

REFORMA DE FLORIDA

Noticias del mes/News of the month

Notes from the Editor

Welcome to November, when cooler temperatures begin to unfold.

It's time for the Miami Book Fair! Read to see how our President will be involved, as well as a list of programs offered in Spanish.

Congratulations to Past-President María Vega for being featured by the Florida Panthers in their Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

Welcome to new Corporate Sponsor David Padilla of Bibliotele, who debuts a monthly article on must-watch Spanish films/programs - with a special offer for members.

Our next Executive Board meeting takes place Tuesday, November 4th at 7 pm on ZOOM. Join us and introduce yourself. Learn more about your chapter. Link will be emailed on Nov. 3rd.

A survey was sent to members' personal emails. The deadline to respond is November 17th.

Happy reading!

Alma Ramos-McDermott,
Editor

President's column

by Lucia M. Gonzalez



Hello Reformistas de Florida! I would like to start this November newsletter by inviting all library workers who serve Latino and immigrant communities to join the REFORMA family. If you receive this newsletter as a Member, please share it and spread the word! Los invito a todos a nuestra mesa. Everyone is invited to join us at

our table to share ideas and engage in discussions about creative library programs and services that address the needs of our communities. Your experiences and insights are invaluable, and they can really make a difference in how we serve our Latino and immigrant communities.

For those interested in joining for the first time, or who are unfamiliar with the organization, I would like to start by sharing some basic information about REFORMA National as well as our REFORMA de Florida Chapter.

About REFORMA: Established in 1971 as an affiliate of the American Library Association (ALA), REFORMA is dedicated to promoting the development of library collections that include Spanish-language and Latino-oriented materials. The organization also focuses on recruiting bilingual and bicultural library professionals and support staff, as well as developing library services and programs that meet the needs of the Latino community (<https://www.reforma.org/about>). Nationally, there are 20 active REFORMA chapters. These chapters operate independently, working with their local library systems, state library associations, and local organizations to achieve local objectives. REFORMA de Florida is our Florida Chapter.

Presidential message (continued)

About *REFORMA de FLORIDA*: We are Florida's Chapter of REFORMA. Our main purpose is *"to promote advancement, growth, improvement, and implementation of library and information services to the Spanish-speaking and Latino population of the state of Florida."* When you join REFORMA National, you select your local Chapter that corresponds to your region or state of residence. There is no extra fee for this membership.

By joining our *Florida Chapter* you will connect with, and network among, other Florida REFORMA members who share similar professional interests and concerns, while also contributing to the national dialogue.

Joining: All membership periods *expire one year from the date of your join/renew date. There is also a **"LIFE Membership option"** that is a good option for some of us. I became a Life Member for REFORMA in 1991, and it has been the best professional investment of my career. At the time the cost of Life Membership was \$450 and, surprisingly enough, it has remained the same. *Editor's note: Please email me if you're not sure of the date your membership expires.

Membership levels start at \$40 per year for librarians earning over \$60,000, and are reduced to \$10 per year for MLIS students. Additional categories include memberships for institutions, corporations, and non-profit organizations.

HOW TO JOIN:

1. Go to <https://REFORMA.org/join>
2. Select a Membership type and pay.
3. In your Membership profile, select REFORMA de Florida as your Chapter.

I am excited to see our REFORMA de Florida family expand, especially as we come together to create programs for this holiday season. I understand these challenging times can be incredibly tough for many immigrant families in your communities. The programs you offer, the books you share, and the stories you tell can be a source of comfort and hope for those families who need it most. Your work makes a meaningful difference.

Let's connect and have some fun in the process!

You are invited!

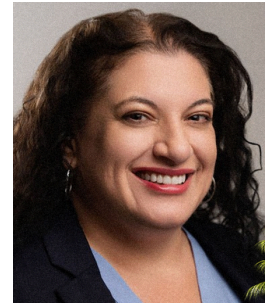
Every month, the Executive Board of REFORMA de Florida holds an online meeting to discuss the business of the chapter, work on ways to encourage growth, and fine-tune our community involvement.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 4th at 7 pm EST. A ZOOM link to join will be sent to members, so be sure to check your email as the meeting date gets closer.

Come and get to know your Board members and find out what's going on with your chapter. We hope to see you there.

