

# LATINO BOOK CLUB

August 2008

Volume 2, Issue 8

## Next Meeting

September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Saturday, 3-4:30 PM  
Francesco's Cafe,  
839 S. Kerr Ave.

## Book Club Members

Haida Andrade  
Isis Doris Arieta  
Julie Bordo  
Amrita Das  
Kathy Fox  
Jacqueline Galbraith  
Alicia Greenberg  
Rachel Hatfield  
Irene Henderson  
Carol Hernandez  
Kathy Humphrey  
Jennifer Horan  
Evelyn Hrabankova  
Lizzy Irvin  
Marianella Jara  
Annetta Jenkins  
Kathleen Jewell  
Olga Joachim  
Gwen Jones  
Pat Lerch  
Marcio Moreno  
Joanne Mount  
N. Eleni Pappamihel  
Fermin Recarte  
Nicole Strawn  
Christine Vayo  
Kate Williamson  
Dekia Worthy

## Book List

**August 2008**  
Marie Arana, *American Chica*

**July 2008**  
Arturo Islas, *The Rain God*

## Membership Information

Contact Amrita Das  
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910-962-2430

## Books available at:

Pomegranate Books  
4418 Park Ave.  
910-452-1107  
15% discount for club members.

## BOOK OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER 2008



*Latin Moon in Manhattan* (1993) is Santiago “Sammy” Martínez’s journey from the Colombian capital Bogotá, to New York City to find a new life, only to be involved with drug trafficking, among all the other subplots. Martínez hopes to finish his epic poem on Christopher Columbus, but for now is an interpreter in the New York courts, a job Manrique did himself before making a career in creative writing. Martínez, also gay like the author, is trying to find a place for himself, as he learns to cope with losses of his friend, who dies of AIDS and his cat Mr. O’Donnell, who dies of an enlarged heart. This novel has been compared to Manuel Puig, the Argentine author’s *Boquitas pintadas* (*Heartbreak Tango*) for its offbeat style and references to popular culture.

## Author

Jaime Manrique, born in the Colombian town of Baranquilla is currently an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Columbia University in New York City. He moved with his family to Florida as a teenager. Manrique started his career writing in Spanish, his native language. One of his earliest novella *El cadáver de papá* (1980) with a gay protagonist who murders his father was later reworked to become his English novel *Colombian Gold: A Novel of Power and Corruption* (1983). He is a

poet, novelist, essayist, and translator. Manrique tries to reflect the issues of gay Latinos in his works arising from his own



conflictive life as a gay man in the Latino community. *Eminent Maricones: Arenas, Lorca, Puig, and Me* is his autobiography told along with the lives of the three authors. To read an excerpt from this book and know more about the author visit his website

[www.jaimemanrique.com](http://www.jaimemanrique.com)

## Book Club Blog

<http://latinobookclub.blogspot.com>