

NEWS

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

2025





Saturday, September 20, 2025 7 pm - 1 am
Dinner Served at 8 pm



Live Entertainment featuring



\$120

Advance Ticket Sales Only | Cash Bar SEMI-FORMAL | DOOR PRIZES | RAFFLE

WEST PALM BEACH MARRIOTT 1001 Okeechobee Boulevard West Palm Beach, FL 33401



For more information or to purchase tickets

Dennis Wright 561.653.1586

Audrey Smith 561.601.8856

Alvin Nembhard 561.670.8113

CAFCI ~ 561.790.4002 ~ cafci@bellsouth.net ~ CAFCIPBC.org

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CONTACT US

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Suite #134
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411
561.790.4002
cafci@bellsouth.net
www.cafcipbc.org
www.facebook.com/cafcipbc

General Membership Meeting 2nd Saturday of month Board Meeting 4th Thursday of month See back page for calendar of events.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends of CAFCI,

ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP BALL: As we begin the month of September, our focus turns with great anticipation to the 34th Annual Friendship Ball on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at the West Palm Beach Marriott. This event is CAFCI's most significant fundraiser of the year, supporting our community programs, scholarships and cultural initiatives. We encourage everyone to support by purchasing a ticket and inviting a friend. Please remember to secure your tickets now, as we look forward to another successful and enjoyable evening of culture, fellowship, and celebration.

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION: We extend sincere appreciation to all who helped make our August membership appreciation event such a success. The event was led by our dedicated Membership Committee Chair, Micaela Ferguson. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and recognition.

Special thanks also go to PostNet for their continued support in printing our membership newsletter for the past two months. Their partnership helps us keep our members informed and connected.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31st: We are also pleased to announce that we will resume our New Year's Eve Ball this year on December 31, 2025, at the Cultural Center in Royal Palm Beach. Please save the date! Many of you told us how much you missed this event last year, and we are looking forward to your full support as we bring it back in grand style.

OUTSTANDING DUES: A gentle reminder to our members: if you have outstanding dues, please make arrangements to bring your account up to date. Your contributions help sustain CAFCI's work and mission.

NEW MEMBERS: Finally, we are delighted to welcome all new members who joined us in July and August. We look forward to your active participation and fresh ideas as part of the CAFCI family.

Thank you all for your continued support and commitment. Together, let us make this September a month of unity, service and celebration.

Warm regards,

Dennis Wright

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Raymond and Paula Ferguson Monique Harris Jenneta Walsh

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September 16 - 30

Michelle R. Miller	17
Vincent Elliott	18
Shauna Simms	19
Jannette Sharpe-Paul	23
Elizabeth Morgan	24
Phyllis Charlton	27
Raymond Ferguson	29
Hugh Smith	30
Lucille Walters	30

October 1-15

Paula Ferguson	02
Vinnie Perrin	04
Frank Watson	04
Larry Milender	05
Aldin Smith	05
Maxine Cheesman	06
Jeff Hmara	08
Rachelle Litt	11
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 an email to CAFCI (cafci@bellsouth.net) and we will update the birthday list. We apologize for any oversight.

GET WELL TO:

Cynthia Hamm Jeff Webb

CONDOLENCES TO:

Genieve White, Thalia Lauren and Nadine White-Boyd on the loss of their aunt Francis Streete White



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

CAFCI RECOGNIZED WITH SEPTEMBER 20 PROCLAIMED AS CARIBBEAN AMERICAN DAY IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

Palm Beach County, FL – September 9, 2025 — The Caribbean American for Community Involvement in Florida, Inc. (CAFCI) is proud to announce that the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners has officially proclaimed September 20th as Caribbean American Day in Palm Beach County.

The proclamation was presented by Commissioner Sara Baxter, Vice Mayor and District 6 Commissioner, recognizing the significant contributions of the Caribbean-American community to the cultural, educational, and civic life of Palm Beach County.

"We are deeply honored by this recognition," said Dennis Wright, President of CAFCI. "On behalf of our members, I thank the Mayor and all the Palm Beach County Commissioners for their continued support of our diverse community, and a special thank you to Commissioner Baxter for spearheading this effort."

Founded in Palm Beach County, CAFCI's mission is to create respect and mutual understanding among all ethnic groups in the community. The organization sponsors cultural and educational events, provides scholarships to students, supports humanitarian needs, and works to strengthen unity across cultures.

CAFCI's signature events include the Friendship Ball, the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, and Cultural Diversity Day—all of which highlight the group's commitment to bridging cultures while honoring Caribbean heritage.

"This proclamation is not only an honor, but also an affirmation of CAFCI's ongoing work to uplift, connect, and serve," Wright added.

