



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.

FEBRUARY

2024

CAFCI and the Village of Royal Palm Beach Celebrate DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration commenced at 8:30 am on Monday, January 15th with a complimentary continental breakfast. Attendees were entertained with the Caribbean flair of the steelpan sound of the Silver Bird production of Junior Stevens. Towards the end of the program, Mr. Stevens graciously performed again, captivating us with his version of the Michael Jackson steps of "Beat It", much to the delight of the audience.

There were approximately 450 guests in attendance. The increase in attendance this year was due in part to Mayor Fred Pinto highlighting the celebration as one of the Village's major events in an interview with a local TV station, in addition to an ad in the local newspaper, and the many flyers distributed at the Royal Palm Beach Cultural Center, gas stations and grocery stores. Thank you to all who helped get the word out. We had an amazing turnout because of your efforts. You all are stars!



Guests at the breakfast



The Honorable Cymonie S. Rowe

The theme of MLK Day was "Everyone can be great because anyone can serve," one of Dr. King's many inspirational quotes. The Honorable Cymonie S. Rowe, the keynote speaker, referenced that theme throughout her 30-minute speech.

Mayor Pinto reminded the audience of Dr. King's record of service and sacrifice for community, and of his elevation of the mission of justice and equality at the cost of his own personal safety. Even as he welcomed and acknowledged all dignitaries, the mayor encouraged attendees to remember Dr. King's philosophy of justice for all people, and to

contribute in any way possible to the actualization of Dr. King's vision.

The MLK Day program began with stirring performances of the National Anthem 'The Star Spangled Banner,' and the Black National Anthem, 'Lift Every Voice and Sing' performed by Samara Lewis. Ms. Lewis' performance was followed by The Mariachi Group with Mercedes Torres who led the audience in rousing renditions of the group's musical numbers. Delighted audience members sang, clapped and danced along.



Councilman Jeff Hmara, Vice-Mayor Jan Rodusky, Mayor Fred Pinto, Councilwoman Selena Samios, Councilman Richard Valuntas



Cultural Committee: Hildreth Stoddart-Brown, Chair, Paul Baker, Elet Cyris, Shirley Morrison, Jannette Sharpe-Paul, Genieve White, Kilon Rhoden

The Wildcat Dancers from Royal Palm High School, directed and choreographed by Michele Bleacher, thrilled the audience with their artistic interpretations of the songs "Stand Up" by Cynthia Erivo, and "Rise Up," by Andra Day, two powerful



Wildcat Dancers from Royal Palm High School



contemporary anthems speaking to resilience, perseverance, and triumph in the face of hopelessness and oppression. Immediately following the Wildcats, Jasmine Aris, a young gospel praise dancer, took the audience to church with a captivating lyrical dance and "in the face" performance to the gospel song "The Battle Is Not Yours". Her performance received a standing ovation.

Master of Ceremony, Michael Aitchison, entranced event attendees with his smooth and sonorous tones. A true expert at his craft, he kept the audience engaged with jokes that had them laughing and piqued their interest about what was coming next.

Without question, event attendees were entertained and deeply satisfied with the proceedings. This was evidenced by the fact that after I thanked the audience for attending and acknowledged the Cultural Committee team members and the Village staff, attendees clapped vigorously and remained seated, a clear indication they wanted more.

Before the event concluded, a moment of silence was requested in honor of Marjorie Aiken, a team member of the committee, who had recently passed.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event was hosted by the Village of Royal Palm Beach and Caribbean-American for Community Involvement of Florida, Inc. and funded in part by the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County.



