

For Immediate Release

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IF YOU GO:

James Gardner, author of “The Lion Killer” at Lighthouse Center for the Arts
Event: Reception - African Art Exhibit – Lecture: “The geopolitical conditions facing Africa today.”

Date: Thursday, February 25 **Time:** 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Location: Gallery Square North, 373 Tequesta Drive, Tequesta

Information and directions: (561) 746-3101 or www.LighthouseArts.org

Visions of Africa Exhibit: February 18 – March 27, 2010

Museum Hours: Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Meet the Author - Thursday, February 25
James Gardner “THE LION KILLER”
At Lighthouse Center for the Arts
Reception – Lecture - African Art Exhibit

Tequesta, FL (Feb. 15, 2010) – **James Gardner** will speak and sign copies of his new book “**THE LION KILLER**” on Thursday, February 25, at the Lighthouse Center for the Arts, located in Gallery Square North, 373 Tequesta Drive in Tequesta. “The Lion Killer” has been the #1 Bestseller in Palm Beach since Feb. 1, as reported by *The Palm Beach Daily News*. It is the first in his “Dark Continent Chronicles” from Pennington Publishers. A reception in honor of James Gardner begins at 6 p.m. In honor of **Black History Month** and African culture, traditional African foods and South African wines will be served. From 6:30 to 7 p.m., Gardner will speak and take questions on culture and the human condition in Africa from Zimbabwe to the Sudan. Copies of his book are available for purchase at the event and in the Museum’s gift shop. The event is free to members of the Lighthouse Center for the Arts and \$5 for non-members at the door. For reservations, call (561) 746-3101, Ext. 224.

ABOUT JAMES GARDNER

Seaplane pilot, sailor, scuba diver, fisherman, conservationist and world traveler, James Gardner could easily be the hero of his own book, “**The Lion Killer.**” Yet Gardner says his lead protagonist, Rigby Croxford, is a compilation of the extraordinary characters he has met on his 25 safaris to Africa over the last 40 years. Gardner lives and writes from his home in Palm Beach County. He took his first trip to Africa in 1968. He landed in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in the midst of the Rhodesian Bush War, which proved to be disconcerting when he confused body bags for golf travel bags at the airport. Flying to Entebbe, Uganda, in 1972 proved even more disturbing when a riot ensued because Idi Amin declared that all Indians must leave the country.

Gardner began to write “The Lion Killer” three years ago. He was motivated, in part, to bring attention to what is happening to African countries, like Zimbabwe and the Sudan. Zimbabwe was once called the bread basket of the Dark Continent, and now it is reduced to a desperate state. The unemployment rate is 94%. The annual inflation rate peaked at one billion percent per month until the currency finally collapsed. The AIDS pandemic has dropped the average Zimbabwean woman’s life expectancy from 63 to 37 years in only a decade.

Gardner believes the genocide in Darfur is a byproduct of the struggle over the Sudan’s natural resources. The Khartoum government has condoned the killing of 400,000 Africans and the displacement of two million people from their ancestral lands, thus clearing the way for outside forces to tap its natural resources, such as China’s ten billion dollar investment in Sudan’s oil infrastructure.

VISIONS OF AFRICA EXHIBIT

In honor of Black History Month, the *Visions of Africa* exhibit includes distinctive pieces from the permanent collection of African art and artifacts donated to the Lighthouse Center for the Arts by John and Katheryn Loughran. On loan from James Gardner is an extraordinary collection of sculptures and tribal masks gathered over his forty years of travel to Africa. In addition, Palm Beach Gardens artist Carol Korpi-McKinley’s exotic 6-foot high acrylic on canvas portraits of a lion, leopard and elephant captivate the spirit of the African wild. Lighthouse Center for the Arts Executive Director, Katie Deits, is loaning to the exhibition African textile pieces, including a tribal quilt and a hand-woven and beaded skirt, along with a fascinating collection of fertility dolls and sculptural masks. An Ethiopian ceremonial box with a royal scepter, hats, jewelry and a gilded royal fly-swatter was donated to LCA by Susan Namm Spencer. Susan Bardin has loaned a tribal beaded collar necklace to the exhibit, as well as her decorative skills, which lend the exhibition space a tented-safari atmosphere. The exhibit runs from February 18 through March 27.

ABOUT THE LIGHTHOUSE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

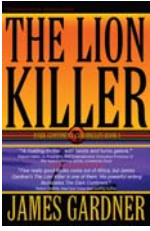
The Lighthouse Center for the Arts (LCA) is a member-supported not-for-profit 501(c)(3) community arts organization providing excellence in arts exhibitions, instruction, education and outreach for all ages. Programs are funded in part by the Palm Beach County Cultural Council, the Palm Beach County Tourist Development Council and the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners.

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IMAGES:



Photo 1: James Gardner, author of “The Lion Killer”



PDF: Cover of “The Lion Killer”

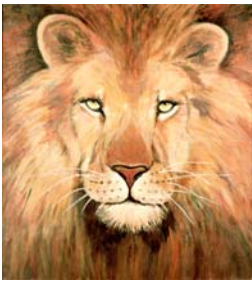


Photo 2: Carol Korpi-McKinley, Lion 1