



The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking  
Connecticut - Massachusetts - New Jersey - New York - Pennsylvania - Rhode Island

*“For there is always light, if only we’re brave enough to see it.  
If only we’re brave enough to be it.” Amanda Gorman  
Inaugural Poem - 1/2021*

## **REFORMA NORTHEAST CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT - June 25, 2023**

Submitted on 6/25/23

Linda Caycedo

RNE President 2022-2023

### **Executive Board Members 2022-2023**

Linda Caycedo, 2022-23 President

Louis Muñoz Jr., Vice President and 2023-24 President

Elisa Garcia, Immediate Past President

Angelina Anzalone, Secretary

Manuel Figueroa, Treasurer

### **REFORMA Northeast Chapter - 2022-2023**

#### **Making a Difference: Engaging Communities of Color**

The **Mission** of the REFORMA Northeast Chapter (RNE) is to promote Library & Information Services to Latinos/Hispanics and the Spanish Speaking for people living or working in the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.

#### **My Goals for 2022-2023 were:**

- Build** on the REFORMA legacy
- Encourage** membership, committee leadership and service opportunities
- Support** & reconnect librarians and professionals serving Latinos & Spanish-speaking
- Target** & showcase library collections, information resources, and events promoting Spanish-language and Latino collections and services

#### **Treasurer’s Report**

**Beginning Balance** - September 30, 2022

Chapter Fund - 10,342.16

Scholarship Fund - 3,148.52

Total:13,490.68

Ending Balance - June 30, 2023 (tobe update 6/30)

Chapter Fund -

#### **July 2022 - June 2023 at a glance**

Membership as of 4/21/2023 - 118

Meeting Minutes are linked at : <https://www.reformanortheast.org/rne-meeting-minutes.html>

1st RNE Membership Mtg - New York Public Library, 476 5th Ave, New York, NY, 9/23/22  
2nd RNE Membership Mtg - Newark (NJ) Public Library, New Jersey, 12/9/22  
3rd RNE Membership Mtg - Hartford (CT) Public Library @ the Lyric., 3/24/23  
4th RNE Membership Mtg - Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA 5/19/23

## **REFORMA Northeast Chapter EVENTS**

[RNE Leadership Institute Webinar & Launch of E-Book](#), 12/2/22

[RNE 7th Annual Book Buzz - Virtual, Friday](#) 4/21/23 PDF

[RNE participates in Pura Belpré Community Celebration](#)

Aguilar Branch/El Cataño Community Garden, 4/21/23

[19th Annual Joint Mini-Conference. MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Engaging Communities of Color](#) -

Center for Puerto Rican Studies Library & Archives, Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College CUNY, 6/16/23

## **Narrative:**

Inspired by last year's RNE 18th Annual Joint Mini-Conference theme, "Overcoming Challenges and Adversities: Recovering, Revitalizing, Reconnecting", presentations, and the 2023 ALA/REFORMA conference, I started the summer of 2022 seeking support and guidance from the RNE Executive Board, former RNE Presidents, membership and my own vision. I transformed my fear of making mistakes into courage to move ahead. Listening and following wise counsel, I am so grateful for the planning ahead, problem solving tips and patience I received from each member of the Executive board, and other REFORMISTAS, and give them my respect and admiration.

Still dealing with the aftermath of COVID, ongoing vaccination mandates, ongoing social justice cases, renegade book banning, divisive politics, extreme climate disasters, we were still uncertain on how we could ever go back to "normal." However, I was determined to continue the path of my predecessors, "making this year one of opportunities and finding creative ways recover, revitalize and reconnect with membership and move through uncharted territories with patience and purpose."

I can proudly share that we were able to accomplish our goals. We held four successful events and four membership meetings. Our membership numbers grew and new members became active in committees; and we were able to work together with the other ALA NALCOs and other institutions in our area.

RNE committee chairs were committed to RNE mission and were committed to keeping us up-to-date with their timeline, new members, activities

I owe much to each of these Committee chairs and supporting members, especially the Book Buzz, JMC 2023 and the Joint Mini-Conference which demanded a lot of time, flexibility and coordination. A true labor of Love.

I am very humbled, honored and proud to have served as REFORMA Northeast Chapter President for 2022-2023.

I am so thankful, honored, and proud of all my Reformistas for their support and active collaborations in making this year an exciting and engaging one. Special thanks to the RNE Executive Board for their patience, dedication and support. Thank you all for your ongoing support and leadership!

