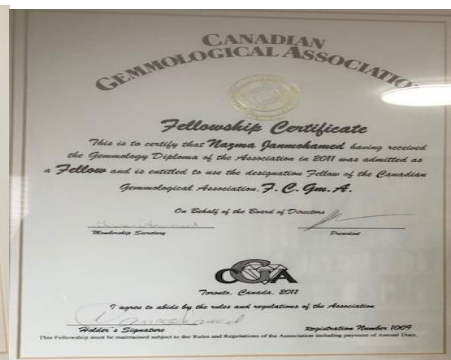
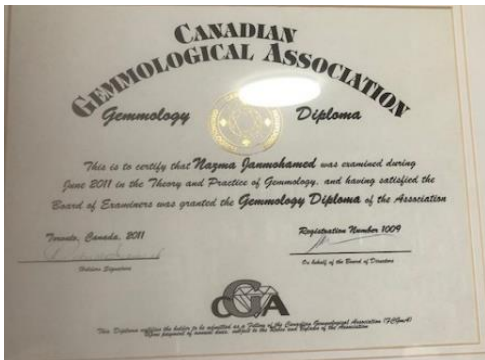
I was lucky and was hired by Pacific Airlines in their accounting department for having travel and bookkeeping courses under my belt. Pacific Airlines was bought by Canadian Pacific Airlines which was bought by Air Canada. I worked for Air Canada for 16 ½ years. I travelled the world. I was married by then, so the family all travelled with me.

*Photo: 1995 "Service with Canadian Airlines" Certificate.*

I retired with a good package from Air Canada.

Within a year of my retirement from Air Canada, I was offered a job as a jewelry salesperson. I had never sold anything in my life but attempted selling. On my first sales call, I sold and thought this was easy. The company was out of Montreal, and I turned out to be their best salesperson.

Then I fell sick, and they let me go. I was devastated. I thought I could do this for myself. I started making simple jewelry on my kitchen table and started my own business.



**2011 Canadian Gemmological Association Certificates: Diploma and Fellowship / 2012 Certificate of Appraisal Program**

I went back to school, became a Gemmologist and Master Valuer for Jewelry. It took me 3 years of school and physics and chemistry all over again. I ran my business for 20 years. I designed and we made fine jewelry. We also repaired and appraised jewelry. During Covid-19 I sold the assets of the business to my employee but am still working in the same business from home and part time.

## VOLUNTARY SERVICES

I have been blessed with appointments to various positions within the Ismaili Community Institutions that included Member of Editorial Board, Women's Organization and Ismaili Business Persons Organization; Teacher for Talim ul Islam; Ismaili Volunteers Captain and Vice-Captain; Majalis Mukhiani and Kamadiani; and Jamati Kamadiani.

## FAMILY

I married Nazir Janmohamed who was my brother's friend in 1973. Nazir has run his tourist wholesale business for the last 46 years. We have two children, Omar and Omira. Omar is married to Dennile and they have a 9-year-old girl called Ayvah. Omar and Dennile run their promotional products business. Omira is manager for Electric vehicles for General Motors for Canada. Both Omar and Omira graduated from the University of British Columbia. Omar with a degree in Arts and Omira with a degree in Commerce.

Omar has certainly followed his father's interest in business whereas Omira has chosen the corporate route. Both are successful in their own ways. Omar is lucky that his wife Dennile has been his strong partner in business too. Little Ayvah is an outdoor kid. Swims laps and does jujitsu. Omar, Dennile, and Ayvah visited Kampala for a wedding of fellow Makererean Mohamed Alibhai's son. I regret not having visited Kampala again although I went to Kenya many times since my in-laws lived there. Its on my bucket list though.



*Ayvah in Kampala with a Friend*



*Our Only Princess: Ayvah in 2018*



*Ayvah in 2022*



*2018 Nazma and Omira*



*2022 Dennile and Omira*



*2022 Omira: Kebabs Iranian Style*





2022 Omar and Dennile



2022 Ayvah Receives Grey Belt in Jujitsu





2019 Family Nazir, Nazma, Omar, Dennile, and Ayyah

## CONCLUSION

Life is good and has always been good. Did I make any plan for my life? NO. It was made for me, and I just followed it. I must add that I have always done voluntary work. For the last 50 years I have been serving the Ismaili Community in various positions. I still am and receive a lot of contentment from it.

***Life did deal out struggles along with successes, but we were always given the strength to overcome the struggles by Almighty. I am sure the rest of life will pass the same way.***

***Makerere was a great grounding point in my life along with the 3 best years of my life.***

## KANJI ALMAS NEE KANANI (1968-71 ARTS: ECONOMICS AND ACCOUNTING)



1969 Mary Stuart Hall (Box)



1971 Good-Bye MU+Box



2019 UK

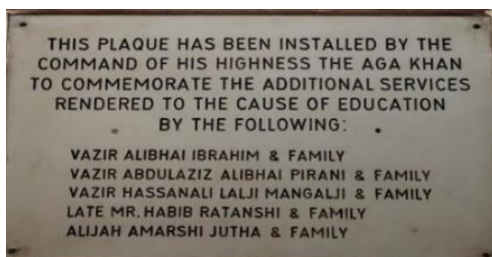
### BACKGROUND

I was born in Mengo, a suburb of Kampala. My parents had migrated from a small village of Lalpur, near Jamnagar in Gujerat, India. We were eight siblings in the family. Mengo was a good place, and we were all very close to each other.

One day we were told that Kabaka needed that land and we had to move out from that location. Buganda Parliament building was built on that location. It is called Bulange. That prompted my parents to move to Kampala. We made a couple of moves and finally settled in a renovated house on Rashid Khamis Road. This house was perfectly situated for our lifestyle. We had the Aga Khan Schools on one side and Kampala Jamatkhana on the other and we were right in the centre.



I went to the Aga Khan Primary School and then to the Aga Khan Secondary School where I completed my O levels and A levels. Aga Khan Secondary School was a disciplined school. We had to wear uniform and dress appropriately. Our teachers were mostly British and instilled the British curriculum. Six years at the Aga Khan secondary schools were the fun days and I made many friends that also came along with me to Makerere University. Here is the picture of the Prefect team and I am sure you can recognize most of them that ended up at Makerere University. Extracurricular activities were fostered at school. I was badminton champion and, also represented the school in field hockey, netball, and gymnastics. One of the most memorable events was our geography trip to Serengeti Park/Ngorongoro Crater/Lake Manyara - those were the fun days.



I must mention here about my parents' donation to the Aga Khan Secondary School. They believed in getting the children educated and give them the best education possible. My parents came from a humble family and had only completed Grade 2 when migrating to Uganda. The values of education were instilled in our family. My parents name Amarshi Jutha & Family still appears on the plaque at the Aga Khan Secondary School in Kampala to this day.

## MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

In my first year, I shared a room with Almas Samnani. She was in the science faculty and our hours of operation were completely opposite from each other. When I went to sleep at night, she would be up studying. In the morning, when I went for my classes, she would still be sleeping. Yet we got along fabulously well and had many moments of fun and laughter. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year, I managed to get a room for myself. Life at the University was busy as the focus was academics and achieving high grades. Yusuf was the top student in our Accounting and Economics courses and however hard we tried to compete with him, there was no way we could beat him. I had spent many hours studying at the library and “the Box”. The advantage of living in the residence was it provided an opportunity to meet and make friends who came from different parts of the country and studying in different disciplines.

I would go home most weekends. Many a time, this meant walking down a steep hill past the Aga Khan School. I would return to the residence Sunday night and party with few friends offering goodies that I brought from home. On the social side of life, I was a member of the Muslim Brotherhood society as well as a member on the Executive Committee of Mary Stuart Hall. I had the opportunity to attend different events such as speeches delivered by the great and popular Professor Ali Mazrui who needs no introduction.



*1969 Executive Committees: Muslim Brotherhood and Mary Stuart Hall*

## POST MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

I got married in July 1971 (just celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary) and came straight to Montreal. My husband, Salim Kanji was studying at McGill University pursuing his C.A. designation. Initially I had encountered difficulties in finding a job as I did not have any Canadian experience. However, Salim’s guardian and family friend Dr. Storrar who was the Executive Director of Montreal General Hospital at the time assisted me in securing a position in the payroll department. This was a steppingstone to move ahead in my career which I did after 6 months.

Then came the Uganda exodus in 1972 and the first point of landing was Longue Pointe, near Montreal, Quebec. Jamatkhana was established and we were appointed as the first Mukhis of Montreal and had to look after the newcomers that had arrived. It meant helping the refugees find new accommodation, schooling for children, enrolling them in Government assistance and social services. For us it was a challenging time especially since we were working and studying at the same time. However, with Allah’s grace, mercy, and blessings we were able to accomplish our mandate successfully.

At a professional level, I was gainfully employed at the Mercantile Bank as Senior Manager Planning and Budgeting.

In 1987 we moved to Toronto due to company transfers. At the time Quebec was still undergoing a period of political turmoil and uncertainty due to 1977 referendum.



Toronto has been good to us. I joined the National Trust, and my mandate was to set up the department for budgeting and planning. Then an opportunity came to move to the Royal Bank as a Senior Manager for budgets and Strategic Planning before retiring in 2016.

## **FAMILY**

After our marriage, we moved to Montreal. Salim at that time was articling with Touche Ross (Deloitte) and studying for CA at McGill University. In December 1982, we were blessed with our Daughter Tasneem. Her career path is identical to Salim. She pursued her undergraduate Degree at McGill, followed by C.A., articling at Deloitte, the same company where Salim was. In 2008 upon her graduation, she was recruited by John Hancock in Boston in Finance division. In 2015 she got married to Nihar and they have two lovely boys – Rehaan (5yrs) and Nikael (2 and 1/2yrs).

In 1987, our Son Rafiq was born in Toronto. He went to Queens University in Kingston and University of Alberta for his undergraduate program before heading to UK to pursue his Medical Degree at Keele University. He graduated as an anesthesiologist in 2019 and got married to Alicia the same year. He is currently working at St. Thomas Hospital in London and pursuing his Consultancy Program.



2019 UK Milton Keynes Family at Rafiq's Wedding

## **VOLUNTARY WORK**

Both Salim and I have been blessed with the opportunity to do voluntary work both within and outside the Ismaili Community. In 1990 I was appointed by Hazar Imam to serve on the National Economic Planning Board. My major assignment was the implementation of Junior Achievement Programs (JA) across Canada for the community.



In 1993 the Board of Directors of JA appointed me to serve on the five-member Executive Committee. The mandate of the committee was to strategize and develop long term plans and implementation of JA programs across Canada to high school students. These programs are geared towards developing entrepreneurial skills. JA is an international organization comprised of executives from multinational corporations. I suggest those who have grand children may wish to look into the programs as it enhances the resume for extracurricular activities.

In 1996 Salim and I were appointed Mukhis of Bayview Jamatkhana for a term of 3 years.

In 2002 came another assignment when I was appointed as member for Ontario Conciliation and Arbitration Board for a term of 3 years and again for a further term of 4 years. The mandate was to mediate disputes between contesting parties such as family issues, business conflicts and matrimonial cases. I was required to take numerous training courses in mediation in order, to carry out my responsibilities. I found my mandate satisfying as success was achieved in bringing harmony and peaceful resolution amongst conflicting parties.

Salim in 1987 was appointed by then Premier of Ontario David Peterson on the Premiers Council of Multi culturalism and Citizenship. His term ended when there was a change in Government.

## TRAVEL

Salim and I have travelled extensively. We have done travelling in Canada and abroad and have plans to do more once pandemic is over.



2020 Oman Muscat on Cruise  
(Almas and Salim)



2002 MU Alumni Reunion  
(John Noronha and Almas)

## KARBANI YUSUF (1968-71 ARTS: ECONOMICS AND ACCOUNTING)



1969 MU

1969 MU ILHAM Editorial Committee

2004 Alberta FCA Award

### PRE-MAKERERE

My story begins in Bushenyi in Western Uganda. I am the fifth child of the eight children my parents raised while setting up and running a successful medium sized business. My father came to Uganda in 1930 when he was only 16 years old and took his first job in Kabale. After a couple of trips to India, he finally established himself as a “Dukawala” in Bushenyi in about 1945. On reflection, my dad was a forward-looking entrepreneur who grew his business and encouraged his children to aim higher in achieving one’s potential.

My early childhood memories are of being surrounded by relatives and friends in a congenial environment. My journey starts in January 1962 when I left home to go to Ntare School which was 37 miles away from my home. At this school I was a day student and I stayed as a paying guest with relatives. Ntare School was a good academic school with a winning record in sports and athletics among the other recognized High Schools. I was not oriented towards sports, so I concentrated on studies. I was an average student from Senior One to Four and did not have any career counselling nor direction for further studies.

In the year I was to write “O” Level Exams, a teacher handed out application forms for our future studies. I felt that my results would not be good enough to get me in “A” Levels at Ntare, so on a whim, I put in as first choice Aga Khan Secondary School in Kampala.

As I attempt to write my story, I continuously go back to reflect on how much control I have had in my own life and how much has been pre-destined for me. As I reflect on the decades of my life, I feel that a number of situations could have turned out differently for me and my journey would have taken a whole different route with different results. I am grateful to the “hidden guidance” of the Providence for initiating that inner voice in me to allow me to take the journey I am on and to attain a level of satisfaction for all my endeavours.

The “O” Level results came out and I had attained 25 points (a score of 24 points would have meant First Grade), which was decent enough to get me into the first choice on my application, the Aga Khan Secondary School. I arrived at the school in early February 1966 for the next stage of my journey from 1966 to 1971 which turned out to be the most enjoyable part of my life with unforgettable memories.



I enrolled in History, Geography and Economic History for “A” Level courses. My unforgettable teachers were Mrs. Rodgers -for Economic History. She was a true professional teacher always on time, with incisive comments on assignments and a pleasant personality. I really connected with her and enjoyed all her classes. For Geography classes, we had Julian Treadaway, a fresh graduate from the UK whose approach to Geography was to show his students a real volcanic crater, if they learnt about it in the books. While taking Geography classes from Julian, I was able to go on two school trips to Western Uganda and to scale the Mount Elgon in Eastern Uganda and to go on a road trip to Ngorongoro Crater, Lake Manyara and to Serengeti Plains. All these trips were life enhancing experiences and a real “blast” for me. I am so lucky to have been on these trips with so many wonderful people.

At the Aga Khan School, the Headmaster appointed me as a Prefect which was a pleasant surprise, and I enjoyed the role and working with my fellow Prefects. In the second year at the Aga Khan School, I enrolled at the Aga Khan Hostel on advice from my friend, Salim Kanji. I also got appointed on the Student Committee at the Hostel that year. Later on in life I would realise that these appointments prepared me for future administrative and leadership roles.

As the time came close to apply to universities for further studies, we had very animated discussions in the Hostel as to what “Arts” students should be prepared for. Our buddies who were doing “A” Level Sciences were all going into Medicine or Engineering. Personally, I was not yet focussed on what I wanted to do and so I thought the best thing to do is to concentrate on the moment and pass the Exams. Luckily, I attained a very good exam results at the Aga Khan School and so Makerere admitted me with open arms with residence at the Northcote Hall.

## **MAKERERE YEARS 1968 TO 1971**

At Makerere the first-year students took three principal subject and then concentrated on one subject in the second and third years. This was referred to as 3-1-1 degree and these students would usually go on to an academic career. The second option was to take two principal subjects in the second and third years, a 3-2-2 degree. I took Political Science, Economics and Religious Studies in the first year, and after reflecting on my future prospects of converting my education into practical shillings, I dropped Political Science and Religious Studies. I must say that my heart was in Political Science with Ali Mazrui as my model to emulate.

As a Freshman at the Northcote Hall, I ran to be the General Secretary of the Student Council and got elected. High lights included sitting at the High Table for dinners. In the second year, I ran for the position of General Secretary for GRC, the Students Guild and got elected. Enjoyed working with the President Peter Anyang Onyong and his team and many interesting student/University Administration meetings. High light was a short session with Robert McNamara, US Secretary of State.

Makerere was a very active intellectual centre in Africa and the political and economic and social issues affecting Africa and the world were hotly and softly discussed in various circles, classes, and groups. I was lucky to participate in these discussions at various levels. Some of the discussions centred around:

Economic Development and the role of central planning -Foreign aid was a big discussion item and the aid was favouring central planning. The private enterprise and small businesses like the middle-class Asians were being sidelined in the process. Around this time, academics and political leaders were lending their support to a brand of socialism. On Campus, there were many discussions of “Ujamaa” as advocated in Tanzania and Obote’s own brand under the banner “Common Man’s Charter”.

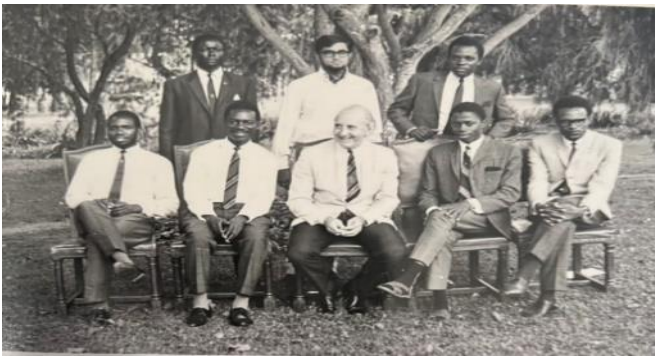
Some Political Science professors were supporting the socialist creed and Dialectical Materialism with Thesis, Anti Thesis and Synthesis were being promulgated while other professors taught with as much fervour as the liberalism of John Stuart Mill. There were also radical groups on Campus who revered Che Guevara for his romantic socialism and Mao Tse Tung for his practical approach and slogan “power lies in the barrel of the gun”.

At this time, other political topics included the secession of Biafra from Nigeria and there were a number of students from Biafra on campus. Would this lead to Biafranization of Africa? Some people talked about whether Kabaka Yekka, a party supporting the hereditary ruler of Buganda, could become a National Political party or would Buganda take lessons from Biafra. In the same category, fell the issue of Southern Sudan and whether it should also secede from Sudan.

The post independence Africa was ripe with many ideas including Nkrumah's Pan Africanism and the creation of OAU (Organization of African Unity) and at the same time dealing with the practical aspect of keeping East Africa as a political or economic unit.

The vestiges of colonial past had not fully departed from Africa and the discussions always centred on the liberation of Southern Africa and the transfer of power to the majority. In this respect, I remember the demonstrations in which I participated from Makerere campus to the British Embassy to protest against Ian Smith's UDI (Unilateral Declaration of Independence).

On a sociological level, the integration of the immigrants and the indigenous population was an apparent issue which was accentuated by economic disparity on a national level. I must point out that at the Campus level, I never felt any discrimination in any shape or form.



*1968-69 MU Northcote Hall Students Council.*

The above is a short recap of the dynamic issues on Makerere campus during my tenure and I am privileged to have been part of the African history that shaped the events of these years. During the second year on campus, I was asked to Chair the Committee to publish a magazine on behalf of Muslim Students on Campus (the name of this organization was Muslim Brotherhood of Makerere). We sold advertisement to generous businesses in Kampala and with the funds we had the University Printers publish the magazine called "Ilham". I wish I had kept a copy of the magazine because it had some gems of articles.

My curriculum included 3-2-2 degree with Economics and Accounting as main subjects in the last two years. This curriculum was also followed by my two classmates from the Aga Khan School, Amirali Merali and Almas Kanani. I enjoyed all these courses and fitted my studies with the social and political commitments I had (which were many). Life in Northcote Hall was a bliss with so many friends and frequent outings to Indian movies, eateries like Mona Lisa, Azad, Bat Valley, to homes of Kampala residents, special treats from the hidden secret of Uganda, Musabhai's bakery in Nabusanke and daily visits to Kanubhai's Canteen.



*Northcote Hall Swimming Team Champs.*



*1970 Murchison Falls Trip.*



*Trying to keep safe distance!!*

My friends and I were active participants in out-of-town trips organized by various groups while we were at Makerere. The Murchison Falls trip -to familiarize ourselves with Nile River, crocodiles, and elephants; Kisumu trip -to experience Kisumu hospitality and sumptuous breakfasts; Masaka trip -for the music party and volleyball match; and the Mombasa trip with Tazdin Esmail, Salmin Pradhan and Amir Meghji where the highlight was watching East African Rally at a check point in Malindi while eating fish pilau.



Looking back at Makerere years it seems like it was a dream or like “being in heaven without the dying part”! As the time for exams came close, my buddies and I spent more time at the library and in group discussion sessions. Most of the exams were for almost 100 percent final mark and there was no way to gauge how well one would fare in such exams. I had the most pleasant surprise when the results came out and I had graduated with First Class Honours.

*1969-70 MU Students Guild.*

In about June of 1971, the exams were over, and results were out. I was pondering on my future and the status of the political atmosphere in Uganda under the newly formed military government. At this time, I was advised to enroll in the Masters Program (MA) in Economics at Makerere with a part time job as a Teaching Assistant. I accepted the offer and a month later I got a fortuitous offer from the Department of Social Sciences to study for MBA at the University of Alberta. This offer was completely unsolicited and caught me and my family by surprise. In the next few weeks, the events unfolded so fast that I just remember being so busy saying goodbyes to friends and family.

## **LIFE IN CANADA 1971 TO NOW**

On a fine day in August 1971, I came to Edmonton with four classmates from Makerere, Moses Kiggundu, Chris Lubwama, Herbert Muyanja and Gabriel Opio. After initial introductions, we were ready to go to classes. On the first day, all five of us showed up in tie and jacket attire while the rest of the class were in faded jeans. I am sure our classmates thought we were attending some board meeting and not academic classes.

Experience as a student in Canada was quite a bit different from Makerere. Every student was focussed on completing the module for that semester right from day one of classes. We were not used to studying that intensely until the final exams approached. Before we knew it, the Mid Term exams were presented to us and our marks were discouraging, to say the least. The campus life which we had experienced at Makerere was no where near to the campus life in Canada. While at Makerere we thought of ourselves as leaders of the country in Canada nobody cared for your own views on the political, economic, or social side. The principal emphasis was on getting the best mark in the module and catapult that mark to the best job you can get, and the job with a multinational conglomerate was a plum offer.

The whole experience for the first few months in Edmonton can be compared to being uprooted from a happy and inviting pot to a new soil where it would take time to gain traction. Be as it may, all of us foreign students survived and adapted to favourably compete with our counterparts. Amazing how human beings adopt and adapt!!

Life’s reality hit me exactly a year after I had landed in Edmonton. Uganda had announced a decree to expel all Asians within a period of 90 day ending in November 1972. I had a premonition that something like Asian expulsion would happen after the Israeli personnel were sent packing without much notice or consultation. Initial reaction to the 90-day decree was that it would be reversed as cooler heads would prevail. In fact, the opposite became a reality as days went by.



My first reaction was how would the property settlements proceed and secondly what would happen to the personal safety of the Asians in general and my family in particular. The latter thought became very much a concern and I kept praying for the safety of my family and a safe trip to wherever they go. At the stroke of a pen, we as immigrant minority Asians, became refugees. This whole experience was tantamount to being an orphan over night through no fault of your own. The country of their birth had now denied them the right to belong and the right to be protected by your state.

Day by day I watched the news of where my parents, brothers and sisters were and what they were doing. Delivery of letters was like an eternity and phone calls were expensive. This was like living on an edge. Finally, with the grace of God, the whole family made it to the United Kingdom and with a short stay in the refugee camps, moved to Southall, Middlesex. In December 1972 I flew into London to see them all. I could see that my dad could not believe what had happened, but my parents were above all thankful that the whole family was safe. My dad always nursed the hope that the Ugandan government would make amends one day. Unfortunately, my dad passed away a couple of years before the Museveni government made the arrangements to settle the property claims for our family properties.

In May 1973 I graduated from University of Alberta with an MBA and immediately started looking for a job. On recommendation of my scholarship sponsors, the Canadian government had issued a Landed Immigrant status to me. I sent out about 25 letters to various accounting firms in May 1973 for an articling position, but they all came back with "regret to inform you" message. I then applied under STEP (Summer Temporary Employment Program) for a position in Lloydminster, Alberta, a town of 10,000 which is 150 miles from Edmonton. I was lucky to work for a very kind and generous Mr. Ross and he treated me very well. I still wanted to article for Chartered Accountancy and so kept applying for jobs I saw in advertisements. Then in September I dropped in to apply for a job with a small accounting firm and the Partner asked me if I could write an exam which he gave to the applicants. I wrote the exam and then a couple of weeks later got a job offer from Ron Galagan who had basically chosen me because of my performance on the test he had given. The offer and acceptance of this accounting position was a seminal event in my professional life in Canada. At the time I joined Galagan's accounting practice I was the fifth person beside the four others, including Ron Galagan.

I struggled to learn the ropes of accounting for the first few months but gained more confidence as I passed the courses required for the CA designation. I am grateful for the mentorship I received in the first year and I was on a steep learning curve. By the end of first year, I was in charge of audit and assurance files. The firm was the right fit for me, and I was the right fit for the firm. I attained my CA designation in December 1977 and was offered partnership with the firm in May 1979, which was the shortest tenure to make partner in the history of the firm. I thank the Alberta oil industry boom of 1970's and for being the right person at the right time.

The economic fortunes in Alberta turned sour in 1981 and our accounting firm would lose a fair amount of audit work to the Big National firms. In addition, one partner passed away suddenly, and the Managing Partner resigned. All these traumatic events in an economy that seemed to be going down hill. At this time, the remaining partners huddled together and redesigned the firm under the name Gardiner Karbani Audy +Partners.



*Photo: 1992 Canada Edmonton CA Firm Gardiner Karbani Audy and Partners.*

The partners kept their focus on giving good service and at competitive price. We were prepared to earn less, but we were steadfast on our goal to survive. Things did turn around and we were on our way to become about 50-person firm, one of the largest local firms in Edmonton. During the 1980's my three children were born, and my wife kept the household going while I worked the usual over time that the partners in public accounting firms do.

In 1988 I was asked to be the Managing Partner of the firm and I accepted reluctantly because I thought I would not be up to the challenge. Once in the role, I worked hard to do the best job I could do. I found that there is no substitute for hard work in any job, and that you have to lead by example. I was in this role for four years and then another partner took over from me. At this time, I enrolled into a new designation of Chartered Business Valuator where one had to take correspondence courses and then a final exam. This designation allowed our firm to offer specialty services in the area of matrimonial property settlements, business valuations and quantification of economic damages. This discipline was good for our firm, and I trained two other CBV candidates under me.

Our firm was gaining good financial and professional foothold in the economy and then we had the bright idea to branch into software development. Although I supported it at the time, a year into it and realised that the “Cash burn” was significant. The partners asked me to again take the Managing Partner role and get back to doing what we were good at.

This time around, I needed to be a lot patient with all the issues and work closely with all my partners and as a team we made a turnaround. Some hard decisions had to be taken.

During my career as an accountant, I served as a volunteer on a number of non-profit organizations, usually in the role of Treasurer or financial adviser and I volunteered or was asked to serve on the Committees of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta. I was fortunate to serve the Edmonton Community Foundation, a premier charity in the city with endowment funds in the millions. I was on the Audit Committee of the Foundation for six years and then as a Board Member for another six years. I have learnt so much from all these volunteer positions as every opportunity has left me with valuable personal education.

In 2004, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta honoured me for service to the profession and the community with an award of FCA (Fellow of Chartered Accountants). This award is given to about 2 percent of the Chartered Accountants in the Province. I thank the Institute and the members who voted to include me in this distinguished group.

University of Alberta also honoured me with Alumni Honour Award in 2005 for service to the community as an alumnus of the University. I appreciate the kind gesture from the University which gave me such an excellent opportunity to study and advance my career.



Besides being active in professional life, I kept myself occupied in sports and physical activities. I learnt downhill skiing and enjoyed this Winter sport until a few years ago. My co-workers introduced me to the game of golf, and I got hooked on it. I am continuously working on lowering my handicap, but I must confess it is not easy. One of the memorable adventures which I participated in was a bicycle trip from Jasper to Banff (280 kilometres long) with a fellow Makererean, Dr. Sajad Gulamhusein. It took us five days to complete the trip and we camped in the Rockies with our families who were following us. This was an unbelievable adventure for us and our children. *Photo: Charity Golf Tournament.*

As our firm moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we acknowledged that the groundwork set in the 1970's needed to be reset and the work and the workers had to be in tune with the times. As they say, father time catches up with us all and our partners were all coming to retirement age. With our firm, the solution was to merge with a larger firm which would welcome our type of clients and would reward our partners with a comely retirement package. We found that BDO Canada LLP would be a good fit and we were not wrong. In 2007 Gardiner Karbani Audy +Partners merged their practice with BDO.

My career as an accountant has been very satisfying. I have met wonderful people and had some of the best clients anyone could wish for. A lot of clients did run successful businesses and I am proud to be part of their success. I thank them for the trust they put in me and my judgement.

In 2012 I retired from my firm and took on a role as a Broker with RBC Dominion Securities. This entailed taking correspondence courses and taking exams. I was able to complete all required courses to attain a license from the Canadian Securities Institute (CSI) in 2013. I am glad I gained this knowledge, and I am applying it to markets and investments on a daily basis. I decided to work for myself and so I retired from RBC.

## **FAMILY**

I am blessed with a good family life and two of my children are lawyers and one is in the corporate world. As a parent I wish their journeys to be interesting with a lot of interactions with good and honourable people in their lives.



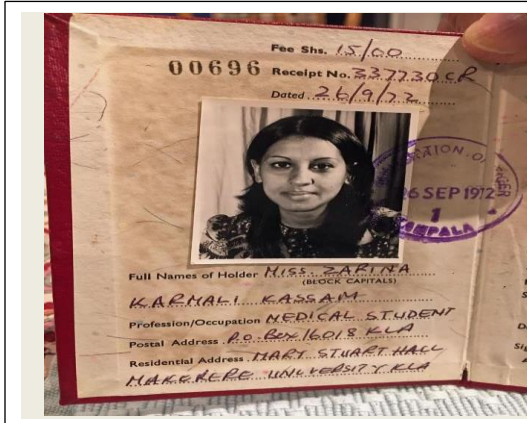
Personally, I find challenges in solving problems and maintaining a positive outlook on all aspects of life.

My favourite pass time is playing golf with my buddies. Game of golf is like life, "you can always play better, and you have to play the life you get".

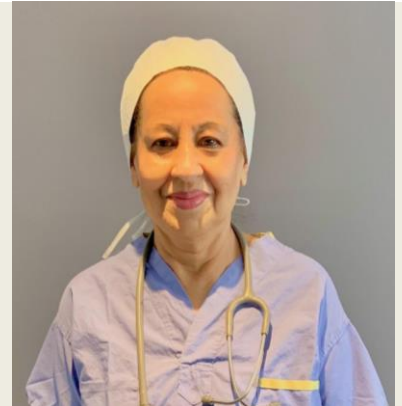
***In conclusion, I am grateful to all the wonderful people who have helped me in my journey and to Providence for guidance and protection. I would not have been able to do any of this on my own.***



## KASSAM ZARINA (1968-72 MEDICINE)



MU ID Card Mary Stuart Hall



Dr. Zarina Kassam, MD FRCP (C), Anaesthesiologist, Trillium Health Partners; and Lecturer, University of Toronto

### HERITAGE

My parents are from Kutch, Gujarat in India. My father, Karmali Kassam Haji Damani, worked for a family business in Odisha, India. At the age of 18, he married my mother, Fatma Manji Lalji Bharmal.

Lalji Bharmal (my maternal great-grandfather) had four sons - Manji (my grandfather and also Dr. Mohamed Manji's grandfather), Kanji, Hussein, Karim, and two daughters Minbai and Maanbai. All of the Lalji brothers settled in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania and became involved in transportation, import and export, fishing, and coffee businesses.



After the wedding, my mother remained in India while my father decided to explore options in Africa, first joining his uncle in Uganda. My mother made the voyage to Tanzania with her uncle (Kanji Lalji) and reunited with my father.

They put down roots in Tanzania with the help of Kanji Lalji, who set up their first general store in Tukuyu.

*Photo: Family in Tukuyu.*

### TUKUYU, TANZANIA

Tukuyu is a small, picturesque town with a dormant volcano, Mount Rungwe, and well known for tea plantations. My family ran a general store selling everything from building materials and bicycles to home goods and groceries. Later on, my father and brothers expanded into coffee farming. My childhood was comfortable, and we were lucky to experience the beautiful surroundings of Tukuyu in the Great Rift Valley. Because of its temperate climate and bountiful terroir, many missions and hospitals were set up in Tukuyu and its surrounding areas. Though Tukuyu was remote, my family received Life, Time, Reader's Digest, and several Indian magazines which we all looked forward to reading.



*Tukuyu Tea Fields.*



*View of Mount Rungwe from the Back of our House.*

## **DAR-ES-SALAAM, TANZANIA**

I attended the Aga Khan Primary School in Tukuyu which initially had two rooms (one for grades 1, 2 and 3, and the other for grades 4, 5 and 6) and facilities for badminton and soccer. For Secondary School, I followed the path of my siblings to Dar-es-Salaam, over 700 miles away, where I lived in the Aga Khan Boarding House. I attended the Aga Khan School and subsequently Jangwani Girls Secondary School for my “A” Levels.

In High School, we were required to apply to at least one East African University. I applied to the Medical Program at Makerere University. I also considered pursuing Pharmaceutical Sciences, however, once accepted at Makerere I appreciated the wonderful opportunity to study Medicine. After finishing High School, my cohort was the first one required to complete National Service prior to starting University.

## **NATIONAL SERVICE**



National Service was split into two requirements. Prior to University, we performed six months of Nation Building (farming, planting, building roads, etc.) and Military Training.

This term was physically challenging and eye-opening to a different way of life. The discipline and intensity of Military Training was instructive for my later experiences in Medicine.

*Photo: Tanzania National Service  
Military Training and Planting Sisal.*

## **MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, UGANDA**

I arrived at Makerere with a few classmates from Dar-es-Salaam, some of whom were also studying in the Medical School. Despite a demanding academic curriculum, I built a strong circle of friends, enjoyed extracurricular lectures and sports, and explored different parts of East Africa. Memorable trips included Mombasa, Tanzanian Game Parks, and seeing Gorillas in the Rwenzori Mountains on the border of Congo and Uganda. The highlight of my academic experience at Makerere was the Surgical Clerkship Program and Faculty Mentorship during my third year which played a strong role in shaping my future decision to become an Anaesthesiologist.





*1968 MU Main Hall.*



*1969 MU Mary Stewart Hall.*



*1969 Friends at Mary Stewart Hall.*



*MU Panorama Makerere Editorial Board.*



*At Trypanosomiasis Research Centre.*



*At Water Purification Plant.*



*At the Copper Smelting Factory.*



*At the Iganga Hospital in Eastern Uganda.*



*Tea with classmates at Kamuli Mission Hospital.*



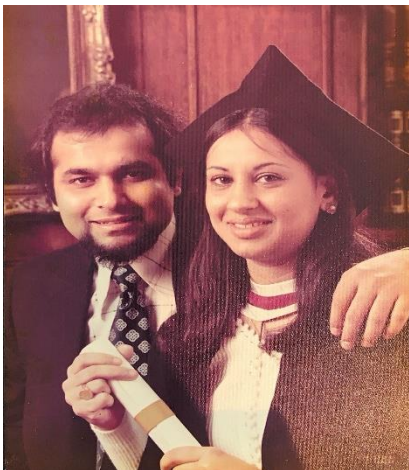


*Trip to Tanzania Game Parks / Making chai before morning adventures.*



*Taking a break / Equator trip with Mohamed Manji, Diamond Kanji, and Rashida Karmali / Trip with Girl Friends.*

## UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL, UNITED KINGDOM



Similar to other Asian students, Idi Amin's revolution in Uganda truncated my fourth year at Makerere. Fortunately, I was able to transfer and continue my studies at the University of Bristol in the UK.

At Bristol, I also met my future husband, Mohamed Amersi Kanji, who was studying Chartered Accountancy.

To this day, I am tremendously grateful to the University of Bristol for accommodating several Makerere students in a similar position and enabling us to successfully complete medical school.

*Photo: 1974 Graduation from University of Bristol (with Mohamed Amersi Kanji).*

## MOVING TO CANADA

After finishing my studies in Bristol, I immigrated to Toronto for my medical internship and married Mohamed in 1975.

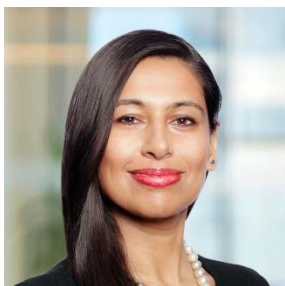


*1975 Wedding (Mohamed Amersi Kanji and Zarina Kassam) / Residency Class University of Toronto (3rd year).*

During my surgical clerkship at Makerere, the time I spent in the operating room with anaesthesiologist Dr. Rashmi Clarke heavily influenced my inclination to pursue anaesthesiology. I completed my residency at the University of Toronto in anaesthesia and intensive care. I have practiced anaesthesia for the last 35 years primarily with Trillium Health Partners, an affiliate of the University of Toronto, where I also teach medical students, residents, and paramedics.

## **FAMILY LIFE**

I was happily married for 25 years but unfortunately lost my husband in 1999. We built a lovely family together including three children - Ayesha, Zahra, and Ali. Losing my partner suddenly was the most difficult time of my life. Though the pain of loss continues, Mohamed left me with decades of beautiful memories and three wonderful children who continue to sustain me.



My eldest child, Ayesha, lives in London, UK and is a Management Consultant. She studied at Wellesley College and the Harvard School of Public Health. She is married to Maani Hariri and I am a grandmother to their two lovely daughters, Dasha and Erika.



My second child, Zahra, lives in Toronto and works at Google. She studied at Yale University and Harvard Business School. She recently married Kunal Datta in Sedona, Arizona in 2019.



My youngest child, Ali, studied at McGill University and recently completed his MBA from Georgetown University.

## **TRAVELS & HOBBIES**

I enjoy reading and participate in a book club with a diverse group of Torontonians. We meet monthly and encourage each other to experience new authors and genres.



Over the last 20 years, I have enjoyed discovering many parts of the world. Highlights include seeing the amazing wildlife in the Galapagos, admiring thousands of temples in Bagan (Myanmar), exploring the rich history of Turkey, hiking in the Siwalik Mountains at the base of the Himalayas, and spending time each summer with my family in the Greek Islands. Most recently, my daughter Zahra and her husband Kunal celebrated their wedding amongst the Red Rock of Sedona - a place Mohamed loved dearly.



*Family trip to Milos, Greece / Hiking in the Siwalik Mountains near Mussoorie, India.*



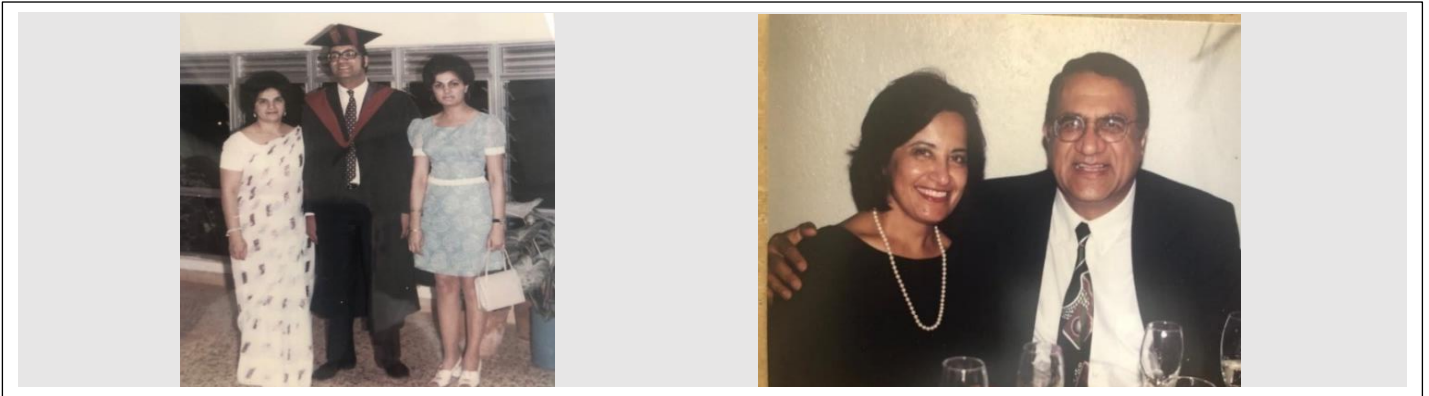
*Zahra and Kunal's wedding in Sedona, Arizona.*

## **Reflections on COVID-19**

***As an anaesthesiologist, experiencing the impact of COVID-19 on the front lines has been exhausting. I am grateful for the opportunity to help patients and colleagues with my training and expertise. I am confident that soon life will return to a new normal. I look forward to reuniting with friends and exploring new parts of the world.***



## KASSAMALI SULTAN AMIRALI (1966-71 MEDICINE)



*1971 MU Graduation*

*2018 USA (San Diego)*

### PRE-MAKERERE

I was born and raised in Nairobi and completed both Primary and Secondary schools at the Aga Khan Schools in Nairobi. One of the most memorable trips during the school years was to Mt. Kilimanjaro.

I was a particularly hyperactive young boy always getting into trouble. My Dad decided to send me to the Mombasa boarding school. I lasted about 9 days there and promptly returned to Nairobi vowing to my parents that I would be better behaved in future.

Sadly, my father passed away when I was 9 years old and when my mother remarried, I lived for varying lengths of time with my Dad's 3 sisters. They had children and families of their own but were very generous and kind and embraced me lovingly into their families.

### MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

After completing my A levels, I planned to go to dental school in England but as fate would have it, I received a full scholarship to Makerere University Medical School - a five-year program and I am glad now that I ended up at Makerere.

Firoz Laljee, Rahman Hajee and Ramzan Abdulla (Pie) all came there from Nairobi, and these were some of the best times of my life. .... I was in Mitchell Hall and on weekends I would visit the Umedallys and also go out with Shamsh Rajabali and Anu Bandali (who recently passed away).

At Makerere I had a little blue Citroen car, and most people remember me because of my car. The friends I made at Makerere and in Kampala have become lifelong friends and I am grateful for this very meaningful time and rewarding experience in my life.

### POST-MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

After Makerere I did residency at Kenyatta Hospital. I was sent out to Kitui to a 160-bed hospital for three months and first learned to play bridge with some American Peace Corps members staying there. Bridge has become a lifelong passion and I continue to play now very often in my retirement years.

After graduating from Makerere in 1971 (Idi Amin bestowed the degrees that year), I started residency at Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi. I completed 2 years in OB/Gyn and a year in Pathology. I married in Nairobi in 1975. After working for the Kenya government for 3 years and since I had an ECFMG certificate I could emigrate to Canada.

However, Canada did not need doctors at the time, and I then turned to the US which was recruiting doctors aggressively. A fellow Makerere physician Vijay Bahl was in Pittsburgh and when I reached out to him, he was able to secure an internship for me at the hospital where he worked. Interestingly Vijay and his brother Mohinder had such good reputations there that they were told that as long as I had come from the same medical school as them, they would not require an in-person interview and readily confirmed a position for me there.

After internship in Pittsburgh, I was going to an OB/GYN residency in Pontiac Michigan.... But at the time the malpractice situation in the US was very difficult. So, when the unexpected opportunity to switch to an Internal Medicine residency came my way, I accepted the position which kept me in Pittsburgh for 4 more years. I was chief resident during my third year and stayed an additional year in a teaching position at the same hospital.

The severe winters and uncomfortably humid summers in Pittsburgh drove me to apply for a medical license in warmer states. I applied to the states of Texas and California. The California license came through before Texas and so I scheduled interviews in the Southern California area. I was able to secure a position in Long Beach.

However, when I returned to Pittsburgh, I was informed that the Long Beach offer was no longer available. I then decided to go to Hemet, a small town near Palm Springs in California and then work my way closer to the ocean in California.

Much to my wife's dismay we spent 30 years in Hemet and raised two children, Faizal and Zahra in this small town. My wife Naz could not use her training in French here and graduated instead with a degree in English UCR (University of California at Riverside). She went on to teach English as a second language for a short period of time.

Hemet was a 2-hour drive to Los Angeles and a 90-minute drive to San Diego. So those two cities became a Jamatkhana hub for us. Two of my fellow Makerere physicians also followed me to Hemet, Firoz Ebrahim as well as Guilherme Carvalho who recently passed away.



After practicing Internal Medicine for 30 years in Hemet, in 2007, I decided to leave Hemet and retire in San Diego. We purchased a home in San Diego in 2008.

My practice was sold in 2009 and I am now permanently retired in San Diego with my wife. I spend the time now playing lots of duplicate bridge and body boarding in wetsuits in the Pacific Ocean as well as taking almost daily beach walks along California's scenic beaches.

## **FAMILY**

My son Faizal works for Google in Seattle and my daughter Zahra is an Infectious Disease Pharmacist in Seattle too. She is married to a Pediatric Dentist, Julio Escobar, and we are blessed with 2 young granddaughters Malaika (6) and Zuri (4).



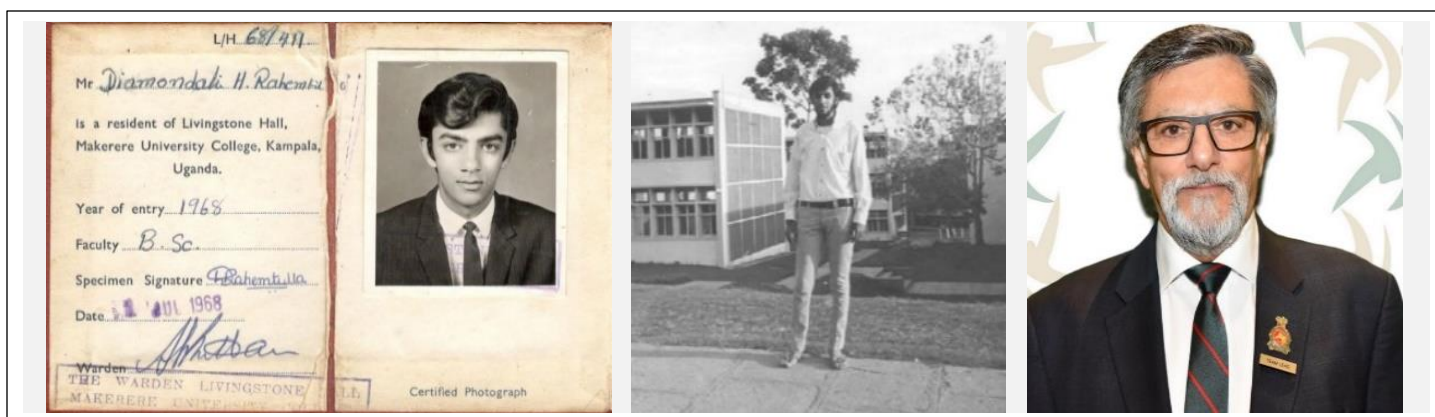
*Sultan with wife Nazlin and son Faizal at daughter Zahra's graduation from UCSF Pharmacy School*

It has been an interesting, challenging and fulfilling journey from my days at the Nairobi Aga Khan Schools to Makerere University in Kampala and then on to the US and finally to the beautiful city of San Diego, California.

I am grateful for the educational foundation we received at the Aga Khan Schools and the rigorous medical training we received at Makerere University. It paved the way for a successful career and a wonderful quality of life in the USA.



## LALANI DIAMOND (1968-71 SCIENCE: MATH AND CHEMISTRY)



1968-71 MU ID and Livingstone Hall

1970 Science Faculty Building

2020 Canada-Calgary

### A STORY OF UNFORESEEN AND UNDEFINED DESTINIES

#### INTRODUCTION

I have been blessed with a large, united family, with a good understanding of the environments and situations in which my parents and siblings lived, as well as learning a lot about the family and myself, of which the most apparent aspect being the long-running tradition in the family of volunteering, in keeping with the ethics of Islam. I also grew up learning a lot from my parents both of whom not only had vast knowledge of our family history and the faith, but were also always working extremely hard to give us all, a good quality life and education, and always demonstrated a high level of initiatives, creativity, kindness, caring, generosity, tolerance, and humility.

I have most definitely learnt a lot from my older siblings, and in turn inspired to be a role model for my younger siblings however, to date, I am still wondering about whether, or not or how I was ever a role model for them, but am very much convinced that I have always learnt a lot from my younger siblings as well. My older siblings did not have the privilege of acquiring secondary and/or higher education and because of their sacrifices, us younger siblings were able to benefit and acquire post-secondary education. Today, what I have achieved in life because of wonderful educational background and careers, is due to their sacrifices and everyone's support. My older brother Nizarali sacrificed everything that he could have achieved for himself in terms of his own professional development, career, and successes, and worked very hard to support all of us, so that we could achieve good education and professional careers, as well as enjoy the quality of life that today we are all blessed with. After marriage also, I continued to have full family support for pursuing further education and changes in my careers, and later, after retirement from my career with the Auditor General of Canada, to offer and fulfil Time and Knowledge (TKN) Nazrana (Gift) with the Aga Khan Development Network, for many years, on full-time basis.

My educational background includes a professional accounting designation (CPA); university degrees in business and science (majoring in chemistry and mathematics); Post-Graduate Diploma in Meteorology; and certificates in Management Audit and Computer Audit; together with multiple careers, and Canadian and international experiences. I have guided many youths in their education planning, and mentored many young professionals in their careers, through my commitment to making a difference in the lives of those that are underprivileged, particularly young women, by promoting the significance of good education, career development and planning, and self-reliance; have held various institutional leadership positions in Canada and, also served on international core teams for International Management Audit Training (IMAT) Program, AKDN Governance, and Quality of Life for Elderly Ismailis (QLEI); have received various recognition awards for services; and have also been enjoying promoting best practices in governance and management.

## PARENTS AND SIBLINGS



My father Habib Rahemtulla Lalani was born in India and migrated to Uganda in 1929 at the age of 19, settling in Masaka, Uganda. His journey was amazing, starting from Mumbai (Porbandar) in a haste, in a steamer and arriving 10 days later at the port of Mombasa, Kenya, after which he was quarantined in Changuu Island for medical clearance. *Photo: 1929 Ship from India to Zanzibar called S Karagola.* My mother Sherbanu Nanji Amlani was born in Masaka in 1916 after her parents with two infants had migrated from India (Gujarat and Mumbai) in 1910, also having gone through a similar journey as my father did, but with additional challenges of having to travel by foot as well, and resettled in Masaka, Uganda with business.

According to my parents, their destiny was arranged marriage in 1934. After briefly living in a small town called Kalisizo until 1937, they moved to the small village of Bukoto (10 miles from Masaka), to start a business, where almost all the siblings were born. Eventually they resettled in Masaka, with businesses and properties. I was born (7<sup>th</sup> of 12 siblings) in Bukoto in the early morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Diamond Jubilee of Sir Sultan Muhamed Shah Aga Khan, the 48<sup>th</sup> Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims – and hence was named Diamond. One brother passed away at the age of 2 and one sister passed away at the age of 36, about 6 years after leaving Uganda in 1972 and settling in Belgium with her family.

## EARLY YEARS IN BUKOTO AND MASAKA

First growing up in Bukoto and then in Masaka was amazing. Our lives were filled with much fun and adventure living in a multicultural environment, learning, and experiencing multiple languages, religions, and traditions. We shared and enjoyed a variety of foods and friendships and exchanges of kindness – always being there for each other as one big family. My schooling started at the Aga Khan Primary School in Masaka, following two older sisters, and continuing with younger siblings. Each day, we travelled 10 miles in a lorry or pickup truck, with food tiffins, on very rough, bumpy roads, often getting stuck in mud on rainy days, before being rescued by passersby and passing motorists.

We were also very much grounded in terms of discipline for school attendance, completing homework in time, excelling in studies and obtaining good marks, and respecting teachers, while at the same time respecting our elders, and remaining strong in faith but also respecting all faiths, and, also inspired for pursuing post-secondary education. Being very mischievous, I would do daring things such as disturbing everyone while classes were in session, taking on dangerous bicycle racing, opening car door while car is in motion, etc. with dire consequences, including various kinds of punishment, extra homework, suspension from sports, and minor injuries from falling.

I had very strong interest and would spend all my free time in sports and other activities such as venturing in the forests, scouting, and volunteering for community services since the age of 13 as well as frequently going to Bukoto to help in our shop, which also gave me fundamental business experience of my lifetime at a very young age. Engagement in scouting together with voluntary services in the community, taught me special skills both technical and human, and shaped my life into long-term dedication for community services and helping and caring for others. Volunteering was a tremendous privilege that has fortunately continued to date with much happiness.

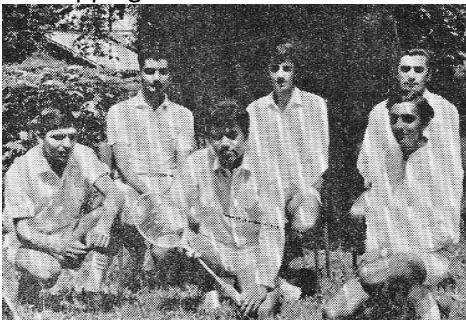
My post-secondary education and career were not yet formally planned or charted. Although I always had an interest in and aspired to become a Chartered Accountant (CA), I also very much enjoyed math and science. During my final years at the secondary school, I was expected to pursue and complete my “A” Levels at a high school, which was not possible in Masaka. So, we all applied to schools outside Masaka, mainly in Kampala, where I joined the Old Kampala Senior Secondary School. My move to Kampala was my first ever experience of living away from home, which meant I had to look for a new residence – this move also suddenly came with other tremendous responsibilities.

## HIGH SCHOOL YEARS IN KAMPALA

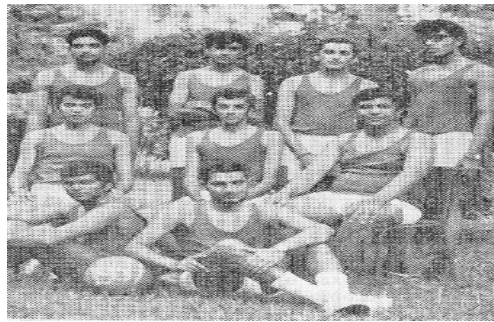


On my first day in form 5, I met Zul Devji from Jinja, Uganda who was also looking for a residence. While searching together, we kicked off our friendship that became a journey of student life with lots of fun, excitement, adventures, playing sports, studying, and much more. First as paying guests and then living at the Aga Khan Boys Hostel, we suddenly had tremendous new responsibilities, including membership into the Students Council (*Photo: 1967 Aga Khan Boys Hostel Students Council*). We learnt many new things including how to address and solve students' issues as well as how to play basketball which I picked up quite fast. One unique adventure among others was cycling with "our group" 22 miles to Entebbe and then returning late without lights, resulting in multiple falls!!

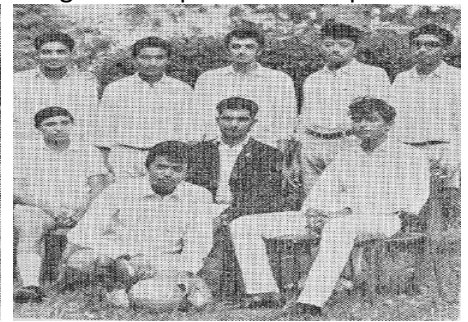
At the Old Kampala Senior Secondary School, I was very active, was appointed class prefect, represented the school in badminton and volleyball, and started basketball, becoming the first team captain. Once, my friends and I were punished for skipping school to watch an India vs East Africa cricket match: we received a warning and our parents a complaint.



1966-1967 School Badminton Team.



1966-1967 School Basketball Team.



1966-1967 School Volleyball Team.



My further education and career were still unplanned. While I was continuously thinking about becoming a CA, the expectations and pressure of pursuing and completing post-secondary education locally, were also mounting. My friends and I therefore followed each other, and submitted our applications for Makerere University (MU). Upon completion of "A" Levels, I became a teacher at my former secondary school in Masaka from January to June (*Photo: 1968 Masaka Secondary School Teachers*). I taught science and math to the upper secondary classes and was also in charge of sports. These unique experiences were priceless with an opportunity to live at home again and start a new town basketball team, which I also captained, and led to some victories against some of the already established school basketball teams.

Although my aspiration was to become a CA, for which I would have had to go to UK to article with a Firm, and had already made all necessary arrangements, I ended up making a very crucial and wise decision to join Makerere University to pursue a degree in science (math-physics-chemistry), making this the first real turning point in my undefined destiny. The basis for my decision to join MU was a) I believed in keeping all career doors open, b) science degree always required in-person attendance in university, c) foregoing a science degree could result in loss of future opportunity or interest, d) CA could be pursued later and science would add weight, and e) the privilege of graduating from a prestigious university. Upon receiving admission at MU, my first task was to acquire a Uganda passport as proof of citizenship. I therefore applied for a passport with my full name Diamondali Habib Rahemtulla Lalani only to find out that Lalani became truncated due to space limitation in the name section of my Uganda passport, hence my MU registration was under Rahemtulla as my last name.



## MAKERERE UNIVERSITY (MU)

My first day at Makerere University was at Livingston Hall where I met my roommate Anwar Najak who was from Soroti, for the first time, with an introduction with delicious Indian food (nasto) that he brought from home. With a bang, our friendship started into a journey of student life with lots of fun and excitement, adventures, playing sports, engaging in other activities, and studying. Freshmen life on campus, with its ups and downs, was a new experience with new learnings: reason enough to have fun and proudly show off my long hair, which without my knowledge, became a target for senior students who were planning their initiations rites. Once we became aware of that, we started becoming cautious. Some of the leaders among the seniors were residents of Livingstone Hall and so I began to know them and made friends with them and was able to plead for not cutting my long hair. I remember the day when I was caught as one of the targets, while returning from a movie, could not escape, so cooperated, saved my long hair, and made new friends.

Student politics at MU were so strong and were not easily describable, and I very much enjoyed every bit of the discussions and debates, right from the start and participated fully. My last name Rahemtulla together with fluency in Luganda gave me the needed popularity to be elected as Member of the Guild Representative Council (GRC), representing Livingstone Hall. Involvement in student politics and sports, and networking, resulted in my involvement in various committees and appointments as Business Manager on the editorial boards of both the famous Makererean newspaper and the first Panoramic Makerere magazine that was launched for the inauguration of Makerere University in 1970.



*1970 Makerere University Students Protest and March to Parliament and Address by President Obote.*

Social life on campus was also unique, with on the one hand much freedom in all aspects including late nights, but on the other hand limitation of luxury and constant reminders of assignments and early next morning lectures. Achieving a proper balance was always challenging, as our lifestyle had taken a 180-degree turn from our pre-Makerere life. Opportunities for social interactions were plentiful - during meals and free time at halls of residence, in classrooms, at sporting, political and other events, during trips, and while hanging out with friends. Living in this multicultural environment, we learned to understand and appreciate our differences and backgrounds. I ended up learning two new languages: Swahili and Katchi.

Periodic trips to various places such as the Murchison Falls and its Game Park, Masaka, Kisumu, and the Queen Elizabeth National Park, were great opportunities to not only have fun and explore places that we wouldn't have otherwise visited on our own, but also to showcase talents in organizing, sports and singing. Also playing cards in residence late nights helped relieve stresses. Highlights of our various trips included volleyball and soccer matches against the host town teams, without formal preparations or practices, and challenges of winning. My famous tying goal against a very strong Masaka soccer team during the final minutes of play obviously merited and followed huge celebrations (this was a win for us!!).

Makerere University life also came with multiple responsibilities including requirement for prudence in spending and financial management (I did part-time teaching job), academic achievements and excellence, and decision making but also with multiple friendships with fellow students, all living on the most beautiful campus, in a pluralistic environment, respecting diversity, as well as increased awareness and ongoing new learnings. Other unique adventures included the annual walk race of 22 miles from Entebbe to Makerere with the full satisfaction of just completing the race each time.



