

Poet and Performance Actress portrays Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings at LW Public Library Tuesday, March 9th

As part of the Lake Wales Public Library's series "*Weaving the Fabric of Life in Florida Through Literature*" Literary Historian and Chautauqan, Betty Jean Steinshouer will appear as Pulitzer Prize winning writer, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.

Born in 1896 in Washington, D.C., Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings graduated from the University of Wisconsin and went on to work as a journalist for the next 10 years.

In 1928, she came to Florida to run an orange grove farm and write. Her works include "The Yearling", "Cross Creek" and "When the Whippoorwill". Today her Cross Creek, Florida farm is the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park, where thousands come each year to walk through the house, grove and farmyard.

Betty Jean Steinshouer has been one of Florida's most requested scholars and Chautauquans since 1989, when she first toured the state with "Willa Cather Speaks" and was convinced by Floridians to add Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings to her repertoire.

Betty Jean has presented public humanities programs in 43 states for over 20 years. She has appeared at the Lake Wales Public Library as Rawlings in 1992 and in the 2003 Florida Chautauqua Festival as Harriett Beecher Stowe.

She also portrays Willa Cather, Laura Ingalls Wilder and Sarah Orne Jewett.

The evening with Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings begins at **7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 9** in the Lake Wales Public Library's Schoenoff Meeting Room.

This program is underwritten by a grant from the Florida Humanities Council with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Lake Wales Library Association. For information call 863-678-4004 or visit the library's website, www.cityoflakewales.com/library