*Linda Caycedo*

## **MAKING A DIFFERENCE 2023 and Beyond**

Respectfully submitted,

**Linda Caycedo**

## REFORMA Northeast Chapter President 2022-2023

<https://www.reformanortheast.org>

[RNE Brochure](#)

[RNE PHOTO GALLERY](#)

**HIGHLIGHT EVENTS.** The RNE Chapter has set a precedent of organizing and hosting two well known professional development events in the Northeast area, which continued during my presidency:

### **6/16/23 19th Annual REFORMA Northeast Chapter Joint Mini-Conference (JMC) 2023 “MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Engaging Communities of Color” on Friday June 16, 2023.**

Our in-person conference took place at **El Centro**, The Center for Puerto Rican Studies Library and Archives at the Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College CUNY. Our Keynote speaker, Professor Christopher Bonastia, presenters and attendees were warmly greeted by Centro and the JMC registration at the JMC Registration table. Centro security and set up staff were generous in assisting us with the day's event needs. Thanks to Manny Figueroa, Co-Chair, and our amazing JMC Taskforce: Asuncion Cora, Angelina Anzalone, Louis Muñoz, Tess Tobin, Madellen Garcia and our enthusiastic volunteers, Alejandro Magno and Jessica Agudelo, attendees were greeted with warm smiles, registration name tags, JMC programs, RNE brochures and El Centro information. Attendees had the opportunity to view the inspiring *Ida y Vuelta* art exhibit while enjoying coffee and bagels with others before the conference.

The conference began with a Land Acknowledgment, a sign of respect to the indigenous peoples inhabiting the land where we gathered. Our keynote speaker was **Professor Christopher Bonastia**, Chair of the Sociology Department at Lehman College CUNY. He shared his own experiences and research findings regarding racial inequalities in education and housing, offering ways to “climb or knock down the barriers” to equity. Another presentation included **Miriam Tuliao** (APALA) moderating authors **Delia Cai** (“Central Places”) and **Jenny Xie** (“Holding Pattern”) in conversation. Other presentations included: “Grant Writing, Book Clubs and Community Partnerships as Tools of Engagement,” (**Synchychia Kendrick-Samuel**); “Be Creative at the Library/¡Ser Creativo en la Biblioteca!: Bilingual Arts & Crafts,” an engaging interactive session with participation from all attendees (**Jenelin Ynfante**); “The President’s Council on Racial Equity: Queens Public Library’s Response to George Floyd’s Murder” (**Manny Figueroa, Josselyn Atahualpa, Shakira Smalls**); and “Mental Health and Wellness: Supporting Library Workers” (**Loida Garcia-Febo**) Q & A time allowed participants to ask questions, share comments, and appreciate the sessions. Presenters were eager to engage with attendees and were well received. (JMC presentations are included in the [JMC Program](#) link.) RNE Committee Chairs presented RNE Awards to: Valerie Garcia (Community Service Recognition); **Madellen Garcia** (Ismael Alicea Professional Development Award); and **Elizabeth Borges Ocasio** (Judith Rivas Mini-Grant). [JMC 2023](#)

## **OTHER EVENTS**

4/21/23 - Participation in the **East Harlem’s Aguilar Library’s 3rd Annual Pura Belpré Community Celebration!** The outdoor event took place at the **El Cataño Community Garden** at 171 East 110th Street in Manhattan. There was live music, free giveaways including books and snacks, and community information tables. Aimed for children ages 3 to 12, the crowd included families and teens. Thanks to RNE members Angelina Anzalone and Ruth Rodriguez. Community leader, activist, and advocate Valerie Garcia gave out over 50 free bilingual English/Spanish books; introduced us to local community leaders and organizations; and helped us spread the word about REFORMA. A special shout-out and thank you to everyone in our Northeast Chapter who was able to come support this event.

## **RNE NOTABLE & NEWSWORTHY**

Reformistas who worked tirelessly and represented us well:  
RNE NEWS

Jessica Agudelo: Día Mini-Grants Selection Committee: Co-Chair of REFORMA's Children's and Young Adult Services Committee (CAYASC)

Elizabeth Borges Ocasio: Recipient of the Judith Rivas Mini-Grant 2023

Project: “Expanding and Diversifying the Reading Offerings of Noche de Libros, Tertulia y Café.”

Maria Cotta: **Latino Book Awards** 2023. Rhode Island Latino Arts.  
Bilingual Storytime with Miss Maria /Cuentos Bilingües con Miss Maria. Blog October 13, 2022.

Elisa Garcia:  
Bronx is Reading. Movers & Shaker Finalists. 6th Annual Bronx Book Festival. Friday, June 9th, 2023.

The New York Public Library unveils New Book Collection for NYC Educators. Bronx News12

Valerie Garcia, Recipient of RNE Community Recognition Award 2023, presented at the 19th Annual Joint Mini-Conference - "MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Engaging Communities of Color," Friday June 16, 2023, Center for Puerto Rican Studies Library & Archives, Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College CUNY Pura Belpré Way Street Co-naming by REFORMA Press release 5/2/22 2022

Manny Figueroa: Manny Figueroa: Oral History. Queens Memory.

Loida Garcia-Febo, Mental Health and Wellness: Library Workers Thriving in Uncertain Times, Virtual Conference, April 4, 2023. Loida Febo-Garcia, chai

Madellen Garcia - Recipient of the Ismael Alicea Professional Development Award, presented at the JMC "MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Engaging Communities of Color," Friday June 16, 2023, CENTRO PR, NYC

Yesenia Lopez: Yesenia Lopez:  
Hartford Librarian Aims to Empower Local Hispanic Women Hispanic Heritage Month September 2022  
NBC/CT

2023 REFORMA Dia Mini Grant recipient. Newark Public Library Newark, NJ  
<http://bilinguestorytime.blogspot.com/>

Mary Marquez: Beyond Virtual and Hybrid Programs: How Libraries Recreated a Community During the COVID-19 Pandemic", Webinar & E-Book Launch. RNE Leadership Institute Committee, Presented on December 2, 2022. PDF

Tess Tobin: Leadership Team of Comadres Book Club, 2023, Project Manager for the Las Comadres & Friends National Latino Book Club.