*1970 Trip to Murchison Falls (Safari).*



*1970 Trip to Masaka.*



*1970 Trip to Masaka: Stopover at the Equator / JK Social Hall Music Party / Aga Khan Hostel Party.*

Best academic satisfaction came with the completion of BSc Honors in Math and Chemistry and then winning a scholarship from the East African Community for Post-Graduate in Meteorology at the University of Nairobi. Thus the 3 years at MU were easily defined as the best years of my life, at that time, with so many memories and friendships that have remained lifelong. In 1971, I was also part of the first batch of graduates to receive my degree from then President Idi Amin, in a grand colonial style ceremony, also a first for Makerere as a university, followed by grand celebrations into late night.



*1970 MU Chemistry Laboratory.*

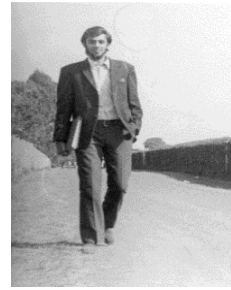


*1971 MU Graduation (Degree from Idi Amin!).*

## **UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI AND EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

Although my aspiration still was to become a CA and I had already successfully achieved the goal for university education in math and science, there was a second turning point in my undefined destiny. I was one of two Ugandans (out of 700) to be selected by the then East African Community for pursuing a career in meteorology (university education plus job). In 1972, after successful completion of the Post-Graduate Honors Diploma in Meteorology at University of Nairobi, as well as the World Meteorological Organization Practicum Certification Program, I continued my career with the East African Meteorological Department, as Class I Meteorologist, and also taught at University of Nairobi. I remained very active in sports, played squash regularly, and represented university basketball team, as well as Aga Khan Sports Club soccer and volleyball teams. I met Gulshan (my wife) at the Club, where she also represented badminton and basketball teams. Gulshan had already climbed the famous Mt Kilimanjaro and was Kenya Open Women's Doubles runner-up in badminton.





1972 Kenya (Nairobi): Post Graduate Class with Professor Obassi / Graduation / EA Meteorological Dept. / Classmate's Wedding.

Gulshan was a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ismaili Women's basketball team and was also very much engaged in community volunteering and various high profile charity events. I was appointed the coach for the women's basketball team and so with common interests, our destiny together became charted and defined. This was a third turning point in my destiny. In 1972, during the time of uncertainties in EA, both Gulshan (with leadership of ladies volunteers) and I (with University of Nairobi students) participated in very special mulaqats with His Highness the Aga Khan, during His visit to Nairobi. This was indeed a unique opportunity for both of us. Students were blessed with His guidance on education and careers.



Kenya (Nairobi): 1970 Charity Walk (Mambo Girls) / 1972 Mulaqats with HH - Volunteers (Gulshan: Captain) and University Students.



In 1972, I returned to Uganda for my citizenship registration for a special ID (Kipande) and first visited my family in Masaka. My sister Roshan was also visiting with her children. *We took family photos not knowing that they would be our last in Uganda.* After a few days, we drove to Kampala and amid all the chaos and insecurity, I remained there, seeing off family members leave Uganda one by one. During that time, one evening, driving to MU to meet my brother Zuli Lalani, ***I was stopped and dangerously attacked by 3 heavily armed men, they pulled me out of my car and held me at gunpoint, pushed me so hard with the machine gun that I fell heavily on my back (fortunately on grass) while they took off with my car and wallet. I was so shaken up that I could not even get up for a few minutes. I miraculously survived and was blessed with a new life!!*** Upon returning to Nairobi, with my parents and youngest sister, and amid much stress and fear from the uncertainties and risk of significant consequences of the Uganda situation, I continued my job, and in 1973, Gulshan and I planned traditional wedding ceremonies, also attended by my parents, older brother and two sisters, and we continued our life together.

## CANADA: TORONTO AND OTTAWA

In 1974, we immigrated to Toronto, Canada where our family was settled. Gulshan secured a job the next day after our arrival, at Elizabeth Arden beauty salon, whereas I could not secure a job in meteorology since the key employer at that time, was the Federal Government, and I was not a Canadian citizen yet, and therefore struggled to find a job. Although I was finally offered a job in meteorology, but in the North, as an exception, due to shortages, it was not easy to accept it because we had to support our family in Toronto, and I reverted to searching for a job in chemistry which was also hard to secure. So, I decided to take up any job, hence my first ever job in Canada was with the Ontario Motor League (CAA).



We started our new life in Canada, keeping up with the tradition of community volunteering and sports, and participating in the annual Ismail Games. Gulshan continued to win badminton championships. I reconnected with MU friends, and continued my job search in chemistry, with the help from my MU friend Anwar Najak, who was working with Stelco at the time. Finally, after 6 months, I landed a job with BDH Chemicals in Toronto, as a technician in the Manufacturing and Packaging Chemical Solutions department. After 8 months working as a technician, I was promoted to the position of Chemical Analyst, after York University in Toronto, Canada certified my MU degree as the equivalent of a Canadian degree.

1975 was a very lucky year as we were blessed with our first daughter Zaibin who became the first Canadian born in the family; we had already bought our first new car and Gulshan had secured a great job in a well-established beauty salon. We were able to purchase our first new house in 1976 and started to steadily settle down in Toronto. However, 1977 was a bad year for the chemical industry, with a glut of chemists including PHDs who were applying for also technician positions, signaling that there was not much hope for increase in salaries or opportunities to advance, and it became very stressful since it was also not easy to take risks in changing jobs, while being new in the country, and starting a family.

My Lucky Day!! One December afternoon, on Yonge Street, I met another MU friend Salmin Pardhan, who had immigrated to Canada with a PHD in chemistry. He had also switched careers to become a CA, through a special business program at the University of Windsor, designed for those with already a degree, seeking to become professional accountants. I capitalized on this luck, and with my MU degree, and Salmin's help, applied, and received admission to start immediately, and soon secured a student loan. I then met with the President of BDH Chemicals for advice. He said, "You are young, don't think twice, just go for it, this opportunity will not come again, and if you don't like it, come back, you will have your job".

This was another turning point in my still undefined destiny, which I had never imagined would happen, and like this. With full family support, I immediately seized the opportunity and joined the program in Jan 1978, while Gulshan continued her job in Toronto, and also took care of Zaibin. I worked extremely hard and acquired BCom Honors in April 1979. After completing 3 semesters at the university, with very high grades, and while on campus, I received attractive job offers from CA firms in Toronto but decided to join the Office of the Auditor General of Canada in Ottawa, which had implemented a comprehensive auditing program and provided an opportunity for utilizing all my educational background and experiences.

Yet another turning point in my destiny which came because of very crucial and wise and timely decision of choosing a path to utilize my science and math and meteorology background; Gulshan giving up her job; moving to a new city; changing careers; and finally, opportunity for fulfilling my dream of achieving a professional accounting designation. Ottawa became our new destination in 1979 which was also a very lucky year, as we were blessed with our second daughter Zahra who became the second Canadian born in the family. Initially, we missed family and friends in Toronto and therefore made frequent trips for 3 years, but then settled well with life becoming busier with school and activities.

We started making new friends with ongoing involvement in community volunteer services and teaching, and within 2 years, Gulshan achieved a certificate in medical assistance program, although she pursued a career in esthetics, and also owned/operated a bulk food store, beauty salons and canteens (food concessions) as family businesses. Zaibin and Zahra became involved in the canteen business at ages 13 and 9, respectively until they started university education. They learned to appreciate the value of money, and acquired communication, administration, management, and other skills, while also maintaining our family tradition of enrolling as badged volunteers in the community, from age 9. We motivated



and inspired each other in all our activities, including volunteering, reading, sports, singing, debates, and multicultural dancing. We did well in our respective competitions, winning trophies, plaques, and awards. *Photo (Left): Ottawa collection of trophies, plaques, and awards for Zaibin and Zahra. Photo (Right): Ottawa Badminton Champions. All*



four of us continued community volunteer services, while also participating fully in sports and multicultural activities that included performing annually on Canada Day at the Parliament Hill grounds for many years, never missing Canada Day

celebrations, and Zahra being part of Team Canada performing in China. In Ottawa, we bought our first house in 1984 and then our second house in 1987 in which we lived for 20 years with several great memories: multiple family visits, hosting the visiting Tajikistan Pamir Dance Group and learning Tajik traditional dance (*Photo: Pamir Group Leaders in Ottawa*), Zaibin's wedding, birthday parties and sleepovers, hosting friends with children, and spending time with each other including watching movies.



I was very privileged to be appointed on Ottawa ITREB Committee (1979-1986) and Ottawa Administrative Committee (1986-1990) to head various portfolios including education, youth and sports, and volunteers. In 1990, I was blessed with the appointment as Member for the Aga Khan Council for Ontario and Chairman for Ottawa Administrative Committee. 1992 was also a very special year as we were blessed with the visit of His Highness the Aga Khan to Canada, that included almost three days in Ottawa. As Chairman, I had the unique opportunity to lead the planning and organizing of the multiple aspects of the visit, as well as to be part of the leadership team to receive Him and bid Him farewell.



*1992 Canada Visit by His Highness the Aga Khan: Ottawa Airport During Departure.*

Zaibin and Zahra successfully completed high school, and both went on to pursue university education and careers starting from the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Zaibin being selected for Math and Science Program, and Zahra being selected for the new combined Science and Business Program, which they both completed very successfully. Zaibin then pursued and obtained a Degree in Pharmacy from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, and Zahra obtained a Certificate in Finance from Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada and pursued and became a Chartered Accountant (CA). Initially they both settled down with jobs in Toronto, until their own destinies changed. The four of us have had many wonderful memories together, such as trips to East Africa, USA, UAE, Europe, and India; countless Bollywood movie nights; various adventures and activities; and spontaneous things like watching the Blue Jays REPEAT of the world series win late into the night, then driving to Toronto, straight to the Sky Dome, to be part of the live celebrations.

As Chairman for Youth and Sports, I had the privilege of leading the organization of the first Aga Khan Foundation Partnership Walk in Ottawa, with the participation from members of various communities, diplomats, government officers, and others; and wonderful activities for kids and awareness program for all, together with interactions and fun. As Chairman for Ottawa, I had the privilege of piloting and implementing new initiatives including the creation of a new volunteer portfolio within the Administrative Committee, and restructuring the scheduling system for assigning volunteer duties, as well as the first of its kind Mentorship Program (assigning university students as mentors to high school students). We launched the high profile annual Milad-e-Nabi celebrations with participation from ministers, members of Parliament, diplomats, and community leaders from all faiths; and other outreach initiatives such as charity walks for organizations including the Special Olympics, and hosting of Citizenship Courts and multicultural events and celebrations.





Canada (Ottawa): 1991 Citizenship Court / 1993 Agriculture Canada Park Charity Walk for Special Olympics with Federal Minister.

In 1994, we were invited to the 10<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the Aga Khan University (AKU) in Karachi, Pakistan, together with the opportunity for a special mulaqat with His Highness the Aga Khan, that resulted in yet another turning point in our destiny. During that visit, I also had the privilege of carrying out a special review of the Internal Audit Function at AKU.



I was also blessed with two separate appointments (2002-05), as Member of the Aga Khan Grants and Review Board (GRB) for Canada; as well as Member of GRB International Core Team to lead the design, development, and delivery of the International Management Audit Training (IMAT) Program, in association with the London School of Economics, and, also to lead key International Management Audits. *Photo: 2005 Canada (Vancouver) Leadership Banquet during the visit of His Highness the Aga Khan.*

My 28-year professional career (1979-2007) with the Auditor General of Canada included leadership roles in auditing practice, technology in auditing, professional development, employment equity, and serving as a member of the first Board of the National Council of Visible Minorities (NCVM) in the Canadian Federal Public Service (*Photo: Interview for Ismaili Canada magazine*). My leadership role in auditing practice evolved over time, with multiple opportunities for utilizing my full educational background and experiences for leading comprehensive audits of the departments of Agriculture Canada, Industry Science and Technology Canada, Environment Canada (Atmospheric Services), and Energy, Mines and Resources. My leadership role in technology in auditing was due to my special interest and early involvement in the use of microcomputers for data analytics, appointment as liaison for the development of the software IDEA for providing auditor specifications, becoming first ever user of IDEA in auditing, and appointment as Manager, Computer Auditing. As Director, Professional Development, I led the exercise of needs assessment, organization-wide competency modelling by staff categories, development of competency-based curriculum, planning including allocation of resources and scheduling for internal and external training, and delivery of training, as well as follow-up on the results of the evaluations. As Director, Employment Equity, I had the unique opportunity for promoting awareness and implementing special measures, through research, statistics, and events, and ensuring equity in employment and promotions for women, indigenous members, persons with physical challenges, and visible minorities (in coordination with the NCVM). I retired as Director of Audit.







Canada (Ottawa): Auditor General of Canada Employment Equity Awareness Events and United Way Charity Loonie Race.



I have also represented the Auditor General of Canada in promoting Comprehensive (Value for Money) Auditing through in-house training to senior representatives of Supreme Audit Institutions as well as international training with on-site workshops and additional sessions on capacity building for the Pacific Island countries for which the training was held in Solomon Islands, and for East Africa for which the training was held in Nairobi, Kenya.

training was held in Solomon Islands, and for East Africa for which the training was held in Nairobi, Kenya.

While at the Auditor General, I was also honored with the Queen's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Golden Jubilee Award (2003), the Governor General 125 Years of Canadian Confederation Award (1994), and the Nomination for Canada Citizenship Citation (1994) in recognition of my voluntary contributions, as well as the Excellence for Electronic Audit Tool Kit Award (1992). My career with the Auditor General of Canada was very fulfilling and rewarding through a variety of leadership roles and responsibilities, including in-house and international training opportunities and significant professional growth. Unbeknownst to me, yet another turning point in my destiny awaited me, when I decided to retire in December 2007.



1992 Electronic Tool Kit Award / 1994 125<sup>th</sup> Year of Canada Confederation Award / 2003 Queen's Golden Jubilee Anniversary Award.

## INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND JOURNEY



Since 1990, I have been back to Uganda several times, and each time, I have visited the MU campus and reconnected with some of the alumni then in senior government positions. I have also had the opportunity to design, develop, and deliver Train-The-Trainer program in Management Auditing for the Office of the Auditor



General of Uganda (Left Photo: 2009 Uganda Training for Auditor General). Other Management Auditing workshops included one in Zanzibar for AKF Finance and Audit staff (Right Photo: 2012 Zanzibar Workshop for AKF Finance-Audit).



I was also appointed by the Aga Khan Council for UAE as Honorary Secretary of the Management Board of the Ismaili Centre Dubai; Member of Leaders International Forum's Global Core Team for Quality of Life for Elderly Ismailis (QLEI), for which I conducted international training in 5 countries; and Lead for the Retirement Planning workshops in GCC countries.



*2011 UAE (Dubai) Ismaili Centre Staff.*



*2011 Tanzania (Dar) Training for QLEI Project.*

## AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

In 2008, I was blessed with most wonderful Time and Knowledge (TKN) opportunity for Internal Audit and Consulting, that initially continued for 7+ years full-time with three Agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network: Aga Khan Trust for Culture (7 and half years), Aga Khan University Hospital Nairobi (19 months) and University of Central Asia (8 months). For the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (2008-2015), I established and operationalized the Internal Audit Function with the implementation of management audits and engagement of TKN volunteers as management auditors; implemented compliance management mechanisms; formalized risk management practice; and was appointed Head of Internal Audit.



*2009 Afghanistan (Kabul) Old City / 2013 Pakistan (Hunza) Women's Group Savings and Cost-Effectiveness Workshop.*



For the University of Central Asia (UCA), in 2015, I established and operationalized the Internal Audit Function with the implementation of management audits and engagement of staff and TKN volunteers as management auditors; and provided guidance and support to the Head of Internal Audit, as well as assisted in capacity building and provided training.



*2015 Kyrgyzstan: Bishkek UCA Management Audit Workshop / Lake Isikool Summer Camp / Bishkek Retirement Planning Workshop.*

For the Aga Khan University Hospital Nairobi (2009-2011), I coordinated the completion of the acquisition and merger, and managed the operation of the newly acquired Radiology Diagnostic Centres. This involved integration of systems, processes, and standards; staffing, capacity building and establishing best practices; as well as business planning.

I worked in 13 countries, with several professionals and experts, with diverse cultures and languages, varying management styles, different commercial environments and laws-regulations, different and difficult security situations, and travel challenges, and met many wonderful people, and have established several long-lasting friendships.

These experiences have been really enriching as I have served in the culture, healthcare and education sectors that included conservation-restoration projects and parks, hospital and radiology diagnostic centres, and university with cross country campuses, while also conducting workshops on improving personal savings and business cost-effectiveness.

When I first heard about the opportunity to offer TKN, during the Golden Jubilee of His Highness the Aga Khan, I was very excited to make this commitment to contribute my extensive experience and expertise to the Institutions, while remaining passionate about promoting management audits in AKDN agencies and their field entities-projects-operations.

The opportunity to serve as a TKN volunteer initially for 7+ years, full-time, far surpassed my original expectations and I have found all my assignments and undertakings to be incredibly fulfilling and satisfying. In 2015, I was also invited to do a presentation on my TKN experiences, to the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) HR Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

In 2016, we resettled in Calgary and my destiny in life continued, this time with contributions, solely, to the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, as Head of Internal Audit and Consulting, promoting, and strengthening best practices, while rejoining our family including grandchildren. I was blessed with additional two unique opportunities: an invitation to attend the Inauguration by His Highness the Aga Khan of the UCA Naryn Campus in Kyrgyzstan (2016) – *Photos (Below Left) with Students and Arif Lalani, AKDN Head of Diplomatic Affairs*; and an invitation to attend the Inauguration by His Highness the Aga Khan of the Sunder Nursery in Delhi, India (2018) – *Photo (Below Right)*.



This undertaking of 14 years (2008-2021), post retirement from my career with the Auditor General of Canada (OAG), has been truly priceless; it has not only provided me with ongoing professional development and personal growth, but has also been a life-changing experience for me and my family, which cannot be sufficiently and expressly described in words.

This extraordinary opportunity was indeed a blessing for me and my family, and I am very grateful to the leadership of AKDN and Jamati Institutions including the TKN Central Office, and everyone including the other TKN volunteers with whom I have worked and interacted, for this most wonderful opportunity for ongoing sharing and learning.

***This is my story of Unforeseen and Undefined Destinies which started to unfold and became defined as time progressed, based on the situations and circumstances of the time.***

***Despite much hard work, and at times struggles with challenges, my journey has been exceptional, wonderful, and full of happiness through achievements, learnings, experiences, diversities, and great memories together with high degree of fulfillments and satisfaction, as well as many friendships.***

***I have continued my voluntary services, and currently am a Member of the Board of Directors as well as Chairman of the Governance Committee for the SOS Children's Villages Canada.***



## FAMILY

We have been blessed with wonderful family (still missing my sister Roshan who passed away very young in 1978) with much time together, including in 2016, weekend celebration of my mother's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday in Toronto, with full family reunion, party with family and friends, and afternoon at the Aga Khan Museum for family photos and lunch at the Diwan restaurant. We, our daughters Zaibin (married to Aadil) and Zahra (married to Navroz) and their respective families are now based in Calgary, Canada. Now, into our real retirement, we plan to enjoy even more time with family and continue having much fun with our 4 wonderful grandchildren: Jenna, Reia, Alikhan, and Raheem, who have brought tremendous joy in our lives. Zaibin is enjoying her career as a Pharmacist and Aadil with his Bachelor of Math in Actuarial Science from University of Waterloo is enjoying his career as a Financial Consultant. Zahra is enjoying her career in Finance and Navroz with his BCom from Carleton University and MBA from Queens University is enjoying his career in Business Development.



*Left Photo: 1973 Wedding / Middle Photo: 2019 Family Gulshan-Diamond; Aadil-Zaibin-Jenna-Reia; Navroz-Zahra-Alikhan-Raheem.  
Right Photos: 2018 Diamond-Zaibin-Zahra-Gulshan / 2021 Aadil-Jenna-Zaibin-Reia / 2021 Navroz-Raheem-Alikhan-Zahra.*

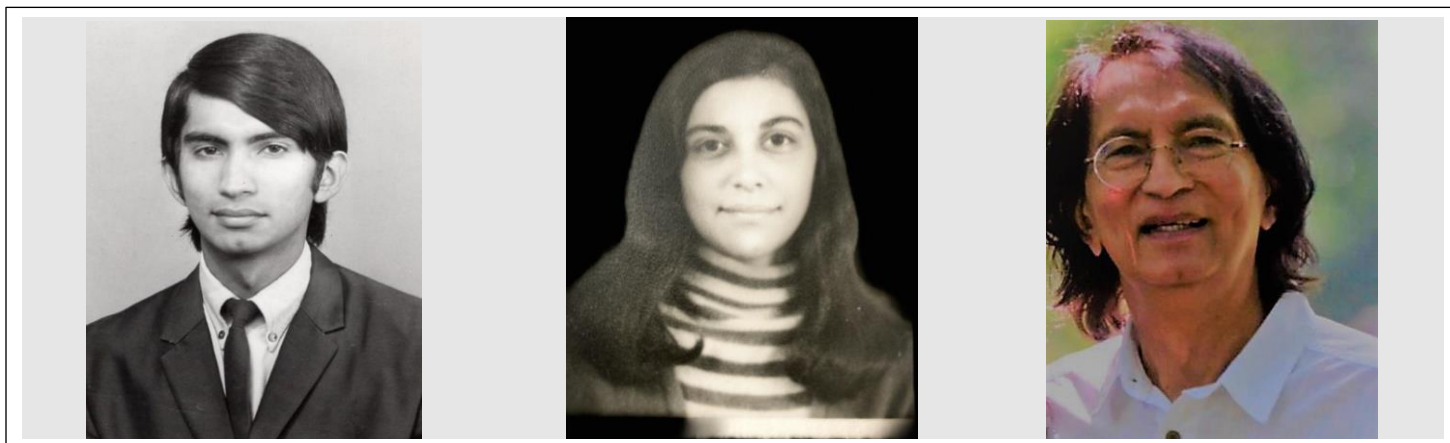
## THANKFUL FOR WONDERFUL AND FULFILLING LIFE

We have lived a fulfilling life for which we are utmost thankful to Allah, for blessing us with the most wonderful family, lots of love, and the opportunity to spend many years together. We express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to our families for everything that they have given us in life – time, energy, care, love, and much more.

## GOALS FOR THE REMAINDER OF MY LIFE

Continue to provide volunteer services, increase efforts in helping the underprivileged by guiding and empowering them to achieve self-reliance and enjoy good quality of life, promote timely planning for the financial aspects of retirement with focus on improving savings, and promote best practices in governance and management; and inshallah write 2-3 books.

**LALANI SHIRAZ (1969-72 ARTS: ECONOMICS)**  
**LALANI NASIM NEE RAJANI (1967-71 ARTS: HISTORY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES)**



1969 MU

1968 MU

2020 Canada-Toronto

***“TRIPLE HERITAGE” - CROSSING THE OCEANS...***

***HISTORICAL CONTEXT***

Our family history is really a history of our migration from British-ruled India to British-ruled Uganda and eventually settling in Canada, a span of approximately 115 years. Social capital for many of us is firmly based on triple heritage, and makes us who we are, and is “deeply rooted in the Indian-African community of settled strangers all over the world” (Gijsbert Oonk 2013).

Professor Ali Mazrui when at Makerere had talked about “African triple heritage” on more than one occasion, and in 1986 he wrote and hosted a documentary series on the subject “The Africans: A Triple Heritage,” that aired on BBC and PBS. He inspired me to look at my own heritage.

Our families are of Indian ethnicity with ingrained cultural traditions, and most of us were born in Africa and have an in-depth knowledge of the local culture, but our education was entirely Western-based, and we consequently adopted some aspects of Western (British) culture including etiquette, clothing choices, food and drinking habits.

It has also been described as being part of our unwritten history, part of our undefined identity that is neither ‘Indian’ nor ‘African’ or ‘British’. Triple heritage has played an important role in helping shape my own identity and I am sure many others from East Africa feel the same. My story for the MU Group 2020 History Book publication would be incomplete without this historical context.

***CROSSING THE INDIAN OCEAN ...LANDING ON THE AFRICAN COAST***

The Lalani family history starts with Devji Thawar Lalani – my Great Grandfather and his family in Gujarat India in the districts of Jamnagar. In 1899, the Indian Famine – Chappanayao hit Western Gujarat and lasted until 1901-2, killing millions. The family barely survived, and our great grandfather was advised to send his oldest son to Africa. The Uganda Railway was finally completed in 1901 from Mombasa to Kisumu on Lake Victoria.



In 1906, the first Lalani in the family (my 14-year-old great uncle) departed for Africa from Porbandar, Gujarat in a dhow. The 3,862 km, 25-day monsoon-aided Indian Ocean voyage in a 40–60-foot dhow was not always safe, and the Gujarati called the Ocean “Kala Pani” or black water. In 1911, at age 16, Habib Devji my grandfather joined his older brother in the township of Jinja in Uganda. He also crossed the Indian Ocean in a dhow. Yes, we all came in dhows! At this time Jinja and its surrounding areas were booming with cotton as a successful cash crop. A few years later my father Abdulla Habib was born.

## EARLY YEARS...

My parents married in the late 1930s and set up shop in a village near Masaka (Uganda) where three other Asian families were already settled. Their business soon thrived, in part because of their intimate knowledge of the local dialect and customs. However, village life was tough. Our two-bedroom mud block house had an outdoor open kitchen with a thatched roof. The outhouse in the backyard was at least ten meters away. Water was drawn from a swamp a kilometer away, and lighting with kerosene lamps was the norm. Six of us were born at home.

In 1955, when I was seven years old, we moved to Masaka into a huge two-story custom-built concrete house with large shops on the ground floor, six bedrooms, four flush toilets, and electricity. My four older siblings needed to go to better schools. There was no shortage of books or magazines in our house and siblings feuded over who gets to read *Uganda Argus*, the daily newspaper first, was a daily event. My parents’ wholesale business was a success from the get-go and after school, I would often be helping in the shop.

## SECONDARY SCHOOLS...THE FORMATIVE YEARS

Secondary school grounding at St. Henry’s College, Kitovu, (near Masaka) taught me what studying was all about. This Catholic school founded in 1922 by a Canadian Missionary of the White Fathers had a very high academic standard. Most of the teachers were Catholic Brothers or Fathers from Canada, France, and the US. I excelled at English, Literature, Geography and Fine Art, my favorite subject. Our Art teacher often quoted Pablo Picasso, “I’d like to live as a poor man with lots of money”.



At St Henry’s College I was also privileged to be picked for The Outward-Bound Mountain School in Kenya on the border with Tanzania near the base of Mt Kilimanjaro. After a three-week grueling endurance and leadership course, we climbed the mountain, and I was the second student in the group to reach the snowy summit. In 1965, I was 17 years old and one of six to make it to the top.

A-Level schooling was at Kololo Senior Secondary School in Kampala. Yasmin Alibhai–Brown (nee Damji), Mahmood Alibhai, and Bakul Vyas were my classmates. Bakul often took me to his place for lunch as they lived in Kololo. At this school, I led expeditions to climb Rwenzori Mountain Range in Western Uganda on the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Mt Elgon in Eastern Uganda.



## MAKERERE UNIVERSITY 1969-72 ...THE GOOD LIFE



Makerere University came calling soon enough in 1969. I chose University Hall for residence on the advice of Nizar Mussani -- and not because it was next door to Wandegya, a seedy slum with good food, but as a quieter place to concentrate on studies. I ended up spending a lot of time at Northcote and Mitchell Hall with great guys like the late Shiraz Sarangi, Barkat Rajwani, Shiraz Sumar, Zahir Janmohamed, Taz Esmail, and many more like Bakul Vyas. I maintain fond memories of the good times we had. It was during the first year (1970), that I met Nasim Rajani whom I later married in 1972.

Life was great, especially in the first year with all the partying, late nights, out of town trips, wearing long hair, and fashionably in line with a hippie. Kanubhai's canteen was our favorite hangout in between lectures and the university pool in the late afternoon. Once a month we would be looking forward to Professor Ali Mazrui's thought provoking and controversial open lectures in the Main Hall after super. Then there was the "foreign film" night on campus that I enjoyed and still do on Netflix. My parents wanted me to do well at university like my older siblings. They even got me a sports car, something my boys still find amusing.



1970 Kabale Trip South West Uganda Lake Buyonyi and Masaka Trip Lake Nabugabu



Copper Mines Western Uganda 1971

Upon completing the first year of university, the Dean of the Economics department convinced me to take what he called "Pure Economics" with a small class for second and third years. He knew me well since I had done short research projects for him during the holidays.

In the third year at university, I would often be going to Masaka on regular class days to help my father with the business and missing lectures. I have to thank Sharmin Sumar (nee Ladha) for lecture notes and occasionally reminding (scolding) me that “at this rate you will never pass”.

### **LIFE IN UGANDA AND ARREST BY IDI AMIN’S SOLDIERS**

After graduating from Makerere in 1972, and waiting for job responses, Nasim Rajani and I decided to get married in Nairobi where her parents were residing at the time. There were several government job offers with an Economics degree but my interest was private industry. Finally, I got an offer from Industrial Promotion Services (IPS) part of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development as a Project Coordinator with a start date of August 14, 1972.

Idi Amin had already announced on August 9th that all Asians were to leave within 90 days. No one took him seriously at the time, especially those of us that were second generation citizens. Reality soon set in. Asians in prominent positions started leaving Uganda in the middle of the night and not long after our senior manager at IPS left. Shortly thereafter, next in charge left, and I was entirely by myself.

Three days later two soldiers with rifles in hand, barged into the office space demanding to see the manager, claiming that workers at IPS owned factories had not been paid for weeks. I was ordered along with a friend who was visiting, to go with them to *Makindye*, the Military Police Station (notorious for torture and extermination cells) near Kololo. After about half an hour at the station, two high ranking *Civilian* police officers from the Main Kampala Police Station stopped by. Looking at us pathetically sitting at the front, they shook their heads and whispered, “You will never come out of this place alive, go sit in the back of our jeep with your heads down”. Within a few minutes they came out and raced out of the compound. To save our lives they risked theirs.

### **CROSSING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN ...LANDING IN CANADA ON OCTOBER 27, 1972**

My grandfather crossed the Indian Ocean in 1911 in a dhow and his grandson crossed the Atlantic Ocean in 1972, in a plane, 61 years later. Nasim and I spent the first 18 months in Montreal and then moved to Toronto where I am currently residing. After working for four years in Canada I realized that I did not want to work for other people. I was an entrepreneur, a Dukawalla’s son and business was in my blood. But having come to Canada without any money, my brothers and I would struggle to raise capital.

We started a car rental franchise and after selling that, we rode the VCR boom in the 1980s. Along with my brothers, starting with one small store, we built a successful chain of audio, video, and movie rental stores across the Greater Toronto Area. Dr. Anil Mussani was one of my original financial backers.

Another successful venture was real estate, buying older properties, renovating, and reselling after adding value. Of everything I have done in my life this was perhaps the most rewarding work. We worked on 80–100-year-old properties, restoring original décor. I have a knack for design and an eye for detail. Both my boys have inherited this trait and now take care of my house renovations although they are in completely different professions.

This experience eventually led me to Canada’s largest construction company. As a Project Manager, I was initially assigned to work on hospital renovations that included St. Michael’s, Toronto General, Sick Kids and others. Over the years I also worked on condo buildings, office spaces and bank branch construction. While working in construction I also managed to complete an Executive MBA program. At age 52, I was the oldest in my class.



In June 2008 my world came crashing down.

Nasim suddenly passed away in her sleep.

She had taken early retirement from Bell several years ago.

***The night before, we were planning our next overseas trip.***



## TRIPS TO THE ANCESTRAL HOMELAND ... INDIA

For the first 30 years in Canada, we had no interest in visiting India although I took keen interest in knowing our family history. In November 2010, accompanied by my younger son who was 29 at the time, we left for a visit to India. After landing in Vadodara (Baroda) in Gujarat it felt very strange, almost surreal hearing my native language Gujarati everywhere. All I could see were people like me, talking like me and going about their business, existing without a layer I felt on my skin and not entrapped by Western stereotypes. For the first time in my life, I felt completely free.

Over the years I made several trips to India, and thoroughly explored Gujarat with visits to my grandfather's village near Jamnagar, and to Kutch. I stopped at several towns that my grandfather had talked about and ventured into the older poorer neighborhoods to ask questions.

## FAMILY AND RETIREMENT

Our two boys are both married. The older son Riyaz and his wife Melanie, have one daughter who is the love of our lives. At nine years old she is my chief advisor. Melanie just completed the first year of her PhD at University of Toronto. Riyaz is the Chief Operating Officer of a healthcare software company in Toronto that develops knowledge-based tools and leading clinical content for clinicians. The company is expanding by acquiring smaller healthcare related companies.

Our younger son Alim and his wife Sarah live nearby. It is an asset when you live alone and have a tech-savvy son a few minutes away, in addition to an endless supply of desserts. They both work for the University of Toronto. Sarah is the Student Liaison Officer in the Physical Therapy Department. Alim completed his masters at University of Toronto and has been there for 16 years. He is the Program Manager in the Occupational Science and Therapy Department.

I have been retired for several years, although earlier on I took short term project management stints, and mentoring young engineers, architects, project managers and also occasionally volunteering with the local Habitat for Humanity. My time is now dedicated to pursuing lifelong hobbies of wood working, gardening, sketching, and painting. Passion for reading fills the voids and I go through at least two nonfiction books a month. They all fuel my fire and keep me busy.



These days I spend more time at our family country home, 90 minutes north of Toronto. It's on a 50-acre property with lots of maple trees that we tap for maple sap in the spring. Hard to maintain walking trails are great in the summer, and fun in the winter for cross country snowshoeing. Deer sightings are common in the spring and late fall. It is also a great place to sketch, paint, and or read under the trees if you don't mind the occasional bird poop on your head. Then there are always fix up projects. As a nature lover this place is a great retreat for me, away from the city.





*2002 Nasim and Shiraz at Son's Wedding Reception*

#### **FINAL WORDS ...**

Triple Heritage, crossing the oceans, our migration, overcoming adversity, shared histories, and experiences have helped us become one of the most successful groups of immigrants in the Western world. My time at Makerere was perhaps the best time of my life, in many aspects. *"Learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist"* – Pablo Picasso.

## LALANI ZULFIKARALI (1971-72 VETERINARY MEDICINE)



1971 MU ID Card Mitchell Hall

2021 Canada-Edmonton

### UGANDA – EARLY YEARS

I was born in June 1950 in Bukoto, Uganda, about 10 miles from Masaka, the childhood centre for my young schooling years. Bukoto was a small village. As kids, there was nothing much to do but play. Toys were all homemade—well, almost, and we were very creative. We would weave a soccer ball, for example, from banana bark/leaves and gather a bunch of friends and play football/soccer. And we enjoyed climbing trees (not worried about the dangers of snakes!), play marbles, cricket, etc. and make do with what we had at the time. To have a bike, was a luxury at the time and was not affordable.

Even when we did finally get one, we had to share amongst the four of us. We had to take turns using it, but occasionally there were screams and fights over it. Can't remember much of my kindergarten years. We did not have the luxury to participate in all the activities nor of having fancy toys or other items. We had to make do with what was available locally and became very creative in what we did, not realizing how much we recycled at the time.



2007 Bukoto (In center is my brother Nizar and sister Shirin).



2007 Bukoto House (Rundown).

I remember travelling with my brothers and sisters (I come from a big family of 5 brothers and 6 sisters) to Masaka everyday in the back of a Lorry or Peugeot pickup truck to go to school there. The roads were not paved, and travel was usually very rough and bumpy due to large potholes. On rainy seasons, it was a nightmare. The roads would get muddy and treacherous and often we would get stuck and helped by passersby who would push us out of the ditches and potholes or sometimes got lucky to be towed by passing motorists. But we all enjoyed and looked forward going to school in Masaka as most of our friends lived there.



*2007 Uganda Masaka Our Houses 35 and 37 Elgin Road Respectively - Name still there!!*

When we finally moved to Masaka, things were different. The population was larger and so friends circle became larger. More responsibilities came with the move. When Bhai (we called my dad Bhai), Mummy and Nizar (eldest brother) were in Bukoto, my two older sisters Rozina and Dilshad were looking after us. We often had to go to Bukoto to help in the shop and spending weekends there. Thus, from a young age I learnt some aspects of business, especially in sales, from Bhai and Nizar. And cleaning, stockpiling, and arranging supplies in the shop were a daily chore. I also had to keep a watchful eye for thefts from the shop or home which was a very common occurrence. Bhai, Mummy and Nizar eventually decided to wind up in Bukoto and set up business in Masaka. Here too we all, brothers, and sisters, were involved in helping in the shop, when we were off from school.

For recreational time, a lot of kids engaged in the football/soccer, traditional volleyball, cricket, table tennis, plus marble games such as "dead", "ring" and "the wall", played "gilli-danda", "thaapo", "nagolio", "ambla-pipli", and much more. I was good at ping pong and once was a Junior Champion. I vividly remember the rivalries amongst various communities in sports especially traditional volleyball and cricket. The Europeans (mainly British) had their own "British Quarters" - gardens as it was called, posh area up on the hills, where they had their own residences and a private club with golf course, tennis courts, swimming pool, etc.

Bhai and Mummy were always working hard both in the shop and in the community. Bhai's dedication as a volunteer in the Jamat was exemplifying and I certainly learnt a lot from him. Nizar, was always hard working (he had great talent in fine art) who sacrificed his education and career (who so much wanted to be a doctor and a great one he would have been!) to help Bhai and Mummy in practically ALL areas of business and family matters.

I went to the Aga Khan Primary School for my elementary years and then to Masaka Secondary School where I completed my "O" levels certificate, and thereafter to the Aga Khan Secondary School Kampala where I completed "A" Level subjects majoring in General Sciences (1970). Kampala for me was a totally whole new experience. This was the first time I was away from home and staying at the Aga Khan Boy's Hostel, just across the street from the Aga Khan Secondary School.



*2007 Aga Khan Boy's Hostel Entrance.*



*1970 Science Class "A level" Seated fourth from left front row.*



It was very convenient. There were about 12 of us in a dormitory. We became really good friends, more like a family, and to this day we still keep in touch, and to mention a few roommates; Moez Pasaya, Anwar Somji (of Masaka), Nizar Rahemtulla (from Fort Portal) who was my classmate in Makerere, Kamru Sunderji, Nazim Makhani, and Shiraz Meghani (who is back in Kampala). Although in a strict, disciplined environment, hostel life was fun and exciting. I was Baitul Khayal Mukhi for one year and remember ringing the bell early in the morning on weekends to wake up everyone to come to Jamatkhana. It was indeed a challenge.



We used to go out to eat mogo (cassava) at DJ's and occasionally hitch rides to go to drive-in cinemas which was very popular on the weekends, as almost the whole well-to-do Indian community was there. And off course the Sunday evening strolls down Kampala Road where beautiful girls would come in their best of dresses and men and women and kids would all be there - an exciting place to be for young teenagers to hang around and just have fun. *Photo: 2007 DJ's.*

## MAKERERE UNIVERSITY



From the Aga Khan school, I went on to study at the then world-renowned Makerere University. Brother Diamond was there in his final years. I stayed at Mitchell Hall on campus. I got some good tips from him about college life. I was somewhat shy, but he was popular amongst his friends - both girls and guys. We played traditional volleyball and squash regularly. Thanks to Diamond, I escaped the famous but brutal Makerere initiation ceremony amongst the Asian population of Makerere students. Veterinary Medicine was a new faculty, and our group was the first batch of class.

*Photo: 1971 Staff and Students Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.*

It was really a fantastic campus. We had professors from all over the world - England, Germany, Canada, Kenya - and local Ugandans. There were only 2 Indians (myself and Nizar), and the rest were Africans. I had just completed my first year there when we were forced to leave Uganda, under the order of the brutal dictator Major General Idi Amin Dada, President of Uganda. It was November 1972. I was lucky to flee Uganda, but yet sad to leave my country of birth and citizenship.

## CANADA – NEW BEGINNING

I started a new beginning in Canada, a country which I had very little knowledge of except from what I had learnt from my Geography class in school. Canada and its people welcomed us. And my family and I will always be grateful to the Government and people of Canada for ALL they have done for us to settle here.

I was on the fourth flight of Asians leaving Uganda. We landed in Montreal, Canada Nov 21, 1972. We were put up in a military camp for a week with all other Asian refugees. The service and care provided was exceptional. They even catered Indian foods. From here everyone was being sent all over Canada, some to their own choice of destination, others just sent to remote places throughout Canada.

My brother Amin came before me (He was on the first flight) and was in Toronto, so I requested to go there. That's how I ended up in Toronto. Once in Toronto, we were put in an old hotel in downtown and I stayed there for a week. My younger sister Yasmin soon followed. I got my first job at Simpsons Sears, a large department store in downtown Toronto, as a salesman, in the men's clothing department.

We had good background of English (thanks to the education we received in English at the Aga Khan Schools in Uganda) which of course helped. It was Christmas season and quite a few Ugandans were hired. The Government provided room and board and gave us \$10 weekly allowance. But since I got the job, I stopped receiving any moneys from the Government.

Yasmin, my younger sister, and I rented a place from a Greek Canadian family—elderly couple, who were superbly kind, and very helpful and extremely nice people. After a few months, my youngest sister Shirin came and now the four of us, Amin, Yasmin, Shirin, and I decided to rent a three-bedroom apartment and moved to 8 Godstone Rd, Willowdale, Ontario.

I was fortunate to drive Begum Salimah's car during Hazar Imams visit to Canada in 1978. And was lucky to obtain her autograph, which I cherish even today.



I enjoyed playing traditional volleyball from a young age. It was a very competitive sport amongst various communities in Masaka and same was the case when in Toronto where regional competitions were held quite frequently. I represented team Toronto when the first Ismaili games were held in Montreal, Canada in 1975.

*Photo: Team Toronto 1975. First Ismaili games held in Montreal.*

I worked for about a year and decided to go back to school. Being a new immigrant and having only been in Canada for less than a year, I wasn't eligible for student loans. So, I continued working and went to Seneca College to study Lab sciences. I then found out about Nuclear Medicine Technology and was accepted in the program in 1975 at the then Toronto Institute of Medical Technology (now Michener Institute).



*1977 Nuclear Medicine Class.*



*1977 GRADUATION with Mum and Dad.*

I graduated with honours in 1977 and worked for some time in Windsor, Ontario (Metropolitan General Hospital) before relocating to Toronto, working at the North-Western General Hospital. In 1980 I got accepted in a program in Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound at the Health Sciences Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba.



*1980 Staff and Students at Health Sciences Center, Winnipeg, Manitoba.*

*Graduation Receiving certificate from Dr Edward Lyon, Director of Programme and of the Imaging Department.*





Upon completion, I got a job at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta. We had the first two students in the newly established Ultrasound School in Edmonton. Since then, I have been actively involved with teaching Ultrasound.



*1981 With Staff at Royal Alexandra Hospital.*



*Zuli, Teri Dickson, Denise Bourgeois, and Chris Brake.*

Two years later, I got a job offer at the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton, to set up the Ultrasound department and became the Sonographer in-charge there. I was there from 1981 to 1999. My work involved not only scanning, but also teaching student Sonographers and Radiology Residents, and frequently organized city-wide Ultrasound rounds at the Cross Cancer Institute. I was a Treasurer for the Alberta Diagnostic Sonographer's Association for two years and helped with writing questions for the Board Exams for Sonographers.



*1985 Radiology Department CCI.*



*1983 with my student Adesh Khalon.*



In July 1983 at the World University Games held in Edmonton, Alberta, I had volunteered as a games host for a week. The opening ceremonies were performed by Princess Diana, who was the guest of honour.

*Photo: 1983 Hosts/Hostesses at Opening Ceremonies World University Games.*

In August 1997, I got the opportunity to volunteer and teach Echocardiography to the Sonographers at the Aga Khan Hospital, Dar es Saleem, Tanzania. I was there for about three months. Dr. Zaheer Lakhani, a Cardiologist, was instrumental in organizing and arranging to make this possible. He was there also, and I will always be very grateful to him for making it possible for me to go there.



During this time, His Highness the Aga Khan with the president of Tanzania Benjamin Mkapa, paid a visit to the Center. Dr. Zahir Lakhani and I did a short presentation to them. We were introduced as volunteers from Canada and were so lucky that they briefly met us and personally thanked us and acknowledged the volunteering of our time and services.



*1997 (August) Tanzania (Dar-es-Salam) Aga Khan Hospital – Visit by His Highness the Aga Khan*

I got pretty well settled in my permanent job in Edmonton. During my workdays as a Sonographer at the Cross Cancer Institute (1981-1999), I was lucky to meet Sunil Dutt, a famous Bollywood Actor, who visited our hospital (totally unexpected!). He was planning to make a film at a cancer facility but unfortunately chose a different site. Also, after winning the Stanley Cup, some of the great Edmonton Oilers Hockey team players visited the hospital with the Stanley Cup. I had an opportunity to meet them in person and got a picture with them.



*Craig Simpson, Adam Graves, Zuli Lalani, Glenn Anderson, Mark Messier / Getting Glen's Autograph.*

During the Silver Jubilee year of Hazar Imam, while I was a Team Lead for the Gents Volunteers of the Headquarters Jamatkhana in Edmonton, I was introduced to Shenaz by her cousin Habiba Dhanji. On November 11, 1983 we got married in Kitchener, Ontario.



*1983 Silver Jubilee (Edmonton International Airport).*



*1978 Canada Toronto Ismaili Volunteers.*



## FAMILY

We have been blessed with two beautiful daughters. Our first child Noreen was born in September 1984 and our second child Azra in January, 1986. Noreen (graduated from Liverpool University, England) and her husband Imran (graduate of University of Alberta, Edmonton) are both pharmacists and Azra is a Dentist (graduated from University of Sydney, Australia). We all live in Edmonton now.



*Visiting Noreen while studying in Liverpool, England.*



*2018 Visiting Azra in Sydney, Australia.*



*2018 Toronto Imran, Noreen, Ishan, Zuli, Aiza, Shenaz, Azra.*



*1992 Edmonton Noreen and Azra with Grandparents.*



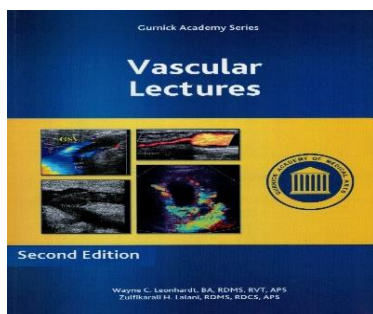
*2006 Became Grandparents (Noreen with baby Aiza).*



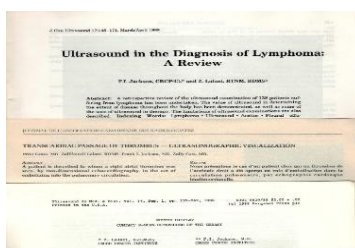


I had always wanted to gain some work experience in the States. Luckily, an opportunity came by, and I was offered a job in California. Sonographers were in demand at the time and my employer arranged for me to get my work permit. I moved there in fall of 2000 to work at Summit Medical Center, Oakland. *Photo: With staff of Ultrasound at Summit Hospital in Oakland.* It was supposed to be a temporary assignment for a year and a half, but I was offered a full-time position with full benefits and after lots of thoughts decided to stay longer. It was a tough decision to make, as I was going to be away from Shenaz, Noreen and Azra.

During this time, however, I did commute very frequently, to spend as much time with them as possible, but it wasn't the same. It turned out to be a great choice as I accomplished a lot, carrier-wise. I co-authored several articles in Ultrasound magazines and contributed to several chapters in Ultrasound textbooks. I have always been involved in teaching Ultrasound. I learnt a lot while a Summit and grew to be a better Sonographer in various aspects of Ultrasound such as vascular, neurosonology, prostate and interventional radiology. In 2010, I joined the Gurnick Academy as a Clinical Instructor in their Ultrasound Program. A whole new experience for me.



2012 Book first published.



2010 Various Journal Articles.



Gurnick Academy Ultrasound Staff.



Class of 2011.



Senior class of 2011.



Class of 2012.

Shenaz decided to go back to school full-time and completed her Computer Science diploma from Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. Upon completion, she worked part-time for the Provincial Government and then on to a full-time job with the city of Edmonton. She retired from there in 1999.

While still working at Gurnick, in 2012, I switched my job from Summit Medical Centre to work for Kaiser Permanente on part-time basis and enjoyed working there.

I retired from Kaiser in 2000 and now am back in Edmonton with family. I have always had a deep passion for Ultrasound Imaging and am still involved in teaching, short term work assignments and consulting.



## MANJI MOHAMED (1966-71 MEDICINE)



*1966 Makerere University / 2003 Saudi Arabia Riyadh King Faisal Specialist Hospital / 2018 Canada BC Cancer Agency*

### PRE-MAKERERE

I hail from the highland region of southern Tanzania from a place called Mbeya where I was born. I was a 3rd generation of Kutchi family as my, both paternal and maternal, grandfathers' families moved from Kutch region to Tanganyika at the end of 19th Century. Crossing the Indian Ocean in those days from Kutch India was dangerous and settling in an undeveloped part of Tanganyika was like putting a noose around one's neck. In spite of this they took the risk and ended up going in the interior of Tanganyika, which was considered as "Whiteman's grave" region. My paternal grandfather Manji Lalji's brothers and sons settled in Tukuyu and latter Mbeya region of Southern Highland Province of Tanganyika.

On the other hand, my maternal grandfather Mohamed Hamir and his brothers settled in Iringa and Kilosa region of Tanganyika. They were the pioneer families in the development of Southern Highland Region; contributed to the economy of the region and the country at large, invested in land and houses, participated in building schools and other projects. My maternal grandfather started his business further inland by walking to Tukuyu region from Iringa where he had settled, a trip of about 12 to 14 days, carrying a bundle or two of white cotton clothing (Mirikhani) on his back to sell there. He would usually have one or two Iringa Hehe native persons (also carrying these bundles of clothes) to accompany him. My father's Company Fazal Manji & Sons, second largest in Southern Highland, was involved in transportation of agricultural products produced in Mbeya region and also had passenger bus services to the remote part of the region, facilitating the movement of peoples in the region. The Company also had large wholesale business.



One of the Projects of my family to mention, is an iconic Jamatkhana building in Iringa, Tanzania. This was built by my maternal grandfather Mohamed Hamir in 1929/1932 with his own money during the great recession of 1929. Masonry work of the building was done by himself as he had learned that trade in India before coming to Tanganyika. He was a forward thinker and incorporated a school section in the building, so young Indian children could be educated as it was not provided by the Colonial Governments. He also added a Clock Tower. The people of Iringa still keep their time as per the Jamatkhana clock. It is also considered as one of the most beautiful Jamatkhanas in the world.

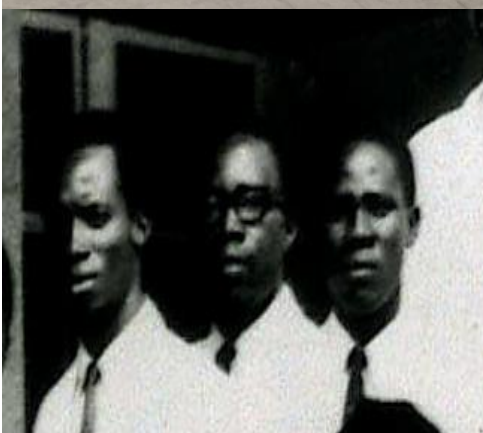


After finishing my primary schooling in Mbeya at Indian Public School and Aga Khan Primary School, I joined the Aga Khan Boys Secondary and High School in Dar es Salaam Tanzania. I completed my Secondary (GC "O" Level) and High School (GC "A" Level) in 1965. I had decided to do either Dentistry or Medicine. I applied to both overseas Universities and also locally to Makerere University. I was accepted at Makerere University and also at 3 Scottish Universities to do Medicine (Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen) and for Dentistry at Edinburgh University. Because of Tanzanian foreign exchange restrictions, it made the situation difficult to go overseas. My 3 High School Classmates Shiraz Aziz, Diamond Alidina and Nizam Peerwani were also accepted to do Medicine at

Makerere University. Thus, I accepted to join Makerere University to do Medicine, starting in June of 1966. My residence at Makerere Campus was at Mitchell Hall. *Photo: Dar-es-Salaam Aga Khan School 1966 Group: Nizam Peerwani, Diamond Alidina, Shiraz Aziz, and Mohamed Manji (all joined Makerere University Medical School).*



In preparation to go to Makerere, we were recommended by a previous Makererean to choose Mitchell Hall as it served good meals and it also was close to the access to go to Kampala town and to Mulago Hospital. In the first year we had to share, and my roommate was Diamond Alidina. *Photo: 1966 Mitchell Hall Our Room (back open door: Diamond Kanji, Diamond Alidina, and Mohamed Manji.* Diamond Alidina and I met our previous acquaintances from the prominent Tanzanian High School - Makwawa High School. They were Iqbal Lillani, Ashraf Bandali and Diamond Kanji. Diamond Alidina and Iqbal Lillani knew each other from the Tanzanian Isherwood Cup Cricket Tournament days, and we knew Ashraf Bandali from his Secondary School days in Dar-es-Salaam. I met Iqbal Lillani and Diamond Kanji for the first time. On the day of registration, we all, including Shiraz Rawji (Fariyal Rawji's Brother), whom we met for the first time as well, were lined up at the entrance to the Main Hall. We saw a Mercedes 190, with Ugandan number plates, drove in and got parked; a tall Ugandan man got out and came and stood in the same line, behind us. We all thought that he was a lecturer and he had made a mistake by standing in the line. So, Shiraz Rawji informed him that this was first year Medical student line up and he should just go ahead inside. He politely informed us that he also was first year Medical student from Jinja and he introduced himself as David (Daudi) Waswa. We told him that, as he drove in his Mercedes, we assumed differently. He informed us that it was his father's car. Since then, he became our good friend. He and Shiraz Rawji remained quite close, and he indeed visited Dar-es-Salaam during one of the holiday months. *Photo: David (Daudi) Waswa in the middle. Makerere University.*



First year was an innocent year. On the first day at the Medical School, we had our first Anatomy lecture by Professor Richard Haines. We all attended and majority of us had newly bought expensive Stethoscopes around our necks. After very brief introduction of himself, Professor Haines instructed us to get rid of our Stethoscopes and put them away in our closets at the campus, as we will not need them for the next 2 years. We all felt dejected as we felt "Doctors" from day one with our Stethoscopes around our necks. Professor then started his lecture, and the first topic was - Shoulder Anatomy. Exactly on time of one hour, he completed and informed us that he has covered about 15 pages of our thick Anatomy book and advised us to read it before the next day. We really were jolted, and he made us realise, that being in the University should not be taken lightly and we have to work hard.



First year students usually go through initiation by 2nd and 3rd years fellow students. At Mitchell Hall, we first year students, to avoid mistreatment by our seniors, decided to have the initiation done to us by ourselves. We did this by having our heads shaved off as seen in posted picture below; all of us did it except me as I really did not want to lose my "Elvis Puff" hairstyle; I somehow got away with that.



*1966 Makerere Medical School Anatomy Department: Mohamed Manji, Diamond Alidina, and Diamond Kanji; and 1966 Mitchell Hall (Hair Styles!!): Back: Sultan Kassamali, Ramzan Abdulla, Diamond Alidina, Badur Meghji, Shiraz Aziz, and Front: Diamond Kanji, Amin Kassam, Shiraz Ladha, Mohamed Manji, Shiraz Walji.*

When we joined Makerere University in June of 1966, Kampala had curfew as there was political unrest in the country. The Makerere Ismaili Students Group and Makerere Mukhi Amin Karmali had arranged with Jinja Ismaili Jamat for all of us to celebrate Khushiali in Jinja. We went there by bus and were accommodated by Jinja families. We had a good time



*1966 July Khushiali Celebration in Jinja because of Curfew in Kampala.*

Just before the end of 1966, Makerere Ismaili Students were graced by the visit of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees to Kampala, Uganda.



*1966 MU: Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan with Ismaili Students (Left) and with Makerere Ismaili Medical Students (Right).*



Diamond Kanji and I became good friends as we were both interested in music. He was a singer and played the Harmonium as well and I was able to play Drums and also play the Percussion Instruments. So, on his return from our first holiday month of the first year, he brought back his Harmonium from his hometown Lindi, Tanzania. Diamond Kanji suggested that I should take up Tabla playing which I did. I was not tutored professionally but was able to play the basic beats. We managed to borrow a pair of Tablas. From then onwards, a group of us would get together in his room and would have a musical session. We got many angry knocks on the door from our student neighbours and demanded us to stop playing and singing. We played at Makerere Indian Musical Functions and came to be known as the "Kanji Manji Group" and the "Kalyanji Ananji of Mitchell Hall".



*1968 Famous KANJI MANJI MUSICAL GROUP Makerere University in Action.*

We also travelled to many places in Uganda, like Masaka, Jinja, Mbale etc. performing at "Ginan Mushairas" (Religious Hymn Singing Gatherings). One of the trips was to Kisumu and Kisi in Kenya. Accompanying us in that trip were my cousin Zarina Kassam, Jenny Walji (Saleh), and Almas Bhanji, all Medical Students at MU.



*1968 Trip to Eldoret and Kisumu: Left Photo: Jenny, Zarina, Manji and Right Photo: Jenny, Kanji, Zarina, Manji & friend.*

During our 5 years in Medical School Program at Mulago Hospital, we got trained by and came across one of the most dedicated groups of Medical Professionals in the world. They themselves became world recognised like, Dr Denis Burkitt for his Burkitt's Lymphoma. Dr Sebastian Kyalwazi for his expertise in Kaposi Sarcoma Management. He was one of the main experts consulted during the AIDs Epidemic in USA for patients with Kaposi Sarcoma. Dr Sultan Karim for his expertise in Prostaglandins. Dr Anil ("TB") Patel for his contribution in TB Control and Management in Uganda, Australia, and USA. Dr Kris Somers was WHO Professor, expert in Cardiomyopathies. Dr Huckstep, the "rule of 3" man, for the Practical Innovations and Teaching in Orthopaedics. Internationally known Anatomy Professor Haines and his contribution in Embryology. Our Surgical Teaching Group under the Leadership of Professor Sir Ian McAdam, an inspired teacher of par excellence level; played a leading part in establishing the high reputation of Makerere Medical School and played an important role in development of service, teaching and research at Makerere University. He risked his prominent position at Makerere Medical School and Mulago Hospital during the Ugandan Asian (Indian) expulsion and was deported in helping his fellow colleagues and his medical students escape and seek employment and places to continue their studies

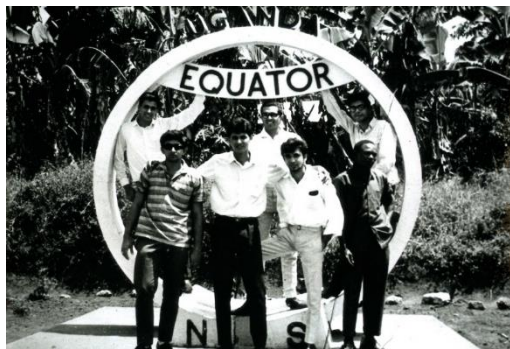
elsewhere. He was strict in his own way; he always wanted his Surgical Team and his Medical Students to be properly dressed and expected proper behaviour. As an example, when I was rotating through his service during my Surgical term, I happen to come one day without shaving as I was late. During the rounds he had noticed that and at the end of the rounds, he called me and handed me 2 shillings and ordered me to buy a razor blade and instructed me to come to Medical School shaved. BTW: after that I went to the cafeteria had my breakfast that morning.



*1966-1971 Medical Students Group with Professors - Makerere University Kampala Uganda.*

In spite of all this hard work and Medical School commitments, our group - Iqbal Lillani, Ashraf Bandali, Diamond Kanji, the two Abdul Jiwas, Aziz Dhalla and initially Diamond Alidina and latter Mirza Datto were passionate for movies; going to see them was a routine on the weekends. Most of the time we would see at least 2 movies on the weekend.

