



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

2014

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 Youth Rhonda Ferrin-Davis

CONTACT US

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 Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411
 561-790-4002
 cafcfi@bellsouth.net * www.cafcipc.org

**Board meetings are held the
 4th Thursday of the month.
 See back page for calendar of events.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we move forward in our twenty fifth year as an organization, we will strive to make this year even more special. New board members were sworn in on January 15, 2014. We currently have eight board members with one vacancy. We have a lot of activities planned for our 25th year celebration. The year began with a successful celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday at the Royal Palm Beach Cultural Center. This year, the entire program was dedicated to our youths. The keynote address was given by Tamyla Fisher, a thirteen year old girl from our community. The performers were all youngsters. Masters of Ceremonies were Ashley Bastin and Jonathan Claridge, both youngsters from the community. There were over 500 people in attendance at this event. Congratulations to Elet Cyris and her entire team for a well-coordinated event. The overwhelming response was positive. Individuals came up and asked how and where we found such talent; others stated that this was the best event in the 12-year history of the program. Thanks to the Village of Royal Palm Beach and the Palm Beach Cultural Council for partnering with CAFCI to host this event again this year. Thanks to the members of the Cultural Committee: Elet Cyris, Marjorie Aiken, Paul Baker, Hope Francis, Henworth Ferguson, Ernie Garvey, Margaret Granda, Winsom Martin, Shirley Morrison and Genieve White for their hard work in putting this program together. Thanks to all our members, supporters and friends who contributed food, money and time to make this event a memorable one. Please see highlights of MLK celebration elsewhere in this newsletter.

Continued on next page

2014 MEMBERSHIP DUES

You may submit your membership dues online at www.cafcipc.org or mail to CAFCI
 Attention: Lawrence Logan
 1030 Royal Palm Beach Blvd., Box 11
 Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

*Welcome
 New Member
 Dr. Douglas Lawton*

Happy Birthday:

FEBRUARY 16 - 28

Julia Adams	21
Alfred Nelson	22
Betty Mallory	23
Stephen Williams	25

MARCH 1 - 15

Richard Valuntas	03
Vinette Tracey	04
Marjorie Smikle	10
Millie Hampton	11
Winston Davis	15

CONDOLENCES TO:

Marjorie Aiken and family
 on the loss of a relative
 Newbolt Wilson and family
 on the loss of his brother
 Vincen Malvo and family
 on the loss of his sister-in-law

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Newbolt Wilson

Please Let Us Know...

Please contact one of our Sunshine Committee members if you are ill, know of anyone who is ill or would like to share any condolences and would like it to be announced in the NEWS:

Elet Cyris, Chair 791-9087
 Paul Baker 784-0067
 Samuel Baxter 798-2864

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *(continued)*

This February, the African American community, and the nation as a whole, will celebrate Black History Month. This year's theme is "Civil Rights in America." Civil Rights is defined as rights to personal liberty established by the 13th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and certain Congressional acts, especially as applied to an individual or a minority group. It has been 50 years since the Civil Rights Act was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Most people consider the traditional civil rights issue to be the struggle for racial equality that continues today. Additional civil rights issues have risen to the forefront from the right to education and health care, to gay rights and equal pay. We will have a guest speaker for black history month at our meeting on Saturday, February 8, 2014.

Dennis Wright
President

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 socio-economic background.

We support the participation in and promotion of events that lead to respect and mutual understanding among the various cultural, ethnic and socio-economic 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.

GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, February 8 at 7 p.m.
Harvin Center, Royal Palm Beach

February is the season of love and remembering our history. The meeting will be a time to enjoy friends and family, and will be dedicated to Black History. We will be addressed by Barbara Chieves, a race relations consultant and President and CEO of Converge & Associates Consulting. Let's have a good turnout.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Submitted by Nova Brown

Relay for life 2014 will be held at the Royal Palm Beach High School. The event starts at 4:00 p.m. on April 5th and concludes at 6:00 a.m. on April 6th. What will be your role this year to help find a cure for this awful disease? Just about everyone knows someone who has been affected by cancer. You could have experienced it personally or have a friend or relative who was diagnosed, or be the caretaker for a loved one who is battling the disease.



someone who has been affected by cancer. You could have experienced it personally or have a friend or relative who was diagnosed, or be the caretaker for a loved one who is battling the disease.

