

REFORMA DE FLORIDA

Noticias del mes/News of the month

Notes from the Editor

This issue is jam packed! Read on for information on a Community Outreach Project in Pura Belpré's honor, and the celebration for the 25th Anniversary of the Pura Belpré Award at ALA Annual. In addition *Pura Lectura* at the FLA Lightning Rounds, and an issue of *The Horn Book Magazine* dedicated to Pura, are also discussed.

ALA Annual is coming up, so find out how to join REFORMA National on ZOOM at the Membership meeting. Attend to find out what's happening on a national level.

Our chapter's Book Drive to purchase Spanish language books for unaccompanied minors housed at a Florida shelter ends May 31st. Don't forget to vote in June's Executive Board elections!

Next month we'll feature events in your area. Please email reformafl@gmail.com with the details. Don't forget to include photos!

Until next time!

Alma Ramos-McDermott, Editor

Who was Pura Belpré?

by Alma Ramos-McDermott



Pura Belpré migrated from Cidra, Puerto Rico to New York City in 1920. A year later she was hired at the NYPL's Harlem branch on 135th Street, becoming the first Latina hired by the library system of N.Y.C.

Due to the large number of Puerto Ricans settling in the area, she was transferred to the 115th Street branch in 1929 where she began

bilingual story times, purchased Spanish language books, and planned programming based on traditional Puerto Rican holidays. A few years later she wrote the beloved classic *Peréz and Martina*, also collecting and translating Puerto Rican folktales. She shared these stories of Puerto Rico with the children, including puppet shows as a way for them to come to life.

To learn more about Pura Belpré go to: https://centropr.hunter.cuny.edu/search/centro_search/pura%20belpr%C3%A9 and <https://www.nypl.org/blog/2020/11/12/pura-belpre-library-storyteller>

Info. & top photo from Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pura_Belpr%C3%A9. Young Pura Belpré image from [nypl.org](https://www.nypl.org).





Let the Rumba Begin: The Pura Belpré Book Award is Turning 25!

by Maria F. Estrella, Chair of REFORMA's Children and Youth Adult Services Committee (CAYASC)

The 2021 Pura Belpré Celebración will be held Sunday, June 27th at 1:00 p.m. CST (Central Standard Time), during the American Library Association's Annual Conference. The virtual Silver Jubilee will provide viewers the opportunity to rejoice with this year's award winners and honorees as attendees pay tribute to the esteemed pioneer, talented author, storyteller, and first Latina Librarian at the New York Public Library, Pura Belpré.

Established in 1996, the Pura Belpré Award is presented annually to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding piece of literature for children and youth. It is co-sponsored by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), divisions of the American Library Association (ALA), and REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking, an ALA affiliate.

This year's Pura Belpré Award Author Book winner was *Efrén Divided*, written by Ernesto Cisneros, published by Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Two Pura Belpré Honor Books were named: *The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez*, written by Adrianna Cuevas, published by Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group, and *Lupe Wong Won't Dance*, written by Donna Barba Higuera, published by Levine Querido.

The Pura Belpré Award Illustrator Book Award winner was *¡Vamos! Let's Go Eat*, illustrated and written by Raúl Gonzalez, published by Versify, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

The Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor winner was *Sharuko: El Arqueólogo Peruano/Peruvian Archaeologist Julio C. Tello*, illustrated by Elisa Chavarri, written by Monica Brown, published by Children's Book Press, an imprint of Lee & Low Books Inc.

The Youth Media Awards also announced the first Pura Belpré Award for Young Adults. This year's Young Adult Author Book winner was *Furia*, written by Yamile Saied Méndez, published by Algonquin Young Readers, an imprint of Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill.

Two Pura Belpré Young Adult Honor Books were named. They were *Never Look Back*, written by Lilliam Rivera, published by Bloomsbury YA, and *We Are Not from Here*, written by Jenny Torres Sanchez, published by Philomel Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House.

