



*The Ancient Spanish
Monastery Foundation*

**ANNUAL
MAGAZINE**



2026 Edition

F D R | FORD, DEAN & ROTUNDO, P.A.

TRIAL ATTORNEYS



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LEGACY 11 GALA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026

HONOREES

PHYLLIS S. SMITH

COMMISSIONER CITY OF NORTH MIAMI BEACH
LEGACY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

MICHAEL JOSEPH ESQ.

MAYOR CITY OF NORTH MIAMI BEACH

JUAN PINILLOS

CHIEF OF POLICE

CITY OF NORTH MIAMI BEACH
POLICE DEPARTMENT

WILLIAM A. DEAN ESQ.

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LESLIE LOEWENTHAL

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ERIC D. ISICOFF ESQ.

FOUNDING PARTNER ISICOFF RAGATZ

BEA HINES

JOURNALIST

DR. SETH BRAMSON

AUTHOR - HISTORIAN

TICO ARMAND

ACTRESS- AUTHOR - MODEL

WE'RE HAVING A BIRTHDAY PARTY!



YEARS
OF TAILS & TRIUMPHS

JANUARY

SATURDAY

31

7PM - 11PM

2026

The Fontainebleau's new Pearl Ballroom

A night of celebrating compassion, rescue, and
90 incredible years of saving lives.

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NEW YEAR'S BLESSING
SOUND BATH

BREATHWORK | MEDITATION | SACRED GROUNDS

THE ANCIENT SPANISH MONASTERY

JANUARY 15
BLESSINGS BY REVEREND
PEYTYN TOBIN



JENNIFER
DENALI



AARON
ALEXANDER



REV.
PEYTYN
TOBIN



PAOLA
CRUZ



MITCHELL
RAISMAN

Doors 6:00 PM
Ceremony 7:00 PM



16711 W Dixie Hwy, North
Miami Beach, FL 33160



Words from our President
Ms. Marjorie Dean

For 15 years the Ancient Spanish Monastery Foundation/ASMF has fundraised to preserve the historical buildings and gardens of South Florida's most significant architectural gem, the Spanish Monastery.

We deliver fun-filled educational community events, labyrinth stewardship days, youth initiative volunteer hour programming, NMB Library camp collaboration seasons, NMB City meeting space and gatherings, and private education tours.

Our community events showcase the grand splendor of the Spanish Monastery's Gothic and Romanesque architecture and gardens, its Labyrinth, and ASMF's Garden of Light Contemplative Sculpture Park.

We continue to align ourselves with your vibrant ideas and bring them to light with a cutting-edge vision.

Your generous contributions fund our work and dedication to your community. We rely on you

Gratefully,

Marjorie Dean, President





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*The Ancient Spanish
Monastery Foundation*

ASMF PROGRAMS

Labyrinth Stewardship Day
(first Saturday of the month)
Youth Initiative Program volunteer hours
NMB LIBRARY Camp Collaboration Series
Tree Planting & Native Botanical Propagation

ASMF EVENTS

Annual Artists in the Cloisters
Christmas Concert
Legacy Gala
Garden & Educational Tours
Sound Healing



The Labyrinth Stewardship Program

“One of the oldest images of the mystery of life, death, transformation, and return is the labyrinth...in which we fear to lose ourselves.” - Edward C. Whitmont

A Guide to Walking the Labyrinth to Heal and Transform,
by Lauren Artress

The Ancient Spanish Monastery Foundation initiated the **LABYRINTH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM** in December 2023, to maintain the Spanish Monastery's ancient and sacred Labyrinth built on its grounds, through labor, education, and preservation.