**GRACIAS**

Special thanks to the staff of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies Library & Archives, CUNY Hunter College for their contributions, participation and support.

Many thanks to our sponsors and longtime supporters

**LECTORUM HISPANIC PUBLISHERS**

REFORMA Northeast Chapter 2022-2023  
19th Annual Joint Mini-Conference  
RMC Planning Committee  
Co-chairs: Linda Caycedo, Manny Figueroa  
Angelina Anzalone, Ysela Arellano, Assuncion Cora, Elsa Garcia,  
Fred Gilroy, Louis Muñoz Jr., Ruth Rodriguez,  
Tessa Tobin, Yovanna Velazquez

**ATLA** **apala** **ASLA**

**50** **Choice** **REFORMA**  
**American**  
**Libraries**  
**Association**

**CEN** **50**  
**TRO**

[atlatm.org](http://atlatm.org) [apalaweb.org](http://apalaweb.org) [hcafo.org](http://hcafo.org)  
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[centroajh.hunter.cuny.edu](http://centroajh.hunter.cuny.edu)

**REFORMA Northeast Chapter 2022-2023**  
**19th Annual Joint Mini-Conference**



**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**  
ENGAGING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

Friday June 16, 2023  
9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Center for Puerto Rican Studies  
Library & Archives (CENTRO)  
Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College CUNY  
2180 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10035

**WELCOME**

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM - Registration & Coffee

**MORNING SESSION**

10:00 AM - 10:20 AM  
Welcome/Introductions/Acknowledgments  
Linda Caycedo, RNE President 2022-2023, JMC Co-Chair  
Lead Acknowledgment: Louis Muñoz Jr., RNE VP 2022-2023  
Opening Remarks: Angel Antonio Ruiz Jablon  
Arts & Culture Director, CENTRO

10:25 AM - 11:00 AM  
OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
Christopher Bonastia, Professor and Chair of the Sociology Department at Lehman College-City University of New York.  
Author of *The Battle Between Us* Home and other titles focusing on the politics of racial inequality in education and housing.

**PRESENTATIONS**

11:05 AM - 11:35 AM  
Grant Writing, Book Clubs and Community Partnerships as Tools of Engagement  
Sylvia Kendrick-Samuel, Assistant Library Director, Uniondale Public Library, NY

11:40 AM - 12:10 PM  
*Be Creative in the Library/Ser (re)alizar en la biblioteca!*  
Bilingual Arts & Crafts  
Jenefer Yofanoff, Associate Manager,  
Bilingual Children's Service, NYL

12:15 PM - 12:45 PM  
Authors Della Gal, Henry Xie In Conversation  
Moderated by Miriam Jajko, Penguin Random House Marketing Manager and Co-Chair of APALA's Northeast Chapter

12:45 PM - 1:45 PM  
**LUNCH & NETWORKING\*** (\*Group Photo 1:30PM)  
(Box lunches/refreshments provided by RNE)

**AFTERNOON SESSION**

1:45 PM - 2:15 PM  
The President's Council on Racial Equity - Queens Public Library's Response to George Floyd's Murder  
Joseph Atahualpa, Manager, Rochdale Village Adult Learning Center, CPL  
Manny Figueroa, Talent Development & Training Manager, CPL  
Shakira Small, Executive Director, Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center, CPL

2:20 PM - 2:50 PM  
Mental Health and Wellness: Supporting Library Workers Making a Difference and Engaging Communities of Color  
Loida Garcia Fajó, International Library Consultant, Health & Wellness Advisor, San Jose State University School

2:55 PM - 3:15 PM  
RNE Chapter AWARD PRESENTATIONS  
Community Service Recognition - Valerie Garcia  
Isabel Alicia Professional Development Award - Madelien Garcia  
Judith Rivas Mini-Grant - Elizabeth Borges Ocasio

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM  
Closing Remarks & Acknowledgments  
Linda Caycedo, RNE Chapter President 2022-2023  
Louis Muñoz Jr., Incoming RNE Chapter President 2023-2024

**Be Creative REFORMA!**  
Thank you for making a difference!



*“We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in our hands to make a difference.” – Nelson Mandela*

RNE Playlist

[De Colores](#)

[De Colores. Las Cafeteras](#)

[Si Fuera Presidente Las Cafeteras](#)



# REFORMA

Northeast Chapter

The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking  
Connecticut - Massachusetts - New Jersey - New York - Pennsylvania - Rhode Island



SCAN ME



**19th Annual Joint Mini-Conference**  
**MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Engaging Communities of Color**  
**Friday, June 16, 2023 9:30 am - 4:00 pm**  
**Center for Puerto Rican Studies Library & Archives**  
**Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College CUNY**