Resident students did get fed up with Campus meals. Every 4th or 5th week, we would thus speak to Aziz Dhalla, and he



would kindly organise a weekend trip for us to go to Masaka and including him, we would spend the weekend in Masaka where his family lived. "Sebo" Abdul Jiwa ("Big" Jiwa AKA "Abdul Butenga"), who spoke fluent local language, would negotiate, and hire a Peugeot station wagon (to seat at least 9 people), leaving Kampala early Friday afternoon and we would come back to



Kampala on Sunday before the afternoon movie show starts at 3 pm. In Masaka all of us would stay at Dhallas, and Aziz's mother and sisters-in-law would cook the best meals for the "starving" Makerere Group. Thus, on behalf of all, I would like to thank Dhalla Family as their Masaka home was our 2nd home in Uganda. *Left Photo: 1966 Masaka Trip Back Row: Mohamed Daya, Diamond Kanji, and Abdul Jiwa (Senior), and Front Row: Iqbal Lilani, Ashraf Bandali, Mohamed Manji, and Taxi Driver. Right Photo: Group In front of the Beautiful Masaka Jamatkhana.*

Few of the members in the Group, mentioned above, were also fond of playing cards and thus on most of the weekends, they would be occupied at either Livingston Hall (where Diamond Lalani also joined) or Mitchell Hall "casinos".





After finishing just over two years at Medical School, in 1969, Diamond Kanji, Fateh Hirji (1967 University Hall) relation of mine, and I decided to join Abdulla Daar and Abdul Jinah (1968 Class) for a trip to Mombasa. *Photo: 1969 Mombasa Trip: Mohamed Manji, Abdul Jinah, Diamond Kanji, Fateh Hirji, Umed Jessa (Mombasa Friend) and Abdulla Daar.*

Following completion of our Medical Program and Final Examinations in 1971 (at the time of Idi Amin takeover), most of the Tanzanians left Kampala the day after and went back to Tanzania, awaiting results. Having learned that I and my fellow friends Diamond Kanji, Iqbal Lilani, Shiraz Rawji, Abdul Jiwa x 2 etc. were successful, Iqbal Lillani volunteered to go back to Kampala from Dar-es-Salaam, after the Graduation Ceremony was done, to get our Certificates. My cousin Zarina Kassam had managed to get mine and she sent it to me with Iqbal who came back safe to Dar-es-Salaam. Political situation in Tanzania had also changed under Julius Nyerere before the Ugandan crisis. He had introduced his Socialist Policies with his Arusha Declaration. In 1971, he selectively nationalised properties (without compensation), owned by Tanzanians who were of non-African origins in spite of being 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3rd Generation Tanzanians - a Racist Policy. This situation enticed lot of these victimised people to leave Tanzania and start their new lives elsewhere.

## POST-MAKERERE

I was a private student and not on any Government Bursary. In my last year at Makerere, I had decided to go Overseas for Specialization; I went to Trinidad to do my Internship (arranged by Professor Kris Somers) in June of 1971. The Program was under the University of West Indies. Trinidad was an interesting place. Initially it was difficult to understand the Trinidadians when they spoke. They have a tendency to speak in a "singing way". With time, I got used to and also started to peak up their accent as well so that they can understand me. It sure is fun to be in Trinidad during Christmas and Carnival time. The Christmas celebrations there start from mid November and end on Ash Wednesday in mid February at the time of Carnival. After finishing my Internship, I came to Canada in June 1972. We were about 50 to 60 Ismailis in Toronto, mostly from Tanzania. It was totally a new environment but managed to settle down. In summer of 1973, the Ismaili Community, at the Instruction of His Highness the Aga Khan, formed two Aga Khan Regional Councils, one in Toronto and one in Vancouver to help facilitate the settlement of Ismailis, initially from Tanzania and latter from Uganda. I was humbled and honoured to be appointed as First Member for Health on the Aga Khan Regional Council of Ontario and Quebec. The Tanzanian Hindu Gujarati Communities at that time who had come to Canada, also formed their Association and organised Temple facility for prayers and "Bajan" Functions. We participated in these Functions. We also were honoured by the visit of Prince Ayn Aga Khan in November 1973 (Prince Ayn was sent to Canada by H.H. the Aga Khan for a fact-finding tour regarding setting of displaced Ismailis from East Africa).



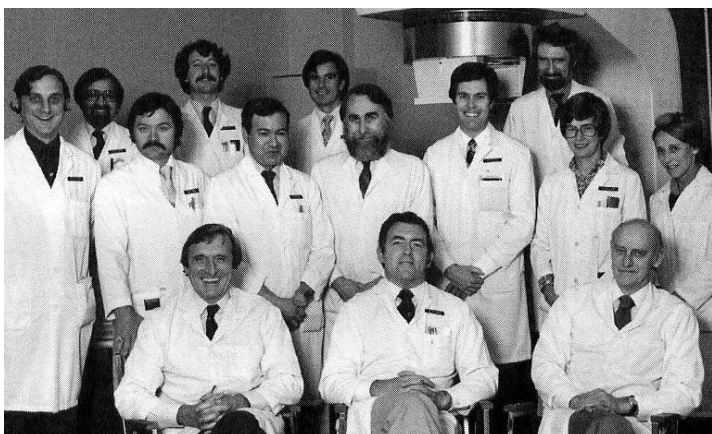
*1973 First Aga Khan Regional Council of Ontario & Quebec: Left Photo: Members with Dr Mohamed Manji (Back Row 3rd from Right); and Right Photo: Meeting with Prince Ayn Aga Khan with Dr Mohamed Manji (Left Row: 4th from Left).*





I did my Radiation Oncology Residency from 1972-1977 at the Prestigious Princess Margaret Cancer Center, Toronto (previously known as Princess Margaret Hospital); one of the five largest Cancer Centers in the world. Four-year Residency Program included a year of Internal Medicine which I did at Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto. I also had the opportunity to do Special Courses in Nuclear Medicine and Endocrinology at Harvard Medical School in Boston USA. I obtained my U.S. Board Certification (DABRT) and my Canadian Fellowship (DMRT, FRCPC) in Radiation Oncology.

*Photo: 1972 Princess Margaret Hospital Toronto Canada Radiation Oncology Residents (Dr M Manji, 5<sup>th</sup> from Right).*



I joined BC Cancer Agency, Vancouver Clinic as a fellow in July of 1977 and then became a Consultant Radiation Oncologist in 1979; also, was appointed on the Medical Faculty of University of British Columbia with Responsibility of teaching Medical Students and Residents including those from outside Canada. In 1988 I became the Director of Radiation Therapy School at BC Cancer Agency which was involved in Training Radiation Therapists. I am presently Clinical Associate Professor of University of British Columbia. *Photo: 1981 Department of Radiation Oncology, BC Cancer Agency Vancouver BC Canada (Dr. M. Manji in Back Row 1<sup>st</sup> From Left).*



In 1993 my Colleague and I were persuaded to move and join King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Center (Tertiary Referral Center for the Middle East and the Hospital for Saudi Royal Family) in Riyadh Saudi Arabia, for a period of 2 years, to revamp their Radiation Oncology department and for treating Cancer patients. I ended up staying there for 12 years. One of the highlights of my SA visit was meeting Mr. Nelson Mandela who was visiting the Hospital in November 1994; I also met the ruler King Abdulla of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



*Department of Radiation Oncology, King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Center (Dr. M. Manji 4th From Right) and 1994 President Mandela's visit to King Faisal Specialist Hospital, Reception Committee (Dr. M. Manji 2nd From Right).*



Most satisfying part in Oncology Practice was that we were able to Standardize Treatments Policies as per North American Guidelines for all Cancer Types and Sites, especially in the Treatment of Cervical Cancer; much more so, in improving the Treatment of Women with Cervical Cancer and who unfortunately had been subjected to Female Genital Mutilation in their younger years (mostly expatriate population from Africa).

Just at the end of 1991, Iqbal Lillani, with his family, was visiting Vancouver BC and we, by chance, met at the Vancouver downtown Shopping Mall. We re-established our contact and thus visits to London England were quite frequent while we were living in Riyadh SA. Our stay in Middle East also gave us the opportunity to travel extensively - seen the world. Also visited Dr. Abdulla Daar and Dr. Shahina in Oman in 1994. Dr. Daar was at Sultan Qaboos University in Oman.



In 2004, I was involved in the planning of Radiation Oncology department for the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKU), Karachi at the request of Mr. Shamsh Kassam-Lakha, AKU President and Dr. Farat Abbas, Chairman of Oncology Committee. I also got involved later for AKU Hospital Nairobi Radiation Oncology Department as well. I spent about 3 months in 2007 at Aga Khan University, Karachi and about 3 months at Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi in 2012.



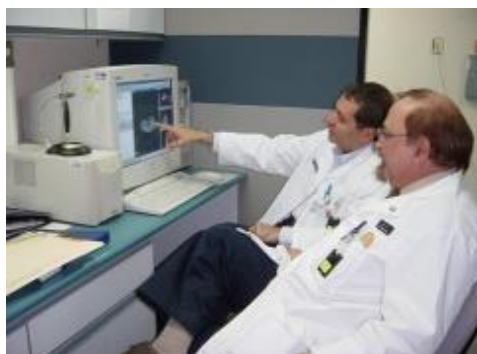
I was appointed as a visiting Medical Faculty Member of Aga Khan University, Karachi in 2008.

*Photo: Aga Khan Hospital, Karachi Oncology Services Building and AKU Karachi 2008: Anney Hirji RTT, Dr Farrok Karsan, Head Radiation Oncology Department AKU, Dr Sherali Hussein Medical Physicist AKU, Dr Mohamed Manji Visiting Radiation Oncology Consultant, Dr Nadeem Abbasi Radiation Oncologist AKU. Mr Sohail Tirmizi AKU Radiation Oncology Manager (presently Regional CEO including Afghanistan, Tajikistan).*



*Photo: 2008 The Aga Khan University Hospital Karachi Pakistan.*

*Dr Farrok Karsan, Head of Radiation Oncology presenting a Memento.*



*The Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi Kenya Department of Radiation Oncology.*



In 2005, I came back to rejoin BC Cancer Agency as a Consultant and University of BC as Clinical Associate Professor; worked at Surrey Clinic for 2 years and then tried to retire but was called back to BC Cancer because of the need and my "grey hair". Since 2009, I have worked at BC Cancer Agency Kelowna Clinic. Worked full time till early 2019 and presently only 20% so I can spend more time with my family in Vancouver, our home. I am better known as Mo Manji in my Radiation Oncology circle of Canada and Internationally. My Speciality has allowed me to participate in meetings held around the world. Also gave me an opportunity to publish extensively in Oncology with my Colleagues. *Photo: BC Cancer, Kelowna Clinic; Department of Radiation Oncology.*

I participated in **the first Makerere Reunion** which took place in **Harrison Hot Springs in 1984**.

THE REUNION July 1984

Hello Makererean,

The first reunion of the Association was held at Harrison Hot Springs, in B.C. Canada. The reunion was the brain child of Shamim Bhimji, Zeba Najak and Abdul Jiwa and thanks to their organizing ability, the reunion was an unequivocal success. The turnout was remarkably good as far as the North American Continent was concerned. Clinical meeting programme was very good with a nice blend of academic as well as anecdotal non-academic material.

The reunion got off to a good start at the cocktail hour on Sunday July 29th. It was a great emotional experience for most of us, as the meeting was after 13 years, between most people present.



*1984 Correspondence after the meeting and 1st Makerere Reunion - Harrison Hot Springs, BC Canada.*



*1984 Pictures of First Makerere Reunion- Harrison Hot Springs BC Canada.*

At the **Makerere Reunion in Vancouver in 2008**, we met Diamond and Gulshan Lalani. They were living in Dubai at that time. We had the opportunity to visit them in Dubai in 2012, on our way back from South & East African trip. We sure had a wonderful Middle Eastern time together in Dubai.





*2008 Pictures of the Makerere Reunion Vancouver BC Canada.*

## FAMILY

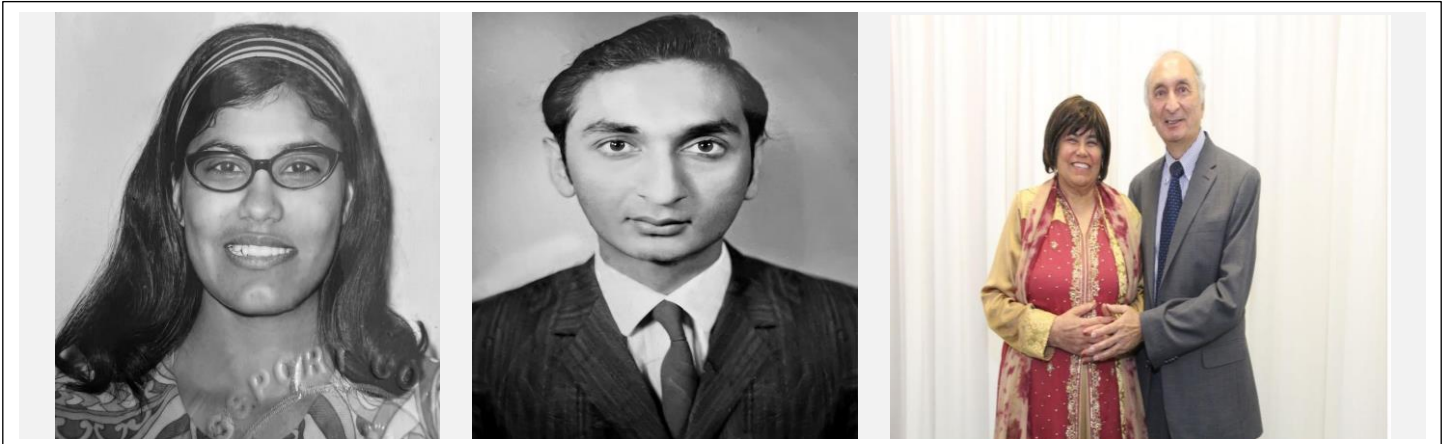
My wife's name is Anar. She trained as a Chartered Secretary in Blackpool UK. She presently is a Mortgage Broker and has her own Company. We have two sons Jamil and Faisal, born in Toronto and Vancouver Canada respectively: our new Canadian Generation, both married. Jamil after completing his degree at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver worked for HSBC Bank as Senior Business Analyst in Information Technology. He presently is the Managing Director of Physiotherapy Clinic of his wife Shaila who is a Physiotherapist, a Graduate of University of British Columbia. Jamil is also a Building Contractor. Faisal after schooling in Saudi Arabia, UK and then at Brentwood College School in Victoria and St George's School Vancouver BC Canada, joined Royal Roads University Victoria BC and received his Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Entrepreneurial Management. He then read for his Accountant Degree at University of British Columbia and became a Certified Professional Accountant. He also has obtained a Mortgage Broker Certification. His wife Tanya is a High School English Teacher, a Graduate of University of British Columbia. We have been blessed with 3 grandchildren - Kayana, Mikhail, and new arrival Ethan; thus "A new Generation and a new Beginning"; A beginning of New Story telling by the new Generation of their Parents and Grandparents, who having born in faraway places like Africa and having been displaced. *Photo: Ethan Manji.*



*2019 Canada Vancouver at Second Son Faisal & Tanya's Wedding  
Family: Mohamed, Anar, Faizal, Tanya, Jamil, Shaila, Kayana, and Mikhail.*



**MERALI ARZINA NEE KASSAM (1969-72 SCIENCE: CHEMISTRY)**  
**MERALI AMIR (1968-71 ARTS: ECONOMICS AND ACCOUNTING)**



*1971 Uganda Arzina Kassam*

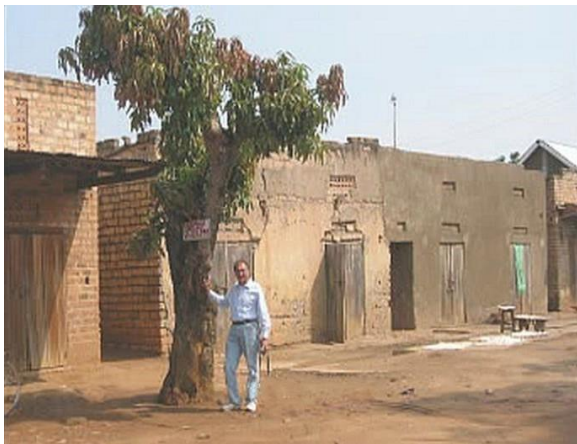
*1971 Uganda Amir Merali*

*2018 Canada Edmonton Diamond Jubilee*

## CHILDHOOD

**Amir:** I was born in Buganga, a small village south of Kampala, Uganda. However, I grew up in the neighboring village, Nabusanke which is 47 miles from Kampala on the highway to Masaka. I am one of eleven siblings all born in Uganda. My fond memories of this village-life include playing with mud and making model homes, competing in board games like, Ludo and Monopoly, and visiting cotton and coffee farms and ginneries. One notable childhood memory for me is the day when His Highness the Aga Khan visited the Aga Khan Primary School in Nabusanke where I was a student in 1958.

**Arzina:** I was born in Jinja which is situated 44 miles east of the capital city, Kampala. Jinja is the fourth largest city in Uganda, and it is well known for the Owen Falls Dam and Bujagali Power Plant that provide electricity to the whole country. These falls are on River Nile near to its source at Lake Victoria.



*Amir in front of his shop in Nabusanke in 2008*



*Arzina at Owen Falls Dam, Jinja in 1967*



## SCHOOL DAYS

**Amir:** I attended The Aga Khan Primary School, Nabusanke for 6 years and then transferred to The Aga Khan Primary School, Kampala for additional 2 years, where I received my Junior School Leaving (JSL) Certificate. Then I proceeded to The Aga Khan Secondary School, Kampala, where I spent 6 years and received Cambridge School Certificate in 1964 for “O” Levels, and Cambridge High School Certificate in 1967 for “A” Levels. While residing at The Aga Khan Boys Hostel in Kampala during my primary and secondary school days, I was given a nickname “scientist” because I used to excel in science subjects. To this date a lot of my friends still call me by this nickname. However, my interest was mainly in the arts subjects, which I pursued for my career path. While at the secondary school, I enjoyed extracurricular activities as well. I joined school clubs, such as speech, debate, and mountaineering, and participated in activities organized by these clubs. I was also the chairman of the school library committee when I was in form VI. This is when Arzina, who was also on the committee, and I became good friends. Our friendship became stronger during our years at Makerere University, and later in 1973, we got married when we came to Montreal, Canada. At school, the classes were very structured and were held Monday to Friday, starting at 8:00am till 4:00pm with recess and lunch breaks. Roll call attendance was taken daily. The students had to wear school uniform. For boys at “O” Levels it was white shirt, khaki pants, and black shoes. After morning assembly, the school prefect on duty checked that students wore proper uniform. At “A” Levels, the boys had to wear white shirts, long black trousers, and striped red and green school ties. Green blazers with school insignia were an option. Wearing uniform at school certainly made me feel proud and humble with a sense of belonging, purpose, and discipline. My secondary school also had clubs called “houses” such as Karim, Amin, and Sadru. Every student at the school belonged to one of these houses. I was a captain of Karim house. My duties included organizing teams for inter-house competitions for such activities as basketball, football, and debating. One notable achievement for me at school was climbing Mt. Elgon in Uganda along with my school team and teacher-in-charge, Mr. Treadway. I trained for it, and embarked on this adventure, which I had never done before. I truly felt that I had achieved something when I reached the top of the mountain. No, I wasn’t thinking of Mount Everest next although the climb up Mount Elgon also involved steep terrain.



*His Highness visits The Aga Khan High School, Kampala where Amir is a teacher in 1972*

**Arzina:** I went to The Aga Khan Primary School, Kampala, and then to St Joseph's Convent School in Dar-es-Salaam for my 4 years of secondary education where I obtained Cambridge ordinary "O" Level certificate. After completing my "O" Levels, I returned to Kampala in 1967, and attended The Aga Khan Secondary School where I spent 2 years for higher education and obtained Cambridge Higher School Certificate for "A" Levels in 1968. I remember as a child that my father placed a lot of importance on education. He often met my teachers to discuss and monitor my progress. To enhance my language skills, I was enrolled in Alliance Francis School to learn French, besides learning English at my regular school. My father also encouraged me to learn Swahili which is the national language of Tanzania. With respect to a choice between Arts and Science fields, my father advised me to follow the path that interested me more than the other, and for which I had a passion. As discussions evolved over time, and with guidance and encouragement from my dad, it became clear to me to choose the science field. Unfortunately, my father passed away when I was only 16 years old. From thereon, my mother guided me in fulfilling my dad's wishes. My elder brother, Faruk, played a very significant role not only in my academic pursuits but also in extra-curricular activities. He also encouraged me to learn to type, do shorthand and sewing, and attend photography classes. I am glad that I have these skills as I have benefited a lot from them.



*Arzina teaching at  
The Aga Khan High  
School, Kampala in  
1969*



*The Aga Khan Secondary  
School Library Committee  
in 1967. Arzina is 3rd from  
the right and Amir is  
standing behind her*





*Amir and Yusuf on top of Mount Elgon    1967 The Aga Khan Secondary School Form V Class (Arzina in front row 3<sup>rd</sup> from left)*



*The Aga Khan Secondary School, Kampala in 2012*



*The Aga Khan High School, Kampala in 2008*



## MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

**Amir:** I came to Makerere University in 1968 to pursue my undergraduate studies. This was a big change for me. I felt different from the school life where classes were very structured and held daily. At Makerere, students attended lectures when they were scheduled. There were days when no lectures were scheduled. Also, there was no uniform one had to wear. Students dressed up in casual clothes. However, they generally wore red gown on special occasions, such as when attending lectures by dignitaries, including visiting prime ministers, presidents, and lecturers. The students also wore red gowns while demonstrating against unjust events on the continent.

For the degree program, I followed the 3-2-2 path, studying History, Geography and Economics in the 1st year and Economics and Accounting in the 2nd and 3rd years. I completed my undergraduate degree program in 1971 and received a B.A. (Hons) degree. According to the university charter, the President of Uganda was the chancellor of the university. Consequently, I received my degree certificate from President Idi Amin Dada who was also the chancellor of the university at the time. I felt good to have earned a black gown to be worn on special occasions. I put away my red gown that had served its purpose during my undergraduate studies. While at Makerere University, I was a resident of New Hall. In my final year at the university, I had a car which made it easier for me to go to the city centre.

It is interesting to note here that this was the age of pen and paper. I, like all other students, took all the lecture notes, submitted essay assignments, and wrote exams using pen and paper. Paper books on the library shelves were my main source of research material. Photocopy machine in the library was of some help. There were manual typewriters and calculators that also provided this help. There were no digital computers, software packages, internet, iPads, or laptops at the time. Although there were telephones then, the service was very limited. The telephone units were of rotary type where one had to turn the numbers to dial as there were no touch-tone phones then. When contacting a person on the campus or in the city, one literally had to walk to that person's place as there was no e-mail, texting, or facetime then.

The cost of university education, including food, accommodation, book allowance, and incidental expenses for Arzina and me were all paid by the Government of Uganda. The government provided bursaries to all the Ugandan citizens on the campus to cover these costs. Breakfast and meals on the campus were cooked by kitchen staff at each hall of residence. Every term, Arzina and I looked forward to receiving from the government, what was referred to as, "boom" money, that is, pocket money. This made it easier for us, and our friends, to frequent Kanubhai's canteen for chai and pies.

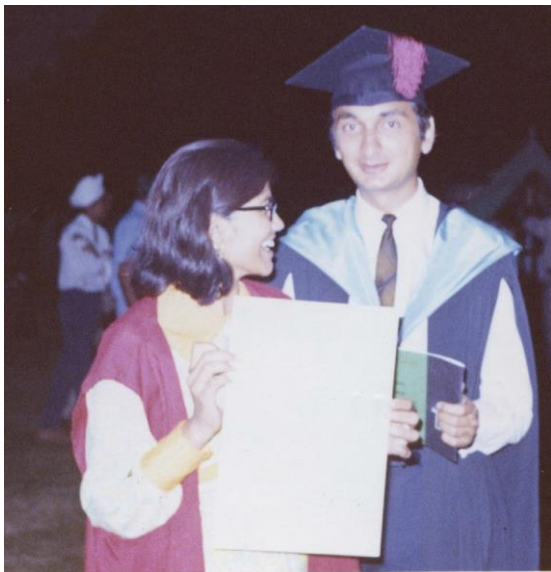
While at Makerere University, I was also involved in some extra curriculum activities. I participated in charity walks to raise awareness and funds for the charities e.g., 21-miles walk from Entebbe to Kampala. I also held a position on the Muslim Students Association committee and organized or participated in outreach projects.



*Amir first right with Muslim Students Association  
at Makerere University*



*Chancellor Idi Amin confers degree on Amir in 1971*



*Amir's Graduation at Makerere in 1971*



*Arzina graduates from Makerere in 1972*

**Arzina:** I came to Makerere University in 1969 for my undergraduate degree programme. I was fortunate to make it to the university, fortunate because only a small percentage of students, and especially girls, made it to that level. I followed the 3-1-1 path for my undergraduate degree program studying Math, Economics and Chemistry in the 1st year, and only Chemistry in 2nd and 3rd years. I graduated in 1972 with a B. Sc. (Hons) degree in Chemistry. While at Makerere University, I was a resident of Mary Stuart Hall - often called "The Box" - in the 1st year. Because accommodation facility on the campus was limited, I shared a room in the 1st year with Rashida Musani and Jyoti Barrot. I moved to the newly built Africa Hall in the 2nd year where I had a single room for the next two years.

I remember very well that, when choosing the discipline in chemistry, I would also have to do a long-term project. I decided on Inorganic Chemistry as my 1st choice, Physical Chemistry as my 2nd choice, and Organic Chemistry as my 3rd choice. The Department offered me the 3rd choice. Initially I was disappointed because I was not offered my 1st choice. However, Dr Landor encouraged me to take up the offer of Organic Chemistry and said that one can do well even in a subject that is not one's favorite. I accepted the offer. While pursuing this field, I learnt a lot of skills, including time and project management, hard work, persistence, and other skills. In one of my practical lab experiments for this project, there was an incident which scared me. This experiment involved the use of Boron Trifluoride. The Lab Technician brought in a gas cylinder. As he was opening this cylinder, it exploded. Mr. Odiak, a post-graduate student who had a walking disability, was also in the lab at that time. Fortunately, he and I, both made it out of the lab safely. My blue dress had turned pink from the chemical reaction. I was very shaken by this incident, but the support from Shiraz Sumar and other friends at Makerere went a long way in calming me down and recovering from this incident. At Makerere, I made many friends among whom, and elsewhere, we found mentors. We enjoyed meals together, went swimming and attended place of worship. We walked a lot on the campus and took part in the Students Union functions, including dances. The weather was always very pleasant with temperatures around 25 degrees centigrade. The friends enjoyed pantry parties, especially during curfew times. Along with the freedom and independency at the university one enjoyed, came responsibility as well. While the main purpose of coming to the university was to study and further one's education, the students needed to get involved in other activities that complemented their educational pursuits.

Makerere students would often take the city bus to go off campus. During those days, buses usually did not stop precisely at the designated bus stops. The riders often had to run a little distance away from the stop to board the bus. Kampala is built on seven hills, Makerere being one of them. Makerere students often walked down the hill to go home for the weekends and up the hill when returning to the campus.



*Amir and Arzina outside  
Africa Hall in 1972*





*Chemistry class in 1970*



*Arzina performing at Makerere variety program in 1970*

## POST - MAKERERE

**Amir:** After my academic pursuits at Makerere University, I taught for about a year at the Aga Khan High School, Kampala. Because I wanted to pursue a career in the field of accountancy and taxation, I later applied for, and got a job at Peat Marwick Mitchell & Company (KPMG) Chartered Accountants in Kampala in 1972. Hardly a few months had passed when, as a result of political events in Uganda, I had to leave the country although I was born there and was a citizen of. I arrived in Montreal, Canada in 1973. Because I was working for an international accounting firm that has offices in many countries, including Canada, I was fortunate to get a transfer to KPMG at their office in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario where I worked for some time. I later moved to Montreal because my academic credentials from Makerere, a foreign university, were accepted there for the purposes of pursuing professional accounting designation. Arzina was already in Montreal then pursuing a master's graduate degree program at McGill University. While working for the accounting firm in Montreal, I studied graduate level courses in accounting, auditing, finance, and taxation at McGill University in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. I completed this program in 1978 and obtained Graduate Diploma in Public Accounting (GDPA). Although my degree from Makerere University was accepted for the pre-requisite requirement purposes, I had to do a total of 14 graduate level courses for this program. I continued my academic pursuits by enrolling in professional accounting and tax courses and received Certified General Accountant (CGA) diploma in 1981. This accounting body is now called Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA).

**Arzina:** After completing my undergraduate degree in 1972, I applied at McGill University in Montreal to pursue graduate level studies in Chemistry. I was accepted at McGill. However, on further reflection, I decided to stay in Uganda and do my graduate studies at Makerere University under the supervision of Professor Dr Les Ebdon. I was hardly a few months into the program when things changed in the country. Non-citizens of Uganda and others were ordered by President Idi Amin to leave the country within 90 days. As I had to leave the country, I contacted McGill University again to see if it will accept me back for the graduate studies although I had declined their offer only a few months earlier. McGill University accepted my re-application and, in fact welcomed me. In September 1972, I came to Montreal and joined McGill University to pursue graduate studies in Analytical Chemistry under the supervision of Dr. Fresco. I completed this program in January 1975 and obtained my M.Sc. graduate degree. Unfortunately, jobs in this field were few and difficult to get at that time. As the saying goes "a dozen chemists for a dime". Also, I had lost interest in Chemistry and did not want to pursue this field anymore. However, I had learnt a lot from my undergraduate and graduate studies. As has been said, a degree always stays with you. The foundation and skills one acquires from such academic pursuits are invaluable in one's life. I had been in touch with my McGill University professor, Dr Fresco till recently but sadly he passed away in May 2021 at the age of 93 years. Although the initial days in Montreal were hard, I was surrounded by many friends, both on and off the campus, that made the transition easy. The families and friends were separated physically but they kept in touch via telephone, texting, and e-mail.



*Arzina and Amir wedding celebration in the basement of nun sisters in Montreal in 1973*

## MOVE TO EDMONTON, ALBERTA

We moved to Edmonton, Alberta in 1979 because of better and more stable job opportunities in the west.

**Amir:** I worked for a CA firm in Edmonton for 6 years. This job involved preparing financial statements and tax returns for the corporate clients, and personal income tax returns for individuals. My work assignments also involved corporate audits. In 1985, I joined Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Edmonton office where I worked for 28 years, first in the Corporate Income Tax Audit Division, then in Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SRED) section, Appeals Division, and finally in the Technical Advisor Team. As an Appeals Officer, I reviewed and addressed the Notices of Objection filed by the taxpayers with respect to their income tax (re)assessments. As a Technical Advisor, I assisted CRA auditors on complex tax issues, taught tax and auditing courses at CRA, and did outreach presentations to the general public on common income tax topics, such as eligible expenses, tax credits, and taxable benefits.

**Arzina:** Soon after coming to Edmonton, I enrolled at the University of Alberta Extension to pursue a certificate program in Computers and Data Processing. I completed this program and have really benefited from it. I am very passionate about various disciplines in the computer systems and evolving technologies. I was employed by the Government of Alberta for 25 years, first in data processing field, and then as a Systems Analyst. I continued enhancing my knowledge and skills in related fields by doing courses in multi-media at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) where I obtained a diploma-certificate. After my employment at the Government of Alberta, I decided to move to the private sector when an opportunity arose. I joined Accurate Data Services Inc. as a General Manager of the company. As the name indicates, this company provides computer related services, such as data processing and analysis, to its customers. I worked for this company for 10 years.

## FAMILY AND FRIENDS

**Amir:** My parents never went to school in India where they were born because there were no schools where they lived at the time. However, when they immigrated to Uganda in 1939, and raised a large family, they devoted a lot of time and effort in bringing us up, despite their limited financial resources.

**Arzina:** My father was born in India and graduated from there. He fought in the World War II as a British Subject. My mother was born in Uganda and had very little schooling.

We have a son, Alim who works and lives in Geneva, Switzerland. He has a B.A. (Hons) degree with distinction in Business Administration from the University of Western Ontario, and an MBA graduate degree from Harvard University in Boston USA. While schooling, he picked up an interest in sports activities, namely down-hill skiing, skating and swimming, and in playing piano and board games like chess. He is the author of the book "Talk the Talk – Speech and Debate Made Easy" of which 3,000 copies have been sold. Alim was selected as one of the award winners of "Magna International's 2004 As Prime Minister Awards" program where participants had to write an essay on what they would do if they were the Prime Minister of Canada. Alim worked at Accenture and Boston Consulting Group BCG before joining Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) in Geneva, Switzerland in 2011 where he currently works. Alim is married to Laylo, who is originally from Tajikistan. They have a daughter named Parisa.

Laylo has worked in Tajikistan with Focus Humanitarian Assistance and has a lot of experience with the remote mountainous areas in the Pamirs. She is well travelled and has adapted to life in Geneva very well. She continued her education at the University of Geneva and earned a master's degree in International Policy and Security through a program that partnered with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP). Currently, she is studying International Law at the Graduate Institute in Geneva.



We have many friends from Makerere University, but they are all spread out. Thinking of them often takes our memories back to Nabusankye, Kampala and Montreal. We occasionally meet but because of distances between cities and countries, such meetings are rare. Nevertheless, we correspond with some of them electronically. The age of the e-mail, texting, telephone and internet has really facilitated this connection. More recently, we participated in the Makerere University chat group via WhatsApp. Social Media has been a great help in reaching out to family and friends.



*Family picture in 1997*  
*Front Row: Sherbanu and Shivji Merali*  
*Back Row: Alim, Arzina and Amir*



*Alim, Amir, Arzina, and Laylo in Geneva 2014*



*Parisa and Anahita at Disneyland in Paris 2018*

## TRAVEL

We have travelled a lot within Canada that included a long return trip by car from Montreal in the east to Edmonton in the west. Our international travel included East Africa, Belgium, England, Italy, Greece, UAE, Portugal, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, France, Turkey, USA, Mexico, South Korea, Panmunjom DMZ in North Korea, Tajikistan and 4 trips to India where Arzina's dad and Amir's parents were born and to Uganda where Arzina, her mother and Amir were born had a special meaning for us. It brought back fond memories of our past. While in East Africa in 2008, we went on a tour of Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Crater, and Lake Manyara. We really appreciated the beauty of nature where wildlife, such as lions, zebras, and giraffes, roam freely and plant life is varied and vast. We also travelled to Dar-es-Salaam, Zanzibar, Kampala, Jinja, and Nabusankwe with a stop at the equator. We visited the Aga Khan Schools and Makerere University where we did our schooling.



*Arzina and Amir at the Equator in 2008*



*Arzina and Amir at Vatican City in 2016*



*Arzina and Amir at the Taj Mahal, India in 2003*



*Arzina and Amir at Udaipur, India in 2003*

## GIVING BACK – A HELPING HAND

Aga Khan Schools, Makerere, McGill, and University of Alberta gave us a solid foundation that contributed significantly towards us getting good professional jobs and enjoying a good standard of living over the years. These attributes have brought immense humility in us, and as a result we have felt fortunate to have helped others in whatever ways possible. We continue to do so. Examples of this help follow.

While on our trips to India, we felt very connected to Nagalpur and Sinugra where our parents were born. These villages are only 2 miles apart. The nearest urban city of Bhuj in Gujarat State is only a few miles away from these villages. We saw a lot of poverty in India but humility in residents there really impressed us. These residents were thankful and appreciative of the assistance we have been providing to them over the years. With additional support from a friend in Edmonton AB, we have provided financial help to individuals and families in India. For example, we supported a student there by paying all her fees for the university where she was pursuing a degree in dentistry. She has now graduated and is practicing in this field. Another case is one where we have been supporting a son of a not-well-to-do family by paying all his school fees and other expenses since Grade 1, to enable him to go to a reputable school that provides instructions in English language. He is now in Grade 9. We have also provided funds for community computer classes in the State of Gujarat. Furthermore, we have designated a contact person in India to manage other funds we send there from time to time to distribute to needy people in neighboring villages. Participating in the annual World Partnership Walk is another activity that we have keen interest in. We have participated in this walk every year either as a walker, helper or team-leader and raised funds for its causes.

**Arzina:** I have also has also been volunteering time, knowledge, and expertise since 1979 in many different areas. For example, I managed a computer resource center for 3 years and organized summer camps for young children. I also taught religious education classes for many years and tutored some children in Math and English for a year. Since 1997, I have been involved in the production of over 200 albums of Ginans and Qasidas, devotional material of the Ismaili Muslims. I also provide voluntary service remotely in this field to the University of Saskatchewan's Ginan Central Portal and to JollyGul.com.

## RETIREMENT

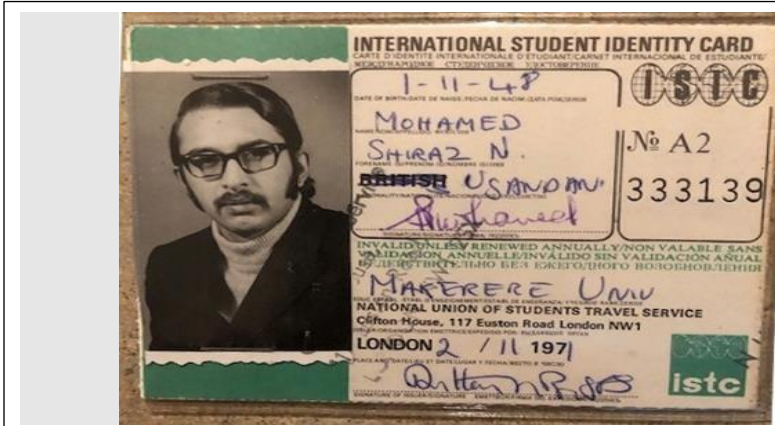
We both retired in 2014 and live in Edmonton AB. Retirement provides us more time on our activities and interests that have evolved over the years. We also enjoy biking, lawn maintenance and gardening that keep us active. We often go on long walks in the parks - weather permitting - or in the malls when it is cold outside.

**Amir:** Occasionally, I go downhill skiing, a sport I picked up when our son was learning to ski during his elementary school years. I also read newspapers on the internet, including the ones from Uganda.

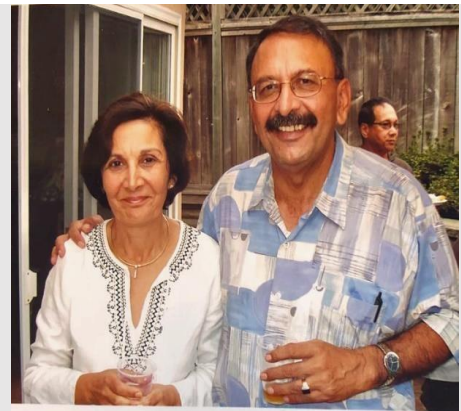
**Arzina:** I keep busy working on devotional material. I have also created family genealogy trees and photo albums.



**MOHAMED SHIRAZ (1968-73 MEDICINE)**  
**MOHAMED NASIM NEE BANDALI (1970-72 BUSINESS: COMMERCE)**



1971 International Student ID Card



2019 Canada-Vancouver

**SHIRAZ MOHAMED - MY ABRIDGED STORY**

*The following quotes reflect my story*

**Mark Twain:** *I have never let my schooling affect my education.*

**Doug Larson:** *Establishing goals is all right if you don't let them deprive you of interesting detours.*



**PRE MU CHAPTER**

I was born in Kampala, Uganda. My mother was born in Masaka, Uganda. Her father Mr. Mulji was a pioneer of Masaka and helped settling a lot of Asians in Masaka. My father was born in Kutch, India and came to Uganda as a teenager. He and his brothers overtime became sawmillers and had several sawmills all across the country. My mother was the matriarch and the pillar of our family.

I grew up in the area called old Kampala. This was a popular area for Asians to live in due to natural support systems, proximity to prayer places, schools, shopping and recreational facilities. This was a lovely neighbourhood to grow up in. We are out playing and galavanting from dawn to dusk. The word boredom did not exist. The neighbourhoods were very safe, and we had the famous Museum where we could go for all kinds of recreational activities.

I went to Aga Khan Primary school up to Grade 8. I started my secondary school at old Kampala school, but my social and recreational interests were trumping over my academic pursuits. We decided that as I needed more structure and external controls to achieve to my potential that we should consider a boarding school. As the saying goes luck is a matter of preparation meeting opportunity, I was able to secure a conditional acceptance at St Mary's College, Kisubi. This was one of the top high schools in the country. I was the first non-Catholic Asian student at this high school. To everybody's surprise and delight I fulfilled the conditions and became a full-time student from grade 10 onwards. Kisubi was run by Jesuits. For me and most of the students the school was a transformational experience. It promoted and enhanced the development of the four core components of your personality. They were intellectual, social cultural, physical recreational and spiritual. There was time and place for everything and everything in its place.

The quality of education and the standards for achievement were quite high and therefore we all did very well. Also living with each other in close proximity we developed lifelong friendships and associations. Passed the "O" level exams with flying colors. Applied and was successful in receiving one of the five scholarships that the US government offered to Ugandan students. I had acceptance from UCLA in the department of pharmaceutical sciences. My parents were concerned that I was too young to go away so far away. Therefore, I declined the offer and planned to do "A" level at Kisubi with expectation of getting into medicine at MU. Did very well with the exams and eight of us from Kisubi were successful in gaining admission to the medical school at MU.

#### PRE MU PHOTOGRAPHS



*St. Mary's College Kisubi.*



*Grade 12 Class.*



*With Clarence and Michael.*



*A Levels Biology Class.*



## MU CHAPTER

MU was a journey of self-discovery. The only way of discovering the limits of the possible was to venture a little way past them into the impossible. The first part of our time was spent mostly celebrating our admissions and accomplishments. With having a car on campus partying and socializing became the primary activity on campus and outside campus. With being from Kampala I was already familiar with famous hotels nightclub theatres and so forth. I was able to get my friends from out of town to get to know them and had wonderful times.

I had many friends both on campus and outside campus from all ethnic groups including many African friends. I got very well-connected with my friends and their families some of whom were politicians, diplomats, MU leaders and others. Able to attend a number of private and public functions. I was also involved in student politics and served with the Livingstone Hall Executive and represented them at the MU student union.

Medical school was a tough grind specially the first two years. This was a period where you are given a basic grounding in medical sciences and did not have any direct patient contact. I found subjects like anatomy and biochemistry unpalatable in more ways than one. It was all about cramming and regurgitation. We were told in order to become real doctors you had to put up with a lot of what you don't like. It was a test of endurance patience and tolerance. At the end of two years, we had the first MBCHB exams. 10% of the students in our class failed and had to discontinue. One of them was my best friend. It was a sad time for us to see some of our colleagues leave. From the third year on words, we did clinical clerkships and enjoyed our training and experience. This fulfilled our expectations of medicine. While the teaching and experience was exemplary some of the teaching methods were punitive, dogmatic and autocratic.

In the fall of 1971, we had six weeks off. I decided to travel to Europe and spent time backpacking to parts of Europe. Stayed mostly at student hostels met students from other countries and travelled with them. So many experiences, it was a trip of a lifetime. The most fascinating country I visited at that time was Yugoslavia. On returning home within a short period of time Idi Amin's ultimatum for Asians to leave Uganda in three months came to bear. To say the least that was pandemonium as people struggled to dispose of their possessions and find ways of leaving the country. This was a very tumultuous time of our lives. I had to assist a lot of my relatives and families to leave the country.

Seven of us in our class decided to stay and complete our degrees at MU. My parents and my uncle could not leave as the President wanted them to continue operating their Sawmills. With the assistance of my friends and a foreign embassy they were able to leave the country through the diplomatic channels. At MU times were unpredictable, chaotic and unsafe. At times we were uncertain as to whether we would get our degrees. The campus was becoming unsafe as the army would make frequent raids and round up alleged dissidents and intellectuals. Through all this turmoil we we're finally able to graduate get our Degrees and leave the country safely in April 1973. Many experiences love to share in the future.

## MU PHOTOGRAPHS



Livingstone Hall and Residents.



Livingstone Hall Students Executive.



1973 Graduating Class.





*1971 Field trip to Mt Elgon.*



*1973 Makerere University Graduation .*



## **POST MU CHAPTER**

Moved to Ontario, Canada April 15, 1973. Fortunately, able to get a rotating internship at Dalhousie medical school starting in July. Experienced real Canadian winters. Enjoyed seeing all the Maritime provinces and the internship was very valuable Canadian medical experience. As family was in Ontario applied for and was successful in getting a Residency in Internal medicine. Switched to Psychiatry after receiving a Scholarship as a Prize for being a top Intern in Psychiatry.

Completed Psychiatric Residency at Western University in London Ontario. Served as a Chief Resident and sub specialized in consultation - Liason Psychiatry. After fellowship joined the Faculty Department of Psychiatry. Was unhappy with the hierarchical system and that your remuneration was dependent on rank rather than volume of services. Had visited British Columbia and fell in love with the Okanogan Valley.

Moved to Kamloops British Columbia in the fall of 1979. Held the Position of Head Department of Psychiatry and Regional Clinical Director of Mental Health and Substance Use Services. This area due to its lifestyle was very desirable community to live and raise a family. The medical and allied health professional community was very well resourced.

Our major initiatives and Projects successfully completed were. Redesign and Program Development of the Regional Psychiatry Unit to Best Practices Standard. Develop and Program Outpatient and Day Program Services for the Seriously Mentally ill Patients. Plan and Facilitate the Development of Tertiary Psychiatric Services for the Interior Health Authority. These services included Geriatric Psychiatry, Neuropsychiatry, Intensive Care Unit, Refractory Psychosis and Psychosocial Rehabilitation. The Administrative and Clinical Responsibilities were onerous but very worthwhile and rewarding.

Served in many Regional and Provincial Committees related to Strategic Planning, Program Planning and Future directions for Mental Health and Substance Use Services. The highlight was participation in The Royal Commission on Mental Health titled Closer to Home. This led to the Decentralization of Tertiary Services across the Province. In 2008 received Recognition and Service Award by the Community and Interior health.

Moved to the South Surrey White Rock area in the fall of 2008. Did clinical practice and consultations regarding program planning program development. Two initiatives I was actively involved with were development of Shared Care Model to assist GPs in improving their skills and managing patients with Mood and Anxiety disorders. I had numerous workshops with GPs through the Fraser Health Authority and provided Psychiatry Services to GP group practices. The second initiative was developing of Suicide Assessment Tool to Quantify risk and provide appropriate Interventions.

In January 2018 I retired from active practice. I have been providing assistance to different groups or organizations regarding mental health in a broader context and navigating at times a cumbersome and convoluted system.

## **FAMILY LIFE, INTERESTS AND FUTURE PLANS**

Nasim and I met at MU. She was at MU from 1970-72 in the B.com stream. We got married in June 1974, spent five years in London Ontario and over 25 years in Kamloops BC. In addition to taking care of family affairs, Nasim also was the business manager for my professional medical corporation.

Nasim moved to Canada in fall of 1972. Stayed with her sister Yasmin in Ottawa and worked in Accounting. After assisting her parents to move to Canada she lived with them in Kitchner before we got married.

Nasim's Professional activities include Business Management, Finance and Equity Markets.

Socially Nasim has multitude of interests that include Voluntary work with Jamati Seniors Committee, Membership in several Book Clubs, Health and Fitness, Travel and Golf.

Nasim has strong family values and is the glue that ensures that our primary and extended families are close and supportive

Kamloops was a very desirable place to live and raise a family. It was designated as tournament capital of Canada and as such had a lot of amenities, recreational facilities, ski resort and cottage country (Shuswap Lake). The children were involved in all kinds of sports and activities become quite proficient in competitive swimming, skiing, and golfing. It takes a community to raise a family and Kamloops served that role. We were in what's commonly called the Okanogan bubble. The community was very close knit and felt like a large extended family.

We had three boys Aneez, Riaz and Rahim. Tragically we lost Aneez in February 2009 from MVA caused by an impaired underaged driver. Aneez was in his Final year Fellowship in Cardiology at UBC. He was expected to join the Department after completion of his Fellowship. Riaz is a CA, is a senior partner with the accounting firm MNP and lives in Calgary. Rahim has a PhD in Political Science and is on Faculty at Centre College in Danville Kentucky.

Nasim and I stay active. We enjoy traveling, hiking, walking, playing golf, skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. Recently we've been spending more time in the winters in Mexico loving it. Since moving to the lower mainland we are reconnecting with our friends, family, our faith and working on completing our tasks on our bucket list.

We support a number of Charities, Foundations and Organizations. Two of them include a Memorial Fund on behalf of our son with UBC Foundation that provides two Scholarships to Cardiology Residents and Memorial Lecture on an annual basis organized by the Department of Cardiology and Visram Foundation set up by my Cousins to Fund and support the Girls School in Pune, India.

Our philosophy of charitable gifting is to support local community-based organizations. It's giving back for providing and supporting us in achieving our life goals, liberty to make choices and fulfilment of our dreams and aspirations. We are in the process of setting up a legacy of gift giving to our chosen charities on a perpetual basis.

I have been as well assisting my colleagues to navigate the transitional stage to retirement and designing meaningful future in retirement stage.

***This is our story.***

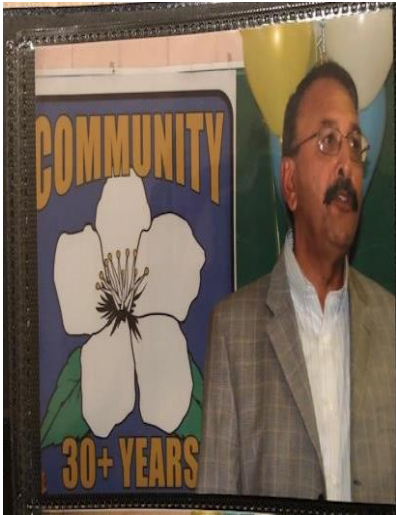
## FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS



Snowshoeing at Sunpeak's.



Golfing at Rivershore in Kamloops.



Community Award Ceremony.



Family: Rahim, Shiraz, Nasim, Reina and Riaz.



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Date: April 21, 2022**

**For immediate release**

**A Physician's Everlasting Legacy Supporting his Passion in Mental Health and Substance Use**

Dr. Shiraz Mohamed, retired psychiatrist at Royal Inland Hospital is making a thoughtful gift of \$200,000 to the RIH Foundation, to be used in the new Phil and Jennie Gagliardi Tower. This generous contribution will directly benefit the new Mental Health and Substance Use Department in the tower.

Mental health and substance use is the most common reason for inpatient visits to RIH; responsible for the highest number of inpatient days. The current unit in the Alumnae Tower was built in 1962. The rooms are small, dark, uninviting and physically disconnected from the rest of the hospital. Since the majority of patients are admitted through the Emergency Department, patient transportation from Emergency to their building is a challenge.

The new department includes inpatient spaces that will be transformed into warm, calming environments. Places where patients are cared for in the modern spaces they deserve: With 30 private light-filled rooms; seclusion, assessment and activity rooms; lounges, external courtyards and living spaces – all conducive to healing and recovery.

After moving to Canada from East Africa in 1973, Dr. Mohamed came to British Columbia from Ontario in 1979 in pursuit of a milder climate and the west coast lifestyle. On his way to Vancouver he submitted a proposal that would see substantial changes to the mental health program in Kamloops, which at that time was almost non-existent, with just five staff. The proposal was ambitious and he did not expect it to be accepted, but it turned out that ambitious changes were just what the doctor ordered.



Administrators leapt at the opportunity to bring him to Kamloops. He came with a vision on how to improve access to services. His work in Kamloops was a great passion in his life. He practiced at the hospital (1 South) and in the community. He was involved with projects associated with Thompson Rivers University and Canadian Mental Health in Kamloops. A highlight of his career in Kamloops was helping to bring two tertiary mental health centres to the city; Hillside Centre for acute patients and

South Hills Rehabilitation Centre. This helped attract more psychiatrists and other mental health specialists to Kamloops.

“Giving back is important to me and my family. It takes a community to raise a family. Kamloops gave us that unconditionally, now it is our turn to give back”, said Dr. Shiraz Mohamed. “With these improved services available in Kamloops and the surrounding areas, RIH can offer the support required to achieve the high level of care needed for those challenged with mental health and substance use. We look forward to a future where the new Mental Health and Substance Use Unit will be the center of excellence for our region”, he finished.

During his 30 years at RIH, Dr. Mohamed was passionate about the evolution of psychiatric services in Kamloops. He served as the Head of the Department of Psychiatry at Royal Inland Hospital and Regional Clinical Director of Mental Health and Substance Use Services.

Dr. Shiraz Mohamed and his wife Nasim raised three boys in Kamloops, now reside near the coast and currently have a home in Sun Peaks, BC.

“Dr. Mohamed was a leader in the Department of Psychiatry during his 30 years in Kamloops. He was instrumental in developing programs for inpatient psychiatric treatment and played an integral role in bringing Hillside and South Hills Tertiary Care programs to Kamloops. His generous donation emphasizes his enduring commitment to the promotion of mental health treatment.” Dr. R. A. Chale, Psychiatrist and RIH Foundation Board Member

Heidi Coleman, CEO-RIH Foundation, commented on the donation, “The journey through mental health and addiction issues is hard enough without the stigma that it carries. There is no health without mental health. We are grateful to Dr. Mohamed for his years of expertise in this field and for this very generous gift to our community. With this gift, his legacy lives on.”

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### **About RIH Foundation**

Royal Inland Hospital (RIH) Foundation was incorporated in 1983. Its mission is to inspire donors to give, and to build meaningful relationship to support the hospital and the community’s health care needs. The Foundation supports this mission through a variety of community fundraising activities including special events, legacy giving and charitable gifts from individuals, corporations and other charitable funding partners. Located in Kamloops, RIH is the only tertiary acute care hospital in the Thompson Cariboo Shuswap area, providing high-level, specialty medical care. It serves a catchment area of over 225,000 British Columbians. RIH is also an important training centre, including nursing students from Thompson Rivers University, pharmacy residents, and medical students from the University of British Columbia.

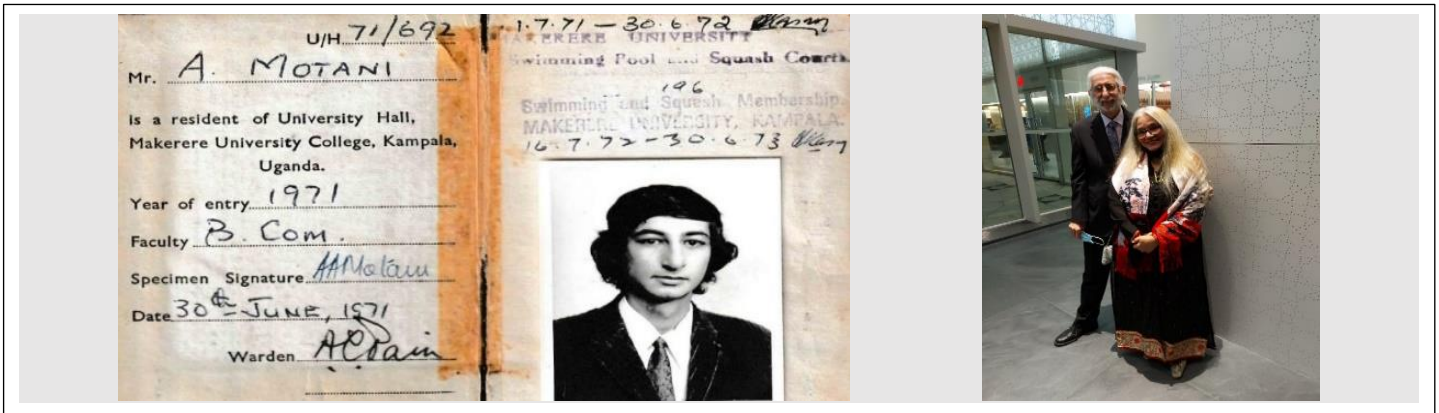
Media Contact:

Jenna Vanderburgh – Director, Annual Giving

[jenna.vanderburgh@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:jenna.vanderburgh@interiorhealth.ca)

250-852-0646

## MOTANI AZEEM (1971-72 BUSINESS: COMMERCE)



1971 MU ID Card (Pass) Swimming Pool

2021 Toronto Aga Khan Museum Azeem and Rose

### AZEEM ABDULALLI PIRBHAI LALJI MOTANI (CGA, CPA, CRMA)

On being accepted to study Law at King's College (University of London), I was quite excited about going to the UK. However, after having thrown a farewell party for myself, I changed my mind and opted to pursue a B. Com. at Makerere so that I could be with my parents as both my older brothers (Nizar and Iqbal) were outside Uganda. Nizar was teaching History at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine (USA) after getting his PhD from University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). Iqbal, having completed his B.A. (Hons.) in History and Political Science at Makerere in 1970, was studying Chartered Accountancy in London (UK).

My roommate in University Hall was Shiraz Lalani, whose brother Zane has done a great service to posterity with his 1997 book on the international press coverage of the Ugandan Asian Expulsion announced by Idi Amin Dada on 4 August 1972. The tragic events following the announcement made my family realize the gravity of the situation and led me to leave Makerere halfway through the three-year Program. Some of my best Makerere memories are of driving through the beautiful campus; hanging out at the swimming pool; watching medical students shaking hands with corpses in the morgue; picking up the irresistible meat dishes enroute to the vegetarian section at the back of the dining room; and Ali Mazrui's spellbinding oratory at the "standing room only" lectures. The most dreadful memory is of the initiation (hazing) ritual for Freshers. After stalking me for several days and nights, a few Asian students caught me one evening when I was alone and heading to my Baby Fiat car. I was told that the only way of avoiding the ritual of having a light bulb placed in the rear-end and having to recite "I am enlightened" before being thrown into the University swimming pool, was to agree to treat as many "initiators" as I could fit into the Fiat to unlimited alcoholic drinks at the posh and expensive Apollo Hotel (now Kampala Serena). I quickly agreed as it was a small price to pay for avoiding "enlightenment" and what would have been an utterly humiliating and terrorizing experience. I had inherited the Fiat from Nizar after he had finished travelling across Uganda to research the topic of "On His Majesty's Service in Uganda: The Origins of Uganda's African Civil Service (1912-1940)" for his PhD at SOAS. Based on his observations during this research, Nizar interestingly also wrote an article for 'African Affairs' in 1979 on "*Makerere College 1922 - 1940: A Study in Colonial Rule and Educational Retardation*").

### PRE-MAKERERE SCHOOLING

I was fortunate to get my foundational education at the excellent and highly reputed multi-racial and multi-denominational *Aga Khan Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools* which were just down the hill from Makerere. I am very thankful for the great teachers and the opportunity to interact with the many international students (mainly children of diplomats and professors at Makerere). While in Form III, I was chosen to go to the USA for one year under a US



government funded student program but turned down the opportunity as I was not adventurous enough at the time. (Two years earlier, my schoolmate and now Canadian Senator, Mobina Jaffer had participated in the same program). My selection had to have been on academic grounds as unlike some of my classmates such as Aziz Jetha, who was a star table tennis champ, I did not shine in the athletic department. This was amply demonstrated when I missed an empty net goal during a school football match between the 'Swift Arrows' and the 'Hotspurs'. My otherwise charitable teammates have not ceased to tease me about costing the 'Hotspurs' the game.



