



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.

SEPTEMBER 2023

A NIGHT OF UNITY

Highlights from Membership Appreciation 2023

Audrey Smith and the Membership and Retention Committee orchestrated a spectacular Membership Appreciation Day on August 19! This was a wonderful tapestry of unity and celebration. The venue was transformed into the realm of a captivating garden party theme with lovely plants and tea lights. The tables were adorned with beautiful fresh flowers. It was refreshing to have our first Membership Appreciation Day in four years. To top it all off there was an astounding turnout of over 100 spirited members and supporters.



A quote by Mattie Stepanek, the late motivational speaker, embodied our special day, serving as a poignant reminder that unity is the cornerstone of accomplishment: "Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and

collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved." This sentiment became the underlying thread that wove together the various elements of the event, reinforcing the power of collective effort.



Dennis Wright, CAFCI President, started off with our business meeting by updating the attendees on CAFCI business. Audrey Smith also recognized the committees and encouraged people to get involved. Thank you to Henworth Ferguson for presenting a nice poem. Rhonda Ferrin-Davis then gave us a light-hearted and educational CAFCI history presentation. It was incredible to hear how the organization evolved over 34 years and transformed so many lives.

Following the monthly business meeting, games, laughter, and tantalizing

food highlighted the evening of unity. Additionally, there was an extra

spark of excitement as the attendees delved into the *Everything CAFCI Word Search* Puzzle in anticipation of qualifying for a drawing open to those who found at least 20 words. Everyone was focused on finishing the puzzle. The winners of the Word Search Drawing were Denise Fleischman from *the Town Crier* and Venus McGregor-Lowe. We will do this again!











A resounding round of applause to every helping hand that shaped the event with their tireless efforts and dedication. Audrey Smith led with boundless enthusiasm, along with the dynamic team of Cindy Beckles, Patsy Charlton, Phyllis Charlton, Charmaine Henry, Carolyn Hmara, Winsom Genus-Martin, Alvin Nembhard, Dennis Wright, and Yvonne Wright.

Thank you to all our CAFCI members whose unwavering efforts have sustained our organization for over 34 years! Although Junette Powell's physical presence might have been absent, her name echoed throughout the night — a testament to her lasting impact on CAFCI. New members and visitors alike lauded Junette for her warmth and outreach.

Congratulations to Dennis Wright for his 10 years of service as CAFCI's President!

Overall, the night was filled with celebration, togetherness, and numerous heartwarming moments. These kinds

of events remind us of the strength of community and the power of coming together. Here's to more chapters of unity and excitement ahead for CAFCI!

Submitted by: Cynthia Beckles, MBA, DTM







BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS

Winsom Genus-Martin ★ Carolyn Hmara Hildreth Stoddart-Brown

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

COMMITTEL	AIIVI EIVOONO	
Alliance	Genieve White	
Annual Friendship Ball.	Dennis Wright	
Budget	Radcliffe Brown	
Bylaws	Barbara Walker	
CAFCI Home	Radcliffe Brown	
CulturalHildr	eth Stoddart-Brown	
Finance		
Grants		
Historian/ProtocolR		
Membership		
Newsletter	Junette Powell	
Parliamentarian		
Picnic	•	
ProgramR		
Relay for Life		
Student Assistance Fun		
&		
Sunshine		
Toys for TotsLauriston Simms Ferrin Memorial Scholarship Fund		
	Genieve White	
Website		
YouthR	nonua remn-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

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

ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP BALL: It's about that time! Come one, come all. CAFCI's Annual Friendship Ball will be held at the West Palm Beach Marriott Hotel on Saturday, September 16th, 2023. We anticipate that attendance will meet or exceed pre-pandemic levels. Our 32nd anniversary ball will be an evening to remember. featuring extraordinary entertainment, fine dining, delectable wining, and the delightful laughter and warm camaraderie of friends. Ball attendees will dance to the classic sounds and wicked riddims of renowned DJ's Donovon and Mansta.

