



# Historic Insights



by Gene Pisasale

## Hemingway, Cuba and the Gulf Stream



Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) lived for just under 62 years, but experienced more than most men could see in five lifetimes. He resided in Cuba for over 20 years, longer than any other place. The island nation fascinated and inspired him, helping the author to create some of his finest works, including *The Old Man and the Sea*, for which he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize and the Nobel Prize in literature. Visits to his beloved home, the Finca Vigia, his favorite watering hole El Floridita, the quaint fishing village of Cojimar and other sites enhance your understanding of this highly talented man who was one of the most important authors of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Lecture Outline:

- Humble beginnings in Oak Park
- Foundation for his writing- his wounding on the battlefield in Italy
- A life of adventure- Paris, Key West, Africa and Cuba
- The allure of the island nation: Havana in the 1930s- 1950s
- Hemingway's first 'home' in Cuba: the Hotel Ambos Mundos
- The Finca Vigia: his "Lookout Farm"
- His favorite watering holes: El Floridita, La Bodeguita and Sloppy Joe's
- Cojimar and La Terraza
- Hemingway's cherished sanctuary: the Great Blue River
- Inspiration from the ocean: *The Old Man and the Sea* and *Islands in the Stream*
- A lifetime of achievement: the Pulitzer Prize and the Nobel Prize in literature

### About the Author:



Gene Pisasale is an author and historian who lives in Kennett Square, Pa. He's written nine books, conducts an ongoing lecture series and contributes a column titled "**Living History**" to media outlets in the Philadelphia area. He earned a Master's Degree summa cum laude in American history at American Public University. Gene began his career as a petroleum geologist after earning a Master's Degree in petroleum geology from The University of Texas at Austin. He later worked as an energy analyst and portfolio manager in the investment industry after earning an MBA Finance from San Diego State University, the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certifications. He is an approved **Speaker** and **Visiting Scholar** at the Delaware Humanities Forum. Gene has presented his lectures at a wide range of venues, including the **Hamilton Grange National Memorial** (Alexander Hamilton's home in New York), **Paterson Great Falls National Historic Park**, **Fort McHenry** in Baltimore, **Brandywine Battlefield Park** and the **Union League** in Philadelphia. If your group has guest speakers, he welcomes inquiries for lecture presentations, book signings and other events.

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