



Caribbean-American For Community Involvement in Florida, Inc.

Our mission is to enhance, maintain and sustain the quality of life for the community consistent with the culture and traditions of our diverse ancestral heritage.

MARCH

2024

You're Invited!
Floral English Garden
Divine Wine & High Tea

Saturday, April 27, 2024, From 4-7 pm
Wellington Community Center
12150 Forest Hill Boulevard
Wellington, FL 33414

Donation: \$50.00

Advanced Reservations Only

**Proceeds benefit the Vivian and Adrienne Ferrin
Memorial Scholarship Fund**

Divine Wine & High Tea
Floral English Garden

Wear Your Tea Party Attire!
Ladies, Think Hats, Fascinators,
Pearl Necklaces & Gloves
Gentlemen, Think Hats and Bowties

Fashion Show by Modern Girl Trend
Hat Contest and more...
Live Entertainment & Chinese Auction
Selection of Teas & Wines



For Information or Reservations Contact Genieve @ 561-876-4161 or Rhonda @ 561-685-9836

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President Dennis Wright
1st Vice President Gieve White
2nd Vice President.... Rhonda Ferrin-Davis
Treasurer Diana Bishop-McIntosh
Recording Secretary Doreen Baker
Corresponding Secretary Paul Baker

DIRECTORS

Carolyn Hmara
Norma Smith-Hill
Charlesworth "Barclay" Varlack

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Thalia White Lauren * Lawrence Logan
Shirley Morrison * Junette Powell
Max Smith * Barbara Walker

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Alliance Gieve White
Annual Friendship Ball Dennis Wright
Budget Radcliffe Brown
Bylaws Barbara Walker
CAFCI Home Radcliffe Browns
Cultural Jannette Sharpe-Paul
Finance Gieve White
Grants Shirley Morrison
Historian/Protocol..... Rhonda Ferrin-Davis
Membership Audrey Smith
Newsletter Junette Powell
..... & Thalia White Lauren
Parliamentarian Nadine White-Boyd
Picnic Yvonne Wright
Program Rhonda Ferrin-Davis
Relay for Life Nova Brown
Student Assistance Fund Junette Powell
..... & Nadine White-Boyd
Sunshine Paul Baker
Toys for Tots Lauriston Simms
Ferrin Memorial Scholarship Fund
..... Gieve White
Website Radcliffe Brown
Youth Rhonda Ferrin-Davis

CONTACT US

Caribbean-American For
Community Involvement
675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard, Suite
#134
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411
561.790.4002
cafcib@bellsouth.net * www.cafcibpc.org
www.facebook.com/cafcibpc

General Membership Meetings
2nd Saturday of the month
Board Meetings
4th Thursday of the month

See back page for calendar of events.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CAFCI'S SWEARING IN CEREMONY: On Saturday, February 10, 2024, we welcomed two new members to CAFCI's Board of Directors: Norma Smith-Hill and Charlesworth "Barclay" Varlack. All nine members of our 2024 Board were sworn in by the Honorable Judge Maxine Cheesman. Judge Cheesman lauded CAFCI as an exemplary organization with a deep commitment to community and expressed her pride in being a member. She also thanked the Board for doing an outstanding job. In turn, CAFCI applauded Judge Cheesman for her continuing support and presented her with a small gift as a token of appreciation.

In other news, CAFCI extends our deepest thanks to Hildreth Stoddart-Brown for her extraordinary service on the Board and to the larger CAFCI community. After years of service, Hildreth tendered her resignation from the Board and from her position as chair of the Cultural Committee. Hildreth, we genuinely appreciate all that you have done to grow and elevate our organization, and can gladly attest that we are where we are today in part because of your contribution and leadership. We wish you much joy and success in all your future endeavors.

ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP BALL: A planning committee has been selected for the September Ball to celebrate CAFCI's 35th anniversary. Have an idea? Want to volunteer? We are seeking ideas and volunteers to help with this, our signature event. If you would like to serve on the committee, please contact me or one of our board members.

(continued on next page)

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Go to page 15 to see
CAFCI Special Events
Group Activities &
Events Around Town.

Welcome
New Member
Garfield Basant



MARCH 16 - 31

Douglas McKenzie	18
Lauriston Simms	23
Lorna Hughes	27
Cynthia Beckles	31

APRIL 1 - 15

Ronald M. Dawson	01
Godwin Okalie	01
John Lewis	04
Peter Scott	06
Lori Valuntas	08
Claudette Christie	12
Cleveland Lewis	15

If you are a CAFCI member and notice that your birthday or the birthday of another member has not been acknowledged, please send an email to CAFCI (cafcib@bellsouth.net) and we will update the birthday list. We apologize for any oversight.

GET WELL TO:

Sheila Wright

CONDOLENCES TO:

Winsom Genus-Martin,
on the loss of your uncle

Please Let Us Know...

We want our members to know that we, the Board and Sunshine Committee, are always here to support you. Please contact (or ask someone else to contact) one of our Sunshine Committee members if

- you are ill or know of any CAFCI member who is ill or
- you have or know of a close family member of a CAFCI member who is ill or
- you have, or know of a CAFCI member who has, lost a family member.

