



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 2023



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

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1st Vice President	Genieve White
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Rhonda Ferrin-Davis
Treasurer	Diane Bishop-McIntosh
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Doreen Baker
Corresponding Secre	etary Paul Baker

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Winsom Genus-Martin ★ Carolyn Hmara Hildreth Stoddart-Brown

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Junette Powell ★ Barbara Walker
Thalia White Lauren

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Annual Friendship B	all Dennis Wright
	Radcliffe Brown
	Barbara Walker
	Radcliffe Brown
	Hildreth Stoddart-Brown
	Genieve White
	Shirley Morrison
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	Nova Brown
	FundJunette Powell
	& Nadine White-Boyd
	Elet Cyris
	Junette Powell
	& Nadine White-Boyd
	Lauriston Simms
	Lauriston Sirinis
	olarship Fund
	Genieve White
	Radcliffe Brown
routh	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

cafci@bellsouth.net \* www.cafcipbc.org www.facebook.com/cafcipbc

Board meetings - 4th Thursday of the month See back page for calendar of events.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**CAFCI ANNUAL PICNIC:** Our annual picnic will be held a little later than normal this year due to the unavailability of large enough pavilions at Okeeheelee Park. The new date for the picnic is **Saturday, April 29th from 1 pm to sundown** at the NC-Osceola Pavilion at Okeeheelee Park. There will be lots of food, games, dominoes and other activities for everyone to enjoy. This will be a fun-filled day for the whole family. If you would like to volunteer to help with the picnic, please contact me at 203.482.5079. Tickets will be available soon.

RELAY FOR LIFE: CAFCI will be participating in the live fundraising event for the American Cancer Society at the South Florida Fairgrounds on Saturday, March 11, 2023. Please come out and support this event and have some good food and fun. Special thanks to Nova Brown and her team (Island Steppers) for leading CAFCI's participation as we emerge from the COVID years. Please visit our website if you would like to make a donation to the American Cancer Society. NOTE: Due to CAFCI's participation in the Relay for Life on March 11th, there will be no general meeting in March.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: Special thanks to Mayor Pinto who was our guest speaker for the Black History month celebration at CAFCI's general meeting in February. He shared with everyone the importance of acknowledging the people who contributed to the country's fabric, growth and prosperity. He highlighted some black achievers of our time: Eli McCoy, who invented lubrication systems for steam engines and had 57 patents and Supreme Court Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson who commented that she achieved her success by hard work, big breaks, mentorship and tough skin as well as the leadership of former President Barack Obama. These individuals are examples for our young people.



Dennis Wright

# vho wa

### Congratulations to **Maxine Cheesman**

who was recognized by Palm Beach
County Mayor for being one of the first
Black leaders to be elected to the Palm
Beach County Circuit Court. Judge
Cheesman is both the first Black
woman and the first Jamaican Black
woman elected to the PBC Circuit
Court. Congratulations also for being
sworn in to argue cases before the
US Supreme Court.





#### MARCH 16 - 31

MARC	'H 10 - 21
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 us an email to CAFCI (cafci@bellsouth.net) and we will update the birthday list. We apologize for any oversight.

#### **CONDOLENCES TO:**

Yvonne Elliott, Genieve White, Nadine White-Boyd and Thalia White Lauren on the loss of a cousin

Sheila Wright and family on the loss of her husband CAFCI member, Jerome Wright

#### 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.

Elet Cyris, Cha	<i>ir</i> 561.791.9087
Paul Baker	561.784.0067
Samuel Baxter	561.798.2864

#### **RELAY FOR LIFE**

#### Western Palm Beach County

Saturday, March 11, 2023 South Florida Fairgrounds 9067 Southern Boulevard, West Palm Beach



Relay for Life Western Palm Beach County event is almost here! It will be held on Saturday, March 11th at the South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Enter through Boulevard. Gate 5 off Southern Boulevard. The opening ceremony begins at 4 pm. The theme for 2023 is "WISH UPON A CURE" with team representing each something from Disney. CAFCI was assigned the Little Mermaid character.

CAFCI's fundraising goal this year is \$2,000. So far, we have raised \$766, and we need everyone to do his or her part for us to meet our goal. We have created several ways for you to help.

