

Florida Humanities Speakers Directory



Engaging Speakers



Compelling Topics



Thought-provoking
Discussions



Betty Jean Steinshouer

Author, Historian, Actress

Betty Jean Steinshouer first came to Florida with “Willa Cather Speaks” in 1989. Floridians convinced her to add Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings to her repertoire, and she moved to the state in order to do her research. She has since toured 43 states presenting Humanities programs on women authors (including five with Florida connections), homelessness in literature, Ernest Hemingway, America at War, Jim Crow Florida, and marriage equality.

In 2004, she was named a Fellow in Florida Studies at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

Her book about Willa Cather, *Long Road from Red Cloud*, was awarded the 2020 International Book Award for biography.

Contact Information:

727-735-4608

bjsteinshouer@yahoo.com

Program Format:

- In-person
- Virtual

Programs Available

Scribbling Women in Florida

A dozen women authors have put Florida on the map, between Reconstruction-era Harriet Beecher Stowe and Constance Fenimore Woolson, the Gilded Age’s Sarah Orne Jewett, the homesteading Laura Ingalls Wilder and her libertarian daughter, Rose Wilder Lane, environmentalists Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Rachel Carson, friends Zora Neale Hurston and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, and poets Edna St. Vincent Millay, Elizabeth Bishop, and Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

They all gravitated to the Land of Flowers, and here are the lessons they learned.

Boston Marriages gone South

Here are the lives of four lesbian couples who traveled to Florida together in the 19th and 20th centuries, long before marriage equality: Sarah Orne Jewett and Annie Fields; Katharine Loring and Alice James; Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Carolyn Percy Cole; Elizabeth Bishop and Louise Crane.

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

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