Remember, if we are not notified, we cannot share it in the Newsletter, or offer our support.

Paul Baker, Chair.....561.784.0067
Samuel Baxter.....561.358.3737
Elet Cyris.....561.791.9087

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *(continued from previous page)*

CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY: The Cultural Committee is diligently working on what we hope will be a rich and dynamic Cultural Diversity Day program. The event will take place on Saturday, May 11, 2024 from 1 pm to sundown at Veterans Park in Royal Palm Beach. Further details are included in this issue of the newsletter and on the CAFCI website at www.cafcipc.org.

RELAY FOR LIFE: Please come out and support Relay for Life on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at the West Palm Beach Fairgrounds (See additional details elsewhere in this newsletter). Donations can be made on the CAFCI website and all contributions go directly to the American Cancer Society.


Dennis Wright

CAFCI 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Congratulations to CAFCI 2024 Board of Directors who were sworn in on February 10, 2024 by the Honorable Judge Maxine Cheesman.



Seated: Genieve White, Doreen Baker, Paul Baker, Norma Smith-Hill, Charlesworth "Barclay" Varlack

Standing: Diana Bishop-McIntosh, Dennis Wright, Judge Maxine Cheesman, Carolyn Hmara, Rhonda Ferrin-Davis

MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS CANCELLED

RELAY FOR LIFE

Western Palm Beach County

HOPE AROUND THE WORLD

Saturday, March 9, 2024 from 3 to 10 pm
South Florida Fairgrounds,
9067 Southern Boulevard, West Palm Beach



The Relay for Life Western Palm Beach County event will be this Saturday March 9th, 2024, at the South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Boulevard from 3 to 10 pm. (NOTE: ENTRANCE IS THROUGH GATE 5 OFF SOUTHERN BOULEVARD). This is only a few days away and we

need your support via your presence, participation, and/or monetary donation.

Cancer is an awful disease and just about everyone knows someone who has been touched by it. CAFCI's fundraising goal this year is \$3,000 and we are asking everyone to do what you can to help us reach that goal. We have created several ways for you to help reach our goal, whether via contribution and/or participation.

Everyone is encouraged to set a personal fundraising goal and to ask friends and family to help you reach it. The CAFCI Relay For Life web page can be accessed directly at <http://main.acsevents.org/goto/cafcipc> or via the CAFCI web site <https://www.cafcipc.org>. From the CAFCI Relay web page you can make a donation, join our team, purchase a Luminaria, or register as a survivor. Luminarias are \$10 each and can be purchased in memory or in honor of relatives and friends. Please note, you must join our team prior *to soliciting donations from friends and family or registering as a survivor.*

The theme for 2024 is "HOPE AROUND THE WORLD" with each team representing a country. We chose to represent Jamaica.

For the past several years CAFCI has been recognized by the Relay for Life organization for our participation and fundraising efforts. Let us keep it going! Come out and have dinner with us and support the fight against cancer.



Let's go "Island Steppers" as we participate in the fight against cancer! Go team!

Submitted by Nova Brown, Relay for Life Chair

VAFMSF

Divine Wine & High Tea Floral English Garden

Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 4 to 7 pm
Grande Ballroom, Wellington Community Center
12150 Forest Hill Boulevard, Wellington, FL

The Board of the Vivian & Adrienne Ferrin Memorial Scholarship Fund (VAFMSF) is delighted to present its annual fundraiser "Divine Wine & High Tea" Party with the theme, Floral English Garden. Ladies, think hats, fascinators, pearls, and gloves; Gents, think hats and bowties. The afternoon will feature a hat contest, a fashion show by Modern Girl Trend, an auction, and other entertainment. The affair will be specially catered with a choice selection of teas and wines. For all you designers and creatives, this year we have added a special treat - Table "Set In Style" Contest - where contest participants will have the opportunity to design their table at the event. There will be a special prize for the winner and one (1) complimentary ticket to the tea party for each table designed. Space is limited.

For more information, to reserve your tickets, or to participate in the Table "Set In Style" Contest, contact Genieve White at 561.876.4161, Rhonda Ferrin-Davis at 561.685.9836 or a VAFMSF Board member. Tickets are \$50 each and advance ticket reservations are required. Last year was sold out, so don't delay, reserve your tickets now!

CAFCI ANNUAL PICNIC

Date and Location
To Be Announced

Although we do not have a date or venue, plans are already in the works for the annual picnic, a fun-filled day for the entire family with lots of delicious food and games. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Dennis Wright at 203.482.5079. Additional information will be posted on the CAFCI website (cafcipbc.org) and in future publications of this newsletter.

CAFCI CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY

Saturday, May 11, 2024 from 1 pm to sundown
Veteran's Park, Royal Palm Beach

The Cultural Committee is diligently working on what will unquestionably be a stellar Cultural Diversity Day program. The event is a collaborative effort between the Village of Royal Palm Beach and CAFCI and is supported by the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County.

Entrance to this event is free, so come and get your culture on! Invite your friends and family to celebrate the rich and diverse heritage of our community. Let us come together to exchange and celebrate our multifaceted food, language, dance and cultural customs.