BSA Troop 111



The Mariachi Group, led by Mercedes Torres



Junior Stevens,
Silver Bird Steel Band



Jasmine Aris

Submitted by: Hildreth Stoddart-Brown, Chair, Cultural Committee

If you missed the 2024 MLK Day Celebration, view the replay at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gjUuJlof9o&authuser=0>

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OFFICERS**

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

DIRECTORS

Norma Smith-Hill
 Hildreth Stoddart-Brown
 Charlesworth "Barclay" Varlack

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Alliance Genieve White
 Annual Friendship Ball Dennis Wright
 Budget Radcliffe Brown
 Bylaws Barbara Walker
 CAFCI Home..... Radcliffe Brown
 Cultural Hildreth Stoddart-Brown
 Finance Genieve White
 Grants Shirley Morrison
 Historian/Protocol..... Rhonda Ferrin-Davis
 Membership Audrey Smith
 Newsletter Junette Powell
 & Thalia White Lauren
 Parliamentary 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.....
 Genieve 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
 cafcipbc@bellsouth.net * www.cafcipbc.org
 www.facebook.com/cafcipbc

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

BOARD SWEARING IN: CAFCI's Board members will be sworn in at our February 10th General Membership meeting. We will have two new Board members, Norma Smith-Hill and Charlesworth "Barclay" Varlack. All the other members are returning Board members and all Executive Board members will remain in their current roles.

We are seeking volunteers to serve on the Membership, Cultural, Picnic and Ball Committees. If you would like to serve on any of these committees, please contact me or any of our directors.

MLK DAY CELEBRATION: We had a massively successful Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration at the Royal Palm Beach Cultural Center on January 15th with some 450 attendees. Thanks to the Village of Royal Palm Beach for partnering with CAFCI to host this event and to the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County for its support. Thanks to the Cultural Committee, chaired by Hildreth Stoddart-Brown, and members Paul Baker, Elet Cyris, Shirley Morrison, Kilon Rhoden, Jannette Sharpe-Paul and Genieve White, for their hard work in putting this well-organized event together and making CAFCI shine. Our celebration was a fitting tribute to the illustrious legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, and as always, CAFCI is honored to have been able to commemorate his leadership and continued impact on our nation.

ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP BALL: As unbelievable as it may seem, CAFCI is now in our 35th year. This is no small feat, and in recognition we will celebrate our 35th anniversary this year with a grand ball in September. We are in the process of forming the Ball Committee and welcome any ideas to enhance this year's event. The more ideas we have, the greater the likelihood of a spectacular ball.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP VENUE NEEDED: We are searching for a place to host our monthly General Membership meetings. Please advise if you know of a suitable location that is centrally located and reasonably priced.


 Dennis Wright

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



February 16 - 29

Julia Adams	21
Dennis Wright	22
Casarine Susan Fevrier	25
Stephen Williams	25
Pearline Roomes	27
Jennifer Powell-Pittman	28

MARCH 1 - 15

Richard Valuntas	03
Frank Hayden	04
Vinette Tracey	04
Kathy Maragh	08
Marva Wilks	09
Millie Hampton	11
Winston Davis	15
KaShamba Miller-Anderson	15

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

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Ronald Dawson

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



On behalf of the CAFCI Board and the Newsletter Committee,
Happy Valentine's Day.
Wishing you a day filled with Joy & Love.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Valentine's Day/Black History Month Celebrations
and
Board Swearing-In

Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 7 pm
St. David's Episcopal Church Hall,
465 Forest Hill Blvd, Wellington FL 33414

Please join CAFCI for the General Membership meeting where the new Board will be sworn in by Judge Maxine Cheesman at St. David's Episcopal Church Hall.

IN-PERSON:

St. David's in the Pines Episcopal Church Hall, 465 Forest Hill Blvd., Wellington FL 33414. Directions: From Southern Blvd., take Forest Hill Blvd. south and you will find St. David's on the right side of the road just before the second traffic light at Wellington Trace. From within Wellington and points south or east, take Forest Hill Blvd. north until you reach Wellington Trace. The church is on the northwest corner. Enter the Church grounds from Forest Hill Blvd. or from St. David's Way.

