

# LATINO BOOK CLUB

December 2008

Volume 2, Issue 10

## Next Meeting

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009  
Saturday, 3-4:30 PM  
Francesco's Cafe,  
839 S. Kerr Ave.

## Book Club Members

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

## Book List

### October 2008

Carla Trujillo, *What Night Brings*.

### September 2008

Jaime Manrique, *Latin Moon in Manhattan*

## Membership Information

Contact Amrita Das  
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910-962-2430

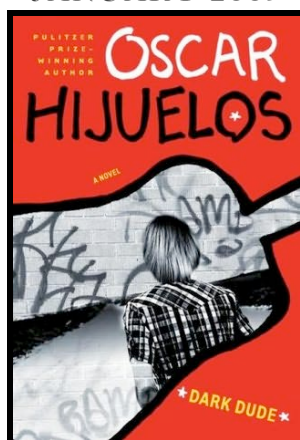
## Books available at:

Pomegranate Books  
4418 Park Ave.  
910-452-1107

15% discount for club members.

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

JANUARY 2009



*Dark Dude* (2008) is Oscar Hijuelos' first novel for the young-adult reader. For many of the book club members this book will remind you of Piri Thomas' *Down These Mean Streets* and Junot Diaz' *Drown* because of a teenage narrator struggling to find his identity in 1960s Harlem/New York city, except that the racial roles are reversed as Rico Fuentes, the protagonist of this novel, is a light skinned Cuban American. Rico finds himself facing the problems of his times with drugs, school violence and sex, and of course trying to fit-in. Tired of being the "dark dude" he runs away from home to the Mid West, with his best friend Jimmy. The novel looks at the racial tension between the Blacks and the Latinos in New York City and Whites and Latinos

in the Mid West, apart from the theme of identity.

## Author

Oscar Hijuelos, a second generation Cuban American born in New York City in 1951, is presently a professor in the English Department at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York. He received a Master's degree in Creative Writing from CUNY. He started his career writing short stories while he working for an advertising agency.

After his first novel *Our House in the Last World* (1983) he took up writing full time. His second novel, probably the most famous, won the Pulitzer Prize for Literature. *Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love* (1989), was made into a film and a musical. His other novels include *The Fourteen Sisters of Emilio Montez O'Brien* (1993) and *A Simple Habana Melody* (2002). He is working on a new novel *Beautiful María of my Soul*. To see a short interview with Hijuelos please visit our Blog site.



## Book Club Blog

<http://latinobookclub.blogspot.com>