Vendors are invited to purchase a space to sell and showcase their goods. If you are, or know anyone who may be interested, please email CAFCI at cafcipbc@bellsouth.net. The Vendor Registration form is included in this issue of the newsletter (page 11) and on the CAFCI website at www.cafcipbc.org.

Remember, save the date and be sure to spread the word to your contacts.

LET'S DO BUSINESS

in Royal Palm Beach • Wellington
Western West Palm Beach (up to Vista Parkway)
Let's Support Businesses in Our Community.

CASSIE'S CASTLE ASSISTED LIVING HOME

Lauriston Simms, Owner

561.204.2800

lssimms@hotmail.com

La Mancha, 208 Natchez Trace

Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

If you would like to recommend a business to be featured in "Let's Do Business" section in our Newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Committee at junettep56@gmail.com or thaliaec@gmail.com so that we can share it with our members.

The greatness of a man is not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively.

- Bob Marley

Member Spotlight

HAVE YOU MET ... HAZEL HAMILTON?



When Hazel Hamilton was 18, she emigrated to England from Jamaica, following the death of her mother. As the eldest of four girls, her family thought England would offer better opportunities and allow her to help her siblings.

This was in 1964, a time when you needed a work permit to emigrate. Hazel remembers going to Jamaica's Labor Ministry to collect her permit: *"When you got to customs in England you had to show it. You couldn't leave Jamaica without it."*

A sheltered teen from St. Mary, it was the first time Hazel had been on a plane; the first time she'd left Jamaica. She was alone. It was frightening. She remembers landing at Heathrow Airport on Christmas Eve, being blasted by the cold, then catching a bus to Victoria Train Station with her cousin, followed by a train to the town of Croydon.

It was dark, overcast, and quiet, and the trees were leafless as the train journeyed past lifeless backyards with concrete houses reminiscent of factories, the exact opposite of the Christmas merrymaking taking place back home in sunny Jamaica. Hazel says it was not at all what she had expected.

Two days after her arrival Hazel started work as a seamstress. Over the next decade she worked at several rigorous sewing shops in London.

In the mid Seventies, she applied for a position as a chef at a local dairy, fell in love with cooking and worked in that profession for another twenty years, half of them at Ashford Hospital in London. (She did similar work when she emigrated to Florida in 1997, working at JFK hospital for 25 years until she retired.)

After that first day in London, it took Hazel time to get acclimated. She acknowledges that her Christmas-Eve arrival *"was a terrible experience and for the first 5 years I cried nonstop. You had no friends, and you were coming from a place where you had lots of sisters and cousins. It was lonely. Man, it was miserable."*

In time, Hazel grew to love England. She became a part of the Croydon community, bought her first house, and had her only child, a daughter, who works in finance and continues to live in England.

Asked about the challenges of moving to a country where she was one of a handful of Blacks in the community, she says she never faced any problems. *"My neighbors were cordial. We didn't go into one another's houses, but we were cordial, and at the dairy the women there were good to me and eventually, I met other West Indians."*

The biggest challenge, Hazel says, was *"They didn't have the West Indian stores. If you wanted Jamaican food, you had to travel to Brixton or Shepherd's Bush. Coming to Florida, one of the things that excited me was the ability to find all my favorite West Indian foods, and how close Florida is to Jamaica."*

Best of all, she was able to reunite with her sisters who had all moved here.

Nowadays Hazel visits Jamaica and England—the country she considers home—regularly. She has been a CAFCI member for 22 years. She loves the galas, and cooks for the picnics. After so many years of being away from Jamaica, she says CAFCI helped her feel as though she had returned to her first home.

By Max Smith, Newsletter Committee Member

Member Spotlight is an opportunity to share your story. If you would like to be featured or have someone to recommend, please email us at: junettep56@gmail.com or thaliaec@gmail.com.

Thanks in advance CAFCI family. We look forward to shining the spotlight on you.

CAFCI EXTENDS
Congratulations!

The 15th Judicial Circuit of Florida recognized CAFCI member, the Honorable Maxine Cheesman in their Black History Month feature on February 26th. Judge Cheesman has served on the bench since January 2019 and is currently assigned to the Circuit Civil division.

If you would like to share your good news in our Newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Committee at junettep56@gmail.com or thaliaec@gmail.com so that we can share it with our members.

OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE

CAFCI and the Student Assistance Fund (SAF) Committee would be honored to recognize the accomplishments of its members and/or their relatives. Please share your good news with us and we will publish it as space permits.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND

EMPOWERING YOUTH & INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Each year the Student Assistance Fund (SAF) Committee offers deserving local high school seniors the opportunity to apply for a monetary "Student Assistance Award" from CAFCI.

We need your help! A donation of any amount will help CAFCI's SAF Committee reach its fundraising goal. To donate to the Student Assistance Fund and/or sponsor an award recipient, you can use one of the methods listed below:

1. Mail check payable to CAFCI, Attention: SAF (write "SAF" on your check in the notes line to make sure it is posted to the SAF program), 675 Royal Palm Beach Blvd, Suite #134, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411.
2. Donate online at <https://www.cafcipbc.org/donation-center>. Select the Student Assistance option.

If you cannot donate, please share the fundraiser link (<https://www.cafcipbc.org/studentassistanceprogram>) to help spread the word with family, friends and social media contacts.