VIRTUAL:

- Visit website: www.cafcipbc.org Select "Enter Zoom Meeting" OR
- Click on link or copy and paste link in your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85318987422?pwd=dllNER0a2JuNlhtYUZIYkZzYmRSdz09> OR
- www.zoom.com: Select "Join A Meeting" or Call-In +1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 853 1898 7422 | Password: 478705

RELAY FOR LIFE

Western Palm Beach County
HOPE AROUND THE WORLD

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



The Relay for Life Western Palm Beach County event will be Saturday March 9th at the South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd from 3 to 10 pm.

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

Our fundraising goal this year is \$3,000. Everyone will have to do their part for us to meet our goal. We have created several opportunities for you to do so.

There will be a silent auction at the event. All teams are encouraged to bring items to the silent auction tent where people will bid on these items throughout the day. Winners will be announced at 7:45 pm the night of the event. If you have anything to donate to the auction, please contact me at starnovaja@gmail.com or 561-329-4352, and I will arrange to get them from you.

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.

Cancer is an awful disease and just about everyone knows someone who has been touched by it. I would also like to encourage everyone to go online to the CAFCI Relay for Life page on the CAFCI website where you can join our team, make donations, and purchase luminarias in memory or in honor of your relatives and friends. Luminarias cost \$10 each and can be purchased through the CAFCI website (<https://www.cafcipbc.org>).

Everyone is encouraged to set a personal goal and ask friends and family to help you reach that target. We would like to meet or exceed our \$3,000 goal. The CAFCI Relay For Life webpage can be accessed directly at <http://main.acsevents.org/goto/cafcipbc> or via the CAFCI website <https://www.cafcipbc.org>. From the CAFCI Relay webpage, you can make a donation, join our team, purchase a luminaria and register as a survivor. *Please note, to solicit donations from friends and family and register as a survivor on behalf of CAFCI, you must join our team first.*

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

Submitted by Nova Brown, Relay for Life Chair

CAFCI ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 11 am
Veteran's Park, Royal Palm Beach

Plans are 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. Tickets for this year's picnic will be available shortly. Additional information will be posted on the CAFCI website (cafcipbc.org) and in future publications of this newsletter.

VAFMSF

Divine Wine & High Tea
Floral English Garden

Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 4 – 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, 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 CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY

Saturday, May 11, 2024
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 culture and diverse heritage of our community. We are taking Royal Palm Beach's diverse hidden cultures out of the shadows and honoring the wealth of our different traditions. Let us come together to exchange and celebrate our multifaceted food, language, dance and cultural customs.

Vendors are invited to purchase a space and sell their goods. If you are, or know anyone who may be, interested, please email CAFCI at cafcipbc@bellsouth.net. The flyer with further details as well as the vendor form will be in upcoming issues of this newsletter and on the CAFCI website at www.cafcipbc.org.

LET'S DO BUSINESS

in Royal Palm Beach • Wellington
Western West Palm Beach (up to Vista Parkway)

Let's Support Businesses in Our Community.

KW RESERVE PALM BEACH

Keller Williams

Joan M Folkes, PA, COPE, CLA

Licensed Real Estate Associate, REALTOR®

Cell: 561-351-5447; Fax: 561-790-3089

JoanFolkes@kw.com

www.FloridaHomesByJoan.com

LuxuryHomesByJo

If you would like to recommend a business to be featured in "Let's Do Business" 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.

Be the change you want to see in the world.

Mahatma Gandhi

Member Spotlight

HAVE YOU MET ... JOHNNY H. DAVIS?



Johnny Davis is 88. Talking about his life, his enthusiasm bubbles over. "I had a good life," he says. "It was fun. I have no regrets. If I could, I'd do the whole thing over again."

Johnny's been an active CAFCI member since 2012. Born in Georgia, he does not have any Caribbean roots, but that has not lessened his feeling of connection. Drawn to CAFCI because of well-orchestrated cultural events like the MLK Day celebration, his commitment to the organization was cemented when he learned about the scholarship fund.

He explains: "Education is expensive. CAFCI donating funds to graduating high school seniors is a good thing. I donate every year."

A big part of Johnny's enthusiasm springs from the work he has done. He has had several careers, but it was his work as a New York City subway conductor and motorman that gave him the greatest satisfaction.

