

Esperanza's Box of Saints **Book Club with Women in Prison**

On September 23, María Amparo Escandón will come to California Institution for Women to give readings (in English and Spanish) of her hilarious and touching novel *Esperanza's Box of Saints*. Afterward, women on the outside will participate with women on the inside in discussion, Q & A, and book signing.



Esperanza's Box of Saints is a magical, humorous, and passion-filled odyssey about a beautiful young widow's search for her missing child — a mission that takes her from a humble Mexican village to the rowdy brothels of Tijuana and a rarely seen side of Los Angeles. Rescued from turmoil by her favorite saint, Esperanza embarks on a journey that tests her faith, teaches her the ways of the world, and transforms her from a fervently religious innocent to an independent, sexual, and passionately devout woman.

To participate:

- Contact Erin Runions at erin.runions@pomona.edu (for English discussion), or Martha Barcenas-Mooradian at martha_barcenas@pitzer.edu (for Spanish discussion).
- Fill out a clearance form and return it to Erin or Martha by no later than September 7, 2006.
- Get the book and read it (available through libraries, or very inexpensively on the web).
- Come to CIW on September 23, 2006 from 10:30-noon (Spanish); or 1-2:30 (English).

This event is organized by the Women and Criminal Justice Network of Southern California. The Network works to bring systemic change in the correctional justice system by creating connections between the community and the women inside, by advocating for gender responsive programming, and by communicating with internal and external decision makers. For more information about WCJN, email womenandcriminaljustice@earthlink.net