For the past several years CAFCI has been recognized by the Relay for Life organization for our participation and fund-raising 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 also encourage everyone to go online to the CAFCI Relay for Life page accessible via the CAFCI website where you can make donations and purchase luminarias in memory or in honor of your relatives and friends. Luminarias cost \$10 each.

Everyone is encouraged to set a personal goal and ask friends and family to help. We would like to meet or exceed our \$2,000 goal. The CAFCI Relay For Life web page can be accessed directly at <a href="http://main.acsevents.org/goto/cafcipbc">http://main.acsevents.org/goto/cafcipbc</a> or via the CAFCI web site <a href="https://www.cafcipbc.org/relayforlife">https://www.cafcipbc.org/relayforlife</a>. From the CAFCI Relay web page you can make a donation, join our team and/or register as a survivor. Please note, to solicit donations from friends and family and register as a survivor, you must join our team first.

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

By Nova Brown, Relay for Life Chair





with a Vintage Flair

Saturday, April 1, 2023 from 4 - 7 pm Royal Palm Beach Cultural Center.

The Board of the Vivian and Adrienne Ferrin Memorial Scholarship Fund (VAFMSF) is delighted to present its annual fundraiser "Divine Wine & High Tea." The theme this year is *Vintage Flair.* 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 event will be catered by Piquant Cuisine with a choice selection of teas and wines. Ticket Donation: \$45. Advance reservation is required. For more information or to reserve your tickets, contact Genieve White at 561.876.4161, Rhonda Ferrin-Davis at 561.685.9836 or a VAFMSF Board member. Don't miss this afternoon of fun and frivolity!!!

#### CAFCI ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday, April 29, 2023 at 1 pm Okeeheelee Park, NC-Osceola Pavilion

Plans are in the works for the CAFCI Annual Picnic. There will be lots of food, fun and games. This will be a fun-filled day for the whole family. Tickets for this year's picnic will be available shortly. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Dennis Wright at 203.482.5079. See the flyer on the cover of this newsletter for additional information. As additional information becomes available, it will be posted on the CAFCI website (cafcipbc.org) as well as in the April issue of the newsletter.

#### CAFCI CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY

Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 1 pm Veterans Park, Royal Palm Beach

The Cultural Committee is diligently working on an awesome Cultural Diversity Day program. The event is a collaborative effort between the Village of Royal Palm Beach and CAFCI and is supported by a grant from the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County. This is a free event. Invite your friends and family to participate in a day of sharing the rich and diverse cultural heritage which brings our community together to experience and enjoy our food, language, dance and customs. Vendors are invited to purchase a space and sell their merchandise. Therefore, if you are - or know anyone who would be - interested, email CAFCI at cafci@bellsouth.net. See the flyer with further details and the vendor form in this newsletter, as well as in upcoming issues of the newsletter and/or on the CAFCI website at www.cafcipbc.org.



#### **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 as space permits.

#### STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND



#### AWARDS CEREMONY

Date: Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 6 pm

Venue: TBA

Highlights of the Awards Ceremony will include keynote speaker Ijahala Pottinger, a 2016 SAF Award recipient. 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 2023 SAF Award recipients.

Each year the Student Assistance Fund (SAF) Committee provides 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. For more information, please contact Nadine White-Boyd at 561.351.6895 or Junette Powell at 561.346.2353. We appreciate your support.

To donate or support 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, 675 Royal Palm Beach Blvd, Suite #134, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411. We would appreciate receiving your donation by <u>April 30, 2023</u>. (Write "SAF" on your check on the memo/notes line to ensure it is posted to the SAF program.)
- 2. **DONATE ONLINE** at https://www.cafcipbc.org/donation-center. Select the Student Assistance option. We would appreciate receiving your donation by April 30, 2023.
- 3. **FACEBOOK DONATION:** Click on the image on CAFCI's SAF Fundraising Page and it will take you directly to CAFCI's Facebook page where you can make an online donation. Please help spread the word to your family, friends, businesses and social media contacts.

Thanks to all who have made donations and supported our fundraising efforts. The list of 2022 Donors and Sponsors is posted on CAFCI's website at <a href="https://www.cafcipbc.org/studentassistanceprogram">www.cafcipbc.org/studentassistanceprogram</a>.

