

FIU News Release

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The 'Winds of Change' Roar with Voices of Caribbean Women Writers at FIU Conference

MIAMI -- The innovative and creative influences generated by the works of women writers from the Caribbean will be examined at the International Conference of Caribbean Women Writers, a three-day conference hosted by Florida International University April 25-27.

The conference, which is open to the public, will be held in the Roz and Cal Kovens Conference Center, at FIU's North Campus, Northeast 151st Street and Biscayne Blvd.

The conference will be kicked-off with a reception, 7 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, April 24 at the Holiday Inn Newport Beachside Crown Plaza Resort, 6701 Collins Ave. Conference hours are 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. During the morning hours writers will present their works followed by critical responses from scholars on related themes and issues. The evening hours will feature readings by various authors.

The conference theme "Winds of Change: The Transforming Voice of Women," is designed to explore the voices of women writers from the Caribbean and its diaspora as their works impact change in the region and in North America, said Dr. Adele S. Newson, an associate professor in the Department of English and organizer of the conference.

"Their works of fiction, poetry, and drama are becoming increasingly popular because they speak to us in so many ways and on many different

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levels," Dr. Newson said. "The conference is a wonderful opportunity for the community to increase its knowledge and appreciation of Caribbean literature."

The conference will also feature a special tribute to Beryl Gilroy, author of Frangipani House, Boy Sandwich, Steadman and Joanna, and Black Teacher. Confirmed writers come from all cultural and linguistic groups of the Caribbean and include: Astrid Roemer (Suriname/Holland), Zee Edgell (Belize), Patricia Powell (Jamaica), Merle Hodge (Trinidad), Myra Santos Febres (Puerto Rico), Beryl Gilroy (Guyana), and Miriam Alves (Brazil), among others.

Previous conferences were held at Wellesley College, the University of the West Indies -- St. Augustine, Trinidad-Tobago, and at Williamstad, Curacao.

Conference sponsors include the Department of English, the FIU libraries, Women Studies, The College of Arts and Science, and Latin American and Caribbean Center, among others.

The registration fee is \$60. Additionally, the conference offers TEC credit for Dade and Broward Public School teachers. For more information call Kurt Salzburg, FIU Conference Center Director at (305) 919-5000.

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