Thanks also to everyone who has supported our fundraisers. The list of 2024 Donors and Sponsors will be posted on CAFCI's website at www.cafcipbc.org/studentassistanceprogram.

STUDENTS ASSISTANCE FUND AWARDS

AWARDS CEREMONY

Save The Date ★ Saturday, June 8, 2024 at 6 pm

You will have an opportunity to meet the award recipients, as well as view a video presentation with the current and past recipients. Please save the date and join us to congratulate the 2024 SAF Award recipients.

Note: The SAF award application deadline, March 1, 2024, has passed.

Message from Past SAF Award Recipient

DEBORAH GERMAIN
2018 SAF AWARD RECIPIENT

February 5, 2024

Greetings to CAFCI:

I was a past recipient of 2018. The monthly newsletters I read them every email. My name is Deborah Germain, formerly from the Alzheimer's Association, I did an educational program about Alzheimer's and better brain health in the past around the county. I recently was recruited by the University of Miami Comprehensive Center for Brain Health located in Boca Raton. I am now the Project Manager for Research Support. We are a research center at 7700 W Camino Real, Suite 200, Boca Raton, FL that offers community initiatives, outreach and educational programs, clinical and observational non-interventional trials. Our goal is to study differences in presentation and health outcomes related to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. We educate and empower all communities on healthy brain aging, prevention and ways to reach optimal brain health. We table at health fairs, senior expos and employee wellness fairs. We organize and host educational conferences and seminars in Broward and Palm Beach County for clinicians, community members, and local organizations on research findings and the most up to date medical guidance in brain health.

Deborah Germain



Caribbean-American For Community Involvement (CAFCI) in Florida, Inc. **STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND**



WHO WE ARE

CAFCI was founded by a group of residents in an effort to enhance, maintain and sustain the quality of life for the community, consistent with the culture and tradition of our ancestral origins. The organization was incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the provisions of Chapter 617 of Florida Statutes on August 13, 1999.

CAFCI is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to volunteerism and social activities, with special emphasis on our youths and senior citizens. Our annual affairs continue to serve and help the social, educational and health needs of the community.

OUR MISSION

CAFCI's mission is to maintain and sustain the quality of life for the community, consistent with the culture and tradition of our diverse ancestral heritage.



STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND AWARD PROGRAM



Each year we offer deserving local high school graduates the opportunity to apply for a monetary "Student Assistance Award" from our organization.

Past student awards ranged from \$500 - \$1,500 per student.

AWARD CEREMONY

Each year in the month of May or June, CAFCI holds an award ceremony for students, their families, and members and friends of CAFCI.

We invite community leaders, Student Assistance Fund Committee members (past and present), past award recipients, the general public and friends of CAFCI to attend and participate in the event.



STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Students applying must have at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA and demonstrate continuous academic success in their high school tenure to be eligible.
- Applicants must show that they have participated in school and community activities.
- Applicants must show interest in the Caribbean community.
- The monetary assistance is awarded to students who are going on to a college, university, or other accredited institution of higher learning.
- If selected, the student must provide proof of acceptance from the school before receiving the award.

To apply visit cafcipbc.org/student-assistance.

Deadline to apply is March 1, 2024.

How YOU Can Help Our Students

1. Make check or money order payable to:
C.A.F.C.I. (Note for Student Assistance Fund)
2. Donate by going to CAFCI's website www.cafcipbc.org and click on Donate to Student Assistance Fund.
3. It is preferred that your generous donation be received on or before **April 30, 2024**, in preparation for our Award Ceremony.

No contribution is too small. On behalf of the students, their families and CAFCI, Thank You Very Much.

CONTACT US

Caribbean-American for Community Involvement (CAFCI) In Florida, Inc.
675 Royal Palm Beach Blvd., Suite 134, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411
561.790.4002 ~ cafcipbc@bellsouth.net ~ www.cafcipbc.org ~ Search: CAFCI



Caribbean-American For Community Involvement, in Florida, Inc.

A 501(c)(3) Organization – (EIN #65-0965408)

675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard • Suite #134 • Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411
www.cafcipc.org • E-mail: cafcipc@bellsouth.net • Phone: 561.790.4002

Follow us on Facebook

March 6, 2024

Dear Prospective Student Assistance Fund Donor:

Caribbean-American For Community Involvement in Florida, Inc. (CAFCI) continues its more than 34 years of service to the community. CAFCI, a 501(c)(3) organization, functions due to 100% of dedicated volunteers and is committed to advancing our youths' higher education. For the past 30 years, CAFCI has raised funds to assist well deserving college-bound high school students in our communities to achieve their educational goals. Your financial donation and dedication to CAFCI will help to open college doors to students. With your financial support, CAFCI will be able to award between \$500 to \$1,500 to each deserving student.

Many ambitious students are denied access to a college education due to financial constraints. As you can imagine, many high school students may hold the key to a cure for a disease but may never have the opportunity to maximize their potential. Many have innovative ideas for probable solutions to social problems, yet may never have a chance to expand on them. Others are discouraged simply because the first step to higher education may seem financially impossible.