This year I am asking every CAFCI member to help us reach our goal of \$2,500. Donation forms will be available soon so you can start thinking about who you will ask to contribute to your personal goal. If you prefer to seek donations online, you can do so right now by going to CAFCI's website at cafcipbc.org where you will find a link to CAFCI's Relay for Life page. There you may just make a donation or make a donation and join the CAFCI team. If you join our team, you can send emails to friends and relatives and ask them to contribute to your personal goal and our team. We will have a demonstration at the February general Membership meeting to show you all the steps.

More information and details will be available in the coming weeks.

CAFCI Members, . . . if you would like to share any accomplishments of close relatives (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 784-0067). If there is any other information you would like to be included in the NEWS, please submit information to Junette Powell (junettep@hotmail.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
BI-LO HOLDINGS FOUNDATION INVESTS \$5,000 IN CAFCI

Submitted by Dr. Elaine Ealy

CAFCI is proud to announce that Bi-Lo Holdings Foundation is investing \$5,000 in CAFCI. The funds provided by the Bi-Lo Holdings Foundation will provide initial financial assistance to at least five high school graduating seniors who will begin further studies at an accredited college, university or institution of higher learning.

Established in 1943, the Bi-Lo Holdings Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to making the communities it serves a better place to live. The Bi-Lo Holdings Foundations awards grants to organizations that support programs and initiatives helping to foster healthy and thriving communities in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

"Making personal connections with local organizations and giving back to those in need in our communities, is the motivating force behind who we are as a company," said Mary Kellmanson, Bi-Lo Holdings' senior vice president of marketing, and president of the Bi-Lo Holdings Foundation. "Bi-Lo Holdings is honored to dedicate time, resources and funds to benefit our customers, neighbors, friends and family. We are thankful that we are able to develop and grow partnerships with these organizations and help them improve the lives of our neighbors."

This year's graduating seniors who wish to apply for financial assistance must have a 3.0 or higher GPA and must complete an application. Proof of acceptance from the prospective college, university or institution of higher learning must accompany the application. Applications are available on our website, at our office and from all high school guidance counselors.

Student Assistance Eligibility Requirements:

Applicant must:

- Be a resident of Palm Beach County, Florida
- Currently attend high school in Palm Beach County, and is expecting to graduate within one year
- Demonstrate an interest in Caribbean-American affairs
- Provide a completed application postmarked no later than March 15, 2014
- Provide an acceptance letter from a college/university (this must accompany the application)
- Be available for an interview on April 5, 2014
- Be able to attend a Presentation of Awards Ceremony on May 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. if selected

Applications and accompanying documents must be sent to 1030 Royal Palm Beach Blvd., Box 11, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411 and must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2014. For more information contact Dr. Elaine Ealy, Student Assistance Committee Chair, at (561) 351-0068 or via email cafcibellsouth.net.

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**LETTER FROM**  
**2013 CAFCI STUDENT ASSISTANCE AWARD RECIPIENT**

*Hello Dr. Ealy!*

*School is going great! Last semester, I took Chemistry, Italian, modern dance, flute lessons, neuroimaging (a neuroscience class about MRI), and ballet. I auditioned and made it into the Emory wind ensemble and I have been selected to be on the executive board for Alpha Phi Omega. This semester I am taking chemistry, biology and health. I was also in the Emory dance company and pledged the co-ed community service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega. Last semester was truly a blessing and I hope this one goes equally as well. Thank you so much for everything. None of it would have been possible without you all :)*

Sara Pengelley

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**CAFCI'S SCOUT**

*Submitted by Rhonda Ferrin-Davis*

**Troop 111**

Community Service Event: MLK Flag Ceremony

- Over 40 Boy Scouts participated in this community event. Special thanks to Jonathan Claridge who served as Co MC for the event, completing one of his Communication Badge requirements.

Campout: Ft. Wilderness at Disney World

- The scouts had a great time playing dodge ball, volleyball, and participating in a sport competition.

Activity: Engineering Merit Badge

- Building Catapults as part of the Engineering Merit Badge

Other: Eagle Scout!!!

- Congratulations to Casey Whalen, T111's newest Eagle Scout, who passed his Board of Review.

**Pack 120**

Community Service Event: MLK Flag Ceremony

- About 6 Cub Scouts participated in this community event.

Activity: Pinewood Derby

- The Cub Scouts designed and decorated their pinewood cars, then raced in a competition. A lot of fun was had by all.