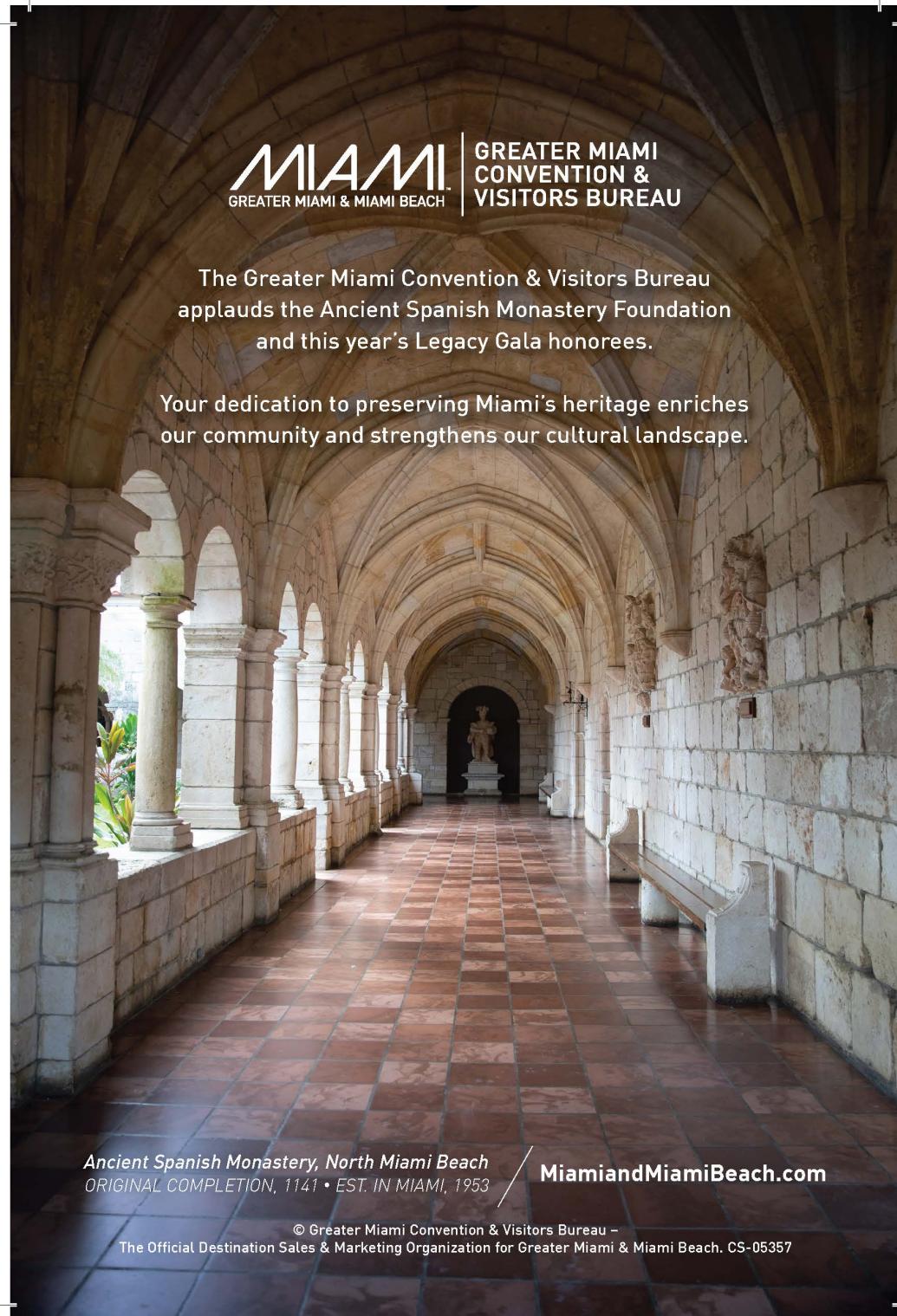
Unlike a maze that is made to confuse, the ancient labyrinth was created to open channels of an individual's unique energies, ecumenical, spiritual, psychological, meditative, cognitive, creative, visionary, and enable clarity and grounding through the experience of walking it.

Come walk the Monasteries' Labyrinth, take your shoes off, and be transported back to you!



The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau
applauds the Ancient Spanish Monastery Foundation
and this year's Legacy Gala honorees.

Your dedication to preserving Miami's heritage enriches
our community and strengthens our cultural landscape.



Ancient Spanish Monastery, North Miami Beach
ORIGINAL COMPLETION, 1141 • EST. IN MIAMI, 1953

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Volunteers Needed! Labyrinth Stewardship Days @ The Ancient Spanish Monastery

Come and join us for a fun-filled morning where you can de-stress, get some fresh air, and volunteer at the gardens of the Ancient Spanish Monastery!

