

# Florida Humanities Speakers Directory



Engaging Speakers



Compelling Topics



Thought-provoking  
Discussions



## Carrie Sue Ayvar

*Storyteller*

An internationally celebrated Storyteller and Teaching Artist, Carrie Sue Ayvar is the recipient of multiple awards recognizing her service and leadership and her dedication to the art of storytelling and education. She learned her love of history and the art of storytelling from her grandparents here in Florida before moving to Mexico as a teenager. As a Chautauqua Scholar, she intensely researched first-person historical portrayals present compelling and exciting opportunities to “meet” some extraordinary women who impacted their communities and the history of Florida. Returning to Florida in 1979, she now lives in the very same house where she first learned to tell stories. Her bilingual blend of traditional, historical & personal tales connect the people, languages, and cultures of Florida. She still believes, just as her grandfather told her, “If you don’t know the trees you may be lost in the forest, but if you don’t know the stories you may be lost in life.”

**Contact Information:**  
305-778-7998  
Csayvar@gmail.com

### Program Format:

- In-person
- Virtual

## Programs Available

### Doc Anna: Swamp Doctor of Florida

Currently celebrating 25 years as a Chautauqua Scholar and Portrayal Artist, tonight, in costume and in character, Carrie Sue Ayvar (Eye-bar) will “become” Dr. Anna Darrow, a pioneering female physician on the Florida frontier. In 1909, she became only the 2nd woman doctor licensed in the state. Sometimes called the Petticoat Doctor of the Everglades, she often traveled alone braving swampland, alligators, venomous snakes, and dangerous outlaw gangs in order to heal the sick, nurse the wounded and deliver babies. There will be a Q & A near the end of the program. Meanwhile, come join us. as we pretend to go back in time, and visit with the doctor herself. It is my pleasure to introduce you to Dr. Anna Darrow, Swamp Doctor of Florida.

### Rose Weiss: Mother of Miami Beach

Miami Beach is now world-renowned but in 1919, Miami Beach was not much more than a sparsely populated sandbar. Women did not yet have the right to vote and Jews like herself were not welcome in most of Miami Beach when Rose Weiss first arrived. With persistence and a smile, this feisty, compassionate Jewish mother began at once to transform it and along the way created jobs, fought prejudice, helped the needy, gave the city its motto, and even designed the city’s flag. A first-person historical portrayal.

Continued on next page.

**Need to reach Florida Humanities?** For Grants, contact Lindsey Morrison at [lmorrison@flahum.org](mailto:lmorrison@flahum.org), for Florida Talks, contact Lisa Lennox at [lennox@flahum.org](mailto:lennox@flahum.org). For more information about the Florida Humanities Speakers Directory, visit <https://floridahumanities.org/speakers>.

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## Carrie Sue Ayvar, continued

*Storyteller*

### Stories of Florida—Con Sabor!

Our stories have never been the same since Ponce De Leon first arrived on our shores in 1513. Flowing seamlessly between Spanish and English, these personal, historical and traditional Florida tales takes the audience on a journey into the imagination that connects the people and cultures of Florida, con un poco de sabor Latino—with a bit of Latino flavor!

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