#### CAFCI Scouts BSA Troop 111



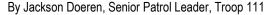
Greetings CAFCI members,

February has been a very busy and productive month for Troop 111. We continue to thrive as many new activities arise. We have hosted many recruitment activities for our Troop. Scouts attended a recruitment event at Western Pines Middle School and two separate Blue and Gold ceremonies for Pack 120 and Pack 147.

For our February campout, scouts had a fun time at Camp Miles. This awesome campout featured the main attraction which was an Eco Tour. Scouts were thrilled by all of the animals that we encountered on the tour. We also had an amazing time playing kickball, one of our favorite games.

Troop 111 is ready for upcoming campouts in the coming months. As summertime approaches, our scouts are getting ready to take merit badge classes at Tanah Keeta, our Council Campground, and Raven Knob in the Blue Ridge Mountains. We also have a group of scouts preparing for a hiking high adventure trip at Philmont in New Mexico. We have started training by taking weekly hikes in the woods. We wear weighted backpacks to build up our strength and endurance.

We all thank CAFCI and our adult leaders for helping Troop 111 to grow and have wonderful experiences!





Eco Tour at Babcock Ranches



Scouts relaxing



Flag Retirement Ceremony



### 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.cafcipbc.org • E-mail: cafci@bellsouth.net • Phone: 561.790.4002

March 1, 2023

Dear Prospective Student Assistance Fund Donor:

Caribbean-American For Community Involvement in Florida, Inc. (CAFCI) continues its more than 32 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 helping CAFCI advance our youth's higher education 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. We invite you to partner with CAFCI in financially assisting our youths to make their educational goals a reality. Your contribution will make a difference in the lives of our youth as your donation will not only provide hope to more students but will also help to ease their financial burden. Please find accompanying information about our organization and past recipients.

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 *Donors' List*. You may make your donation online by going to <a href="www.cafcipbc.org/donation-center">www.cafcipbc.org/donation-center</a> and select Student Assistance or by mailing your donation by April 30, 2023 to:

CAFCI

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

Thank you in advance for your donation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 561.790.4002.

Respectfully,

Nadine White-BoydJunette PowellDennis WrightNadine White-BoydJunette PowellDennis WrightCo-Chair, Student Asst. CommitteeCo-Chair, Student Asst. CommitteePresident

#### Caribbean-American for Community Involvement in Florida, Inc. (CAFCI)



#### 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**

Caribbean-American for Community Involvement'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 Recipients - 2019

A sample of some of our star students from the Class of 2019.



#### **How YOU Can Help Our Students**

- Make check or money order payable to: C.A.F.C.I. (Note for Student Assistance Fund)
- Donate by going to CAFCI's website www.cafcipbc.org and clicking on Donate to Student Assistance Fund.
- It is preferred that your generous donation be received on or before April 30, 2023, in preparation for our virtual Award Ceremony.

No contribution is too small and on behalf of the students and families, we *Thank You Very Much*!

#### **Contact Us**

Caribbean-American for Community Involvement, Inc. (CAFCI) 675 Royal Palm Beach Blvd., Suite 134

Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

Phone: 561.790.4002 Web Site: www.cafcipbc.org

E-mail address: cafci@bellsouth.net



#### Search: CAFCI

#### 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.



#### **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.

#### **Award Ceremonies**

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

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



Use of the images, photos, and likeness of persons contained in this material does not constitute their endorsement of CAFCI or its activities.

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#### 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???

2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES (Single - \$60 • Couple - \$100)

Submit your membership dues online at: <a href="https://www.cafcipbc.org/membership-dues">https://www.cafcipbc.org/membership-dues</a> 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.



Unfortunately, the potential opportunity of procuring a commercial building large enough to lease part and use the remainder for ourselves has fallen through. Financing and funding remain an issue for us. We will continue to search for that ideal gem both in and outside our preferred search area. Our preferred search area is bounded on the north by Orange Boulevard, Jog Road to the east, Lake Worth Road to the south and Seminole Pratt Whitney Road to the west.

