



The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking

Connecticut - Massachusetts - New Jersey - New York-Pennsylvania - Rhode Island



Ismael Alicea
(1954-2015)

Ismael was born in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico on June 12, 1954 and came along with his family to New York at an early age. Ismael was an exceptional Librarian who worked at the New York Public Library for 36 years until his retirement in 2009. He started at the Library as a page in 1972, and worked his way up through various positions. He graduated from John Jay College with a Bachelor of Science degree and obtained his Master's degree in Library and Information Science at Pratt Institute in 1982. Ismael was a fluent Spanish Speaker and a poetry lover with a special interest in Puerto Rican literature and a passion for outreach services. In 1998, he was appointed Outreach Coordinator for the Office of Community Outreach Services where he developed programs and services for the underserved, including speakers of other languages, adult new readers, job seekers, homeless, and the homebound. Ismael was well-known for his professionalism: profound knowledge of the profession and dedication. Ismael was a long-time member of the REFORMA Northeast Chapter and one of the founding members of the Chapter. "On October 30, 2009, he was awarded REFORMA Northeast Chapter's Pura Belpré Librarian of the Year Award for his achievements working to improve library and information services to the Latino and the Spanishspeaking community" (Library Journal, 2015). On May 1st, 2015, the REFORMA Northeast renamed the Professional Development Award in his honor. Ismael was married to his beloved wife Susan Alicea and had three children, Steven, Maggie and Danny. Ismael passed away on Monday, April 13, 2015. He was 60 years old.

Additional information may be available at "Colleagues Remember Ismael Alicea (1954- 2015)"
Library Journal, May 7, 2015 at
<http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2015/05/people/colleaguesremember-ismael-alicea-1954-2015>

(Edited by Alexandra Gomez, REFORMA NE Vice President/President Elect 2015-17)