Florida Panthers Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates Immediate Past President María Mega

Congratulations to Immediate Past President María Vega for having been chosen by the Florida Panthers as part of their "*Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Series*" for her work in South Florida. Her story, as well as those of the other *Hispanic Heritage Series* nominees, were featured on the Florida Panther's website and social media throughout Hispanic Heritage Month. María will be honored at *¡Vamos Gatos!* Night on Monday February 2nd at Amerant Bank Arena.



María is Assistant Manager/Librarian Senior at the Hollywood Branch of the Broward County Library, Immediate Past President of REFORMA de Florida, and recently served as Co-Chair for the Graphic Novel and REFORMA Collaboration to create the first ever *Core List of the Best Latinx Graphic Novels*.

Congratulations María!

Special Member Survey: Check your personal emails

As members know, work emails are public records in Florida. As a result of the law, they are available to any member of the public upon request - regardless of whether or not the person asking to see them works with you, knows you, lives in the same area, etc. etc. Thus, to not cause any work-related issues, an important survey was emailed to your **personal** emails on October 27th. If you did not receive it, please email us with your personal email address. The deadline to receive your responses is November 17th. Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

The Miami Book Fair is coming: Save the date!



Every year, REFORMA de Florida participates in some way in the Miami Book Fair, taking place this year from November 16-23 at Miami Dade College. There is something for everyone, including evening events.

On Sunday, November 23rd from 3:00-3:50 pm, President Lucia Gonzalez will moderate a panel of three Cuban-American middle-grade authors, "*celebrating the resilient hope of the journeying heart*." The program, "*Cuban American Authors Traverse Sea and Sky - Fiction and Nonfiction*" is geared towards grades 3-7, and will take place at The Art Lab, Building 1, First Floor, Room 1101.

The Miami Book Fair program notes: "*In A Raft of Dreams, Jenibel Acevedo shares the author's experiences immigrating from Cuba on the boat that both represented the pain of leaving everything behind, and the restoration of her ability to dream and hope. Ruth Behar's Across So Many Seas retraces five hundred years of Jewish women who moved their families from Spain to Turkey to Cuba and finally Miami to flee persecution and find opportunity. Based on true historical events, What Fell From The Sky by Adrianna*

Miami Book Fair (continued)

Cuevas follows a young boy who tries to hide a strange creature from the soldiers descending upon his rural Texan town."

As Moderator, Lucia will lead a discussion with the authors about these newly released books.
(Editor note: Information on Spanish language programming can be found on pages 8-9 of this newsletter.)

!Latineando!

by David Hernandez Rivero



Saludos y bendiciones a todos los Reformistas de Florida.

November is here and we celebrate numerous days of cultural meaning for Latinos; likewise, we continue enjoying the magic of fall.

This is a month of cultural and spiritual significance since it brings us to the verge of winter. The transition of fall to winter is a time of introspection, reflection, and honoring our ancestors. It's also a time of giving thanks for everything we have become, our cultural abundance, our legacy, and our cultural pride. As a moment of introspection, it is a good time to reflect on those cultural traditions and celebrations that have shaped us. Celebrations such as *Day of the Dead* in Mexico and Mesoamerica, *Día de Todos los Santos* or *Day of all Saints* (all over Latin America and Spain), *Independence Day* festivities in Cartagena, Colombia, and others such as *La Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de la Providencia*, and the *Day of Discovery* both in Puerto Rico.

Day of the Dead is a magnificent and stunning Mexican Celebration, with similar variations found in numerous other cultures. All over Mexico, *Day of the Dead* is celebrated on November 2nd. The celebration is deeply rooted in Mesoamerican cultures and their beliefs about death and afterlife. People all over Mexico honor their deceased friends and family members with prayers, altars, and other types of remembrance. People also honor their dead with lavish dinners at the cemetery. Other celebrations include parades, as well as town fiestas that include food, music, dancing, and colorful decorations. Some of the most spectacular *Day of the Dead* celebrations are in cities such as Patzcuaro, Michoacan, San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, and Oaxaca. In the U.S.A., you can get a good Mexican taste of *Day of the Dead* in Albuquerque, New Mexico, San Antonio, Texas, Chicago, and San Diego, California. *Day of the Dead* is a cultural festival of death that also celebrates life and the cyclical nature of life and death. It reminds us of life's impermanent nature, but also of the enduring presence, legacy, and memory of our ancestors.