If you have information about potential investor(s) who may be able to help with funding, share your ideas or provide information about available property, email cafci@bellsouth.net, copying radcliffewoody@aol.com or

call 561.790.4002 and leave a message.

Participation in the **Home of Our Own** project is available through the Buy-A-Brick program. Visit the web page at <a href="https://www.cafcipbc.org">www.cafcipbc.org</a> 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 any accomplishments of close relatives (eg. 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 784-0067). If there is any other information you would like to be included in the NEWS, please submit 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.

#### LET'S DO BUSINESS

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

Let's Support Businesses in our Community

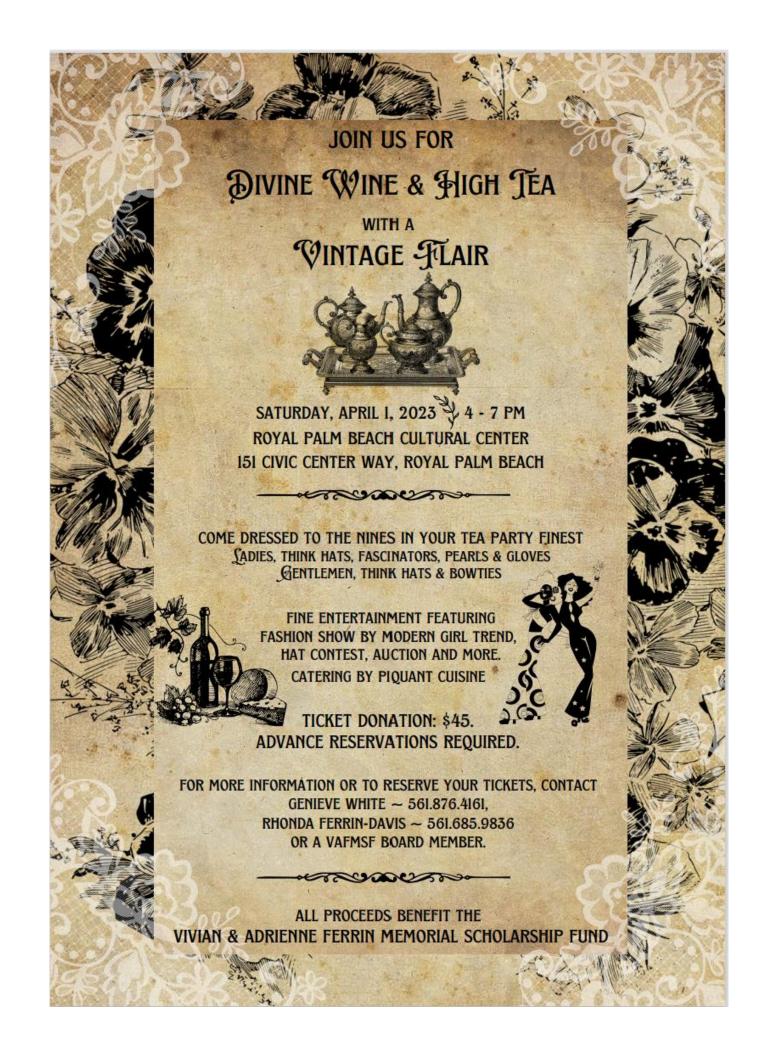
#### **ZONA BLU ITALIAN RESTAURANT**

8170 Okeechobee Blvd., Suite 1 West Palm Beach, FL 33411 561. 323.4799

Dine-in · Takeout · No-contact Delivery Tuesday to Thursday ~ 4 pm to 10 pm Friday to Sunday ~ 12:30 pm to 10 pm

Monday ~ Closed

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 <a href="mailto:junettep56@qmail.com">junettep56@qmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:junettep56@qmail.com">junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:junettep56@qmailto:ju



& The Village of Royal Palm Beach



## Saturday, May 13, 2023 1 pm – sundown

Veterans Park 1036 Royal Palm Beach Blvd, Royal Palm Beach, FL

A diverse array of live entertainment and much more!

Bring your chairs, blankets & tents for a fun-filled day.



