



El Corazón de Tejas Central Texas Chapter of REFORMA

Meeting Notes

March 16, 2011

Benson Latin American Collection
Austin, Texas

Present: Adán Benavides, Bob Cárdenas, Melinda Curry, Oralia Garza de Cortés, and Margo Gutiérrez

Membership and Communication

National REFORMA has revamped its website and has launched the online membership signup and renewal procedure. Everyone is encouraged to visit the site and to become a new or renewing member of our chapter, El Corazón de Tejas. Go to this site: www.reforma.org

Al Milo sent this advice March 16 via REFORMANET:

It is very important that you renew ASAP in order to participate in the forthcoming National REFORMA elections (April 1st), to be kept informed about the September REFORMA National Conference (RNC IV) in Denver, and to follow the transition from the REFORMANET listserv to the AMS General Membership Discussion Forum.

If you are a REFORMA Life Member, we still need you to log onto the new AMS at www.reforma.org. Theoretically, when we loaded the REFORMA Membership database into the new AMS, all the data got transferred. The AMS required an expiration date for all members, so for all Life members the arbitrary date of 12/31/2071 has been attached to your record. Needless to say, you are NOT expected to pay any more dues. However, you should still try to retrieve your profile record from the new AMS system. Why? In addition to updating or changing any of the fields associated with your record, you should obtain your temporary username and password (to be sent to your email address). The unique username and password will both be numerical ones. Life members (as do all REFORMA members) have the option of changing their username and password. Should you encounter any problems, please notify the Office Manager at officemgr@reforma.org.

Bob brought a sample of a membership packet that the chapter had previously compiled. He will check whether the documents can be retrieved electronically for revision. People present at the meeting offered to help revise and proofread. The goal is to beef up membership. Included in the packet is a mentorship form. UT Libraries in association with the UT School of Information and the Austin Public Library system both have mentorship programs.

We discussed the original chapter logo designed by María Sims versus the current, more detailed logo. The latter could be problematic as to electronic duplication.

Margo reported that about 80 people are on the chapter listserv whether they are chapter dues-paying members or not.

Oralia made us aware of Reforma on Facebook; this is another 21st-century way to communicate and discuss issues!

Chapter Website

The Corazón website is quite out of date. Bob will look into various avenues for having it updated.

Future Programs

We discussed the possibility of hosting a poetry slam event, an idea Oralia said came from Ana Christy Loya. Margo suggested co-hosting with the Benson for an ¡A Viva Voz! event since they have not had poetry representatives so far. April is National Poetry Month, but planning for something this year would be difficult. April 2012 would be perfect. The Benson could offer an honorarium to be split among poets. We talked about possible presenters: adult poets and/or young, student poets.

Treasurer's Report

Bob reported that the chapter has approximately \$1200 in the account. National Reforma will request a donation from each chapter for the fall conference.

Announcements

- ¡A Viva Voz! Filmmaker Elizabeth Avellán will speak at the Benson from 7-9 pm on Thursday, April 7. El Mesón Restaurant will cater the event.
- Texas Library Association annual conference – April 12-15 in Austin
- The Spanish-speaking Round Table will celebrate the 15th year of Día de los Niños/ Día de los Libros with a quinceañera at the TLA Convention.
- Día de la Familia at Austin Community College, Riverside Campus – 11 am to 2 pm, Saturday, April 16
- Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros sponsored by the Austin Public Library – Saturday, April 30
- SALAM Conference – Adan and Margo told us about SALAM (Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials), a group formed in the 1950s. Librarians and book dealers meet up for conference, and this year's event will be held in Philadelphia from May 28 to June 1.
- FORO (Transborder Library Forum) – The conference will be held in Austin for the first time. Location: AT&T Conference Center on the UT campus. Dates are July 21-23, and the sponsoring group is the Nettie Benson Latin American Collection. Adán explained that FORO is not an organization but an informal meeting of librarians near the U.S./Mexico border that convenes annually. Check out the website: <http://blogs.lib.utexas.edu/texlibris/2010/03/02/time-to-get-foro-on-your-calendar/>
- Reforma National Conference IV – September 15-18 in Denver

Recommendations

Oralia recommends the film “Chico Grande,” a story told from a Mexican point of view by a young boy or soldier during the Pershing expedition. It is recent but difficult to find.

Melinda took notes during the meeting and will compile them for the chapter.