For libraries, *Day of the Dead* celebrations are a great opportunity for community events such as fiestas, parades, and large festivals in those libraries with large interior and exterior spaces. It all depends on your size and resources. In my library system some libraries are blessed with large Friends of the Library chapters who can cover great expenses for programs. In a small library with few resources, you will have to downgrade to small programs or just a book display. But even if you can only afford small programs with a local artist, a nice decoration, and a PowerPoint slide, your community will appreciate the opportunity to meet and celebrate a day of great

Latineando (continued)

cultural significance. In libraries with more resources you might bring musicians, or host a children's party with costumes, clowns, storytellers, as well as piñatas and mariachis. Invite local artists to decorate your community area. Always remember the value of partnerships when creating quality programming. Partnerships, networking, and outreach are critical elements in our library mission. When you conduct consistent outreach and open your doors for partnership and networking, you will always have community artists and performers ready to give you a hand with an event.

Other library celebrations or themes in November are *Native American Month* and *National Novel Writing Month*. These themes represent a good opportunity for book displays, as well as a time to invite artists, writers, and other community members to participate in events at your library branch. Oftentimes, artists and writers love to perform for free and make their contributions to the community. At my library we have offered nice arts and crafts programs celebrating *Native American Month*. I remember one where the performer taught children how to make dreamcatchers and explained its cultural significance. For *National Novel Writing Month*, we can think of numerous programs and displays such as workshops, poetry slam, poetry recitals, and others.

Finally, *Thanksgiving* celebrations close out the month of November. Reflect on how fortunate we are for our heritage, our culture, our communities, and the role we play as librarians working with children, teens, and the community in general by bringing the best of resources, services, programs, and information to our constituency. Every day of our professional lives we impact people with our English, Citizenship, and Computer classes, our Entrepreneurial Seminars, our numerous online databases and resources, as well as our great programs that feature musicians, poets, artists, speakers, and others.

Enjoy this incredible time, and do not forget to enjoy it with your favorite food whatever that may be, either Puerto Rican pasteles and Coquito to drink, or Mexican enchiladas with mole and horchata, or why not a combination of numerous Latino delicacies from all over Hispano America?

Happy *Thanksgiving Day* to all of you.



***Bibliotele joins REFORMA de Florida:
Stories that connect and empower our communities***
by David Padilla



Bibliotele proudly joins REFORMA de Florida, sharing its commitment to strengthening library services and empowering Latino and Spanish-speaking communities across the state. Florida is our home state, and it's where our mission was born - to stand beside libraries as they serve and uplift our communities.

At Bibliotele, we work hand in hand with libraries to reach and support Latino communities

Bibliotele (continued)

through cultural and educational content that informs, inspires, and celebrates our shared identity.

As a new Corporate Member of REFORMA de Florida, we are excited to contribute a monthly column to this newsletter titled “*What to Watch*,” featuring a curated selection of must-watch films and programs in Spanish - titles that highlight the richness, resilience, and creativity of our community.

Because stories matter. And when shared through our libraries, they have the power to unite, educate, and inspire.

What to watch - November Highlights: Stories that Move Us

by David Padilla, Bibliotele

November arrives with color, remembrance, and stories that remind us who we are. Here's what we're watching this month on **Bibliotele**:



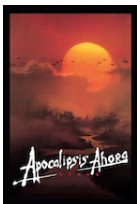
November 2 – Day of the Dead

Celebrate this moving tribute to our roots with *La Llorona* (Mexico, 1933) - the first Spanish-language horror film produced in Mexico. Directed by Ramón Peón, it brings to life the haunting legend that continues to define our collective imaginations.



November 6 – Dominican Republic Constitution Day

Take a cinematic road trip with *El Proyeccionista* (Dominican Republic, 2019), a heartfelt homage to the magic of cinema in the digital age. Follow Eliseo, a traveling projectionist, as he brings films to remote rural towns.



November 11 – Veterans Day

We honor our veterans with *Apocalypse Now* (USA, 1979), Francis Ford Coppola's war epic that changed film history - a meditation on the human cost of conflict.