16711 West Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach, FL 33160

Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

- Jan 3
- February 7
- March 7
- April 4
- May 2 - NO LABYRINTH DAY
- June 6
- July 4 - NO LABYRINTH DAY
- August 1
- Sept 5
- Oct 3
- Nov 7
- Dec 5

**For more information contact Marjorie
Dean @ 305-610-3567**





6th Annual Artists in the Cloisters

Thursday December 3, 2026
6 pm to 10 pm

16711 WEST DIXIE HIGHWAY,
NORTH MIAMI BEACH, FL 33160

Entrance \$25

Free for students (w/valid ID) &
City NMB Employees w/valid City ID

There will be drinks and food available for
purchase at the event

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:
MARJORIE DEAN 305-610-3567 | GATORGIRLMD@GMAIL.COM

THE ANCIENT SPANISH MONASTERY FOUNDATION INC.
IS A 501(C)(3) NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

“With the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of
Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-
Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners.”



Artists in the Cloisters Sponsorship Opportunities

Thursday December 3, 2026 - 6pm - 10 pm

Platinum \$5,000

Includes 8 VIP Entrance,
Drinks & Food Tickets

Gold \$2,500

Includes 4 VIP Entrance,
Drinks & Food Tickets

Silver \$1,000

Includes 2 VIP Entrance,
Drinks & Food Tickets

Kindly make checks payable to:

The Ancient Spanish Monastery Foundation

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16711 West Dixie Highway

North Miami Beach, FL 33160

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Commissioners.”



COMMISSIONER PHYLLIS SMITH LEGACY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HONOREE

Phyllis S. Smith is a lifelong advocate for community, public service, and environmental stewardship whose story is deeply rooted in resilience and compassion. Born near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Phyllis learned at an early age the critical connection between health and nature. As a young widow, her mother, Gertie, made the courageous decision to move her three children to South Florida so that Phyllis's severely asthmatic older brother could strengthen his lungs by swimming daily in the ocean. Those sunrise mornings on the beach—sharing breakfast beside warm saltwater—became a powerful lesson in healing, perseverance, and the restorative power of natural resources.

That respect for the natural world runs through Phyllis's family. Her brothers devoted their lives to gardening, sustainability, and caring for the land, values that continue today through the next generation. Even during her own current battle with cancer, Phyllis draws strength from nature, using fruit from her *Synsepalum dulcificum*, or “miracle fruit” tree, a gift from her brothers, as part of her healing journey.

A resident of North Miami Beach for more than 55 years, Phyllis has dedicated over 16 years to public service as a City Commissioner. First elected in 2007, she served until 2020 and, at the urging of the community, returned to office in 2022 for a new four-year term. Her political journey began unexpectedly at age 60, after being dismissed while speaking at a city meeting—an experience that ignited her determination to ensure dignity, transparency, and respect in government.



COMMISSIONER PHYLLIS SMITH LEGACY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HONOREE

Throughout her tenure, Commissioner Smith has served on numerous city and county committees, including Economic Development, Senior Advisory, Public Utilities, and Community Redevelopment, as well as Miami-Dade County committees focused on budget, transportation, redistricting, and neighborhood improvement. She has been a tireless advocate for accountable governance, police and public safety improvements, local business growth, and expanded programs for seniors, children, and families.

Professionally, Phyllis brings 47 years of experience as a licensed real estate broker, along with extensive leadership training through state and local civic programs. A proud graduate of North Miami Senior High School (Class of 1964), she and her husband, Woody, recently celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary. Together, they have built a loving family that includes two adult children, three grandchildren, and a cherished daughter-in-law.

Commissioner Phyllis S. Smith's legacy is one of courage, service, and unwavering love for her city and The Ancient Spanish Monastery Foundation—making her a truly deserving recipient of the Legacy Lifetime Achievement Award.



HONORING MAYOR MICHAEL JOSEPH ESQ.

Michael Joseph is an attorney and the Mayor of North Miami Beach, recognized for his principled leadership, legal expertise, and unwavering commitment to public service. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Florida International University and a Juris Doctor from St. Thomas University. Early in his career, Mayor Joseph served with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, where he helped improve immigration application processes on a national level. He is currently a practicing attorney and partner at Galbut Walters & Associates, specializing in civil rights and land use law.