## CAFCI AND ROYAL PALM BEACH CELEBRATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BIRTHDAY

*Submitted by Dr. Douglas Lawton*

Caribbean American for Community Involvement (CAFCI) on Monday, January 20, 2014 celebrated twelve years of cultural excellence in honor of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Americans from various walks of life, including Afro-Americans, Caucasians, Latino Americans, Caribbean Americans and Asian Americans met together to celebrate the life of the great United States civil rights leader. The event was co-sponsored by the Village of Royal Palm Beach and the Palm Beach Cultural Council. Dignitaries in attendance included the Honorable Matty Mattioli, Mayor of the Village of Royal Palm Beach, and Councilman, Honorable Fred Pinto.

Dr. King is known for his leadership of the Civil Rights Movement in America in the 1950s and 1960s, and for his "I Have a Dream" speech. In a non-violent way, King fought for racial equality and other human and civil liberties. The celebration, mainly involving participation of the young people from Royal Palm Beach and its environs, began with a flag-raising ceremony led by Boy Scout Troup 111 of Royal Palm Beach and included an



Young Singers of the Palm Beaches

mesmerized with her well-executed rendition of the poem, "I am a Little Black Girl." Asian American, Amanda Ng, brought down the house with her song and surprising and delightful dance.

Not to be outdone, keynote speaker thirteen-year-old Tamyla Fisher, in a passionate speech, addressed the audience in language well beyond her years. She noted that despite the election of a Black man to the nation's highest office, the struggle for racial equality is not over. President Obama, for example, has been treated with disrespect; his efforts to move the country forward have been met with resistance and in some cases undermined by some white people, she stated. Citing the Travon Martin case, Miss Fisher highlighted the fact that elements of racial inequality are still prevalent throughout the American society and in many of society's institutions. Miss Fisher also challenged black people to do better in terms of how they represent themselves and in terms of their aspirations. The performers and others who participated in the event did well and are to be applauded. Thanks to Elet Cyris, Cultural Chair of CAFCI, to the Cultural Committee, sponsors and others who worked together to make the event a cultural delight.

It was heartening to see the nation's young people of various classes and races on the same platform celebrating the life and ideals of one who epitomized the struggle for civil rights. One hopes that this was not just a performance to showcase their talent or to express token solidarity with the Civil Rights Movement.

Unfortunately, young black men were noticeably underrepresented at the celebration, both in terms of their participation and attendance at the event. This bears a reflection of their noticeable absence from other activities of significance, and underscores the need for their re-engagement in critical areas of family, community and national life.

It is apparent that the black man in America is an endangered species. The danger can be averted if families, CAFCI and other institutions play a greater role in reaching black men at an early age and in supporting their development throughout their lifespan. Like Dr.



Hunter-Lynn Bhagwandeem



Jade Masters



Broadway Kids

invocation by Reverend Willie Davila. The young people feted the audience with an array of genres including poetry, speech, song, dance, violin and piano music. The Broadway Kids thrilled the audience with their Broadway-style music and seemed ready to take Broadway by storm. The Sunshine Youth Ministry uplifted spiritually with a dance of praise. Six-year-old Tehya Morris

King, black men however need to take responsibility for their own destiny, have their own dream and do their best to realize those dreams.

Too many black men are in prison, hanging out on street corners and are pushing drugs. Appropriate male role models in large enough quantities are sadly lacking in virtually all the professions and in other areas of life. Besides the need for black men to be earnest about helping themselves, more resources need to be deployed in the direction of black men in America. Dr. King had a dream and worked relentlessly to realize his dream. Yet he did not and could not do it alone. He enlisted and received the help of others.

Much more can be done in terms of mentoring, educating and uplifting the Black population. Society on the whole needs to break down barriers which divide us and ensure equal opportunity for all races thus enabling every man to realize his own dream. As part of the human race, we share a collective responsibility toward one another. "The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human, and, therefore, brothers" (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.).



Sean Adams, Dennis Wright,  
Kareem Ali



Frances Pickney, Rhonda  
Ferrin-Davis, Robert Pickney



Marsha Elliott, Danielle Nelson,  
Dr. Katherine Harvey

*Photos provided by  
Damon Webb and  
The Town-Crier*

## **LITTLE KNOWN BLACK HISTORY FACTS.....**

Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, an African American from Sainte-Domingue (Haiti), built the first permanent settlement in what would become Chicago in 1779.