November 13 – World Kindness Day

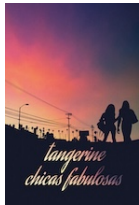
Celebrate empathy and connection with *Bee Season* (USA, 2005), starring Richard Gere - the story of a young girl whose gift for spelling helps heal her fractured family.

What to watch (continued)



November 20 – Universal Children's Day

Discover *La señal* (Peru, 2016), a documentary that captures the creativity of a rural Peruvian teacher who turns the natural world into his classroom, blending botany, geography, and mathematics.



November 20 – Transgender Day of Remembrance

From Oscar-winning director Sean Baker (*Anora*), *Tangerine* (USA, 2015) follows two transgender women through a day in Los Angeles - bold, funny, and profoundly human.



November 25 – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Inés: Memories of a Life (Colombia, 2016) tells the remarkable story of a woman who dared to defy an abusive marriage in the 1950s - a moving portrait of courage and resilience.



November 27 – Thanksgiving Day

End the month on an uplifting note with Frank Capra's *Meet John Doe* (USA, 1941), a timeless ode to kindness and community from the creator of *It's a Wonderful Life*.



Special Invitation for REFORMA de Florida Members

As part of our collaboration, **REFORMA de Florida chapter members can request a complimentary Bibliotele account** to explore these films and many others available on the platform.

It's our way of saying *thank you* for all you do to make libraries places of learning, empathy, and cultural pride.

To request your free access, simply email us at hola@bibliotele.com and start discovering stories that connect, educate, and inspire.

La Feria del Libro de Miami del Miami Dade College anuncia programación de Autores Iberoamericanos 2025



Del 16 al 23 de noviembre de 2025, el **Miami Dade College (MDC)** celebrará la **42da edición de la Feria del Libro de Miami**, que una vez más abrirá sus puertas a las letras en español con el prestigioso **Programa de Autores Iberoamericanos**, uno de los foros más relevantes de literatura en español en los Estados Unidos.

Durante ocho días, reconocidas voces de Iberoamérica y la diáspora presentarán sus obras más recientes. El programa abarca narrativa, poesía, ensayo, literatura infantil, novela negra, y más, con autores de España, Cuba, Bolivia, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Argentina, México, Colombia, Chile y Estados Unidos.

Entre los invitados confirmados destacan **Julia Navarro, María Dueñas, Zoé Valdés, Iván Acosta, Wendy Guerra, Legna Rodríguez Iglesias, Agustín Fernández Mallo, Perla Suez, José Ignacio Valenzuela y Leire Bilbao**.

La programación se inaugura el **domingo 16 de noviembre a las 3:00 p.m.** con un encuentro entre **Legna Rodríguez Iglesias**, una de las voces más innovadoras de la “*Generación Cero*” cubana, y el escritor **Camilo Pino**, quienes conversarán sobre *Paroled*, la novela de Legna que explora con humor y ritmo la vida de la diáspora en Miami.

Durante la semana, una programación diversa: martes 18, novedades de la editorial Casa Vacía con **Rosie Inguanzo, Pablo de Cuba Soria, Alfredo Triff y José Prats Sariol**; miércoles 19, la velada dedicada al género *noir* con autores como **Alicia Escardó, Pablo Brescia y Pedro Medina León**; jueves 20 la presentación del libro de **Javier Marín** en conversación con **Ricardo Brown** sobre las complejidades de la televisión hispana en Estados Unidos.

El viernes 21 de noviembre, la migración y sus narrativas estarán en el centro con la presentación de *Salvar la frontera*, antología que reúne a voces venezolanas como **Juan Carlos Méndez Guédez, Naida Saavedra, Keila Vall de la Ville y Juan Carlos Chirinos** en conversación con **César Miguel Rondón**.

La jornada del sábado 22 de noviembre será como siempre una celebración especial con el XII Seminario de Literatura Infantil y Lectura, liderado por **Sergio Andricaín y Antonio Orlando Rodríguez** de la Fundación Cuatrogatos, que incluirá paneles con figuras como **José Ignacio Valenzuela, Luis San Vicente, Perla Suez y Leire Bilbao**, entre otros.

