

# LATINO BOOK CLUB

February 2008

Volume 2, Issue 2

## Next Meeting

March 29<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  
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

### April 2008

Ana Menendez, *In Cuba*  
*I was a German Shepherd*

### March 2008

Rudolfo Anaya, *Bless me, Ultima*.

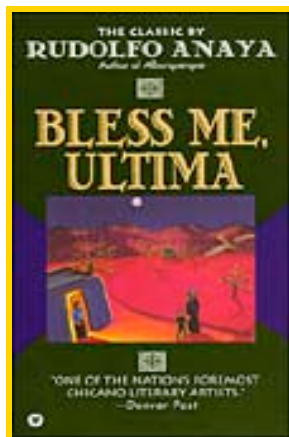
## Membership Information

Contact Amrita Das  
[dasa@uncw.edu](mailto: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 MARCH 2008

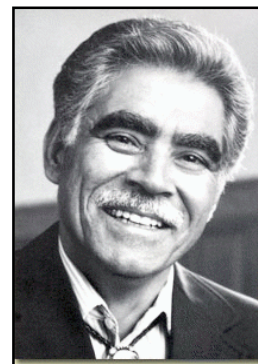


**B***less me, Ultima* (1972) is the second in our club's series of books, which tells a tale of a young boy's coming of age. This novel, like Piri Thomas' *Down These Mean Streets*, is another classic story of life on the border. It is set in the 1940s in the Southwestern town of Guadalupe in New Mexico. Antonio at a very young age feels torn between the two sides of his family and their way of life, especially in terms of his spiritual beliefs. Ultima, Antonio's aunt a *curandera*, a local healer, comes into her nephew's life at a very crucial moment. She brings to him the knowledge of past traditions and the connection to the natural world. This feel-good novel of the Chicano culture, in spite of its dark moments continues to be one of the best sellers read in classrooms and outside. If you would like to read

more from the Southwestern tradition try Tomás Rivera's ...y *no se lo tragó la tierra* (...*And the Earth did not Devour Him*).

## Author

**R**udolfo Alfonso Anaya was born and lives in New Mexico. Like Antonio of *Bless me, Ultima*, Anaya was born in a family with a father from a family of cattle herders (*vaqueros*) and a mother from a farming family. Many of his work are a study of the Chicano culture of New Mexico: the folk traditions, religious beliefs, racism and prejudice. Anaya grew up speaking Spanish and learnt English only at school. He was a professor of English in the University of New Mexico since 1974 till he retired in 1993. Some of his other novels are *Heart of Atzlan* (1976), *Tortuga* (1979), and *Albuquerque* (1992). The last novel, which uses the town's original spelling has been his hometown since he was 15. He also has written plays, poems and children's books.



## Book Club Blog

<http://latinobookclub.blogspot.com>