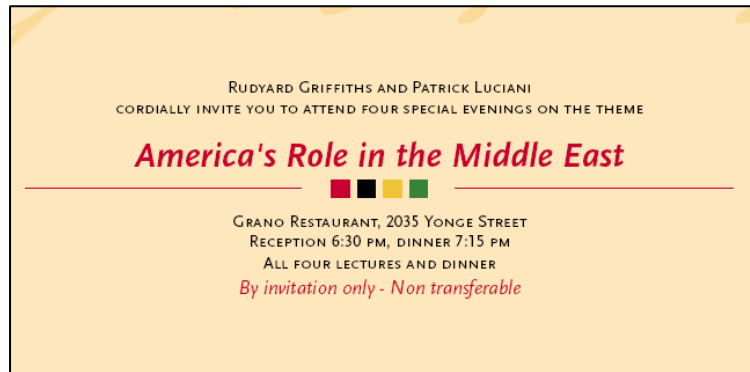


THE GRANO SPEAKERS SERIES

The national media describe it as 'a veritable who's who of elite accommodation' and a 'select salon [that] demands survival of the wittiest'; the Grano Speakers Series is a place where leading thinkers discuss the pressing issues of our times. The Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS) is again a partner in what is called the most influential speakers' series in the country.

The by-invitation-only dinner event, held at the Grano Restaurant in Toronto, is in its second year. Again this year the series is sold out. The Grano Speakers Series was established as a modern-day salon: a small, more intimate gathering where

thought-leaders in business, the media, government, and academia can meet to discuss world events. The Grano's intimate atmosphere provides a perfect combination of informal dining with an energetic atmosphere for debate and discussion.



Robert Kaplan opens this year's Grano Series.

The theme for the 2005-2006 series is *America's Role in the Middle East*. The first speaker is Robert Kaplan, the highly acclaimed author of seven books on international affairs and the Middle East. His most recent book, *Eastward to Tartary*, takes readers on a geopolitical tour of the Middle East, the Balkans and the Caucasus.

Other speakers in this season's series are Christopher Hitchens, perhaps the most brilliant and controversial political commentator and essayist in the US today; Fouad Ajami, the Majid Khadduri Professor and Director of Middle East Studies at the John Hopkins University for Advanced International Studies; and Bernard Lewis, the Cleveland E. Lodge Professor Emeritus of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University.