Entre los momentos más esperados del fin de semana destacan:

- Cita con **Wendy Guerra** *La costurera de Chanel*, en un panel que reflexiona sobre moda, resiliencia y creatividad.
- Encuentro con **Julia Navarro**, quien presentará su nueva novela *El niño que perdió la guerra*.
- Conversación con **María Dueñas**, que presentará *Por si un día volvemos*, ambientada en la Argelia francesa de los años 20.

Programa de Autores Iberoamericanos (continued)

- Panel con **Zoé Valdés**, quien compartirá su más reciente obra *París era una rumba*.
- Presentación de **Rosa Marquetti Torres**, autora de *Celia, cien años sonando*, en diálogo con **César Miguel Rondón**.
- Celebración de la trayectoria de **Iván Acosta**, dramaturgo y cineasta cubano cuya obra ha marcado generaciones.

El programa del sábado también contará con la participación de **Haley Cohen Gilliland**, quien presentará *A Flower Traveled in My Blood: The Incredible True Story of the Grandmothers Who Fought to Find a Stolen Generation of Children*, obra que narra la impresionante historia real del secuestro de cientos de mujeres embarazadas por la junta militar argentina en 1976. Asimismo, **Miriam Lewin** presentará *Iosi, The Remorseful Spy*, un relato de crímenes reales, espionaje, antisemitismo y traición que revela una historia aún sin resolver. Ambas estarán en conversación con el escritor **Saúl Sosnowski**. **Sesión en inglés, con traducción simultánea al español.**

La clausura, el domingo 23 de noviembre, traerá también encuentros con **Raúl González** y su impactante autobiografía *La verdad muere de pie*; debates sobre la relación entre Cuba y Miami en el terreno cultural y político, con autores como **Jorge Ferrer**, **Luis de la Paz** y **Alejandro Ríos**; y diálogos que cruzan fronteras y géneros, como el panel Vínculos en palabra: familias, memoria e identidad, con **Esther Bendahan**, **Agustín Fernández Mallo** y **Carolina Sanín**.

"Celebramos con orgullo la 42ª edición de este encuentro que ha convertido a nuestra ciudad en un puente esencial entre culturas, idiomas y generaciones. Este año, reafirmamos nuestro compromiso de dar visibilidad a las voces iberoamericanas, ofreciendo un espacio donde la literatura en español no solo se celebra, sino que dialoga con el mundo, construyendo puentes de comprensión, memoria y creatividad que nos unen más allá de fronteras," destaca **Mariela Gal**, directora del Programa de Autores Iberoamericano, por más de 20 años.

La Feria del Libro de Miami invita a toda la comunidad a participar de esta fiesta literaria.

Fechas: **16 – 23 de noviembre, 2025**

Lugar: **Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus**

300 N.E. 2nd Ave.

Miami, Fl. 33132

www.miamibookfair.com

Entradas y Acceso – Miami Book Fair 2025

Dónde comprar: **MiamiBookFair.com/tickets**

Feria callejera

Viernes: Entrada gratuita

Sábado y domingo: \$8 en línea (anticipadas); \$10 en la puerta; \$5 para jóvenes (13–18 años) y personas mayores de 62+; Gratis para niños de 12 años o menos

Pase de fin de semana (sábado y domingo): \$15 en línea



In the Know: We want to hear from YOU!

What's going on in your Florida library? Readers want to learn about it, to stay "*in the know*."

If you want to contribute to future columns of "*In the Know*," informing members across the state about something going on in your library, send us an email and we'll make sure your event is featured in our next newsletter. Are YOU in the know?

Are you a Corporate member of REFORMA de Florida?

Corporate members are an important part of our chapter. Send a photo, business card, or a short blurb about your company for a future newsletter. We want to know more about you!

What's happening?: Northern, Central, or Southern regions

What's happening in your library or region related to our Latino community? Email your name, region, title, library name, a short summary of your news or event, and photos. Your news could help grow membership in your region, so we look forward to hearing from you.



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

To join or renew, go to REFORMA National's Membership page and be sure to check REFORMA de Florida as your chapter.

Is your membership getting ready to expire? Are you a Member-at-large?

If you're not sure if your membership is expiring, email us to learn your status.

If you're a REFORMA National **Member-at-large** (that means you're not associated with REFORMA de Florida or any local chapter), **join the REFORMA de Florida chapter** as a full member.

Just log into your membership account, and check REFORMA de Florida as your chapter.

It's as easy as that!