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Amber L. Ernst-Leonard
Director of College & Public Relations
305-809-3531/ amber.ernstleonard@fkcc.edu

FKCC's Library Gallery Hosts Artists and Authors



Royal Poinciana, an oil on linen painting by artist Martha Cook, is part of the art collection exhibited at the FKCC Library Gallery until February 20.

KEY WEST, FL, February 2, 2010—Florida Keys Community College's Library Gallery announces a full and varied schedule of free culturally-stimulating artistic and literary events planned to take place throughout the spring semester in the Library Gallery on the Key West campus.

"As always, we invite the community to join us as we celebrate new art collections and welcome visiting and local artists and authors," says FKCC Librarian Juana Careaga, who along with her staff, offer ongoing student- community events, in addition to the vast array of traditional library resources.

The FKCC Library Gallery kicks off the season on Friday, February 5, from 5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m with an opening reception for local artists Martha Cook and Jane Rohrschneider. Cook, whose collection features classical pieces such as still lifes, portraits, and landscapes, began painting in the convent of the congregation of Notre Dame in Connecticut before moving to Key West in the late 1970s. Rohrschneider has masters' degrees in art history and fine arts from Illinois State University. Her work ranges from mosaics, encaustic and acrylic paintings, figure drawing, metal sculpture, and jewelry. All are invited to join the artists for an evening of art, refreshments, and live music by pianist Jay Wetzel. The collection will remain on display until February 20.

On Tuesday, February 9, at 5:30p.m., the Library Gallery will welcome back author and former FKCC instructor Bonnie J. Doerr. Her visit will feature a presentation of “Manuscript Makeover: What Not to Dare” followed by a book signing and a short reading from *Island Sting*, her new teen green eco-mystery set in the Florida Keys. Doerr, who has been recognized by NOAA for environmental education, splits her time between the Florida Keys and North Carolina. During the event, the FKCC Library Gallery will display the winning entries from a student environmental art contest co-sponsored by Doerr and the Key West Wildlife Center.

On Friday, February 12 at 4:00p.m., FKCC’s student ceramics club, Mud-Pi, will join the Library in sponsoring a Valentine’s Day-themed event to celebrate Key West author Jane Dawkins. She will be reading, discussing and signing her collection of books, including her latest novel, *If You’re Ever in Key West....* Best known for her acclaimed continuations of Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*, Dawkins’ latest book is set firmly in the present day, and in her home town. Described as “a love song to a very special island, and an ode to women of a certain age,” this “romance for grownups” is set in New York, London and Athens, as well as Key West. In the novel, Dawkins, who is also a ceramist, salutes FKCC Ceramics Instructor Jay Gogin during a sunset scene at the FKCC waterfront landmark, the Gogin-created Japanese Torii Gate. Gogin and Mud-Pi students will provide a full Valentine’s Day paella feast.

On Tuesday, February 16, from 5:30p.m. to 7:30p.m., the college welcomes author Helene Fields. Nationally recognized for her advocacy of bringing generations together, she will discuss her recently published book, *Don’t Cheat the Children, Connecting Generations Through GrandFriendships*. Fields is professor emeritus at Oakton Community College in Illinois and continues to teach through her discussions, workshops, and blog on the importance of early childhood education.

Additional events are in the works for the month of March. The highlight of which will be an exhibit of comic art on loan from local writer, photographer, and former executive vice president of Marvel Comics, Shirrel Rhoades. The collection will open with a reception on March 3 at 5:30p.m. and will remain on display until April 23. FKCC will also host the Monroe County Library’s “Book Bites” reading group on March 6 at 2:00p.m. and a screening of the documentary *Soul of a People* on March 12 at 5:00p.m.

For more information about FKCC’s Library Gallery or any of these events call 305-809-3194 or visit their website <http://library.fkcc.edu>.

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