

**REFORMA Northeast Chapter
3rd Membership Meeting
Friday, March 24, 2023
11:00AM - 4:00PM**

APPROVED 5/19/23

Location: Harford Public Library - Park Street Library @ The Lyric
[Hartford Public Library @ Park Street Library @The Lyric](#)
603 Park Street, Hartford, CT 06106

2022-2023 RNE Executive Board:

Linda Caycedo, President, Louis Muñoz, Vice President/President Elect; Treasurer, Elisa Garcia, Immediate Past President, Angelina Anzalone, Secretary; ' Manny Figueroa, Treasurer.

[RNE 3rd Membership Meeting -](#)

Attendees: In- Person - 17; Remote - 9 Total 26

Angelina Anzalone, Linda Caycedo, Elisa Garcia, Manny Figueroa, Evelyn Muriel-Cooper, Josselyn Athahualpa, Daniel Gittens, Graciela Rivera, Nancy Y. Mendez, Haydee Hodis, Jessica Agudelo, Maria Cotto, Asuncion Cora, Elizabeth Bevington, Daniella Pagan, Zoila Bofill, Madellen Garcia **Remote Access - 9** : Mary Marques, Louis Muñoz, Tess Tobin, Genesis Barrera, Lizette Martinez, Yesenia Velasquez, Roxana Benavides, Yoly Avella, Fred Gitner

Meeting 1:04 pm

Welcome/Land Acknowledgment/Host

Linda welcomed attendees, thanked Graciela Rivera and HPL Park Street Library staff for the morning library tour and for generously providing a delicious breakfast and lunch. Linda offered a land acknowledgment and invited attendees to share their own [Land Acknowledgments](#). A link was included on the mtg agenda.

Hosts: Graciela Rivera, Branch Manager; Bridget Quinn, HPL CEO welcomed and gave a presentation about the [Park Street library @ The Lyric](#).

Approval of Minutes: [2nd Membership Meeting 12/9/2022](#)

Manny motions to accept minutes, Evelyn seconds. All in favor.

Treasurer's [Report](#)

Waiting for a check from REFORMA National for memberships and renewals. Spoke about the 1 year membership for Valerie Garcia.

Elections are coming up and there is an opening for Treasurer. Nominations deadline is May 18th.

Presentation: Encuentro Bibliotecario Update - Haydee Hodis

Attended IFLA last August and met a Bolivian librarian who shared her ideas about what's happening in the Latin American library world, especially in relation to children's access to books. They spoke about ideas on how to connect and it became an official group of 5, including Haydee, Roxana, and Tess. "El Encuentro Bibliotecario" was born. Tacna, Peru was chosen as the city that would host. They are working with a university in Peru that will provide the site with support both in-person and locally. Will work with REFORMA National as the group looks to secure their support financially. Webinars are taking place in April. Tess applied to do a poster session at ALA in Chicago. Five countries interested: Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Chile, and Paraguay. They want to make it a yearly, rotating conference. This year is more exploring needs and beginning connecting. They're also going to make it bilingual.

RNE Committees 2022-2023 Updates

Committee chairs update:

Bylaws - Louis, nothing to report.

Communications/Social Media - Linda and Asuncion welcomed new CSM members Yesenia Velasquez and Ruth Rodriguez. Looking for ways to improve RNE social media outlets. Members were encouraged to share their library events. Contact CSM to share events on Instagram or FB.

Election/Nominations: Deadline May 18 - Elisa's "Call for nominations" sent out Wed. 3/22 for RNE Executive board positions: VP, President Elect and Treasurer 2023-2024. Nominate yourself or someone you know. If you have questions, contact Elisa.

Finance - Manny, no updates.

Fundraising - Manny and Asuncion. No activities planned. Various suggestions for fund-raising were shared. Manny and Asuncion look forward to meeting with committee members and creating creative fundraising activities.

Ismael Alicea Professional Development Award Co-chairs: Linda and Elizabeth* (*not present), confirmed this year's recipient for this \$600 award to help cover the cost of attending ALA. **Congratulations to Madellen Garcia**, this year's award recipient. Madellen will be presented the award at the 19th Annual Joint Mini Conference at "El Centro" on Friday 6/16/23. Congratulations!

19th Annual Joint Mini-Conference - Manny/Linda: Event is confirmed for Friday June 16, 2023 11am-4pm at El Centro. "Call for proposals" went out to RNE members, and affiliates: NALCo's. (National Librarians of Color) Deadline for proposals is April 21st, 2023.

Theme: Making a Difference: Engaging Communities of Color. More info will be posted on the RNE website and shared via email. Deadline for proposals is April 21st.

[Judith Rivas Mini-Grant](#) Tess, \$500 mini grant to support programming at libraries. Applications deadline is April 1st.

[Lillian Marrero Scholarship Committee](#) Louis promoted LM Scholarship for library school students, \$1000, find more info on website. Deadline for Applications is April 1st. No applications have come in yet. Decisions will be announced April 15th.

