

REFORMA Northeast Chapter (RNE) Annual Report, June FY 2024-2025

Our Executive Board Members for 2024-2025 are: Madellen Garcia, President; Vanessa “Iridian” Garcia, Vice-President/President-Elect; Louis Munoz Jr., Immediate Past President; Manny Figueroa, Treasurer; Secretary--vacant. Many thanks to a great EB and to all our members!

Our State Coordinators for 2024-2025 are: Connecticut: Graciela Rivera; Massachusetts: Haydee Hodis; New Jersey: Tess Tobin and Louis Muñoz Jr.; New York: Elizabeth Garcia; Pennsylvania: Vacant; and Rhode Island: Maria Cotto.

1st RNE Membership Meeting: Brooklyn Public Library - Sunset Park Library Friday September 13, 2024

We are very grateful to Roxana Benavides for hosting us at her library. Our day started with a tour of the library led by Roxana followed by lunch and then by our membership meeting. Our first meeting of 2024-2025 had a total of 31 attendees, 23 in person and 8 via ZOOM. The meeting proceeded with reviewing and approving Minutes from our last membership meeting, hearing Treasurer Manny Figueroa’s report, and discussing dates and locations for our membership meeting, Leadership Institute and the Joint Mini-Conference.

Manny mention that RNE Chapter has had a deficit of \$400 these past 2 years; though we are not currently in red, but if this trend continues it may be the case in a few years. In response to the deficits we have cuts/expenses---we had to cut down on contributions to Encuentro Bibliotecario and Pura Belpre celebration by \$50; so contribution this year was \$200 for each event. RNE also had planned for a stipend of \$250 to help members attend meeting is being put on hold due to the deficit. We discussed fundraising and call for members to join the fundraising committee to come up with ideas that will help get funding for the chapter.

Locations and dates for our upcoming membership meeting were discussed--2nd meeting sometime in December 2024; 3rd meeting would be in conjunction with the Leadership Institute sometime in March 2025 and the Joint Mini-Conference would be sometime in May. We usually have the Joint Mini-Conference in June but we decide it to change it, because is too close

to ALA and it might be hard for people to travel 2 times in a row or ask for time off.

2nd RNE Membership Meeting: White Plains Public Library,
Friday January 10, 2025

Our second RNE Membership Meeting was held at the White Plains Public Library, White Plains NY. Our day started with a tour of the library, lunch and followed by our membership meeting. We had 13 in person and 7 via ZOOM. The meeting proceeded with reviewing and approving minutes from September 13, 2024; hearing treasure's report, discussing the proposed budget for 2024-2025. Talk about the Leadership Institute, Encuentro Bibliotecario II& III and the Joint Mini-Conference and other items.

Mary Marques shared about the upcoming RNE Leadership Institute, to be held on March 14, 2025 at Newark Public in New Jersey. The Leadership Institute will celebrate its 5th Anniversary this year. For the program we had author Susanna G. Baumann her workshop was about the power of storytelling and how to tell your story and connects to her latest publication: SPEAK UP! Tell your Story to Influence Others: A Guide to Storytelling with a Multicultural Approach".

Encuentro II/Encuentro III Updates

Haydee: Encuentro II took place on October 24-27, 2024 and was a total success despite the strike in Bolivia

*Professionals from Spain, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Chile, and Mexico participated

*Families, adults, and children attended

*Programming included storytellers from Argentina, a festival, Tinku and Caporales dances to promote local culture sharing

*Lectorum donated books which Elizabeth Garcia transported

*Encuentro website: <https://ebibliotecarios.wixsite.com/encuentro-biblioteca>

Encuentro III

*Preliminary work for Encuentro III logistics is being planned so it can take place in Santiago, Chile on October 24-27

*Elizabeth and Haydee express gratitude to RNE Chapter as the funds go a long way

*If held at the Universidad de Santiago de Chile then the site may be free of cost

*Interest in the Encuentro project from the The International Relations Committee of REFORMA National

*Interest in regards to another project involving 10 libraries in Cochabamba

*These libraries receive little financial support and the idea being worked on by Roxanna and Tess is to have a collection that can circulate between the branches

*The goal is to make the project sustainable in the region

*Consideration for doing a presentations about the Encuentros, coordinating with libraries in the region, and the positive feedback from the public and librarians

*Loida suggests to maintain organization documentation detailing how the Encuentros came to be for organizational knowledge and because donors may ask for this information

*Links share for Encuentro Latinoamericano de Bibliotecarios, Archivistas, y Museólogos (EBAM) 2025

*Background: <https://www.abi.bo/index.php/noticias/culturas/57236-encuentro-de-bibliotecarios-archivistas-y-museologos-de-latinoamerica-celebrara-el-bicentenario-de-bolivia#:~:text=%E2%80%93%20Bolivia%20es%20sede%20del%20XV,celebrar%20el%20Bicentenario%20del%20pa%C3%ADs>

*Call for proposals:

<https://www.fundacionculturalbcb.gob.bo/documentos/convocatorias/2024/convocatoria-xv-encuentro.pdf>

Joint Mini-Conference Updates

- The Conference will be on May 16, 2025 location to be confirmed
- Theme of Conference: Cross Cultural Communications in Libraries
- Potential locations were discussed
- No Book Buzz but discussion on having vendors on site is being discuss
- Call for proposals timeline being discuss---Loida mention to send out calls out by March so people can plan flights and to allow time for non-library professionals to consider presenting.