Most of my Aga Khan Secondary School (AKSS) classmates have had very successful careers in the West. Some have received recognition for exceptional voluntary service and contributions to their newly adopted countries such as the appointment of Salma Lakhani (Née Hasham) as the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Canada in 2020. Post expulsion, some computer literate classmates set up a chat group that continues to connect the globally dispersed group and has enabled us to have unforgettable fun-filled global reunions in Whistler, BC (1998) and Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario (2012). *Photo: 1968 Aga Khan Secondary School Kampala High Achievers.*

Some of my most poignant school memories include: Being on Uganda TV as a member of the School Quiz Team; being appointed a Prefect despite the dubious honor of being caned by the much feared principal Mr. McCourt for talking in the library; a very exciting school trip to the Western Region which included areas around the Ruwenzori mountains where we met pygmies; and joining a few classmates in starting a band 'The Binotoads' which was quickly disbanded once it was outclassed by the 'Outlaws', who in turn were eclipsed by 'The Flames' who lit up the charts with the song 'Hava Na Gila'. My after-school playmates when I was around the age of 12 included our Sudanese African *askari*'s (night watchman) two sons who were slightly younger than me. They would join me and my cousin to play with our dog, have toy car races, and go fishing to Kabaka Lake almost every Sunday. They did not speak much Swahili, so we learnt some Sudanese. As they lived in our domestic staff quarters, I would often join them when they were having an *Ugali* and *Nyama* dinner. They would come up to my house every night to watch TV where we would all be fixated on the "Red Indian" Screen Saver while eagerly waiting for the newly established black and white Uganda TV to start airing.

Also unforgettable are memories from my early teens (in an era when children actually wanted to hang around with parents) of how much I enjoyed dining almost every weekend with my parents at the finest hotels (including the Grand and Speke in Kampala and the Lake Victoria in Entebbe) when my father got together with the '*Chopat*' group that he had formed (having inherited my grandfather's great passion for this Indian Board game). Members of the group, who like my father were well-established community leaders included Pyarali Pirani, Kassamali Virani, Hassanali Lalji Mangalji, Abdulaziz Pirani, Badru Jivan Abji, Malik Kassim Lakha, Pyarali Bhimani, Badru Virani, Noordin Somji and Abdul Dossa. They worked hard and played hard. The accompanying spouses and children would closely observe the fun, intrigue and excitement of opposing teams playing this game of strategy with great competitive zeal. My father was considered to be the life of the party and renowned for his great sense of humor and wit. I am still in touch with some of the other kids and we recall with great joy the very enjoyable and enviable social life of our parents.

## FAMILY HISTORY IN UGANDA

A second-generation Ugandan, I was born in 1951 at the Asiatic Hospital in Kampala. My family story in Uganda began in 1913, a year before the start of WW1, when my paternal grandfather Pirbhai Lalji Motani (Pirbhai) left India at the age of 18 and arrived in Gulu (Northern Uganda) via Mombasa, Kisumu and Jinja. Over the years, Pirbhai worked hard to achieve his successes and ventured into several different businesses including textile and cotton ginneries in various towns in Northern Uganda such as Gulu, Lira, Kitgum, Paranga, Palissa, Piltock and Atura and finally a flour mill in Kampala. He also traded in Juba (Sudan). Pirbhai, who I addressed as *Dada Bapa*, was born in 1895 in the small town of *Vandaliya* in

*Kathiawar*, Gujarat (India). He was the youngest of three sons of Lalji, a businessman. In 1919, one year after WW1, Pirbhai went back to his ancestral home in India to get married to my grandmother (she was *Dadi Ma* to me, but most people called her *Doodhibai* because she was very fair skinned). After returning to Uganda with his wife, he sponsored his wife's five siblings, and one of his two brothers. He initially offered them employment in his businesses, then helped them financially to start their own shops and settle around Lira, Gulu and Kitgum. They all went on to become well established independent businessmen. Pirbhai built one of the best houses in Lira for family, was always immaculately dressed, highly respected and was referred to as Pirbhai "*Seth*". He was known as one of the most successful businessmen in the Northern Region and the Provincial Commissioner is said to have referred to him as "the biggest cotton middleman in Uganda". He was also written about in 1930s, by a visiting Indian Journalist, as being one of the Indian pioneers in North Uganda in a book titled "*11 Months in Africa*" that one of my uncles had read, but whose author's name he could not remember. We have not had any luck in finding this book on internet and other searches. In recognition of Pirbhai's pioneering role in the economic development of the greatly underdeveloped/underserved areas of Northern Uganda, his philanthropy and service to the colonial government, streets were named after him in Lira and Kitgum. He passed away of heart attack in 1957 at age of 62, shortly before the British Government could complete its process to honor him with MBE.



*Photo: 1965 Lira-Uganda My Father and Brother Nizar at Pirbhai Lalji Road.*

Pirbhai was an enlightened man who understood the value of education. He sent all his 4 children (my father and his 3 younger brothers) to the Aga Khan School in Mombasa (Kenya). The brothers stayed at Mohamed Premji's ("*Ada's*") highly reputed and very disciplined boarding house. My father was very bright and won several debating prizes. As his plans to study Law in the UK were thwarted by the start of World War II in 1939, he joined my grandfather's businesses. He worked hard and diligently and achieved great personal and business successes. Over the years, he managed the family's textile businesses, cotton ginneries, flour mill and finally a printing business (Salisbury Printing Works in Kampala).

My father married Fatema, daughter of Jaffer Allibhai Hasham Verjee (my great maternal grandfather Hasham Verjee was the brother of the much better known Suleman Verjee). My maternal grandfather Jaffer Allibhai, who I addressed as *Nana Bapa*, was a successful businessman. In 1963 he wrote a 100-page book in rhyming verses in high level Gujarati on the subject of wisdom titled "*Ghaikaal Ané Aaj Kaal*" meaning "Yesterday and These Days". To enable the younger generations in my family, who like me grew up only speaking but not reading or writing Gujarati, to benefit from *Nana Bapa's* perennial wisdom, I plan to get it translated into English with the help of older relatives who read Gujarati. Amongst my fondest memories of my maternal grandparents' family are of all my cousins gathering for Eid and other festive occasions and playing in the big garden of Jaffer *Nana Bapa's* villa. It was a huge multi-generational house in Kololo where my maternal grandparents, their children and grandchildren lived together. The beautiful dwelling later became the then Prime Minister Milton Obote's official residence. I too grew up in a multi-generational family home consisting of my paternal grandparents, my parents and my two older brothers, as well as the families of my three uncles. The house was custom built by my grandfather in the early 1950s on Namirembe Road (opposite the Lohana Club), up the hill from the main *Jamatkhana* (Ismaili Community Centre) in Kampala. Living with an extended family was a lot of fun for me as we had a constant stream of relatives coming for vacations, business and/or medical reasons. It was not unusual for them to come and go without notice or formality, and to stay for as long as they liked. My uncles' in laws visited from Kenya and Tanzania; my *Dadi Ma's* relatives from Congo and Mbale; and my *Dada Bapa's* relatives visited from Masaka, Gulu and Pakistan.



When I was in Uganda in 2003, the new owner, who bought our house for a song, had converted it into a hotel and was kind enough to let me pick some mangoes from the garden, which I savored fondly but with some sadness. The Club opposite our house had become a cinema house called Pride Theatre. *Photo: 1953 Kampala-Uganda Motani Multi-Generational House where I grew up.*

Feeding a constant stream of visitors was the norm in our house. William, our long-time house help and cook in Kampala was from Toro and was well known to my classmates who looked forward to coming over after school every time he made

his famous delicious fried cassava (*mohogo*) chips. Otherwise, we would pop into Dejay's restaurant for deep fried 'mohogo' with tamarind chutney (cholesterol was not in my vocabulary until moving to the West). Also included in our extended family was Nasara, a young African boy who my *Dada Bapa* had hired as the chief house help in Gulu around 1920, to look after my father and my 3 uncles when they were young.



He became a loyal and trusted member of the family, learnt to speak Gujarati, and moved with the family to Kampala in the 1940s. He converted to Shia Ismaili Islam, adopted the name Nizar, and had an audience with our spiritual leader, the Aga Khan in 1959. He was given his own room in our house and received a pension from our family after he retired. When he passed away of heart disease in Mengo Hospital at age 63 in 1966, my father closed his printing business for the afternoon in his honor. I have fond memories of Nasara/Nizar and clearly remember being very emotional at his funeral ceremony on the grounds of the *Jamatkhana*, following which, like my grandparents, he was buried in the Ismaili Section of

the Cemetery near Lugogo Stadium. *Photo: 1959 Kampala-Uganda: As Kamadia, my father (back to the camera, next to Mukhi Virani) introducing Nasara/Nizar to His Highness the Aga Khan after embracing Shia Ismaili Islam faith.*

In 1919, when *Dada Bapa* went back to his ancestral home Vandaliya in India to get married, he provided the funding to build a big two-storey house for his parents and made a major donation to *His Highness Prince Aga Khan Girls' Academy*



in Rajkot, India where the Boarding school for orphaned girls later established a "*Motani Hall*" displaying pictures of my grandparents and parents in recognition of their donations that our family continues till this day. My family's major charitable donations in Uganda included a *Jamatkhana* for the Ismaili Muslim Community in the town of Kaberamaido that was opened in 1949 by the Provincial Commissioner; and the Teachers' Quarters (for those teaching at the Aga Khan Nursery,

Primary and Secondary Schools in Kampala) that was opened in 1956 by Prince Aly Khan Aga Khan. For their philanthropy and service to the community, my grandfather and my father who had both served on the Aga Khan Provincial and Territorial Councils for Uganda, were conferred the honorific title of "*Vazir*" by His Highness Karim Aga Khan IV (Aga Khan).



*Photo: 1954 Kampala-Uganda: Age 3 at Foundation Stone Ceremony of Teachers Quarters donated by Motani Family.* My father, a prominent and highly respected member of the community, was Chairman of the Aga Khan Sports Club in Kampala (1946-1950); Member of the Aga Khan Provincial and Territorial Councils (1955-1966); *Kamadia* of *Darkhana Jamatkhana*, Kampala (1957-1962); and President of the Uganda Printers Association (1967-1972) until the time when he had to leave Uganda for Canada. As my father wrote and spoke excellent English and Gujarati and was a renowned public speaker, he was asked to translate the Aga Khan's English messages to the *jamat* (congregation) into Gujarati during the Aga Khan's October 1957 *Takht Nashini* (coronation) ceremony in Kampala. As *Kamadia* (community leader) and Member on the Aga Khan Council, he was also privileged to have been invited to attend the funeral of Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah Aga Khan III in Aswan, Egypt in 1959 as well as to the Conference of *jamati* leaders convened by the Aga Khan in Cannes (France) in 1961. *Photo: 1957 Kampala-Uganda: My father translating speech of HH the Aga Khan*

*into Gujarati. Google "Motani Collection" for a full collection of the historical photos.*



## THE EXPULSION

As my paternal and maternal grandparents and their families had worked very hard to establish themselves in Uganda and were well settled, there was a feeling of disbelief when Idi Amin made his declaration to expel the Asians from Uganda. The expulsion was particularly painful as our commitment to Uganda was unquestionable. Our family had been in Uganda for 60 years and once Uganda got its independence in October 1962, my parents pledged allegiance to the country of their birth by renouncing British Citizenship in 1963 and adopting Ugandan Citizenship. Thereby, our entire family was Ugandan at the time of the expulsion. Our printing business was flourishing and several hundred thousand shillings worth of fully paid for new machinery and paper products had just arrived. 22 years later when I was interviewed at the '*Journey into Hope Symposium*' in Ottawa (Canada) in 1994, I recounted that "Idi Amin's dream in which God told him to get rid of the Asians became our nightmare".

My decision to go to Makerere turned out to be a blessing as I was the only sibling at my parents' side during the tumultuous and scary 90-day period by which Idi Amin Dada wanted all Asians out of Uganda. I witnessed first-hand most of what happened during this very traumatic time. An uncle of mine and his nephew, according to eyewitnesses, were kidnapped at their gas station in Mengo, just outside Kampala, and thrown into the trunk of a car. After a frantic search at every police station and hospital, three agonizing days later their bullet ridden bodies were found in a ditch on the side of the Kampala–Entebbe Road. A few days later, my father was arrested in our home by two plainclothes policemen on false charges of possessing Kenyan currency. Despite not finding any evidence after an extensive search, he was taken to the Old Kampala Police Station. As my terrified mother and I watched him being taken away, we feared that he would meet with the same fate as my uncle and his nephew. Fortunately, he was released after a few very anxious hours, thanks to an aunt who had a friend with connections to the police. After announcing the expulsion, Idi Amin had asked all Asians to come out and march in Kololo on a specific day. At the end of the march, he came over to speak to a group of Asians (including myself) and gave us a performance appraisal telling us to come back the next day as our marching needed improvement. I wonder what his reaction would have been had I told him what I have outlined above because contrary to Idi Amin's sweeping accusations about Asians, our family like many others, was loyal to Uganda, integrated with and treated the Africans with great respect. As William, our cook, had gone to Toro for vacation and was not in Kampala when we left Uganda, there was no way of contacting him and I had often wondered what had happened to him over the years.



I cannot adequately describe how surprised and elated I was to once again see William alive and well 22 years later when I went back to Uganda for the first time in 1994, for a holiday with my late wife Noorjehan Jahani (Noorie). I found out that he had over the years safeguarded a photo of our family and by showing it to newly returned Asians, searched out one of my relatives who then employed him as a cook. We recounted what had happened to each of us over the many years since we last parted.

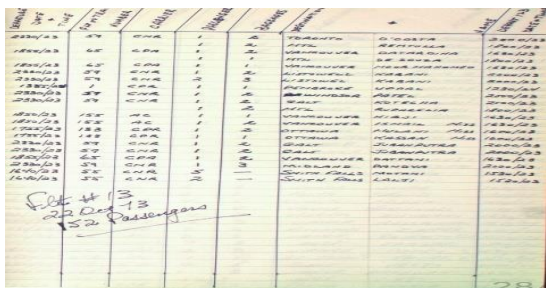
*Photo: 1994 Kampala-Uganda Reuniting with William.*

## FROM UGANDA TO UK TO CANADA

Not knowing enough about the Canadian educational system, my parents and I decided that I should take up a Chartered Accountancy (CA) Articleship that my brother Iqbal had lined up for me in London (UK). I left Uganda on 19 Oct 1972, three days before the departure of the expatriation flight to Canada assigned to my parents and his youngest brother's family. I had visited London at the end of my first year at Makerere University (in May 1972), when I had taken a European vacation. I had stayed with my uncle (a dentist) and his family and had familiarized myself with London, visiting all the obligatory tourist sites before going on one of those 16-day boot-camp style hectic "Best of Europe Bus Tours" humorously parodied in the movie "If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium".

This tour gave me a taste of the pre-Schengen chaos and complications: separate visas for each country; passport inspections at each border crossing; need to convert money and learn basic words such as *“hello, please, thank you and goodbye”* with an average 24-hour utility period. The whirlwind tour that swept us across Belgium, Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Gibraltar worked well for me as I was young, had limited time and wanted to get a quick stress-free flavor of Europe. When I arrived in London as a refugee, my uncle’s family once again warmly welcomed me. Having stayed with them just a few months earlier, my adjustment to life in London was relatively easy. Following the expulsion, my uncle became the central contact point for all dispersed extended family members enabling families to locate each other and reconnect. After a few weeks in London, as I had already been approved to go to Canada, I went to the Canadian High Commission where an official upon learning that my parents had flown directly to Canada from Uganda, convinced me that I would be better off being with them and studying accountancy in Canada; otherwise, I would have to rewrite several exams since UK qualifications were not automatically accepted by Canadian Accounting bodies. I took his advice and am eternally grateful to that wise official as this completely changed the trajectory of my career path. I therefore only articulated at the CA firm for two months and bid the UK farewell when I boarded a SABENA flight to Montreal on 23 December 1972.

## FAMILY HISTORY IN CANADA



I arrived in Smiths Falls, Ontario, by bus from Montreal via Ottawa. Smiths Falls was my first stop in Canada not because the Hershey’s chocolate factory was having a sale on leftover Halloween and Christmas candies. It was because upon arrival in Montreal on a Canadian Govt. expatriation flight, the immigration team processing Ugandan refugees sent my parents and my uncle’s family to Smiths Falls as the local Rotary Club had expressed an interest in welcoming a refugee family. I was fascinated by and thoroughly enjoyed my first white Christmas in Smiths Falls.

However, the novelty quickly wore off once I had to shovel the snow, avoid falling and risk losing my ears to frost bite. Arriving in Canada at the start of one of the harshest winters was *“baptism by ice”*, not fire. After the Christmas holidays, I decided to settle in Ottawa where my parents joined me a few months later. *Photo: 1972 Montreal-Canada Longue-Pointe Log: Parents and Uncle’s family being sent to Smiths Falls upon arrival in Canada on 22 October 1972.*

Although dispossessed (having lost his house, business, cars, money, and all other possessions), arriving in Canada at age 52 on 22 Oct 1972, with his entire life’s possessions in one suitcase, my father remained a determined man. After a brief stint at the Hershey’s chocolate factory in Smiths Falls (now HQ of Canopy Growth, whereby ‘sugar high’ has been replaced by ‘cannabis high’) and as Assistant to the V.P. at a printing company in Ottawa, he changed careers so as to be his own boss. With his very positive attitude, he convinced the Ottawa Branch Manager of the National Life Insurance Company of Canada to hire him as an Agent in November 1974. The good reputation he had built in Uganda for his honesty, compassion, trustworthiness, and service to the community served him well in Canada. I still remember the very enjoyable long journey when Iqbal and I joined my parents as they drove more than halfway across beautiful Canada (from Ottawa to Vancouver) in June 1975 at the request of fellow refugees scattered across the country to service their insurance needs.

My father was remarkably successful as an Insurance Agent, consistently excelling, whereby within one year he was the corner stone of the Branch and won every performance award that his company and the insurance industry gave out (such as the President’s Club and Million Dollar Round Table) and was among his company’s top Agents in Canada. In 1980, his company chose him to be the first Agent to participate in an experimental program in which as a top Agent he was invited to pass on his experience and techniques through inspiring speeches to fellow Agents in Branches in Montreal and Toronto in which he explained how he drew inspiration from Aga Khan III’s words that *“life is a struggle and struggle is the meaning of life”*. Sadly, he passed away suddenly at the age of 61 on 28th February 1982 (couple of hours after arriving in Montreal from UK having attended the funeral of his younger brother who had passed away in London just two weeks earlier). At the time of his sudden death from cardiac arrest, although my father had been with National Life for only 7 years, he had

almost 1,000 clients across Canada, UK, and USA. With Allah's grace, my father accomplished a lot in his lifetime. My very supportive and loving mother Fatema passed away 15 years later, on 12 February 1997 at the age of 76.

## PERSONAL HISTORY IN CANADA

I have been fortunate and privileged to have won many symbolic “lotteries” along my life journey: I was born in a loving, educated and hard-working family that was firmly grounded in the strong ethics of the Ismaili Muslim faith and more than catered to my needs in Uganda. After the expulsion I crossed paths with the right people at the right time, who during my early years in Canada saw my potential, mentored me, guided me, and gave me the opportunities that paved the way for what has been a fulfilling career wherein I was able to blend my auditing type work with my passion for travel. Within two weeks of arriving in Canada, I was quickly integrating into Canadian society and on track to getting my Canadian Citizenship. I already met the basic Canadian bilingualism requirements as I also spoke some French (thanks to Miss Moore at the AKSS in Kampala). I had moved to Ottawa from Smiths Falls and the Canada Manpower Office had found me a job as a Budget Clerk at the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, as well as accommodation at a rooming house in Sandy Hill. I was living under the same roof as an Eskimo (whose last name was Killabuck), albeit not in an “igloo” as our southern neighbors who come up with skis in July might think. ('Eskimo' was the term used at the time but subsequently deemed politically incorrect and officially changed to 'Inuit' in 1977).

During the course of my stay at the rooming house, I developed what was to be a lifelong friendship with Nev Garrity, a Montrealer who had come to Ottawa for a winter project with the Museum of Natural Sciences following which he returned to Fredericton (New Brunswick) where he worked for Canadian Wildlife Services. Nev was from an “old stock” (to use ex-Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s lingo) Anglo-Saxon family. I often think back and wonder what it was that cemented our friendship forty-nine years ago considering that we did not have much in common other than we were both tall, skinny and had long curly hair. I was a whiter shade of brown, he was a darker shade of white; I worked indoors, he worked outdoors. He could ski, skate and play ice hockey while I could barely walk on the ice and snow. Nev recently reminded me that it was my “corny and punny” sense of humor that he witnessed firsthand when I told our ‘Inuit’ roommate, who was always living way beyond his means, to change his last name from 'Killabuck' to 'Saveabuck'. As the saying goes: “the shortest distance between two people is laughter”.



As soon as we bought our first house, Nev emphasized the need for us to be well prepared for the upcoming winter. He advised me to rush to “Canadian Tire” and get a right-handed shovel and an adapter to convert the lawn mower into a snowblower before they were sold out. The salesman's laughter could be heard a mile away. Nev, his family and friends fast tracked my integration into the Canadian way of life and traditions. I spent almost every Christmas, Easter, and summer long weekend from 1974 to 1980 in Montreal with Nev’s most hospitable, fun-loving, and interesting family. Both of his parents were good artists. His father, Richard C. B. Garrity was a

school principal and a war hero who in his book “In Their Midst” documented his escape after his plane was shot down over Holland during WWII. Nev’s brother, Stephen H. Garrity has since become a published science fiction writer and authored several books including a four-volume set of Time Travel stories in the “Grandfather Paradox” series. The Garritys introduced me to Canadian traditions, turkey dinners, hockey (including a live Montreal Canadians game), ice skating, skiing, and tobogganing, as well as boating, fishing, and water skiing at the Garrity’s cottage. I introduced them to spicy food and taught them some key Gujarati words that Stephen found very useful as a code language when it came to discussing ladies with his friends. *Photo: 1974 Pike River Quebec Water Skiing with Nev at Garrity Family Cottage.* The compassion and hospitality of the Garrity family was amply demonstrated when Nev took my friend Kamru Sunderji (fellow Makerere refugee from Uganda) to Montreal airport to pick up his parents and two brothers who were arriving on an evening flight from India on a freezing day in March 1974. Nev then took all five of them for dinner to the Garrity family home in Montreal, put them up for that night and dropped them at the station the next morning to board a bus for Ottawa.



## EDUCATION IN OTTAWA, CANADA, 1973-1978

After briefly considering whether to continue my B.Com. at Carleton University or to pursue Chartered Accountancy, I decided to enroll in the 5-year part-time Certified General Accountants (CGA) Study Program. As I already had a job, I decided to continue working full-time and study part-time, thereby getting the coveted "Canadian Experience" and supplementing the family income. Working and studying at the same time was a challenge, but the very demanding CGA program was made much more enjoyable and less arduous by being part of a study group that included immigrants from Uganda, UK, Sri Lanka, Guyana, and the Caribbean who enriched my cultural and culinary experiences and went on to become close friends.

## AWARDS/RECOGNITION - OCTOBER 1978

I received the T.H. Frankling Gold Medal for attaining the highest average marks in Ontario in the final year National CGA exams, was chosen Class Valedictorian and made the Valedictory address in which, on a lighter note, I expressed thanks to Idi Amin for giving me my biggest push. *"If it was not for his very physically moving expulsion order, it is highly unlikely that I would have been masochistic enough to trade the warm and pleasant temperatures of Uganda for the long and cold winters of Canada"*. This highly significant event in the life of a new refugee was a source of great pride to my parents, friends, neighbors, work colleagues, and the Ismaili Community.

**My joy was further enhanced when I received a message of congratulations from the Aga Khan describing my achievement as being *"a magnificent example worthy of the greatest admiration and emulation"*.**



1978 Toronto-Canada CGA Graduation: T.H. Frankling Gold Medal, Delivering Valedictory Speech, With Parents after Graduation

I was married to Noorie for 18 years (1981 to 1999). She was born in Malera (Uganda) and her family later moved to Mbale to enable the children to have access to better education. Noorie was studying Montessori in the UK at the time of the expulsion and immigrated to Canada in 1976. Being a nature lover, Noorie picked a large pie shaped lot backing onto a wooded Greenbelt area and the Ottawa River for our first home so that we could hike, bike, birdwatch, ski, fish, and canoe literally in our backyard. Based on our mutual interest in gardening, we also designed and successfully completed a 120 feet wide border of flowering perennials which received many compliments - its planning, execution and maintenance gave me more than enough material for a hilarious speech to my Toastmaster's Club titled "Blood, Sweat and Tears".

After initially working as a Buyer in the Ottawa Head Office of a clothing chain, after marriage Noorie worked as a Travel Agent because we both loved travelling. Of our many travels together, the most memorable are Trinidad and Tobago (honeymoon), a trip back to our hometowns in Uganda and a Nile cruise from Cairo to Aswan. Noorie passed away suddenly in 1999 from a congenital brain aneurism in Ankara while we were on vacation in Turkey. When I was told that Noorie would need brain surgery, I called a neurosurgeon I knew in Ottawa on whose advise I agreed to fly from Ottawa to Turkey, a surgeon he recommended. However, because time was of the essence, upon finding out that the surgeon in Ankara had, like him, trained under a well-known Egyptian surgeon, he told me that Noorie would be in good hands.

Sadly, she passed away the night before the surgery was to take place. The day Noorie passed away (22<sup>nd</sup> May 1999), I sought out a mosque near the hospital to enquire about conducting Muslim cleansing and prayer rituals for her, and that is where, upon asking the person sitting next to me whether he spoke English, that I met Farshad, an Iranian engineer who was like a God-sent angel because although he had been living and working in Ankara for many years, he had never been to that mosque. He told me that he felt inexplicably drawn to it that evening even though it was completely out of his way. He was fluent in both English and Turkish and putting aside his work he helped me in obtaining and certifying the official medical records and death certificate etc. and in making the required arrangements necessary to have the funeral in Ottawa. He was my constant companion and support until I departed Ankara a few days later, on a BA flight to Ottawa via London. During a three-hour layover in London, I went to meet Noorie's parents and showing them a picture of what I was told was a congenital brain aneurism, I tried to explain what had happened to her.

The ritual of 40 days of prayer after the funeral, as prescribed in my faith, was a great source of solace and comfort which, together with the support of family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers, was of immeasurable help in getting through the difficult period that followed.

It was a very sad time of my life, but with God's grace I found love again in my present wife, Rozemin Bhanji (Rose) who I married 2 years later. Rose who is from Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), did all her post-secondary and higher education in the UK. She has a BSc (Hons) in Computer Science from Hertfordshire University, Hatfield, UK and three Masters (MA) from University of London: MA in Islamic Studies (from SOAS); MA in Religious Education (from the University of London Institute of Education, ULIE); and MA in IT in Education (from ULIE). She is also a graduate of the Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS) in London. She enjoys singing and composing devotional poetry (*geets*). The lyrics to some of the *geets* that she has composed (in Urdu, English, French, Arabic and Swahili) to mark the Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilees of the Aga Khan are published on the Barakah website (**Google: Rose Motani**).

Rose remembers someone who she did not know, but later figured out was Noorie, casually complimenting her recitations of *Ghinans* (Hymns) in *Jamatkhana*. Rose had moved to Ottawa from UK and was working as an Analyst Programmer when I first got acquainted with her a few months after Noorie passed away. Rose was for me a natural counsellor and I found it very easy to pour my heart out to her whenever we would meet over coffee. The first time I invited Rose home to show her some pictures of Noorie, she noticed a group photograph on the fireplace mantle. She told me that she had the same photo. Surprisingly, it turned out that the photo of the Aga Khan with senior leadership of the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) at a meeting in France was taken at the time when Rose's and Noories's brothers were Chair and CEO of AKF (UK) respectively. A few months later, the day before I was leaving for France to attend a global meeting of Ismaili Council Communications Coordinators, Rose casually told me that as she did not like the cold Ottawa winters (having experienced the historic and traumatic 1997 ice storm), at the end of her current IT project, she was moving back to Australia (where she had emigrated from UK after her first degree). I became quite anxious at the thought of her not being in Ottawa when I got back from my trip because I suddenly realized that I would really miss her as she had become such a close confidante, I really enjoyed her company, and we shared many common interests. Thankfully, her project got extended and on my return to Ottawa I declared my feelings in August 2000 and the rest is history. As my Independent Consulting work allowed me to pick and choose assignments, we managed to escape most of the dreaded Ottawa winters.

Unlike my wedding to Noorie in 1981, which was the biggest Ismaili wedding in Ottawa at the time with all the pomp and ceremony, our wedding in 2001 was on a Tuesday evening with about 60 guests at an Indian restaurant in Ottawa. It was most likely the simplest and smallest Ismaili wedding in Ottawa as I wanted to get married before I had to head out to Kazakhstan four days later for a USAID consulting assignment. Being a country that I had never heard of and could not spell, I only agreed to Rose joining me one week later after assurances from some expats that Almaty was a safe place. However, they forgot to mention the "Lost Wallet Scam" which Rose fell for two days later while taking a stroll in a park near our hotel but avoided getting conned as she was not carrying much money on her. After a very interesting "moneymoon" in Almaty, we had an unforgettable and very eventful "honeymoon" in exotic Uzbekistan.

## WORK HISTORY AND TRAVELS

By choosing the CGA route instead of CA, I got a much broader range of work experience across many different governmental organizations that shaped my very varied and interesting work career:

**1973-2002: Regional Municipality of Ottawa Carleton (Internal Audit); Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (Internal Audit); Government of Canada: Audit Services Bureau (Internal Audit); Inspector General of Banks (Bank Supervision); Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) (Supervision/Regulation of Banks, Life and Property & Casualty Insurance Companies; and Accounting Policy and Research).** My work took me to all provinces of Canada except for Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

**2002 - Present:** I am very grateful to the Late Kim Norris, a very kind and accomplished work colleague at OSFI, for jump starting my consulting career that gave me the confidence to start my own consulting business which also greatly augmented my international travels. Kim tragically died in a 2012 Nigerian plane crash enroute to Ottawa from what was to be his last consulting assignment before he retired. It was Kim who selected me to represent OSFI on International Monetary Fund (**IMF**) and **World Bank** consulting projects to provide technical assistance to Financial Sector Regulatory and Supervisory Authorities of some developing countries. Following that, I took early retirement from OSFI and worked mainly as an Independent Consultant with International organizations such as United States Agency for International Development (**USAID**); **IMF**, **World Bank**; Canadian International Development Agency (**CIDA**) and The Aga Khan Development Network (**AKDN**). This provided me an opportunity to export/transfer Canadian expertise, knowledge and best practices in Regulation and Supervision of Financial Institutions (Banks and Insurance Companies); Internal Audit; Governance; Risk Management and Compliance.

My work took me to many countries including Afghanistan, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Egypt, France, Holland, Iran, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, St. Lucia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turks and Caicos, Uganda, UAE, and USA. While on a long-term IMF project in Sri Lanka, Rose and I did a 4-month evening and weekend Diploma course at the Bandaranaike Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations in Colombo where among the most important lessons I learned were: *“There are no permanent friends or permanent enemies, only permanent self-interest”* and *“The difference between a politician and a statesman is that one thinks of the next election while the other thinks of the next generation”*.

On weekends and holidays, we travelled around the beautiful island of Sri Lanka. Having a UN Passport, Rose and I became part of the social circle of the diplomatic and expat community thus adding to our friendships outside the small *Jamat* in Colombo. Rose was the Secretary of the North American Women’s Association and got actively involved in their social and welfare activities. As long-term guests at the Colombo Hilton, we were given the Vice-Presidential Suite. Following the December 2004 Tsunami, the deluge of international celebrities on goodwill missions who became our neighbors in the Presidential Suite opposite us included Bill Clinton and Rev. Moon of Korea. In many of the countries of work, Rose and I extended our stays for pleasure, educational and cultural travel. We also took the opportunity to visit other nearby countries during gaps between consulting projects. Instead of paying for air fares and wasting time to travel all the way back to Canada (especially in winter) and then travel from Canada to the next project destination, we used the time and savings to visit many additional countries which included Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Caribbean Islands (Bollywood Cruises), China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Fiji, Germany, Greece, Guadeloupe, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Italy, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lebanon, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Martinique, Monaco, Morocco, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Tasmania, Thailand, Turkey, Uzbekistan (honeymoon), Zimbabwe.

During our travels, in addition to the usual tourist sites, due to my great interest in Architecture (being the only art form with a lasting impact and a subject I would have loved to study), we would make it a point to research and visit any AKDN projects and nominees/winners of the triennial Aga Khan Award for Architecture (AKAA), the world’s biggest and most prestigious architecture prize ([www.akdn.org/architecture](http://www.akdn.org/architecture)). Among my most interesting travels were those with Rose when she attended some of her IIS Annual Alumni Meetings, where they combined seminars by renowned experts on local Ismaili/Islamic History and Architecture with educational excursions, led by local experts, to historic churches,



mosques and archeological sites in and around Paris (France), Athens (Greece), Rome and Palermo-Sicily (Italy), Ifrane and Fez during the Annual Sufi Music Festival (Morocco), Mahdiya - the origin of the Fatimid Empire (Tunisia), Lisbon (Portugal), London (UK) and Ottawa - the location of the Delegation of the Ismaili Imam (Canada).

After completing a World Bank consulting assignment in Tehran (Iran) in 2002, in addition to visiting Alamut (where The Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) was doing excavation work) and major tourist sites such as Shiraz, Isfahan, Persopolis and Rasht on the Caspian Sea, we travelled to some of the main areas (Disbad, Ghassimabad, Naisapour and Mashhad) where Ismailis have lived for centuries. When the Ismaili leadership in Tehran came to know (from another IIS graduate in Tehran) that Rose was an IIS graduate, they asked her to give talks to the jamat in each of these places. She talked about “The Importance of Education and Learning English in addition to the Country’s National language(s)” using me as a prop: an example of a refugee who, despite having lost everything when I was expelled from Uganda, was able to successfully re-establish in Canada because Idi Amin could not take away my excellent education and my fluency in English - the most



global language of our time and the language of science, knowledge and research. She gave her talk in English and her IIS colleague translated it into Farsi. She also gave the same talks in her somewhat broken Urdu when we visited Sost and Karimabad in northern Pakistan where we also have fond memories of spending a most interesting and educational day with the very hospitable Mir of Hunza, his wife and 2 sons at which time we got a first-hand account of the history of Ismailis in Hunza and the first visit to the region by Aga Khan III. *Photo: 2003 Karimabad Hunza Pakistan enjoying the wonderful hospitality and generosity of Mir of Hunza and family.*

## CONTINUING THE FAMILY’S TRADITION OF VOLUNTEERISM

### *Voluntary Service in Canada*

My grandparents’ and parents’ ethic of volunteerism inspired me to follow in their footsteps in Canada. I feel blessed and privileged to have been able to continue the family tradition of service through the many opportunities to provide time and knowledge in many different capacities for over 25 years within and outside the Ismaili Community. I have no doubt that you get back way more from serving others than what you put in. In addition to the satisfaction, it helps advance your personal growth, skill sets, network, friends’ circle and expand awareness of your faith community. Ismaili Muslim Community Organizations: 1974-2002. This was during the period when the first Ismaili National and Regional Councils and Administrative Committees were established across Canada to lead and guide the newly arrived *Jamat* through the difficult transition/adjustment phase following which the *Jamat* evolved into a strong community with a proud identity. Business startups by newly arrived community members were facilitated by a National Council scheme under which the Aga Khan guaranteed bank loans to those with viable business plans.

This was an example of how under the leadership of the Aga Khan, a group of newly arrived refugees and immigrants from different parts of the world, most of whom did not know each other, working with a dedicated and effective team of volunteers in the spirit of cooperation and goodwill, could in a very short time become an exemplary community not only helping to improve the quality of life of all segments of the Ismaili Community but that of the larger community as well. Volunteering within the Ismaili Community provided me with a unique opportunity not only to develop relations with the Media, Civil Society Organizations, and other Faith Communities, but to also acquire the skills and confidence to undertake volunteer work in the broader Canadian society. I had very interesting and beneficial interactions with a wide network of remarkable people including Mayors, Diplomats, Journalists, Politicians, Architects, Academics and Faith Leaders when I served in the following portfolios on **His Highness the Aga Khan Ismaili Administrative Committee/Council for Ottawa between 1974 and 2002:**

1974-77: Economics and Youth Sub-Committees; 1977-79: Member without Portfolio; 1979-1984: Honorary Secretary. Given the rising profile of the Canadian *jamat* after the Silver Jubilee in 1983, my past experience on the Admin. Committee and the external contacts I had established served me well when I got appointed by the Aga Khan to the newly created dual portfolio of Communications Coordinator (CC) for Ottawa & Member for Communications and Publications (C&P) for Ottawa starting with two consecutive 3 year terms (1984-1990) that also included a role as Ottawa Bureau Chief on the Editorial Team for “Ismaili Canada” magazine. I was back-up to my two successor CC/C&Ps from 1990-1996 and then reappointed CC/C&P by the Aga Khan for two further 3-year terms (1996-2002): From 1996-1999 on the Admin. Committee and from 1999-2002 on the newly established **Council for Ottawa** when I also held the following three other portfolios with an external focus for the first 2 years: Member for External Relations, Member for Ummah Relations and Member for Arts and Culture. The CC/C&P portfolio became much more challenging in the era of Islamophobia, terrorism in the name of the peaceful faith of Islam, misconceptions, misinformation, disinformation and ignorance about the true essence and diversity of Islam. This required active engagement with other Muslim communities, government, and the media to correct erroneous reporting which could have global ramifications as it has never been truer that “a lie can travel halfway around the world before the truth has put on its shoes”. Responding locally but thinking globally was critical given the large number of countries in which the *jamat* lives and AKDN operates. As my work with the developmental organizations involved considerable and extended international travel, varying from weeks to months and years, I had to shelve my voluntary activities in Canada after 2002. With the opening of the Delegation of the Ismaili Imamate in 2008, appointment of AKDN Ambassadorial Representative to Canada, and the establishment of the Global Centre for Pluralism (GCP) in 2017 in partnership with the Government of Canada, the profile of Ottawa’s Ismaili Community has increased significantly from its humble beginnings in 1972.

#### HIGHLIGHTS/MILESTONES OF ISMAILI COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY WORK

I had the good fortune to be involved in each of the Aga Khan’s visits to Ottawa between 1978 and 1987 including the 1983 Silver Jubilee visit to Canada. I was also part of the team that undertook the pioneering work of initiating, planning, organizing and implementing major institutional/outreach/media activities of the Ottawa *Jamat* including realization of “firsts” such as: Eastern Canada Ismaili Sports Festivals; establishing contacts with other Muslim Organizations; participation in and fundraising for Televised Easter Seal Telethons; convening Milad-Un-Nabi celebrations that provided a forum for both intra-faith and inter-faith dialogue; hosting Blood Donor Clinics and Citizenship Courts; placement of the first Ismaili on the Board of an external organization in Ottawa; and arranging for an AKAA Exhibition at Carleton University. Received an Ontario Government Volunteer Award.



1983 Ottawa-Canada Silver Jubilee Visit: Noorie and Azeem receiving His Highness the Aga Khan and Begum Salimah

## VOLUNTEERING WITH PROFESSIONAL, POLITICAL AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

**Professional Organization:** Based on the Gold Medal and recognition I received upon graduating in 1978, I was invited to join the Board of the **Ottawa Chapter of the Certified General Accountant Association of Ontario** for a 3-year term (1979-1982). I was Member in charge of coordinating the lobbying of Eastern Ontario Members of Ontario Provincial Parliament to amend the Public Accountancy Act to allow CGAs the same rights as CAs. This politically delicate process took a very long time but did come to fruition in 2014 when the three main accounting professions merged and all CGAs became CPAs (Chartered Professional Accountants).

**Political Organization:** Progressive Conservative (PC) Party, 1993-1999. After initially supporting the Liberals in appreciation of the then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's humanitarian gesture to accept the Ugandan refugees, I shifted between political parties depending on their platform and leadership. I volunteered with the PC Party in the following capacities over a six year period: (i) Attended PC Party Leadership Convention as a supporter of Kim Campbell in June 1993; (ii) As Vice-President of Group Communications on Federal PC Carleton Gloucester Riding Association, one of the key events I organized and chaired was a Public Town Hall Meeting on *"The Future Direction of the Party"*; and (iii) As a Member of Carleton Gloucester PC Candidate's successful Nomination Campaign and Policy Advisory Committee, I featured prominently in the candidate's September 1993 Election Campaign Video.

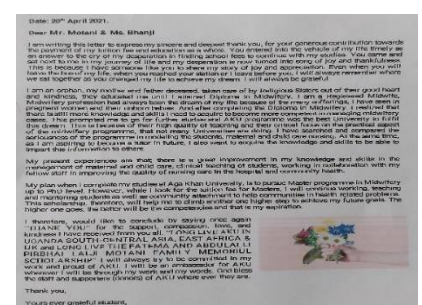
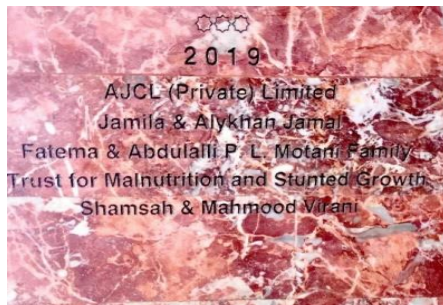


*Photo: 1993 Ottawa-Canada with Kim Campbell (19<sup>th</sup> and first female Prime Minister of Canada): Leadership Convention.*

**Civic Organization:** Township of Cumberland, 1994–1997. Member of Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) Chaired by Mayor Brian Coburn.

## CONTINUING THE FAMILY'S TRADITION OF GIVING

My grandparents' and parents' ethic of giving, through which they left their mark not just in Uganda but also in their ancestral land of India, inspired me to follow in their footsteps in Canada. To commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of our late parents in 2020, together with my two older brothers and two nephews, we established the ***"Fatema and Abdulalli Pirbhai Lalji Motani Family Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Perpetuity"*** for students from Uganda to study at the Aga Khan University (AKU) School of Nursing in East Africa. Being my parents' only grandchildren, my 2 nephews' eagerness to contribute towards the Scholarship is a hopeful sign that this family legacy of philanthropy will be kept alive by them. Almost 50 years after our expulsion, we harbor no ill will towards the Ugandans of today who had no role in our expulsion. The purpose of establishing this Scholarship has already been amply rewarded by the happiness of reading the kind and touching letter from the first recipient (name withheld for privacy reasons) outlining her noble aspirations on how she intends to use her education to serve humanity, thus knowing that we, like our parents and grandparents, are in our own humble way bettering the lives of those in need.



2019/2020/2021 Karachi-Pakistan AKU Wall Recognizing Motani Family for Endowed Nursing Scholarship for students from Uganda to study at AKU in East Africa, and Thank you Letter from first recipient of Motani Family Nursing Scholarship.



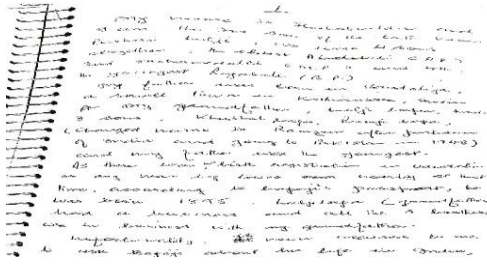
\$125,000 to \$249,999					
<p>AC Hotel Group</p> <p>Mohamed Ahmadi Foundation</p> <p>Ramzanali Shabbari Rahy Nargis nee Micky Rooh Sae</p> <p>1 Ba Waung, Tsawneer, Rafiq, Zarab &amp; Bahadur Ahmed</p> <p>Samira Ali &amp; Nosrudin Ali Dhaka</p> <p>Shirin &amp; Aziz Anwar Ali Mandari</p> <p>Abdushehman &amp; Almas Alidina with Daughters &amp; Sons</p> <p>Amir, Noor, Althara &amp; Kareem Alidina</p> <p>Nazeem &amp; Anwar Amran &amp; Family</p> <p>Late Khattaji &amp; Farah Ali Baghari</p> <p>Aziz &amp; Amma Bhaiso &amp; Family</p> <p>Late Amir &amp; Nazim Bhringi</p> <p>Shiraz Bophani &amp; Family</p> <p>Amir, Malika, Shanza &amp; Romana Chagani</p> <p>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Noorali Chitragan Chandani &amp; Family</p> <p>Altab &amp; Gul Camber Family Foundation, Inc. USA</p> <p>Mumtaz &amp; Saba Cumber Family</p> <p>Laila &amp; Sheraz Datto In Honour of Parents &amp; Family</p> <p>Raf Azizuddin Dewji &amp; Ranaheba Naba Dewji</p> <p>Aziz, Fatima, Nadya, Aisha &amp; Rahim Dhalia</p> <p>Khatoun Dhanani &amp; Late Abdul Dhanani</p>	<p>Maheem Gulbani Ben Hassan Ali Dhanani</p> <p>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Roshanali Manji Dhosila &amp; Family</p> <p>Rabraya Khattaji &amp; Raj Mohan Manji Dhosila</p> <p>Aliza, Fatz, Munera &amp; Noor Diddali</p> <p>Fatima, Fouad-Hassan, Tasnim, Sultan-Karim Drazlani</p> <p>Faraz &amp; Alshah Farnawati Family, Sahid &amp; Rani Kurji</p> <p>Wineless DNA Inc., Gibson-Duggan's &amp; Family</p> <p>Sahadi Family, Calgary</p> <p>Wazir Muhammad Hadi &amp; Wazirbano Mariambai Hadi</p> <p>Zarina &amp; Shaoukat Dhanjee &amp; Family</p> <p>Saleemkhani &amp; Khatrudin K Hamir (Bachhi) Family</p> <p>The Hassaniyat Family</p> <p>Altab &amp; Asmina Hossain</p> <p>Mr. Akram M. Hossain Hon. Sharif M. Hossain</p> <p>Altab, Saad &amp; Saadia</p> <p>Karim &amp; Shaleen Shaukeen &amp; Ali</p> <p>Kasim Hiji &amp; Family</p> <p>Houston IP Management Inc.</p> <p>Mr. Aziz Husain Family</p> <p>Berkat, Sherhaz Safina Hussain</p>	<p>Innan, Sadaf, Yasmin, Liyana &amp; Liam Hussain</p> <p>Saber &amp; Hussein Rajabali Hussein &amp; Families</p> <p>Moyez, Salma, Rahan &amp; Rahia Jadavji</p> <p>Aziz Anwar Jamal &amp; Family</p> <p>Alim Amirali Jannohamed &amp; Family</p> <p>Aly &amp; Samirah Jannohamed &amp; Family</p> <p>Nasrudin Jannohamed &amp; Jannohamed &amp; Families</p> <p>Sahira Jannohamed &amp; Family</p> <p>Small Moheenna and</p> <p>Kabir Jivraj &amp; Family</p> <p>Rahim Jivraj &amp; Family</p> <p>Imam, Ali Jivraj,</p> <p>Elita &amp; Family</p> <p>Shahroz &amp; Family</p> <p>Farahat Juma &amp; Family</p> <p>Khadija Moosa, Rumi, Rayna, Leena &amp; Noor Moosa</p> <p>Rozzeem &amp; Azeem Yaqir Abdul Molani</p> <p>Dr. Noor Ashoor, Alim &amp; Rabia Nagil &amp; Salim Moosa</p>	<p>Malik &amp; Sheila Karimi</p> <p>Murad, Malik, Zahra, Noorjahan, Zamla &amp; Ramzanali Karimi</p> <p>Sarfraz Vazirani &amp; Dr. Faran Kassam</p> <p>Shelina, Rohma, Farida &amp; Amir Kassam</p> <p>Naushad &amp; Narmeen Kermally &amp; Family</p> <p>Yasmin &amp; Abdumalik Khara</p> <p>Mehdi &amp; Najma Khimji</p> <p>Moyez Khimji In Memory of Shirin &amp; Hassanali Khimji</p> <p>Husain, Laila, Zohdan, Zenella Kurji &amp; Family</p> <p>Altab, Shireen, Shazia, Samira &amp; Reema Luthfi</p> <p>Dr. Nizar &amp; Mrs. Nazira Makan</p> <p>Arisha &amp; Shaukat Makroja Remat &amp; Shaukat Makroja</p> <p>Ather &amp; Shirin Malik</p> <p>Moaz &amp; Sultana Mangilji, Salima &amp; Shamma Mangilji</p> <p>Nadri &amp; Fatima Mehralli &amp; Family</p> <p>Noorjahan Mirza, In Loving Memory of Salim Mirza</p> <p>Lehjaizali, Roshan, Naushad &amp; Yasmin Morin</p> <p>Khadija Moosa, Rumi, Rayna, Leena &amp; Noor Moosa</p> <p>Rozzeem &amp; Azeem Yaqir Abdul Molani</p> <p>Dr. Noor Ashoor, Alim &amp; Rabia Nagil &amp; Salim Moosa</p>	<p>Al, Shahrose &amp; Aiyana Nanji</p> <p>Noordin, Khatoun, Karim &amp; Kassam Nanji Family</p> <p>Altab &amp; Munereeh Hathoo &amp; Family</p> <p>Late Shahsultana &amp; Altab Noorani</p> <p>Saku, Lady Perrani Family</p> <p>Huzar Mukti Sa Noorbanoo Poonji</p> <p>Bilal, Seema, &amp; Adnan</p> <p>Kiyaani &amp; Family</p> <p>Dr. Amir Hossain</p> <p>Laila, Zul Noor Ali</p> <p>Julfer &amp; Family</p> <p>Arisha &amp; Shaukat Makroja Remat &amp; Shaukat Makroja</p> <p>Ather &amp; Shirin Malik</p> <p>Moaz &amp; Sultana Mangilji, Salima &amp; Shamma Mangilji</p> <p>Nadri &amp; Fatima Mehralli &amp; Family</p> <p>Noorjahan Mirza, In Loving Memory of Salim Mirza</p> <p>Lehjaizali, Roshan, Naushad &amp; Yasmin Morin</p> <p>Khadija Moosa, Rumi, Rayna, Leena &amp; Noor Moosa</p> <p>Rozzeem &amp; Azeem Yaqir Abdul Molani</p> <p>Dr. Noor Ashoor, Alim &amp; Rabia Nagil &amp; Salim Moosa</p>	<p>Sewani Family</p> <p>Late Kabrudin &amp; Moazz Sharif</p> <p>Dr. Karim &amp; Mrs. Shenzar Sharif &amp; Family</p> <p>Shiraz &amp; Yasmin Remember the Kassam &amp; Sharif Family</p> <p>Varas Jerat, Sakertiansu, Habibeh Azhad Shariff</p> <p>Mehmood Sohani &amp; Saleem Ali</p> <p>Parih Somani, Ummed Somani, Nurbano &amp; Farin Somani</p> <p>Farahat Juma &amp; Family</p> <p>Arisha &amp; Shaukat Makroja Remat &amp; Shaukat Makroja</p> <p>Ather &amp; Shirin Malik</p> <p>Moaz &amp; Sultana Mangilji, Salima &amp; Shamma Mangilji</p> <p>Nadri &amp; Fatima Mehralli &amp; Family</p> <p>Noorjahan Mirza, In Loving Memory of Salim Mirza</p> <p>Lehjaizali, Roshan, Naushad &amp; Yasmin Morin</p> <p>Khadija Moosa, Rumi, Rayna, Leena &amp; Noor Moosa</p> <p>Rozzeem &amp; Azeem Yaqir Abdul Molani</p> <p>Dr. Noor Ashoor, Alim &amp; Rabia Nagil &amp; Salim Moosa</p>

2. Participated in the **Donor Wall Campaign** of the **Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, Canada** in recognition of its very important mandate which in Prince Ameen Aga Khan's words is *"to light the way with its timeless message of pluralism, the curative power of arts and culture and the interconnectedness of peoples"*.

## REFLECTIONS/MEMORIES - THE SPARK FOR UNCOVERING AND PRESERVING FAMILY HISTORY

These precious photos were then scanned and shared with all. The curiosity aroused in both the older and new generations about their grandparents/great grandparents inspired me and Nizar to do some research on our family history with the objective of relating to the younger generation, the family values of hard work, ethics, education, service to others and philanthropy, as well as resilience in bouncing back after losing everything in Uganda and having to start all over in Canada. In our research, we made some major discoveries including: (i) Photocopies of handwritten notes in which my uncle (the dentist) had, during a hospital stay, drilled down into the recesses of his memory, and started to document an

outline of our family history in Uganda. Unfortunately, he passed away in 2010 before he could complete his notes, on the very first page of which he expressed regret that “*Unfortunately, it never occurred to me to ask Bapaji about his life in India..*” ; and (ii) my *Nana Bapa’s* long forgotten 1964 Book of Wisdom that I found while rummaging through boxes that had remained unopened for decades looking for any photos/documents I might have for the family history project.



Photos: First page of my uncle's incomplete 2010 Manuscript chronicling Motani Family History in Uganda; and Cover of Maternal Grandfather Jaffer Allibhai's 1963 Book of Wisdom.

We were very thankful for and excited by these discoveries which, together with our scant recollections and chats with a handful of surviving older relatives provided most of the information for the “Family History in Uganda” section of this essay. We felt dumbfounded, regretful, and ashamed about how little interest we too had taken in knowing about our family history. We had not asked, and our parents had not told us enough, about how our grandparents ended up in Uganda and about their hard work, struggles and successes in various businesses and charitable activities. For example, it was only from my uncle’s notes that we learnt about our family’s 1954 donation of the Teachers’ Quarters Building (right across the road from the Aga Khan Schools in Kampala where we did all our pre-university schooling). Whereas studying the history of Stanley’s and Livingstone’s expeditions in Africa guided by Susi and Chuma was compulsory at school, sadly ‘Family History’ was not taught at home. As a result, we were oblivious of our pioneering grandparents’ remarkable stories. We had also not kept in touch with *Dada Bapa’s* relatives in Pakistan the way our parents did. When visiting Pakistan with Rose in 2003, we flukely bumped into a Motani in a *Jamatkhana*. Based on our conversation, he seemed to be the great grandson of *Dada Bapa’s* brother who had not gone to Africa. He graciously invited us home for dinner the next day to meet his entire extended family.

Based on my auditor’s instinct to “trust but verify”, I asked to see their family photos and thereby confirmed that we were related. I told them about the fond memories of the time when my father invited their father/grandfather to visit us in Kampala for several months in the 60s and gave him a big farewell party at the Aga Khan Sports Club.

While vacationing in India in 2011, Rose and I made it a point to visit the Girls’ Academy in Rajkot and felt humbled and a sense of joy when we saw the “*Motani Hall*” that was named in memory of my grandparents and parents. We also visited the nearby small town of Vandaliya where we asked some old folks sitting outside a shop in the town square sipping tea, about my *Dada Bapa’s* family. To my great surprise, they not only remembered but correctly rattled off the names of *Dada Bapa’s* brother’s entire family that had remained in Vandaliya until their post partition move to Pakistan in 1948. They showed us the big house that my *Dada Bapa* had financed, as well as the former *Jamatkhana*. However, oblivious of the remarkable history of the house and not having discussed Vandaliya or the house when we met *Dada Bapa’s* brother’s family in Pakistan in 2003, we just spent a few minutes to take some pictures and left.

## EPILOGUE

Having learnt from our uncle’s regret that it never occurred to him to ask about his father’s life in India and early life in Uganda, Nizar and I are both documenting our Memoirs for future generations. As Covid-19 has brought our travels to a grinding halt, it has given me time to reflect on school days that led to lifelong friendships; workmates that made me look forward to going to the office; and the many funny encounters during our travels (work and pleasure) that made the travels much more interesting than simply taking selfies at tourist landmarks. I am now in the process of writing short stories which I hope to publish in a book titled: “*Global Encounters of Numerous Kinds: Memoirs of a Ugandan Refugee’s Journey from Fear, Dispossession and Expulsion to Refuge, Hope and Honor*”.

## NOONAN KHATOON NEE PRADHAN (1967-70 SCIENCE: ZOOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY)



1969 Kampala Film Society ID Card

1970 MU Graduation (Receiving Degree and with Friends)

***A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots. Marcus Garvey***

### PRE-MAKERERE

My history begins in a tiny village, in North Eastern in Uganda called Kumi. My dad immigrated from poverty and famine-stricken Gujrat and Khathiawad in 1922 to Kumi, Uganda. British had proceeded to connect port of Mombasa to interior Uganda and completed “the Lunatic Express” as it was known in 1930. The completion of the lunatic express opened trade routes from the interior of Uganda to the busy port of Mombasa mainly to transport cotton and peanuts. Kumi was the terminus of one branch of lunatic railway. My dad was initially a Dukawalah supplying necessary items to support farmers and rail workers. In early 1930 he saw opportunity and became a cotton and peanut buyer supplying produce to Ginneries and Oil Processing Plant around the village.



1949 My parents CIRCA.



1949 Siblings.

Though Kumi had a railway station and a Royal leper hospital and a leper colony, it was tinny village with a trunk road bisecting the village with 14 -16 tin bands on either side. What had affected my life during this time was, that there was no school in the village for formal education. I grew up in this environment among 10 siblings. Ours was a happy but busy household. In retrospect my character was built during the first 10 years of my life.



Growing up with 6 brothers and 3 sisters were joyful but there was frustration as well. Being number seven in the rank I had learnt to fight for my rights, be competitive and strive to be the best. Not having formal schooling in early childhood instilled quest for learning in me. I did not have many friends, but life was full and interesting.

During my formative years, my dad ventured into establishing a village bakery and a pop making factory in a new brick build house at the edge of the village. From the young age the kneading of the dough for breads, the fermenting of the dough, the fumes and aroma of freshly baked breads, the boiling of syrups for soda making and the mixing of the essences for soda flavours with vibrant edible food colours captivated me. Even the use of graduated cylinders, volumetric flasks and gallons of higher ester flavours lining the shelves fascinated me. From this was born my love for chemistry.

I was 10 years old when we moved to Jinja, the second largest metropolis in Uganda. It came as shock to attend a former school. I was put in P3 class because of my age not because I had attained the necessary knowledge of primary three grade. I had acquired the basic skills of reading and writing, telling the time and ability to count, from my older siblings. With extra tutoring and with competitive streak to strive for the best I was among the high achievers within a year, and I completed primary and secondary education and gained 12 Levels. I had achieved best possible grade in chemistry, biology, physics, and maths but in English I had earned only a credit.



My problem to achieve higher education began. There were no schools in Jinja that offered “A” Levels. The 3 schools in Kampala, 50 miles from Jinja, had “A” Level classes. The criteria to gain entry needed 10 points in 5 subjects including English. I had 12 points. After few months of struggle to gain entry for “A” Levels, I gave up and joined to do HNC to become a laboratory technician. My break came with my 2 angels Dr. N Mody (from Chemical Pathology department at Mulago Hospital) and Dr. Gleeson (Makerere Technical College) who were two part time tutors for the course. They both questioned me why I was not aiming for a Degree in Biochemistry instead.

With help and guidance of both I gained entry for “A” Levels in one of the best convent boarding school in Uganda (Mt St. Mary’s College) the following year. Fortunately, that year Zabul Vyas “nee” Antria was among my classmates. Life in the convent was strict and disciplined. We spent 2 years with little freedom of movement except for few holidays. I was able to survive because of good solid companionship with Zabun. We have been friends ever since and shared accommodation in Mary Stuart Halls of Residence at Makerere.

I had achieved best chemistry result for “A” Levels among the female science students. I had offer of scholarship to study Biochemistry at Uppsala University in Sweden and a scholarship to University of Toronto through Uganda Government. Unfortunately, due to restrictive outlook of my parents, I had to decline both.

## LIFE IN THE IVORY TOWER OF EAST AFRICA

In September 1967 I enrolled in faculty of science for a B.Sc. in Chemistry with a 3-2-1 option. I was the first one among the 10 siblings to go to university. Though Makerere was not Uppsala or Toronto University, as an Institute, during mid-1960s, it was one of the largest and most distinguished universities in sub-Saharan Africa. It was called Harvard or Oxford of Africa. It was supposed to be an African University, but in fact it was a university in East Africa with ancient European or British Values and customs.

