

Newsday 12/08/08
Section B pg 8
ML 1040

Silver Stars enters sixth decade

AT a gathering of media, well-wishers and members of the band, Silver Stars Steel Orchestra launched its 60th anniversary plans at its panyard on Tragarete Road, Newtown. Mr Keith Byer, the band's Manager gave an overview telling the attendees that to mark the occasion, a week of activities has been planned with a package designed to appreciate, celebrate and above all, educate.

November 1 to 8, the week just preceding the steelband's very popular Parang and Steel festival, is the period chosen for the activities. Ray Funk a Silver Stars enthusiast who resides in Alaska will be mounting a roving display on the history of the band.

Funk on hearing about the project, was so enthused by it that he asked to be involved, sharing the wealth of information collected over the years.

A number of other initiatives will be seen during that week.

Marcia Riley explained that a great deal of emphasis is being placed on a comprehensive education programme catering for primary, secondary and adult participants.

The band is attempting to instill in the youth discipline, pride, patriotism and other mind building attributes.

Teddy Pinheiro gave some insight into a *Best of Silver Stars* CD being worked on. Another project, a commemorative magazine, a book on the history of Silver Stars should all be ready in time for the celebration week.

Anyone with clippings, photos or any facts about Silver Stars is welcome to share them with the committee.

A cultural evening in which the panyard will be filled with the sounds of some of the band's top pannists, guest calypsonians and other performers is also part of the plan.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening, Dr Jean Campbell is also coordinator of the final night. She explained that the week will climax with a Gala Recognition Awards Ceremony and Cocktail Party on November 8 — a formal affair right in the Silver Stars panyard, which will be transformed to honour pioneers of the band, some of whom will be flown in for the event.

Junia Regrello, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs was on hand to bring words of support and praise to Silver Stars.

Keith Diaz of Northern Division, Pan Trinbago also addressed the guests as did Colvin Joseph a long-standing member of the band.

Among the guests were Lawford Duprey, Chairman of NP and Victor Prescod, Project Coordinator of the Pan In the Classroom Unit of Ministry of Education.

Among the sponsors eager to support what they consider a worthwhile and exciting venture are Repsol YTF, Scotiabank and the Sports and Culture Fund.

They were thanked by the Manager of the band. For more information on Silver Stars the public can contact Keith Byer: 389-2232; Dr Jean Campbell: 681-1770; Mr Edwin Pouchet: 629-2241.