To get involved, please visit our website CAFCIpbc.org.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Business Awareness

Saturday, September 13, 2025

In-Person & Via Zoom 10287 Okeechobee Boulevard Level-X Fitness Center - Suite A-5 Royal Palm Beach

(corner of Okeechobee Blvd. and State Road 7 / US 441)

Calling all CAFCI Members and friends! Our Business Annual Membership **Awareness** meeting is just around the corner. See the flyer below for more information. Come out and feature your business!

If you are unable to attend in person, join us via Zoom:

- Visit website: www.cafcipbc.org Select "Enter Zoom Meeting"
- Click on link or copy and paste link in your
 - https://usO2web.zoom.us/j/85318987422?pw d=dllLNEROa2JuNlhtYUZlVkZzYmRSdz09
- www.zoom.com Select "Join A Meeting" Meeting ID: 853 1898 7422 | Password: 478705
- Call-In: +1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 853 1898 7422 | Password: 478705

Caribbean-American for Community Involvement in Florida Inc.



ANNUAL BUSINESS AWARENESS NIGHT &

General Membership Meeting

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th, 2025, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 10287 Okeechobee Blvd. Level-X Fitness Center, Suite A-5 Royal Palm Beach, next to Target Shopping Plaza.

STRONGER TOGETHER **GROW YOUR BUSINESS**

REFRESHMENTS **SERVED**

SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

DISCOVER **EACH OTHERS BUSINESSES**

JOIN US

For more information & to have your business featured with us. Visit www.cafcipbc.org or call us! HAVE FUN



NETWORK

Call Now Rhonda-561-685-9836 Hildreth-561-889-1143 Norma-541-440-3932

ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP BALL

Saturday, September 20, 2025

West Palm Beach Marriott 1001 Okeechobee Boulevard. West Palm Beach

It's that time of year again! CAFCI's 2025 Annual Friendship Ball promises to be an elegant, fun and festive evening celebrating the joy of community service.

The Ball Committee is working diligently to put everything in place to curate an unforgettable event.

Please save the date and get your tickets now https://www.cafcipbc.org/annualat friendship-ball or from a CAFCI member. For more details see the flyer on the cover of this newsletter and on the CAFCI website (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 it as space permits.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND

EMPOWERING YOUTH & INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

The Student Assistance Fund Committee thanks everyone who donated to the Student Assistance Fund. See the 2025 "Thank You flyer" which is included in this newsletter and posted on CAFCI's website at https://www.cafcipbc.org/studentassistanceprogram.



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

reach its fundraising goal. If you cannot donate, please share the fundraiser link to help spread the word with family, friends and social media contacts.

If you missed the 2025 awards ceremony, the video with congratulatory messages from past recipients and pictures from the award ceremony can be viewed on CAFCI's website https://www.cafcipbc.org/studentassistanceprogram.

CAFCI VALUES STATEMENT

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

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

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

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

CAFCI STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND

Empowering Youth & Investing in Our Future



CAFCI extends heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors whose financial contributions make the 2025 Student Assistance Fund (SAF) possible. Your support empowers students to pursue their educational goals and achieve their dreams. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to making a difference in their lives and within our community.

(List complete as of August 31, 2025)

SPONSORS

Bodden & Bennett Law Group, Carlos Bodden, Esq.
Robert Diffenderfer, Esq. and Michelle Diffenderfer, Esq.
Rosita Edwards and Family
Wendy Edwards and Yvonne Edwards
Escoffery Family and Martin Family
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NextEra Energy | Florida Power & Light Company
Port of Palm Beach, Honorable Wayne Richards
Jess and Victoria Santamaria
Truist Bank
Genieve White Family

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Golden Krust, Clayton Robinson
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Hazel Hamilton
Cecelia Harriott
Michelle Henriquez
Michael Hill and Norma Smith-Hill, Esq.

Jeff and Carolyn Hmara **Dorothy Jacks Dominique and Alpha McDonald** Lillian McGann Willowmere Gardens LLC. **Steven Morrison Shirley and Mark Morrison** Jean Middleton, Esq. Valerie Payton Ledlo "Neil" and Junette Powell **Opal Sangster Sheena Bouchet Simmons Hilary Varlack** Nadine White-Boyd, Esq. Marva Wilks **Yvonne Wright**

STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND COMMITTEE

Junette Powell, Co-Chair • Nadine White-Boyd, Esq., Co-Chair • Leonie Escoffery, Treasurer Doreen Baker • Lavern Blackwood • Robin Ferguson • Norma Smith-Hill • Marva Wilks

CAFCI SCOUTS + TROOP 111

Greetings CAFCI!

Troop 111 had an exciting month filled with tradition, celebration and milestones!