Working as a motorman was a childhood dream. "I spent most of my life in Queens and would ride the front subway car, look out and see the trains weaving and wobbling and all the different colored lights changing, but I didn't know what it was about. When I went to subway school, I learned what those lights represented."

When Johnny talks about the world of the tracks beneath the city's sidewalks, it is as if he is speaking about a mysterious universe that is unseen by the average commuter, and even less understood. It is a world of multi-colored flashing lights, each with a different meaning, of multiple trains converging at the same point, and of motormen who must know the routes better than the backs of their hands and remain alert and ready to make life-changing decisions in an instant.

Little known trade secrets include moving tracks—yes, tracks that are moved remotely by the tower operator in a faraway booth—whose proper connection the motorman must know to prevent deadly accidents caused by taking the wrong route.

Johnny drove a 600-foot train, carrying thousands of people five days a week for twenty years. "That is a lot of lives in your hands," he acknowledges.

On his last day, his supervisor pulled him off the rails: "He said, 'You have gone twenty years without any derailment or tragic incident. We don't want somebody jumping in front of your train today.'"

Driving the trains was a responsibility that can only be fully grasped by those who have experienced it, but Johnny says he would do it again.

Twice married, Johnny is the father of five, and the grandfather of six. In late 2023, he suffered a severe loss when his eldest daughter died.

Soon to enter his 9th decade, his civic mindedness has not dimmed. He recalls with pride serving on the grand jury in New York thirteen years in a row. Commuting from Boynton Beach, he regularly attends CAFCI events, and is active in his church, Grace Episcopal. He laughs, "I'm right up there with the priest on Sundays. When they hit that organ note I am the guy in the front with that cross, marching in."

By Max Smith

Member Spotlight serves as an opportunity to share information about yourself and your interests with our CAFCI family. If you are interested in being featured or have someone you would like to recommend, please let us know by emailing us at:

cafci@bellsouth.net; junettep56@gmail.com; or thaliaec@gmail.com

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

CAFCI EXTENDS
Congratulations!

LaVern Blackwood who was recognized for her leadership, contribution and dedication to the organization at the first annual COMTO Palm Beach County chapter Scholarship Reception.

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.

The SAF Committee congratulates 2017 recipient Jordaine Randon on her marriage to Allen Petty on Saturday, February 27, 2024. We wish them both much success.



Congratulations to Claudette "Pat" and Lukie Christie whose granddaughter, Zoe Plunkett, has been accepted to Brown University to study Computer Science in relation to STEM.

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.cafcipc.org/donation-center>. Select the Student Assistance option.

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

THANK YOU to Clayton Robinson and Golden Krust Restaurant (Okeechobee Blvd. & Jog Road) for donating 10% of purchases made November 15, 2023 through January 15, 2024. Thanks to all who participated by supporting Golden Krust.

Thanks also to everyone who has supported our fundraisers (Popcorn, Giving Tuesday, FaceBook). The list of 2023 Donors and Sponsors is posted on CAFCI's website at www.cafcipc.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.

SAF AWARD APPLICATIONS

Application deadline is March 1, 2024. Applications are now being accepted for students graduating in 2024. Visit <https://www.cafcipc.org/student-assistance> or [Click Here](#) for eligibility requirements and to apply.

Please share the application with Palm Beach County's graduating seniors, and your friends and family.

For more information, please contact Nadine White-Boyd at 561.351.6895 or Junette Powell at 561.346.2353. Thanks in advance for your continued support.

Message from Past SAF Award Recipient

SHIA ROZIER
2023 SAF AWARD RECIPIENT

January 29, 2024

Good morning Scholarship Committee,

This is Shia Rozier, a recent recipient of one of your scholarships. I wanted to reach out and once again thank you for choosing me to receive this scholarship and give you an update about my college ventures.