REFORMA Kindness Affinity Group

*Loida applied to REFORMA National to create the Kindness Affinity Group

*Affinity groups are not committees and thus not listed on the website.

However, general background information can still be found

<https://www.reforma.org/content.asp?contentid=572>

*There are currently 3 other Affinity groups

*Before sending an email to the listserv, Loida shares details about the group with RNE

*Purpose: To create a compassionate and inclusive environment by encouraging professional and personal well-being and providing resources

*Objectives:

1. Host events and workshops
2. Develop resources
3. Foster peer support
4. Raise awareness
5. Promote mental health and wellness

*Loida will be the chair and there will be an advisory board

*The group will have no funding and be made of volunteers

Vice-President/President Elect Vacancy was discussed since my term was ending soon; we decided it to have a special election. I sent out an email to the RNE listserv asking members to make nominations within 10 days after email was sent.

3rd RNE Membership Meeting + RNE Leadership Institute: Newark Public Library, Newark, NJ: March 14, 2025

REFORMA Northeast had TWO events on March 14th, both held at the Newark Public Library, Newark, NJ. We had 15 in person and 12 via ZOOM. The first half of our day from 10am-12pm was our 5th annual REFORMA Northeast Leadership Institute. This year we had author Susanna Baumann workshop about the power of storytelling and how to tell your story and connects to her latest publication: *SPEAK UP! Tell Your Story to Influence Others: A Guide to Storytelling with a Multicultural Approach*. Many thanks to the amazing Mary Marques and her committee for putting together such an amazing event.

The 2nd part of the day was our general membership meeting from 1:30pm-4pm. We started the meeting with the approval of last membership meeting but since it wasn't printed we tabled to discuss and approve in our 4h meeting. We heard treasure's report from Manny; Encuentro II/III from Haydee; Joint Mini-Conference Updates.

Manny reported that approximately half of years' worth of dues is still owed. Collection bags were passed for donations from members for either General fund or scholarship fund.

Haydee reported: **Encuentro II/III**

*Encuentro II sought to create a network and establish a rotating collection of children's materials in both English and Spanish. They hope to replicate this model in Chilean and Peruvian cities

*International Roundtable's publication *International Leads (IL)* covered Encuentro II in an issue: [iLeadsV36rev](#)

*A proposal for a Encuentro II presentation was submitted to Reforma National Conference VII

*Haydee has 10 applications for new international members from Bolivia

*Encuentro III will take place in Santiago, Chile at the end of October

Joint Mini-Conference Updates

*JMC will take place on Friday, May 16 at El Centro Cultural Center at Hunter College, NY from 10am-4:30pm

*Theme of Conference: Cross Cultural Communications in Libraries

*We received 6 proposals for the conference

* CALA Northeast chapter will be presenting at the conference

RNE have awards that are given to our members that they can apply for on a given year. This year we had the Ismael Alicea Professional Development Award---this award is to help a member to attend ALA. The Lillian Marrero Scholarship Award---this award is to help an MLS students with their studies by giving the winner \$2,000 towards their tuition and lastly but not least the Judith Rivas Mini Grant---this award is given to help create a program/project at your library/institution.

4th RNE Membership Meeting: Queens Public Library---Broadway Branch, June 20, 2025

Our fourth membership meeting of the year was held at the Broadway Public Library at Queens Public Library, Queens NY, and we had 9 attendees in person and 4 online. Thanks to Manny for arranging the meeting and tour of the library. We started the day with a tour of the library; lunch and followed by our last membership meeting of the year.

Started by approving the minutes from our 2nd and 3rd membership meetings. Treasurer's report was not able to be given since Manny couldn't attend due to mom was in hospital and couldn't do the report but he will be sending the report to us soon. It was mention ALA in Philadelphia from June 27-30th. The Pura Belpre Celebration Sunday, June 30th; the REFORMA National Membership meeting on Monday, June 30th. RNC VII conference on September 18-21, 2025 at Long Beach, California that registration is open. Keynote speaker Maria Hinojosa.

This year the Ismael Alicea Professional Award was not given because we didn't had any candidate apply; since most members were being sponsord by their organizations and as I mention this award of \$600 is to help the members attend ALA.

Lillian Marrero Scholarship Award recipient was Katherine Silva Sedano; she is an archivist assistant and is enrolled in SJSU's online program making her the first recipient to be attending a non-regional school. She received the first disbursement at the JMC Conference and gave a brief acceptance speech.

Judith Rivas Mini Grant Award recipient was Mary Marques from Free Library of Philadelphia.

Before closing this report, we are blessed with many great members in REFORMA Northeast and in all our other chapters, but we want to celebrate our very own Hayee Hodis, who was honored with a Mural painted on the side of the Springfield City Library-Brightwood Branch, MA. Haydee being a librarian for almost 4 decades. Her love for her job, for people, for the community make her so deserving of this recognition. We are so proud and grateful to have her part of our REFORMA family. She has chaired and tirelessly participated in many of our committees, projects, and initiatives, and her ideas and contributions have been invaluable in more ways than anyone could ever count. But, most importantly, we also count Haydee as a very dear friend, colleague, and mentor, and we're so proud to see her work and dedication rewarded. *Felicitaciones*, Haydee!!

Many thanks to REFORMA National for all your support and to everyone for your kind attention and for sharing the inspiring work happening in your chapters, libraries, and communities. Finally, many thanks as well to the RNE Executive Board and to all our amazing RNE members.

¡Siempre Pa'lante, y W E P A!