The Prince of Los Cocuyos is a poignant, hilarious, and inspiring memoir from the first Latino and openly gay inaugural poet, which explores his coming-of-age as the child of Cuban immigrants and his attempts to understand his place in America while grappling with his burgeoning artistic and sexual identities.

Join us in celebrating this great work by picking up a copy at the library and attending our related events below.

The TCPL 2019 Community Read is made possible by the generous support of The Friends of the Tompkins County Public Library.

**Lectures**

*Intersectionality: Visibility, Representation, Reflection*
10/3  ·  6–8PM  ·  BorgWarner  ·  Presented by Luca Maurer
An exploration of books with multidimensional, nuanced characters who are more than only their sexual identities.

*Gayogóh* nǫ’ (Cayuga Nation) Residence, Dispossession, and Return: Myths and Realities
10/8  ·  6:30–8PM  ·  BorgWarner  ·  Presented by Kurt A. Jordan
The history of Gayogóh*nǫ’ residence in this region is much deeper and more consistent than has registered with local popular opinion. Ideas about ancient population replacement were based on outdated archaeological ideas about the time-span of Indigenous occupation and culture change.

*Lifting the Emotional Embargo: Travelling to Cuba as a Cuban-American Writer*
10/24  ·  6–8PM  ·  BorgWarner  ·  Presented by Raul Palma
In the summer of 2017, Palma was one of ten writers invited to Havana, Cuba under the mentorship of inaugural poet Richard Blanco and anthropologist/writer Ruth Behar with the mission to meet Cuban artists and build collaborative bridges between writers in Cuba and Cuban-American writers in the U.S.

*Adventures in the Library: On the Trail of Anne Kingsbury Wollstonecraft’s “Specimens of the Plants and Fruits of the Island of Cuba”*
10/29  ·  6–8PM  ·  BorgWarner  ·  Presented by Anne Sauer
Anne Kingsbury Wollstonecraft’s astonishing and beautiful three-volume botanical manuscript of the plants of Cuba has been held in the Cornell University Library for almost a century. It took the tenacity of one historian to help rediscover the significance of this early work and bring it to the world’s attention.

**Writing Workshops**

*Childhood Memories with Zee Zahava*
10/7  ·  5:30–7:30PM  ·  Tompkins Trust Company Study Room
Come write and share childhood memories. This workshop will offer many writing suggestions that come from subjects addressed in Blanco’s book. Registration required.

*Where You Come From with Susanna Drbal*
10/21 & 10/28  ·  6–8PM  ·  Tompkins Trust Company Study Room
How can you explore, through writing, your own journey through space and identity? In this workshop, we will use exercises that help us, as writers, to find narrative entry points through our own confrontations with the limitations and challenges of ideas of identity. Registration required.

**Film Screenings**

*Elías: A Boy Caught Between Two Worlds*
10/2  ·  6–8PM  ·  BorgWarner East
This documentary shares the remarkable story of Elías González, the 5-year-old Cuban boy plucked from the Florida Straits on Thanksgiving Day in 1999.

*Before Night Falls*
10/9  ·  6–8PM  ·  BorgWarner East
A richly imagined journey into the life and writings of brilliant Cuban author and exile Reinaldo Arenas.

*Dance With Me*
10/23  ·  6–8PM  ·  BorgWarner East
A young Cuban dancer inspires students at a Latin dance studio with his passion and spontaneity.

*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*
10/30  ·  6–8PM  ·  BorgWarner East
A transgender punk-rock girl from East Berlin tours the U.S. with her band as she tells her life story and follows the former lover/band-mate who stole her songs.

**Book Discussions & Storytime**

*Family Storytime*
10/12  ·  11AM–12PM  ·  Thaler/Howell Programming Room
Join together for a special storytime in which people from our community will read from Richard Blanco’s picture book One Today, with illustrations by Dav Pilkey.

*The Prince of Los Cocuyos by Richard Blanco*
10/16  ·  1–2PM OR 10/17  ·  6–7PM  ·  Tompkins Trust Company Study Room
Join in a book discussion of Blanco’s coming of age as the child of Cuban immigrants and his effort to contend with his burgeoning artistic and sexual identities. Registration required.

*YA Book Club*
10/16  ·  4:30–5:30PM  ·  Thaler/Howell Programming Room
Teens are welcome to join us for a discussion of The Prince of Los Cocuyos.

*For All of Us, One Today by Richard Blanco*
10/22  ·  6–7PM  ·  Tompkins Trust Company Study Room
Join us in a discussion of the fluid, poetic account of Richard Blanco’s life-changing experiences as the inaugural poet in 2013. Registration required.

*Literacy Inside and Out*
10/31  ·  Tompkins County Jail
As part of a grant from the Finger Lakes Library System, TCPL will be providing copies of The Prince of Los Cocuyos directly to the Tompkins County Jail and facilitating a book discussion there, in order to promote literacy and engage with a largely underserved part of our community.