August 2008 Volume 2, Issue 8

Next Meeting

September 27th, 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 Pappamihiel 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

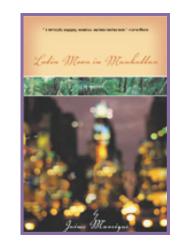
Contact Amrita Das dasa@uncw.edu 910-962-2430

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

Book Club Blog

http://latinobookclub.blogspot.com