

LAKE WALES MUSEUM THROUGH SUMMER 2019

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & PROGRAMS

February 20 – March 20, 2019

Black History Month Exhibit - Freedom Riders

The museum will host a traveling exhibit by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. This exhibition was created in partnership with WGBH Boston/The American Experience, which developed a major television special of the same name to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this seminal moment in civil rights history. The self-proclaimed “Freedom Riders” challenged the mores of a racially segregated society by performing a disarmingly simple act—traveling together in small interracial groups, and sitting where they pleased on buses and trains. Demanding unrestricted access to terminal restaurants and waiting rooms, they were met with bitter racism, mob violence, and imprisonment along the way. But their courage and sacrifice over eight months in 1961 changed America forever.

Thursday, February 21, 2019

Black History Month Presentation

Featuring Strange Fruit in Florida by Dr. Tameka Hobbs

Despite its reputation as the “Sunshine State” and a tourist destination, Florida harbors a lengthy and painful history of racial violence. Dr. Tameka Hobbs examines the history of lynching and racial violence in Florida, outlining the overall arc of the “lynching era” in the United States, normal dated between 1882 and 1930, as these instances of extralegal violence became more sporadic in the 1940s. She also highlights the role of Harry T. Moore’s advocacy against lynching and in favor of civil rights for African Americans in Florida. Light refreshments included. Free to the public. Please RSVP.

February 27, 2019

Museum Book Club – Notes of a Native Son by James Baldwin

Dedicated to non-fiction, you’ll discover the truth can be much stranger than fiction. Join us every month to discuss new book! Read the book and come ready to discuss the best non-fiction books. Free to the public and all the books are available to check out free of charge at the Museum while supplies last.

Thursday, March 14, 2019 from 6 – 8 PM

Pop History Happy Hour

See our changing exhibit, talk to our curator and enjoy live music, history trivia, complimentary food and drinks. Free to the public.

Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 6 PM

Women’s History Month Presentation

Featuring Florida’s Female Pioneers by Peggy MacDonald

“Florida’s Female Pioneers” examines some of the women who have shaped the Sunshine State. Dr. Esther Hill Hawks, a female doctor during the Civil War, visited Florida during the war and ran the first racially integrated free school in Florida during Reconstruction. Harriet Beecher Stowe is credited with kick-starting Florida’s tourism industry with her 1873 book, “Palmetto Leaves.” Florida First Lady May Mann Jennings, married to Florida Governor William Sherman Jennings, was a suffragist and conservationist who was known as the “Mother of Florida Forestry” and helped establish Royal Palm State Park, which later became the nucleus of Everglades National Park. This talk focuses on these Florida pioneers and other, lesser known female firsts. Light refreshments included. Free to the public. Please RSVP.

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Museum Book Club – The Life of Amelia Earhart by Susan Butler

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March 26 – June 1, 2019

Postcards and Perceptions: Florida Seminoles and Tourism by The Ah-Ta-Thi-Ki Museum

Postcards serve as guideposts to the changes of early 20th century Florida history. Their simple, yet evocative imagery reveals the adaptive nature of the Seminole people. They reveal the complex pressures and adjustments Seminoles endured to assert their identity.

Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 10 AM – 12 PM

Town & Country History Bus Tour

Join us for a tour through old Florida history, driving through the heart of downtown Lake Wales and stopping at historic building of the Lake Wales Arts Center. Along the way, participants will learn about the historic district, buildings and lakes of Lake Wales. Enjoy an air-conditioned ride on the new History Bus! \$15/person. Seating limited. Advanced registration & payment required.

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

Museum Book Club – The Orchid Thief by Susan Orlean

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Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 6 PM

Florida Humanities Council Speaker Series

Featuring Modern by Tradition: Innovation and the Transformation of Seminole Culture by Andrew Frank

Between 1700 and the present, the culture of the Florida Seminoles has remained remarkably connected to its roots while also innovating in dramatic fashion. This lecture explores this dynamic to show how the Seminoles have embraced this dualism of being both modern and traditional. It examines, among other things, their origin stories, dress, cuisine, housing, ceremonial life, and family life. Light refreshments included. Free to the public. Please RSVP.

Thursday, May 9, 2019 from 6 – 8 PM

Pop History Happy Hour

See our changing exhibit, talk to our curator and enjoy live music, history trivia, complimentary food and drinks. Free to the public.

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Museum Book Club – The Radium Girls by Kate Moor

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June 8 – August 24, 2019

Building an Icon: Building Bok Tower Singing Carillon by Bok Tower Gardens

Creating an Icon features information about the ways that people worked on the Singing Tower from Edward Bok's initial vision to its design and construction. Photographs, infographics, bios, and details from the builder's journals tell the story of the Tower, from the foundation to its crowning herons.

Saturday, June 1, 2019 from 10 AM – 12 PM

Town & Country History Bus Tour

Join us for a tour through old Florida history, driving through the heart of downtown Lake Wales and stopping at historic building of the Lake Wales Arts Center. Along the way, participants will learn about the historic district, buildings and lakes of Lake Wales. Enjoy an air-conditioned ride on the new History Bus! \$15/person. Seating limited. Advanced registration & payment required.

Saturdays, June 8 – August 10, 2019

Summer Fun Days

Special guest speakers, hands-on demonstrations, artifact discovery, tours with the curator, art projects, storytelling, fun snacks, dress up activities for the whole family are offered throughout Saturdays in the summertime with all kinds of different history themes. Sponsored by Florida's Natural Growers. Free to the public.

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Museum Book Club – Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann

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September 3 – October 12, 2019

Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program, 1942-1964 by The Smithsonian

This exhibit explores the little-known story of the Bracero Program, the largest guest worker program in U.S. history. Between 1942 and 1964, millions of Mexican men came to the U.S. on short-term labor contracts.