Members of the 2021 Pura Belpré Award Selection Committee were: Chair Jessica Agudelo, New York Public Library, Queens, New York; Martín Blasco, Washington County Cooperative Library Services, Hillsboro, Oregon; Mara Cota, San Diego State University, San Diego, California; Priscilla K. Delgado, TeachingBooks.net, San Marcos, Texas; Rosa Diaz, Rochester City School District, Rochester, New York;

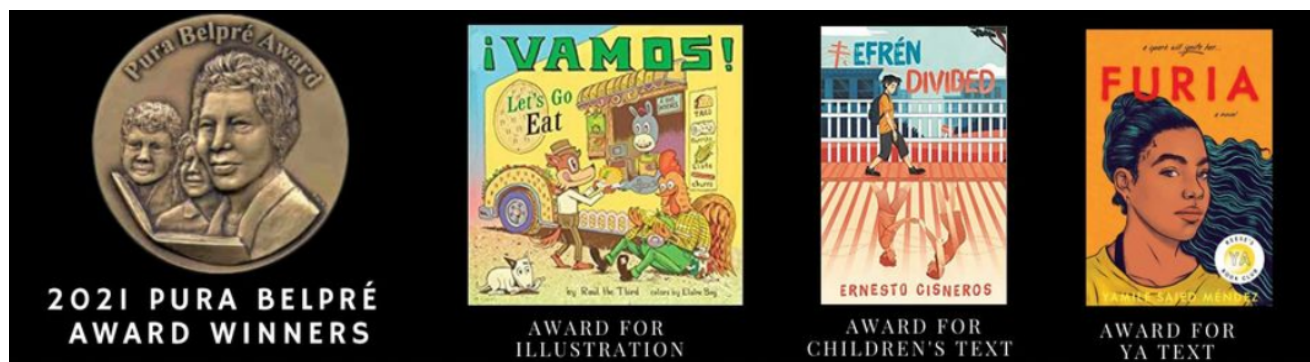
Let the Rumba Begin (continued)

Elisa Anaís García, New York Public Library, Bronx, New York; Rebecca M. King, Arlington Heights Memorial Library, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Please visit the following social media platforms closer to the 2021 Pura Belpré Celebración event date to obtain the streaming link: <http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpre>

<https://www.eventscribe.net/2021/ALA-Annual/> <https://www.reforma.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/REFORMAnational> <https://www.facebook.com/PuraBelpreAward>



The Horn Book Magazine and the Pura Belpré Award by the numbers

by Alicia K. Long



As part of this year's celebrations for the 25th Anniversary of the Pura Belpré Award, *The Horn Book Magazine's* May/June issue will consist of a special issue dedicated to the Award.

REFORMA de Florida's own Lucía González, Vice President/President-elect of ALSC; REFORMA Past President; and two-time Belpré honoree, wrote a welcome letter for this special issue. Alicia K. Long co-authored a piece with Sujei Lugo, in which they compiled facts and figures about the award. The article is entitled "*Pura Belpré Award by the Numbers.*" *The Horn Book Magazine's* website will also include special features and photos contributed by members.

It is important to highlight that several members of REFORMA de Florida have been involved with the Belpré Award in different capacities. Dr. Henrietta Smith, Lucía González, Alma Ramos-McDermott, and Alicia Long all served on the award's selection committees. They also helped plan, decorate, and volunteered at many of the award's "celebraciones" or award ceremonies. Which

REFORMA de Florida members will be next?

Community Outreach Project for the Pura Belpré Award's 25th Anniversary

by Jenny Lizarraga

For many years, the Pura Belpré Award has been promoted among members of ALA. We know publishers and librarians serve a larger community of patrons who need to see their stories represented in children's books.

The legacy of Pura Belpré, which included her willingness to create awareness for Latinx children, as well as her vision to open the doors of public libraries con libros en español and Spanish language storytelling to children and their families, ignited hope in the community.