CAFCI's Student Assistance Fund Committee is requesting your financial help. Your contribution will make a difference in the lives of our youth as your donation will not only provide hope for more students but will also help to ease their financial burden. We look forward to receiving your life-changing contribution to help with assisting students as they embark on one of their lifelong endeavors to begin college. We will publicly acknowledge you on our *List of Donors*. **You may make your donation online by going to www.cafcipc.org/donation-center and select **Student Assistance** or by mailing your donation by **April 30, 2024, to:****

CAFCI
Attn: Student Assistance Fund
675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard, Suite 134
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

For more information about our organization and past recipients, please visit our website at www.cafcipc.org/studentassistanceprogram. Thank you in advance for your donation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 561.790.4002.

Respectfully,

Marva Wilks

Marva Wilks

Member, Student Asst. Committee

Junette Powell

Junette Powell

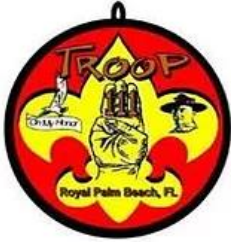
Co-Chair, Student Asst. Committee

Dennis Wright

Dennis Wright

President

CAFCI SCOUTS BSA TROOP 111



Greetings CAFCI,

My name is Caleb McNally, the current Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 111. I joined Troop 111 in the spring of 2019 crossing over from Pack 120. I have had the opportunity to hold many leadership positions in the Troop while also gaining new skills through the BSA's Rank Advancement and Merit Badge programs. I am excited to share Troop activities that have taken place while I have been Senior Patrol Leader. My term has started off quickly with a campout, multiple Crossovers, a Blue and Gold banquet, and more to come.



Top-Down: Keenan Stack, Robert Lombardo, Mason Scott, Ryan Goldberger, Jackson Eubanks, Landon Girard, Jonathan Schnick Baker, Caleb McNally, Kirill Montoya, Lucas Schnick Baker

During the campout, we had the opportunity to redeem the reputation of the BSA by camping cleanly and responsibly within the grounds of the Navy Seal Museum. The museum had poor experiences with other units that had camped prior to our stay. The first morning, some Scouts and Leaders got up early to watch the beautiful sunrise over Florida's east coast. After the sunrise, we began our day with each patrol preparing a hot breakfast. From there, we toured the museum and learned about the history of the SEALs, explored the exhibits, had lunch, ran the SEAL-style obstacle course, and finished the afternoon with a fun game of football. After dinner, we concluded our day with a Flag Retirement Ceremony and Campfire Program that included songs and skits.



Flag Retirement Ceremony



Caleb McNally

This Spring is proving to be very busy for Troop 111. We have supported both Pack 147 and 120's Blue and Gold Banquets and Crossovers. We will also be receiving one Scout, possibly two, from Pack 125 at their Crossover taking place on March 9th at Camp Oklawaha. I am also proud to announce that we have successfully met the recruiting requirements and will be starting a new girls Troop this month. Speaking of March 9th, the Troop is excited to once again support CAFCI and its members at the annual Relay for Life. Finally, our whirlwind of events will conclude with two Eagle Courts of Honor celebrating the achievement of earning the Rank of Eagle Scout for Jackson Eubanks, William Hicks, Ryan Goldberger, and Noah Cabrera.



Back to front: Jonathan Schnick Baker, Keenan Stack, Keil Greiser



Mr. Ryan McNally, Mrs. Zulema Grieser and Keil Grieser



Landon Girard, Caleb McNally

This Spring is off to a great start for Troop 111 and I am very excited for the adventures to come.



Yours in Scouting,
Caleb McNally
Senior Patrol Leader
Scouts BSA Troop 111



To apply for membership in BSA Troop 111 or to volunteer for scouting, visit <https://my.scouting.org/VES/OnlineReg/1.0.0/?tu=UF-MB-085taa0111>

WAYS TO SUPPORT CAFCI . . . WE NEED YOU!!!

CAFCI website: <https://www.cafcipbc.org/donation-center>

GoFundMe: Visit <https://gofund.me/7319cf9a> • Please share with your friends and family.

HAVE YOU JOINED OR RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO CAFCI???

2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES (Single - \$80 • Couple - \$140)

Submit your membership dues online at: <https://www.cafcipbc.org/membership-dues> OR

Mail to: CAFCI

Attention: Lawrence Logan,

675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard, Suite #134, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

A For C.A.F.C.I.



At the November Board meeting, Barclay Varlack presented a business proposal to the Board on behalf of the Finance Committee. The proposal was approved and the Finance Committee was directed to investigate the details required to set up the proposed business. This will require a few months to complete. The purpose of this step is to get legal advice and, if favorable, create a more detailed business plan for the Board to review for approval. If approved, the next step would be to implement the plan and start the business.

The business plan is required by the organization we have solicited to help us acquire funding for a building and related capital expenses. They will help us secure financing prior to finding a space.

If you have information about potential investors who may be able to help with funding, please share your ideas and information about available properties by calling 561-790-4002 and leaving a message, or by emailing cafcipbc@bellsouth.net, and copying radcliffewoody@aol.com. We thank you, in advance, for your assistance.