In my first year we were required to wear academic gowns or “college Habit” most of times on the campus but especially when attending lectures and seminars, at public meeting in the great hall and in the dining rooms. Ours was a red knee length, sleeveless lay type gown like the Oxford Commoner’s gown. The campus was spread out on a hill amidst rolling lawns and groves of trees and bushes. The Fauna and Flora on the hill were exotic with tranquil atmosphere especially during the weekends which I had learnt to appreciate during my first term on the hill.

As a fresher I knew very few people. Like many, I had believed that the campus was an Ivory Tower, an egalitarian paradise enjoyed by the fully funded students. But it was a very British Institution. There was extraordinarily little integration between Africans, Asians, and other nationalities. There were prejudices among faculties. I shared, a 7<sup>th</sup> floor room with my medic friend Zabun, in the only female hall of residence.

On the Hill, Mary Stuart Hall was known as a “Box” and all the residents were Boxers. Our neighbour on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor were Yasmin Bandali, Dilshad, Yasmin Pirani, Souli Karmali, Violet Wadiwala. Gulzar Sunderjee, and Mumtaz Virjee had rooms on the ground floor just before dining room, so their abode was our gathering point before mealtimes in due course, they all were my good friends to socialise with specially to go to cinema and go for ice cream in newly opened wimpy or go to Deejays for mogo.

In the first year Dr. Dandy was my personal tutor. He was excellent at promoting extra curriculum activities and in my first year I had joined Kampala film Society, birdwatching group and attended many interesting debates and lectures in the Main Hall. Few events have struck chord with me. President Julius Nyerere’s lecture on Socialism, Ray Charles’s Piano Concert, and a stimulating debate on Organ Transplantation after the first heart transplant by Christian Barnard.

Makerere University had opened a whole new world for me. My umbilical cord was finally cut. I had joined political demos, Climbed Mt Elgon with 2 boys from Chemistry dept and 1 from Veterinary dept Nairobi University, Carole a VSO from Nova Scotia, and Astrid Fernandes from Agricultural department as well as Zoology field trip with Prof Banage to Budongo forest to study chimpanzee behaviour, a six-week oceanography module in Dar-es-Salam.



1968 Social Science Building Yasmin, Naseem, Kate.



Elgon Climbers Astrid Fernandes, Shiraz, Kate (missing Sudhir Barot, Subhas Morjaria).

In my second-year Biochemistry department was established. I had to drop Chemistry to take up Biochemistry and myself and 2 other boys were the first intake. Second year summer holiday I had won a Ford Foundation grant to do a small project in Biochemistry department with Dr. Mody and Prof Tom Boyd.

I had stayed on the campus babysitting Dr. Tickner's house for summer holidays. The house was overlooking the Wandegaya Valley. During this period there were riots and campus was surrounded by the Uganda army soldiers and rebels we were under siege for 2 days. This was one of the scariest episodes for me in post-independence Uganda.

I graduated with B.Sc. in Zoology and Biochemistry in 1970 and was lucky to secure a job as a Research Graduate with the Uganda Cancer Institute on the very day I had my viva. While hitching lift at the main gate Dr. Ziegler offered me lift. When he realized my background in science offered me a job with flat on the Mulago Hill. I worked in the Institute purifying liver enzymes from hepatoma patients.

## RESETTLEMENT IN UK

In 1971 I left to join University of Newcastle Upon Tyne for a PhD in Cancer Research. Unfortunately, one man's dream in Uganda changed everything in my life. I had to convert my research into an MSc in Clinical Biochemistry. I joined NHS Chemical Pathology dept as a basic grade Biochemist and progressed to consultant level by studying for professional exam of the Royal College of Pathology and specializing in Clinical Endocrinology.



I retired in 2010 with over 30 joint publications in peer reviewed journals. I got married in 1976 to Ormond. He is fine art graduate. Worked as civil servant for over 30 years. Now that he is retired, he is devoting all his time in artwork. Have produced some excellent work. Has exhibited in the Royal Academy Summer Shows twice.

Our daughter Aneesha is a Medical Doctor with specialisation in General Practice. She at present is working with NHS England, where she is Assistant Director of NHS London. She is also a Medical Examiner for St. Bartholomew's Health Trust. She is happily married and like us she enjoys world travel.

In my capacity as health worker, I have served as member of the Aga Khan Health Board for 4 years. I was involved in setting up of Cholesterol Screening in the Community. I have also served as Member for Women's Wellbeing Portfolio.

Since retirement, we have indulged in globetrotting. We have made several trips to different parts of India. Our last trip was of 6 weeks to research my dad's and mum's life in India to document our history in my book "My life through food ". We have also travelled to Jordan, Lebanon and Jerusalem, Malaysia, Singapore, Srilanka and Nepal in the East. We have revisited East Africa and the game parks so that my husband and daughter get to know my background.

We have travelled extensively in USA and Canada. Best trip was the car journey we did in USA deep South in 2016 highlights from the trip were the music and the gastronomical creole food. But the highlight of our travel was in 2019. We had a 6-week trip Istanbul to Kyrgyzstan through Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and back to Istanbul (our silk road) most of the journey in central Asia was by car with our own driver and guide.

Beside travel, I run a scrabble club and South Asian cooking demonstration Sessions through umbrella of University of 3<sup>rd</sup> Age (U3A). Have achieved a Certification in Gemmology from Holts Institute of Gemmology and Jewellery making. Here I am now in 2020 wondering where this dreadful virus is going to take me.



## FAMILY



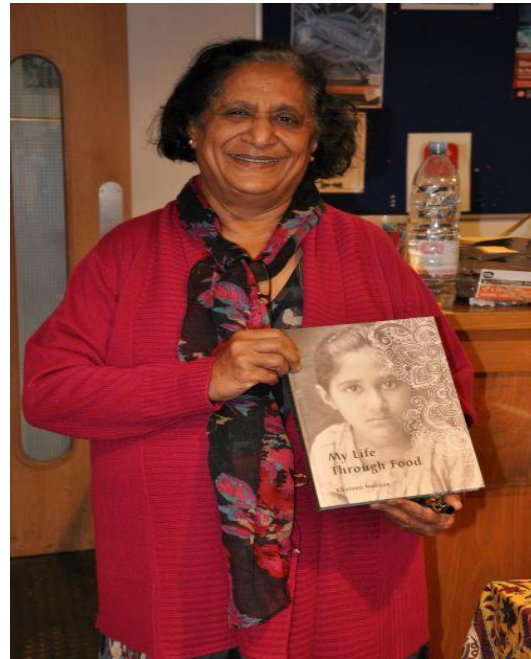
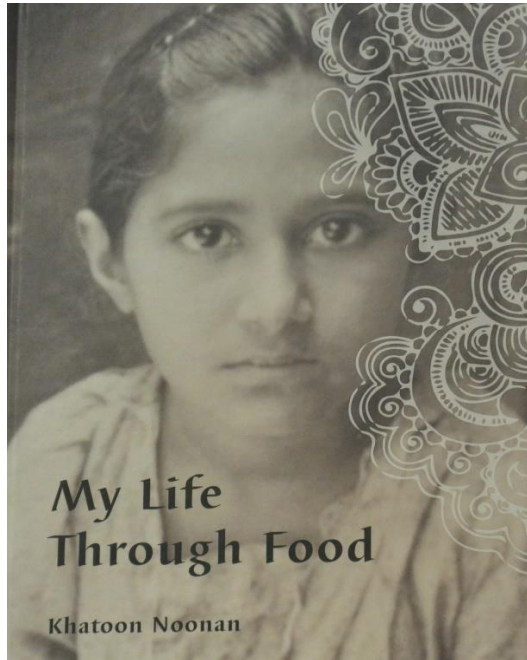
2017 Family Reunion: Husband Ormo, Khatoon, Daughter Aneesha and Husband Ben.



2017 Aneesha and Ben.

BOOKS BY KHATOON NOONAN NEE PRADHAN

*2016 September Launch of “My Life Through Food”*

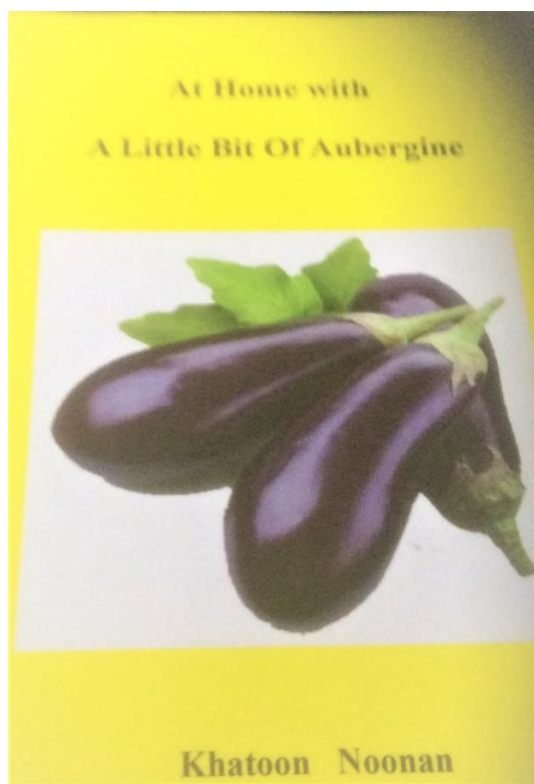
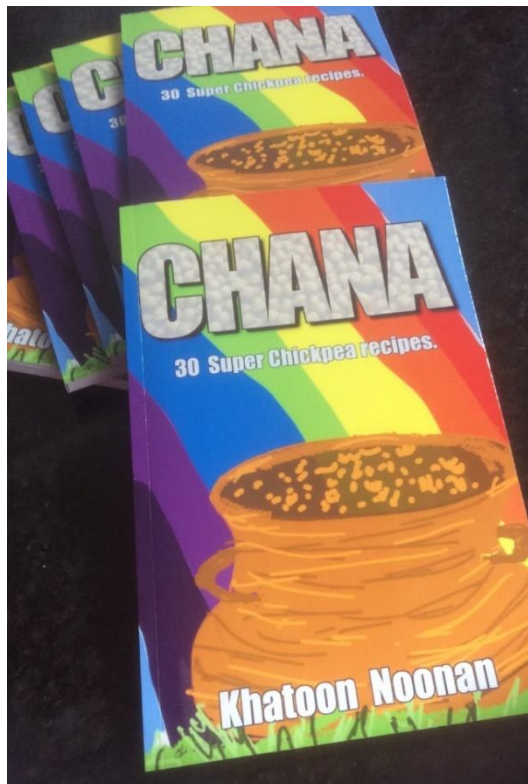






*Dishes by friends using recipes from the Book.*

***2020-21 Launch of “International Recipes for Chickpeas and Aubergine”***

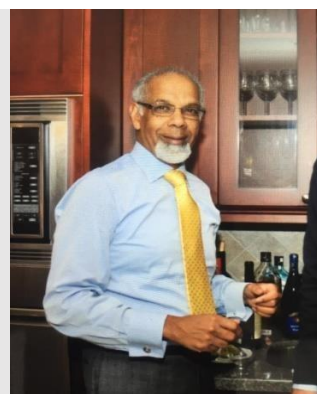




## NORONHA JOHN (1968-71 ARTS: GEOGRAPHY)



*1969 MU with Friends*



*2016 Canada Toronto*

### THE STORY OF MY LIFE

I was born in Uganda on April 20<sup>th</sup> 1950, the only son and youngest child of Joseph & Dorothy Noronha. I have 3 older sisters --- Philomena (Makerere Ed faculty grad 1965), Zelma and Clara (Makerere Science Grad 1969). The Story of my life is rooted in the activities of my immediate forefathers who hailed from the then Portuguese colony of Goa, but who largely built their lives in what was British East Africa. So, the story begins with them.

My paternal grandfather – John Manuel Noronha, migrated from Goa to the island of Zanzibar in 1901. Granddad sadly lost his wife in 1911 (when dad was 6 years old). He was a Veterinarian, and by all accounts was a well-respected man on the island. All the photos I have, show him wearing a long beard and long hair. He retired from the service of the Zanzibar Government in 1928, and passed away in Zanzibar, in 1943. I was given to understand that he was often referred to as “The Grand Old man of Zanzibar “.

My dad was born in 1905 and after the premature passing of his mother, was shipped to boarding school at Mount De Guirim in Goa. He returned to Zanzibar in 1922 and shortly thereafter started a dairy farm in the Mtoni area. A trip to Goa in 1940 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war resulted in an extended stay and marriage to my mother in 1942. On their return to Zanzibar, dad’s farm was severely impacted by Hoof & Mouth disease, and he made a calculated decision to leave the island, heading to Nairobi in 1943, on to Kisumu in 1945 and finally to Kampala in 1947.

After a number of years as the chief accountant of the Uganda Transport Company (UTC), dad opened a Milk dairy in Kampala in 1956, an operation he ran until 1971. After the expulsion in 1972, dad joined me in Canada where he worked until the age of 75. Thereafter he spent 4 years in Brisbane, Australia finally retreating to spend the last 9 years of his very active life in the serenity of our ancestral home in the village of Pilerne in Goa. I had the honour of burying him in 1992. He was fiercely independent and easily the hardest working man I ever met. As children we were always provided for adequately and his determination was that all the children attain the best education that they could have.

My maternal grandfather – Luis D’mello – was a Pharmacist, who was recruited by the British Government to Entebbe, Uganda in 1925. In going to this new land, he left his wife (Maria D’mello) together with their 4 children (my mother being the eldest and only daughter) in their family home in Candolim, Goa. Grandpapa (as we referred to him) managed the Government stores in Entebbe and ultimately retired in 1947, returning to Goa. He passed away in 1963.

My mum completed her studies in Goa and began teaching there. She continued her teaching career in Uganda after my birth, at the Aga Khan Primary School in Kampala. In 1957 she was recruited by the Khoja Shia Ithnasheri Primary School in Kampala with a primary goal to change the instruction medium to English. In 1961 mum was diagnosed with cancer. After radiation treatment under the care of the famous Dr Ernest Borges at Tata Memorial Hospital in Bombay, she returned to her job in Kampala only to see the cancer recur in 1963 leading to her passing in 1964 at the age of 50. In addition to her commitment to traditional education, mum was gifted in the arts and crafts. She had the knack of “flower making” and sewing and was an accomplished musician, having played the Mandolin and Violin in Orchestras in Goa and Kisumu. One of real tragedies of my life is that I never ever heard her play.

I was blessed to have 3 older sisters who were and continue to be affectionately protective of their “baby brother”. Their exemplary behaviour in school (2 of them were Head prefects at Kololo Secondary School), set a difficult standard for me to emulate. However, they did set a pathway for me to follow, and I am deeply indebted to them for their constant support. What gives me the greatest happiness is that even though we live on 3 different continents, our families have an extremely close relationship, and every opportunity of a reunion is a thrill.

The entire Noronha clan was very proud when our eldest sibling – Philomena – was awarded the MBE by Queen Elizabeth in 2005 and a Papal Award from the Vatican in 2008.



I was christened Anthony John Noronha, however, was always called John (for a period of time of my youth I had the nickname “Jonah” bestowed upon me – but it seems the expulsion from Uganda rid me of that “honour”). I grew up in an area called Shimoni in Kampala and began school in 1954 at the Aga Khan Primary School (largely because my mother taught there). I started school at the age of 4!!!

As such through out my school life, I was always between 1 and 5 years younger than my classmates. While I survived that situation, I would never recommend it for anyone. In primary 3, I switched over to the Norman Godinho Primary School. In 1962 I began my secondary school education at Kololo Secondary School, where I completed my Cambridge “O” levels in 1965 and “A” levels in 1967. My secondary school years were punctuated by some difficult times resulting in me having to dedicate a sizeable amount of time assisting my dad with his Diary business. However, I achieved my major goal which was to gain entry to Makerere University.

*Photo: 1960 Uganda Kampala.*

## **MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

Having knowledge of some of the dynamics at Makerere, there was absolutely no doubt that I wanted to be part of the fabled Northcote Hall. I recall very clearly the evening of June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1968 when my dad dropped me at the hallowed gates of the Hall where the one and only Hugh Dinwiddy welcomed us with a smile that warms my Soul to this day. Additionally, I was thrilled to be joined that day by Thomas Francis, Austin Pereira, and Trevor Pereira, all of whom had been Primary School classmates.

Later that evening the 4 of us knocked on the door of the late Clarence Fernandes in New Hall and we collectively proceeded to Kanubhai Patel’s canteen where we knocked back a couple of beers. That evening we met Abji whose father used to be our landlord many years earlier, and a trip down to the BOX (Mary Stuart Hall) ensued – suffice to say we all slept well that night. And so started a 4-year stay at MUK.

I enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts program and took Geography, History and Political Science in my first year. I also learnt very quickly the power of the voice, I possessed and the tremendous attention it could generate. This worked out perfectly for Northcote Hall, where the Spirit was “supreme” – in short order the seat on the front of the Northcote Tractor was MINE! Senior Northcote residents like Firoz Tejani, Amin Pirani, Vincent Bichampaka, Prosper Mtey, Azad Lalani, Sev Obura, Iftikar Sheikh, Rehman Hajee and Felix Fernandes encouraged me.

It was also time to meet and mingle with as many new faces as I could and among those were the likes of Timmy Esmail, Yusuf Karbani, Salmin Pradhan, the late Arvind Jansari, Sam Walusimbi, Diamond Lakhani, Tim Wani, Tariq Kindy, Diamond Lalani, Zul Devji, Nazira Dossa, Almas Kanani, Freda Lule, and Eve Mulira to name just a few. The highlight of that year was the trip for the annual East African University games in Dar es Salaam.

As they say, “what happens on trips remains on the trips”. But the memories are un-erasable.

Thankfully I sailed through Year one and was allowed to do the Honours Program in Geography in years 2 and 3. 1969-70 (Year 2) also saw the creation of the first Makerere Goan Association. That year we put up a significant variety program that attracted a full house at Makerere Main Hall. I had the opportunity to “star” as a lead character in the play (produced by the late Dr Monica Lobo (Castelino) that anchored the overall program.

The University games were held in Nairobi that year and once again were memorable. I did however take on a part time job at a nearby “private” high school teaching and that severely impacted my attendance of lectures. Suffice to say I was on the “hot” list to be kicked out, but I am forever indebted to Professor Bryan Langlands, the head of the department who I pleaded my case to and gave me a second chance. I am proud to say I did not disappoint and actually surprised the rather hostile faculty by attaining my Honours degree in March of 1971.



*1969 MU Aqua Club.*



*1969 MU Northcote Hall Swimming Team (Champions).*



*1970 Farewell to Dean Dinwiddy (Friends).*



*1970 MU Northcote Hall Cricket Team (Champions).*



I then did the Post-Graduate Diploma in Education, achieving my life-long desire to be a teacher. It was around this time that I applied my voice to a new journey and became a vocalist in a local Pop Band called the BeatRoute. Fellow Northcoters, Peter Fernandes and the late Polly Moraes were fellow band members. I also began teaching in a remote Boarding high school in the Village of Bukumi, where I immediately became the Head of the Geography dept.

But President Idi Amin had other ideas and on Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 1972, I together with the aforementioned Peter Fernandes (as well as 144 other Ugandan Asians) boarded the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Government evacuation flight to Montreal. Sadly, my siblings and my dad all headed to other shores. That was also the end of my very short career as a teacher. However as much as our lives had been uprooted my greatest empathy is to the millions of Black Ugandans who suffered travesty at the hand of the Butcher of Africa. Sadly, he died in Saudi Arabia untouched and protected from the justice he should have faced.

## **CANADA**

On my third day in Canada, as we stood in the line-up at the YMCA on Drummond Street in Montreal, I lay sight on the young lady who was going to be my wife. She had arrived from Uganda on Flight Number 2 and was residing like most of the Uganda refugees at the YMCA. We began dating on Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 1972 and got married on September 21<sup>st</sup> 1974 in Montreal.

I had known Gladys D'Mello in Uganda (she was a couple of years behind me in school), but we barely talked to each other back then. Gladys was quickly hired by the Royal Bank of Canada and after we got married, we moved to Toronto.

While I got my High school teaching licences in both Quebec and Ontario, fate took me in the direction of the Financial Services industry. After a couple of years with a Finance company, I was recruited by Royal Bank of Canada, the countries largest financial institution in March 1976. I went on to spend 40 years and 3 days with RBC, retiring on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2016.

My career began in the Consumer loans area, transitioned in the early 1980's into Commercial, corporate, and Real estate banking, saw a stint managing the Institution's Corporate recruitment in the mid nineties, followed by a sojourn implementing changes in service delivery on a national basis in Commercial banking in 1997/8. Just before the turn of the century I returned to the frontlines managing various Commercial banking teams in the Greater Toronto area. I retired from the position of Vice President Commercial Banking, managing the Construction, Real Estate & Property management sector for the Greater Toronto Area.

My career with RBC gave me more satisfaction than I could ever have expected. For a shy, awkward looking lad from Kampala, I consider myself incredibly blessed to have had the opportunity to meet, work with, be influenced by and influence literally thousands of outstanding people of all ages and stripes in the land we call THE GREAT WHITE NORTH. While no Corporation is perfect, I have no qualms in proclaiming RBC as an outstanding employment leader in this country.

Gladys & I have been blessed with 2 wonderful children. Our eldest – Tamara – was born in 1978 and after university also joined RBC. However somewhere along the way she got a calling that led her to a career in nursing. Tammy (as we call her) married Rob Morton and they moved to Calgary where she is employed by Alberta Health conducting the immunization program in the Calgary school system (of course superseded by COVID related activities in recent times). She and Rob are parents to 7-year-old Alex, who is the most interesting “star” of our current “solar System”. Young Alex has very recently moved from a fascination with Dinosaurs and Sharks to an incredible obsession with “FAST CARS”. Whatever the fad, spending time with our only grandchild is the highlight of our lives.

The Noronha family was quiet for 14 years --- then in 1992 -- in our early 40's we were blessed with another bundle of joy. Along came Aaron – a son for us and a much yearned for sibling for big sister Tammy. All of a sudden life changed.

Being older parents, we decided that one of us would have to stay home. Gladys took on that awesome responsibility which was even more significant since my job began to involve national travel for a while. Hockey Rinks, Soccer practices and kids birthday parties became routine.

Today Aaron is 29 years old, graduated from McGill University, and employed by a FINTECH (ClearBanc) in Toronto. We are delighted that he is dating a lovely young lady and is always available to help his dinosaurs parents through new technologies while engaging us in thoughtful discussion of matters beyond “when will the Toronto maple leafs win the Stanley Cup next “.

Giving back to the broader community has been a very important element of our lives. In the 1980’s and 1990’s, I became heavily involved in the evolution of the Goan Community in the Greater Toronto Area. An Association (The G.O.A) had been formed in 1970 and with the expulsion of the Goan community from Uganda in 1972, the membership of The G.O.A in Toronto grew substantially. I joined the association in 1982 and in short order was a committee member, followed by the General Secretary, The Vice president Administration and finally the president in 1989-91.

Over the years the association has grown and is currently the largest operating Goan Club in North America. This year the Toronto GOA, became proud owners of a community centre in Brampton, achieving one of the goals of the founding fathers 50 years earlier. As practicing Roman Catholics, our local parish has been an additional focal point of our lives. From 1985 to 2018, Gladys and I have had the privilege of participating in the delivery of the Marriage Preparation program (a prerequisite for couples planning on marrying in the Church) in our parish. During that time, we have instructed approximately 1,200 couples in the areas of Communication, Conflict & resolution, Parenting, Finances, and the Sacrament of marriage. This undertaking has given us great satisfaction and has been a substantial benefit to our own relationship.



Music entered my life by accident well past my teenage years. I began singing for a dance band in Kampala in 1972 just before the expulsion. Pursuant to arriving in Canada the focus was on getting settled and establishing a family and a career. I did play field hockey in Montreal and Toronto at the club level for approximately 10 years. In 1985, once again by coincidence I was invited to sing for a local Dance band and did this for 3 years. But music was changing, and responsibilities were evolving and so I dropped the singing gig.

*Photo: 1986 Canada Toronto Singing with Band.*

Fast forward to the new century and once again I got asked to sing --- this time in our Church Senior Choir. I grabbed the opportunity and have been part of this choir for the past 15 years. While the pandemic brought an abrupt end to choir singing, it opened up a significant musical undertaking. With the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Uganda Asian expulsion coming up next year, I joined a group of former Uganda musicians in setting up a Virtual WhatsApp community. Our plan is to hold a reunion in Toronto in July 2022 that will feature numerous former band members. We currently have participating members on 4 continents and hold monthly Zoom Concerts as a lead –up to next years extravaganza.

Having no direct family members in the Toronto area, travel has been a significant part of our lives. Visits with family in Brisbane, the UK, Calgary, and Vancouver have always been most pleasurable. In particular they have served to strengthen the bonds between the next generation. More recently Gladys & I have travelled increasingly to new destinations including South East Asia, India, Europe, New Zealand & Fiji.



However, of special fondness to us was our return to Uganda in 2012 after 40 years where I was able to visit numerous memorable locations, including ROOM 124 at what used to be called Northcote Hall. It was very special to meet old friends --- 40 years later they welcomed us like it was only yesterday. *Photo: 2012 Uganda old friends.*

During that trip we also visited the game parks of Tanzania and the island of Zanzibar for the first time. While the Pandemic has stalled the propensity to travel, we are now feeling more confident and a trip to the spice Island of Grenada is in our imminent plans.



Retirement from everyday employment gives one the opportunity to test many other activities. This has allowed me to dabble in numerous nondescript activities that tickle my fancy. Most of these activities involve linking up in one way or the other with old friends and colleagues. *Photo: 2016 Toronto Family on Retirement.*

Whether it be playing golf, writing articles, organising reunions, collecting memorabilia, reading historical articles, or following financial markets, I am most grateful to my family, friends and especially the Almighty for guiding me along and nurturing my desires. *Photo: 2015 Toronto Golfing with Masters Champ Mike Weir.*



## WONDERFUL MEMORIES OF LIFE



*1992 Canada Toronto Reunion MU Goan Students.*



*2008 Canada Vancouver with Hajees.*





*2014 Toronto 40th Wedding Anniversary / 2016 Alberta Wilds Daughter Tammy and Grandson Alex / 2017 Europe Dubrovnik.*



*2017 Singapore Claire & Ossy Viegas / 2018 Toronto welcoming Northcote Firoz Tejani to home / 2020 Canada offspring.*



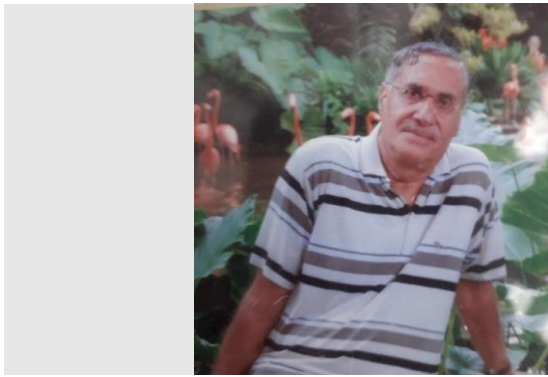
*2020 Toronto with Gladys during Pandemic / 2021 Toronto Christmas Dinner / 2021 Toronto New year Celebration for Two.*

**AS I END THIS WRITE-UP, I AM REMINDED OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN:**

***“THERE ARE THOSE ... WHO ENTER THE WORLD IN SUCH POVERTY THAT THEY ARE DEPRIVED OF BOTH THE MEANS AND THE MOTIVATION TO IMPROVE THEIR LOT. UNLESS THESE UNFORTUNATES CAN BE TOUCHED WITH THE SPARK OF INDIVIDUAL ENTERPRISE AND DETERMINATION, THEY WILL ONLY SINK BACK INTO RENEWED APATHY, DEGRADATION AND DESPAIR. IT IS FOR US, WHO ARE MORE FORTUNATE, TO PROVIDE THAT SPARK “***



## PRADHAN TAJ (1970-72 MEDICINE)



2011 Singapore



2020 UK

### PRE-MAKERERE

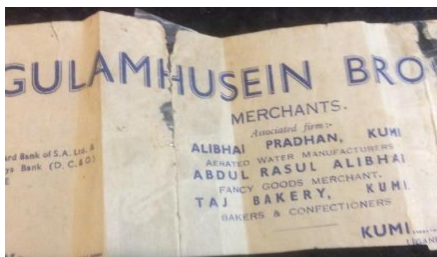
My history begins in a tiny village, in North Eastern in Uganda called Kumi. My dad immigrated from poverty and famine-stricken Gujrat and Khathiawad in 1922 to Kumi, Uganda. British had proceeded to connect port of Mombasa to interior Uganda and completed “the Lunatic Express” as it was known in 1930. The completion of the lunatic express opened trade routes from the interior of Uganda to the busy port of Mombasa mainly to transport cotton and peanuts. Kumi was the terminus of one branch of lunatic railway. My dad was initially a Dukawalah supplying necessary items to support farmers and rail workers. In early 1930 he saw opportunity and became a cotton and peanut buyer supplying produce to Ginneries and Oil Processing Plant around the village.



1949 Uganda My Parents Circa / Siblings.



CIRCA 1968.



Though Kumi had a railway station and a Royal Leper Hospital and a Leper Colony, it was tiny village with a trunk road bisecting the village with 14 -16 tin bandas on either side.

I was born in 1950. I was the youngest in the family, 5 brothers and 4 sisters. I do not have much recollection of my first 4 years in Kumi. My father had ventured into establishing a bakery and a soda making plant and named the it after me.

I was 4 years old when we moved to Jinja, the source of the Nile. I started school in a class where the medium was only English. In my 5<sup>th</sup> year at age 10, I started getting fevers and stiff joints. After a month and visiting several doctors, one astute doctor made diagnosis of Rheumatic fever and by that time my Aortic Heart Valve was affected. He invited a

consultant physician from Mulago Hospital to see me. Diagnosis was confirmed and my parents were advised that I need to be admitted to hospital for a period of 6 months or so.

My mother refused as she had no trust in the medical care available. She was a self-taught herbalist amid a midwife. She had nursed my brother through diphtheria and my sister through juvenile arthritis by massaging her with lion fat and feeding her pigeon soup. Thus, I was housed, and bed bound for nearly 7 months under my mum's care. I remember taking 32 adult Aspirins a day with penicillin. There was no treatment at that time for my damaged valve. My parents were told to keep me "HAPPY". I was molly coddled by everyone. My only outing was a weekly cinema visit to see a Hindi movie with my parents or my siblings.

My passion for old Indian songs started from then. To pass time I started reading all English classic literature Books and taught myself to read Gujarati and used to read very emotional Gujarati novels. I read a book a day including all Perry Mason, Peter Cheney, and Hammond Innes novels. After missing nearly 7 months of school I somehow passed all my exams. I did Science subjects in Secondary School. I got First Grade in my "O" Levels and applied to do "A" Levels in the 3 Schools in Kampala. Come admission time my friends who had 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> grades were getting places non was forthcoming for me! On contacting the Ministry of Education, I was told my application was lost!

My sister Khatoon (Kate) and I decided to physically go to each Head of the 3 Schools for an admission. Kololo School outright declined. The Head of Aga Khan School offered me a place to do History, Art, and Geography. I was looking for a place to study Science subjects. As a last resort we approached the Head at Old Kampala Secondary School. It turned out MR Jones, the Headmaster at the time knew my sister (Kate) he had taught her in Jinja. I got a place to do my science "A" Levels. In hindsight this was the best thing that could have happened as I would not have survived the prison atmosphere in the other two schools, where gates were locked during school time. I had 2 super years at the School and in the Aga Khan Hostel where I lodged for 2 years. I was in a dormitory. There were 16 of us. 12 of them are still my friends.

In my first year of "A" Levels my close friend and I wanted to have a holiday in Nairobi as our brothers were attending University. On the pretext of wanting to sit "A" Levels exams earlier we convinced our parents to let us go. We had a good holiday and sat the exams for the sake of it. To my surprise when the result came, I had a B in Chemistry and a B in Biology and a C in physics.

I was content with my achievement and the second year was spent relaxing as far study was concerned. However, the "death row sentence" of my condition with no treatment in sight and death to follow (2 persons in Jinja who had contracted the illness had died within the first year) was taking a mental toll on me. I endured and never showed it to my family or friends. My physical endurance was limited with shortness of breath, the constant pounding of my heart, my bed rocking with every beat at night. For the medics, I had all the signs of classic aortic regurgitation.

## **MAKERERE JOURNEY**

I applied for Medical training to the 3 Universities namely Makerere, Nairobi, and Dar-es-Salaam. I got offered a place in Chemistry, Veterinary Science from Dra-es-Salaam, and Nairobi which I declined. My sister knew the Dean's Secretary at Makerere and was told that I was an exchange list to do Medicine at IBADAN. She told the Dean's Secretary about my illness and if it were possible if I could do it at Makerere. 2 days later I got an offer for Medicine at Makerere. I was placed in the University Hall. There was no one I knew, and I had room of my own. I did not know anyone in my medical year. The first months for me were almost total isolation as most of the time was away from the main campus and classmates were a bit aloof (likely normal behaviour). My saving grace was that my 2 sisters were at Mulago Hill. Khatoon was with the Burkitt's and Kaposi Research and my other sister a Personal Secretary to Professor Nonchiri in Microbiology.



However, after a few months I made friends with Anil Mussani, Azim Velji, Murtaza Diwan, Salma Pirbhai (Mughal) and have been close friends with since. My sister Khatoon (MY ANGEL IN DISGUISE) asked Professor Somers to see me for my failing heart. He indicated that an eminent Cardiac Surgeon from The Royal Postgraduate Medical School was going to visit Mulago, and he would ask him to see me. I saw him and he advised me to go and see them in London for a valve replacement. I was initially seen, and it was decided I should have the surgery after my 1<sup>st</sup> year of school. It was going to be as a private patient and money to be deposited before surgery in the region of £5,000 (a lot of money in those days). Fortunately, with all my family contributing including my sister's savings I had the surgery. Unfortunately, I again missed the bulk of my 2<sup>nd</sup> year studies. However, I managed to pass my 2<sup>nd</sup> year exams somehow and with my own efforts. Departure came soon after that. I came to London with Salma Pirbhai and got accepted at Kings College Hospital for clinical studies.



*Photo: With 2 sisters.*



I have no Photos from Makerere but a Gem of my Anatomy Class after the Asian expulsion, given to me by a visiting doctor in 1978 / 1972 Anatomy Class / Lake Manyara Trip.



1974: Reunion with Makerere friends: Anil Mussani, Kamru Sunderji, Azim Velji, Mahmood Amlani.

Cricket was the sport I played until early nineties. Had to give it up as back could no longer handle it. Went on a lot of cricket tours around England, Ireland, Holland. After that learned to play golf without any lessons or coaching and since 1995 have been a regular golfer with yearly trips to different countries including Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Kenya, UAE (Dubai), Morocco, USA (Florida, Palm Springs), and Thailand. Also had yearly overseas trips to different parts of the world until 2-3 years ago discovered searching our history family history 2010.



1980 Taj Purley Way.



1890 Jam Shaheb of Jamnagar Circa.



My other and important passion is MUSIC. My brother brought a Harmonium from his visit to India. It used to lie unused in the house. I started to just “muck” around with it and then going away Kampala for studies did not pursue it. It was rekindled again when my sister in law’s nephew came to London and played again. I asked him to get a Harmonium for me and he did. Again, of my own accord learned to play it. I am by no means a Professional Player but play enough and sing Hindi oldies. Have had many an evening/day’s family parties where the whole family has hours of joy and fun. *Photo: Our House Music Session with my Elder Brother on Tabla, and I am Singing and playing Harmonium.*





*2019 Trip to Toronto and Reunion (Taj Pradhan in the Middle in White Sweater).*

## **JOURNEY TO DATE**

I qualified in 1975 and did my first Medical job in a District Hospital on the Coast. It was again a good decision as I learned all the medical procedures as opposed to working in a Leading Hospital where I would have just admitted patients!!

There was another medical setback on the horizon. One a night when on call I suddenly heard a cooing noise in my chest. It became apparent that my valve leaflet had broken, and I had valve incompetence. I saw the Cardiology team again and was advised not to start a new placement until after a 2<sup>nd</sup> valve replacement. I had a 2<sup>nd</sup> valve replacement this time a prosthetic disc valve was inserted in June 1976. I was told my postoperative course was torrid in that they could not stop internal bleeding despite 4 surgeries and nearly 32 pints of transfusion. Ultimately the surgeon called my family and told them no more could be done. Somehow, I came through and 44 years later am alive and kicking.

I did my general practice rotation at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School in London. I joined a family practice in one of the poorest areas in London and the UK. It was in a "LEFT WING" PRACTICE. We never saw any private patients. It grew from a 4 Doctors' Practice to 10 Doctors over the years. My colleague started one of the very first Drug Addict Clinic in London where we monitored maintenance methadone substitution under controlled conditions and helped withdrawal, also offered home delivery, minor surgery, counselling, social care worker help to the very deprived population. It was also an undergraduate and postgraduate training practice affiliated to the three Leading Medical Colleges in London: St. Mary's, Royal Free, University College Hospitals.

Although I retired in 2013 by taking my NHS Pension, I continued working full-time until I did Mowlana Hazar Imam's (AGA KHAN) Deedar in Lisbon-Portugal in 2018.

*ALAS COVID STRUCK IN 2020 AND LIFE IS AT STAND STILL. BUT I STILL WORK 4/5 DAYS A WEEK! AT GOLF!*



## FAMILY

I met Helen in 1975, we got married in 1980, have 4 children (3 Daughters and 1 Son), 1 Granddaughter, and 1 Grandson.



*Jamil (son in law), Sheena, Zara, Taj, Helen (wife).*

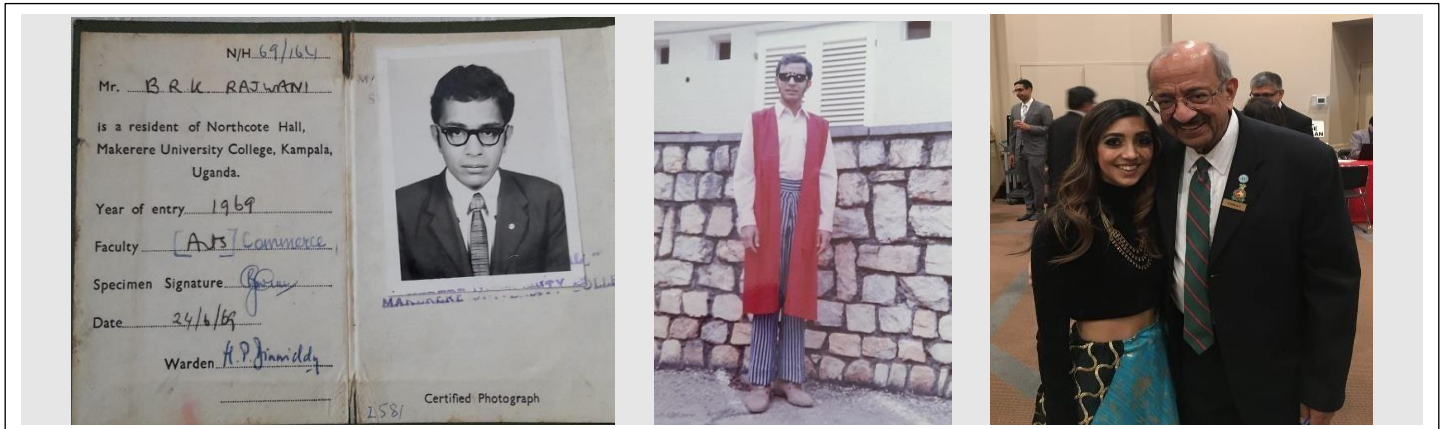


*Ibby (son in law), Natasha, Helen, Taj, Sheena.*



*Standing Helen (wife), Taj, Zara (daughter), Sheena (daughter) and Sitting Natasha (daughter).*

## RAJWANI BARKAT (1969-72 BUSINESS: COMMERCE)



1969 MU ID Card Northcote Hall

1970 MU

2020 Canada-Edmonton

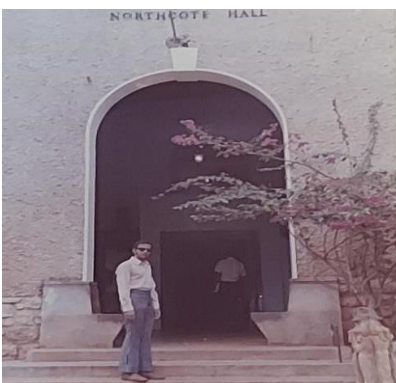
### PRE-MAKERERE

My story starts with me being born in Mbale – the third largest town in Uganda, in a place that is situated right at the foot of Mt. Elgon, an extinct volcano. I was born in a family of seven siblings and had a very happy childhood in Mbale. Though, it was a small town, it provided for everything from hospitals to theaters, primary schools and secondary schools and was a very self-sufficient place to grow up in. My favourite places growing up in Mbale were the numerous cafes that we frequented regularly on Saturdays, Wimpy being one of them – both during the daytime after four hours at the school for a soda and a meat pie and at night for dance parties. My best past time was the British Council Library on the main road where one had access to books galore. It was a very blissful life growing up in this small town, called Mbale.

I attended the Aga Khan Primary School for the first eight years for my formal education and then the Mbale Secondary School where I completed my “O” Levels in 1966 and then completing my “A” Levels in 1968. Though, it was schooling in a small town, majority of my teachers were expatriates – mainly British and Americans! In hindsight, I consider myself very lucky to have been blessed with very appropriate teachers who became a major source of influence in my life. I left Mbale in September 1969 to join the Makerere University.

### MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

We were a group of five students from Mbale travelling together to begin our lives on the hill and coincidentally, all of us had opted to be residents of Northcote Hall under the wings of Hugh Dinwiddie as the Warden of the Hall.



The group consisted of Polly Moarse (RIP), Shiraz Sarangi (RIP), Shokat Jamal, Shiraz Sumar and myself. Polly and Shiraz Sarangi were paired to share a room; Shiraz Sumar and myself shared a room and Shokat was paired up with a Kenyan student.

The first week on the campus was a lot of fun meeting numerous first year students from the other halls of residences and exploring the campus. The orientation was held in the Main Hall, for all of us pursuing Bachelor of Arts. I still have some wonderful memories of my first week in that “IVORY TOWER”

*Photo: 1969 MU Northcote Hall.*





The rest of the students started arriving and that is when the campus started looking chaotic. All of us in the first year earned the nickname of “Freshers”. All of the students at Northcote were like one big family and we soon found a lot of friends from all walks of lives – our instant friends included Salmin Pardhan, Timmy Esmail, Yusuf Karbani, Amir Meghji, Rahman Haji, and we also became friends with a few of the boxers from Mary Stuart, namely, Gully Adam (nee Harji), Parin Verjee (nee Mawani) and Yasmin Kassam.

*Photo: 1970 From L-R Barkat Rajwani, Salmin Pardhan, Amir Meghji, Shiraz Sumar and Tazdin (Timmy) Esmail.*

Other students at Northcote from Mbale included Hashmuk Mulla and the late Pio Gomes. Then, one night we (the brown skinned freshers only) experienced a raid by the other browned skinned students (2<sup>nd</sup> year to 5<sup>th</sup> year) – we were all gathered at late night by almost thirty “older” students and were taken to the swimming pool for “initiation” – the worst experience of my stay on the campus, where these “older” students practiced the most barbaric rites and rituals like shaving off our sideburns, the sides of our head and some other very heinous stuff that I have yet to forget. It almost felt like these students were taking a revenge of what they had undergone the previous year or the year before when they were freshers. It was a pathetic sight the next morning to see most of the freshers without the sideburns and no hair on one side of the head and no moustaches.

I had enrolled for a Bachelor of Arts intending to do a 3-1-1 in Geography, under the leadership of Professor Brian Langlands, as my interest lay in Cartography. Along with Geography, I was doing Economics and Religious Studies. All the class sizes were comparatively small, except for Economics. There were over 400 of us students attending the Economics class, which was being held in the Main Hall to accommodate every one of us!! The lecturer was Mike Tribe. This was a surreal experience for someone that was used to classes with approximately thirty students.

For Religious Studies, I had Dr. Michael Fitzgerald who was also my personal tutor, and I could not have asked for a more caring personal tutor. Dr. Michael Fitzgerald visited me in Montreal in 1978 and if I remember correctly, he was then at the University of Rome. It is my pleasure to disclose that Dr. Fitzgerald was appointed a Cardinal by the Pope last year.

The first year was a lot of bliss and fun and I experienced total freedom for the first time. With the newfound friends like Arvind Jansari, Balwant Makwana, Amin Somji, we were always on the go exploring Kampala and taking in a lot of movies during the first year. Almost every Saturday night was spent dancing at the Leopard’s Lair on the 16<sup>th</sup> floor of the newly built Apollo hotel. Life was good.

We used to frequent “Azaad restaurant” for lunches of Ground beef curry and chapatis as and when we could. The owners always had a huge offering of food for us, the students. Initially, bus travel was a chore, but not only did we get used to the bus but also started getting better at hiking rides. Money was not a problem as I was getting the “boom” money from Uganda government – meaning I had full scholarship.

At the end of the first year during the vacation – I got an offer letter from Makerere University changing my faculties from Arts to the newly formed faculty of Commerce. Only forty of us were selected to commence our Bachelor of Commerce. The selection was based on the highest scorers in Economics. I had to accept the offer to continue receiving the Ugandan scholarship or henceforth pay my way if I continued with B. Arts.



I accepted the challenge that was thrown at me of being placed in the Commerce faculty. It now meant that a four-year Program would be squeezed into two years (my second and third year) – the classes hardly had twenty students each, majoring in Accounting and twenty students majoring in Management. The classes were intense with a lot of subject matter to be covered.

I was also in the office of the Jamatbhai for the Ismaili students on campus during my second year and a part of my third year under the leadership of Salmin Pardhan and Parviz Allidina (nee Lakhani). It was during the second year that we acquired a room in the Extension (newly formed part of Northcote) which was very spacious, large, and very modern.



*1970 Kampala Gomba residence with Shiraz Sumar, Parin Mawani, Shiraz Sarangi, Amin Bandali, Dilshad Karim, Amita Nathwani, Arzina Merali / 1970 MU Chemistry Dept. party with Daphne D’Souza, Balwant Makwana.*

Makerere University instilled in me the passion to travel. I cannot forget the weekends that were spent in Nabusanke at Timmy’s parents place two hours away from Kampala, and then numerous trips to Masaka at Nashir Mawani’s, Lake Nabugabo, our trip to Kisumu to celebrate Khusyali and then the best chance in life to be part of the tour of the Serengeti Park, including Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Manyara (to experience lions on the tree-tops). The memory of that trip organized by Abdul Jina (medic) is etched in my memory because to this day, I still remember the following statement on a billboard which was strategically placed at the entrance of Lake Manyara which simply stated: *“Let no one say and say it to your shame that all was beauty here until you came”*



*Kisumu Trip: Roommates Shiraz Sumar and Barkat Rajwani / Gulzar Sunderji, Late Naseem Rajani, Almas Samnani, Yusuf Karbani, Shiraz Sumar, Barkat Rajwani, Parveen Seated: Late Salim Murji, Abdul Jina, and Timmy Esmail.*

I graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce (Hons with Accounting Major) on October 9<sup>th</sup> 1972 in a massive graduation ceremony in the main field presided by the, then President of Uganda, Idi Amin Dada. In the interim, I had been informed by the East African Community to commence working in Arusha at the beginning of December 1972. I had to turn down that offer in the face of all the political problems that us Asians were faced with in Uganda at that time.



*Rangoli in the entrance at Main Hall during the Diwali celebrations and the performance of Raas (myself wearing white outfit and my roommate, Shiraz Sumar in a "lenghe" and a shirt) at the Diwali function on the campus.*



*Northcote Dining Hall: Left Side: Greyshum, Zul Khimji, Gombaro (in tie), Suresh Sharma, Yusuf Karbani  
Right Side: Shiraz Sumar, Barkat Rajwani, Late Shiraz Sarangi.*



## CANADA – NEW BEGINNING

As a Ugandan refugee, I arrived in Montreal at the Dorval Airport on October 27<sup>th</sup> 1972 just eighteen days after graduating from Makerere University. It was a cold evening and that was when I experienced snow for the first time. We were driven to Longue Pointe (to the Army barracks as were all Ugandan refugees) and that was the beginning of my life in Canada.

Like all Ugandan refugees, I received a lot of help from the Canadian government to help me settle down in Canada. I opted to stay in Montreal so that I could attend McGill University at a later date. I spent about two months at the Queen's Hotel on Peel in Montreal before I moved in an apartment on Decarie, near the horse racing grounds of Blue Bonnets. Montreal was an exciting place to be in – lots to do and lots of night life.

Once again, the Canadian Government came to my rescue and awarded me full scholarship to complete my further studies in accounting. I enrolled at Concordia University (that had excellent record for Accounting) with the aim of taking advantage of my studies at Makerere to pursue for Registered Industrial Accounting.

I audited a number of courses at McGill. After completing my studies in Accounting, I took my parents with me on a maiden trip to India to dig into the family history and roots. We were gone from November 1978 to May 1979, travelling to the remotest parts of India and at the same time travelled to Sri Lanka in the south and Nepal in the north where watching the majestic Mount Everest from the hotel every morning was a treat.

For the first time in my life, I experienced the movement of Hare Rama in Khatmandu and to be able to see who the hippies were in those days. That trip with my parents was the best graduation gift that I gave to myself and at the same time we had a chance to meet the extended families from both my parents' sides of the families.

I was hardly back in Montreal when I left for Europe, to attend my brother's wedding in Sweden. After the wedding I traveled way up north to Lapland to experience the midnight sun (unique experience of a never-ending shadow) after which I had the chance to explore Denmark to fulfill the quest to see "The Little Mermaid" in Copenhagen.

I then travelled and explored North America before accepting a position of a Budget Officer with Alberta Government and moved to Edmonton in 1980. The rest is history as I retired from Alberta Government on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 in Edmonton.



While I worked, I was able to fulfill my passion to travel – 3 times to India, Singapore, Indonesia, Morocco, Spain, Portugal, Azores Islands (a dream come true to experience the geographical/physical features of the islands which included a volcano within a crater and being able to hike on the top of the crater – these features were my main project for my "A" levels) Mexico, China, West Indies, Yukon, Alaska' Hawaii and numerous trips to California.

***If I had a second chance at life again, I would not want anything to change for me except the initiation during the first year at Makerere University.***



**SARANGI FARIDA NEE KARACHIWALLA (1970-72 SCIENCE: BIOCHEMISTRY)  
SARANGI SHIRAZ (1969-72 SCIENCE: MATH AND PHYSICS)**



1970-72 MU Days



2020 Canada-Toronto



2014 Canada-Toronto

***RUMI: TO LIVE IN YOUR PASSION IS ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS YOU CAN GIVE TO YOURSELF, AND TO THE WORLD.  
LET YOUR LOVE FOR LIFE BE THE REASON SOMEONE SMILES TODAY.***



**TIMELINE: 1948 TO PRESENT**

**1900's:** Family History

**Education:** Primary and Secondary School

**Pre-MU:** Nairobi University

**MU 1970- 1972:** Makerere University

**Post MU:** Warwick University, Career-Marriage- Kids-grandkids, Travel

## SHORT FAMILY HISTORY



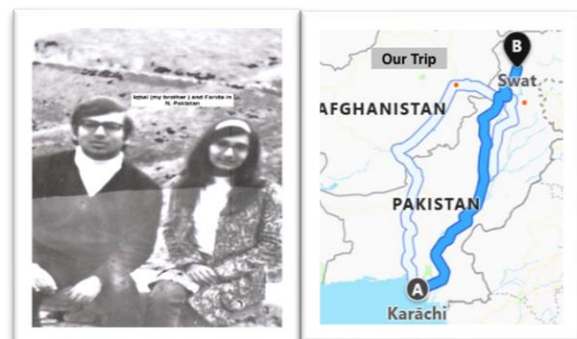
My family's history in East Africa starts with a journey from Karachi, Pakistan that my grandfather (Hussein Samji) took to find a job in Kenya. His ship landed in Mombasa and since he was from Karachi he came to be known as "Karachiwalla". He adopted that as his surname and came to be known under that name. He ran a general store (Karachi General Store) in Mombasa and had a visit from His Highness Sultan Mohamed Shah in 1945. My dad, Ebrahim Karachiwalla, helped run the store with his siblings.



## PRE-MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

I was born on Sept 1948 in Mombasa, Kenya. I have one younger sibling: Iqbal Karachiwalla. I attended Aga Khan High School, Mombasa until the Second form (in the British Schooling system) and then moved to Nairobi where I attended Delamere Girls High School (now State House Girls High School) until the Sixth form.

One of my passions was reading and I recall getting into a lot of trouble as I used to sneak into my bed with a book and read into the 'wee' hours. At exam times, my parents were under the impression that I was studying hard but instead I would hide a book within a textbook and catch up with my story, and that was "TROUBLE."



After school, in 1969, my brother and I visited Karachi, Pakistan to meet our extended family and travel around the country up to the border with Afghanistan.

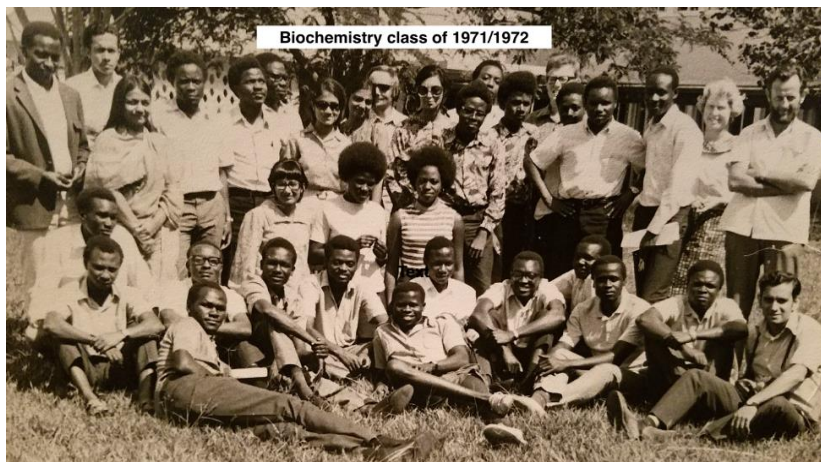
*Photo: 1969 trip to Pakistan.*

**RUMI: TRAVEL BRINGS POWER AND LOVE INTO YOUR LIFE.**



In 1969, after our travels, I started at Nairobi University, where I studied Zoology and Botany, with a keen interest in Biochemistry. Since the only University in Africa offering Biochemistry was Makerere, I moved there in my second year. At Makerere University I studied Biochemistry and continued with Botany.

## MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

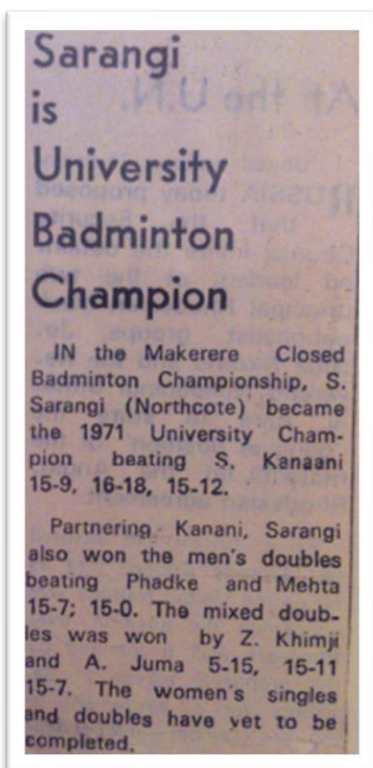


My first experience at Makerere was a bit daunting as this was the first time away from home. I lived at the Mary Stuart Hall and the experience of sharing a room, eating in a huge dining hall with hundreds was an experience that to me was a little unnerving. I did of course get accustomed to this lifestyle as I made friends and it became a social ground to connect and discuss the days activities.

I moved to the new hall of residence, Africa Hall in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year at MU and had amazing coffee parties with Arzina Kassam. Amita Kanani, Joyti Shah and the rest of the gang.

I believe the scariest moment of my years at the university was the military coup d'état led by Idi Amin in 1971 with the army and tanks entering the university and all the students panicking and running. Tear gas and curfews were then the norm for a few weeks.

The best memory of the times at the university was when I met Shiraz Sarangi who was studying Physics and lived in Northcote Hall, which was known for its prowess in sports. Shiraz was a champion at racquet sports and had won several matches. I graduated in 1972 with an Honours in B.Sc. in Biochemistry.





## POST-MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

Career: After MU I decided to do my Masters in Biochemistry at Warwick University in Coventry, England, in which I graduated with an Honors in MSc. I also worked for a few months at Warwick in the Biochemistry Department in order, to get some laboratory experience.

1975: I started working at Princess Margaret Research Center with Dr. Victor Ling on multidrug resistance and ending up with several publications.

2002: I went to work at Amgen with Dr. Christopher Richardson in Virology focusing on the measles virus followed by Hepatitis B and C. When SARS appeared in 2003, I was involved in the cloning of the Sars glycoprotein in order to study its structure and function in the way this virus entered the cell.

2008: I joined Dr. Gordon Keller 's group to work in the field of Human Stem Cells. My work focused on diabetes and the in vitro differentiation of the beta cell, with the idea to transplant these cells into the human body to produce insulin instead of a transplant or insulin injections.

I retired in August 2014 but went back to work part time in May 2015 as I need to keep occupied and I loved the work that I had been involved in: Stem cell research in regenerative medicine for Diabetes.

I started working with Dr. M. Cristina Nostro as her laboratory Manager / Research Associate and I am still working there. I enjoy the challenges that the research provides, and every day is one to look forward to a new discovery!

Publications Link: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=sarangi,f&size=50>

## SHIRAZ'S CAREER

Shiraz after leaving Uganda went on to complete his B.Sc. at Strathclyde University, Glasgow. After completing his B.Sc. in Physics and Math in 1974, Shiraz moved to be with his family in Toronto, Canada.

He then went on to complete his diploma in computer Implementation and Technology (IT) and worked in IBM as a Senior Manager- lead IT.

1997- 2005: Senior Manager - lead IT (Deloitte).

2005- 2007: Senior Director (ADP)

2007- 2008: VP, IT (CIO) (OpenText Corp.)

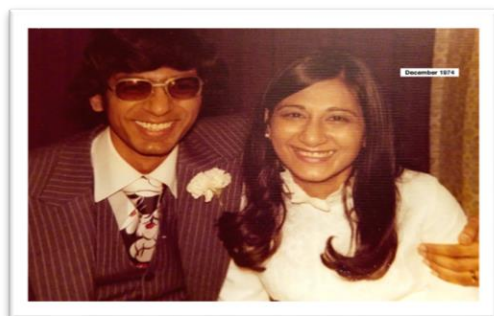
2009- 2012: Director, Corporate IT (Rogers Communications Inc.)

2012- 2014: Executive Advisor and PM to some Financial Institutes.

2014: Retired

***Antony J.D'Angelo: Develop A passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.***

## FAMILY



Shiraz and I married in December 1974 in London, England; when I also moved to Toronto, in the middle of winter in a massive snowstorm. My first experience with a foot of snow! We started a family in 1979, when our daughter was born on November 3. She was named Ayesha after the Immortal Queen in the H.G Haggard novel, SHE and the Return of SHE. Aisha was also the 3<sup>rd</sup> wife of Prophet Mohammed. In 1984 on November 18, we were blessed with another daughter: Saara. A name that meant: Princess, Noble lady, Precious.

Ayesha went on to study Business at Wilfred Laurier, a CPA, and her Masters in Taxation from Waterloo University. She has had an impressive career in Finance and is at present working as a Senior Manager, Tax at Canadian Solar Inc. She has 2 children: Ethan (born in 2013) and Alexa (born in 2015).

