

# Florida Humanities Speakers Directory



Engaging Speakers



Compelling Topics



Thought-provoking  
Discussions



## Arlo Haskell

*Historian*

Arlo Haskell is currently executive director of Key West Literary Seminar, the nonprofit organization whose eponymous writers' conference has been held annually since 1983. His 2017 book, *The Jews of Key West: Smugglers, Cigar Makers, and Revolutionaries*, won the Phillip and Dana Zimmerman Gold Medal for Florida Nonfiction from the Florida Book Awards and a President's Medal from the Florida Authors and Publishers Association.

### Programs Available

#### The Jewish Underground: Smuggling Refugees from Cuba to Key West

The little-known story of thousands of Jewish immigrants who became refugees in Cuba in the 1920s when they were barred from entering the United States. Cuban authorities looked the other way as smugglers transported them to Key West, pitting them against powerful local officials who belonged to the Ku Klux Klan and inspiring Ernest Hemingway's novel *To Have and Have Not*.

#### Vengeance Against Spain: Jewish Immigrants who fought for Cuban Independence

A clandestine cell of Eastern European Jewish immigrants in Key West in the 1890s delivered weapons to the Cuban revolutionary rebels who chased the Spanish Empire out of the Americas. Jews in Key West and Tampa were drawn to the revolutionary movement led by José Martí and paralleled the Zionist cause that led to the creation of Israel.

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#### Program Format:

- In-person
- Virtual

**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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