This June 4th, we are revitalizing Pura Belpré's energy with the Community Outreach Project in East Harlem. We are hosting 100 families with books that were awarded the Pura Belpré Award, and are sharing the NYPL summer reading program, as well as a special issue of *The Horn Book* written especially for Pura Belpré. We are also giving out one gift card per family to bring a little financial support to their day-by-day after a long period of loss, illness and scarcity with the COVID-19 crisis.

This project is made possible thanks to collaboration with the East Harlem Community Partnership, REFORMA North East Chapter, the NYPL, REFORMA, ALSC and YALSA.

It is an honor to organize this Community Outreach Project to celebrate the Pura Belpré Award's 25th Anniversary. A professional video will be made by a journalist from New York City to document the steps leading to the 25th Anniversary celebration. In addition, a marketing and publicity campaign is also scheduled to advertise, inform and create awareness about Pura Belpré's role and the award that, this year, reaches age 25.

The cherry on top for the Community Outreach Project is to name a street after Pura Belpré. These are our plans to perpetuate the Pura Belpré award and Pura's legacy in the United States.



REFORMA de Florida presents "Lightning Talk" at the FLA Conference

by Alicia K. Long



The 2021 Conference of the Florida Library Association (FLA) will take place May 19th and 20th in a hybrid format. This year's theme is "[Lead Inclusively](#)." REFORMA de Florida will be represented with a *Lightning Talk*, on 5/19 at 3:30 pm. A "lightning talk" is a presentation of 15 slides that advance at 20 seconds intervals, for a total of 5 minutes.

"Lightning Talk" (continued)

The title of our presentation is *"Pura Lectura: 25 Years of Books for Latinx Youth."* It introduces the Pura Belpré Award, and showcases some of the winning titles throughout the years. The presentation will be virtual, and was prepared by the *Vision 2020 Task Force* and recorded by Alicia K. Long.

Several members of REFORMA de Florida have been involved with the Belpré Award. Dr. Henrietta M. Smith, who sadly passed away on 4/21/21, had been a member of the Belpré Committee. This presentation is dedicated to her memory.



REFORMA National at ALA

Mark your calendars to join REFORMA National at the upcoming ALA

(American Library Association) conference. The Membership meeting will be held **Monday, June 28th**. The time of the meeting is still to be determined, so keep your eyes on their Twitter @reformatnational and Facebook pages <https://www.facebook.com/REFORMAnational> for more information as we get closer to the conference.

Book Drive update: 579 books!

We've had a wonderful response to our Book Drive to buy Spanish language books to benefit girls (ages 8-18) housed at a Florida shelter. The Drive will end **May 31st**. Email us your totals at reformafl@gmail.com, then mail them to: USCRI

4445 Pine Forest Drive (left side of building)
Lake Worth, FL 33463



REFORMA's Children in Crisis, Cinco Books, Arte Público Press, Spanish Publishers, Lectorum Publications, members of the public, and REFORMA de Florida members have all contributed to send **579 books** to the shelter. Gracias a todos! The Director of the shelter recently emailed: "We

are fixing our library and reviewing the books to divide by genre, language. We are trying to mirror a real library system with checking in and out the books to teach the minors responsibility and getting used to the library system. We encourage them to visit their local library upon release and identify their library and include in their discharge plan. We also have a former librarian (used to be one in Cuba) who is helping us with creating the checking in/out book system at the shelter." Here are some



"before" photos of their library. Note all the empty shelves. Again, thank you to everyone who helped fill those shelves.



Do you have news from your region?

Send “*Que pasa?/What's happening*” news and photos to
reformafl@gmail.com

**Please fill out the Google poll for the upcoming
May membership meeting. Check your email for
the link.**

**Were you forwarded this newsletter but are not yet
a member of REFORMA de Florida?**

Is your membership getting ready to expire?

To join or renew go to <https://www.reforma.org/join> Make sure to check
that you want to join the REFORMA de Florida chapter.

If you're not sure whether or not your membership is going to expire,
send an email to reformafl@gmail.com and we'll let you know your
status.