For additional information please contact: Hildreth Stoddart-Brown, CAFCI Cultural Committee Chair at 561-889-1143



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

675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard, Suite 134 · Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411 · 561-790-4002 www.cafcipbc.org email: cafci@bellsouth.net

## **VENDOR REGISTRATION**

EVENT:	CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY	DATE: MAY	13, 2023		
ADDRESS:	DRESS: VETERANS PARK, 1036 Royal Palm Beach, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411				
VENDOR /	ORGANIZATION:				
ADDRESS:					
EMAIL:					
	PERSON:				
	HONE:				
PRINCIPAL	OWNER / OFFICER:				
TYPE OF I	BOOTH / DISPLAY:				
	oring your chairs, tables and portable to		DONATION		
Pre-packaged cake, cookies, etc. Please have gloves and tools for handling food.		¢ 50			
A thermometer is required. Hot food to be at 140 degrees. Cold food to be at 40 degrees.			_		
Release and In considerati and release ( its employees participation in in the waiver. and all or any	Hold Harmless: on of allowing my, and anyone entitled to ac CAFCI) Caribbean-American for Community s, agents, volunteers, and sponsors of this n the event even though that liability may aris I grant permission to all the forgoing entities of other record of me or anyone acting on my a Beach and CAFCI are not responsible for	ct on my behalf, participation in the <u>Cu</u> Involvement in Florida, Inc. & The Vill event from all claims and/or liabilities se out of negligence or carelessness on and persons to use any image, photographic behalf at this event for legitimate purp	Itural Diversity Day, I wain lage of Royal Palm Beach a s of any kind arising from rathe part of the persons nameraph, motion picture, recording to ses. I understand the Villa		

For additional information contact:
Hildreth Stoddart-Brown 561-889-1143 • Paul Baker 561-784-0067
Payment can be made via check payable to CAFCI or visit www.cafcipbc.org

Date

event is cancelled due to weather or if I and/or my assigns do not attend the event.

**Applicant Signature** 

### **MARCH ... A MONTH OF CELEBRATIONS**

#### ~ WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH ~

Every year, March is designated as Women's History Month by presidential proclamation. The month is set aside to honor women's contributions in American history.

## Did You Know? Women's History Month started as Women's History Week...

Women's History Month began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women planned and executed a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978. The organizers selected the week of March 8 to correspond with International Women's Day. The movement spread across the country as other communities initiated their own Women's History Week celebrations the following year.

In 1980, a consortium of women's groups and historians—led by the National Women's History Project (now the National Women's History Alliance)—successfully lobbied for national recognition. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8, 1980, as National Women's History Week.

Source: Women's History Month | National Women's History Museum (womenshistory.org)

## Four Jamaican Women Sworn In To Argue Cases Before US Supreme Court

History has been created by a group of 13 black women in Florida, four of whom are Jamaicans, as they were sworn in last week to argue cases before the United States Supreme Court.

The Jamaicans include Judges Maxine Cheesman and Cymonie Rowe as well as Magistrate Maxine Williams and Attorney-at-law Allison Smith.

They were sworn in at the Supreme Court in Washington DC.

Five of the women are judges, and the other eight are attorneys. They have been added to the prestigious list of distinguished lawyers, from across the country, who can argue cases before the US Supreme Court.

"This was historic as never before has such a large group of black women come to the US Supreme Court to be inducted," beamed Cheesman, who noted that it was also a significant achievement for the State of Florida.

The US Supreme Court employs lawyers, but they act as law clerks doing research for the nine justices. These law clerks cannot represent individuals at the Supreme Court.

However, those who appear before the nation's highest court, like the 13 who were sworn in last week, must meet certain criteria before they can do so.

Of note, judges, like Cheesman, cannot practice or argue cases before the Supreme Court until they are no longer judges. It is an esteemed role that they look forward to after retiring from the bench.

Cheesman, a civil court judge in Florida, was called to the bench six years ago. She is no stranger to being a mover and shaker in the legal field. Born and raised in Kingston, she was the first black female Circuit Court judge elected in Palm Beach County. She has handled many cases — from real estate to probate to contracts.

The Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County honored Cheesman in 2012 for her pro bono work.

A former chemist, Cheesman transitioned into the legal profession 16 years ago. Now age 67, she looks forward to effecting transformative changes in the judicial field.