Participation in the Home of Our Own project is available through the Buy-A-Brick program. Visit the web page at www.cafcipbc.org and click on the "Home of Our Own" tab or call Radcliffe "Woody" Brown at 561.791.3344 for more information. We have made it easier to take part in the program by facilitating monthly payments to buy a brick. Monthly payments of \$50 for a \$1,000 brick and \$150 for a \$3,000 brick are available.

Submitted by Radcliffe "Woody" Brown, CAFCI Home Of Our Own Chair

CAFCI'S VALUES STATEMENT:

Caribbean-American for Community Involvement acknowledges and honors the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals and pledges itself to creating and maintaining an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages, and experiences. We believe in giving a voice to all people and respecting all people regardless of ethnicity or socioeconomic background. We support the participation in and promotion of events that lead to respect and mutual understanding among the various cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups in our community. We believe in promoting honesty and integrity by being transparent in all our dealings, having fun and fellowship with each other while volunteering and caring for the young and elderly and helping those in need.

DISCLAIMER: The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views and opinions of CAFCI's members and/or the Newsletter Committee members.

CAFCI MEMBERS... If you would like to share the accomplishments of a close relative (e.g., child, grandchild, niece and/or nephew) with your CAFCI Family in the "Our Children Are Our Future" section of the NEWS, please provide the information to Paul Baker (email: ujama4@aol.com or phone 561.784.0067). If there is any other information you would like included in the NEWS, please submit the information to Junette Powell (junettep56@gmail.com).

IMPORTANT: Include "CAFCI NEWS" in the subject line when sending e-mails. Inclusion of articles submitted will be at the discretion of the Newsletter Committee and based on space availability.



CAFCI

Caribbean-American For Community Involvement in Florida, Inc.

675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard, Suite 134, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

561.790.4002 • email: cafci@bellsouth.net • www.cafcipbc.org

VENDOR REGISTRATION

EVENT: CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY

DATE: MAY 11, 2024

ADDRESS: VETERANS PARK, 1036 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

VENDOR / ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

EMAIL: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____ EVENING PHONE: _____

PRINCIPAL OWNER / OFFICER: _____

TYPE OF BOOTH / DISPLAY: _____

Be sure to bring your chairs, tables and portable tents if necessary for your display.

Instruction from the Health Department to Food Vendors:

Pre-packaged cake, cookies, etc. Please have gloves and tools for handling food.

A thermometer is required. Hot food to be at 140 degrees; Cold food to be at 40 degrees.

DONATION
\$ 50

Release and Hold Harmless:

In consideration of allowing my, and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, participation in the **Cultural Diversity Day**, I waive, and release (CAFCI) Caribbean-American for Community Involvement in Florida, Inc. & The Village of Royal Palm Beach and its employees, agents, volunteers, and sponsors of this event from all claims and/or liabilities of any kind arising from my participation in the event even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons named in the waiver. I grant permission to all the forgoing entities and persons to use any image, photograph, motion picture, recording, and all or any other record of me or anyone acting on my behalf at this event for legitimate purposes. I understand the Village of Royal Palm Beach and CAFCI are not responsible for any monetary losses that I or my assigns may incur if all or part of the event is cancelled due to weather or if I and/or my assigns do not attend the event.

Applicant Signature

Date

Payment may be made via check, payable to CAFCI or visit www.cafcipbc.org.

For additional information contact:

Jannette Sharpe-Paul at 728.201.2623 | jaunette69@gmail.com • Paul Baker at 561.385.0737 | ujama4@aol.com

MARCH ... A MONTH OF CELEBRATIONS & AWARENESS

According to our calendars, March is here again—a month where we celebrate Women’s History Month, St. Patrick’s Day, daylight savings time and the first day of spring, among other things. But there’s more to March than meets the eye; in fact, there are plenty of interesting facts that make the third month the best month of the year. Read on to learn something new about March!

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH:

Making Strides in a New Era: The pandemic put into stark relief deeply ingrained gender roles in society, as the burden of unpaid care fell to millions of women who left the workforce. Yet the past years have also seen record-high numbers of women running for political office and holding executive positions in Fortune 500 companies. Where are we seeing progress, and where do we still desperately need to make headway? How is feminism adapting to tumultuous economic, political, and technological times? From politics and business to sports and healthcare, learn from women on the frontlines of the fight for gender equity.

Source: [Women's History Month: Making Strides in a New Era | Aspen Ideas](#)

HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH:

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

This March, spread the word about the importance of getting regular colorectal cancer screenings, starting at age 45 years. Share the National Cancer Institute’s [colorectal cancer resources](#) to help people learn about prevention, treatment, and more. Share [awareness resources](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with your networks — and don’t forget to check out our [Healthy People 2030 resources](#) and [MyHealthfinder resources](#) on colorectal cancer.

Source: <https://health.gov/news/202402/march-national-health-observances-nutrition-colorectal-cancer-awareness-and-women-and-girls-hiv-aids-awareness>

<https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/cancer/evidence-based-resources>

IT'S VOTING SEASON:

Are You Ready to Vote?

Did you know there’s an election on March 19th in 23 municipalities in Palm Beach County, including Wellington, Royal Palm Beach, Loxahatchee Groves, Lake Worth Beach and Greenacres? Open seats in some of the cities and villages include the offices of mayor and city council.