Membership - as of 4/2023 Renewal reminders and emails welcoming new members have been sent out.

Annual Book Buzz - Elisa and Asuncion: Virtual Book Buzz was rescheduled. New confirmed date/time is Friday April 21st from 10-1pm. It will be virtual. Along with Spanish books, the program will include books in English by Latinx creators and speak about the diverse and inclusive experiences of Latinos.

Teresa Mlawer Lifetime Achievement Award Committee - Linda spoke for Janice, who wasn't here. The award is not given out every year, but you're welcome to nominate someone who has had a long service to the Latino community for next year.

State Representatives Reports: Informal reports on related library news in these states: Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island

Connecticut -

Graciela Rivera reports an influx of new arrivals from Peru, Venezuela, and Puerto Rico. The library held a Christmas celebration for new families in Hartford to make it special for them, and now those families are part of the library family and continue to come back. Right now there's a housing crisis for these families and the library wants to think of more ways to be supportive of those families.

Nancy Mendez - [Book writing contest](#), this year's theme: Civil Engagement. The books will get printed. Storybooks are also being created that show what it's like for a child with autism coming to the library so they're aware of what they're coming into.

Rhode Island -

Maria Cotto ~ Maria is the chair of the Rhode Island Latino Books Award, which celebrates books written by Latino/a authors and illustrators. Every spring they have a spring book talk and are having a virtual event at an elementary school with Latino author Matt de la Peña at the end of March. Maria is also the chair for the Sensory Friendly Inclusive Group which seeks to empower librarians to better serve individuals of all ages and backgrounds who are neurodiverse or on the autism spectrum disorder. The group started promoting sensory storytime and now has moved on to include programming for teens and adults like painting classes and board game social hour.

April is Autism Awareness Month. Maria wants to encourage others to do a book display or to collaborate with a community agency to offer sensory friendly programs at your library. Maria will be doing a presentation on "How To Start a Sensory Friendly Inclusive Group and Make a Difference in Your State" at the Massachusetts Library Association in early May. Starting in the Fall 2023, Maria will be available to present about the Rhode Island Latino Books Award and how to get that started in your state. If anyone is interested in these presentation, please email Maria at mcotto@pawtucketlibrary.org

Massachusetts - no update.

New Jersey - no update.

New York - no update.

Break - 2:30 pm - 2:40 pm (Group Photo 2:40 pm)

New Business

[Proposal for RNE Travel Stipend](#) - To help people be more active in the chapter who live far away from where meetings are held and to whom this poses a financial challenge, this stipend fund is being proposed.

A discussion ensued in which many questions were asked. A working group will be formed to create a detailed proposal to be voted on.

Novedades

Tess Tobin - Congratulations Yesenia Lopez at Newark Public Library for winning a REFORMA Día grant. Any REFORMISTA can apply for these grants.

Maria Cotto - Announced and congratulated Tess Tobin for being promoted to Project Manager for the Las Comadres & Friends National Latino Book Club. Latinalit.com

Manny Figueroa - QPL has been seeing an influx of those trying to apply for IDNYC because the people applying for this are mainly asylum applicants from Latin America.

Angelina – spoke about the Pura Belpre Community Celebration on 4/21/23 at El Catano Community Garden across from NYPL Aguilar.

Josselyn is working on a Syllabus on Latinx Information Studies/Issues and is asked if people think something like this is needed. Questions: What REFORMA members would need or find interesting. It was agreed that there is a need for such a document. Josselyn will eventually turn it into a survey. In the meantime she will continue to work with and keep RNE updated. Interested members may contact her at josselyn.atahualpa@queenslibrary.org

Daniella - Mayor wants to cut the library's budget, so encourage people to sign advocacy letters.

Donations [Paypal](#) <https://www.reformanortheast.org/join.html> Today we collected \$124.00. (\$39.00 for general fund/ \$85.00 for scholarship fund. Those attending virtually may donate online. Note: Please specify scholarship donation or general fund donations on check or Paypal.

Save the Date:

Virtual **Annual Book Buzz** is rescheduled for Friday, April 21, 2023, 10am-1pm
RSVP registration info sent out and on the RNE website.

4th RNE Membership Meeting will be held on Friday May 19, 2023 at the [Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art](#)

The 19th Annual Joint Mini-Conference is scheduled for Friday June 16, 2023 from 11am-4pm at CentroPR/ Center for Puerto Rican Studies at the Silberman School of Social Work, 2180 3rd Avenue, NY, NY.

[Awards/Scholarship, Grants Applications/Deadlines](#)

Judith Rivas Mini Grant - April 1, 2023

Lillian Marrero Scholarship - April 1, 2023

For information on joining and participating in upcoming events, connect with us at: reformane@gmail.com or click <https://www.reformanortheast.org>
Contact: Linda Caycedo lacoqui@gmail.com

*For more information on [Land Acknowledgment](#)

Motion to adjourn by Linda, seconded by Elizabeth. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:47pm.