

LATINO AMERICANS

500 YEARS OF HISTORY

Introduction for Jennine Capó Crucet:

Good evening. Welcome to the City of Hialeah John F. Kennedy Memorial Library. Thank you for being here tonight, joining us for the book reading of *Make Your Home Among Strangers* by Jennine Capó Crucet. This program is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.

It is my pleasure to introduce Jennine Capó Crucet, Author and Assistant Professor of English and Ethnic Studies at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and graduated Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in English from Cornell University.

Jennine Capó Crucet was born and raised in Hialeah, Florida by parents who emigrated here from Cuba. Jennine's writing is shaped by the stories of Cuba repeated to her from her parents and grandparents and the people and landscape of South Florida. Jennine Capó Crucet has said "My own stories are informed by my experiences as a Cuban-American woman living within and without her community". Jennine's latest novel *Make Your Home Among Strangers*, just out from St. Martin's Press and recently long-listed for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize. Her story collection is *HOW TO LEAVE HIALEAH*, which won the Iowa Short Fiction Prize, the John Gardner Book Award, the Devil's Kitchen Reading Award, and was named a Best Book of the Year by the Miami Herald, the Miami New Times, and the Latinidad List. A winner of an O. Henry Prize and a Bread Loaf Fellow, her writing has appeared in *Guernica*, *Ploughshares*, *Epoch*, *The Rumpus*, *Prairie Schooner*, and other magazines. She was recently the Winter 2013/2014 Picador Guest Professor at the Institute for American Studies at the University of Leipzig, Germany.

Please join me in welcoming Jennine Capó Crucet.