It’s a local election, so why does it matter? The truth is that most of us pay attention to our national elections—the offices of the president and of senators and congressional representatives. Those are the elections which we think matter, and they do, but so do our local races.

Local elections are where our policies are formed. From the school board to the city council, those are the elections that affect us most directly. They not only set the course for what happens to us legislatively on a local level, but they also feed into what happens to us nationally. The policies that our local representatives advocate inform and strengthen our choices nationally. The measures that our elected councilmembers and state legislators adopt affect what our congresspersons, senators, and presidents do.

So, this March 19th it is important that we vote. To check your registration or to learn more about the election, visit VotePalmBeach.gov or call 561-656-6200. To learn more about the races in your community and to see a list of the candidates, visit <https://www.palmbeachpost.com/story/news/local/2024/02/09/city-by-city-look-at-the-23-palm-beach-county-municipal-election-ballots/72284015007/>

Your voice/Our voice matters. So VOTE. Help determine the policies that impact our community and our families. *Voting—it’s not just a right, it’s a privilege.*

By Max Smith, Newsletter Committee Member

A CONVERSATION ABOUT BLACK HISTORY

We have just exited the month of February, otherwise known as the shortest month of the year. February, the month—in theory—that we celebrate Black History, a time when Black heroes and people of accomplishment are written up in news stories and heralded by political leaders, while stores and restaurants offer up holiday specials as a nod to Black culture, at least nominally, if nothing else.

But what about the rest of the year? As much as a focus on Black accomplishment is necessary and long overdue, is it something that we want relegated to one month of the year, the shortest month at that?

What if instead, Black history and accomplishment were woven into our history books and into the everyday moments of our lives? Instead of waiting for one month of the year when the accomplishments of a few Black pioneers and achievers are applauded, what if things were such that we knew Black history in the same way that we know reading and math?

What if Black history was recognized as American history, integral to the foundation and continuation of this nation, and as essential to our lives as knowing how to read is to successful functioning in society?

It is because of this very reason that CAFCI continues to support and grow our Student Assistance Fund; because we see the future in our students, and we are committed to continuing Black Excellence and accomplishment, except we want to see it 24/7 in real time, not just relegated to a mere 28/29 days.

This February we celebrated Black History month by commemorating the leaders of the past, a good and necessary thing—especially given the increasing attempts to minimize the Black contribution to our nation in every conceivable aspect, from its grounding in the meaning of democracy, to our holding our nation to its compact that all men (that is, all people) are created equal. Still, here at CAFCI we refuse to be relegated to a past of accomplishment, instead we look to build the leaders of the future.

We know there are more Barack and Michelle Obamas coming of age in classrooms across this

nation, and that many of them just need essential supports like academic enrichment courses, quality afterschool programs, and financial scholarships like those offered by our Student Assistance Fund, and we are committed to affording them the prerequisites for excellence and accomplishment.

So each February as we celebrate the accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the many other heroes of the Civil Rights Movement, we know their achievements are not the end of the story, but a part of the ever-evolving tapestry of our accomplishments. We know history, excellence, and accomplishment are not static elements, but are dynamic and dependent on the nourishment provided by a committed community that foresees the future, even as it looks to and honors the past.

CAFCI looks to the students in our community and the children in our families who we know are flush with ability, including the vision and commitment to invent things we have not yet dreamed of, and the grit to upend systems of injustice and transform our world into not just a better place, but a haven for all its citizens.

We recognize that with each passing year, the focus on Black History in the month of February dims. There is a reduced recognition of Black contributions to our nation's history, celebrations are more muted, and in truth, there seems to be an increasing attempt to whitewash our nation's history and to act as though the Black contribution to our nation has been minimal and unworthy of acknowledgement.

The reality is that African Americans have held the fire to the nation's conscience. We are the ones who have repeatedly and insistently hammered home the true meaning of democracy and the principle that all people are created equal. It is because of our efforts that Americans of every racial stripe, ethnic and religious background, gender and sexual orientation have been afforded the full rights of citizenship.

We have fought and continue to fight the battle for equality and for the full recognition of every individual's humanity and right to be treated equitably. We have believed in the full prospect of democracy, and we continue to fight for its actualization.

(Continued on next page)

A CONVERSATION ABOUT BLACK HISTORY...

(continued from previous page)

We are the nation's conscience, and its soul, and *that*, beyond our contribution to every aspect of this nation's foundation, is, and has been, fundamental to its growth. As such, we must never allow our contributions to be forgotten or diminished.

Some may ask us to delineate our many accomplishments to this nation, but we know the list is so long we would run out of space and paper. Yes, if we chose to, we could speak to the innumerable contributions we have made in the sciences—from women like Melba Roy and Katherine Johnson, two of the Black female 'computers' who charted a course to the moon, to the designers and architects of our nation's cities, to Dr. Charles Drew who pioneered methods for storing blood for transfusions, or Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, one of the first doctors to successfully perform open heart surgery, to agronomist George Carver's farming techniques that transformed and helped save the South's agricultural economy, to Henrietta Lacks whose genetic code has contributed to the development of innumerable lifesaving medicines and devices, and which was even sent into space, or to the creation of every music that is considered American—from Rock and Roll, Jazz, Blues, R&B, Rap/Hip Hop, and even country—but those would only represent a blip in our contributions to America.

