



EL CORAZON DE TEJAS

Volume I, Issue I

November 2001

REFORMA approves the formation of regional El Corazón de Tejas Chapter

REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-speaking, approved the formation of El Corazón de Tejas, the Central Texas Chapter of REFORMA. The local chapter received formal recognition by REFORMA's Board of Directors when it met during the American Library Association's annual meeting in San Francisco on June 17, 2001.

El Corazón de Tejas Chapter held preliminary meetings this past spring. In one of the meetings Oralia Garza de Cortés, the then REFORMA National President, noted that there is a tremendous amount of work to be done with the growing Latino presence in the United States. For thirty years, REFORMA has dedicated itself to providing better library services for the Latino populations in the United States.

Librarians from Central Texas who have founded the Central Texas chapter represent various branches of the Austin Public Library, Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, Texas State Library and the Waco Library System among others.

Jennifer Thomas, from Austin Public Library's Faulk Central Library, commented: "The creation of a Central Texas chapter of REFORMA has been long hoped for. We are looking forward to developing El Corazón de Tejas into an advocate for library services to Latinos and Spanish-speakers in Central Texas."

The new El Corazón de Tejas Chapter of REFORMA welcomes inquiries for membership from area librarians and information specialists. Some key objectives are the promotion of libraries, the development of scholarships, professional development, technological initiatives, and consulting are all areas of planned participation by the new group.

For further information, contact Jennifer Thomas, Chapter President, 512-974-7547, jennifer.thomas@ci.austin.tx.us, or visit the chapter's Web site at <http://www.main.org/reforma>.



Some of El Corazón de Tejas members after a chapter meeting. First row from left to right: Margo Gutierrez, Elva Garza, Jennifer Thomas, Gustavo Soto, Paola Ferate-Soto. Second row: Adán Benavides, Steve Reich, Oralia Garza de Cortés, Irma Flores-Manges, Jennifer Patterson, Teresita Lazano.

So, What Is REFORMA Anyway?

REFORMA is committed to the improvement of the full spectrum of library and information services for the approximately 35.3 million Spanish-speaking and Latino people in the United States.

Established in 1971 as an affiliate of the American Library Association (ALA), REFORMA has actively sought to promote the development of library collections to include Spanish-language and Latino oriented materials; the recruitment of more bilingual and bicultural library professionals and support staff; the development of library services and programs that meet the needs of the Latino community; the establishment of a national information and support network among individuals who share our goals; the education of the U.S. Latino population in regards to the availability and types of library services; and lobbying efforts to preserve existing library resource centers serving the interests of Latinos.

Continued on page 3

Inside this issue:

Meet Our Officers	2
Immigration Forum	3
Library School Internship	3
Our Mission Statement	4
Corazón's Fundraiser	4
Día de los Niños Event	4

Meet Our Officers



President — Jennifer Thomas

2001-2002 president. Currently a reference librarian with Austin Public Library, where she maintains the Spanish language collection and "New Immigrants Project" ESL/citizenship study center at the Central Library. Also has experience working with new immigrants and refugees in nonprofit legal advocacy organizations. From this experience, she understands the importance of public library services to Latinos and Spanish speakers, and looks forward to helping build a strong REFORMA chapter in Central Texas.

Vice-President / President Elect — Elva Garza

After graduating from the University of North Texas, Ms. Garza worked at the San Antonio Public Library as reference librarian and later as assistant branch manager of the Thousand Oaks Branch. She later worked as the collection development consultant of the San Antonio Area Library System (Currently the Alamo Area Library System) where she helped small community libraries from South Texas develop their collections. Elva currently works as the Manager of the Terrazas Branch of the Austin Public Library, which was recognized last year by Gale and School Library Journal as the "Numero Uno: The Best Little Library" for its collaborative partnership with Sanchez Elementary in the Star Card Project. Elva also received the Austin Independent School District's Hispanic Heritage Community Service Award.



Secretary — Margo Gutierrez

Margo Gutiérrez, whose ancestors have resided in the Sonoran Desert since the mid-eighteenth century, is a native of Tucson, Arizona. She received an M.L.S. from the University of Arizona and an M.A. (Latin American Studies) from the University of Texas at Austin. For more years than she cares to remember, she has served as Mexican American & Latino Studies Librarian and Bibliographer at the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, UT Austin. She also served as the Member at Large Representative for REFORMA National (2000-2001). She received the Librarian of the Year REFORMA Award (2000) and the Librarian Excellence Award from the University of Texas General Libraries (2001).

Treasurer — Gustavo Soto

Gustavo is a native of Mexico City and grew up in Austin, TX. He is an economist and has worked for the Mexican government as a research analyst for the *Sistema Alimentario Mexicano*, the purpose of which was to analyze the agricultural system to boost the Mexican farm peasant economy. Gustavo also worked for Census 2000 as an assistant manager where he recruited Spanish speaking census workers to ensure that minorities were properly counted. In Las Vegas, NV Gustavo was a co-producer and co-host of *Ventana Latinoamericana*, a weekend radio program at the University Community Radio Station KLRU. There he interviewed community leaders and political figures of Nevada, who had a special connection with the Latino community. He currently works for the Branch Services Division of the Austin Public Library and has a special interest in working towards the advancement of library services to Latinos and other minorities in Austin.



So What Is REFORMA Anyway? (Continued from page one)

The organization is governed by an Executive Board which includes the officers, committee chairs, and the Presidents chapters and our one affiliate.

Nationally there are twenty REFORMA chapters. These function autonomously, working through their local library systems, state library associations, and local organizations to achieve local objectives.