Guided by strong Judeo-Christian values instilled by his parents—his father a pastor and his mother a model of diligence—Mayor Joseph has dedicated both his public and private careers to serving others. He has sponsored immigration and expungement clinics and is frequently consulted on U.S.-Haiti immigration and foreign policy issues impacting the Haitian Diaspora.

Serving on the City Commission since 2018 and now as Mayor, he is known for integrity, transparency, and inclusive leadership. His accomplishments include returning the city's water system to local control, securing millions in public grants, expanding free transportation services, strengthening ethics reforms, and helping achieve an AA bond rating to spur economic development.

Mayor Joseph resides in North Miami Beach with his wife and their two children, proudly serving the community he calls home.



CITY OF NORTH MIAMI BEACH CHIEF OF POLICE - JUAN PINILLOS

Chief Juan Pinillos is a Miami native whose life and career reflect a deep commitment to service and community. A graduate of Miami Sunset Senior High School, he began his service in the United States Army as an Infantryman, completing multiple tours before his honorable discharge in 1999. In 2000, he continued his path in public service by joining the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office in Louisiana as a Sheriff's Deputy and Narcotics Detective.

Returning home in 2005, Chief Pinillos joined the Miami Shores Police Department and, a year later, continued his law enforcement career with the North Miami Beach Police Department (NMBPD). Over the years, he excelled in roles including Road Patrol Officer, Field Training Supervisor, K-9 Unit Supervisor, Special Response Team member, and Honor Guard member. Promoted to Sergeant in 2013 and Captain in 2016, he led key units while earning his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Management and completing advanced leadership programs such as the Southern Police Institute and the FBI Trilogy.

In 2020, he was promoted to Major, overseeing core divisions, critical incidents, and emergency operations for the City of North Miami Beach. A longtime mentor with the Police Athletic League, Chief Pinillos remains dedicated to youth engagement, community partnerships, and public safety.

He is a devoted husband and proud father of four daughters, embodying integrity, leadership, and service.



HONORING WILLIAM A. DEAN ESQ.

William A. Dean is the Managing Partner of Ford, Dean & Rotundo, P.A., where he is widely recognized as one of Florida's leading civil trial attorneys. Born in Waltham, Massachusetts and raised in Needham, Mr. Dean earned his B.A. in History from Union College and his Juris Doctor, cum laude, from New York Law School.

Mr. Dean began his legal career at the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, where he prosecuted violent felony crimes and later became a founding member of the Special Prosecutions Narcotics Unit. After entering private practice, he built a nationally respected career representing victims of nursing home abuse and neglect, medical malpractice, sexual abuse, negligent security, catastrophic injury, and wrongful death. He is a frequent national lecturer on these subjects.

A Board Certified Civil Trial Attorney by The Florida Bar and the National Board of Trial Advocacy, Mr. Dean is regarded as an expert in his field. By age 32, he secured his first eight-figure jury verdict and has since recovered over \$100 million in verdicts and settlements. He was inducted into the Daily Business Review's Verdicts Hall of Fame and consistently recognized as a Super Lawyer, Legal Elite, and Top Lawyer.

Beyond the courtroom, Mr. Dean has served the community through civic appointments and bar leadership. He is also a member of the Union College Athletic Hall of Fame, having played on its 1989 undefeated football team.

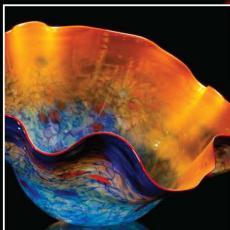


HONORING LESLIE LOEWENTHAL

For more than seven years, Leslie Loewenthal has led the Greater North Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce as Executive Director, where her vision and dedication have elevated the Chamber and strengthened ties between businesses, the community, and the City of North Miami Beach.

Previously, Leslie founded The Loewenthal Agency, where her expertise in public relations, advertising, marketing, and business consulting propelled several clients to national success. She also created the Military Room Makeover Program — a heartfelt tribute to her late father, a World War II hero — providing free room makeovers for veterans across two counties and nine cities. This initiative earned her the prestigious Department of Defense Seven Seals Award and widespread local, regional, and national media recognition.

