



REFORMA DE FLORIDA

NOTICIAS DEL MES/NEWS OF THE MONTH

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Dear REFORMA de Florida family,

As Latino librarians, library workers, and students, we often talk about serving our communities. But every now and then, I like to pause and remember something equally important: **we are a community**, too.

One of the things I admire most about REFORMA is that it reminds us we don't have to navigate this profession alone. We celebrate each other's accomplishments, encourage one another through challenges, mentor future librarians, and proudly represent the many cultures, stories, and experiences that make up our Latino community.

Our backgrounds may be different, **Mexico, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Cuba, Colombia, the Dominican Republic**, and so many more, but our mission is shared. Every program we create, every student we inspire, every family we serve, and every new librarian we welcome strengthens not only our libraries, but our community as a whole.

As you read this month's newsletter, I hope you're reminded that your work matters, your voice matters, and your story matters. Together, we're building libraries where every Latino child, student, and family can see themselves reflected, represented, and truly welcomed.

Thank you for being part of this incredible community.

With gratitude,
Gaby Gomez

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN RE-INTRODUCING MEMBER MEET AND GREETINGS by: Alma Ramos-McDermott



Last month I introduced Ximena Valdivia as our Southern Region Rep. Gaby Gomez **stepped out** and **up** and is now our Central Region Rep. Thank you Gaby. Ximena and Gaby already communicated with their region's members. If you live in one of these regions and didn't get their email, please let me know. Don't forget to respond to their emails, as sharing, meeting each other, and participating together as regions will bring us closer as a chapter. I'm still looking for a Northern Region Rep so, if interested, please email me.

Since it's now August, I'd like to make an August announcement. Merriam-Webster defines the word "*august*" as being "*marked by majestic dignity or grandeur.*" My majestic, august, announcement is for you. In 2019, when I was Chair of the committee to restart the chapter, we met regularly with members. These online meetings held through 2021 served as a time to get to know one other, laugh, hang out, commiserate, bring in non-members, and catch up on what's going on in our lives. At the beginning of each get-together, I played music by request while waiting for everyone to join (I was introduced to Bad Bunny's music at one of these hangouts!)

My *august* announcement is to let you know I'm bringing back these informal, fun, low-pressure Meet and Greet. In time, once we've established a base of participants, I'd like to move these online meetings to a restaurant, bar, coffee shop, ice cream parlor, etc. to meet in person and continue that spirit of conviviality.

Check your email this week for a poll seeking a day/time to meet in August. Once the poll closes, I'll choose the day/time which has the most votes and send out a ZOOM link. Don't fret if the day/time doesn't work for you this month, because there will be another poll for September's online Mixer.

I hope to see you at the upcoming Meet and Greet!

Alma



ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP

by: Lucia Gonzalez

The ALA Annual Conference is always a highly rewarding professional experience. Colleagues from across the country and from various types of libraries come together to network, explore, and share. It offers a chance to mingle with publishers, editors, favorite authors, and leaders in the library technology and resources field. For us, REFORMistas, it's a time for embraces, catching up, and participating in the meetings, programs, and social activities that we organize or that represent our interests as REFORMistas. Vendors and distributors—providers of books and resources dedicated to serving the Latino community—are an essential part of the REFORMA family.

One signature REFORMA event that unites our shared cultural experience is Noche de Cuentos. This year's Noche was generously sponsored by a core group of five corporate members of REFORMA, four of whom we are proud to count as members of our own REFORMA de Florida Chapter!

Sometimes it is easy to overlook the efforts and dedication of our vendors, providers of books and resources that are solely focused on serving the Latino community. Now that I have joined the ranks as a consultant for Spanish Publishers, LLC, I can appreciate the inside story—the camaraderie and the genuine commitment to understanding and serving the markets they reach: our communities.

Noche de Cuentos, a REFORMA literacy initiative now in its 18th year, continues to grow and flourish, as it becomes a banner under which we proudly display the names of our corporate REFORMA family. This year's sponsors were:

- **Bibliotele:** the leading Spanish-language streaming platform built exclusively for libraries—public and academic—designed to connect Latino communities.
- **Cinco Books:** providing culturally relevant books in Spanish, dual language, and bilingual education for children and adults



ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP

by: Lucia Gonzalez

- **MakeMake: Biblioteca Digital:** a platform for digital, interactive, and animated books that offers access to a unique collection of children's and young adult literature from Latin America.
- **Spanish Publishers LLC:** the leading provider of Spanish titles to libraries nationwide.
- **Vista Higher Learning:** developing print and digital solutions that meet the needs of all language learners.

