



NEWSLETTER

Special Edition for January

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

Meet the C.E.O. & Founder of SFCC..



Samantha L. Sookraj

Samantha L. Sookraj is currently the C.E.O. and Founder of South Florida Caribbean Conference (SFCC). She was born in Guyana, a South American country on September, 2nd 1980 to Joseph and Surujadi Luke. Both Samantha and her family migrated to the United States in pursuit of the American Dream at the tender age of twelve years old, where they took up residence in East Orange New Jersey. At an early age, Samantha demonstrated a passion for helping others. She graduated from East Orange High School in 1999 and continued her higher education at Ramapo College of New Jersey where she majored in Psychology and Criminology. During her freshman year at Ramapo College, she was one out of five students of her class to be selected and contracted for 1 year as the Educational Coordinator for Ramapo Service Corps. She continued to plan numerous events as well as conferences on and off campus for students who attended Ramapo College. During her college years, Samantha was introduced to Carnival by Harrinath Sookraj; currently her husband. She fell in love with the Carnival culture right away. She then began working with her husband, taking part in Caribbean Carnival festivities within the local communities. Her first Carnival was Jersey City, New Jersey after which, she ventured out with her husband to Florida where they currently reside. Samantha has over fifteen (15) years of experience working within the Caribbean Community by taking part in Caribbean cultural awareness within United States. Most of her professional work experience is within the non for profit agencies, dealing with infants, children, parents, couples, as well as people with disabilities. She is a dynamic management and relationship building professional with over 16 years' experience in social service, customer service, and management environments. She drew her inspiration and motivation from her desire to help others and her family. Within the past few years, the health of her parents has diminished considerably which has sparked a renewed vigor in Samantha's desire to help families. She sees the importance of education and awareness about the Caribbean Culture and Heritage among the American people, as well as the West Indian population in South Florida. She believes and has hope that by organizing a yearly conference, it will promote and bring awareness about the Caribbean Islands, as well as, provide a place where individuals can openly and safely discuss issues about the Caribbean as a whole.

Samantha is excited and is looking forward to her first annual South Florida Caribbean Conference (SFCC) which is scheduled to take place on November 3rd thru November 5th of 2017.

SFCC 1st Annual 3 Days Caribbean Conference

While 2016 proved itself to be a difficult year for some of the Caribbean countries and even some South American countries, the positive outlook for 2017 is promising. Our mission at South Florida Caribbean Conference (SFCC) is to bring awareness about the Caribbean Culture and heritage to the American as well as the West Indian population. This will be our first annual three days Conference in South Florida. We will be focusing on the social movements within the Caribbean Islands with the assistance of dedicated and qualified professional individuals and organizations. SFCC will highlight the issues that affect the wider Caribbean and provide a means to bring both awareness as well as provide a platform to have a much needed conversation for some of these subjects.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Nelson Mandela.

The Caribbean has, and continues to play an important role in the circulation of ideas and sharing of cultural practices from the indigenous people's experience to the contemporary Caribbean. It has always been a site of global

interactions and attractions among the rest of the world. This year, the SFCC plans to focus on the Social Movements within the Caribbean Islands. It is expected that this conference will give the opportunity to showcase the history, wealth and diversity of the Caribbean Islands, which has contributed to unconventional and needed responses to issues we are forced to deal with among our people. SFCC plans to bring awareness to the South Florida community about major problems such as Diabetes and Diabetes Awareness, Issues affecting children and the younger generation, relief for those islands affected in the aftermath of natural disasters as well as the economic issues faced by some of the islands, cultural aspects of the various islands and how they differ as well as how these traditions came into existence, just to name a few.

“People must know who dem be, must remember what important.” - [Joanne C. Hillhouse](#), [Oh Gad!](#)

The goal of the SFCC is to ensure that there is a medium for adequate information to be relayed to the people because a well-informed community is a stronger community. Therefore, having key, well informed and qualified individuals on board with the organization was a

crucial part of the development of the SFCC. As Samantha Sookraj the C.E.O. of SFCC would say, “***Together we can make a difference.***” This fact is what ensures that the SFCC stands apart from any other competitive conference organizations that currently exist. There are too many to name but in the coming months, there will be special interviews with well-known public figures, Caribbean celebrities and qualified, professional business men and women who have contributed, and continue to contribute toward the betterment of the Caribbean islands.