The evening's entertainment will be capped by the mesmerizing sounds of jazz saxophonist extraordinaire Julien Jay Wray and the quintessential island melodies of the Silverbird Steel Pan Player. Tickets are \$100 per person and can be purchased from the following CAFCI members:

- Audrey Smith ~ 561.601.8856
- Lawrence Logan ~ 561.791.0162
- Alvin Nembhard ~ 561.670.8113
- Dennis Wright ~ 561.653.1586

Gentle reminder: Try to purchase your tickets early as we anticipate a sold-out event.

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION: The Membership and Retention Committee did an outstanding job of organizing our annual Membership Appreciation Day. The venue was pure enchantment and reflected our gratitude for both our new and our veteran members.

Special recognition to the decorating committee who transformed the space via lush and vibrant local plants that captivated attendees and enhanced the garden party theme. Equal thanks to all who contributed to the savory array of assorted wines, cheeses and fruits.

CAFCI members exhibited their competitive spirit and gamesmanship playing favored games while indulging in tasty Caribbean dishes.

(continued on next page)



SEPTEMBER 16 - 30

Vincent Elliott	18
Shauna Simms	19
Frederick Pinto	21
Jannette Sharpe-Paul	23
Elizabeth Morgan	24
Marjorie Aiken	27
Hugh Smith	30
Lucille Walters	30

OCTOBER 1 - 15

Vinnie Perrin	04
Frank Watson	04
Larry Milender	05
Aldin Smith	05
Maxine Cheesman	06
Jeff Hmara	08
William Turner	12
Inelda Bullock	14
Sheila Wright	14
Lorna Pearson	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.

GET WELL TO: Jeff Webb

CONDOLENCES TO:

Herbert (Brutus) Chambers on the loss of his sister Elaine Ealy on the loss of her mother Family of Carmen Johnson

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..

Elet Cyris, Chair	561.791.9087
Paul Baker	
Samuel Baxter	561 358 3737

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from previous page)

Event attendance was impressive with over 100 members and supporters joining in the revelry. Underscoring CAFCI's infectious hospitality, and the success of our celebration, some ten attendees expressed an interest in joining our organization. We look forward to their membership and we welcome them.

Once again, extra applause to the Membership and Retention Committee—Audrey Smith (chair), Cindy Beckles, Winsom Genus-Martin, Charmaine Henry, Carolyn Hmara, Alvin Nembhard and Yvonne Wright for making this event especially memorable. And to the members who donated food and refreshments, and helped with the preparation and serving, the event was an undeniable success because of your contributions. Thank you.

Dennis Wright

CAFCI 32nd ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP BALL

Saturday, September 16, 2023 at 7 pm West Palm Beach Marriott 1001 Okeechobee Boulevard West Palm Beach, FL

Anticipation is building as we prepare for CAFCI's 32nd Annual Friendship Ball. The Ball Committee is working diligently to create a successful event. Be sure to save the date and get your tickets early from a CAFCI member or via the website. Find more details on the CAFCI website (cafcipbc.org) and elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thank You To Our Sponsors

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Hi Class Promotions of WAVS Radio
Lewis Longman & Walker, P.A.
S.A Nelson & Associates
Steve Higgins Productions
Truist Bank

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 7 pm Via Zoom ONLY

Join us for our General Membership meeting on Saturday, September 9th, where the focus will be on the upcoming Friendship Ball on Saturday, September 16, 2023.

To participate in the meeting, you will need a mobile device (smart phone/tablet) or a computer/laptop with a microphone. You may also call in. See instructions below.

Click on link or copy and paste link in your browser: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85318987422?pwd=dllLNER0a2 J uNlhtYUZIVkZzYmRSdz09 OR

Visit website: www.cafcipbc.org Select "Enter Zoom Meeting"
OR

Download the ZOOM App: www.zoom.com

Select "Join A Meeting"

Meeting ID: 853 1898 7422; Password: 478705

OR

Call-In: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 853 1898 7422; Password: 478705

Guess Who?