The truth is, because of our fight, every other group has benefited and has seen a widening of their civil and human rights from a legislative perspective. We give thanks for that, but we are not satisfied with merely accepting our accomplishments to date, instead we continue fighting to advance the actualization of a true democracy with the full recognition of equal rights for all. That is our mission.

As we exit Black History Month and enter the month of March, a month representative of a period of transformation and new beginnings, the end of winter and the start of spring, let us recognize this month and all the months that follow as epochs of the year that will contain Black accomplishment. We achieve and accomplish every day and every year. Our abilities and successes are limitless.

So, this March, and every month of every year, let us celebrate Black History Month, and in doing so, let us embrace the wisdom of the following African proverbs that feed our community and remind us of the communal lifeblood from which we spring:

African Proverbs:

Those who walk together climb mountains.

~ Somali proverb

Everybody falls when the community falls.

~ Fulani proverb

Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable.

~ Bondei proverb

If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

~ African proverb, region unidentified

These proverbs remind us that where there is unity, there is strength, and that as we accomplish our goals and achieve success, we must reach back to help those coming up behind us. Only in this way can we progress. *Celebrate Black History every day, all year long. Excellence cannot be limited, and as such, neither can we.*

By Max Smith, Newsletter Committee Member

How Tech Savvy Are You?

Take This Computer & Technology Survey
and Let Us Know.

Lavern Blackwood, a CAFCI member and Student Assistance Fund Committee member, is doing a



survey on the technology needs of individuals 50 years and older. Lavern is the Human Resources Director at a construction firm and is seeking the information for a leadership project aimed at providing better technology support to older individuals.

The survey is brief and could be quite helpful in her team's efforts to develop technology support. If interested, please visit the following web address to complete the survey:

<https://forms.gle/bTBwodvEibCbBo8B7>.

Thanks, in advance, for your support.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

(Single - \$80 * Couple - \$140)

Submit your membership dues online at www.cafcipc.org OR

Mail to CAFCI, Attention: Lawrence Logan, 675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard, Suite #134, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

MARK YOUR CALENDAR CAFCI'S EVENTS

Dates are subject to change. Please check the current issue of the NEWS and the website.

Saturday, March 9, 3 to 10 pm
Relay for Life
South Florida Fairgrounds

NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN APRIL

Saturday, April 27th at 4 pm
VAFMSF Divine Wine & High Tea Party
Floral English Garden
Grande Ballroom at the Wellington Community Center

NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN MAY

Saturday, May 11th, 1 pm to sundown
Cultural Diversity Day
Veteran's Park, Royal Palm Beach

NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN JUNE

Saturday, June 8th at 6 pm
Student Assistance Fund Awards Ceremony
Location to be announced.

Saturday, July 13: General Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Hybrid
Saturday, August 10: General Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Hybrid
Saturday, September 14: General Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Hybrid

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 28, 2024
CAFCI 35TH ANNIVERSARY FRIENDSHIP BALL
Hilton Palm Beach Airport, 150 Australian Avenue, West Palm Beach

Saturday, October 12: General Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Hybrid
Saturday, November 9: General Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Hybrid
Saturday, December 14: General Membership Meeting, ~ Toys for Tots | Christmas Potluck, 7 pm, Hybrid

CAFCI SPECIAL EVENTS GROUP

If you are interested in joining the CAFCI Group to see performances at the Kravis Center, please text Genieve White at 561.876.4161. CAFCI Group performances are: Hamilton, April 10th - 21st; Shen Yun, April 30th
Visit the Kravis Center at <https://www.kravis.org/> for all upcoming events.

AROUND TOWN

- Sunday, March 10 | *Jazz & Gospel in the Gardens*, Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens. For more information, go to palmbeachculture.com.
- March 12-31 | *42nd Street*, Maltz Jupiter Theatre. For more information, go to palmbeachculture.com.
- Saturday, March 16 at 7:45 pm | Debra Ehrhardt's Journey, "*Look What Fell out De Mango Tree*", Broward Center for the Performing Arts. This special event is presented under the distinguished patronage of R. Oliver Mair, Jamaica's Consul General, Southern USA. For tickets and more information click on the link:
https://www.ticketmaster.com/event/0D006022B77F123B?brand=broward&camefrom=cfc_broward_web
- Tuesday, March 26th, 7 to 9 pm | *Community Band Concert*, Royal Palm Beach Cultural Center
- Friday, April 5th, 7 to 9 pm | *Concert Night/Food Trucks-Jaded-Aerosmith Tribute*, Commons Park
- Saturday, April 13th, 7 pm | Grace Episcopal Church presents their *2nd Annual Spring Gala Dinner*, Embassy Suites Palm Beach Gardens, \$100 pp; Music by DJ Supersounds; Dress: Semi-formal. For additional information, contact the church office at 561.845.6060
- Saturdays thru April 27th, 9 am to 1 pm | *Green Market & Bazaar*, Lakeside Village Hall, Royal Palm Beach

CAFCI

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