



In Memory of *Dr. Henrietta M. Smith (1922-2021)*



REFORMA de Florida Chapter Meeting at FLA 2011. Dr. Smith is fourth from the left.

Dear REFORMA de Florida members and friends:

It is with much sadness that we communicate the news that Dr. Henrietta M. Smith passed away in Delray Beach, Florida, at 98 years of age. Dr. Smith was a member of REFORMA and REFORMA de Florida, and a supporter since we first tried to reorganize the chapter in 2011 (see *above photo*).

Dr. Smith was a champion for diversity and representation in children's literature, long before #OwnVoices was a hashtag or "*We Need Diverse Books*" was trending. She was a Professor Emerita at the School of Information of the University of South Florida, where some of you might have taken her courses in *Storytelling* or *Multicultural Children's Literature*.

Here is some more information about Dr. Smith from her Wikipedia page:

"Henrietta M. Smith (1922-2021), professor, librarian and storyteller, edited four editions of the [Coretta Scott King Award](#) collection published by the [American Library Association](#).^[1] In 2008, she was honored with the [Association for Library Service to Children \(ALSC\)](#) Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes significant contributions to library service to children and ALSC.^[2] She is also the recipient of the 2011 Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement for her body of work as a significant and lasting literary contribution.^[3] She was honored during the 2014 Carle Honors Celebration by the [Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art](#) for her life's work as a champion of diversity in children's literature."

We do not yet have information about arrangements or tributes in her memory, but will share when those become available.

We are thankful for her legacy. May her memory be a blessing.

The REFORMA de Florida Vision 2020 Task Force