



NEWSLETTER JANUARY EDITION

Together we can make a difference..

Save the Dates: 11/3/2017-Unity Fete 11/4/2017-Seminars & Workshops 11/5/2017-Sunday is Fun Day

SFCC proudly present...



Damion Anderson

Damion Anderson was born and raised on the beautiful island of Jamaica. He migrated to the US at the age of seventeen where he attended Ramapo College of New Jersey and graduated with a B.A. in Social Science and Criminology. Inspired by his Grandmother's cooking, he began learning his way in the kitchen with her at the age of thirteen. Following his academic career at Ramapo, Damion decided to further pursue his passion for culinary and attended Hudson County Culinary Institute in New Jersey. Damion has successfully established his own catering company, "Small Bites, Big Flavors". His culinary philosophy reflects a modern twist of foods and flavors from various cultures. He prides himself in delivering fresh and innovative cuisine infused with Caribbean and International flavors. It is an honor and privilege to feature Damion Anderson for the first time in South Florida..



You would have the pleasure of meeting and tasting his cooking for South Florida Caribbean Conference schedule on November 3rd thru 5th. Just looking at these pictures makes me hungry. How about you?

The Conflict and tensions between Haiti and Dominican Republic:

One island, two countries; both steeped in tradition. Although they share the same landform, the small Caribbean countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic cannot be any more unlike each other; both in their traditions and language, it is difficult to ignore the dislike and tension shared between the two. To grasp a better understanding of why these two countries share only a small space on the earth's spectrum, one must first delve into the history of how these two countries came to be.

A BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Like with any Caribbean islands' recorded history, the island that is currently known as Haiti and the Dominican Republic was first founded by Christopher Columbus in the year 1492. By claiming the island for the Spanish Empire, Columbus titled the island "La Isla Espanola" which translates to "The Spanish Island." While the Spaniards had established a settlement on the island, the natives who had inhabited the Island prior to the Spaniards arrival, was now exposed to diseases to which they had no immunity.

Upon his return to the island one year later, Columbus had found the settlement he had established to be destroyed and all the settlers had been killed. Re-establishing other settlements throughout the island, the Spaniards reclaimed the Island whilst the surviving natives were forced to find new villages elsewhere. It was during that time, that a war of independence was taking place between Spain in Europe and the English. Dutch traders and pirates joined the English and French traders after the Spanish closed their home ports and cut off the salt supplies needed for the Herring Industry. The infuriated Spain, decided to forcibly resettle the inhabitants of the island closer to the established city of Santo Domingo, after learning that the western Hispaniola continued illegal trades with the French and Dutch traders. This action taken by Spain, resulted in disastrous consequences for the Spanish Crown, as the majority of resettled colonists

died of starvation and disease, cattle were abandoned and many slaves escaped. The action taken by the Spaniards proved to be counterproductive as many of the inhabitants either fought, escaped to the jungle or fled to the safety of passing Dutch ships which resulted in the freedom for the English, French and Dutch to establish bases the islands now abandoned coasts.

“Antihaitianismo, or anti-Haitianism, is an incredibly powerful and unfortunately common ideology that permeates Dominican culture. Although one can say that these discriminatory sentiments have lessened in recent years due to movements for equal education, and rights of both Haitian immigrants and their descendants in the Dominican Republic, it still exists and manifests itself in laws and the dominating Dominican culture.” Marisa Tersy – The Jayn Blog

Quote taken from

<https://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/posts/dominican-haitian-relations-an-island-divided>

In essence, this dispersion created the division that currently exists in the contemporary Western Hispaniola. For centuries, the Division between what is now known as Haiti and the Dominican Republic was fueled by the ongoing war between the French and Spanish for control of the Western and Eastern coasts of the Island. In 1697, the objective of splitting the island into two countries was an effort in which to resolve the conflict that was occurring between the Spain and France; the major governing bodies at the time. Haiti gained its independence from France on January 1st 1807 whilst Spanish Haiti (the predecessor to the Dominican Republic), became independent from Spain on December 1st 1821. These are the two countries which still coexist on one island to this day.

For more information on the historical background of Haiti and the Dominican Republic please refer to the links below.

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominican_Republic-Haiti_relations.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Haiti

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Dominican_Republic

WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER THAT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

Education and awareness is a great way to start. Firstly, we need to start with ourselves and learn about what's going on in order to be a part of the solution.

The goal of the SFCC is to bring awareness to the south Florida region about the issues affecting the Caribbean. In order to do this, one must first understand the history of the Caribbean and why the islands are so diverse in cultures, yet remain indifferent to many of the Spanish and English Territories. We hope this conference can create a platform where we can have several conversations and discussions about issues we are facing on a daily basis. Whether it could improve our life, the lives of our family, friends or even a complete stranger; learning from each other and working together towards a common cause, should be our goal. As the motto of the SFCC states, "***Together we can make a difference,***" there is no success in understanding unless the different communities that reside in South Florida, join forces in an effort to help "their people back home."

Over the years, several Caribbean Islands have been stereotyped and given a certain "stigma" that is not easily overcome. A good example of this "stigma" belongs to the country of Haiti. Haiti is considered to be one of the poorest Caribbean islands and in 2016 suffered a devastating blow when hurricane Mathew battered the island. Hundreds of lives were lost and the destruction left in Mathew's wake was of immense proportions. Whilst natural disasters are unpredictable and unavoidable, Haiti has been one of the hardest hit countries in the Caribbean to date, with both hurricane and earthquake damages. It

brings tears to our eyes to see our fellow islanders struggling and suffering the way that they do. With all the struggle and hardship facing the economy, not just in Haiti but throughout the entire Caribbean, what we at the SFCC would like to highlight, is the bond that the Haitian people have amongst themselves and on a wider scope, the Caribbean people as a whole. There is a common trait where they all pride themselves on striving for betterment.

"Haiti is an amazing country. Even though the people there have so little, their attitudes resonate a crazy amount of love and joy. It is truly inspiring to see that. My love for the country starts with them."

Noah Munck

Quote taken from;

<https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/haiti.html>

The SFCC's goal is to challenge each of you to learn one thing from another island that you were not aware of before. If you would like to share what you have learnt, feel free to leave a comment so others may broaden their horizon and add to **their** current knowledge; even the SFCC team members can learn something as well. For more information, please visit our website via the link below.

www.southfloridacaribbeanconference.com

Information gathered for this article has been cited from various sources. The links to these sources have been cited and included.

SFCC SPONSORSHIPS FOR 2017

We would like to thank you for your generous sponsorship and contribution to make our 1st Annual conference a success. We cannot do it without you....

One feature sponsor of this month is **Bubbler Sound**. If you are looking for a Deejay, Sound System for birthdays, wedding, anniversaries, carinival, party, etc. Pleasecontact Bubbler Sound at bubblerentertainment@yahoo.com



If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact us at www.southfloridacaribbeanconference.com or email Samantha at Samantha.sookraj@yahoo.com

Message from the C.E.O. Samantha L. Sookraj....

I would like to introduce South Florida Caribbean Conference team for 2017.



Danielle Muzac
Volunteer Coordinator



Devon Gonzales
IT/Web Tec Director



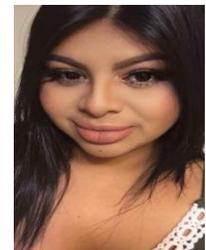
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