

# LATINO BOOK CLUB

January 2009

Volume 3, Issue 1

## Next Meeting

February 28<sup>th</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  
Cathy Murphy  
N. Eleni Pappamihel  
Fermin Recarte  
Nicole Strawn  
Christine Vayo  
Kate Williamson  
Dekia Worthy

## Book List

January 2009  
Oscar Hijuelos, *The Dark Dude*.  
October 2008  
Carla Trujillo, *What Night Brings*.

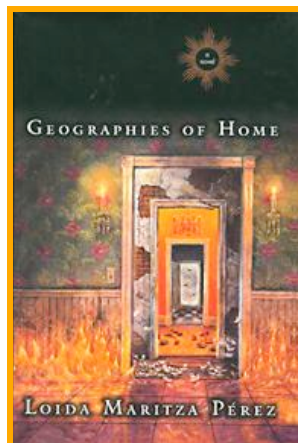
## Membership Information

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 FEBRUARY 2009



*Geographies of Home* (1999) is Loida Maritza Pérez' debut novel. The novel began as a short story, which later developed into a novel. This short story is in Chapter 8 of the novel. The novel is a tale of a Dominican family escaping the Trujillo dictatorship. Aurelia and Papito, their three daughters, Marina, Rebecca, Iliana, and another eleven children come to the United States to leave behind fear and poverty. Unfortunately the American Dream is not what they had expected. The Brooklyn neighborhood, where they move to is surrounded by poverty and racism. One of the daughters is raped and goes mad, and another is stuck in her marriage to an abusive husband. In an interview Pérez says that the issues in this book do not pertain only to Dominicans or Latinos, rather "... to the human

condition: our need to belong and be accepted."

## Author

Loida Maritza Pérez is the third Dominican American author chosen for our Book Club, after Julia Alvarez and Junot Diaz.

Pérez was born two years after the assassination of the Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo in



1963. She immigrated to the United States with her family when she was only three years old. She grew up in New York and attended Cornell University. She chose to study English, in spite of the fact that her parents wanted her to pursue a career in something more legitimate like medicine or law. After reading Gabriel García Márquez' *100 Years of Solitude* she found the legitimacy to pursue literature and now she is working on her next novel based in the Dominican Republic.

## Book Club Blog

<http://latinobookclub.blogspot.com>