Firstly, I absolutely love North Carolina A&T. In September I ran my "Groundwork" campaign and won Freshman Class President. So, I am now a president of 3,500 freshman students and a member of the Student Government Executive Board. I serve as an advocate for my class and the student body. It also has some good privileges like seeing Vice President Kamala Harris speak, being in the homecoming parade and fashion show, and so much more.

Additionally, I have continued my mission of voter education and engagement by becoming a Campus Vote Project Democracy Fellow and Voter Education Workgroup Lead in our Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement. It focuses on getting North Carolina A&T students out in our community and engaged in our local government. I went to the University of Maryland for the Students Learn Students Vote National Summit in November.

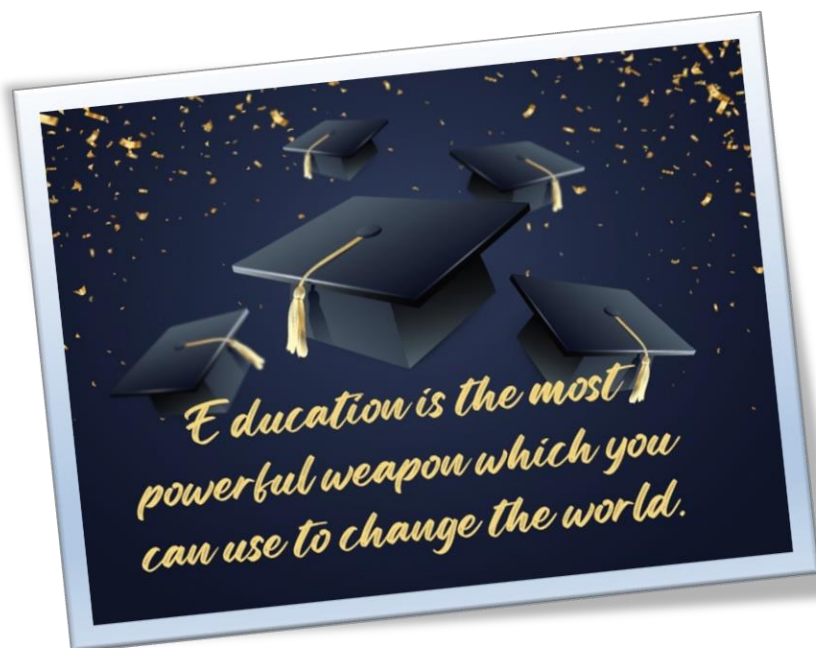
Also, over summer I launched a scholarship blog, "Million Dolla Scholar". It gives advice to high school seniors for applying to colleges and applying to scholarships. With my website, webinar, and visits to my old high school I have reached over 1,000 students.

And lastly, I finished the fall semester with a 4.0 GPA making the Chancellor's list.

I want to once again express my gratitude for your scholarship. Between parking passes, campaign expenses, outfits for SGA appearances, plane tickets to get home, costs have added up quickly in college. This scholarship has been extremely helpful in balancing these costs.

Thank you!

Kindest Regards,
Shia Rozier





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

February 5, 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.

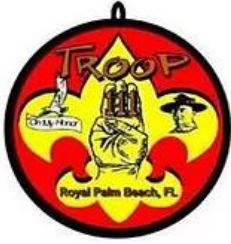
Respectfully,

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,

January has been a very busy and fun month for Troop 111. We went on our January campout to Okeechobee Shooting Sports where the scouts had a great time practicing safe shooting and having fun. At night, we braved the cold weather that dipped into the 40s as we slept in our tents.

Troop 111 had our first Awards Ceremony of 2024 with Troop 111 Alumni Josh Caudill, Scouts from the Majestic Tigers to the Elusive Bucks, very special guests Mr. Steve Clanton and Ms. Candy Catrillo from the Gulf Stream Council and CAFCI's Hildreth Stoddart-Brown and Elet Cyris in attendance and having a great time. The Publix themed event welcomed guests with a banner which read "Troop 111, where Court of Honor is a pleasure." We all watched the scouts be recognized for their efforts in everything from advancing in rank to finishing out their term as Senior Patrol Leader.

