**AFC Happy National Caribbean Heritage Month!**

National Caribbean Heritage Month was first envisioned by Dr. Claire Nelson and was even “unofficially” celebrated across the nation for the first time in 2000.

However, the move to officially declare June as National Caribbean Heritage Month started in 2004 when a legislative bill was passed by Congresswoman Barbara Lee. The resolution was made official in 2006 when President G.W. Bush signed the proclamation, naming June as National Caribbean American Month.

During this Month, knowledge regarding the contributions of the Caribbean Community is highlighted, reminding everyone about the contributions that the peoples of the Caribbean have made to the arts, music, entertainment, culture, cuisine, politics, and international relations!

**Ways to Celebrate:**

Check out your local Caribbean-owned eateries. Here in South Florida, there is no shortage of Caribbean-owned (and Caribbean-inspired) restaurants and eateries. Check out this short list from “Eater Miami”: <https://miami.eater.com/maps/miami-best-caribbean-restaurants-map-guide>

Attend local Caribbean community events. Here’s a guide from The Greater Miami & Miami Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau:

<https://www.miamiandbeaches.com/things-to-do/history-and-heritage/celebrate-caribbean-heritage-month-in-miami>

If you know someone who is of Caribbean heritage, take them out to lunch or coffee and ask them to talk about their culture.

If you, yourself, are of Caribbean heritage, visit your local library to learn more about your culture. Here’s a link to a catalog search of books and other materials on Caribbean food, culture and politics from the Miami Dade Public Library System (MDPLS): <https://mdpls.na.iiivega.com/search?query=Caribbean%20Culture>

Here’s a link that leads to a search of books and other materials on Caribbean Culture from Miami Dade College’s library system:

<https://mdc-flvc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01FALSC_MDC:MDC&tab=Everything&search_scope=MyInst_and_CI&lang=en&mode=simple&query=any,contains,Caribbean%20Culture&facet=>