Her impact extends to education as well, having built award-winning innovative marketing programs for Aventura City of Excellence Charter School and serving as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Miami and Florida International University, mentoring future leaders. Leslie's community contributions have been recognized by the City of North Miami Beach with a Proclamation, International Women's Month honors, and recognition as an Unsung Hero, "Quintessential Woman of the Times." Her dedication to business, education, and community service leaves a lasting impression on all who have the privilege of working with her.



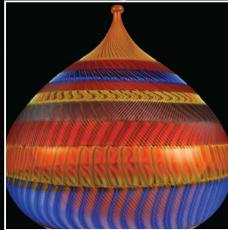
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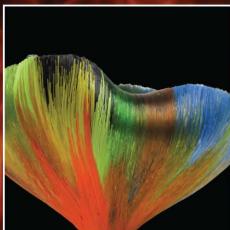
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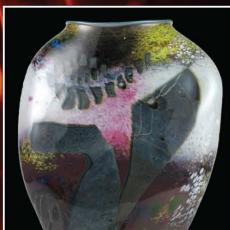


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- ATTORNEY -



HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

Zarran Law está ubicada en Miami Lakes, Florida. Somos una firma legal que provee servicios a nuestros clientes en el estado de Florida incluyendo los condados de Broward y Miami-Dade. Ofrecemos los mejores servicios a nuestros clientes de principio a fin. Nuestros clientes pueden confiar en nosotros para el mejor consejo legal. Más de 10 años de experiencia de la abogada Trinette Zarran, Esq. le han dado el conocimiento necesario para ejercer con los mejores estándares.



Attorney Trinette Zarran, Esq.

NUESTRA PRÁCTICA

Zarran Law cubre un amplio campo de acción que incluye:

- Derecho de Familia
- Ejecuciones Hipotecarias - Foreclosure
- Bancarrota
- Legislación Inmobiliaria – Real Estate Law
- Derechos de Arrendatarios – Landlord Tenant
- Litigios Civiles

PRACTICE AREAS

Zarran Law covers an array of legal fields which include:

- Family Law
- Foreclosure Defense
- Bankruptcy Law
- Real Estate Law
- Landlord Tenant
- Civil Litigation

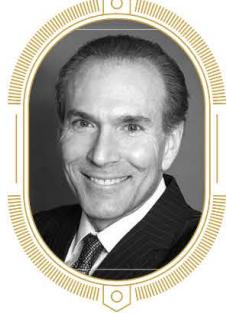
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www.zarranlaw.com



HONORING ERIC D. ISICOFF ESQ.

Eric D. Isicoff is a founding partner of Isicoff Ragatz, where he has practiced law in Miami since 1983 and leads the firm's commercial litigation practice. Widely regarded as one of South Florida's most accomplished trial attorneys, Mr. Isicoff is entrusted by the firm's largest and most sophisticated clients to handle their highest-risk and most complex matters.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Isicoff has earned consistent national and regional recognition for excellence in the legal profession. He has been included in *The Best Lawyers in America*, named a Top Attorney in South Florida by the South Florida Legal Guide every year of its publication, selected as a Florida Super Lawyer, and holds the prestigious AV® Preeminent rating for professional achievement and ethical standards. His practice spans sophisticated litigation in both state and federal courts nationwide, including complex commercial disputes and patent, trademark, and copyright infringement matters.

A Miami native, Mr. Isicoff is deeply committed to public service and philanthropy. He has served on the Civil Service Board of North Bay Village and completed two terms as Vice Mayor of the City. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Joseph Samuel Isicoff Memorial Foundation and on the Executive Committee of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Light The Night Walk, reflecting his enduring dedication to community leadership and charitable causes.

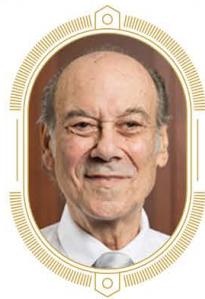


HONORING BEA L. HINES - JOURNALIST

Beatrice "Bea" Loretta Hines is a pioneering journalist whose courage, integrity, and commitment to justice have shaped South Florida journalism for more than five decades. Born on February 12, 1938, in Williston, Florida, Bea moved to Miami with her mother, growing up in Overtown and later Liberty City. She graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1956, laying the foundation for a life of resilience and purpose.