Saara also went to Wilfred Laurier to study Business accounting, then obtained her CPA and went on to Massachusetts Institute of Technology- Sloan School of Management to complete her Master of Business Administration (MBA). Her career has also been spectacular, and she now is at IBM (USA) in a role of Corporate Strategist. She has a child: Zaydan (born in 2019).

We led a busy and happy life with our different careers, Shiraz travelling for business, our children's sports activities, our social interactions and outings with family and friends. And, of course, all our travels after our daughters left to pursue their individual careers.



## UNTIL.....

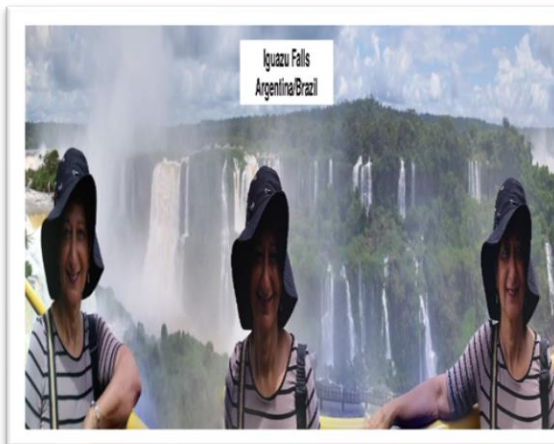
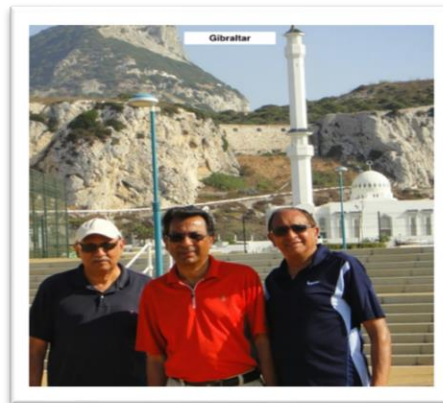
In 2014, Shiraz was diagnosed with Amyloid light-chain (AL) amyloidosis of the heart (a rare disease affecting 5-10 people per million per year). He went through extensive chemotherapy but as his heart was severely damaged, he passed away in January 2015 from a massive cardiac arrest. Shiraz was a fighter and his will to defeat this disease amazingly strong. He was convinced he would survive and go on to travel, play golf again and be able to see his grandchildren grow, but destiny had other plans. He is missed by all his family and friends, who still talk about him and remember him with love and fondness.

## TRAVEL

Shiraz and I loved to travel and had visited several countries in our time together and by myself after his passing away in 2015. Besides travelling together, we also travelled with a lot of our friends and had some wonderful times. We visited a lot of countries in Europe (France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Spain, Turkey, Portugal, Canary Islands, Azores etc.). Syria and Jordan, Asia (India, China, Singapore, Indonesia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand), Australia Tasmania, New Zealand, South Africa, Morocco, Egypt, USA, East and Western Caribbean, South America (Colombia, Argentina, and Brazil), United Kingdom and Scotland.







You can shed tears because they are gone, or you can smile because they lived. You can close your eyes and pray they will come back, or you can open your eyes and see all that they left for you. Your heart can be empty because you can't see them, or you can be full of the love you shared. You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday, or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday. You can remember only that they are gone, or you can cherish their memory and let it live on. You can cry and close your mind and feel empty, or you can do what they would want. Smile, Open your heart, Love... and go on.

—Elizabeth Ammons



**SHIVJI GULZAR NEE JAMAL (1966-72 ARTS: GEOGRAPHY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE)  
SHIVJI AMIN (1966-70 SCIENCE: MATH AND ECONOMICS)**



*1969 MU Graduation BA Degree*

*1971 MU Graduation MA Degree*

*2012 Canada-Vancouver*

## **INTRODUCTION AND PRE-MAKERERE UPBRINGING**

I was born and raised in Kampala, part of a family of 7 siblings, most of whom were born in Mombasa whilst my sister and I were born in Kampala after my dad was transferred there to manage the newly established Diamond Trust Bank in 1946.

We had an easy carefree upbringing, playing various fun games like “Gili Danda”, “Galoli” (Marbles), cricket and lots more with the neighbourhood kids. Wow this was a lot of fun, not having to worry about the cold weather, but bright sunny days all year round! My dad took a lot of interest in our studies and encouraged my older siblings to pursue university education. In fact, my oldest sister, Miss Malek Jamal was the first Ismaili trained teacher, to join the Aga Khan Primary school in 1955. She was an excellent teacher and very popular with the students, but sadly passed away in 1966 and still remembered by her students like the Senator, Mobina Jaffer. Meanwhile both my brothers proceeded to England to pursue degree courses at renowned institutions, Cambridge, and Durham universities. My other 2 siblings and I attended the Aga Khan Primary and Secondary Schools which were renowned for very high standards, manned predominantly by expatriates. At both schools, extra curricular activities became an integral part of the offerings. I remember participating in musicals and had a lead role in a play. At the high school, the Principal Mr. McCourt was famous for his toughness and no-nonsense management of the school. But I was a “Teachers Pet” and one of his favorite students who was made a Prefect! The extracurricular activities offered even included debating and quiz competitions, both my forte and favorites.

Thus, I became a fixture in all debating and quiz contests. I remember being a star at one of the quiz competitions against a leading school, Budo which was televised on UTV!!! performed very well at both the schools academically leading to distinctions in both the final Cambridge exams. I decided to join UEA, University of East Africa, Makerere College for my 1<sup>st</sup> degree to be close to my home. I chose Liberal Arts as my career interest was in teaching, in memory of my late sister. Meanwhile my 2 sisters opted to pursue higher studies in England and Sweden respectively.

## **MAKERERE – FRESHMAN, 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR**

When July 1966 rolled in, I was most excited and already experienced a sense of freedom as I made my way to the Mary Stuart Hall, famously nicknamed ‘the BOX’. I had already been informed I would be sharing a room in the newly built annex with another freshman who was also an Ismaili. My room sharing was a good experience as I usually went home for the weekend. There was a welcoming party for all freshers during one of the early days. I saw some familiar faces and instantly felt at home as I also recognised some Ugandan students from the schools we had competed against. They were all very

friendly with me, and I sat with them at dinner time as I went home for lunches. As for the courses in Arts, I enrolled in my forte, Geography and selected Economics and Political Science which then made me part of the Faculty of Social Sciences. I was impressed with the faculty in each of these subjects, particularly renowned Professors Ali Mazrui and Yash Tandon in Political Science which was my favorite subject. On the other hand, I found Economics a bit difficult especially the Quantitative Methods, but with much appreciated help from my buddy Amin Shivji, I breezed through all these 3 courses in my first year and won a prize from Association of University Women for best female student in Social Sciences. I was thrilled that my first year ended so well academically. Another success story was that I had built good mutually respectful relationships with my African classmates and learnt a lot from them and their smarts!

I also enjoyed social life and lectures in the Main Hall, including programs organised by the Students Guild and different Associations like Muslim Brotherhood. It was at one such gathering held by the Muslim Brotherhood that Aziz Esmail a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student in Religious Studies asked me to stand as Secretary in the upcoming elections wherein Aziz was standing for Presidency! I was thrilled to say the least. As we were unopposed, it was a shoo-in for us. Aziz and I started enrolling new members and managed a very wide spectrum of members and organised some lectures. The highlight of our stint was that in November of that year, we had a visit from Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, UNHCR High Commissioner as VIP Guest of the University. The Vice Chancellor, Yusufu Lule organised a cocktail party for our Guest, followed by a lecture in the Main Hall. Aziz and I were both invited to this prestigious gathering and even introduced to Prince Sadruddin who was very impressed by the existence of the Muslim Brotherhood on the campus. At the lecture in the Main Hall, Aziz and I were given front seats! Prince Sadruddin addressed a full house but typically there were only a handful of Ismaili students. Prince Sadruddin gave a moving speech on the plight of the refugees on the global scale. He then invited questions from the floor. As there appeared no questions forthcoming, I stood up to ask him about the refugee problem between Pakistan and India at the time of the partition. To my surprise, I got a lot of applause, but more significantly commendation from Prince Sadruddin for a good question. Thus ended my first very fruitful, enjoyable, and most satisfying year on the campus with an awesome all-round experience! During the long break, I went to Europe to visit my siblings in Sweden and England and had a great time going sightseeing.

I was more than ready to start our second year having already decided on my 2 subject degree courses-Geography, which was important if I were to take up teaching and to fulfill my passion, Political Science. There was a flurry of activity related to elections in the Halls of Residence, but more importantly, Students Guild Elections. It aroused my passion to get into student politics and, when the aspirant for Presidency, front runner Noah Miguda visited our Hall, I expressed my interest in the Guild. Noah was thrilled to have the first Asian female as part of his team. I joined the guys in the evening to campaign in different Halls. It was an amazing experience leading to our win. I garnered a position as Information Secretary in the Executive. This was a prestigious appointment, politically important as a female and more so a representative of the Asian minority. Besides attending regular meetings and student gatherings, we were invited to high profile events by the University Vice Chancellor and the senior Executives. I got invited to numerous social events including social gatherings and even dances in the Main Hall which I enjoyed a lot. Thus ended the second year which by all measures turned out to be the best in terms of the amazing experiences, the variety and fun too.

My 3<sup>rd</sup> year was relatively quieter, with more concentration on the academic side, being the final year. I also ensured I kept up with the attendance at JK regularly. One important landmark was the visit of HH the Aga Khan to our Campus Mosque in January 1969. Imagine our Spiritual Leader accompanied by the VC Lule, insisting on sitting on the carpet! He expressed his happiness at seeing so many of us and reminded us to work hard and make the most of this opportunity.

He even donated a sum towards the expansion of the Mosque. I felt so charged up after this momentous visit that I crashed into exam preps with a gusto. Thankfully I passed my finals with an Upper Second-Class degree with the highest marks in Geography and equally good marks in Political Science. **Thus ended the 3 most fulfilling and enjoyable years of my young life.** Meanwhile my dear friend and future spouse, Amin Shivji passed with a BSc and started teaching at a high school whilst enrolling for a part time BPhil. With his passion and thirst for business, he ventured into buying a 1,400-acre plantation/farm a year later from an Indian philanthropist after getting substantial financing from an agricultural bank.

## POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AND TENURE

As one of my career options, during the holidays, I decided to pursue a teaching diploma at the Dept of Education to be able to take up teaching Geography. But to my surprise, Professor Langlands, Head of Geography offered me a position of Teaching Assistant in Geography with a proviso of pursuing a Masters degree. This sounded surreal and I jumped to take it up as the stipend offered was also adequate. Additionally, to the surprise of the Professor and myself, I was offered a German Scholarship of Shs 20,000.00 per year for a term of 2 years. How lucky and blessed I was as such awards were usually given to the indigenous Ugandans. I am sure having made some good inroads with the Ugandan powers-that-be during my Guild days resulted in the strings being pulled. Then came up the issue of the topic for my thesis as being an Asian female, I would have a problem with actual field work, so the Professor suggested I use ATLAS OF UGANDA, a big one on different aspects and collect data by grid squares and application of statistical methods for analysis of the data, a unique exercise completed with untiring support from my friend and future spouse Amin! My thesis entitled "*Uganda Squared*" was finally ready on time and was accepted for an MA which I received from none other than President Idi Amin in September 1971. I had my photo kneeling down to receive it in the Main Ground from Idi. (But after he kicked us out, I tore it up!) Soon after, I was offered a tenure as Assistant Professor in the Dept of Geography specialising on regional geography of Asia. This again was unique as the Africanization not Ugandanization was the order of the day for all appointments. I enjoyed the short-lived lecturing a lot, but was cut short by the expulsion crisis!

## MARRIAGE AND EXPULSION

As already intimated, Amin Shivji had been a friend from our young days and always supported me particularly tirelessly during my MA preps at which time our relationship solidified and led to a proposal of marriage! **We got married on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1972, just 2 months before the D-Day Expulsion!!!** It was a big wedding with a massive reception at the Main Hall with a good number of my colleagues and African friends followed by a grand party at Amin's recently acquired farm the next day. We had an amazing honeymoon visiting the Parks in Kenya and Tanzania including the famous Tree Tops. We settled down in the Shivji family home in Old Kampala and carried on with our routines. Then came the outrageous announcement on August 9<sup>th</sup>: "all Asians must leave Uganda in 90 DAYS". I remember thinking, was it a **BAD DREAM?** No, Idi meant it. We were utterly shocked and poor Amin, as a recent big investor in the farm was shattered beyond belief as all Asians panicked and even wept and pleaded with the Government for a reprieve. But to no end as the situation worsened by the day, harassment, stealing, break-ins, and increased Kondo (armed gangs) threats became the order of the day with a total breakdown. Non-Citizen Asians started winding up and were airlifted to Britain and India. In the meantime, Asians who had acquired Uganda citizenship were subjected to a citizenship verification exercise which nullified their certificates and rendered many of them stateless, including my parents. Only Asians spared were those citizens born in Uganda with a parent also Uganda born which included Amin and I, thus his Mantra "**We are not leaving**".

However, the situation was worsening day by day with reports of our women being raped by the reckless soldiers, even sporadic killings, and countless raids. Thankfully Canada, after the Aga Khan negotiated with late PM Pierre Trudeau, agreed to airlift 5,500 of the **qualified** stateless Ugandans based on the points system, predominantly members of the Ismaili community including thankfully my family, Amin, and me. Soon after Air Canada flights arrived at Entebbe and the lucky ones were airlifted to a new strange and cold but welcoming country. Amin and I stayed behind as per Amin's wish, but armed with our Canadian visas, for any eventuality but moving to campus accommodation for security. With 9 days left to the deadline, I was the **only Asian** woman left behind with Amin. But the situation was worsening by the day, and we were warned by concerned friends and colleagues at Makerere to leave or else face dire consequences.

## RELUCTANT DEPARTURE, ARRIVAL IN CANADA AND RESETTLEMENT IN VANCOUVER, BC

So frantically we packed up and planned to go to Nairobi and watch the ensuing situation in the hope of returning. We barely managed to leave on the last day, just made it to the Entebbe airport bribing our way through and after some purse raiding by soldiers rummaging for cash and jewelry as they had stolen from all departing Asians, we made it **just 1 hour**



**before** the deadline on November 9<sup>th</sup>! We stayed in Nairobi, monitoring the situation in Kampala – but heard about the very troublesome and worsening state bordering on utter breakdown of law and order. So, after registering with the Canadian Embassy in Nairobi, we made our way to Canada armed with our safety net, the Visas and acquired flight tickets. We flew to our preferred city of Vancouver via London and arrived on December 8<sup>th</sup>. We were met by one Canadian official who took us to our hotel accommodation. Needless to add we missed some of the perks which the majority enjoyed. But we were grateful for the warm clothing and hotel accommodation, breathing a sigh of relief and feeling gratified to have finally made it to our future home after escaping a dangerous and highly traumatic situation in Kampala. After settling down and meeting up with our extended family, we registered the next day with the Canada Manpower and lost no time going job hunting. We had already heard about the inherent prejudices and discrimination our people were subject to being the first non-White refugees. Even worse, was reducing our degrees to a piece of worthless paper with total negation of our Ugandan qualifications. Thus, the signs of covert racial discrimination and poor treatment especially by some of the elderly Canadians who were so resentful. To their chagrin, we were all keen to adapt to our new home by hook or by crook and did our best to impress them, particularly the employers. Thankfully our fluency in the English language was a big plus. Besides such was our resilience, we were ready to take up any type of a job to start our resettlement process. We heard of rich entrepreneurs having left all the riches behind, ready to take up clerical work in parking lots, ladies who had never worked in their lives, even ready to take up janitorial work! Even an ardent recent investor just 2 months prior, my husband Amin was ready to take up a job vacated by his brother in a men's clothing shop whilst I tried temp agencies and managed an accounting job in a Canada-wide company. Armed with these jobs and a loan for new furniture from the Immigration Board, we moved out to a suburb of Vancouver, family-friendly Richmond and rented a 3-bedroom condo.

Two years later, we managed to even buy a house (which became our home for good 40 years until I downsized in 2014). We repaid all the monies and loans received from MANPOWER at the first opportunity. So, it was certainly a good feeling to be settling down so fast in readiness for sponsoring Amin's family from the UK who rejoined us by fall of 1974. I had hoped to follow up with pursuit for a PhD, being armed with excellent reference letters. But family planning overtook that desire and our first one, our daughter Farah was born in 1973 followed by another daughter, Nazma 4 years later and our third daughter Aliya a few years after that, which necessitated both wage earners to support a growing family! So, any hope of another degree went by the wayside. In the meantime, Amin applied for and got admission for a part-time MBA at UBC, whilst continuing his accounting job! Thus became my fate: from academics to more mundane accounting. I did not mind this as it made for a more easy, stable, and manageable life. My mum-in-law was a gem and took care of now 3 daughters whilst both Amin and I worked full time. In the meantime, Amin graduated with his MBA and got an excellent managerial job with a lending bank till its collapse in the 80s, a victim of the severe downturn. Being an innovator, Amin got involved with a start-up – an interlocking building block made from polystyrene invented by an American inventor – and established the Canadian Insulock Company. The product was even written up in Popular Science. Unfortunately, Amin suffered a heart attack in 1993 and had to give up the stressful partnership and take a break. All along our 3 daughters breezed through their schooling in flying colours garnering Honor roll status with Nazma, my second daughter even standing first in the BC Provincial exams in 1995.

## **RETURN OF PROPERTIES LEADING TO RETURN TO UGANDA**

In the mid-90s, properties were being returned to the expelled Asians in Uganda. So as expected, Amin got very excited and now fully recovered, decided to return to Uganda to reclaim his farm. So, he took a long flight in December 1994 to Entebbe. But Uganda had regressed so much after the Asian expulsion leading to total breakdown of the infrastructure. Our farm was shockingly unrecognisable, fallow, overgrown and totally barren. But Amin's excitement in going back and recovering his dear farm overrode all the hurdles and roadblocks staring him in the eye. After a lot of effort and sheer hard work armed with some funds from here and a loan from DTB Bank, Amin got a Swiss partner who helped him convert the farm into a thriving certified organic fruit and vanilla farm, one of the best in Africa, the only one to have a high organic certification, Demeter, exporting fresh and dried products to European markets and vanilla to the US.

## How one man's labour of love is transforming his nightmare into a new life for the poor



Amin Shivji salvaged the hope of a village from family ruins, STEPHANIE NOLEN discovers

Gulzar, once a professor of geography in Kampala, got work as a teacher



started functioning well and were almost restored to their original status as Amin even worked with the expat heads to introduce international curriculum offered side by side with the national curriculum. He also took care of some of our poor Ismaili kids by sponsoring their schooling, and even set up a bursary scheme for all struggling children.

I joined Amin in 2005 after my retirement and loved my time living in Kampala intermittently as we kept our house in Richmond. Kampala by that time had started undergoing a total transformation, with new buildings, factories, banks, big shops, embassies, you name it after a humongous bailout from the World Bank and IMF. So many expats representing different NGOs and donor countries moved to Kampala adding to its stature as a vibrant hub and thriving capital of Uganda. Many young Indians emigrated to Uganda in search of jobs and business opportunities. It became a very livable city with new homes and all the amenities, total upliftment with new hills around Kampala developed with locally owned huge houses and all the infrastructure. I loved my time there helping with the business, but also volunteer involvement in our schools and the luxury of fresh organic foods and all the domestic help to boot.

## VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES

Once we were well settled in Vancouver in the mid-70s, I got a call to participate in an interview on CBC Radio about resettlement of refugees in Vancouver, an initiative of the Ismaili Women's Organisation (IWO). Soon after that I was appointed to be the Secretary of IWO in 1976, which gave me a good start to get involved in our community. Thus in 1984, I was appointed Liaison member on the Council for BC for IWO, Ismailia Women's Organisation. I was also part of the



Seniors committee for a good number of years as a Programme Coordinator. In later years, I helped change the vision and thus the programme offerings of the Seniors committee to include more educational content with informative talks and classes like English and Computer. I have also been a member of IVC - the Voluntary corps for over 30 years! Volunteerism has been my lifeline even when we were in Uganda and upon my return there in 2005, in the education field. I was also a director on the newly formed Richmond Multicultural Society with its goal of bringing diverse immigrant communities under an umbrella organisation to foster unity and peaceful coexistence. I initiated and organised a highly successful multicultural lunch with representatives from all communities, officiated by Minister Barbara McDougall. For all these voluntary activities, I was awarded a Medal on the Silver Jubilee of HH the Aga Khan.



## ***I have been blessed with three Outstanding Volunteer Opportunities.***

**1. World Partnership Walk.** Of these 3 special ones, 2 were in Vancouver whilst one in Kampala. The most outstanding highlight of all my voluntary involvement was to be one of the **key founders** of the World Partnership Walk in June 1985, organised by the Women's Organisation led by a core team of 5 headed by me. The idea stemmed from a new activity, a walk in the park, but quickly evolved into a first **"walk-a-thon"** in conjunction with newly established Aga Khan Foundation Canada (AKFC) already involved in improving the lot of the women in East Africa thus coined **'Walk for Third-World Countries'**. This generated a lot of enthusiasm and excitement all around with our members ready to take on different tasks starting with the securing of the location for the Walk in our famous Stanley Park. Simultaneously our Chairman, Nurjehan Mawani who was also a Director on AKFC Board secured fund collection authority, the collection books, and the receipt of funds with the AKFC. Then followed promoting and marketing this new idea in our JKs and collection of donations. Being the first such program, the novelty garnered unimaginable popularity with our community. Miraculously it all came together and in a short span of 6 weeks, we had our first Walk on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1985, at the Lumberman's Arch in famous Stanley Park which has remained the location for the Walk all these 35 years. We had about 1,000 participants, and we managed to raise \$55,000. After 2 walks organised by IWO, AKFC took over the Walk in 1987, and have organised this fundraising drive **"WORLD PARTNERSHIP WALK"**, Canada's largest event against global poverty for the last 35 years.

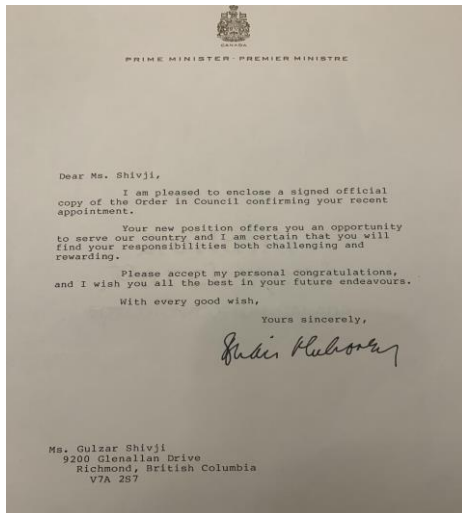


The walk has grown to be a landmark activity, held in 9 Canadian cities, and has raised \$125million to date in support for women and children in the developing world. Based on their success, AKF UK and AKF USA hold the same popular fundraiser in their countries. Our committee received accolades for this very innovative fundraiser: recently ex-President Talib and currently LIF Chair even sent me a letter of commendation. For my role as the leader of this unique event, I was awarded the **Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2003 on the Queen's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary**. Photo: Medal received from Senator Mobina Jaffer.



**2. Canadian Human Rights Tribunal.** In the 1988 Federal Elections, I volunteered to help our local Tory candidate, Minister Tom Siddon meet Ismaili voters, thus getting a breakthrough with new immigrants. Upon his victory he was very appreciative and asked me to join his Riding Association which gave me good grounding in federal politics. Thereafter it was up and up for me. I was asked to submit my resume and based on my qualifications and being a "new" Canadian, I

got a letter from Prime Minister Brian Mulroney appointing me as a Part time Member of Canadian Human Rights Tribunal for a 3-year term from 1990 to 1993! What luck to get appointed to such a prestigious body! We were 3 panel members, we participated in 4 lengthy hearings, in the 3-year period, but overall, an amazing and unmatched experience!



I also got invited to high level dinners whenever PM Mulroney visited BC! But all great things come to an end and in this case the gravy stopped once the Tories were defeated in 1993.



**3. Chair Aga Khan Education Services, Uganda.** As there was a dearth of educated talent amongst our Ismaili community in Uganda in the early years after our return, as soon as I returned there in 2005, the following year, I was appointed to AKES Board of Directors to be the Chair of the Finance and Audit committee. This was a challenging and eye-opening experience which gave me crucial insight into the running of the 3 schools in Old Kampala. We had to deal with huge budgets, streamline the reporting systems and reinvigorate best practices to govern all aspects of the school management. With my good background of my degrees from Makerere and the then good relationship with the Africans, I managed to break through, made strides with the senior staff and fulfilled my role beyond any expectations for 3 years. This led to my appointment as **Chairman of the Board of AKES Uganda** by His Highness in 2009 for a 3-year term. This was a very high position as it entailed annual budget meetings with the Aga Khan and closer involvement in the operations, a daunting task to say the least. Thankfully with Amin having been Chair for 2 terms, he was a great help. Also, for me having minimal responsibility in the business, I had the luxury of time to fulfill this very demanding role. I was also responsible for the introduction of the IB curriculum at the High School to run simultaneously with the national and recently introduced international curriculum. We had to recruit excellent teaching staff to run it. This attracted a lot of interest and visits by other school heads and even Ministers.



The highlights were visits by Princess Zahra and Prince Hussein in 2012. They showed a lot of interest, and they were both most impressed.

But the most outstanding was the visit by HH the Aga Khan in 2011, an absolute surreal experience. He was so happy to see the transformative progress made in the restoration of the school infrastructure, the high quality of well-trained staff and above all the introduction of the IB curriculum.

During the visit of His Highness the Daily News Paper in Uganda Monitor included a Supplement for Hazar Imam's 50 years Golden Jubilee. This supplement featured a section on the importance of high standard education offered at our schools. As a Director of Aga Khan Education Services, I was interviewed on my role as a volunteer, encouraging young immigrant families to value good education and support their young children to work hard and make the most of the high-quality education offered at our schools.



For this voluntary service, I received a communal title from His Highness the Aga Khan.

However, this was another very special voluntary involvement cut short by my husband Amin's sad passing in 2012. I returned to Vancouver following the sad tragic loss of my dear spouse of the 40 best years of my life.

Since then, I have been totally retired and continue with voluntary activities, mainly involved with seniors as part of the Visitation Committee, volunteering with IVC and helping at a thrift store run by Richmond Family Centre.

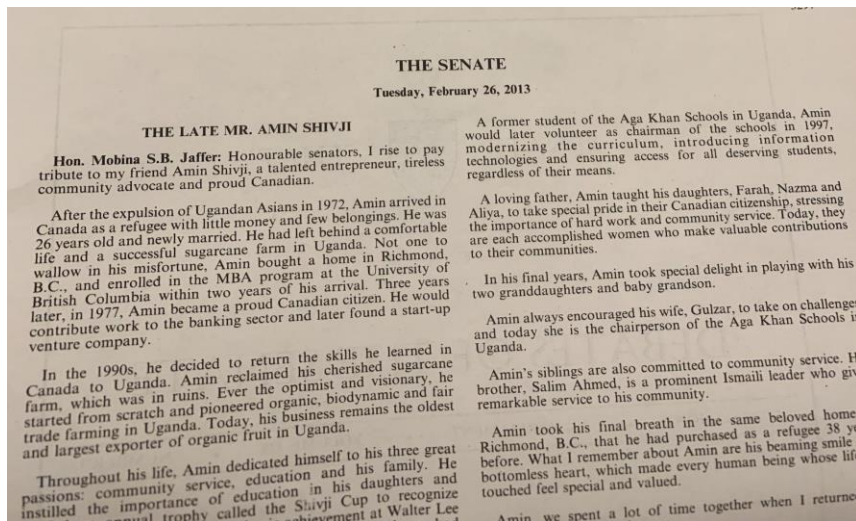
Currently I am mentoring Afghan refugees in Turkey and Delhi using a virtual learning upgrade programme to teach English, which I find highly fulfilling.

## TRAVELS AND VACATIONS

As for travel, when we were in Kampala, we travelled for a 2-week vacation in SE Asia covering Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore. Our girls joined us from the UK and Canada to celebrate Amin's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and we had a swell time in 2006. I also travelled to Paris a few times for meetings with HH the Aga Khan. Our drive to Rwanda from Kampala was an amazing experience as was, driving to Nairobi and Mombasa so reminiscent of our young days. Coming back here, I have been to London a few times as one of our daughters lived there before moving here. Other frequent visits were to Dubai and Qatar, both stopovers to Entebbe. But the most enjoyable part has been cruising, ever since I went for my first cruise to Alaska with Amin for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the summer of 2012.

Since then, I have done about 10 cruises including Caribbean, Panama Canal, Mediterranean, Mexican Riviera, Gulf from Dubai to Muscat, and most outstanding ones were from Dubai to Singapore and more recently Far East from Hong Kong to Singapore in 2018. In between in 2015, I managed to join a 3-week tour of India which was an eye opener.

## FAMILY AND CHILDREN



I have already covered some of the highlights of my late husband's life, his giving nature, generosity, and accomplishments.

He sadly passed away in Vancouver in December 2012 after suffering from severe injuries from a hit-and-run in Kampala in 2009.

He had to undergo numerous surgeries in Kampala and later in Vancouver and passed away in December 2012 at the age of 66.

Such was his colourful life that he garnered a tribute in the Senate by Senator Mobina Jaffer.

As already mentioned, we have 3 girls, Farah, Nazma, and Aliya who after their 1<sup>st</sup> degrees pursued their 2<sup>nd</sup> degrees with daughter Farah earning an MEd from University of London. After getting married to Arzoo Babul, an entrepreneur, they moved to Vancouver where she took up teaching at a West Van IB school. She has 2 daughters, Sahar and Reyah.

All my 3 girls have followed their Mom and Dad's example of volunteering and giving of themselves. Farah has been volunteering as Chairman of Aga Khan Education Board for 2 terms. Currently she is heading a virtual teaching initiative in teaching English for Afghan refugees in Turkey and India.



My second daughter, Nazma pursued a second degree in Law at the University of Toronto and graduated with a JD. She joined private practice at a top-notch firm but after planning a family, opted for a more regulated option as a Senior Counsel at BC Securities Commission. She is married to Lloyd Lee, an engineer working for the City of Vancouver and has a boy and a girl, Imran, and Jahan. She was a legal member on the Council for BC and now active with the Religious Education Programs.

My last daughter Aliya did her Masters in HR at the University of Dublin and currently works as an HR Consultant with the City of Richmond. She was married to Faisal Shariff from Edmonton, but sadly he passed away, leaving behind a son, Rumi. She has been involved with ITREB BC in various capacities.

So, I have been blessed with 5 grandchildren, adding a lot of joy to my aging life, particularly the 3-year-old Rumi who has kept me young as I approach my 75<sup>th</sup> in a month's time!

So, this is the synopsis of my life story including some bits of my late spouse's life I thought to share with the MU group. I apologise for the length but clearly had a lot to cover.

I feel blessed and gratified to have had an awesome life so far with so many different experiences and more than anything volunteering opportunities.

Above all I feel so blessed and so grateful to Allah for such a loving, caring and an amazing, accomplished family.



**SORATHIA SHIRAZ SUMAR (1969-72 SCIENCE: CHEMISTRY)**  
**SORATHIA SHARMIN NEE LADHA (1969-72 SCIENCE: STATISTICS AND ECONOMICS)**



*MU ID Card Northcote Hall*

*2020 Canada-Toronto*

## **SHIRAZ SUMAR SORATHIA – MY STORY**

### **PRE-MAKERERE**

I was born on Diwali day amidst fireworks and festivities in a loving family of four siblings in a town called Mbale in Uganda. My father Alibhai Sorathia and my mother Sherbanu Sorathia migrated from Ranavav Gujarat in India and settled in Mbale. Mbale is at the western foot of Mount Elgon in southeastern Uganda and is a fertile coffee and cotton growing region. It is the main centre with amenities serving the western region of Uganda. They say it takes a village to raise a child and that was certainly true about my childhood. I was raised in a multicultural community where everybody knew each other, and we celebrated all multifaith festivals. Mbale was a very safe town and we played on the streets with friends and went to each other's houses without invitations and shared meals. I had a very happy childhood and had great stability in my life until President, Idi Amin Dada, ordered the expulsion of the Asian minority from Uganda in 1972.

I went to Mbale Aga Khan Primary School where the education was excellent, and children were also encouraged to be involved in various activities, competitive sports, cubs/scouts, hiking, camping, drama, and volunteering. My school had a youth club where we got together on weekends and did various activities such as dance parties, picnics, going on trips to different places (Sipi Falls) and also climbed ranges of Mount Elgon. We had an exchange program with the Kampala youth club and kids from Kampala came to Mbale and stayed with us. I made lifelong friends and am still in touch with some.

My primary school vacations were spent with extended family living in small villages (Busia, Majanji, Budaka, etc.). Most of these villages did not have electricity or running water and had outhouses. It was a simple carefree life, and the memories will always stay with me.

I went to Mbale Secondary School and completed my (GC "O" level) and (GC "A" level) in 1968. I did well in school and have very fond memories of my school days. I played sports in school and was on football (soccer) and volleyball school teams. I also played soccer in the Mbale League. We travelled in the back of trucks on dirt roads to small towns and villages to play other teams. The people in the small towns were very hospitable and friendly and I made lots of good friends. I recall playing against teams from the prison and had to go into the prison grounds to play against them. Occasionally I would bump into a released convict or prison guard on the street.

I was a member of the Scouts and Troop Leader when we went to the Uganda Golden Scout Jubilee at Kaazi campgrounds near Kampala. It was an experience that will always stay with me especially the first night when we got in late at night, hastily pitched a tent and found out the next day that we were on a termite hill. The termites had a feast on our sleeping bags. I still remember the sight of the procession on the last night walking to our huts from the campfire carrying candles.

## MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

I was accepted at Makerere University in 1969 to do a Bachelor of Science Degree. I pursued the 3-1-1 path whereby I studied Math, Physics and Chemistry in the first year and then Chemistry for the next two years.

I graduated in 1972 with a B.Sc. (Hons) degree in Chemistry.



*1970 MU Chemistry Class with Faculty Members / 2008 MU Reunion (Northcote Group) Shiraz Dossa, Salmin Pardhan, Shiraz Sorathia, Timmy Esmail, Rehman Haji, Late Shiraz Sarangi, and Nizar Remtulla.*

I came to Makerere University with my childhood friends late Shiraz Sarangi, Barkat Rajwani, Shaukatali Jamal, late Polly Moarse and Zulfikar Khimji. Luckily, we all ended up in Northcote Hall. Barkat Rajwani was my room mate. I also connected with Anil Lalani, Abdul Sovani, Anwer Jaffer, Kamru Sunderji and others who had come to Mbale to study and who were now also at Makerere University.

Northcote Hall was known for sports and the brotherhood called “Northcote Spirit “. Every year after winning the overall sports trophy we had a celebration of Bull Roasting in the grounds between Northcote Hall and New Hall and a Victory Parade around the campus. That was lots of fun. I remember John Noronha leading the parade on a tractor making a racket banging garbage bins lids and going around Mary Stuart Hall much to the chagrin of the “Boxers”.



Northcote Hall dinning room was a riot. We had food flights and noisy welcome to girls who came as guests into the dinning hall. Our warden once made an unpopular decision and was consequently pelted with food and had to be rescued from the dinning room.

*Photo: Greyshum, Zulfikar Khimji, Gombaro, Suresh Sharma, Yusuf Karbani, Shiraz Sorathia, Barkat Rajwani, Late Shiraz Sarangi.*



After dinner most of us went to the main library to study. After coming back from the library, a group of us would get together in one room for coffee and naasto (snacks that we had brought from home) and talked until late night. I remember how we kept ants away from the opened black and white condensed milk can in a plate with water surrounding the can.

*Photo: Coffee and Naasto in Timmy Esmail and Salim Pradhan's room with Barkat Rajwani, Salmin Pradhan, Amin Meghji, Shiraz Sorathia, and Timmy Esmail.*

The most popular hangout place in the mornings between classes was Kanubhai's canteen on the campus for the excellent meat pies. Sometimes we would wander over to Wandegeya (area just outside the campus) for Matoke and Nyama with peanut sauce. I recall the night when we sneaked a mattress from Northcote Hall and mounted it on top of Timmy's Daihatsu car and went to the drive-in cinema. The car could barely get up the hill and needed five of us to push it up. We met up with other friends who had hitch hiked to the drive-in-cinema, and we all sat on the mattress in front of car and watched the movie and had a picnic.



We worked really hard but also enjoyed a great social life on the campus and were involved in number of extracurricular activities including music parties, celebration of religious festivals and sports.

*Photo: Get together in Arzina Merali's room with Shiraz Sorathia, Jyoti Shah, Salmin Pradhan, Amita Kanani, Arzina Merali, Barkat Rajwani and Farida Sarangi.*



*Performance in Main Hall during one of the celebrations / Kampala train station saying goodbye to friends at Y-E*  
*Performance Group: Nazma Tejani, Shiraz Sorathia, Yasmin Mawani, Shiraz Sarangi, and Train Station: Timmy Esmail,*  
*Shiraz Sorathia, Amita Kanani, Rose, Barkat Rajwani and Late Shiraz Sarangi.*

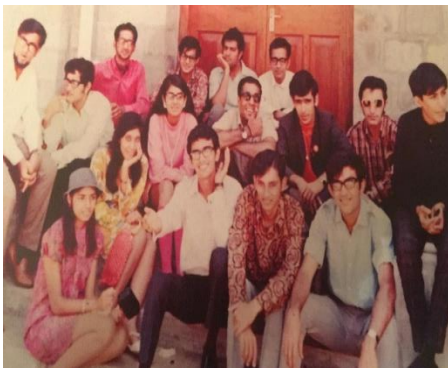


I have wonderful memories of weekends spent at Timmy Esmail's place in Nabusanke. His parents smothered us with love and good food. I still remember the Uganda toast and roasted chicken stuffed with minced meat from their wood burning bakery. Most weekends we went into town to catch a movie and get some decent food. One place we really enjoyed eating at was Bat Valley when we got "BOOM" money (bursary) from the Uganda government.

We participated in a number of memorable trips including Kisumu, Masaka and the Game Parks. One-night a group of us in the game parks trip decided to call spirits and talk to the dead. We sat down on a round table with dim candles and tried to communicate with spirits. What a creepy night that was. On that night we formed a group call "ROUND TABLERS" and hung around together. We all bought beaded necklaces and wore them on the trip. Our group got into lot of trouble with Trip Leader Mohamed Jinnah – he would get back at us by assigning us duties to clean pots and pans after dinner.



*Round Tablers at the Game Park: Nasim Mohamed, Late Shiraz Sarangi, Yasmin Mawani, Shiraz Sorathia, Zarina Kassam, Alnoor Abdulla, and Barkat Rajwani; and Round Tablers at the 2008 Reunion in Vancouver: Late Shiraz Sarangi, Yasmin Mawani, Shiraz Sorathia, Nasim Mohamed and Alnoor Abdulla.*



*Kisumu Trip.*



*Masaka Trip.*

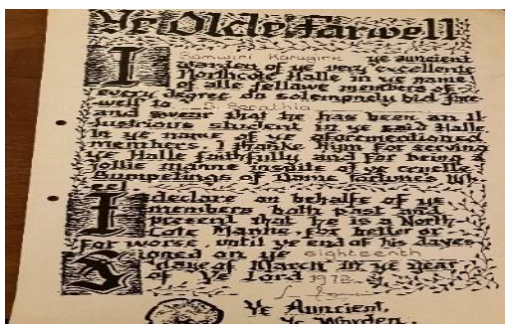


*Game Park Trip.*

I took part in a demonstration on the campus to protest against arms sales to South Africa. We all got together at front gate of the campus. The Uganda army stepped in and stopped us. They started firing tear gas to breakup the demonstration and we all had to run in different directions to our halls of residence with burning eyes.

As part of an annual event, I walked every year with a group of my friends from Entebbe to Makerere University. It was lots of fun, but we had very sore legs the next day.

President Idi Amin Dada took power from President Milton Obote in January 1971 after a military coup and Kampala was placed under a strict curfew. We all had to stay in our hall of residence. We were scared and worried about our parents, families and friends and waited eagerly for news from our hometowns.



In early August 1972, President Idi Amin Dada ordered the expulsion of Asians from Uganda and gave us 90 days to leave the country. During that time late Shiraz Sarangi and I decided to go and see Port Bell before we left Uganda. As soon as we got into Port Bell, an army of soldiers surrounded our car with guns pointing at us. We were very lucky that the Army Officer was from Makerere and from Northcote Hall. He escorted us out on to the road and told us that the Tanzanian army was planning to invade Uganda through Port Bell which therefore was a restricted area and that we should go straight to Kampala. *Photo: Farewell from Northcote Warden Samwiri Karugire.*

## LIFE IN CANADA

I left Uganda on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1972 as a refugee and landed in Montreal in the middle of winter and was taken to the Canadian army base in Longue-Pointe where we were treated very well. Next day I was on a train to Sarnia with Zulfikar Virani and we were met by a wonderful counsellor, Carol Aziz, who supported us in every way. We then came to London, Ontario to University of Western Ontario. I shared an apartment near the university with my buddies from Northcote Hall, Zulfikar Virani, Anil Mussani and Jali Bardai. We quickly learnt to live on our own in a short time in our new country. Life was hard, money was tight, but we were young and enthusiastic, and we also had a lot of fun. I remember those days as being some of the best days of my life.

After completing my Program at University of Western Ontario, I went to University of Guelph to do research in Toxicology. My research work involved using computers extensively which I thoroughly enjoyed so I decided to do a Degree in Computer Science and Information Technology and Guelph University had just started a new Computer Science Program.

After graduating from the University of Guelph, I worked for the University of Guelph Computing department. After that I joined a company called Interautomation in Toronto that specialized in process control systems, which was a new and exciting field to be in. My first project was to automatize a cement plant in Allentown, USA. I worked at Interautomation for 5 years and then joined Bell Canada corporate office in Toronto. I worked with Nortel in implementing state of the art digital switches on telephone networks. I managed and worked in various areas and projects within Bell Canada and its subsidiaries and also other telephone companies in Canada and USA. I am now retired.

## TRAVELS

We have been blessed to be able to travel to different parts of the world and still enjoy travelling in our retirement. We enjoy nature, go for long walks and hikes, and spend time with family and friends. I also like to go to farmers markets and am an avid gardener and especially like growing chillies – the hotter the better.



*Cambodia  
Luang Prabang  
Laos Siem Reap  
Feeding Monks*





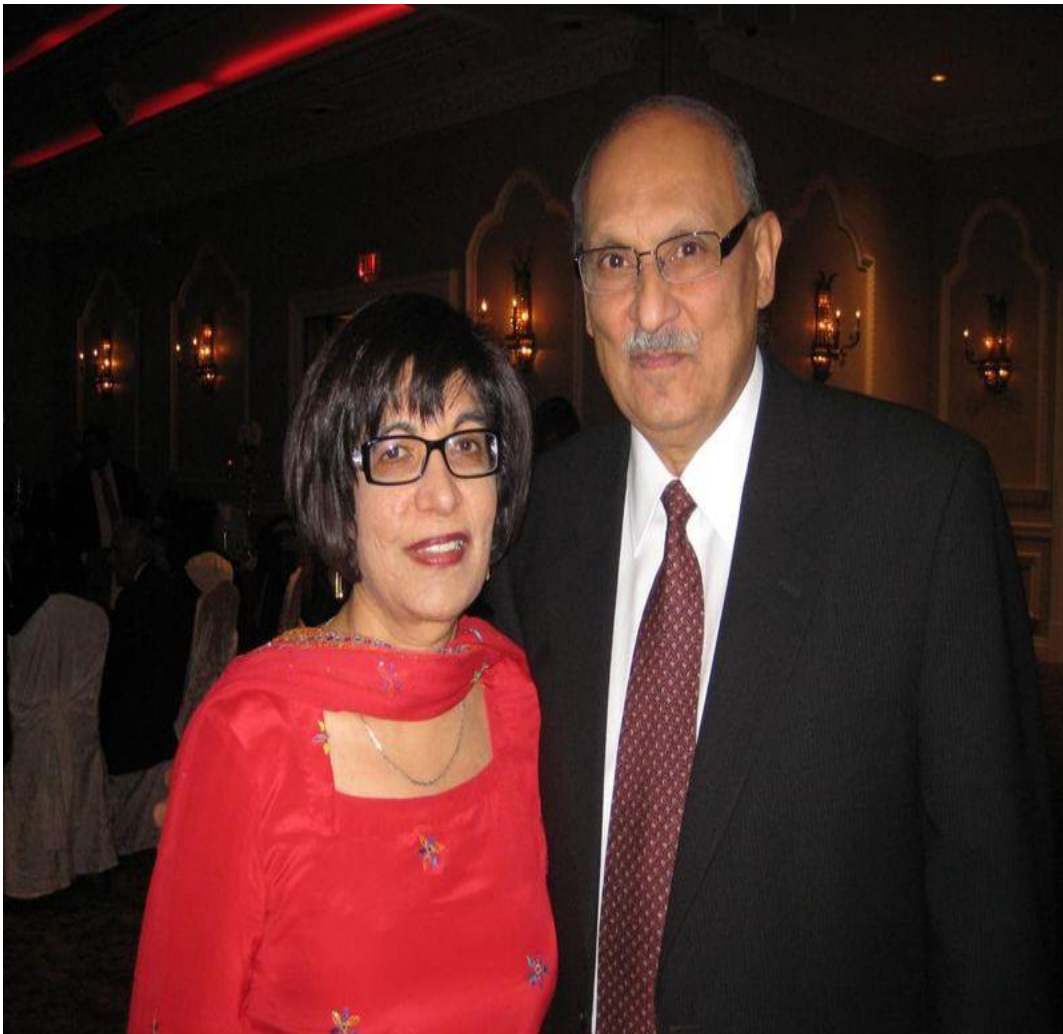


*Brazil Amazon Forest with our guide.*



*Russia Moscow Red Square.*

I am married to Sharmin Ladha who was also at Makerere University. After completing her Degree at Makerere University, Sharmin went to Stanford University in California to complete her Post Graduated studies, and then to York University to complete her Masters of Business Administration (MBA)

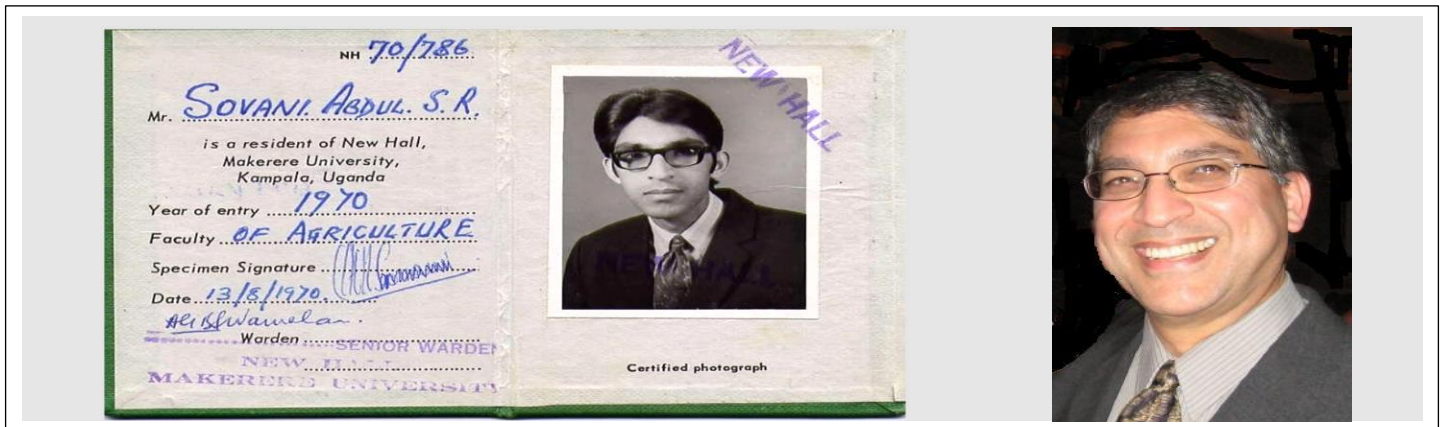


*2020 Canada-Toronto.*

***We are indeed fortunate to be able to give back. As a family we have started some projects which we continue to support. These include establishing a Nursery School in Ranavav (where my parents originally came from) in the 1980's which is still thriving. My sister has a Spa in the Caribbean, and our family has adopted the Village where the Spa is located.***



## SOVANI ABDUL (1970-72 AGRICULTURE)



MU ID Card New Hall

2020 Canada-Vancouver

### PRE-MAKERERE

The Sovani family roots in Uganda go back to 1913, when my grandfather Ratanshi Bapa Sovani migrated from Shapur Village (Junagadh-Gujarat) in India to Kampala, Uganda. He worked as a bookkeeper for Allidina Visram's railway terminus store in Kampala. My father Sunderjibhai followed him five years later, worked in Kampala for few years, got married and then opened his own store, first in Mbarara, and then in Masaka in early 1930s.

Being an entrepreneur, he saw some opportunities in a village 20 miles from Masaka where I was born. Here he setup a bakery and a Caltex mini-petrol station and when I was 7 years old my parents moved back to Masaka in the late 1950s, so that my siblings and I had access to good education, health care and other town amenities. My dad also helped my elder brothers' setup a bakery in Kabale and Kisoro in southwest Uganda.

I completed my primary and junior high at the Aga Khan School in Masaka. I have fond memories of us teenagers playing cricket and volleyball in the market square in Masaka. In Grade 8(JSL) our school Principal A.D.Coombs, appointed me on School Perfects Council, as JSL-Class Head, and as Editor of School Magazine. Although the Aga Khan School was funded privately by the Aga Khan, it was open to all students regardless of their race, religion, creed, or ethnicity.



This photo taken in 1963 shows the diversity even in our school magazine committee (six major religions and different ethnicities represented here). Going to Aga Khan School in my uniform, wearing my Prefect's green necktie and gold colored badge pinned on my green sweater, instilled in me discipline and a sense of belonging to a fine school. I had a very happy childhood and was very fortunate that my siblings were spread out in five different towns in Uganda, so during my school holidays I could visit them, have a good time there and at the same time make new friends in each town.

I did my Cambridge School certificate “O” levels at Masaka Senior Secondary School, where I was privileged to be on the School Prefects Council for four years. I was also the School Volleyball Captain (1966/67) and Intra-Schools Liaison contact.

Here I developed special interest in science subjects, mainly because we had excellent teachers in Biology and Chemistry.

I was also one of the organizers of the school trips to Murchison Falls, Owen Falls Dam in Jinja, and the Uganda Museum in Kampala.



For my GC Cambridge “A” levels, I chose Mbale Senior Secondary School mainly because my older sister was living in Mbale, and she wanted me to go there. Just one month into the school year, the Principal Mr. Bose called me in his office and pleasantly surprised me by appointing me on School Prefects Council for two years, 1968 to 1969. I was also appointed the Class Head in Form 5 and Form 6. Students here were very friendly, helpful, warm, and very welcoming. I made some new friends, notably Azim Velji, Anil Amlani, Shiraz Sumar, Nazmal & Zul Khimji, Barkat R, late Shiraz Sarangi, and a few other friends who made my stay in Mbale, fun, memorable, and enjoyable.

## MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

I entered Makerere University in July 1970 for a degree program in Agricultural Sciences. At that time, Makerere was the only university In East Africa that had a Degree Programme in Agricultural Sciences and for that reason we had class fellows from Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. For our academic programme, the first and the third-year lectures were on the main campus. The second year was spent on the Makerere University Farm & Research Centre at Kabanyolo (located 14 km north of the main campus) where 2<sup>nd</sup> year lectures and practicums took place.

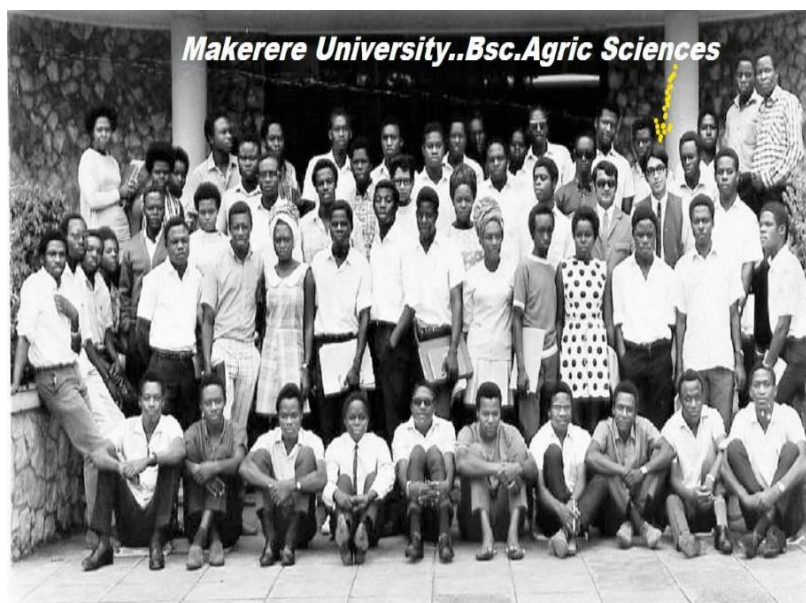
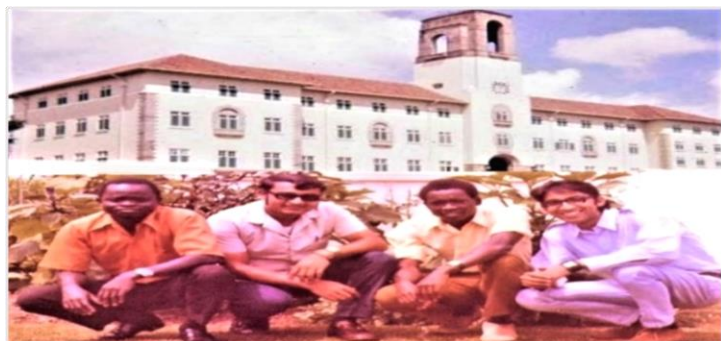
For practical experience each student was assigned a small plot of land about 150 sq ft to grow a local crop like green beans and look after it till harvest time, and at the same time learn practical aspects of horticulture, poultry & dairy farming, use of mechanized farm equipment and overall management of the farm resources including land, labour, marketing, and financial management. I really enjoyed Professor Boshoff’s Agriculture Engineering classes. I experienced life on both campuses, each with its unique memories.

Reconnecting with some of my Masaka and Mbale school friends made the campus life here more exciting and interesting. I was a resident of NEW Hall, and my room was on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor overlooking the swimming pool.



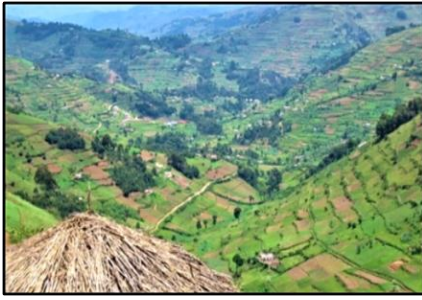
On the main campus, I used to hang out mainly with Late Azad Ladha(Agric), Azim Velji(Med), Kaswara(Agric), Ssabitti(Agric), and my motorbike buddy Late Amin Bundalli (Mpigi) (Chem). I had known Amin since I was in my early teens, and we became very good friends – spent few holidays together in Kabale, Kisoro, Masaka, Mityana and Kampala.

Once I joined Makerere University in 1970, we made several trips together on our motorbikes. I have very fond memories of our numerous trips to Entebbe and Jinja. For me, my motorbike was not only a means of getting around, but something that brought me joy, thrill, and “maja”.



Although in my 2<sup>nd</sup> year I had access to my brother's car, I preferred my motorbike. It taught me how to be constantly alert and focused, how to curve better in rain and at higher speeds, how to avoid traffic jams (by riding between rows of cars), and the ability to park almost anywhere. I was very mobile and could go to Kampala town centre, to Entebbe, to Jinja, or to any place nearby. I also spent a lot of time with my two African classmates, Kaswara and Ssabitti who both owned motorbikes. These motorbike trips with my buddies were always fun and memorable. During my MU 2<sup>nd</sup> year vacation, I did internship with Kabale & District Agriculture Dept., visiting local farms with senior Agriculture Officer, giving guidance on crop rotation, water conservation, soil erosion issues, marketing of crops, and overall farm management issues.





Photos show labour intensive terraced farming near Kabale in Southwest Uganda. The beautiful scenic lakes and mountains near Kabale were often referred to as the “Switzerland of Africa”

## POST-MAKERERE (CANADA)

I was in the middle of my third year at Makerere when President Idi Amin issued his infamous 1972 Asian expulsion order. Fortunately, my wife and me were accepted by Canada and were flown to Montreal (and after a couple of nights at Canadian army base at Longue Pointe, Montreal), we headed to Vancouver and were given accommodation at the modest west end apartment hotel. We arrived in Vancouver at the end of Oct 1972, just one week prior to the Ugandan-Asians’ Expulsion deadline. I was able to get a part-time job as a camera/photo salesman, and with some student loans, I was able to continue with my studies in Agricultural Economics & Commerce at the University of B.C. (UBC) in Vancouver.



In 1974, I was appointed to the very First BC Regional Ismailia Association (which later became Tariqa Board) as a Portfolio Member responsible for setting up the first Ismaili Tariqa Library in Vancouver. This was the first Library of its kind in Canada with hundreds of books on Islam & Ismailism, which we opened on 11<sup>th</sup> of July 1975. Picture on left taken in 1975 in Vancouver shows members of BC Regional and National Ismailia Association with the visiting Islamic scholar and **MU alumni Dr. Azim Nanji** (standing 5<sup>th</sup> from left and Abdul Sovani-standing 1<sup>st</sup> from left).

**Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan**, the then UN High Commissioner for Refugees met with the university students jamat when he visited Vancouver in April 1975. His message for every student here to become an ambassador, a **real**



ambassador of your community still resonates with me. After my studies at UBC, I joined Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Branch in East Vancouver, looking after Branch Administration, and managing a portfolio of commercial loans. It was a small but very busy branch located in the middle of a business district. In the 70s we did not have computers in the branch and so we had to process revolving loan transactions and interest calculations manually. After a few years at the bank, I joined a mid size manufacturing company just across the street as Payroll and Credit Manager. For the first few years, I did commercial credit granting and payroll for some 140 employees (representing three different unions) on a manual payroll system. Each union group had specific deductions and benefits which had to be calculated

manually. Later, I was able to convert this complicated payroll and manual accounting system to a computerized one. After working here for some 18 years, I decided to explore a career in personal financial planning. I continued further studies in Finance and Retirement Planning, completed my Certified Financial Planning (CFP) designation and worked as a Personal Financial Planner/Financial Advisor in Richmond, B.C. till I retired in 2018.

I am married to Nazira (nee Moledina, originally from Kampala where she attended the Aga Khan Primary, Junior, and Senior Secondary Schools). After her studies here in Vancouver, she worked in the Accounting/Data processing dept of a B.C. Provincial Crown Corporation. She was with them for some 35 years, until she retired in 2011.

We have two daughters, Fahreen and Afeeza. Fahreen is a Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) graduate from Simon Fraser University (SFU), and she is currently working at Capilano University in Vancouver. Afeeza has a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) from UBC, a Bachelor of Laws degree (LL.B.) from the University of Windsor and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree (J.D.) from Michigan State in the USA. She is currently working for the B.C. Provincial Government.

