

## **“The Allure of Immortality: An American Cult, a Florida Swamp, and a Renegade Prophet”**

**With author Lyn Millner**

For five days in December 1908, the body of Cyrus Teed, a charismatic and controversial guru, lay in the bathtub of a beach house in Ft. Myers, Fla. His followers, the Koreshans, waited for signs that he was coming back to life. Why would well-educated, seemingly sane people give up their comfortable lives, believe in a man who told him he was a prophet and follow him to a jungle to build a city? Lyn Millner, associate professor of journalism at Florida Gulf Coast University, explores the answers in her just-published, riveting tale of the Koreshans, a long-neglected part of Florida's history. Millner's work has appeared on NPR's *Morning Edition*, American Public Media's *Marketplace*, and *Oxford American Magazine*.

“The Story is fantastic enough to captivate anyone.” – **Gulfshore Life**

“Since they disappeared, the Koreshans have been any number of things to Southwest Florida: a puzzle, a tourist attraction, a punchline, a quirky footnote.”-- **News-Press.com**

“Written with style and panache, this well-researched book is a terrific read.” **Susan and Martin Tolchn, coauthors of “Pinstripe Patronage: Political Favoritism From the Clubhouse to the White House and Beyond”**

“Millner's marvelous chronicle of the peripatetic and resolute Koreshans is provocative, intriguing and so much stranger than fiction.” -- **John Dufresne, author of “No Regrets, Coyote: A Novel”**

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