



**Poet and Performance Actress portrays
Zora Neale Hurston at LW Public Library
Thursday, February 25**

February 16, 2010

As part of the Lake Wales Public Library's series "*Weaving the Fabric of Life in Florida Through Literature*" performance actress and poet, Phyllis McEwen will appear as Florida writer, Zora Neale Hurston.

Zora Neale Hurston was a folklorist, anthropologist and writer. She was recognized as a member of the Harlem Renaissance Movement. She wrote such works as *Dust Tracks on the Road* and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Zora was noted for her work with the WPA Writer's Project. She traveled through Florida's turpentine camps and jook joints collecting stories and oral histories in the 1920s and 1930s.

Phyllis McEwen has portrayed Zora Neale Hurston for many years, traveling throughout the United States to bring this artist to life. This is her third visit to the Lake Wales Public Library. Ms. McEwen's performance is part of the Lake Wales Public Library's observance of Black History Month.

McEwen is a native of Atlanta, Georgia. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in literature from Spelman College and a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from Atlanta University. She was a Literature and Black Studies Specialist at the University of South Florida. She is currently a librarian in the Tampa Hillsborough Library System.

The evening with Zora Neale Hurston begins at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 25 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