

Dear Members,

On August 24th AIA begins its new season and I would like to highlight some of the interesting upcoming events for you.

The theme we've chosen for the *International Lecture Series* is "Gaining Momentum: the New Trends in the US and NM Hispanic Communities". The presence of large and constantly increasing Latino communities in the United States and New Mexico is by no means a new topic. However there are quite a number of *new trends* which are changing the face of this country and will do so even more in the future. It is extremely important for all of us to consider and re-evaluate these shifts. There will be three lectures during the fall season: on *Immigration* (09-12-08) which is on the increase and requires a balanced resolution; on *Demographics* (11-08-08) since the Hispanic community is growing faster than any other group in this country; and on *new politics of the Mexican government* (10-11-08). These lectures will be presented by a prominent legal expert on immigration, by a rising academic star; and by a leading Mexican analyst, editor of *Foreign Affairs* in Spanish.

Luncheon Discussions will focus on *Pandemics* (09-04-08) and particularly on the critical issue of whether we are prepared for them; on *Presidential Elections and the War in Iraq* (10-21-08) – a topic which requires no special introduction; and *Schott Solar in New Mexico* (11-20-08) – a German company which is building the company's first thermal power plant in Albuquerque.

The **Book Club** has decided to discuss (08-28-08) two books on the political impact of Hispanics/Latinos: Jorge Ramos, *The Latino Wave: How Hispanics will Elect the Next American President* (New York, 2004); and *Hispanics and the U.S. Political System: Moving into the Mainstream* (Upper Saddle River, N.J., 2008) by F. Chris Garcia and Gabriel R. Sanchez. The Ramos book is a broad, popular treatment of Latinos in the U.S., highly relevant in this election year. It treats cultural as well as political topics and is engagingly written. The Garcia and Sanchez volume is a comprehensive and more academic treatment of the issue.

The **International Cuisine Club** will start the Season with the demonstration and tasting of Paella (08-24-08).

There will be more events that we will dutifully inform you about. Please mark your calendars and *make reservations*, especially for luncheons, because on occasions we are running out of space and the restaurants cannot accommodate all of the "surprise" late arrivals of our growing community.

I am looking forward to seeing you in the fall.

Sincerely yours,

Marina

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