"To be a judge is the best way to serve the people. As a judge, I do my best to understand the issues and be fair and impartial," she said.

She graduated with first-class honors from the University of the West Indies, Mona. In 1979, she migrated with her family to Miami.

She then graduated from Nova Southeastern University cum laude. She is also a member of the Palm Beach County Sherrie Davis Cunningham Black Women Lawyers Association.

When asked if she is aiming to become a US Supreme Court judge, Cheesman laughed and pointed out that she foresees a future working to help underserved communities and to assist more women to become attorneys.

Source: 4 Jamaican women sworn in to argue cases before US Supreme Court | Loop Jamaica (loopnews.com)

#### ~ NATIONAL READING MONTH ~

National Reading Month is celebrated in March to honor Dr. Suess's birthday. In this month people, especially children, read a lot more in celebration and although some people may find the increased emphasis on reading to be boring, the increase in reading during this month has significant benefits that will continue to pay off in the future. Reading is one of the best habits to develop; it strengthens the mental muscles, helps to improve comprehension and analytical abilities, and increases imagination and boosts memory.

Source: https://nationaltoday.com/national-reading-month/

#### 2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES

(Single - \$60 \* Couple - \$100)

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 CALENDAR

#### **CAFCI'S EVENTS**

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

March General Membership Meeting Cancelled

Saturday, March 11: Relay for Life Western Palm Beach County, 4 pm, South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach

Saturday, April 1: VAFMSF Divine Wine & High Tea, 4-7 pm, Royal Palm Beach Cultural Center

Saturday, April 8: **General Membership Meeting**, 7 pm, Hybrid (in person and Zoom)

Saturday, April 29: Annual Picnic, 11 am, Okeeheelee Park, NC-Osceola Pavilion

May General Membership Meeting Cancelled

Saturday, May 13: Cultural Diversity Day, 1 pm, Veterans Park

Saturday, June 10: **General Membership Meeting**, 7 pm, Hybrid (in person and Zoom)

Saturday, June 17: Student Assistance Fund Awards Ceremony, Time & Location TBA

Saturday, July 8: General Membership Meeting ~ Business Awareness, 7 pm, Hybrid (in person and Zoom)

Saturday, August 12: **General Membership Meeting** ~ *Membership Appreciation*, 7 pm, Hybrid (in person and Zoom)

Saturday, September 9: **General Membership Meeting**, 7 pm, Hybrid (in person and Zoom)

## SAVE THE DATE!!! Saturday, September 16, 2023 CAFCI'S Annual Friendship Ball

Saturday, October 14: **General Membership Meeting** ~ *Games Night*, 7 pm, Location TBA Saturday, November 11: **General Membership Meeting** ~ *Board Nominations*, 7 pm, Hybrid (in person and Zoom) Saturday, December 9: **General Membership Meeting** ~ **Toys for Tots**, 7 pm, Hybrid (in person and Zoom) Sunday, December 31: CAFCI New Year's Eve Gala, 8 pm, Location TBA

#### **AROUND TOWN**

- Visit the **Kravis Center** at <a href="https://www.kravis.org/">https://www.kravis.org/</a> for upcoming events. If you are interested in joining the CAFCI Group to see performances at the Kravis Center, please text Genieve White at 561.876.4161.
- 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**.
- Mondays & Fridays, 12 pm to 1 pm: Senior Meal Program Royal Palm Beach Recreation Center Senior Games & Activities are held before and after starting at 10:30 am 2 pm.
- 1st Tuesday of every month, 3:30 pm to 5 pm: FREE Technology Workshops for Seniors at the Royal Palm Beach Recreation Center.

#### ARE YOU "IN THE KNOW"?

What do the COVID-19 vaccine, ice cream, central heating, stoplights, mailboxes, and phone and computer screens all have in common?

Black American inventors. That's right, Black Americans developed these life-changing and lifesaving inventions. And yet most Americans know none of the names or stories of the people responsible. Not one. So often in our history, the Black people behind the inventions and innovations that define our lives are made invisible and forgotten by history.

Sources: MoveOn.org; https://dailyhive.com/seattle/inventions-by-black-people



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