



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY YOURNEWS

Martha Lemasters featured at book signing – April 6

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By *Tori Blackhart, Your Newsweekly Contributor*

Martha Lemasters will appear at The Vero Beach Book Center on April 6 at 4 p.m. to speak and sign copies of her recently released memoir, "The Step."

"It's almost like the Apollo Team, at least all the contractors that worked on Apollo, are the team that time has forgotten," says first time author Lemasters.

Her memoir, "The Step," deals with her first-hand account of her years working for IBM at Kennedy Space Center as a PR writer on the Apollo program during the '60s and '70s. It is the first book written about the Apollo program from a woman's perspective — and from the perspective of one of the contractors, not NASA. As a PR writer, Lemasters had a unique opportunity to pursue a story at the Center.

"I believe the Apollo team was the greatest technological team ever assembled, achieving the most difficult challenge of all mankind to date," says Lemasters. "I speak from experience: I wrote about these people. I know the sacrifices — the commitment was intense."

As it states on the back cover of the book, "It is the technical team, the engineers, programmers and yes, even the secretaries and typists who kept the administrative side moving, who are portrayed in this book. This combined team, after achieving an unbelievable goal of putting men on the moon within the 10-year limit set by Kennedy, performed in an exemplary manner."

But "The Step" is also about Lemasters' journey to finding her own success during these years. A divorced mother of three daughters, she spent years proving herself and prevailed over an entry-level job and related women's issues in the workplace to finally realizing her dream of becoming a writer. Added to this story line is the very inspiring account of a woman gaining strength in her own sexuality and happiness.

"I recently took my cousin on a NASA bus tour through Kennedy Space Center, my old stomping grounds," Lemasters explains. "There on display was the giant Saturn V vehicle, lying on its side, separated into stages, but nowhere were the names of the contractors displayed — it was as if NASA had done everything. The lack of recognition for the contractors doesn't change history and the fact that there were many unsung heroes, brilliant engineers, analysts and programmers, doing things that had never been done before, toiling away behind the scenes, that made this momentous, game-changing feat happen."

What was it like to be a part of this history-making event of launching our astronauts to the moon? Fasten your seat belts and journey back to the 60's through this remarkable book, "The Step," for a front-row seat told by someone who experienced it all.

For an interview, contact Martha Lemasters at 772-231-4262 or m.lemasters@icloud.com.

For more background information visit MarthaLemasters.com.

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