One of REFORMA's most noteworthy activities is the annual scholarship drive. The association awards a number of scholarships to library school students that express interest in working with Latinos. Other activities that benefit the members include the publication of a quarterly newsletter which keeps members abreast of the latest developments in the organization and in library services to Latinos; publication of an annual Membership Directory which has, in effect, established a national network of librarians, library trustees, community and library school students with mutual concerns; and programs and workshops that focus on serving Latinos.

For more information about National REFORMA go to: www.reforma.org

Are You Thinking About Library School?

The University of Texas at Austin, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Research Intern 2002-2003

A Research Internship is available for the 2002-2003 academic year for an incoming graduate student to the University of Texas at Austin. The Research Intern will receive a stipend of \$15,500 (paid in nine equal payments), \$500 to help defray medical insurance plus tuition and required fees for up to 9 hours (full load) of course work for two semesters.

To be eligible, the Intern must be admitted to The University and to the Graduate School of Library and Information Science <<http://www.gslis.utexas.edu/>>, be an American citizen or permanent resident, and be an incoming (new) graduate student to UT-Austin. The RI must be nominated by April 15, 2002.

The RI will be involved in "Developing an Information Literacy Virtual Library for Tribal Colleges," <<http://www.gslis.utexas.edu/~vlibrary>>.

For more information, please contact Dr. Loriene Roy, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas 78712-1276. Phone: (512) 471-3959. E-mail: loriene@gslis.utexas.edu

Immigration Forum Planned For Spring 2002

El Corazón de Tejas is organizing a forum on immigration in the Spring of 2002. The objective of the forum is to educate social and educational service workers about issues immigrants face in the U.S. as well as services available for immigrants in Central Texas. The target audience is library staff, educators, and social service workers who come across immigrants as one of the populations they may serve. The forum will be composed of a keynote speaker, breakout sessions on issues such as immigration law and language challenges, and an organizational fair. The goal is to expose forum participants to immigration issues, and to provide resources to better serve their immigrant clients. For more information please contact Jennifer Thomas at (512) 974-7547 or Elva Garza at (512) 472-7312.



El Corazón de Tejas-

Central Texas Chapter of REFORMA
P.O. Box 1236
Austin, Texas 78767-1236

Phone: (512) 974-7547

Email: el_corazon_reforma@hotmail.com

Paola Ferate-Soto, Newsletter Editor
PO Box 40576 Austin, TX 78704
Paola.ferate-soto@ci.austin.tx.us

We're on the Web!
<http://www.main.org/reforma/>

El Corazón de Tejas holds its first fundraising event

Please join us for an evening of music and the spoken word to benefit the EL CORAZON DE TEJAS chapter of REFORMA. It will take place on Saturday, December 1, 2001 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and will be hosted by Martha and Juan Cotera at their home
1502 NORRIS DRIVE AUSTIN, TEXAS 78704.

**\$10.00 DONATION AT THE DOOR;
\$5.00 STUDENTS AND ELDERS**

Proceeds will be used for Spring 2002 programming, including a forum on immigration for library staff, educators, and social service providers, and *Día de los Niños*, *Día de los Libros* activities.

**BECOME A SPONSOR \$25.00 (MANO);
\$50.00 (ALMA); \$100.00 (CORAZON)**
your contribution is tax-deductible

To R.S.V.P. or for more information
(512) 495-4589

El Corazón de Tejas' Mission Statement

El Corazón de Tejas-Central Texas Chapter of REFORMA is committed to improving library and information services for Austin's Spanish-speaking and Latino community. El Corazón de Tejas will actively promote:

- a respectful environment for the REFORMA community;
- the continuing development of education for all central Texas;
- the development and exchange of ideas among libraries to include Spanish language and Latino-oriented materials;
- the development and maintenance of library services and programs that meet the needs of the Latino community especially with regard to information technology;
- the development of affiliations with other groups, i.e. central Texan organizations, that serve the Latino community;
- the recruitment of more bilingual, bicultural professional and support staff;
- the increase in the effectiveness and attention of library services offered in Spanish;
- the education of Central Texans with regard to the understanding of these issues and the need for these services;
- the increased understanding of the unique historical cultural ties between Texas and Mexico, and networking with local organizations with ties to Mexico, i.e. the Mexican Consulate.

Día de los Niños ~ Día de los Libros Event coming up in April, 2002

Día de los Niños~Día de los Libros is an annual event focusing on reading, literacy and library use among the Latino population. It has been celebrated in Austin since 1999 with the help of over 20 community organizations, more than 120 volunteers, and over a dozen public schools. Together they have worked to make *Día de los niños / Día de los libros* a model collaborative partnership promoting books, reading, and family literacy.

Honored for its success as an innovative, collaborative community outreach project, Austin's *Día de los niños / Día de los libros* celebration has received several awards:

- The Highsmith Award for community collaboration
- The Hotho Award for model family literacy outreach
- REFORMA's Pat Mora Award (2000)

Last year the event took place at the South East Branch of the Austin Public Library where an estimated 1,800 children and parents attended this unique community celebration and over 2,600 new free books were given to kids and families to support reading in the home. Children and parents enjoyed stories from many storytellers, readers and performers and more than twenty community agencies provided hands-on activities for children and information for parents.

Next year this event will be held at the new St. John's Branch of the Austin Public Library on April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The planning committee meets monthly. If you would like to participate or help in any way you may contact the co-chairs: Elva Garza at (512) 472-7312 or Bryan Murdock at (512) 232-2286.