Troop 111 alumni, Carlos Chirino, Scoutmaster Ryan McNally, Troop 111 alumni, Sam Johnson

We were honored to welcome back two of our distinguished alumni, Carlos Chirino and Sam Johnson, who visited the troop and shared words of encouragement with our Scouts. Their continued involvement and support remind us of the lifelong bonds that scouting creates and the leadership lessons that carry forward into adulthood.

Adding to the excitement, we had Arrow of Light Scouts visiting from Pack 111 and Pack 147. These

future Scouts showed great energy and enthusiasm, and some even earned their Bobcat rank during the evening. Congratulations to these Cubs on this important step in their scouting journey!

The troop also celebrated a major milestone with the completion of two Eagle Scout service projects. Both Mohammed and Keenan successfully led their projects to completion, demonstrating leadership, teamwork and dedication to their communities. These



Pack 111: Gracyn Vallee, Micah Johnson



Isabella Page, Alyvia Wasson, Keil Grieser, Carlos Chirino, Nael Issa, Robert Mahne, Zakary Wasson, Sam Johnon, Lucas Schnick Baker

accomplishments mark the final step toward earning Scouting's highest rank, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements. Wish them luck at their Board of Reviews next month!!

Troop 111 continues to thrive thanks to the hard work of our Scouts, the guidance of our leaders, the support of our families, alumni and our CAFCI friends. With so many bright moments in one month, it's clear the future of our troop is strong!

Yours in Scouting, Keenan Stack Senior Patrol Leader, 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

August 9th Monthly Membership Meeting MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION

Our recent Membership Appreciation Night was a wonderful success – well hosted, enjoyable, and filled with community spirit. We sincerely thank all who contributed and participated in making the evening so special. As a reminder, please bring your thank-you notes to the upcoming General Membership meeting on September 13th; additional cards will be provided for those who wish to share a message of appreciation with CAFCI members.

Submitted by Micaela Ferguson, Membership Chair



CAFCI board members: Paul Baker, Carolyn Hmara, Rhonda Davis, Genieve White, Doreen Baker, Yvonne Elliott, Marva Wilks



Micaela Ferguson, Robin Ferguson, Marva Wilks



Alvin Nembhard, Rhonda Davis, Winston Davis



Caren Muir, Thalia Lauren, Barbara Walker







Photography by Denise Fleischman

September is a month filled with various celebrations, including national and international observances, awareness campaigns, and cultural festivals.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY September 7th

Grandparents Day is always celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day. In 2025, that's Sunday, September 7! While we honor our grandparents daily, take an extra moment to appreciate all the joy and wisdom that grandparents bring to our lives.



JUST FOR TODAY...

JUST FOR TODAY, I will experience and enjoy each hour to the fullest and not try to tackle my whole life's problems all at once.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will try to improve my mind by learning more than I know; I will read something that requires effort, thought, concentration, and commitment.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will be agreeable. I will try to look my best, speak softly, and be courteous and considerate to others.

JUST FOR TODAY, I won't find fault or try to change or improve anyone but myself.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will have a plan and a goal. I might not follow it exactly, but I will have one, nonetheless.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will develop my character. I will do a good turn and keep it a secret; if anyone finds out, it won't count.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will do something I don't want to do. That way, I will train my spirit to overrule my flesh, and my will to overrule my emotions.

JUST FOR TODAY, I won't be afraid to love or to risk; I will endeavor to enjoy all God's blessings and believe that every seed I sow in His Kingdom will be multiplied back to me many times over.

That's how I will live-JUST FOR TODAY!"



National Hispanic Heritage Month is observed annually from September 15 to October 15 in the United States for recognizing the contributions and influence of Hispanic culture to the nation's achievements, culture, and history.

To celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, you can support Hispanic-owned businesses, attend cultural festivals or virtual events, explore Latino cuisine, visit museums, read books by Latino authors, watch relevant films and TV shows, listen to music, learn Spanish, and participate in or organize cultural events like cooking demonstrations, art exhibits, or music and dance performances with friends, family, or colleagues

Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Hispanic_ _Heritage_Month

LET'S DO BUSINESS

When we support a small business in our community or share a recommendation about that business' services and excellence, we help that business to grow; and in helping that business to grow, we help our community to grow. We show by virtue of our dollars and our support, that a business is reputable, valuable, and worthy of patronage.

Let's Support Businesses in Our Community.

LEVEL-X FITNESS CENTER

10287 Okeechobee, Suite A1 Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411 561.790.0013

https://levelx-fitness.com Email: rcarroll214@yahoo.com Mon - Thu: 8 am - 9 pm; Fri: 8 am - 8 pm Sat: 8 am - 6 pm; Sun: 8 am - 1 pm

24/7 Access to Gym

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

• junettep56@gmail.com or thaliaec@gmail.com

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

CAFCI website: https://www.cafcipbc.org/donation-center Please share with your friends and family.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO CAFCI???

