

DAILY NEWS

May 31, 2009
Circulation: 602,857
UMV: 4,716,123

A tasty week of Caribbean celebrations

WITH THE GOAL of sharing the unique and striking attributes of the Caribbean with potential visitors, "Caribbean Week in New York" is returning to the city.

The event, which runs from June 8 through June 12 and is sponsored by the Caribbean Tourism Organization, is a source of great pride among Caribbean New Yorkers, as their homelands take center stage with private and public activities in the city.

Chefs from some of the Caribbean's world-class restaurants will star in the Celebrity Chef part of the event. Maarten Smeets, executive chef at the Sunset Grille Restaurant in the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino and Spa, will be at Macy's Herald Square on June 9, and chef James Murphy, who helps Antigua and Barbuda's department of tourism promote its cuisine, will be at the same Macy's location on June 11.

Another big event for the chefs is the annual Governments of the Caribbean State Ball. Caribbean culinary masters will create foods for the invitation-only event at The Plaza hotel on June 12.

The public is invited to attend the free Caribbean Travel and Cultural Fair at Manhattan Center, 311 W. 34th St., on June 11 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The midtown event features displays from Caribbean Tourism Organization member nations and private travel firms, promotional products and materials, music, arts and crafts

demonstrations, food tastings through the Celebrity Chef program, and a "Caribbean Vacation Mart," offering specially priced excursions.

There will also be MarryCaribbean.com and Caribbean Bridal Expo-sponsored "Caribbean Wedding," which will give a couple a honeymoon to a Caribbean destination.

Also that day, the public is invited to attend the free Caribbean Diaspora Workshop at the adjacent New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Ave., from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The public discussion parallels the numerous high-level, closed-door sessions to be attended by Caribbean heads of states and their tourism ministers in New York. The Caribbean's tourism industry facing the current global economic crisis, and ways of mobilizing the Caribbean diaspora to aid the region's tourism, are two topics to be discussed at the workshop, presented in conjunction with the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

And the day's events close with "Caribbean Treats: Food, Rum & Rhythm" at Manhattan Center, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. With admission of \$45 per person, participants can sample Caribbean rums, bid on Caribbean vacations and other prizes at silent auction, taste culinary creations and dance to seductive island music.

For information on Caribbean Week in New York activities, call (212) 635-9530, or send e-mail to ctony@caribtourism.com. For details and a full schedule of events, visit www.onecaribbean.org online and select the Caribbean Week in New York link.

CARIBBEAT

**JARED
McCALLISTER**