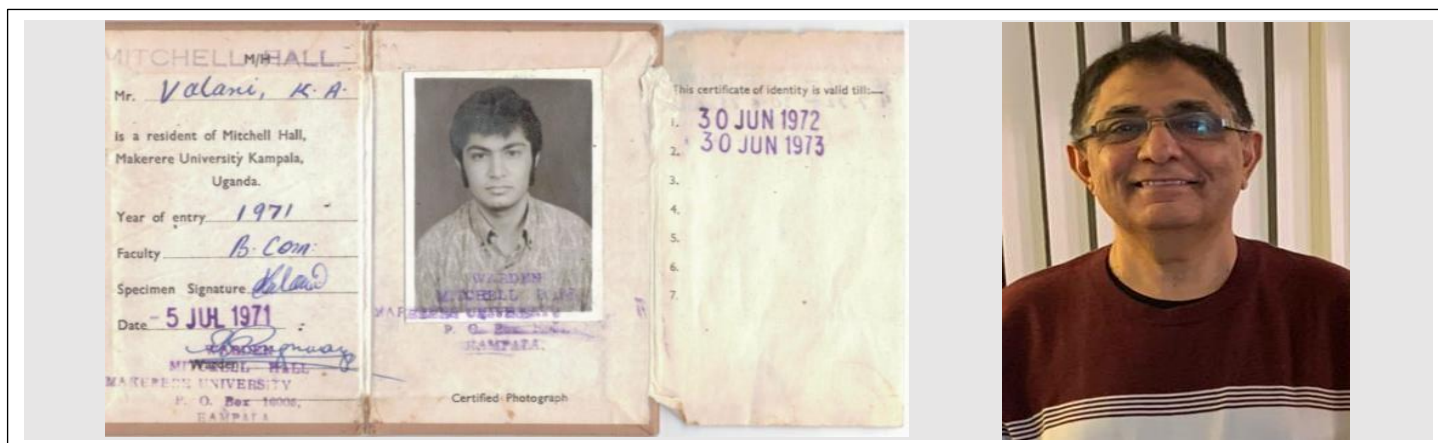
We love travelling and have been to India, Dubai, Maldives, Turkey, Tunisia, Morocco, Hawaii, Alaska, Aruba, and a few times to western Europe and the Caribbean Islands. We have also done some extensive camping and RVing trips in western Canada and USA.

Photos below are from the MU-2008 Alumni Reunion, which was held in Vancouver, B.C. in August 2008. We had Makerere alumni from France, Germany, Uganda, UK, USA, UAE, and from eight Canadian cities. The Guest speakers included Yasmin Allibhai-Brown from London (UK), Wilson Okwenge (Friends of Makerere - Canada) from Winnipeg, and Kalwant Ajimal (London, UK) Makerere - UK Representative.





## SUNDERJI (VALANI) KAMRU (1971-73 BUSINESS: COMMERCE)



1971 MU ID Card Mitchell Hall

2019 Canada-Ottawa

### GROWING UP

I had absolutely no incentives from my parents to study beyond grade 6. I am the oldest in the boys. We are 4 brothers and 3 sisters. I come from a small village, Mbulamuti, one km from the River Nile, about 100 km from Jinja which was the source of Nile. My parents wanted me to quit school and be a Dukawalla like most of Mbulamuti guys; get married and run our small shops. My Mbulamuti friends are forever. Three friends became like my brothers Manubhai Thanki (Leicester), Ramzan Ruda and Amir Alani (both Toronto). To grade 8, I was in Mbulamuti area. My dad had insisted that if I wanted to go for further studies, then I could only go to Mbale where my aunt/uncle (Virji Kachara) used to live some 300 km away. I stayed as a paying guest with a family for 4 years. Hunger is all I recall!

I knew if I did not do well, I will end up in the shops. I completed my O levels in 1967 at Mbale Senior Secondary School. I would be amiss if I did not mention here Anil Amlani (CA) with whom I passed every minute of my free time while in Mbale. This is where I met late Shiraz Sarangi (Physics advisor), Shiraz Sorathia, the guys you all know and a few more. All I recall is a push from home to quit school, yet I did whatever I could to get moving. I passed my O levels well.

Despite objections from my parents (I had to help my dad for one year at home) I left to do A levels and ended up at Old Kampala Secondary School. I lived at the Agakhan Hostel, Kampala: what superb days at both Old Kampala SS as well as the Hostel. Whoever I met at these two Institutions are my friends for ever. A few stayed as my bosom friends. If I had to ponder deeply and feel the tears rolling missing my buddies I hung out with in Kampala during those days, then I must mention here my sincere buddies: Shiraz Meghani (Uganda College of Commerce) a Mogul in Uganda now, Sultan Pabani, MD, UK, Nazim Makhani, Iqbal Pui, Tajdin Pradhan, MD in the UK, Late Barkat Ladhani, CA, UK (so sad), (MU, a short time) and Bashir Ladha, UK.

If the Aga Khan Institutions did not exist in those days, most of us would not have been able to go to school. Kampala has left momentous and sentimental memories: and we worked hard! Best part was dances with Aga Khan Girl's Hostel. If there was no Kampala or the Hostel during my High School days, then the rest would have been just schooling. The social life was beyond comprehension during the high school days at the Hostel. Including the above friends, Zuli Lalani (MU), Dr Amir Nanji (MU) (gave tremendous medical support) and lot of dear friends who did not end up at MU became good friends. Zulfikar Moledina (MU, Political Science) in Ottawa, has remained my closet buddy ever since. Dr Alnoor Abdulla (MU has provided unselfish guidance many times). That's called friendship.



## MEMORIES OF KAMPALA AGA KHAN BOYS HOSTEL



How I miss - SULTAN, J, SHIRAZ, NAZIM.  
AGA HOSTEL ENTRANCE 1970



With my dear Shiraz - 1970

Photos above: 1970 Uganda Kampala Aga Khan Hostel

1. Sitting at the Entrance: 4 Amigos: Sultan Pabani, Kamru Sunderji, Shiraz Meghani and Nazim Makhani.
2. Standing in the Garden: Closest Buddies: Kamru Sunderji and Shiraz Meghani.
3. Studying in the Room: Shiraz Meghani, Kamru Sunderji and Nazim Makhani.
4. Outside at the Car: Hostel Superintendent Mr. Greaves, Kamru Sunderji and Nazim Makhani.

## MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

I got admitted at MU for B. Com Program in 1971 as I had excelled in my A levels. MU has had not left a lot of memories and or experiences with me as we were not there long enough to have enjoyed what a lot of other folks did. I was in Mitchell Hall. My Hostel buddies and School friends became the friends. As such, I did not make many new friends at MU due to limited time there. However MU brings us all together if we knew each other then or not. This is sentimental in itself. Just Makerere name makes you feel ahh we are from the same tree making these new connections, a sharing of journeys each of us undertook not knowing the destiny that resulted. Getting our raw meal portions from the Bursar at Mitchell Hall and me making the Indian curries is what makes me smile now. I shared my room with Zuli Lalani, and this also connected me with Diamond Lalani. As Zuli may recall, each Saturday or after main JK on Fridays, we all Freshers coupled and went to Apollo Hotel where this band played Indian music. Oh dear me.

## POST MAKERERE

During the turmoil and having been selected to enter Canada (I used to work, and I do not recall how) with the Canadian Immigration that was giving visas to the Ugandans, a medic became a good friend and suggested that I go to Ottawa, and I had 24 hours to leave. My brother and sister got the visa. My parents and two younger brothers had stayed behind. I managed to convince, and I do not know his name than "Pidi" from Mitchell Hall who was from Nairobi, to drive me to Kamuli, 300 Km away, where my parents had moved, some 10 km from Mbulamuti. Despite our car breakdown on the

way, I managed to say farewell to my mom save my dad who was at our shop in Mbulamuti. The rest is history, and I am here. The down of this saga was my mom and dad and my 2 younger brothers after a few months in Uganda had left for India and we did not know. Due to lack of communications in those days, and them being unaware of our situation, we had lost contact. Eventually via the UN, I was able to track them down to India. Some stressful days we had then.

In March 1974, my elderly parents (my dad was Alibhai Sunderji, and my mom was Jenabai Sunderji) with my two younger brothers, at the time 10 and 14 years of age immigrated to Canada from India. They had, later on after the Ugandan expulsion, gone to India. Well the difficult part was that I was unable to continue to go to University full time as I had to find work to support my parents and my brothers. This really put a damper on my full time studies to struggle to educate myself part time to get successes towards later years in my life. Despite real challenging times we all had, up shoot of this is that both my brothers, Umed left in picture below and Mohamed on the right in the picture below are very successful. Being elder brother in the family all responsibilities fell on my shoulder, some very tough days I had, though my younger brother Sadru then worked part time to chip in as best he could. We are 4 brothers and 3 sisters.

My father, a young man immigrated to Uganda in mid 1930, but without my mother. I recall him telling me it was tough slogging at the time, living in villages in Uganda without lights without power and living in grass huts, trying to make ends meet. He saved enough money at the time that took him 10 years to go back to India to get my mother. And success to my parents did come as life progressed, which is an irony as he ended up leaving all our buildings and lot of funds back in Uganda. The buildings being in small centers are not worth reclaiming. He was a successful business man and most of Ismaili business people in Jinja know him. We are from Mbulamuti. River Nile is 1 km away.



*1974 Niagara Falls*

*First reunion with friends visiting*

*L-R: Kamru Sunderji, Azim Velji, Tajdin Pradhan, Ashraf Adatia*

*(Ashraf Adatia: University of Dar es Salaam, Chemistry).*



*2002 Canada Toronto MU Reunion.*

*Left Photo: Kamru Sunderji Standing with Dr. Shamim Jessa and Dr. Sultaneih Rajabali.*



**Career Path:** I became a Professional Accountant and obtained from the Institute of CPA training in In-depth taxation. I got married in 1975. We have two boys, Amin and the elder is Rahim. Around year 2001, I was single again. I worked progressively for Telesat Canada, largest Satellite Telecommunications Company in Canada, for some 25 years in long term Financing and Corporate Income Taxes. I retired as Senior Tax Specialist.

**Retirement:** In 2008, I took an early retirement as I had firmly decided to not linger around stress and demanding work life: I chose a path to see the world, to spend more time with my tabla training (Kolkata, Chiranjit Mukherjee, is my Guruji) learning Banarasi Gharana, having gotten into Punjabi Gharana much earlier in the 90's - now my finger and wrist are not cooperating – so Hajijah and I spend a lot of time gardening (my plot is 25 by 10 feet), our favourite crop is Garlic hard neck variety; I continue to be an avid reader; I do read a lot nonfiction. I do a fair amount of walking (7 to 10 km a day) and or swimming (1km) on a daily basis, summer or winter. I became a connoisseur of wines and studied pairing of wines with food. I do keep a stock of good wines.

Earlier, I had served the Ismaili Community and contributed as I could, but time had come for me to let it all go. Since 2002, I had been going to Brazil each year, and spent lot more time there since I retired in 2008, overall, more than 10 years. Most joyous and pleasurable days of my life were in Brazil. My social life was beyond explanation. The fate brings you surprises. I met a very kind retired army commander (now family friends). Due to his army connections, I was able to stay at affordable army hostels all over Brazil. This gave me an opportunity to see almost all Brazil including hinterland staying at the most remote locations. They had a beach house on the Atlantic coast where I spent most of my weekends.

I saw a lot of Brazil, some Uruguay and some Argentina. To expand my social life, I had to learn Portuguese which I did at Federal University of Rio Grande De Sul, in Porto Alegre. There, I also met students from South Korea who were also learning Portuguese. One of them became a family friend - stayed with me here in Ottawa to learn English - I also visit him (Seoul) when I travel towards Malaysia. I do speak Portuguese. I have made very close and dear friends in Brazil. Since travelling was my motto, and having seen Uganda last in 1995 or so with all my family, I embarked upon seeing much more than East Africa which I had no intention of seeing any more. Since I had seen most of Caribbean and Mexico several times, I concentrated towards Far East, and saw much of Thailand, Malaysia (several times), Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

**India and cooking:** We have a home near Porbandar in Gujarat, India, and thus I have a home base there. Over the course of the years, I have seen almost all India. I have really honed up on my cooking skills, as my uncle has a restaurant and catering service near Porbandar. To learn South Indian cuisine, I stayed with a South Indian family near the back waters for many days.

## **FAMILY**

Rahim, my elder son did not enjoy Biochemistry that he was doing at Ottawa University and towards the end, he left it to be become Respiratory Therapist. He has been working at The Ottawa General Hospital for more than 15 years. Rahim is married to Maria, from Sao Paulo Brazil – she, being fluent in Portuguese and Spanish, manages IBM and Hewlett Packard Consulting work for Latin America. We have one granddaughter Isabella who is eight. I left Brazil to be with Isabella some eight years ago. I took care of her since birth. She speaks both English and Portuguese.

Rahim my son is an avid part time musician. He plays professionally both drums and guitar for his band as well as for the Gloucester, Ontario community band. It appears music is in the family as I see our grand daughter is in Choir.

My second son Amin is still single. He completed his undergraduate Degree in Psychology from University of Ottawa. He completed Masters in Business Policy, at University of London, UK. He has an assignment with Statistics Canada.

I am now settled with Hajijah Seruji, my wife, who is from State of Sarawak in Malaysia; I see nothing but beautiful life ahead. We also have a home In Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. I recall saying to my boys, if you saw my face sad at my funeral, just pull my lips to insist I smile as I have had nothing but a superb life, Allah's Grace.





*Kamru and Granddaughter Isabella / Son Rahim, Maria Ramos, Isabella, Hajjiah Seruji (Hajjiah's Birthday), Missing Amin.*



*2021 Canada Ottawa: Family Photo (missing Son Amin and Better Halves of Brothers)  
L-R: Brother Umed, Nephew Nadim (CPA), Nephew Samir, Granddaughter Isabella, Grandpa Kamru, Wife Hajjiah Seruji, Daughter-in-Law Maria Ramos, Son Rahim, Nephew Aman (in year or so he will be MD), and Brother Mohamed (Texas).  
Nephew Aman is completing his MD Program in Texas-USA.*

## VYAS BAKUL (1969-72 ARTS: RURAL ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING)



1972: Kampala-Uganda



2020: England

### **MY UNFINISHED JOURNEY.....**

#### **PRE-MAKERERE**

My first memory of growing up goes back to 1954 when we had moved to a newly built house on Borup Avenue in the suburb of Kololo in Kampala, Uganda. Borup was the gentleman who had introduced cotton seeds into Uganda and hence the name of the road.

I am the fourth sibling in a family of seven – middle child with a sister and two brothers elder to me and a sister and two brothers younger to me. An ideal family environment to either learn to be a grown up and do the things my elder brothers were doing or join in with the younger two brothers to play with them. An excellent home environment to become an accomplished user of the interpersonal skills to deal with any age group.  
(More of this later).

My dad, Harshad Ray Vyas had come to Uganda in 1934/5 from Devghad Baria a princely state in Gujarat near Baroda. My grandfather, Jayshankar Dhansukhram Vyas was a divan and an advisor to the King of Devghad Baria. He died when my father was very young. The family homes in Devghad Baria are very close to the palace and to the polo and cricket grounds in Devghad, Gujarat. With this background, fluency in English and the circumstances prevailing in 1930s depression, my dad decided to join his elder brother Lal Bhai Vyas who was in Mombasa, Kenya. My father decided to venture out to Kampala, Uganda where the East African Railways had finished building the railway station in 1932.

My father, with three Englishmen started 'The Cotton Exporters Group' - which eventually became Produce Marketing Board and eventually, the Lint (Cotton) and Coffee Marketing Board. The Cotton Exporters Group ensured that the farmers got a fair price, and the ginners and millers made a fair profit too. Hence, most of the cotton ginners and coffee exporters were well known to the Vyas family. My father remained with the Lint Marketing Board as the Chief Liaison Officer up until the expulsion of Ugandan Asians.

East Kololo Primary School was barely a mile away from our home. Adjacent to this was Kololo Secondary School and I had the pleasure and good fortune to attend both before I joined Makerere University in 1969. My father was a strict yet a fair and just man. He instilled good values to his children and taught us always to be mindful of the needs of others - always to help out those who are less fortunate than us. He always insisted that we studied hard as "one could take everything from you but not your education".

To keep our academic excellence at par my dad had also said that any one of us who came over all First in their class annual exams could have a prize of their choice. Guess what? That year, my elder three siblings came First, and we ended up with 3 Bicycles! Lady's bike for my elder sister, and 'Hercules' and 'Raleigh' sports bikes for my two elder brothers. Together with academic achievements, our sporting activities progressed at full speed.

Lugogo Sports Stadium, built in the 60s had excellent facilities - catering for a variety of sports. It was very close to our residence in Kololo. It had 6 tennis courts where we all learned and excelled at the sport. One of my brothers, Ajay, played for Uganda juniors' team and often competed against the Kenya juniors. Two of the Kenya Junior Tennis team - McKenzie and Luck were their number one pair.

One year, I had put 'Partner Wanted' on the application form to play in the Uganda Junior's Open Tournament. Luck was paired by the ULTA (Uganda Lawn Tennis Association) Committee to partner me and we - Luck and Vyas - were 'Seeded Two' in the tournament. We played well but lost in the finals. Many years later, when I was flying to Singapore on British Airways on business, I met Mackenzie - now Captain Mackenzie! He was the Commander of the BA 747, recognized my name on the passenger manifest and insisted I played tennis with him in Singapore. This we did - he beat me in straight sets! Mackenzie told me that he had not forgotten my pairing with Luck which he felt was rightfully his in the ULTA Tournament all those years ago! Teenagers will be teenagers regardless of how high they fly!

At the scholastic level, I became the Head Prefect of East Kololo Primary school. I played cricket, hockey, and badminton for the school. I suggested to the headmaster that the school should have a 'Wolf Cubs Pack' just as we had SCOUTS and GIRL GUIDES at school. I was too young to join the scouts movement and hence my suggestion to start the Cubs. This was duly implemented, and I am proud of the fact that I initiated the cubs movement at East Kololo Primary School and Kololo Senior Secondary School followed.

I became a member of the QUIZ and Elocution and Debating Society. Played almost all the sports at school and excelled in tennis, badminton, and table tennis. I was also elected SPORTS CAPTAIN for the House which meant I was to select the participants for the Inter House sports competitions. Amazing thing was that I was in Form 3 when I was elected against a gentleman who was in his 6<sup>th</sup> Form. I learnt at a young age that age did not matter in your success, but hard work, grace of God and perseverance does. I was also the speaker at the morning assembly with nearly a thousand students! This in-itself was a training for public speaking. I was also appointed as the editor in chief of The KOLOLIAN – the school magazine in 1967 and, with the help of a very able and committed editorial board, produced the magazine. At the same time, I was appointed the Chairman of the Students' Welfare Committee and got involved in ensuring that less fortunate students' needs, and fees were paid for with utmost confidentiality and discretion. I am sure that these extracurricular activities prepared me for the future challenges.

My extra-curricular activities included umpiring for sponsored matches of ULTA - Uganda Lawn Tennis Association. BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO Company (BAT) was bringing in the best tennis players from US and Europe to play exhibition matches in Uganda. I have been coached by eminent tennis players including Virginia Wade, Ken Fletcher, Andrew Gimino, Ram Nath Krishnan, and a host of others. I was a tennis coach for the school tennis team and umpired their games. I remember getting a prize of twenty-one guineas as an outstanding umpire!

From childhood to teenage years to university seems like a blink of an eye! After my "O" Levels, during school holidays, my father enrolled me to train as a cotton classifier with a Swiss company with its HQ in Lugano. The company operated in Kampala and had a local office. I quickly learned the art of classifying the STAPLE of cotton - deciding if it was a Long or Short staple - 'SAFI' or 'FIFI' as it was known in the local lingo. These qualities decided cotton prices on the world market – and ensured that they were fair and proper. Cotton auctions are carried out before the cotton is actually grown, so 'MY WORD IS MY BOND' is very strictly followed and big Houses would rather sell the family silver instead of breaking the promise or go bankrupt to absolve responsibility. I distinctly remember that my father used to carry out the Uganda cotton auctions in Jinja as most of the major ginneries and millers were located there.

After "A" Levels examinations at Kololo I applied for a Job to grade and curate coffee with the Coffee Marketing Board. I learnt that a ton of coffee could be worth UKL 2,000.00 or UKL 200.00 depending on its quality. The experience was further enhanced when a gentleman from a London Coffee House came to train the new recruits in Kampala. Arabica and Robusta were the main exports of Uganda coffee but before I could delve deeper into this, I left to join Makerere.



## MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

My happiest and best years as a student were spent at the university. I was residing at the University Hall together with Kiran Phadke, Subhash CN Patel, Shashi Badiani and Kamal Shankardass. They were senior to me as they were my brother's friends – but acted as my 'mentors'. They are now prominent medical doctors in Australia, Canada, and Kenya. Shiraz Lalani, and Adam Basime both from Kololo School were also residents there with me. Lifelong friendships were created there, which lasts to this day.

University Hall was fondly known as 'Wandegiya Hall' as it borders on to the Wandegiya township. Professor Kirya resided as the Warden of University Hall. During mealtimes, visits or invites to the 'High Table' were highly prized. The campus and the facilities at Makerere were incredible - and these could be classed as one of the best in the world. I graduated with a degree in Rural Economics and Development Plan Implementation.

During my second year I was elected as the President of 'Bharatiya Sanstha' – another name for Indian Students Association. I was involved in organizing Diwali functions and Navratri Raas Garbas at the Main Hall. I remember Vijay Bahl who was fluent in Hindi and acted as an excellent Master of Ceremonies at these functions with a lot of class and aplomb. Many of the students with incredible talent in singing and music participated to make these events successful and well attended.

Mr Frank Kalimuzo, the Vice Chancellor of the university was invited for our Diwali function - and I had the pleasure of welcoming him on to the stage at the Main Hall. Mr Kalimuzo was a gentleman with deep understanding of diversity of Ugandan cultures and admiration for the development of Uganda and also the success of his students. I am sure somebody will have a photograph of this event, as - soon after the military coup, our Vice Chancellor disappeared in mysterious circumstances. A great loss for Makerere University in particular and Uganda at large.

A very happy period of social interactions continued - with coffee in the restaurant of Uganda Book Shop on Saturday lunchtimes, a few drinks with friends from the university at Speake Hotel, Bat Valley, or the Grand Hotel's Copper Bar or at the Apollo Hotel as it was known in those days.

During the past fifty years - in striving to make a new life in the UK, I have tried hard not to reminisce too much on my childhood memories and the fantastic lifestyle I enjoyed in Uganda. Johari's window comes to mind! For so long I have been trying to either keep it shut or open it very slightly in my guarded moments, and now I have, to write about my unfinished journey for the benefit of the next generations! This is hard if not impossible.....to write about it all.

25<sup>th</sup> January 1971 was the day when Major General Idi Amin led a military coup that overthrew the democratic regime of President Obote who was attending the Commonwealth Conference in Singapore. Much has been written about it so I will skip this bit of history. Suffice it to say that Idi Amin announced that the government would own 49% of some of the larger Industries instead of the previous 51%. I know some people were very impressed with this gesture and transferred savings from abroad to invest in industries in Uganda.

The army rule continued with continuous announcements and changes that effected daily lives of the citizens. I remember a visit from the leader of Central African Republic who had so many medals stuck on his army uniform that there was half a yard of cloth attached to his shirt to accommodate them! Needless to say, very soon afterwards Idi Amin promoted himself to a full General and a few other ranks including V.C. with another meaning ILO Victoria Cross....and lots of medals on his chest to show to the world.

Within a week of Amin's coup, the Israeli personnel who were training the Ugandan Army were removed and expelled. A convoy of the Army personnel and their families were driven off to Kenya. The Asian Diaspora who had lived harmoniously in the country for nearly seventy years was next in line for Idi Amin's focus. It was announced that General Idi Amin Dada had a dream that Asians should leave the country within 90 days. We were accused of 'milking the economy' of Uganda and not integrating with the local community in the country. I remember a meeting of all Ugandan Asian elders at the huge International Conference Centre that was just built in Shimoni used by the President to convey his pronouncement.

Panic spread within whole of the Asian community with some of us hoping that the President would change his mind about the expulsions. It was not to be. Asians tried to sell their belongings to the locals in preparations to depart but Government by Radio had taken over. We had daily announcements that Asians had to 'verify' their Ugandan citizenship by standing in a line and being fingerprinted. Those who did not depart within the 90 days deadline would be kept in camps. The statue of King George in Mehta Park in Kampala would be replaced by that of Hitler, etc., etc.

Many people (like my father) who were old enough to know details of the second world War panicked even more as they knew the consequences of Nazi Germany and what had followed. Needless to, say the worst possible outcome was to befall on my family. During the 'verification' of his documents, my father's Ugandan passport was seized by the Army and my father was made 'stateless'. The reason given was that there was a discrepancy of one day in his renouncing his British citizenship and acquiring his Ugandan citizenship. One of the documents said three months and the other 90 days. My father had renounced his British citizenship on the last possible day as he probably knew of the gravity of renouncing his British citizenship.

The announcement to leave the country by the due date and the consequences of not departing were relentless. Without a travel document my father could not leave and we knew the consequences. I managed to get a one-way travel document to USA, Canada and India.

The very next day I had a call from my friend who had connections in the Ugandan Army that it would be best I left the country immediately as he had heard rumours from his Army contacts that I was in trouble. He advised me not to go home, but straight to the airport. Totally devastated and heartbroken, I couldn't even go home to say bye to my mum and dad. I travelled to Entebbe with the BOAC crew who looked after me on the way to the airport. At this time, I used to wear the company uniform at work which probably saved me. The crew coach was stopped twice during the twenty-mile journey to Entebbe airport from Kampala, I was instructed not to speak in Swahili to any one until we reached the Terminal building safely, which we did.

The situation was changing so fast that the whole episode seems like a blink of any eye. As I set in the aircraft to London, I knew my heart was with my parents in Kampala.

## **POST-MAKERERE**

I landed at Heathrow airport on a cold October day in 1972 to continue the next chapter of my life. My parents managed to get documents to enable them to go to India. They flew to Mumbai in the next few days. Unfortunately, after a few weeks, my father passed away with heart attack at friend's house. He had visited the British High Commission and American Embassy earlier in an attempt to join family – us in the UK. My eldest brother was studying in the US from 1969 and hence my father's trip to the US Embassy. I was heartbroken. The most difficult thing in life is to lose someone who you are very close to. My father's passing changed my outlook to life completely. The one person who has been your guide and mentor in your whole life is no more....this is very hard to fathom. More so as I faced a new country, new environment and different kind of life without my guide and friend. I was lucky that three of my brothers were already in UK studying. Thus, I had a home to go to and was not going to a refugee camp.

My colleagues from BOAC in London who had come to help in Uganda were most helpful in my resettlement in UK. Amongst these was Colin Bird who was District Manager for BOAC in Uganda at the time of the expulsion. He was awarded OBE for services to aviation in Uganda. He was later posted in Dubai UAE on behalf of BOAC.

Facing winter was the worst part of being in London in October 1972. Being brought up in the tropics one's body doesn't realize, how cold the temperatures are until you experience it yourself. Good thing was April soon appeared and I saw the blue sky again. The temperatures began to warm up and so did my outlook to life.

I changed my outlook to life to face every new challenge. I was determined to succeed with determination and hard work and faith in God. I had lost everything in Uganda but not my soul.

I moved from Heathrow to work in West London Air Terminal and my boss asked me if I minded the move. I replied that I had moved from Uganda which was a few thousand miles away so twenty more wouldn't make any difference!

I remember talking to a Member of Parliament in 1973 at a function in the House of Commons that I was lucky enough to be invited. My question was “What action would best contribute for Ugandan Asians success in the UK?” ..... and I remember in not as many words he had said, “Keep your head down and work. Your next generation will reap the rewards of your hard work”. London in the seventies was certainly different in many ways from today. Fifty years on, Ugandan Asians and their next generation have proved the point that was flippantly made.

History has not repeated itself in the success of Ugandan Asians. The hard work and perseverance of the new arrivals continued to make progress in every field in the United Kingdom and abroad where they were accepted.

I continued my career with British Airways. In 1975, I was appointed Corporate Borrowings and Leasing Officer for British Airways. The job entailed travelling on call or short notice mostly to USA where we did most of our borrowings. The rapid progress within the corporate world made me grow upvery quickly and looked upon the new challenges with confidence.

By 1976, I was part of Resource and Economic Planning team for Ground Operations London which looked at Heathrow Terminals 1 2 3 and Gatwick. A very steep learning curve followed with obvious benefits including commuting between my duties at Gatwick and Heathrow on a Sikorsky S61 helicopter which was used by passengers prior to M25 being built between the two airports of Heathrow and Gatwick. A flight time of 15 minutes on a clear day between the two airports was normal but on one occasion when the helicopter pilot couldn't see the airfield because of thick fog and ice, it took nearly 30 minutes. Needless to say, my colleague and I travelled back to Heathrow by Green Line bus taking two hours through the villages of Surrey rather than take a risk on the way back!



By 1978, I was also part of the team representing Ground Operations London at IATA timetables meetings. I was part of the team responsible for BA's worldwide schedule as well as co-ordination of all airline schedules at Heathrow, Hong Kong, and Bermuda. The meetings are attended by most airlines and the job of coordinating schedules at many of the world's busiest airports involves many hours of complex negotiations. *Left Photo: Part of British Airways IATA Team Negotiating Schedules worldwide.*



A few years' experience prepared me to become Planning Manager – Contract Handling at Heathrow. The job entailed planning for 36 different airlines that we handled in Terminal One, Terminal Two and Three. A great job dealing with all the airlines from Air New Zealand to Air India that touched down at Heathrow airport that we handled. It also required me to clear any ad-hoc extra flights that were applied for by the airlines. My interactions with customs and related authorities in sharing mutually beneficial information made the 'Big Picture' of international travel fascinating. *Right Photo: 1998 Bakul Vyas Manager, British Airways.*

The experience made me become Business Manager for Aircraft Services across Heathrow Customer Services. A huge budget running into millions of Pounds was to be effectively managed and utilized. Complexity of working with large numbers of staff, trade unions and following health and safety regulations at one of the busiest airports in the world gave me the confidence to become Ramp Manager Aircraft Services employing 1,200 staff and 16 shift managers. One of the toughest jobs entails keeping the operational performance intact with all the weather and staff issues that impacts it. I realized that a huge international football match also impacts on the operational performance.



Terminal 5 was soon on the horizon, and I became part of the Terminal 5 Planning team. We looked at most efficient airports in the world to pick up the best practice we could introduce on the Ramp and Baggage systems. Working with architects to change plans which were already created meant hours of hard work and deliberations. Seeing a project from Ideas to fruition is a most satisfying feeling one can experience.

My thirty-nine years with British Airways made me realize that Uganda in particular and East Africa in general has lost so much 'Progress and Development' that could have been achieved in the country of my birth.....Uganda, that has been lost owing to Idi Amin's dream to expel the Ugandan Asians.

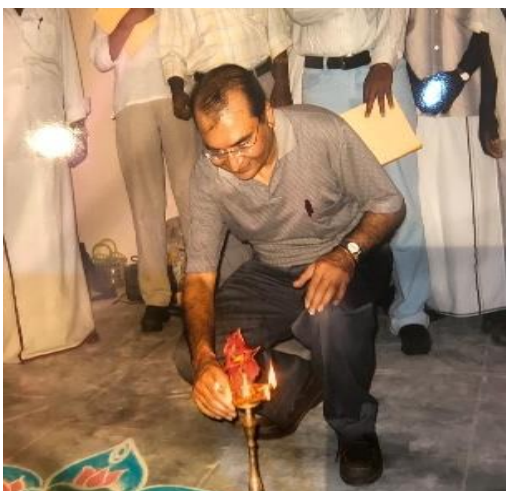
My colleagues from Makerere University have contributed so much to the betterment of mankind in all kinds of fields including medicine and engineering for the world at large since they left the 'Pearl of Africa' in the 1970's. My only hope is that better counsel will prevail, and we will not have a repeat of this sad episode in the future.

My life has been shaped with different circumstances and challenges that I have had to face. The main focus of being happy and also be helpful to anyone who is less fortunate than you are, has made me feel that even if someone loses every material possession in life, due to unfortunate circumstances, that may befall you, as long as you remain focussed in your objectives in life, you will succeed. Above all else one must have belief and grace of GOD.



My extracurricular activities have included being a member of service organization that tries to help people who are less fortunate than we are. I became a Founder Member of GIANTS movement with its HQ in Mumbai and has both ladies and gentlemen as its members. It has groups across India and spread across the world. It certainly has groups in Uganda, Kenya including Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru etc. A few groups in USA too. Giants is an acronym for: GENEROSITY, INTEGRITY, ACTION, NOBILITY, TRUTHFULNESS & SERVICE. GIANTS is a service organization like Lions groups and Rotary clubs. I am the current International Ambassador for GIANTS based in London. I have also been involved with the Freemasonry and its Charitable Trusts for past 20 years or so. *Photo: 1990 Active Grand Officer: Masonic Meeting with Active Grand Officer Regalia.*

I was a member of the Council of Grand Charity and after the tsunami of 2004, was involved with grass route level organisations to build 160 fisherman's homes in Southern India, A school in Humbantota in Sri Lanka and a Children's Centre in Phuket in Thailand. The three projects collected the charity from its members and a total of one and a half million pounds sterling was spent using grass route level strategies. Those affected by the terrible disaster were given help to rebuild their lives.



*Left Photo: 2004 South India: Bakul Tsunami Fisherman Being Welcomed to Tsunami Affected Village where Homes were Built.*



*Right Photo: 2004 Sri Lanka: Visiting Tsunami Affected Region of Sri Lanka Fishermen (on behalf of Masonic Grand Charity).*

## RETIREMENT

I retired from British Airways (my first and my last job in the UK) after 39 years of service. My last position with BA was Project Lead Manager – Planning and Control - during the transition to the newly constructed Terminal 5. I now spend most of my time playing Golf and attending meetings of social organizations. In good times prior to the pandemic of Covid-19, I have been fortunate enough to be the Captain of the British Airways Golf team and played at some of the best courses in the world. I have also been invited to become a member of the Steering Committee to celebrate 50 years of Ugandan settlement in the UK. Busy times ahead.....I am sure. I am happily settled in London with my wife Jyoti who is also from Kampala.

## FAMILY

Jyoti qualified in medicine from University of Southampton in the UK. She retired about 2 years ago – having been a General Practitioner for 36 years. We have two daughters. Tanvi is a Lawyer - married to Daniel and Henal is an Ophthalmic Optician - married to Prem. Our two grandchildren Aurora (5) and Arushan (3) ensure that I am always free to do anything when they need me!

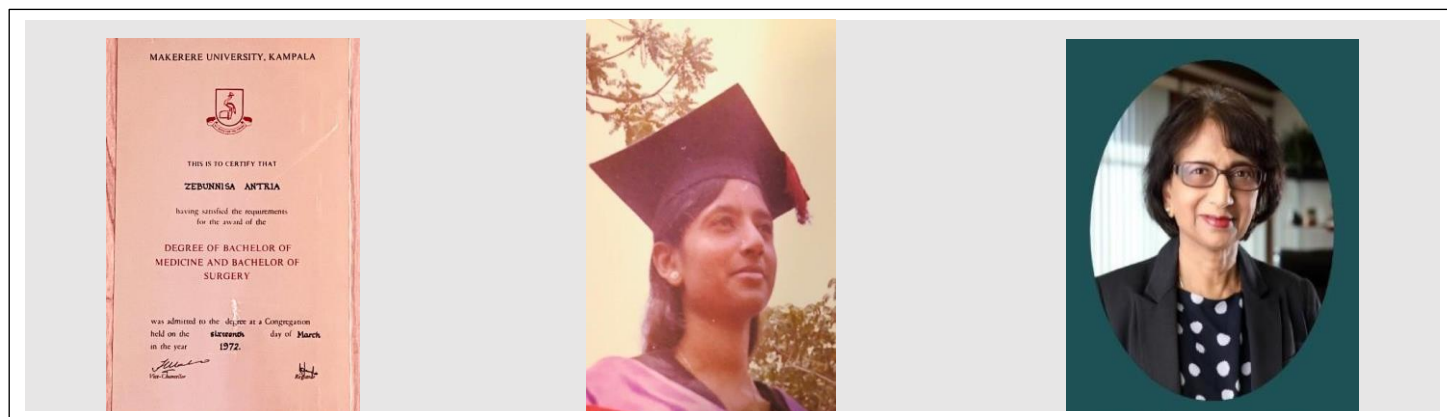


*2011 Bakul and Dr. Jyoti at Family Wedding with Daughters and Sons-in-Law.*

***My journey continues, during these Covid-19 times, I would like to thank the members of the MU Group 2020 (Makerere University Group's Admin Team), Abdallah Dar, Diamond Lalani, Dilzar Gulamhusein, and Yusuf Karbani, in ensuring that our history is recorded for posterity.***

***In my opinion, "Good Times and Bad Times, prove that a Glass Ceiling in any Profession or Endeavour is Self-Imagined or Self-Created". There is NO CEILING to anything if someone really wants to achieve it.***

## VYAS ZABUNNISSA NEE ANTRIA (1967-72: MEDICINE)



1972 MU Graduation

2018 USA (Longwood-Florida)

### EARLY DAYS

Life began for me in a Catholic Mission Village in Dabani, Busia, Uganda. This is where my family lived, I have 2 older siblings, sister Amama and brother Anwer. My Dad managed a cotton Ginnery and life was very simple with no Electricity or running water. However, we were lucky to have a very nice Bungalow and a huge yard with loads of fruit trees and lots of water from a huge water tank that collected rainwater.

We moved to Jinja for the benefit of civilization and schools. Dad continued at the Ginnery till it was taken over by the Government after independence. Life was wonderful growing up in multicultural environment in Jinja except for Being scared by the passing away of our dear mother in 1959. However, we were lucky to have our Aunt step into our lives and take care of us.

### SCHOOLING

Senior Secondary School education was full of studying, making new friends, loads of extracurricular activities like music, in particular learning to play the Sitar. I was a member of the Girl Guides and went on to become a Queens Guide and had the honor of being presented my special badge by Lady Baden Powell. Secondary education was very competitive, but I managed to be top of my class of 1964 and went on to St. Mary's College, Namagunga for 'A' Levels.

### MEDICAL SCHOOL

I cannot remember at what point I decided to study medicine, it just seemed natural for me to follow my sister's path. She was already in Medical school in Edinburgh in Scotland. I always wanted to stay at home in Uganda. I was fortunate to be able to fulfill my dream of attending Medical School at Makerere University.

I was a resident of Mary Stuart Hall, sharing a room with Khatoon Pradhan. We bonded and become lifelong friends. After 5 years of busy medic life and new experiences and new friends, I graduated in 1972, the year when one man's dream changed the lives of thousands of people of origin from the Indian Subcontinent and thus a new life began in London England as a young Intern and subsequently trained to become a family physician and settled in a Practice in Essex England.



## **1972 MU GRADUATION CEREMONY WITH IDI AMIN**



## **LIFE IN ENGLAND**

I married my long-time friend Suree Vyas in 1974 and then came a few years of hard work between a new married life with a new family and a new Family Practice. We were able to adopt reasonably well to our new country, but it was very difficult for my dear father who had to leave all his life's saving in Uganda. He subsequently passed away in 1980 after a long illness. After 10 years in England, Suree and I had an opportunity of a lifetime to immigrate to USA and we moved to Florida and thus began a new chapter in our lives with a Residency in Family Medicine at University of Florida.

## **LIFE IN AMERICA**

Eventually we settled in Longwood Florida in a small Family Practice that we bought. I struggled to run it single handedly till my business minded husband joined me with a vision of expansion into multiple office practices and we soon grew into 6 locations and employed 15 doctors and had a staff of about 50 employees.

After 27 years of real hard-working life, we had another life changing opportunity which was hard to turn down. We had an offer of purchase of our entire medical business and within 3 months we were sold to DaVita in Jan 2014. I continued to work for DaVita for another five and a half years and finally retired in May 2019.

## **GOING BACK TO UGANDA**

In September 2017, we, with my sister Amama and brother Anwer and Suree, visited Uganda for the first time since 1972. We got to visit Kampala, Jinja, Kaliro, Busia, Dabani and Tororo. We toured all the schools we had attended and Makerere Campus and Mulago Hill. I was able to participate in the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of St Mary's College Namagunga.

The little village where we siblings were born and grew up had of course grown but our Ginnery was almost the same with my Dad's desk and wall safe still in good shape and being used. The Catholic Mission in Dabani was running a large Primary School (about 1,000 Students) but they had no Playgrounds. We embarked on that Project, and it was Completed in 2019, the School now has a Playground, a Netball Court, and a Soccer Field.



## UGANDA 2017 VISIT



*Jinja Grandmother's Grave.*



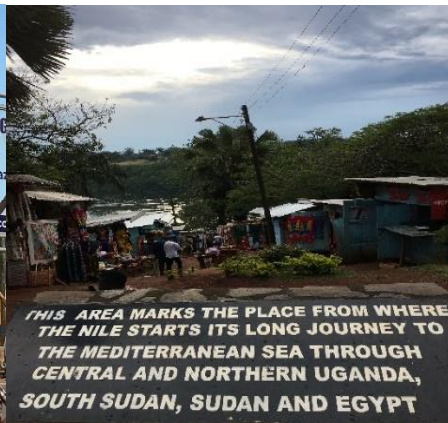
*Jinja outside Family Home.*



*Namagunga School 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.*



*Namagunga School.*



*Gandhi Memorial - Nile Riverbank.*



*Lunch at Catholic Mission Dabani.*



*Dabani Ginnery.*



*Family Home Dabani.*





*Dabani Primary School Playground Site.*



*Dabani Primary School Playground Completed.*

**TRAVELS**



*Norwegian Arctic.*



*Fog Bow in the Arctic.*



*2018 South Africa.*



*2012 China.*



*UAE Abu Dhabi Mosque .*



*2018 Hawaii.*



## LIFE TODAY

We continue to live in Longwood Florida, USA and Suree maintains his property business.

Over the years I have travelled to many parts around the globe Including a most memorable educational cruise to the Arctic with my sister and a most thrilling but difficult mission trip to Nepal and to Tibet and on to Mount Kailash with a group of doctors.

We still enjoy traveling and had plans for extended travel to countries we have not visited but the current Pandemic of 2020 has put a freeze on that, and all such plans are on hold at least for now.



*2019 Family Wedding.*

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

*We now have ability to give back to those who may not be as fortunate as us and have established a Charitable foundation and I spend a fair amount of my time working on social assistance and education projects.*

*We created scholarships at both University of Central Florida Medical School and Nursing School. I am also working with the local Hospital foundations and numerous other local Charitable organizations and the need is endless especially now in the present time of the pandemic. I am also a faithful supporter of the American Academy of Family Physicians whom I am indebted to for its help to me at the beginning of my career in USA.*

## 2022 UGANDA - DABANI PRIMARY SCHOOL



*Dabani Primary School Playground.*



*Dabani Primary School Football Field.*

*Sister Bernadette Ikalet  
Head Mistress  
Dabani Primary School.*





## 2022 USA - ACHIEVEMENT OF HONOUR AND RECOGNITION

In April 2022 we received Honour and Recognition from Advent Health Orlando Florida, for our contributions to local hospitals in the form of long service and donations.



*Zabunnissa Vyas Nee Antria.*



*Zabunnissa with husband Suree Vyas.*



## WELJI ALMAS NEE BHANJI (1968-72 MEDICINE)



1970 MU



2018 USA

### INTRODUCTION

Even though this very short version of my story is true, the names used in this story are made up, to protect the privacy of my dear friends. I am happy to share my extremely abridged life-story with my friends and family and leave a few thoughts for my children to understand about their mother.

I have always asked the question: Is there a predestined passion in us, some people may call it “a calling”, that drives us to choose a certain career over another or is it the circumstance that paves the way and propels us towards it, but always partly under our control? I believe that in my case, it was the latter, and of course without the circumstances being what they were, I might not be what I am today.

### PRE MAKERERE LIFE

Being the youngest of five children, I was spared from learning about the issues surrounding household finances or the lack thereof, and our precarious financial situation was the source of daily nagging worry for my mother. Our contact with our dad was much less, and sad to say, I had little inkling about what he went through. I knew that he left India during his early teens, with his parents and siblings, very unhappy to migrate to Tanzania, leaving all that he ever knew behind.

My mother would sometimes remind us about how lucky we were that her parents had mustered the will and courage to move out of India while her uncle, who decided to stay back in India, was worried since the education his grandchildren were receiving at their school was extremely poor and they could not afford the education at better schools. There was a constant message in the home that better education was the reason for our family’s move to Tanzania, and that education would get us out of poverty to a life where we would be able to afford relatively easy life without dependence upon others.

My mother spared us from doing chores in the house since our time could be better spent devoted to schoolwork instead. This idea of protecting us so that we could excel in education may have made me selfish as I took student’s life as privileged and my mother’s housework for granted. It certainly gave me time not only to study hard but also brought me the realization that in my home, being the best I could be, was of paramount importance and second only to our religious duties. I thoroughly appreciated the good grades I received.

One of the earliest memories of my childhood was crying because my elder siblings left for school in the morning, and I was to stay home with my mother. School was always this wonderful magical avenue to a life outside the boring four walls of the house. I cannot forget the day I was rewarded, when my neighbor and young friend Anar, took me with her to her kindergarten classroom and I sat there mesmerized by what I saw and heard in her classroom. Since that day, I held school very high in my esteem, and school was never an un-welcome interruption of my playtime at home.

My family was faced with an added problem as my father's eyesight began to deteriorate. During one of the visits by an ophthalmologist at Aga Khan Hospital in Dar-es-Salaam, my father was able to get an appointment to see him. It was an exciting time, which I remember well following my father's eye surgery, when his bandaged eyes were opened, and he could see a lot better. It was then that I became determined to do medicine and become an ophthalmologist. Not that I could cure my father's eyesight, but a career in medicine became the target of all my energies, centered on my future self. I did not become an ophthalmologist; however, completing a medical degree was the closest I got to healing others.

I chose to go to Azania school, since for "Advanced" Level, it offered botany, zoology, physics, and chemistry as their four principal subjects. I felt that would give me a better chance of getting admission to Makerere University, Medical school. I enjoyed every minute of my time completing "A" Levels, learning about the amazing wonders of creation as we spent time studying botany and zoology at school.

Besides enjoying studying botany and zoology, the time in Azania became "my ticket" to get my feet wet in extra-curricular activities. Drama was exciting, even though I spent sleepless nights either studying for classes or my lines for drama. I learnt a lot in the photography club. Equipment available to members of photography club allowed me to develop photos and learn about the use of dark room. Photos allowed me to share my exciting life with my family and my friends. I also belonged to tennis club, more because I was thrust into it since the matches needed females. My busy life left me little time to practice or enjoy tennis; and the day arrived too quickly when we were expected to play tennis matches against other schools. My team lost so badly that till today I remember how terrible we felt that day.

My school chose me as one of the students who represented Azania School at the Outward-Bound Mountain School in Loitokitok, Kenya where attendees got the opportunity to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. I lost my two big toe nails which were so traumatized climbing down the mountain that they just fell off. The three weeks I spent at the Outward-Bound Mountain school gave me mental and physical strength which I never knew I possessed. I cannot thank my sponsoring school more, for giving me that once-in-a-life-time opportunity.

I worked hard in school and made the grades necessary to get to medical school at Makerere University, which was the oldest university and perceived as the best university near home. I included a second choice of Dar-es-Salaam University for a medical diploma or a teaching degree on my application form, and was ecstatic to get admission to the University of my first choice.

After completing "A" Levels and prior to going to university, the law in Tanzania was that students had to spend five months at a remote Camp site in Ruvu for National Service. After grueling five-months period in Ruvu, I came out physically, mentally, and emotionally stronger. The love for my country, its countrymen and women were cultivated there, and it always made me proud and patriotic to claim that I had been through the rigorous basic training to protect my nation any time in future. Armed with loyalty for my country, I left my home country for Makerere University, in Uganda.

## **MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

My toughest life lessons began while I was at Makerere. With prayers and the support of my dear friends in my dorm, I was able to live a healthy life and a balanced life away from home. Wicked loneliness gripped me like a relentless enemy. My mind refused to let go my attachment to my family and my humble home. My constant hunger was to be in my familiar home surroundings. It took me at least two years to be at ease with life away from home.

Medical studies, though were challenging, were easier than I expected. And I did well in all the classes I took. It was during my third-year vacation that I was faced with misfortune at home. My father passed away suddenly, and I received the tragic news while I was on vacation, but had been unable to return home for the holidays since I held a job helping with research at the Pharmacology department at the University hospital. I left for the funeral, but returned to my job as quickly as I could. That was a sad time for the whole family, and especially for me since I was so far from home.

During the same year, 1971, our family was awarded a treat, which we all welcomed eagerly since my sister and my brother-in-law had their first baby daughter and my brother and my sister-in-law had their first baby son. With the miracle of two newborn babies in the family, all of us become too busy to be sad about the loss of my father.

That was a turning point for me, since upon my return, I felt more mature and was able to take the rest of my sojourn at Makerere in stride. My friends in my dorm were a God sent gift for me, as were an aunt and my brother-in-law's family in Kampala, not too far from the campus. As campus life became more familiar and routines became more comfortable for me, the familiar faces of the non-medical students on the campus were no longer seen, since they graduated earlier than medical students. Their void became a part of my life and toughened me. However, nothing could prepare anyone for what was to come soon to all in Uganda, especially the Asians.

Just as the last year of my medical school rolled in, military coup ravaged Uganda as the military despot Idi Amin Dada took over the reins of the country, meting out barbaric action against anyone suspected of being against his rule. All Asians were commanded to leave the country within three months. I had a choice to leave Africa or return home to Tanzania. I wanted to go back to Tanzania and complete my medical school in Tanzania, but we feared the political turmoil in Uganda, might spread to Tanzania, and it was best to leave Africa while it was easy.

The three months allowed us in Uganda on the campus were the most anxiety and stress provoking time of my life. Daily sounds of gunfire and whispered talk about the atrocities surrounded us around the clock. Though the dormitory occupants who remained on the campus including myself were safe, the constant threat of impending danger loomed around us like a mist that never lifts. Applications for admission to medical schools around the world went out daily from my room. I was thankful that I had my eldest brother in the United States on a scholarship, and I could depend upon him for finances. My parents were indeed correct when they advised us to do the best in school so as to have a way out of poverty and dependence on others.

My hopes were to return and work at one of the hospitals near home. I never dreamt nor did I have the desire to, move out of the boundaries of my beloved home nation; however, within less than 5 years, I was taking the next huge plunge, without any family member and without completing my degree, across the ocean, first to England, and then to Canada.

## **POST MAKERERE (LIFE AFTER MEDICAL SCHOOL)**

Thankfully, a few of us got admission at the University of Bristol Medical School for the final year of medical school and with great relief we headed to England on a student visa. That one year flew quickly with the help of warm, kind people we met in Bristol; who shared their possessions with us. Students at the university even gave up their residence at the hospital which they would have otherwise utilized for clerkship so that we, the refugee-students could live there for free and without the long commute. Unfortunately, we were never given a formal opportunity to thank them for their kind gesture, for which I am eternally grateful.

I completed my Internship, Radiology Residency and Nuclear Medicine Fellowship between Canada and United States programs, married, and settled in the United States. Radiology Residency which I began in Ohio, I was able to complete it at the University of Boston. While I stayed busy with Residency, my husband gained admission to University of Massachusetts to get a Degree in Pharmacy since getting licensed as a pharmacist required a degree from United States. After my Nuclear Medicine Fellowship at the Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse, NY, I was free to practice radiology. After a few years in Ohio, we moved to Conyers, near Atlanta, where our two children spent their school years.



## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

The best reward I received for the hard work I put in, came in 2014, when I was asked to go on a Time and Knowledge (TKN) assignment for six weeks to Regional Diagnostic Center, Khorog, Tajikistan to help the radiologist learn how to read CT scans. I went again in 2014 with a team composed of a breast surgeon, an oncologist, a pathologist, two nurse practitioners, and I was their radiologist. The nurse practitioners taught the local health care providers and community health workers to conduct the examination of the breast for tumor; I trained the radiologist and the sonographer to read mammograms and ultrasound of the breast and the surgeons to perform breast biopsy using ultrasound guidance. The pathologist taught the local pathologist to diagnose breast cancer from the biopsy specimen obtained and finally the breast surgeon and oncologist instructed the local surgeons about best practice treatment options for breast cancer and non-cancerous masses. It was a well-received project which continues to reap benefits today.



*2019 Tajikistan (Khorog): Visiting a Badakshani Home / Outside Serena Hotel by the Shore of Panj River / On Route to Dushanbe.*



*2019 Tajikistan (Khorog) UCA Campus with TKN Volunteers.*



*2019 Tajikistan (Khorog) Aga Khan Medical Centre Teaching.*

My next TKN assignment in 2017, was to go for two years to Aga Khan Hospital (AKH), Dar-es-Salaam (Dar), Tanzania to fill the gap in the Radiology department since one of the radiologists was made the medical director. In Dar-es-Salaam, their level of knowledge was great, and I learnt more from them, than they from me.

As soon as they found a local radiologist to replace me at AKH Dar, I headed to Khorog to the new hospital, the Aga Khan Medical Center (AKMC), for a period of two months. Their new radiologist had recently completed medical school and needed time to build upon his knowledge and experience. The training that we initially established in 2014, had to start afresh for the new radiologist in 2019; it continues today with an ever-growing team of radiologists from USA and Canada helping report CT and MRI cases from AKMC and Khorog General hospital. With the help of a team of radiologists, we conduct ongoing weekly teaching sessions for the local radiologists and medical-surgical staff.

*TKN service has enriched my life and brought immense “barakah” to my family.*



*2018 Tanzania (Dar-es-Salaam): Aga Khan Hospital with Princess Zahra, Staff and TKN Volunteers / Upanga JK DJ Celebrations.*



#### **FAMILY**

My husband Nazir Welji has enjoyed working as a pharmacist and has accompanied me for a short time to both Dar and Khorog, helping at the pharmacies at the Aga Khan hospitals.

My children have done very well.

My son is doing a Post doctorate degree at the University of Georgia, after finishing his Ph D in Mathematics.

My daughter is a lecturer at the University of California, San Diego after completing her Ph D in Anthropology.

#### **CONCLUSION**

*I have been blessed with a fulfilled life of service to humanity in the best way I could with the education I received at the Aga Khan school, Azania Secondary School and Makerere University. I could not have wished for a better outcome of my education. I am grateful to my professors at the university for giving me their best and preparing me for what came my way.*

*2020 USA (Atlanta) Almas and Nazir*



## MU Group 2020 Memories



1966 His Highness the Aga Khan with Ismaili Students at the Mosque during His visit to Uganda



1968 Zoology Class with Professor Bandage, Dr. White, and Dr. Thurston



## MU Group 2020 Memories



1969 Uganda Jinja 21st Birthday Party for Zabunnissa Vyas Nee Antria (front 3rd from left), celebrated by her parents with friends from Makerere. In the photo Khatoon Noonan Nee Pradhan, Yasmin Pirani, Souli Karmali, Naren Raja, Shams Jiwani (Scout), Kurban, Bhal, Ramesh Raja, Nimi Walji, Suree Vyas, and Zabun's Parents.



## MU Group 2020 Memories



1969 Students Protest-Demonstration  
in front of the Main Hall



1969 Students Protest-Demonstration  
in front of the Main Hall



1969 Mary Stuart Hall  
Zarina Kassam and Jenny Walji



1969 Trip to Mombasa-Malindi



## MU Group 2020 Memories



So tired after completion of charity walk to Makerere University - 1970



A charity walk, ladies started from Kisubi and gents started at Entebbe - 1970



Proud to complete the charity walk on a bright sunny day - 1970



## MU Group 2020 Memories



Posing for a photo outside Main Hall  
after completion of charity walk - 1970



Some of the weekend  
walkers who covered 20  
kilometers to raise funds  
for charity.