If you enjoy buying fresh food from across the country at your local supermarket, you have an African American inventor named Frederick McKinley Jones to thank. He invented the air-cooling units used in food transporting trucks in the 1930s, and was awarded more than 60 patents over the course of his life, 40 of which involved refrigeration equipment.

Joseph Hayne Rainey was the first African American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. He was a congressman from South Carolina elected to that post in 1890 and enjoyed the longest tenure of any Black during Reconstruction.

Sir William Arthur Lewis, a professor of economics at Princeton University, was the first African American to receive a Nobel Peace Prize which represents the highest level of accomplishment for an economist. He received the award in 1979.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Rebecca Cole was the second black woman to graduate from medical school (1867). She joined Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first white woman physician, in New York and taught hygiene and childcare to families in poor neighborhoods.

Born the son of a French planter and a slave in New Orleans, Norbert Rillieux was educated in France. Returning to the U.S., he developed an evaporator for refining sugar, which he patented in 1846. Rillieux's evaporation technique is still used in the sugar industry and in the manufacture of soap and other products.

Did you know that we have Henry Sampson to thank for the invention of the cell phone? He is the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering in the United States. On July 6, 1971, Henry T. Sampson invented the "gamma-electric cell", which pertains to Nuclear Reactor use. Mobile Communications took a big step forward in 1983 with the invention of the Cellular System regulating the portable telephones, which use radio waves to transmit and receive audio signals. Before this time, mobile telephone service in the United States, consisting mainly of car phones, was extremely limited because metropolitan areas had only one antenna for these purposes. He holds patents related to solid rocket motors and conversion of nuclear energy into electricity. He also pioneered a study of internal ballistics of solid rocket motors using high-speed photography. He was also a producer of documentary films on early black filmmakers and film products.

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

How do you build a house one may ask? With a foundation and one brick at a time. In an effort for CAFCI to find a home, every "brick" counts. The Buy-A-Brick program provides everyone an opportunity to participate in this venture. Please visit the web page at [www.cafcipbc.org](http://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 participate in the program by allowing monthly payments to purchase a brick. Monthly payments of \$50 will be accepted for a \$1,000 brick and \$150 for a \$3,000 brick.*

We are still looking for volunteers to assist in with the golf event. If you are willing and able please call Radcliffe "Woody" Brown at 561-791-3344 or send an email to [radcliffewoody@aol.com](mailto:radcliffewoody@aol.com) or [cafci@bellsouth.net](mailto:cafci@bellsouth.net).



*Love is like playing the piano.  
First you must learn to play by the rules,  
then you must forget the rules  
and play from your heart.  
- Helen Rowland*

**CAFCI**

1030 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard  
Box 11  
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.*

FEBRUARY 8: General Meeting at 7 p.m., Harvin Center

MARCH 8: General Meeting at 7 p.m., Harvin Center

APRIL 5 - APRIL 6: Relay for Life from 4 p.m. to 6 a.m., Royal Palm High School

APRIL 12: General Meeting at 7 p.m., Harvin Center

APRIL 19: Annual Picnic. Okeeheelee Park at 12 noon, Micanopy Pavillion

MAY 3: General Meeting & Scholarship Awards Presentation at 7 p.m., Harvin Center

MAY 10: Cultural Diversity Day

MAY 31: Golf Tournament, Village Golf Club

JUNE 14: General Meeting at 7 p.m., Harvin Center

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday, September 20, 2014, CAFCI's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball.**

*Details will be provided on the website and in upcoming issues of the NEWS.*

**AROUND TOWN.....**

February 14<sup>th</sup> - February 18<sup>th</sup>: **PALM BEACH JEWELRY, ART & ANTIQUE SHOW** at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. This show is the largest of its kind in the United States. International exhibitors display their fine works from across the globe in a prestigious show encompassing fine jewelry, exquisite works of art and fascinating antiques. You will find something for everyone at this annual event. For more information visit [palmbeachshow.com](http://palmbeachshow.com).

February 28<sup>th</sup> - March 2<sup>nd</sup>: **WESTFEST** at Royal Palm Beach Commons Park. Get out your boots and kick up your heels for a grand old WESTERN STYLE celebration with full carnival atmosphere and western style entertainment. Vendors may visit [www.pottcevents.com](http://www.pottcevents.com) to register. For information, call Cultural Center at 561-790-5149 or visit [rpbwestfest.com](http://rpbwestfest.com).