An integral part of the Noche de Cuentos initiative's mission is to showcase the work of Latino storytellers and performers to audiences nationwide. In Chicago, we laughed, cried, danced, and were deeply moved by the stories and music shared by the featured performers that included Chicago's own Nestor Gomez, Irania Macias, and members of CrissCross Mango Sauce.

The energy was so rewarding that we immediately began discussing next year's event, and other corporate REFORMA members—part of that same “core” family—enthusiastically joined in to support it. Ideas bubbled like a great caldo cooking in the family kitchen. One such idea, brewed by Catalina Holguín from MakeMake (REFORMA de Florida Chapter Member) was to feature storytellers from Latin America on our Noche stage virtually.

Now that I work as a consultant for Spanish Publishers, a REFORMA de Florida corporate member, my responsibility is to staff the exhibit booth all day, so I don't have the opportunity to attend as many of the wonderful programs at ALA. Attending the conference as a vendor gives me a different perspective and is also a very rewarding, exhilarating experience. I look forward to next year's ALA Conference and to our own NRC IX in Denver. We will have some great Noches! Que vivan los cuentos!

Lucia M. Gonzalez
2025-26 Past-President
REFORMA de Florida Chapter

AUGUST ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date - 2026 Annual Conference



The FACRL 2026 Annual Conference is expanding to two days!
Taking place Thursday, October 8 and Friday, October 9, 2026 from 10AM - 3PM ET. The conference will focus on collaboration and human connection.

2026 FACRL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE COLLABORATION AND HUMAN CONNECTION IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

The Florida Chapter of ACRL(FACRL) is seeking proposals for presentations, posters, roundtable discussions, and lightning round sessions for the 2026 FACRL Virtual Annual Conference, held online on Thursday, October 8 & Friday, October 9, 2026.

Full call for Proposals, rubrics and information at the link

<https://facrl.wildapricot.org/news/13632971>

Conference registration opens in August 2026.



2026 SEFLIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE BEYOND THE EXPECTED

The 2026 SEFLIN Annual Conference will be held on October 15, 2026, at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in West Palm Beach, Florida. Registration is now open! Join the Southeast Florida Library Community for an energizing day of connection, inspiration, and fresh ideas at the SEFLIN Annual Conference. This year's theme celebrates how library staff are pushing boundaries, rethinking services, and creating meaningful impact in their communities and throughout the profession.

More information and details here <https://www.seflin.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=2054236&group=>



BIBLIOTELE

Remember that, as REFORMA de Florida members, you all have access to a free [Bibliotele](#) account and can enjoy its catalog and content. Just let us know if you would like to sign up and Bibliotele staff will pre-authorize your access by adding you directly to their member list.

Once that's done, you will be able to create your account, and gain full access to the Bibliotele catalog, as well as the content they have developed in partnership with REFORMA de Florida, including the AI training sessions.

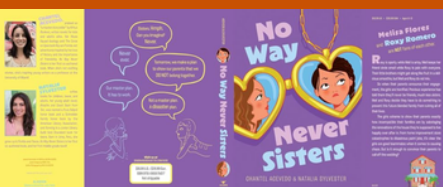
So hurry up and take advantage of this REFORMA Florida member benefit. Claim your access today!

NO WAY, NEVER SISTERS: CONVERSACIÓN CON CHANTEL ACEVEDO Y NATALIA SYLVESTER

Join authors [Chantel Acevedo](#) and [Natalia Sylvester](#) on this [15 minute video](#) for a special conversation about "No Way, Never Sisters," a heartwarming novel about family, friendship, and the challenges of adapting to new beginnings.

During this event the authors share the inspiration behind the story, their creative process, and the importance of Latinx representation in young adult literature.

Organized by the Miami-Dade Public Library System in collaboration with REFORMA de Florida, the event was sponsored by Bibliotele, which also gifted copies of the book to all attendees as part of its commitment to promoting reading and Latinx voices.



AUGUST ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date - 2026 Annual Conference



The FACRL 2026 Annual Conference is expanding to two days!

Taking place Thursday, October 8 and Friday, October 9, 2026 from 10AM - 3PM ET. The conference will focus on collaboration and human connection.

