



91.3 FM South Florida's NPR News Station

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Contact: Ginette Grey
Communications Manager
Tel: 305-995-2246
E-mail: gingrey@wlrn.org

FREEDOM TOWER EVENT UNVEILS NEW CUBAN HISTORY NPR'S TOM GJELTEN WRITES "BACARDI AND THE LONG FIGHT FOR CUBA"

Miami, FL – September 8, 2008 – On September 17, veteran NPR international correspondent Tom Gjelten will read from his new book, *Bacardi and the Long Fight for Cuba: The Biography of a Cause*, at a landmark cultural event at Miami's historic Freedom Tower, America's most recognized icon of Cuban immigration. Gjelten's book provides a unique history of Cuba, captured in the life and times of the famous rum dynasty. The event and reception, which is open to the public, is presented by WLRN and Miami Dade College. Event co-presenters include Books & Books and the Florida Center for the Literary Arts. Sponsors are Cavia Reserve and Café Bustelo.

Originating in the years when the island was struggling for its freedom from Spain and continuing through the rise of Fidel Castro a century later, the Bacardi saga parallels and illustrates Cuba's own development. Through Batista's tyranny, Castro's revolution, the first heady days of Communist rule and the disillusionment, mounting fear and ultimate exile faced by so many Cubans, the Bacardi Company—and the Bacardi family—was not only present but often intimately involved.

Bacardi and the Long Fight for Cuba is due for release September 8 by Viking. Publisher's Weekly says "Gjelten's account of a liberal, progressive Cuban business clan complicates and enriches the conventional picture of a society torn between left and right dictatorships."

Tom Gjelten is a veteran NPR correspondent on international issues. His overseas reporting experience includes stints in Mexico City as NPR's Latin America correspondent from 1986 to 1990 and in Berlin as Central Europe correspondent from 1990 to 1994. During those years, he covered the wars in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Colombia, as well as the Gulf War of 1990-1991 and the wars in Croatia and Bosnia. His work is heard regularly on 91.3 WLRN on all major NPR news programs.

The Freedom Tower at Miami Dade College is located at 600 Biscayne Boulevard in downtown Miami. Persons wishing to attend the reception, September 17 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., should RSVP to (305) 350-7973 or email mdomenech@friendsofwlrn.org.

About WLRN Public Radio 91.3 FM

WLRN 91.3 FM is licensed to the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida and serves a weekly audience of more than 300,000 from Palm Beach to Key West. It is ranked number one in the state of Florida among National Public Radio stations. WLRN 91.3 FM began broadcasting in 1949, making it South Florida's first FM station. Since then, WLRN 91.3 FM has grown steadily to become an integral part of the South Florida community through award-winning local programs such as Topical Currents, South Florida Arts Beat, and Evening Jazz. Additionally, WLRN 91.3 FM provides one of the country's largest Radio Reading Services - providing a 24-hour, seven-day service to South Florida's visually impaired community.

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