## MU Group 2020 Memories



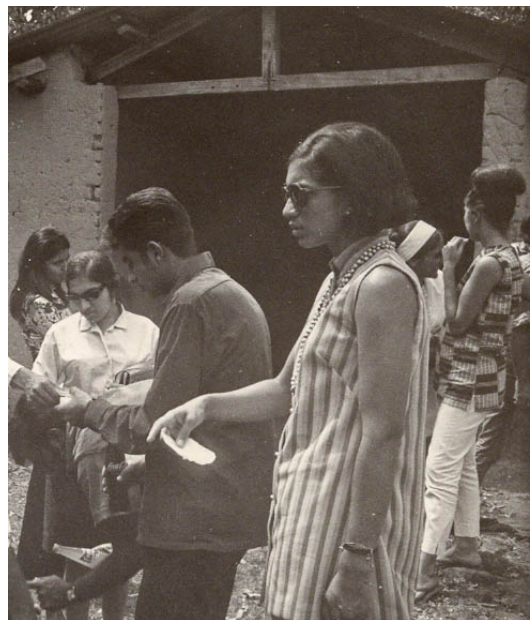
## MU Group 2020 Memories



1970 Trip to Masaka stop over at Lake Victoria



1970 Trip to Masaka: Bus



1970 Trip to Masaka Lake Nabugabu



1970 Trip to Masaka Lake Victoria L-R:  
Amin Bandali, Parin Mawani,  
Salim Moolji (on Guitar), Diamond Lalani



## MU Group 2020 Memories



1970 Trip to Masaka Music Party and Ginan Mushairo  
In JK Social Hall



1970 Trip to Masaka Music Party and  
Ginan Mushairo In JK Social Hall



1970 Trip to Masaka Music Party and  
Ghinan Mushairo In JK Social Hall

## MU Group 2020 Memories



1970 Trip to Masaka Aga Khan Hostel with local leadership



1970 Trip to Masaka after the Volleyball match  
against the Aga Khan Club



1970 Trip to Masaka JK Compound



## MU Group 2020 Memories



1970 Trip to Murchison Falls Para Lodge



1970 Trip to Murchison Falls Boat Ride



1970 Trip to Murchison Falls Game Park



1970 Trip to Murchison Falls Picnic



## MU Group 2020 Memories



1970 Campus Fellow Medical Students  
with Abdallah Daar and Shiraz Mohamed



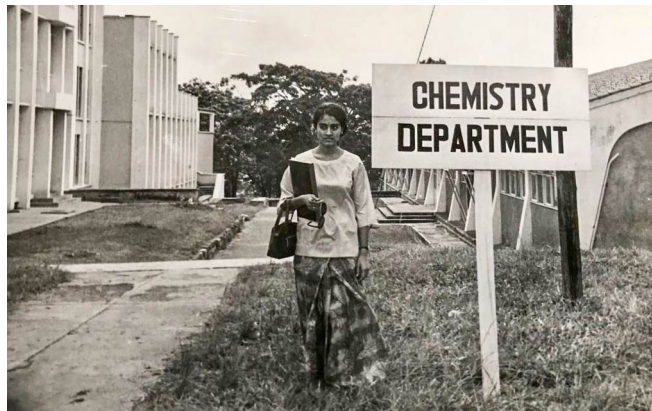
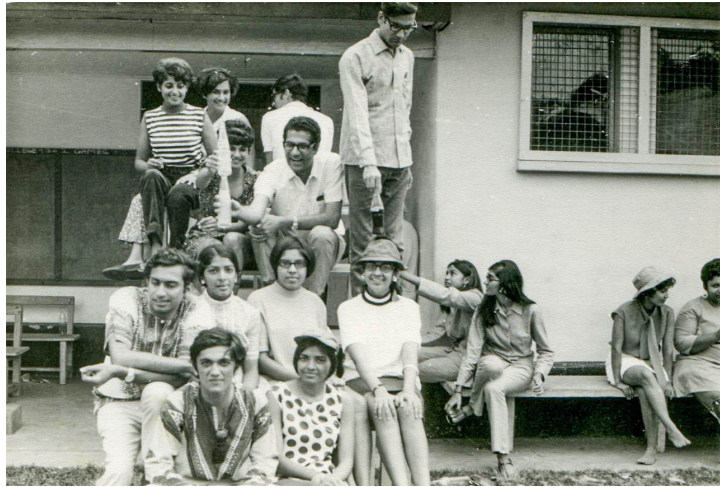
1970 Campus Amir Megji, Tazdin  
Esmail, Salmin Pardhan



1970 Campus L-R: Nasir Jaffer,  
Yasmin Thobani, Anil Mussani

## MU Group 2020 Memories

1970 Campus on the Bleachers  
Medical Students including  
Shamim Gillani,  
Claire Mascarenhas,  
Pravin Lakhani,  
Shahina Daar (Nee Jaffer)



1970 Campus Amita Kanani (Nee Nathwani)



1970 Campus From Left To Right Nasir  
Jaffer, Alnoor Abdulla, Nasim  
Mohamed,  
Zulfikar Khimji, Late Nasim Sayani,  
Shiraz Sumar Sorathia, Yasmin Mawani,  
Late Shiraz Sarangi



## MU Group 2020 Memories



1970 Campus Party Ashak  
Nathwani, Farida Sarangi,  
Salim Lakhani, Shamim Kanani  
(when Ashak and Salim visited)



1970 Campus Party Africa Hall  
- we loved our chai,  
Mumtaz and Ashak visited Arzina



1970 Campus Party L-R: Yasmin Thobani,  
Anil Mussani, Late Nasim Sayani, Late Shiraz Lalani,  
Zahir Janmohamed



## MU Group 2020 Memories



1970 Trip to Kisumu Khushiali



## MU Group 2020 Memories



1970 Trip to Fort Portal Hot Springs  
L-R: Zarina Kassan, Alnoor Abdulla,  
Nasir Jaffer, Almas Bhanji



1970 Trip to Fort Portal Hot Springs  
with non-MU Friends



## MU Group 2020 Memories



1970 MU Badminton  
Team including  
Zul Devji,  
Late Shiraz Sarangi,  
Subodh Kanani



1970 Kampala Uganda Wedding Mendi Night  
for Yasmin Bandali and Rehman Hajee



## MU Group 2020 Memories



1970 Trip to Western Uganda Kelembe Mines  
(Late Mahendi Ladhani seated left)



1970 Trip to Western Uganda Kelembe Mines  
(Late Mahendi Ladhani standing  
2nd from Right without Safety Hat)

## MU Group 2020 Memories



1970 Campus Party L-R: Salma,  
Late Harshad Damani,  
Late Yasmin Sayani, Late Shiraz Lalani



1970 Campus Main Hall L-R: Yusuf Karbani,  
Late Gulbanu Harji, Parin Mawani, Late Amin Bandali



1970 Campus  
Batch of Students from  
Livingstone Hall  
including Late Azad Ladha



## MU Group 2020 Memories



1970 Tanzania Ngorongoro National Park  
L-R: Late Clarence Fernandez,  
Shiraz Sumar Sorathia, Alnoor Abdulla





## MU Group 2020 Memories



## MU Group 2020 Memories



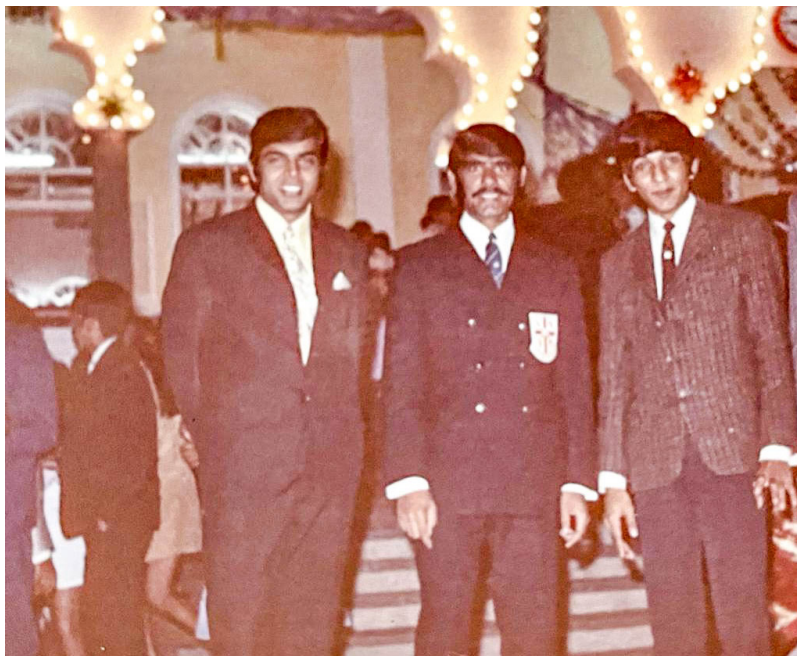
1971 Campus L-R: Rose, Arzina,  
Amin Bandali, Almas Samnani,  
Tazdin Esmail

1971  
Campus Protest-Demonstration  
(Army infringement of Campus  
after Idi Amin takeover)





## MU Group 2020 Memories



1971 Kampala L-R: Late Mohamed Aziz,  
Alnoor Abdulla, Nasir Jaffer



At a get together at Africa Hall - 1971  
Front Row: Arzina, Salmin, Farida, Amir  
Back Row: Peter, Amita, Shiraz and Jyoti



## MU Group 2020 Memories



Salmin, Timmy, Farida,  
Arzina and Amita departing  
for an East Africa trip  
after graduating – 1972



1973 Graduation Medical Students including  
Late Amin Kassamali and Shiraz Mohamed

MU Group 2020 Memories



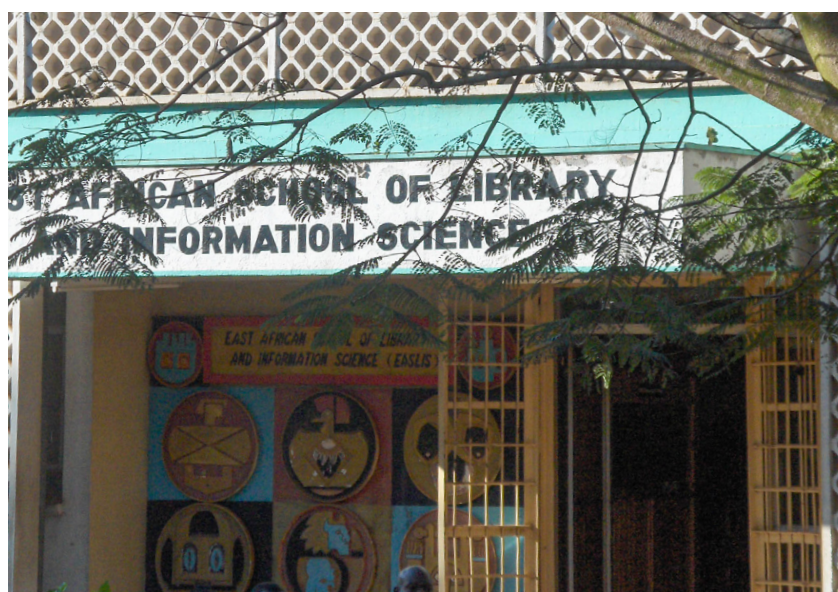


## MU Group 2020 Memories

*Makerere University Medical School, Physiology Dept Profs who were head of department. Picture taken in 2012*



Physiology Department - 2012





## REMEMBERING DEPARTED FELLOW MAKEREREANS

It is indeed very sad to have lost such brilliant group of people we were able to share our lives with at Makerere University, who are no longer with us, but have never been forgotten. **MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN ETERNAL PEACE.**

### Faculty Members

#### ***Professor Krishna (Kris) Somers***



Born in Durban S. Africa on 7 October 1926. Trained in Durban and specialised in cardiology at Central Middlesex Hospital in London UK. In 1957, was appointed Lecturer in Department of Medicine, Makerere University Kampala Uganda. We all remember him as a dedicated teacher, researcher and he published extensively, up to 130 publications. He also was WHO consultant and travelled extensively. After leaving Kampala, he worked as a consultant at University of Papua New Guinea. He then joined as an Emeritus Consultant to Royal Perth Hospital in Perth Australia. Kris and Mohamed Manji stayed in touch over the years, and he always stated that there is no point to retire and he worked till the end. He passed away in Perth on 15 October 2018 in his 93rd year and we Makerereans with his brother Sat and wife Sue, and many cousins, nephews, nieces in Australia, Canada, South Africa, USA, and India, who will mourn his loss.

#### ***Professor Sir Ian McAdam (Head Department of Surgery)***



A former Professor of Surgery and Head of Department of Surgery at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, He was born in the small town of Parys, South Africa, near the Rhodesian border, the son of W J McAdam, a mining engineer, and Alice Culverwell. He was educated at Plumtree School in Southern Rhodesia, and then went on to Cambridge University. He trained as a surgeon in Edinburgh. Missing Africa, he applied for a post at Mulago Hospital, Kampala, and at Makerere University. Sir Ian McAdam played a leading part in establishing the high reputation of the Makerere Medical School and also played an important role in the development of service, teaching and research at Makerere University. By any measure, Professor McAdam was larger-than-life personality. He was an inspired teacher. He understood the needs of students. His daily staff meetings and 'hands-on' lectures, ward rounds and operating sessions were memorable and always well attended. The first generation of African surgeons were trained in his department and their quality was such that the MMed degree, which he had a leading role in establishing, was recognised by the Royal Colleges. Sir Ian was also a founder member of the East African Society of Surgeons and became its President. He was a prime mover in establishing the poliomyelitis treatment centre at Makerere, the cancer institute and the blood transfusion service, to name a few of his contributions. Although a Knight, he always insisted that we refer him as "Sir" in the workplace but "Ian" on the tennis court. He was also an outstanding sportsman and represented Uganda at many sports like golf, tennis, and motor rallying. In 1972, McAdam and two of the professional colleagues were expelled from Uganda by Idi Amin, because he was known to have given shelter to his colleagues and helped others escape. He was also involved in helping in the plights of colleagues, many of them of Asian descent, who had been forced to leave. After his expulsion (without a pension), he spent time in Britain and was then appointed to the National Cancer Institute in Washington for a year. He then returned to South Africa where he set up a second career as a surgeon at Knysna at Plettenberg Bay. He married twice. In 1939 he married Hrothgarde Gibson, and they had two daughters, Elsbeth (a family psychiatrist) and Roslyn (a physiotherapist), and a son, Keith, Professor of Tropical Medicine in London, and director of the medical research unit in Gambia. With Pamela, his 2nd wife, he retired to Oxfordshire in 1992. He died on 4 March 1999. He died in England, but his remains were flown to Uganda for burial at an undisclosed site.

#### ***Miss Hannah Stanton (Warden Mary Stuart and Theology Lecturer)***

Hannah Stanton was born in Teddington in 1931. English graduate and a social worker trained from University of London. She spent time in South Africa from 1956 to 1962. She was arrested and put in solitary confinement for her stand against police cruelty towards black South Africans and for their livelihood. She was released and deported from South Africa. She came to Makerere University in 1962. After her departure from Uganda in 1972, due to Idi Amin, she fought and helped to re settle Ugandan evacuees. She passed away in Dec 1993 and her memorial service was held at the church of St Martin-

the-fields. In April 1994, in Trafalgar Square, where the new South African flag was raised. Her work in South Africa was rewarded.

***Professor Francis John Bennett (Head Department of Preventive Medicine)***



Born in 1927 in Sesheke, Barotseland (now Zambia). Professor Bennett was married with five children aged from 15-25 years. His first degree was M.B.Ch.B from Cape Town and D.P.H. with distinction in 1953 from University of Witwatersrand. After working as Medical Officer in charge of Polela Health Centre Natal from 1955-1959, he joined the Department of Preventive Medicine, Makerere University in 1959. He became the professor and head of department of preventive medicine in 1971. After the Ugandan crisis, he took up the Professorship of Community Health at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 1973 – May 1975. He then was appointed to the Chair of Community Health at University of Nairobi Kenya. Francis John Bennett (known as John) devoted his life to the improvement of public health throughout Africa and was regarded as the “Father of Primary Health Care in Africa.” He was a kind person, who thought nothing of calling students to his home for any further academic discussion. Prof. Bennet's wife Jill Bennet was from the well known de Beer family, dealing in diamond industry, of South Africa. His daughter Jenny was a medical student at Makerere University. He passed away in 2019.

***Professor John Kibukamusoke (Professor of Medicine)***



Tribute to Professor John William Kibukamusoke (contributed by Professor Krishna Somers). He went to the premier residential school in Uganda, then qualified LMS at Makerere, the Licentiate being converted to MBBS in 1964 when Makerere became a fully-fledged University. After junior appointments in Mulago, he travelled to the UK on a Uganda Government Scholarship and undertook further training in internal medicine in London and tropical medicine in Liverpool. On his return home, he was appointed specialist physician in Mulago Hospital, heading one of six units in internal medicine. He developed a research programme jointly with the Department of Pathology, and published on the subject of nephrotic syndrome in quartan malaria. He was subsequently appointed Professor of Medicine. He was also physician to Pope Paul VI on his pilgrimage to Uganda in 1970, and was awarded the Ugandan Independence Medal for his service. In the aftermath of the Amin military coup and the killings of professionals and academics who were opposed to the Amin regime, in natural fear for his safety he secretly left for the UK. He reportedly got wind of rumours in March 1973 that his name was on the list of those to be killed. He immediately fled the country alone although his wife and two children joined him a few days later. Prof. George Kirya said, the emigration of Prof. Kibukamusoke is one testimony of how much Idi Amin's brutal regime adversely affected the country's medical system, as Kibukamusoke was just one of the many specialists who fled in addition to collapsing infrastructure. While in the UK, he was able to negotiate a contract appointment as Head of the Department of Medicine at the University of Zambia. For a brief period he held an interim appointment as Director of Medical Services in St Vincent, West Indies. During the several changes of Government in Uganda immediately after the military dictator Amin was ousted out, he was appointed Ugandan High Commissioner to Australia. He decided to stay on in Australia when his term as High Commissioner ended. For a while he practised in New South Wales as consultant physician. He wrote a book, *Venus and Leartra*, a romantic novel set in the background of the national wildlife parks of Uganda. Sadly, his inability to fund a lavish lifestyle led to him being charged and convicted for medical malpractice and was imprisoned in Sydney. He died in Sydney from cardiac failure on 13 August 2009. His ashes were returned for traditional burial in Uganda.

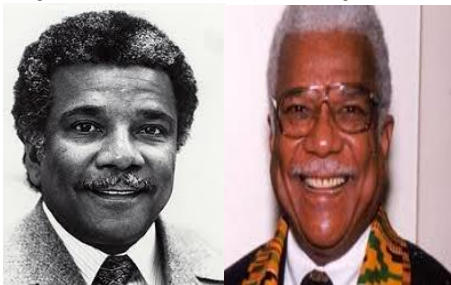
***Professor Ronald Lawrie Huckstep (Department of Orthopaedic Surgery)***



Ron Huckstep was born in China in 1926 and spent a large part of his youth interned in a Japanese camp. Despite this disruption to his education, at the end of the Second World War Ron Huckstep studied medicine at Cambridge and Middlesex Hospital. He went on to study at Cambridge and became an Orthopaedic Surgeon, working in England, Kenya, Uganda, and Australia. In 1952 Ron travelled to Kenya and witnessed an outbreak of Typhoid, the disease became the focus of the dissertation he completed at St Bartholomew's back in England in 1959. Now an Orthopaedic Surgeon

Ron returned to Africa and in 1960 became Professor of Orthopaedics at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. He was a great and zealous teacher, organized it around the Rule of 3, a simple system to organize the facts of life and organize medical knowledge. Surprisingly, it seemed to work more often than not. His work in Uganda involved extensive treatment of Polio patients and it was during this time that he developed the Sekelecast and pioneered surgical treatments for Polio patients in the region. Salk and Sabin developed the polio vaccine, but it was Professor Huckstep, who developed and instigated the surgical care of polio victims in Uganda, His percutaneous technique for correcting gross deformities are still used today All this is documented in his classic text (Poliomyelitis, 1975) and enigmatic video (Poliomyelitis in Uganda), Pope Paul VI visited him in Africa to see his work and he was later awarded the Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George by Pope Paul VI for this work. Due to the political instability of Uganda under Idi Amin Ron Huckstep left Africa to settle in Australia and in 1972 became Professor of Orthopaedics and Traumatology at the Prince of Wales Hospital. Prior to this he had spent two years as a travelling Professor for the Commonwealth Foundation. Described as a passionate teacher Ron continued to practice surgery until 1993, and continued to teach in a formal capacity through the University of New South Wales until 1998. In addition to his teaching Ron Huckstep also published widely producing academic articles and educational guides. During his career he developed and pioneered new treatments for fractures including the Huckstep Locking Nail for complex trauma, the Huckstep Hip, cerclage clip, Huckstep ceramic knee, cannulated hip screws, ceramic spacers for tumour reconstructive work, and surgical treatments for primary bone tumours and metastatic bone fractures. These innovations have made a difference in the lives of both human patients and veterinary patients from dogs to elephants. Ron operated on humans, birds, elephants with the same zeal and dedication implanting his high-tech surgical fixation devices Ron's dry humour never faulted. He once held up a huge nail at a surgical conference to declare that he now used his Huckstep Nail on babies (the audience demurred, as nails should not be used in babies) ... baby elephants. Saving the lives of elephants at Taronga Zoo. He retired at 65, in 1993, far too early and was not so happy about that, nor were his patients. Ron said he would rather live on bread and water than retire to medico-legal report writing. Ron died suddenly at RNS Hospital on 10 April, 2015 from a stroke. Hip problems had dogged his later years after he fell rushing to the OT in the 1970s; in the change room, he hoisted himself up on crutches to supervise a registrar doing a pin-and-plate, then later booked his own surgery. He was back then in the ward in a few days working). As per his colleague, he said he was feeling not his usual self, then Ann, his wife, told me he was still swimming a mile a week. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Ann, three children (Susan, Michael, Nigel) and six grandchildren (Nicholas, Sarah, Charlotte, Natasha, Katherine, and Matthew), son-in-law (Patrick), daughter-in-laws (Fiona and Stacey), brother (John) and sister-in law (Jill). Uncle and brother-in-law to the Huckstep and Macbeth extended families.

#### ***Professor Ali Mazrui (Head of Political Science from 1963-1973)***



Ali Mazrui was born on February 24, 1933, in Mombasa, Kenya, the Mazruis, an old and prominent Muslim clan, had ruled the city-state of Mombasa during the 18th century. Mazrui's father, Al'Amin Ali Mazrui, was Chief Kadhi of Kenya, the country's top judge of Islamic law. As the son of an eminent Muslim scholar and of the politically powerful clan, Mazrui was expected to follow in his father's footsteps. His father wanted him to study at the Al-Azhar University, Cairo, but British colonialism changed the direction of his education; after attending local schools as a child, he was awarded a scholarship to travel to Britain and

completed his schooling there. He went to Manchester University and graduated in 1960. He did his postgraduate studies at Columbia University, New York and Nuffield College, Oxford. After completing his doctorate at Oxford, the following year, he also began taking on visiting professor assignments at overseas universities, including stints in the United States. In 1963 Mazrui moved to Kampala Uganda to teach political science at Makerere University. In addition to his work for the BBC, he did some writing and broadcasting for Radio Uganda and Radio Tanzania over the next couple of years. In 1965 Mazrui was named Head of Makerere Political Science Department at Makerere University. In 1973, he resigned from his position at Makerere, where he had worked since 1963, after making outspoken remarks about the then president Idi Amin. As he had developed a reputation for controversy, Kenyan universities refused to hire him and in 1974 he joined the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, as Professor of Political Science. In 1978 he was appointed director of the Centre for Afro-American and African Studies there. He served on a number of international academic bodies, received numerous awards, and gave the 1979 BBC Reith lectures, entitled The African Condition. In addition to his



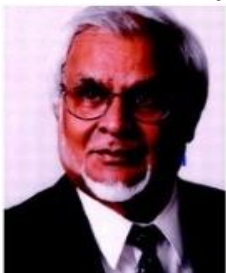
appointments as the Albert Schweitzer Professor in the Humanities, Professor in Political Science, African Studies, Philosophy, Interpretation and Culture and the Director of the Institute of Global Cultural Studies (IGCS). Mazrui also held three concurrent faculty appointments as Albert Luthuli Professor-at-Large in the Humanities and Development Studies at the University of Jos in Nigeria, Andrew D. White Professor-at-Large Emeritus and Senior Scholar in African Studies at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York and Chancellor of the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Nairobi, Kenya. In 1999, Mazrui retired as the inaugural Walter Rodney Professor at the University of Guyana, Georgetown. Mazrui has also been a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University, The University of Chicago, Colgate University, McGill University, National University of Singapore, Oxford University, Harvard University, Bridgewater State College, Ohio State University, and at other institution in Cairo, Australia, Leeds, Nairobi, Teheran, Denver, London, Baghdad, and Sussex, amongst others. In 2005, Ali Mazrui was selected as the 73rd top most intellectual person in the world on the list of Top 100 Public Intellectuals by Prospect M. At the time of his death, Mazrui was an Albert Schweitzer professor in the humanities, and the director of the Institute of Global Cultural Studies, which he founded in 1991 at Binghamton University in New York. Professor Ali Mazrui died in New York on 12 October 2014. He was buried in accordance with his wishes, at the historical monument of Fort Jesus in Mombasa, Kenya. He is survived by his wife, Pauline Uti, whom he married in 1991, their two sons, Farid and Harith, and three sons, Jamal, Al-Amin, and Kim, from his first marriage, to Molly Vickerman.

#### ***Dr. Blaise Sebastian Braganza (Medicine)***



Dr. Blaise Sebastian Braganza was a lecturer in the Dept of Medicine, with interest in Gastroenterology and Endocrinology. After the Ugandan crisis he and his wife went to Australia in 1973. His wife Apollonia Lobo was a lecturer in the Department of Obstetrics at Makerere University. Dr Braganza died in 2016 in Australia.

#### ***Dr Anilkumar Muljibhai Patel (also known as Dr. "TB" Patel)***



Dr Anilkumar (Anil) Muljibhai Patel was consultant in Respiratory Medicine at Mulago Hospital in Kampala. He was the son of Dr Muljibhai Motibhai Patel (OBE) and Maniben Patel who had immigrated to Uganda in 1921. Dr Muljibhai Patel, Anil's father, had played a major role in the independence movement in Uganda, Anil had his medical degree in 1959 from Madras University, India, and specialist degree in respiratory Medicine from Edinburgh in 1966. At Mulago Hospital, he was responsible for the teaching of Respiratory Medicine in Post graduate Residency Training Program. During his years in Uganda, Dr Patel was the officer in charge of the National Tuberculosis Control including organization of TB services and mass BCG vaccination. Thus, medical students use to call him Dr "TB" Patel. Dr Patel enthusiastically shared his knowledge with undergraduates medical student, post graduate physician trainees, health care workers and paramedical staff in local setting and at international symposiums. Because of Ugandan South Asian expulsion policy of Idi Amin, Dr Anil Patel was also expelled but because of his indispensable contribution to healthcare in Uganda, he was one of those prevented from leaving the country. He somehow managed to leave Uganda by accepting an invitation to a Medical Conference in the UK where he sought domicile and was later joined by his family. They were lucky to escape with their lives, taking with them intellect and a capacity for hard work. After working there for one year he was invited and accepted a position of a Consultant in Chest Diseases at Cairns Base Hospital in Queensland Australia. He brought to Queensland his wealth of experience in TB control through his experience in the evaluation of TB control program in Uganda, He guided Queensland Health's TB Control Program and with his outstanding work, the re-emergence of TB was prevented. His work was also recognised in USA and steps taken in Queensland were adopted there as well. He was also involved in the initial Queensland Health response to the HIV epidemic and development of AIDS control. He was awarded the Public Service medal in 2006 for outstanding service in the field of health and the control of TB in Queensland. He continued to excel as a Teacher until he retired in 2003. He had many other interests, including archaeology and history. He passed away in Brisbane Australia on 28/Feb/2006 from disseminated prostate cancer soon after his 50th wedding anniversary to Nalini. He is survived by his wife, Nalini, and a daughter and a son. His daughter, Anushka, continues her medical career in the third generation as cardiologist/epidemiologist at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney.

**Professor Michael Stewart Rees Hutt (Head Department of Pathology Mulago Hospital)**



Professor Hutt joined Makerere University in 1962 and stayed for 8 years till his departure in 1970. Medical students "worshipped" him. Not only he was an excellent teacher, he genuinely cared for their welfare with evangelical zeal. He had the ability of being approachable regardless of who one was. He revised the Undergraduate Curriculum and encouraged students to do research and publish their work in Makerere Medical Journal. He always found time to contribute to Makerere Medical Journal. His contribution to the scientific literature included papers on Kaposi Sarcoma and its relation to HIV and HIV Aids, Endomyocardial Fibrosis and Burkitt's Lymphoma. He was a great loss when he left to go back to the UK in 1970. He took a position as a Chair of Geographical Pathology at St Thomas' Hospital London. He however continued to keep close touch with Makerere University. He retired and became Emeritus in 1983. He served on the Medical Research Council's Tropical Medicine Research Board from 1972 to 1976 and on the Wellcome Trust's Tropical Research Grants Committee from 1981-84. He was Vice-President of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from 1991-93 and was elected an Honorary Fellow in 1993. He died on 29Mar2000. One of his four children (three daughters and a son) is the Welsh politician Jane Hutt, a former Welsh Minister for Health and Social services.

**Faruk Muradali Kassam (Research Assistant & Technician, Department of Physiology)**



Faruk Muradali Kassam passed-away on August 7, 2018 in Toronto after a brave battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Doris, and son Martin and four siblings - Semin, Arzina, Nazlin, and Eqbal. May his soul rest in eternal peace. Faruk was the eldest of the five children of Zerakhanu and Muradali Kassam Dewji. He was 19 years old when his father passed-away in 1966 and he assumed full responsibility of looking after the needs of his mother and four siblings. He was instrumental in siblings pursuing education and skills to full potential and always encouraging siblings to pursue their interests. Faruk had followed a co-op program in engineering at the Ryerson and Waterloo Universities and worked for Nortel in Brampton, Ontario for many years. Later he went on to enrol in, and complete, a program in the field of education. He taught Math and Physics to the high school students in Brampton till the end of June 2018, that is, till the end of the 2018 academic year. He was keen in seeing his students make it to the university. Immediately afterwards, he was admitted to the hospital for cancer treatment but sadly passed-away 5 weeks later, surrounded by family at his hospital bedside. Faruk had many hobbies including, chess, hiking, trekking, mountain climbing and bird watching. He was very much in harmony with nature. His hobbies took him to many countries and his bird photography can be found at A Love of Birds by Faruk Kassam | Blurb Books Canada. A notable event that has made us all proud is when he received an award in technology from City and Guilds of London Institute in 1967. It was first time in the history of the Institute that the award was given to a recipient outside UK.



**Students (Alumni)**

**Dr. Iqbal Lilani (Medical School 1966-1971, Livingston Hall)**

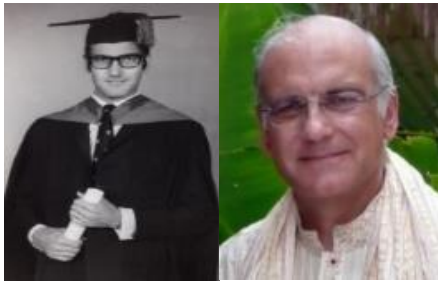


Iqbal hailed from Lindi, Tanzania. He did his primary and secondary schooling in Lindi. He was well known cricket player, both as a bowler and also as a batsman. He captained his school team in the Isherwood Cup finals. He did his high school at Makwawa Secondary School in Iringa, Tanzania. After coming to Makerere University in 1966, he continued to participate in sports both in cricket and field hockey and played in the university games. He qualified in medicine in 1971. He then went to the UK and settled there. He started to specialise in cardiology but as Lilani brothers' business in UK expanded, he left medicine and joined the family business. He did very well and continued his business dealings with Africa. He got married to Sultana, a lawyer by profession, educated in Mumbai. They have 2 children Samir and Tanaz, and they live in London UK. Iqbal died on 24th Sept 2019 at the age 72 in London UK and is buried there.

***Dr. Jimmy Dar (Medical School 1965-1970, Mitchell Hall)***

After leaving Makerere University, Dr. Jimmy Dar worked in Kenya and then immigrated to Toronto Canada. He practised as a Family Physician. He passed away apparently from a heart attack in around 2003 in Toronto.

***Dr Praful Chandarana (Medical School 1965-1970). Mitchell Hall***



Praful Chandarana was born in Nairobi Kenya. He attended the Duke of Gloucester School in Nairobi. He was chosen to be Head Prefect in 1961. He joined Makerere University in 1965 as a medical student and he finished his degree in 1970. He resided at Mitchell Hall. During his stay at MU, Praful also served as a Chairman of Bharatya Dharmik Sanstha (Indian Students Association). After graduation, he moved to Nairobi and interned at the Government Hospital. He married Dilshad (Jeevi), a fellow Makererean whom he had met during his Makerere student days. They then moved to Limuru, and he opened his general medical practice there.

After being there for two years he decided to specialise, and they immigrated to Canada. In Canada, he redid his internship at St Joseph Hospital Toronto and then joined the Psychiatric residency program in London Ontario. Following his specialization in Psychiatry they settled in London Ontario. Praful became an Associate Professor at University of Western Ontario, Canada and taught in the Department of Psychiatry for 34 years. He became Vice Chair of the Department and program director for the Psychiatry residents at the university, He also started the interviewing Skills Course which prepared students in Canada and other countries for qualifying exam, and it got named as "P. Chandarana London Psychiatry Review Course". This course has continued to this day. He shared with Dilshad, his love of travel, adventure, and golf. Both Dilshad and Praful had climbed Mount Kilimanjaro when they were at Makerere University. Dr Praful Chandarana was a very kind and compassionate person. He was a very dedicated teacher. During his illness, while he was in hospital, his colleague, who went to visit him, noted some files about Interview Skill Course by his bed side. In 2014, he passed away after a gallant battle with pancreatic cancer. He is survived by his wife Dilshad (Jeevi), sons Shamir and Anuj, daughters in law Renu and Nandini and four grandchildren.

***Mahendi Ladhani (Faculty of Arts, Northcote Hall, 1969-1972)***



Mahendi joined MU in 1969, graduated with B.Comm in 1972, and left Uganda and settled in Toronto Canada. In October 1972 he completed CGA and was also Certified Fraud Examiner. He worked as a Professional Accountant and was one of the main organizers of the Makerere University Alumni Reunions in 2002 (Toronto) and in 2008 (Vancouver). Mahendi passed away in Toronto in 2015 survived by wife Anisha and two sons Alykhan and Adil.

***Nasim (Rajani) Lalani (Faculty of Arts History and Religious Studies, 1967-1971, Mary Stuart Hall)***



Originally from Dar-es-Salaam, after MU married fellow Makererean Shiraz Lalani on 17Jun1972, immigrated to Canada in Oct1972, lived in Montreal for about 18 months and then moved to Toronto. She worked for Bell Canada until her early retirement in 2008. She sadly passed away in her sleep in the early hours of the morning of 20Jun2008 from suspected heart attack, survived by her husband Shiraz (who also sadly passed away on 20Jan2022 in Toronto after submitting his story for the MU Group 2020 History Book) and their 2 sons Riyaz and Alim.

***Shiraz Lalani (Faculty of Arts 1969-1972, University Hall)***



Shiraz was born in a village near Masaka, Uganda. At the age of seven, family moved to Masaka. He did his Secondary schooling at St Henry's College Kitovu, a Catholic School, which had high academic standard; this school was founded by a Canadian missionary of the White Fathers. He excelled in English, Literature, Geography and Fine Arts. While at this school, he was picked for the Outward-Bound Mountain School at the base of Mount Kilimanjaro and was one of the six to make it to the top.



Following completion of "A" Levels at Kololo Senior Secondary School in Kampala, he joined Makerere University in 1969 and graduated in 1972. At Makerere, he met his future wife, Nasim Rajani and they got married after graduation. He got a job with Industrial Promotion Services (IPS) as a Project Coordinator. Nasim and Shiraz came to Canada from Uganda in 1972; they spent 18 months in Montreal initially before moving to Toronto. After working for 4 years, he decided to go on his own and started car franchise business with his brothers. He also ventured in real estate and in renovating old buildings which led him to be appointed as Project Manager of Canada's largest construction company. Following his retirement, he dedicated to pursuing his lifelong hobbies of wood working, gardening, sketching, and painting. In 2008, he lost his wife Nasim who passed away in her sleep. Shiraz also passed away on 20 January 2022 in Toronto, survived by his two sons Riyaz and Alim, daughters in law Melanie and Sarah and 9-year-old granddaughter.

***Dr Zeba Najak (Faculty of Medicine, 1966-1971, Mary Stuart Hall)***



Dr. Najak was born in Mombasa Kenya, moved to Uganda with her family in 1963. She graduated from Makerere University Medical School in Kampala, Uganda in 1971. Following the expulsion of Ugandan Asians, she fled to Canada. She completed her training in Paediatrics and neonatology in Canada and the United States. In 1979, she joined the neonatology faculty at Emory University School of Medicine, subsequently practicing neonatology in metro Atlanta, Wilmington, NC and Athens, GA. Beyond medicine, Zeeba had an active social life. She loved her extended family living in Canada and the UK. She was an avid

and excellent tennis player. She captained her Athens 65+ USTA tennis team to the National Tennis Championships in Arizona in January 2018. It was on the tennis court that she met the man she married, Bill Norris, in 1989. They enjoyed 30 years of life together – traveling, boating, and enjoying friends, family and their vacation home in Holden Beach, NC before Bill passed away earlier in 2019. On August 8th, 2019, Dr. Zeba Najak passed away in the comfort of her own home in Athens, Georgia, after a brief illness, with family at her side. Zeba was a woman who was full of joy and courage. Her many friends and family members will miss her greatly.

***Mirza Mohamed Pardhan (Faculty of Education, 1966-67, Mitchell Hall)***



After completing his undergraduate and then the post-graduate Education Program at Makerere, Mirza completed his practicum at the Senior Secondary School Masaka Uganda and then joined the Aga Khan School in Nairobi as Headmaster. He also got married to Gulshan Rajani fellow Makererean. He then moved to France to join the Aga Khan Development Network as Director, Aga Khan Education Services (AKES). He attended Makerere Reunion in Vancouver in 2008. Unfortunately, few years later he died in Boston Massachusetts where he was hospitalised.

***Anwar Najak (Faculty of Science Chemistry 1968-71, Livingstone Hall)***



Originally from Soroti Uganda, Anwar completed his High School in Mbale Uganda before joining Makerere where he graduated with BSc Honours in Chemistry. Anwar Najak and Diamond Lalani met at Makerere as roommates in Livingstone Hall (2 years) and became very good friends. He was a very friendly, concerned, generous and kind person and always helped everyone. Diamond remembers Anwar as his best coach in Chemistry at Makerere and subsequently during his search for jobs in Chemistry in Toronto Canada in 1974. Anwar passed away few years ago in Toronto survived by his wife and two daughters.

***Zahir Lalani (Faculty Science, 1967-1970)***

Zahir and his wife Zeenat came to Canada in early 1970's. He then joined the Aga Khan University in Karachi and was one of the pioneers in setting up that university. He spent time in Tajikistan Central Asia, where he established the community framework for the Aga Khan Institutions and also in the UK where he was CEO of the Ismaili National Council. He passed away following a long illness with a malignancy. He is survived by his wife Zeenat and his sons. Zeenat is an active member of the Ismaili Community in Toronto.

***Shiraz Sarangi (Faculty of Science, 1969-1972, Northcote Hall)***



Shiraz shared a room with Paul Moreas (also deceased and at MU from 1969-72). He loved to play Badminton and Squash and later Golf. He represented Makerere in the University games in December 1969, held in Nairobi. In the Makerere Closed Badminton Championship, he became the 1971 University Champion by beating S Kanani. Partnering Kanani, he also won the men's doubles. After Uganda, he went to Strathclyde University in Glasgow to complete his studies and graduated in Physics in 1974 and came to Toronto. He got married in 1974 to Farida Karachiwalla (Makererean from 1970-72). He then went back to school to do computer science and worked in IT field until his retirement in 2013. He was a loving husband, father, loved his friends and family and kept in touch

with most of his friends and all family. As a compassionate person he always wanted to help people in need. He was a music and travel lover and had visited several countries. He passed away in January 2015 from Amyloidosis (Rare Disease) and is survived by two daughters and three grandchildren out of which by the time he passed away he only had chance to meet and play with one.

***Dr Monica Lobo (nee Castelino) (Faculty of Medicine 1966-1972, Mary Stuart Hall)***



Monica was born 4 May 1947, in Goa India, in the small village of Moira. She is the daughter of the late Vincent Castelino and Maria Maximiana Castelino. When she was a child of three years, she moved with her family to Jinja, Uganda. Monica received her education at Mount St. Mary's School in Namagunga, Uganda, an Irish Catholic boarding school established and operated by Franciscan nuns. Monica joined Makerere medical School in 1966. She met Peter Lobo, 3<sup>rd</sup> year medical student at Makerere. Peter and Monica were married on 9 May 1970, in Uganda. Because of the political upheaval under the Idi Amin regime, Monica and Peter moved to Charlottesville, Va., where Monica became the first foreign-trained, female physician to be accepted to the Internal Medicine and

Family Practice Residency Program at the University of Virginia Hospital. After completing her residency, she began her career as a physician at the University of Virginia Student Health Center where she continued to practice medicine until her death. She passed away in Charlottesville, Virginia on 23Oct2005 at age 58, survived by her husband, Dr. Peter Isaac Lobo; children, Toinette Lobo Reynolds, Ingrid Elizabeth Lobo, and Leonard Jason Lobo; and grandchildren, Madeline Grace Reynolds, and James Peter Reynolds. She is also survived by her mother, Maria Maximiana Piadada Castelino of Goa, India; her sister, Linda Castelino of Toronto, Canada; and her brother, Ronald Castelino of Charlottesville, Va.

***Dr Osborn (Ossy) Viegas (Faculty of Medicine 1966-1971, Northcote Hall)***



Dr Osborn (Ossy) Viegas was born in Mombasa Kenya on 4 March 1946. He did his initial schooling at Goan High School in Mombasa finishing his Cambridge School Certificate Exams; he then did his A levels in Nairobi at Duke of Gloucester School in 1965. He joined Makerere University to do Medicine in 1966 and completed in March 1971. He then interned at Mulago Hospital and after that, he started house job first in Internal medicine and then in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Mulago

Hospital. Following the Ugandan Indian expulsion, he went to UK with his carefully concealed medical degree certificate and 50 pounds. He joined the National Health Service, Birmingham England as Obstetrics & Gynecology registrar from 1972 to 1978. In 1982; he moved to Singapore and was appointed as Associate Professor Obstetrics & Gynecology National University Singapore. He served as a Consultant to several WHO, UN and other NGO meetings. He also was on the Board of Examiners for the University Malasiya. He was appointed as Examiner to the Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. In mid 1990's Ossy & Clair decided to move to Australia to be close to their children. He joined Hamilton Base Hospital Victoria. In 2009, he retired and returned to Singapore in 2010. He however continued to do short term Academic contrasts. Ossy married Dr Claire Viegas (nee Mascarenhas- Makerere 69-71, completed her medical training in Bristol UK) and then they ended up moving to Singapore, at the advice of Professor Sultan Karim, where they spent the better part of 3 decades. Ossy's memoirs - a 450-page book, titled "OBGyn at Large" for private circulation have just been published. In this book he has written about his years at Makerere University as a medical student as well as resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology. At the Gyne-Oncology meeting in Cairns Australia in 2001, I (Mohamed Manji) met

Ossy's colleague who informed me that Dr Viegas for working in Singapore. As I was visiting Singapore, Ossy and I were reunited in Singapore and stayed in contact over the years. As a fellow medical student colleague of his, I had the privilege to read his book. I would say that he has written a very thorough, honest, and genuine account of those wonderful but demanding days in the medical school. Ossy passed away as result of massive heart attack in Darwin, Australia on 2/1/2018 after spending Christmas with his granddaughter He is survived by his wife Clair Mascarenhas, daughters Kathryn and Louise and son Kenneth. It is a great loss for his medical colleagues as well.

***Dr Clarence Fernandes (Faculty of Medicine, 1968-1972, New Hall)***



Clarence, originally from Entebbe, was resident in New Hall, Makerere University. Clarence was the captain of the Makerere hockey team in 1970/71. He came to Canada in 1972 from Uganda, which was politically very unstable at the time. He made the move unwillingly, as a lifesaving step, and entered UBC to continue his medical education. He checked out various specialties and loved every branch of medicine, so he chose family practice in order to embrace all aspects of medical practice. Clarence came to Maple Ridge for part of his residency requirement and, finding that he loved the work and the

congeniality of his colleagues, he decided to stay there. That was in 1976. For the following 37 years, with the indispensable assistance of his wife Vienna by his side, he built up a family practice with special interest in fertility. Clarence was one of the most dedicated doctors. He started his workday at 9 a.m. or earlier 6 days per week, working until 8 or 9 p.m. He would attend to his patients in Ridge Meadows Hospital, or at their homes or nursing homes whenever the need would arise. At the end of an office visit Clarence would ask his patient, "Is there anything else you would like to go over with me?" During one of his family vacations, he carried a briefcase full of his patients' charts, so he would not be idle on the plane! A devoted teacher to medical students, medical residents, and nurse practitioners, he had at least one of them in his practice for the majority of the year. According to his colleagues, he was a soft-spoken gentleman with much wisdom; never raised his voice during heated debates in the doctors' lounge, He simply made his point and left quietly. Dr. Clarence Fernandes topped rankings on [rateMDs.com](http://rateMDs.com). Patients praised him for exceptional skill and knowledge, and for his humanity. Comments include: "caring; warm and compassionate; wonderful bedside manner; made you feel you were his most important patient; never a rush." He was loved for his dedication to the well-being of others. To his colleagues he was "a doctor's doctor". His son Aalton Fernandes said "My dad didn't think of his work as a job. He thought of his patients as his family," Clarence Fernandes, suddenly passed away, at an age of 64, on October 7th, 2013 after calling in sick to work in Maple Ridge BC; according to one report, from apparent heart failure. He left some big shoes to be filled in the medical community of Maple Ridge. He was survived by his wife Vienna, his sons Aaron, Aalton, and Aiden; his sister Delia D'Aguiar in London.

***Lieutenant Col Dr. Guilherme Carvalho (Faculty of Medicine 1966-1971, University Hall)***



Dr. Carvalho was born on April 5th, 1944 in Panjim, Goa, India. He spent his first seven years in Goa, before the family traveled by steamboat to Mombasa, Kenya, in 1951. As a child, he quickly was integrated into the culture of British Kenya, learning to speak English, Swahili and Latin while still maintaining his native dialect of Konkani with friends and family and grew up in Mombasa. In secondary school, he received a first-class certificate from Cambridge University. He then attended Strathmore University in Nairobi for a pre-medical certificate from London University. This earned him a place at Makerere University Medical School in Uganda. During the tumultuous takeover by Ugandan dictator, Idi Amin, Dr. Carvalho attained his medical degree in 1971. Subsequently, he returned to Kenya and worked for the Kenyan government for four years. Dr. Carvalho traveled

from Kenya to Detroit, Michigan and commenced a post-graduate internal medicine residency at Wayne State University. In 1978, he became board certified in Internal Medicine. In 1979, Dr. Carvalho moved to Hemet, California. He established his solo, private practice in Internal Medicine and became a Board-Certified Geriatrician, specializing in wound care. In 1985, Dr. Carvalho answered his calling to "give back to his country" and he joined the United States Air Force Reserves. In 1987, he was commissioned as Captain at March Air Force Base, Det. 4 of the 11th Contingency Hospital. California. A year later, Captain Carvalho was promoted to Major and was trained as a Flight surgeon. He saw action as a Flight Surgeon during operation Desert storm. Again, in 2003, Carvalho was called up to serve during Iraqi Freedom. He was selected to



support Operation Deep Freeze at McMurdo Station in Antarctica in 2004. In the final years of his service, LTC Carvalho, M.D. cared for fellow flyers and crew members at the CLINIC 452nd AMDS. Then, during an exercise at March A.F.B., he suffered a heart attack. Despite this, he managed to maintain his private practice in Hemet as he continued to serve in the Air Force Reserve for 22 years. Dr. Carvalho was a compassionate physician and humanitarian. On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, he was recognised by the Physicians for Healthy Hospitals Inc and Medical staff of Hemet Valley Medical Center for his lifetime achievement and dedication. He has been a role model and mentor to many young doctors, including his own children. his eldest son Gerard is an ear, nose, and throat surgeon and his daughter is a Physician Assistant in Hemet/San Jacinto area. He enjoyed fishing, golfing, and shooting with his friends and enjoyed fine food and good wine. He passed away on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016, in DeLuz, California. Dr. Carvalho left a footprint of his life well lived. Dr. Carvalho is survived by his wife, Sharon; children: Gerard, Elana, John, and Julian; grandchildren: Ayden, Zubin, Keiran and Tenzing; Oscar Martinez; Grace Carvalho; Chitra Carvalho; siblings: Annie, Dominic, Joseph, and Simon Carvalho.

***Amin Shivji (Faculty of Science 1966-1969, Livingstone Hall)***



Amin Shivji was born and raised in Kampala where he completed his schooling. He then proceeded to pursue a Science degree, thus joined the Faculty of Science at Makerere University in July 1966. He chose Livingstone Hall as his preferred choice to join all his friends. He completed his Science Degree BSc in 1969 and took up teaching at a Government High School for Asian students. Simultaneously he also enrolled in one year BPhil program at Makerere University! Coming from an entrepreneurial family, Amin was always interested in business and when he heard about a 1400-acre sugar cane plantation, he bought it and took possession in February 1971. After the

expulsion in the same year, he came to Vancouver Canada. Here after taking up menial jobs, he enrolled in part time MBA program at University of BC, graduated and worked as a manager at a lending bank. He also joined a start-up business. In 1994, as the Ugandan government was returning the possessed Indian properties, he returned to Uganda and repossessed his farm. With his sheer hard work, he transformed the farm into a model certified organic and a fair-trade fruit and vanilla export business. He was generous in taking care of his workers with better wages and meal allowances. He unfortunately and tragically was run over while crossing a street in Kampala and totally injuring both legs. Following his initial treatment in Kampala, Amin returned to Vancouver and underwent numerous surgeries over the following two years. He used to return to Kampala in between his treatments in Vancouver. While he was there on one of his trips, he developed spreading leg infection and had to return to Canada and underwent more surgeries. After one of the major surgeries, this kind, generous and caring person, succumbed and passed away in December of 2012 in Vancouver BC at age of 66 years. He looked after his parents and his siblings and he would be best remembered by the Richmond BC Ismaili elders for his voluntary services of driving the Jamatkhana bus taking the elders, needing transportation to the Jamatkhana for evening prayers. He also created a bursary scheme to support poor stricken community kids. He is survived by his wife Gulzar, a fellow Makererean, and 3 daughters, Farah, Nazma, and Aliya.

***Dr. Amin Kassamali (Faculty of Medicine 1968-1973, Livingston Hall)***



Amin was originally from Nairobi Kenya. After Idi Amin expelled the Asians, Amin was one of the 10 students (Asians) who remained behind to complete medicine program and graduated in 1973. He went to Australia in 1974 and was in General Practice in rural Australia. Amin passed away in the early 90's in Australia.

***Kabirdin Walji (Faculty of Arts, 1967-1970, Northcote Hall)***

Kabirdin was a real iconic and interesting personality. He passed away a few years ago.

***Amin Bundali (Faculty of Science, 1969-1972, Northcote Hall)***



Amin was a resident in Northcote Hall from 1969-72 and was a Chemistry major. He was born in Mpigi, Uganda. He thus was nicknamed as "Mpigi". He grew up in Kampala and attended Aga Khan Schools. After completing his A levels, he enrolled at Makerere University in the Science Faculty. He completed his BSc in with honours Chemistry. In Canada, he branched out of his profession and pursued very successful designer boutique clothing business. He was a very personable; lived life to the fullest and a trail blazer in many of his endeavours. He was one of the first one to own a motorbike on the campus and pursued his passion for travel and adventure. A very bright person who was a fantastic photographer. He was considered the official photographer of the Makerere University group, having developed advanced techniques in photography. In 1995, Amin passed away in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada from complications of Myeloid leukemia.

***Edwin Fonseca (Faculty of Agriculture 1963-1966, Northcote Hall)***



Edwin was originally from Mbale Uganda. He obtained a degree in Agriculture. He was an outstanding sportsman, earning University Colours in cricket (also Uganda International), hockey and tennis. In Canada he worked in an agricultural company. He unfortunately suffered a massive heart attack and was not able to get to the hospital on time. He passed away in London, Ontario Canada in April 1988. He is survived by his wife and two children.

***Salim Mulji (Faculty of Science 1969-1972, New Hall)***



Salim immigrated to Germany and settled in Brennen where he completed his Engineering degree. Salim passed away in May 2019.

***Dr Ashoke Soni (Faculty of Medicine 1967-1972, Mitchell Hall)***



After completing medical program at Makerere, Ashoke did his internship in Nyeri, Kenya and then joined Department of Haematology for 2 years in Nairobi Hospital. Following that he started his own Private practice and practiced for two years. He immigrated to USA and specialised in New York in the field of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the Provincial Hospital. He ended up settling in Upstate New York practicing Obstetrics and Gynecology. His son Prashant is plastic surgeon New York. He passed away in 2001 while he was Jogging. He is survived by his wife Purnima cousin of Kiran Fhadke (fellow Makererean). and son Prashant.

***Dr. Mohamed Aziz (Faculty of Medicine 1967-1972, New Hall)***



Mohamed joined Makerere after High School Certification at Mkwawa High School in Tanzania. He, in his last year, unfortunately contacted TB and was quite sick and was looked after by his colleagues Alnoor Abdulla and Nasir Jaffer in their room in New Hall. During Ugandan Asians expulsion crisis, he decided not to go for immigration medicals with Canadian High Commission. He stayed back and then went to Dar es Salaam to join Muhimbili Hospital. He became a prominent general surgeon, well and very highly thought of in the general and medical communities in Tanzania. He latter specialized in GI surgery in the UK. He unfortunately developed hepato-biliary symptoms (related to pancreas) and he diagnosed himself and was correct when pancreatic cancer was detected and led to his death. He passed away in mid 1990's in Dar es Salaam.

***Dr. Ajay Varma (Faculty of Medicine, 1968-1972, Mitchell Hall)***

Originally from Nairobi, Ajay enjoyed squash, movies, and music. He immigrated to Canada in 1972, completed MD at Queens University, went into Family Practice in Alexandria for several years and then relocated to Toronto to continue his practice but unfortunately was diagnosed with Head and Neck cancer and passed away in 2001.

***Mehboob Sovani (Faculty of Arts, 1971-1972)***



Mehboob was born in Uganda in 1952. Following expulsion of Ugandan Asians, he and his family were granted temporary asylum in Austria. They then immigrated to Ottawa, Canada. Mehboob enrolled at Carleton University in Ottawa. He graduated with a BA degree in Political Science and Economics (first class honours) in 1978. He became the Member for Youth on the Ottawa Ismaili Administrative Committee. On 11 December 1980, during a squash game with his MU colleague Najmudin Prabatani, he paused for a

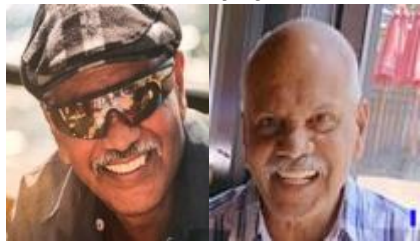
break when he suddenly collapsed, and died almost instantly (age 29). Cause of death could not be attributed to any specific medical condition. Sadly, Najmudin Prabatani also passed away in a car accident in 1984 in Ottawa. Mehboob had fulfilled all the requirements for his MA in International Affairs, with exception of having to present his final thesis on 17 December 1980. In recognition of the excellence of his work, Mehboob was conferred posthumously with MA degree in International Affairs.

***Nasim Sayani (Faculty of Arts 1970-1972, Mary Stuart Hall)***



Originally from Kampala, Uganda, Nasim enrolled in Bachelor of Commerce, but couldn't complete because of Ugandan Asians expulsion. She completed her degree in Vancouver, Canada. She then moved to Toronto and was working at the time of her passing. She tragically was hit by a car while crossing the road and passed away few days later.

***Pio Gomes (Faculty of Science, 1967-1971, Northcote Hall)***



Pio was from Mbale. He was an outstanding Cryptic Crossword solver. He settled in Oakville Ontario Canada after leaving Uganda. He passed away on 22nd Sept 2019. He is survived by his wife Lolita, daughter Alyssa and son Scott.

***Dulcie Rogersnee Coutinho (Faculty of Science, 1969-1971, Mary Stuart Hall)***



Dulcie was born on 15 March 1949 in Entebbe Uganda, spent a year at Nairobi University before joining Makerere. She immigrated to Canada in 1972 with single suitcase and settled in Vancouver. Since her arrival, Dulcie had been a proud Canadian and dedicated teacher and community member. She taught in the Comox Valley for over 30 years, starting at Lake Trail and moving to Vanier, teaching math and chemistry. Her love for teaching, dedication, and strict ways made her one of the best teachers, and her funny sayings made her a favourite of many students. After long battle with brain cancer Dulcie passed away peacefully on 22 August 2016. She is survived by her husband Patrick Rogers, daughter Meagan Rogers, son Sean Rogers (Jessica), and 3 precious grandchildren Sebastian Rogers, Camille Rogers, Gabrielle Rogers.



***Joseph Carrasco. (Faculty of Science 1967-1972, Mitchell Hall)***

Joseph was from Kampala. He was a Black Belt in Judo. After Uganda, he joined University of Dar es Salaam as lecturer in Zoology. He unfortunately was killed in a plane crash off the coast of the Ivory Coast in 1996.

***Paul Moraes (Faculty of Science 1969-1972, Northcote Hall)***

Paul was from Mbale. After expulsion of Ugandan Asians in 1972, he landed in Windsor, Ontario and subsequently the Greater Toronto area. Paul was a Chartered Accountant (CA) but most importantly an inspiring CEO/Owner to his extended family at NCN. Paul was always the perfect gentleman, who always thought of others before himself. Those who had the pleasure of his company would remember his simple 'hello' and be touched by his genuine interest in their lives. He battled cancer like he approached life, with courage and dignity. He passed away on 10 April 2008 (age 58). Pauly, as he was lovingly called, is survived by his wife Audrey, adoring children, Tiffany, Ashley, and Devaney

***Aziz Dhalla (Faculty of Science 1966-1969, Livingstone Hall)***



Originally from Masaka Uganda, Aziz, after graduating from Makerere, went to UK and became a pharmacist. He worked for Boots, UK's leading pharmacy-led health retailer. He moved to Canada in 1974. In 1976 moved to North Bay, Ontario and went into partnership with his colleague. In April 1985, he and his family were involved in a major car accident near North Bay on their way back from Sudbury. He was seriously injured and looked after by fellow former Makerereans Dr Alnoor Abdulla and Dr Shams Merali. Following his recovery, he continued his pharmacy business. He moved to Ottawa around 1990 and retired in the late 1990's. His contribution was big with regards to supporting organizations like Welcome Wagon, Dave Smith Youth Center, and World Partnership Walk. He has been commented on as being very friendly person, always smiling, very kind and caring and well respected by his clients. He passed away in Ottawa on 30 November 2016 (age 69) after a long illness. Aziz is survived by his wife Fatima (nee Khaki), fellow Makererean, an Ottawa doctor, and three adult children Nadya, Aisha and Rahim.

***Nasim Sachedina nee Mawji (Faculty of Arts 1967-1969, Mary Stuart Hall)***



After graduating from Makerere University with BA degree, Nasim continued her studies at London University before settling in Vancouver, Canada. In 1974, she married Alaudin (Anil) Sachedina, originally from Masaka, Uganda. They had two children, Hanif, and Sorayah. Nasim loved to travel, read, and volunteer. She spent many years helping settle new Ismaili members from Afghanistan. Unfortunately, she was diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer in early 2020 and passed away in Vancouver 20 May 2021. She is deeply missed by her two children and three grandchildren

***Dr. Perviz Alidina nee Lakhani (Faculty of Medicine 1966-1971, Mary Stuart Hall)***



A year after completing medicine program at Makerere and internship at Mulago Hospital, Perviz with her husband Dr Diamond Alidina (fellow Makererean and medical colleague) moved to Canada and joined St Joseph Hospital in Toronto. Following that both she and Diamond went into Family Practice in Pickering, Ontario Canada. She passed away in Toronto Ontario on 5 July 2021.

***Nizar Mamdani (Faculty of Arts 1966-1969, Mitchell Hall)***

After coming to Vancouver Canada Nizar worked as a salesman in his wife Dilshad's business. He relocated to Dallas Texas USA and went into laundry and smoke shops business for the next 45 years. He passed away there in May 2017, leaving behind his wife Dilshad, sons Ghalib and Irfhan and 3 grandchildren.

***Najmudin Prabatani (Faculty of Science, 1967-1970, New Hall)***

Najmudin worked for the Research Council of Canada until he died in a car accident in 1984 near Ottawa.

***Abdul Jiwani (Faculty of Arts 1966-1969, Livingstone Hall)***

Originally from Butenga Uganda, Abdul earned his famous nick name "Butenga". He graduated with BA Economics degree. In 1972, after spending some time in Malta as refugee, he immigrated to Canada and settled in Toronto where he became successful entrepreneur. He passed away in Toronto in 2014 and is survived by his wife Shamim and 4 children.

***Samim Nathwani nee Juma (Faculty of Arts 1970-1972, Mary Stuart Hall)***



Samim was born in Mengo Uganda on 21 July 1949. She attended Aga Khan Primary and Secondary Schools prior to joining Makerere. She was unable to complete her degree since she had to leave Uganda in 1972 and immigrated to Australia, and she completed her Arts Degree at University of Sydney in 1975. She went on to secure a Diploma in Education in 1980 after which she worked as a teacher. Her quest for learning continued and she completed two further degrees: Masters in Humanities and Masters in Early-Childhood Education both from Macquarie University in Sydney. She subsequently worked as a Director in an Early Childhood Centre. Samim and

Ashak Nathwani got married in Vancouver Canada on 1st September 1974. They have two children Aryn, a Lawyer and Rehana, a Biomedical Engineer. Samim was one of the pioneers in establishment of the Ismaili community in Australia and New Zealand. As a member on the Ismaili Council, she initiated a migrant assistance and settlement program for new arrivals to Australia and New Zealand, which benefited several families and overseas students. She was also responsible for setting up Early Childhood Centres in all Ismaili Jamatkhans in Australia and New Zealand. Samim co-authored two books: Forty Years Journey: Ugandan Asians - Trials and Tribulations (2012). And Early Gujarati Migration to Australia – A Pioneer's Perspective (2015). She loved to teach, work with children, paint, spend time with nature and most of all spend time with her family. She was selfless and volunteered her time to serve multiple communities all around the world. Samim passed away peacefully on 2nd November 2019 in Sydney, Australia, after losing a valiant battle against Motor Neurone Disease (MND). She is survived by her husband, Ashak, son Aryn, daughter Rehana and 5 grandchildren, Nahla-Samim, Azrah, Zayn, Kiyan & Aydin.

***Azad Ladha (Faculty of Science 1970-1972, Livingston Hall)***



Azad was born in 1947 in Ngora Uganda, grew up in Fort Portal Uganda where he did his Primary, Junior, and Senior High. He then went to Mbale Senior Secondary for his "A" Levels. Azad joined Makerere for B.Sc in Agricultural Sciences and was a good tennis and soccer player. He was in the middle of his 3rd and final year when Ugandan Asians had to leave so in 1972 immigrated to Canada and settled in Vancouver. Unfortunately, he did not continue with his studies and decided to work full-time as Front Desk Manager at a large hotel. In 1990s he developed severe arthritis and later struggled with lung disease. He passed away in July 2000, survived by his wife Nazira, son Zameer, and daughter Natasha.

***Marina (Coelho) Fernandez (Faculty of Arts 1968-71, Mary Stuart Hall)***



Marina passed away in Leicester UK in 2021.