After marrying James Frederick Hines in 1957 and becoming the mother of two sons, Bea was widowed while her children were still very young. She supported her family by working as a maid while pursuing opportunities made possible through the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Her perseverance led to a historic milestone in 1970, when she became the first African American woman reporter at the Miami Herald.

Throughout her more than 50-year career, Bea Hines has been a powerful voice for those unheard, often saying it is her responsibility to "watch for people who can't fight for themselves." Her work addressing police brutality, profiling, and social injustice earned front-page recognition and a Pulitzer Prize nomination in 1981. She has been named one of the nation's top women columnists, received the Royal Palm Award from PRSA Miami, appeared in the documentary *Instruments of Change*, and had her legacy preserved by The HistoryMakers and the Black Archives of South Florida.



HONORING DR. SETH BRAMSON

Dr. Seth Bramson is widely recognized as America's most-published author of Florida history books and the nation's senior collector of Florida East Coast Railway memorabilia, Florida transportation artifacts, Miami memorabilia, and Floridiana. His commitment to preserving Florida's heritage began more than 63 years ago and has resulted in one of the most important historical collections in the country.

Dr. Bramson's Florida East Coast Railway and transportation memorabilia collection is the largest of its kind in the world, surpassing comparable collections held by the State of Florida Museum and the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum for similar materials. Equally extraordinary is his Miami memorabilia and Floridiana collection, the largest in private hands in the United States. Together, these holdings encompass more than 1.5 million individual pieces.

Among the collection's most significant items are the largest assemblage of Florida postcards ever compiled; the most extensive archive of restricted-clientele ("Gentile Clientele") memorabilia; the oldest known piece of marked Miami memorabilia—the 1823 handwritten abstract of the "94,100 Acres of Miami"; and the oldest marked Dade County artifact, the 1878 Revenue (Tax) Collector's book. The collection also includes an unparalleled body of materials documenting Black Miami history.

In addition to his work as an author and collector, Dr. Bramson is a sought-after speaker who offers more than fifteen engaging lectures on South Florida and Florida transportation history, bringing the region's rich and complex past vividly to life.



HONORING TICO ARMAND

Born in Haiti—one of the poorest yet historically richest nations in the Western Hemisphere—Tico Armand proudly honors her homeland's legacy as the first Black republic and a global pioneer of freedom. An international model, public figure, and dedicated community activist, Tico has transformed her platform into a force for empowerment, cultural preservation, and social change.

She is the co-founder of ReRoute 2 Purpose, an organization devoted to the healing, development, and accountability of women through transformative empowerment experiences. Through this work, Tico has helped countless women reconnect with their purpose and heal from emotional and physical trauma. Drawing from her background in modeling, entertainment, and the arts, she has emerged as a powerful voice for personal growth and self-discovery.

A passionate storyteller and published author, Tico created The Adventures of Yaya, a children's series designed to teach history, culture, and language, inspiring young readers to embrace their heritage. She is also the founder of PouBelAyiti, an artistic environmental initiative promoting sustainability, cleanliness, and climate awareness in Haiti, and co-owner of Atizan International, which promotes Haitian and Caribbean culture worldwide.

Currently, Tico serves as co-chair of the Greater Fort Lauderdale-Cap-Haïtien Sister City Committee and as an ambassador for SheBuilds Global, advancing reforestation and development efforts in Haiti. She is presently writing her second book, continuing her mission to celebrate Haiti's rich heritage and the unifying power of the Creole language.