He has been a CAFCI member for many years. He may, or may not, still be an active member. Can you guess who he is? Identity will be revealed in the October issue of the NEWS. Caribbean-American for Community Involvement in Florida, Inc. 32nd Annual Friendship Ball Rearing Through the 200 WITH FORTITUDE AND COMMITMEN TO A DIVERSE COMMUNIT Saturday, Septembe 7 pm - 1 am Dinner Served at \$100 WEST PALM BEACH MARRIOTT 1001 Okeechobee Boulevard Advance Ticket Sales Only | Cash Bar West Palm Beach, FL 33401 SEMI-FORMAL | DOOR PRIZES | RAFFLE For more information or to purchase tickets | www.cafcipbc.org Dennis Wright * 561.653.1586 Alvin Nembhard * 561.670.8113 Audrey Smith * 561.601.8856

Lawrence Logan * 561.791.0162

CAFCI * 561.790.4002 or cafci@bellsouth.net

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

For more information, visit the Student Assistance Program section on CAFCI's website at https://www.cafcipbc.org/studentassistanceprogram or contact
Nadine White-Boyd at 561.351.6895 or Junette Powell at 561.346.2353

College Student Assistance Applications are now being accepted for 2024. Go to the Student Assistance tab of the CAFCI webpage (https://www.cafcipbc.org/student-assistance) for a link to the application form OR click on the link (https://www.cafcipbc.org/files/ugd/8ea0b3_626fbc21b5f7412dabbb8934f4f7f7b8.pdf) for the PDF form. Please share with your friends.

ONGOING DONATION: To donate to the Student Assistance Fund and/or sponsor an award recipient, please contact Nadine White-Boyd at 561.351.6895; Junette Powell at 561.346.2353; or visit CAFCI's website at https://www.cafcipbc.org/donation-center and select the Student Assistance option. A donation of any amount will help CAFCI's Student Assistance Fund Committee reach its fundraising goal. Please share the fundraiser link to help spread the word with family, friends, and social media contacts.

CAFCI Scouts BSA Troop 111



As my term as Senior Patrol Leader comes to an end, it is the time of year when we get busy preparing for the upcoming school year and all that stands ahead for the upcoming year. Troop 111 wrapped up the month of August planning for our monthly campouts for the year. We are excited to be able to travel to some new places and still look forward to enjoying some of our tried-and-true favorites...mine being Ahbalufa, where one of the many pairs of my glasses that I have lost as a Boy Scout, still lives to this day at the bottom of the lake.

We are also getting ready for our biggest fundraiser of the year, POPCORN! We had a fun popcorn kickoff party where our "Popcorn

Kernels" shared our new theme and some new and exciting flavors like S'mores! Our council also had an event to celebrate the Top 100 selling scouts last year and six scouts from Troop 111 were invited! Three of these scouts were in the TOP 10 in sales! We hope to break more records this year with our popcorn sales!







Sincerely, Jackson Eubanks Troop 111, Senior Patrol Leader



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

FEDERAL STUDENT AID INFORMATION

SAVE Repayment Plan Offers Lower Monthly Loan Payments

The Saving on A Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan, like other income-driven repayment (IDR) plans, calculates your monthly payment amount based on your income and family size. The SAVE Plan provides the lowest monthly payments of any IDR plan available to nearly all student borrowers. The SAVE Plan replaced the Revised Pay As You Earn (REPAYE) Plan. Borrowers on the REPAYE Plan automatically get the benefits of the new SAVE Plan. For more information visit https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/save-plan

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: 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.

The Finance committee has determined the type of business that would work and has received insightful recommendations regarding setup and operational costs and estimated income. When complete, the business plan will be presented to the Board for discussion and approval. The business plan is one of the pieces of documentation required by the organization we are soliciting to assist us in acquiring a loan for a CAFCI-owned building and headquarters, plus related capital expenses. The organization will help us secure financing prior to finding a place.



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.

If you have information about a 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.

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.

SEPTEMBER ... A MONTH OF CELEBRATIONS & AWARENESS

GRANDPARENTS' DAY

Happy Grandparents' Day to the grandmothers and grandfathers and all others who serve as grandparents to the children in their lives!

Grandparents! Where would we be without them?

Traditionally observed on the first Sunday after <u>Labor Day</u>, National Grandparents' Day is celebrated this year in the US and Canada on Sunday, September 10, 2023. In the US, Grandparents' Day may be observed with happy family gettogethers, travel excursions that include Grandma and Grandpa, and even civic events that celebrate grandparents throughout an entire community.

