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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Local Author to Recount Fascinating Details on the Man Who Would Assassinate FDR in Downtown Miami's Bayfront Park**

**MIAMI, FL** (August 15, 2007) – On February 15, 1933, Giuseppe Zangara fired five shots at the back of President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt's head during a crowded political rally in downtown Miami's Bayfront Park. While all five rounds missed their target, each bullet found a separate victim.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Historical Society will host its first symposium with Blaise Picchi, author of *The Five Weeks of Giuseppe Zangara*, on Thursday, September 20 at 6 pm at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida. In this absorbing book, Picchi recounts that fateful day, the victims and the swift execution of the man who would assassinate FDR. Signed copies of his book will be available for purchase that evening. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

One of the five bullets ricocheted off the ground and hit bystander Russell L. Caldwell. He was not seriously injured. The flattened bullet is on display in the Historical Museum's permanent exhibition. Another victim was Mayor Anton Cermak of Chicago, who died of his wounds three weeks later. Two weeks following, Zangara was executed in the electric chair. It was perhaps the swiftest legal execution in 20<sup>th</sup> century American history.

"This fresh and surprising study, based on materials not seen for more than 50 years, restores to vivid life another in the long line of luckless, angry loners who have sought to change our country's course," says Geoffrey C. Ward. The *Chicago Tribune* describes the book as "...a chapter of history that, but for a few inches, surely would have changed the fate of this nation."

The 11<sup>th</sup> JCHS symposium with Blaise Picchi is free for museum members and \$5 for non-members. For more information, please call 305.375.1619, email [11thJCHS@hmsf.org](mailto:11thJCHS@hmsf.org), or log on to [www.hmsf.org](http://www.hmsf.org).

**11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Historical Society**

A new affinity membership group of the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, the mission of the 11<sup>th</sup> JCHS is to preserve, document, procure, collect, and memorialize the 121-year history of South Florida's legal heritage. The Society will work in collaboration with the Historical Museum to collect, research and exhibit the documents, photographs and artifacts of Florida's Eleventh Judicial Circuit so that they remain available for future generations.

## **Historical Museum of Southern Florida**

The Historical Museum of Southern Florida tells the stories of South Florida and the Caribbean. The museum promotes understanding of the past in order to inform the present and create a better quality of life. The Historical Museum hosts a permanent exhibition gallery and a special gallery with several changing exhibitions each year. In addition, the museum houses the Research Center, a non-circulating library and archives open to museum visitors, and The Indies Company, the museum's store, which offers a unique array of Florida-themed books and gifts. The Historical Museum is located in downtown Miami in the Miami-Dade Cultural Center, across the street from Metrorail's Government Center Station at 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, Florida 33130. Hours are Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., third Thursdays 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. and Sunday noon - 5 p.m. Admission for adults is \$5, children (ages 6-12) is \$2, and children under 6 are free.

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