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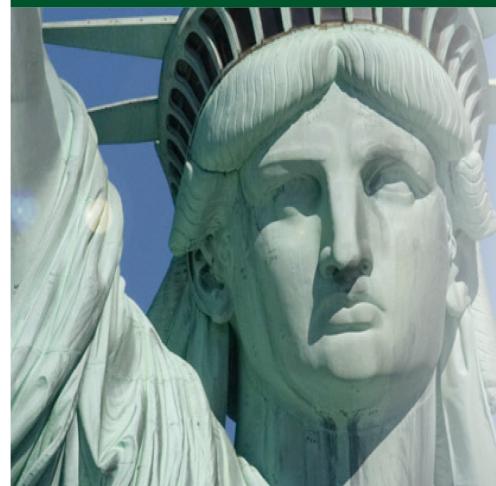


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- Business Expo: City of NMB/Chamber
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- Complimentary Online Display
- Online Marketing Services
- Brand Management Consultations
- City NMB Community Events

CONTACT US

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Chamber

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FREE CONSULTATION

Chamber@nmbchamber.com



City of North Miami Beach

Honoring Exceptional Leadership and Service

A Tribute to Our 2026 Honorees

The City of North Miami Beach proudly celebrates three remarkable leaders whose dedication, integrity, and service have strengthened our community and inspired generations of residents.

Mayor Michael Joseph, Esq.

Recognized for his steadfast leadership, commitment to unity, and unwavering focus on building a stronger, more resilient North Miami Beach. His vision continues to guide the City into a new century of progress and possibility.



Commissioner Phyllis S. Smith

Legacy Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

Honored for decades of distinguished public service and her enduring impact on the lives of North Miami Beach residents. Her legacy of advocacy, compassion, and civic commitment continues to shape the community she serves with heart and intention.



Chief of Police Juan Pinillos

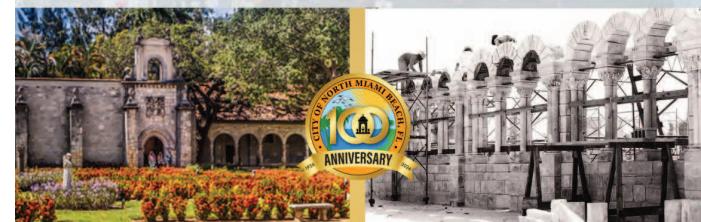
Celebrated for his exemplary leadership, dedication to public safety, and efforts to strengthen trust between the Police Department and the community. His commitment to transparency, partnership, and protection ensures a safer and more connected North Miami Beach.

A Message From the City

Thank you to The Ancient Spanish Monastery Foundation for considering these exceptional honorees. Their service reflects the values that define our city: integrity, compassion, collaboration, and an unwavering commitment to the people we serve.

The City of North Miami Beach proudly congratulates The Ancient Spanish Monastery Foundation on its 15th Anniversary. For fifteen years, the Foundation has been a dedicated steward of one of South Florida's most remarkable historic landmarks, preserving its legacy while opening its doors to education, culture, and meaningful community connection. Best wishes on this milestone anniversary and continued success in preserving history and enriching our community for generations to come.

With gratitude and congratulations from the City of North Miami Beach.



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The Ancient Spanish Monastery

Weddings & Receptions

Whether you dream of a traditional, contemporary, non-denominational, inter-faith or civil ceremony, the wedding staff at the Ancient Spanish Monastery will help you create your own unique memorable wedding service with beauty, warmth and grace.



For more information on our Chapel Weddings, Garden Weddings, Receptions, or Photo shoots please contact Carolina Del Vecchio

Manager of Wedding & Events

Carolina@SpanishMonastery.com (305) 945-1461

The Church of

St. Bernard de Clairvaux

Whoever you are, and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, there is a place here for you at The Ancient Spanish Monastery.

Mass times

8:00 am - English
10:15 am - English
12:15 pm - Spanish



www.spanishmonastery.com or call **(305) 945-1461**

for an updated schedule of operating hours.

We are always closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.





The Ancient Spanish Monastery Foundation

The Ancient Spanish Monastery Foundation's **GARDEN OF LIGHT CONTEMPLATIVE SCULPTURE PARK**, created by the community for the community, fosters a creative nesting space for native pollinators, orchids, butterflies, dragonflies, birds, guests, tourists and students to enjoy peace and beauty. Butterflies and dragonflies are always a flutter.



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md@ancientspanishmonasteryfoundation.org



[spanishmonasteryfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/spanishmonasteryfoundation)



Ancient Spanish Monastery Foundation

www.spanishmonasteryfoundation.com

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