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Broward County Commission Libraries Division Presents
A Tribute to Louise Bennett on October 16 at the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center

BROWARD COUNTY, FL - The life of Louise Bennett, Jamaican poet and activist, will be memorialized in a tribute on Monday, October 16, 6 p.m., at the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center, 2650 Sistrunk Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Bennett, who died this year at age 86, was hailed as a social commentator giving expression to the feelings and thoughts of the Jamaican people. She lectured in the United States and England on Jamaican folklore making famous the Jamaican phrase "Walk Good."

Ms. Bennett was the first black student of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London in 1945, winning a British Council Scholarship to the institution. She hosted the BBC radio show, "Caribbean Carnival."

Ms. Bennett taught drama and folklore at the University of the West Indies and was on the staff of the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation in 1959. In 1960, Ms. Bennett was made a member of the British Empire (M.B.E.) for her work in Jamaican literature and theater.

In the 1950's and 1960's, Ms. Bennett had several popular radio shows including "Laugh with Louise," "Miss Lou's Views" and "The Lou and Ranny Show." In the 1970's Jamaican children enjoyed "Ring Ding," Ms. Bennett's popular Saturday morning children's television show.

In 1979, the Jamaica Information Service produced a film about Ms. Bennett titled, "The Hon. Ms. Lou." In 2001, Ms. Bennett was appointed as a Member of the Order of Merit for her distinguished contribution to the development of the Arts and Culture.

For more information, call 954-357-7348.

Founded in 1974, the award-winning Broward County Libraries Division, www.broward.org/library, provides essential quality of life community service as well as outstanding customer service throughout Broward County. The library consists of 37 branches, more than three million items for public use, 970 permanent staff, 114 part-time staff and \$4.6 million in grants with 41 grant-supported positions. Broward County Library is the ninth largest library system in the United States serving 10 million customers annually.

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