

LATINO BOOK CLUB

June 2008

Volume 2, Issue 6

Next Meeting

July 26th, 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 Pappamihiel
Fermin Recarte
Nicole Strawn
Christine Vayo
Kate Williamson
Dekia Worthy

Book List

June 2008

Judith Ortiz Cofer, *The Latin Deli*

May 2008

Junot Diaz, *Drown*.

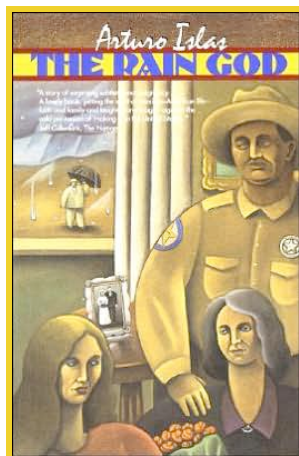
Membership Information

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 JULY 2008



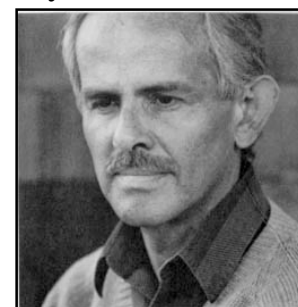
The Rain God (1984) is our second book in the club's series from the South Western tradition. The first one was Anaya's *Bless me, Última* (March 2008). *The Rain God* is set in a border town in Texas, and tells a multigenerational tale of the Ángel family. The history of this family begins with the grandmother Chona's escape from the unrest brought upon by the Mexican Revolution in the early 20th century. Originally titled *Día de los muertos* (Day of the Dead) the novel is the protagonist Miguel Chico's journey back to his past and a remembrance of his ancestors. The final title of the novel *The Rain God* refers to Tlaloc, the rain god of the Mesoamerican cultures. Do not expect a linear history or a handful of characters' lives. This novel although set in a similar tradition that of Anaya's *Bless me, Última*,

reads very differently. Myth and history mesh together as the Angel family saga unfolds.

Author

Arturo Islas (1938-1991) was born in the border town of El Paso. Islas' grandparents escaped to Texas with their nine children, with the unrest caused by the Mexican Revolution. Islas was the first Chicano to receive a Ph. D in English in the United States. He was also the first Chicano to receive tenure in Stanford University, his Alma Mater.

Migrant Souls (1990) is Islas companion novel to *The Rain God*. He was working on a new



novel, the third part to his earlier two novels, which was left incomplete with his death due to complications of AIDS in 1991. Islas a gay Chicano wrote of characters who are gay and issues of male sexuality that were little talked of in his culture, and still remain a concern in the Latino image of masculinity.

Book Club Blog

<http://latinobookclub.blogspot.com>