Tell My Mother I Gone to Cuba: Stories of Early Twentieth-Century Migration from Barbados

Sharon Milagro Marshall

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Tell My Mother I Gone to Cuba: Stories of Early Twentieth-Century Migration from Barbados

Book Presentation by Author Sharon Milagro Marshall

Wednesday, September 27, 2017 | 6:30 PM | Books & Books | 265 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables

Barbadians were among the thousands of British West Indians who migrated to Cuba in the early twentieth century in search of work. They were drawn there by employment opportunities fueled largely by US investment in Cuban sugar plantations. *Tell My Mother I Gone to Cuba: Stories of Early Twentieth-Century Migration from Barbados* is their story. The migrants were citizens of the British Empire, and their ill-treatment in Cuba led to a diplomatic tiff between British and Cuban authorities. The author draws from contemporary newspaper articles, official records, journals and books to set the historical contexts which initiated this intra-Caribbean migratory wave. Through oral histories, it also gives voice to the migrants' compelling narratives of their experience in Cuba. One of the oral histories recorded in the book is that of the author's mother, who was born in Cuba of Barbadian parents.

**Dr. Sharon Milagro Marshall** is an award-winning journalist and corporate communication professional from Barbados. She is a former television news anchor with the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), and was one of the presenters of the regionally syndicated TV magazine program *Caribscope*, produced by the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU). Dr. Marshall also served as Director of News and Current Affairs with CBC, and as Manager, Programme Operations with the CBU. Dr. Marshall has also won awards for her writing and artwork in Barbados' National Independence Festival of Creative Arts (NIFCA). Her work has appeared in such publications as the National Cultural Foundation's magazine *Banja*, *CARICOM Perspective*, *Asuntos Cubanos*, and *Essence* magazine. She also contributed chapters to the books *Whose Story?: Reporting the Developing World After the Cold War* and *Regional Footprints: Trials and Travails of Early Caribbean Migrants*.

**Cosponsored by the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center and the African & African Diaspora Studies Program**

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