2025 MEMBERSHIP DUES (Single - \$80 • Couple - \$140)

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

Submit check payable to: CAFCI Mail to CAFCI, Attention: Membership

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





For C.A.F.C.I.



Our current objective is to have the community funding organization provide us with a Letter of Interest or credit so that when another opportunity comes our way we have a funding source to supplement our available funds.

Last month we made an appeal for someone with the necessary knowledge, experience and skill to assist us with the planning, set up and operation of a business to provide income to assist in paying off a mortgage.

Other options under consideration include the possibility of purchasing a large commercial building and subletting some of its spaces. To that end, we are also looking for someone with property-management experience to assist us in determining the feasibility of this option.

If you are able to step in and assist, or know of anyone who can, please contact Radcliffe "Woody" Brown at 561-790-4002 or 561-791-3344 and leave a message. You can also send an email to cafci@bellsouth.net.

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.



CAFCI's Home Of Our Own

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

Mark Your Calendar CAFCI's 2025 Events

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

Saturday, September 13th at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~ Business Awareness

Saturday, September 20th, 7 pm ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP BALL

West Palm Beach Marriott
1001 Okeechobee Boulevard. West Palm Beach

Saturday, October 11th at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sunday, November 2nd, 12 noon to 4 pm VAFMSF DRIVE THRU BBQ

Camp Davis - 2131 F Road, Loxahatchee FL 33470 (Access through entrance of Palms West Church at 13689 Okeechobee Blvd, Loxahatchee)

Saturday, November 8th at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~ International Games/Elections Saturday, December 13th at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~ Toys for Tots

Friday, December 31st, 8 pm NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL

Royal Palm Beach Cultural Center

CAFCI GROUP EVENTS

Contact Genieve White at 561.876.4161 if you would like to attend performance(s) at the Kravis Center with the CAFCI Group.

Tuesday, October 21st at 7:30 pm | THE WIZ

AROUND TOWN

- Saturday, September 27th at 8 pm to Sunday, September 28th at 12 am | Join the Jamaican Women of Florida (JWOF) for an exciting evening of bingo, karaoke, appetizers, and bubbly fun at 2655 S. State Road 7, Suite E820, Wellington, FL. The event supports scholarships for the next generation of leaders. Your \$20 ticket includes: 2 Bingo cards, appetizers, karaoke & entertainment. Get your ticket & share now: Eventbrite link: https://jwofbingo.eventbrite.com or Zelle: Bingo & Bubbles + your name.
- Saturday, October 11th from 11 am to 5 pm and Friday, October 31st from 12 pm to 6 pm | God is Bigger Than Cancer Foundation, Inc. present BREAST HEALTH EDUCATION with Free Mammogram Screening at 12555 Miramar Parkway, Miramar, FL. For more information or to schedule your mammogram, call 954.762.3649, email gibtcfi@gmail.com or go to http://www.3dmobilemammography.com or https://godisbigerthancancer.org.
- Saturday, October 25th at 6 pm | FREE SPIRIT OUTREACH INC. presents their 4th Annual COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS CEREMONY at Hilton Hotel PBI Majestic Ballroom, 150 Australian Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL. Contribution: \$120. For information call 561.708.3193 or 561.427.8688.
- Sunday, October 26th from 5 to 9 pm | A 5th Anniversary Gala Celebration, FIYAHI FASHION. FOLKLORE. FUTURE. benefiting the Island SPACE Caribbean Museum. A dazzling gala of theatrical spectacle and Caribbean soul at the Fort Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa, 3030 Holiday Drive, Fort Lauderdale, FL. Learn more, grab your tickets, and preview the lookbook at www.islandspacefl.org/fiyah
- Sunday, November 9th from 1 pm to 10 pm | GRACE presents JAMAICAN JERK FESTIVAL at Miramar Regional Park, 16801 Miramar Pkwy, Miramar, FL. For more information, go to www.jerkfestival.com.
- Visit the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County at https://www.palmbeachculture.com/events for upcoming activities.
- Events in Wellington, go to https://aroundwellington.com/
- Events in West Palm Beach, go to https://downtownwpb.com/explore/calendar/

CAFCI

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

2025 HURRICANE SEASON

Eastern Pacific: May 15-November 30 | Atlantic: June 1-November 30 | Central Pacific: June 1-November.

Take an Active Role in Your Safety Go to <u>Ready.gov/hurricanes</u> and use FEMA's Guide for Alerts and Warnings to learn more about hurricane watches and warnings. Download the FEMA app to get more information about how to prepare.

PRINTING OF CAFCI'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY

