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Broward County Commission Libraries Division Presents
Two Authors in Honor of Hispanic Heritage Month

BROWARD COUNTY, FL – In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 to October 15, The Florida Center for the Book will present appearances by two award-winning authors at the Broward County Main Library, 100 S. Andrew Ave., Fort Lauderdale.

A Literary Tea, featuring Mirta Ojito, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of *Finding Mañana: A Memoir of a Cuban Exodus*, will be held at 2 p.m. on September 29.

In *Finding Mañana*, Ojito travels back twenty-five years to the event that brought her and 125,000 of her fellow Cubans to America: the 1980 mass exodus known as the Mariel boatlift. As she tracks down the long-forgotten individuals whose actions that year profoundly affected thousands on both sides of the Florida straits, she offers a glimpse behind Cuba's iron curtain, and recalls the reality of being a sixteen-year-old torn between her family's thirst for freedom and a revolution that demanded absolute loyalty.

Throughout her career, Ojito has received several awards, including the American Society of Newspaper Editor's writing award for best foreign reporting in 1999 for a series of articles about life in Cuba, and a shared Pulitzer Prize for national reporting in 2001 for a *New York Times* series of articles about race in America. Her work has been included in several anthologies including, *Written into History: Pulitzer Prize Reporting of the Twentieth Century from The New York Times*, *By Heart/De Memoria*, and *How Race Is Lived in America*. She is a visiting professor in the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University and continues to write for *The New York Times*.

New York University Professor Greg Grandin, author of *Empire's Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism*, is scheduled for two programs on October 3 at the library – A Literary Tea at 2 p.m., then a conversation hosted by *Sun-Sentinel*/Book Editor Chauncey Mabe at 7 pm.

Grandin's book follows the United States imperial operations, from Thomas Jefferson's aspirations for an empire of liberty in Cuba and Spanish Florida, to Ronald Reagan's support for oppressive but U.S.-friendly regimes in Central America. It also traces the origins of George Bush's policies in Latin America, where many of the administration's leading lights, including John Negroponte, Elliott Abrams and Otto Reich, first embraced the deployment of military power to advance free-market economics, and first enlisted the evangelical movement in support of their ventures.

Greg Grandin, a professor of Latin American history at New York University, is the author of two previous books, *The Last Colonial Massacre* and the award-winning *The Blood of Guatemala*. The recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship, Grandin has served on the United Nations Truth Commission investigating the Guatemalan civil war and has contributed to *Harper's*, *The Nation*, and *The New York Times*.

All of the library programs are free, however, pre-registration is suggested by calling 954-357-7401.

Founded in 1974, the award-winning Broward County Libraries Division, www.broward.org/library, provides essential quality of life community service as well as outstanding customer service throughout Broward County. The library consists of 37 branches, more than three million items for public use, 970 permanent staff, 114 part-time staff and \$4.6 million in grants with 41 grant-supported positions. Broward County Library is the ninth largest library system in the United States serving 10 million customers annually.

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