All about Grandparents' Day - Celebrating grandparents was a fairly new idea when West Virginian native, Marian McQuade, pressed the U.S. Senate to proclaim a special day for grandparents in 1978. That same year, President Jimmy Carter signed the bill into law proclaiming special recognition for grandparents throughout the land. As the popularity of Grandparents' Day caught on, the forget-me-not flower was designated the official flower of Grandparents' Day.

Today, Grandparents' Day remains a great excuse for family get-togethers -- marked with greeting cards, flower bouquets, special grandparents' day gifts, or for treating grandparents to a dinner out or homemade feast in their honor.

Grandparents' Day Fun Facts

- In the US and Canada, Grandparents' Day is celebrated in September on the first Sunday after Labor Day. Meanwhile, in the UK, it's the first Sunday in October. In Germany, Grandmothers Day is observed on the second Sunday in October. Dia del Abuelo, or Grandparents' Day, is celebrated in Mexico every year on August 28.
- In the US, it's grandma and grandpa. In Latin America and Spain it's abuela and abuelo. In Italy, it's nonna and nonno, and in Germany oma and opa are the traditional names for a grandmother and grandfather.
- Grandparents are younger than ever today with a median age of 48. More than half the grandparents in the United States are baby boomers and about 10% have tattoos!
- Grandparents are wonderful caregivers (think about all the experience they have!) with more than 2 million grandparents in the US acting as the heads+ of household.



DID YOU KNOW Grandparents raised... From top left, Oprah Winfrey, Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, and actor Jack Nicholson.

 Famous people who have been raised by their grandparents include Oprah Winfrey, Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, actor Jack Nicholson, singer Willie Nelson, funny lady Carol Burnett, and poet Maya Angelou.

Source: https://www.chiff.com/home_life/holiday/grandparents-day.htm

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30-day period.

Source: <u>4 Children's Books for Hispanic Heritage Month -</u> Christian-Works (christian-works.org)

September is a month that has been designated for multiple causes — though the five that get the most attention include Blood Cancer Awareness Month, National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month, Library Card Sign-up Month, National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and World Alzheimer's Disease Month.

Source: September: Awareness Months & Holidays for Causes (2023) (goodgoodgood.co)

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.

Saturday, September 9: General Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Via Zoom Only

Saturday, September 16, 2023, 7 pm

CAFCI'S ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP BALL

WEST PALM BEACH MARRIOTT

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

- Saturday, September 30th and Sunday, October 1st at 4:30 pm: The Louise Bennett-Coverley Heritage Council Fla, Inc. presents Pantomine: *Ol' Time Sinting [Come Back Again*] at Lauderhill Performing Arts Center, 3800 NW 11th Place, Lauderhill. For information, go to louisebennettheritage.com or call 954.777.2055.
- Saturday, October 7th at 6 pm: Caribbean American Cultural Group, Inc. (CACG) presents their 39th Anniversary Ball at MIDFLORIDA Event Center, 9221 S.E. Event Center Place, Port Saint Lucie, FL. For more information, contact Dorothy McFarlane at 732.763.3216.
- Visit the **Kravis Center** at https://www.kravis.org/ 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.

LET'S DO BUSINESS

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

Let's Support Businesses in our Community

CRUISE PLANNERS/CHARMED VACATIONS

"You Pack, We Plan"

Specializing in cruises, land tour vacations: custom and classic safaris $\ ^{\ }$ romantic allinclusive getaways $\ ^{\ }$ family-friendly tours $\ ^{\ }$ river cruises $\ ^{\ }$ history and culture tours

Valerie Dorsey

561.383.7774 • dorsey@cruiseplanners.com

Audrey Campbell

561.254.1385 • campbell@cruiseplanners.com www.charmedvacations.com

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 <u>junettep56@gmail.com</u> or <u>thaliaec@gmail.com</u> so that we can share it with our members.

FLORIDA SALES TAX HOLIDAY

Consumers can purchase qualifying disaster preparedness supplies exempt from tax during the 2023 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday. Passed by the Florida Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Ron DeSantis, the next sales tax holiday started Saturday, August 26 and extends through Friday, September 8. The Department of Revenue created this webpage to provide information and promotional materials for consumers, businesses, and other interested parties. For more information, Florida Dept. of Revenue - Home (floridarevenue.com)

CAFCI

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