The SFCC plans to reach out to organizations that support and aid people who are in need within the Caribbean Islands such as The Save Abee foundation (<http://www.saveabee.org/>) which is a Non-profit organization based in Guyana. We are planning to focus on the ways to increase charitable support for organization such as The Save Abee Foundation and many others based throughout the wider Caribbean, by way of the medium of education and awareness.

Our first annual 3 day South Florida Caribbean Conference is scheduled for November 3rd thru November 5th of 2017. These events serve to bring communities together in a fun and enjoyable yet informative environment. Throughout the year, there will be updates via SFCC website (www.southfloridacaribbeanconference.com), the

monthly newsletter, information tables at various events within South Florida, and culminating with a three (3) day event during the weekend of November 3rd, 2017 to November 5th, 2017. The list of dates have been broken down and organized to provide the attendees with the most accurate information necessary and are as follows:

Day 1: November 3rd, 2017- The Unity Fete.

Come and Experience the rich, vibrant Caribbean culture through a social setting with local deejays, artistes, cultural performances, art exhibits, live bands and much more. Cost to attend this event will be announced at a future date. . If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor, Deejay, Artist/performer, a Vendor interested in renting space at this event, or would like to be a speaker at a seminar, you are kindly asked to contact the SFCC by visiting the website at www.southfloridacaribbeanconference.com.

Day 2: November 4th, 2017- The Social Movements within the Caribbean Islands. There will be workshops and seminars at the Broward College Campus (***See address***) Information pertaining to the workshop and seminars will be updated closer to the event date as the specially invited guest speakers and/or performers are likely to change or increase. The topics for these seminars as well, will be updated accordingly as the dates draw nearer. Cost to register for the seminar or workshops will be announced at a

future date. . If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor, Deejay, Artist/performer, a Vendor interested in renting space at this event, or would like to be a speaker at a seminar, you are kindly asked to contact the SFCC by visiting the website at www.southfloridacaribbeanconference.com.

Day 3: November 5th, 2017 – Sunday Fun Day.

This is the final day of the SFCC event and is designed to be a day of entertainment. This planned out door event will feature live music, face painting for kids, art exhibits, Games for every age, cultural performances from the various Caribbean islands, taste of the Caribbean cuisine and much more. Cost to attend this event will be announced at a future date. If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor, Deejay, Artist/performer, a Vendor interested in renting space at this event, or would like to be a speaker at a seminar, you are kindly asked to contact the SFCC by visiting the website at www.southfloridacaribbeanconference.com.



2017

SFCC
SOUTH FLORIDA CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE

DAY 1: NOV 3RD 2017
The Unity Fete. Come and Experience the rich, vibrant Caribbean culture through a social setting with local deejays, artists, cultural performances, art exhibits, live bands and much more. If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor, Deejay, Artist/performer, a Vendor interested in renting space at this event, please contact us by visiting our website.

DAY 2: NOV 4TH 2017
This year, we will be focusing on the Social Movements within the Caribbean Islands. It is expected that this conference will give the opportunity to showcase the history, wealth and diversity of the Caribbean Islands, which has contributed to unconventional responses to issues we are forced to deal with among our people. All workshops and seminars will be held at the Broward College Campus.

DAY 3: NOV 5TH 2017
Sunday Fun Day. This planned out door event will feature live music, face painting for kids, art exhibits, Exhibit sports, cultural Dances/ performances from the various Caribbean islands, taste of the Caribbean cuisine and much more. If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor, Deejay, Artist/performer, a Vendor interested in renting space at this event, or would like to become a volunteer, please contact us by visiting our website.

SouthFloridaCaribbeanConference.com

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SFCC 2017