I am also the third and final Estevez brother to be Senior Patrol Leader in Troop 111. I will no longer be writing and submitting these articles. That responsibility will be transferred over to our new Senior Patrol Leader, Caleb McNally. It has been a wonderful experience leading the Troop throughout these last few months. I would like to thank CAFCI for their continued support of me, in my role as Senior Patrol Leader and also the scouts as they learn, grow and achieve.



Scoutmaster, Ryan McNally swearing in new Senior Patrol Leader, Caleb McNally



Scoutmaster, Ryan McNally swearing in new Shaman Patrol, Jonathan Scnick Baker, Mohammed Almasoodi, Keenan Stack



Newest Eagle Scouts and parents recognized; Jackson Eubanks, Marie Hogan, Dawn Kelly, William Hicks, Lorianne Cabrera, Noah Cabrera, Ryan Goldberger, Jennifer Goldberger, David Goldberger



Seated: Luke Estevez, Robert Lombardo, Mason Scott; Standing: Jackson Doeren, Assistant Scoutmaster Paul Estevez, Assistant Scoutmaster Spencer Scott



Robert Lombardo & Assistant Scoutmaster Spencer Scott at Okeechobee Shooting Sports



Sincerely,
 Luke Estevez
 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.cafcipc.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.cafcipc.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 cafcipc@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.cafcipc.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.

FEBRUARY... A MONTH OF CELEBRATIONS & AWARENESS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH is an annual



celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans.

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

The Black History Month 2024 theme, "African Americans and the Arts," explores the key influence African Americans have had in the fields of "visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression."

DID YOU KNOW?.....

The Idea For Black History Month Originated in 1926
When first conceptualized by Carter G. Woodson in 1926, the time of recognition was originally Black History Week. He proposed that the second week of February become known as "Negro History Week," coinciding with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Both of these historical figures fought against slavery.

In 1969, a Week Became a Month

In 1969, teachers and students at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, proposed making Negro History Week a month-long celebration of black history, known as Black History Month. The first Black History Month was celebrated in 1970.

In 1976, it Became a National Observance

Thanks to President Gerald Ford, Black History Month was again brought into the spotlight in 1976. Ford highlighted the connection between American history and African-American history by recognizing the celebration officially during the celebration of the United States

Bicentennial, also corresponding with the 50th anniversary of Negro History Week. Ford pushed for all Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

It Was Introduced in the United Kingdom in 1987

In 1987, Ghanaian activist Akyaba Addai-Sebo founded the month in the United Kingdom. It is celebrated in the fall there, with the month of October being chosen in order to incorporate black history into the curriculum for school-age children. The United Kingdom also focuses on African-Caribbean history because of the United Kingdom's close ties to Caribbean countries and a large amount of Caribbean-English children in the country.

Canada First Celebrated Black History Month in 1995

Canada was close behind the UK, establishing their own Black History Month in 1995. The idea was first proposed by a member of the House of Commons in Canada, Jean Augustine. She was the first black woman to be elected to Parliament and proposed the official recognition of February Black History Month in Canada. The motion was unanimously passed, and Canada annually highlights the contributions of Black Canadians to their country on this date.

Black History Month Extended to Ireland in 2010

The fourth country to officially recognize Black History Month, Ireland did so in 2010. Part of movements from both the Africa Irish Development Initiatives and the Black History Month Ireland groups, the involved groups, and the country aims to combat racism and discrimination by increasing awareness of other cultures, their achievements, and their struggles.

Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month>

Source: <https://facty.com/network/answers/culture/what-is-the-history-behind-black-history-month/>

FEBRUARY... A MONTH OF CELEBRATIONS & AWARENESS

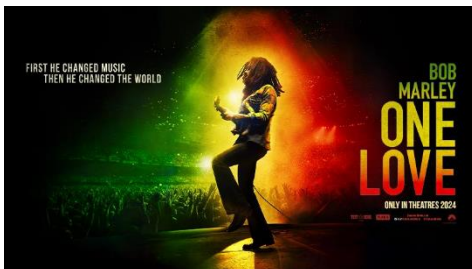


REGGAE MONTH: On January 9, 2008 the Government of Jamaica announced that the month of February was to be officially declared as Reggae Month. This was done to highlight and celebrate the impact of the musical genre on the country's social, cultural and economic development. Additionally, the birthdays of two of Jamaica's and Reggae Music's late icons are commemorated during the month of February: The late Dennis Brown also known as the 'Crown Prince of Reggae', is celebrated on February 1, while the late Robert Nesta 'Bob' Marley, the renowned 'King of Reggae' is celebrated on February 6.

Reggae Month 2024 will be observed from February 1 to 29 under the theme, 'Come ketch di RIDDIM'.

For further details on events and activities, Minister Grange encouraged Jamaicans to download the Reggae Jamaica mobile app from Google Play Store. The app will be the main vehicle for updating the public about the events.

Source: <https://jis.gov.jm/features/reggae-month/>
<https://jis.gov.jm/reggae-month-2024>



Check out the movie "Bob Marley: One Love" which celebrates the life and music of an icon who

inspired generations through his message of love and unity. On the big screen for the first time, discover Bob's powerful story of overcoming overwhelming adversity, and the journey behind his revolutionary music. Produced in partnership with the Marley family. In theaters February 14, 2024.



PRESIDENTS' DAY is Celebrated on the third Monday in February (February 19, 2024), Presidents' Day commemorates all the former US presidents' achievements and sacrifices.

In the early 19th century, the day was acknowledged as a fasting and prayer day. People would offer prayers to God and ask for protection over their president.

Presidents' Day History

The history of the Presidents' Day holiday dates back in 1800 after the death of George Washington. People celebrated his birthday on February 22nd as a way to remember the first president in American history. In 1879, Washington's Birthday was signed into law as a federal holiday. In 1971, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act shifted the day to be celebrated on the third Monday of February every year. The day also changed its name to Presidents' Day as a way to commemorate all the presidents of the United States.

Presidents' Day Traditions

Presidents' Day is a time of patriotic remembrance. Before the holiday was declared as a day to celebrate all the presidents of the United States, portraits of George Washington would grace the front pages of newspapers every February 22nd.

Today, Presidents' Day is marked by staged celebrations and reenactments. Some states require teachers of public schools to teach students about the accomplishments of former US presidents, mostly focusing on the lives of Washington and Lincoln.

Source: <https://www.almanac.com/content/when-presidents-day>

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

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

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

MARK YOUR CAFCI'S EVENTS

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

Saturday, February 10: General Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Hybrid, St. David's Episcopal Church Hall

NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN MARCH

Saturday, March 9, 3 to 10 pm

Relay for Life

South Florida Fairgrounds

NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN APRIL

Saturday, April 13th at 11 am

CAFCI Annual Picnic

Veteran's Park, Royal Palm Beach

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 at Time tbd

Cultural Diversity Day

Veteran's Park, Royal Palm Beach

NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN JUNE

Saturday, June 8th

Student Assistance Fund Awards Ceremony

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

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:

- Righteous Brothers, March 7th
- Tina - The Tina Turner Musical, March 12th - 17th (limited seats)
- Hamilton, April 10th - 21st
- Shen Yun, April 30th

Visit the Kravis Center at <https://www.kravis.org/> for all upcoming events.

AROUND TOWN

- February 15 - February 18 | *African American Film Festival*, Kravis Center
- Thursday, February 29th | *Royal Palm Beach Village Hall Dedication*, 4pm, 1050 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411.
- Saturdays thru April 27th, 9 am to 1 pm | Green Market & Bazaar, Lakeside Village Hall, Royal Palm Beach
- Visit the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County at <https://events.palmbeachculture.com/> for upcoming events and activities.
- For information on what's going on around Wellington, go to AroundWellington.com.

CAFCI

675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard

Suite #134

Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411