2026 FACRL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE COLLABORATION AND HUMAN CONNECTION IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

The Florida Chapter of ACRL (FACRL) is seeking proposals for presentations, posters, roundtable discussions, and lightning round sessions for the 2026 FACRL Virtual Annual Conference, held online on Thursday, October 8 & Friday, October 9, 2026.

Full call for Proposals, rubrics and information at the link

<https://facrl.wildapricot.org/news/13632971>

Conference registration opens in August 2026.



2026 SEFLIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE BEYOND THE EXPECTED

The 2026 SEFLIN Annual Conference will be held on October 15, 2026, at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in West Palm Beach, Florida. Registration is now open! Join the Southeast Florida Library Community for an energizing day of connection, inspiration, and fresh ideas at the SEFLIN Annual Conference. This year's theme celebrates how library staff are pushing boundaries, rethinking services, and creating meaningful impact in their communities and throughout the profession.

More information and details here <https://www.seflin.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=2054236&group=>



BIBLIOTELE

Remember that, as REFORMA de Florida members, you all have access to a free [Bibliotele](#) account and can enjoy its catalog and content. Just let us know if you would like to sign up and Bibliotele staff will pre-authorize your access by adding you directly to their member list.

Once that's done, you will be able to create your account, and gain full access to the Bibliotele catalog, as well as the content they have developed in partnership with REFORMA de Florida, including the AI training sessions.

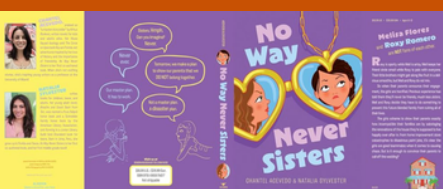
So hurry up and take advantage of this REFORMA Florida member benefit. Claim your access today!

NO WAY, NEVER SISTERS: CONVERSACIÓN CON CHANTEL ACEVEDO Y NATALIA SYLVESTER

Join authors [Chantel Acevedo](#) and [Natalia Sylvester](#) on this [15 minute video](#) for a special conversation about "No Way, Never Sisters," a heartwarming novel about family, friendship, and the challenges of adapting to new beginnings.

During this event the authors share the inspiration behind the story, their creative process, and the importance of Latinx representation in young adult literature.

Organized by the Miami-Dade Public Library System in collaboration with REFORMA de Florida, the event was sponsored by Bibliotele, which also gifted copies of the book to all attendees as part of its commitment to promoting reading and Latinx voices.



AUGUST ANNOUNCEMENTS

YES, YOU SHOULD SUBMIT THAT PROPOSAL! WEBINAR, FINDING YOUR VOICE IN PRESENTING



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 05 - 10AM - VIA ZOOM

Were you inspired by a breakout session or a poster at FLA or another conference? Do you have an idea to share, but are maybe unsure of whether to present it? Maybe you're wanting to get started in scholarly publishing but don't know where to begin. This webinar will bring together a panel of four speakers who will help demystify the process of sharing ideas and presenting research in the library world.

[CLICK HERE](#)

[REGISTER](#)



FLA LEADERSHIP THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WEBINAR BUILDING OUR STORY TOGETHER



TUESDAY, AUGUST 18 - 1:30PM - VIA ZOOM

Libraries are essential organizations that evolve to meet the needs of the community. Our services have even greater reach when we form and foster partnerships with agencies, organizations, individuals, and groups. This webinar will explore how these connections are made, maintained, and woven into the library's story.

[CLICK HERE](#)

[REGISTER](#)





BY: DAVID HERNANDEZ-RIVERO

Saludos Reformistas de South Florida

Outreach and Back to school.

We are almost done with summer reading program 2026. It has been an intense period with numerous events, initiatives, World cup excitement and much more. The summer theme “unearth your story” has been very successful among kids, families, and the public. We created great programs by establishing good partnerships with numerous public agencies, universities and colleges, museums, and private entities as well. It has been an authentic feast of natural science and literacy for our South Florida library branches.

We are getting ready now for a new chapter when schools reopen for the 2026–2027 school year. Back to school represents a great opportunity for librarians to explore, innovate and connect to our communities. Library card drives, school outreach events, back-to-school programming, books and art displays, etc. are some exciting ways to celebrate back-to-school. Knowing the community and its key players such as local schools in our area, non-profit organizations, government institutions, and other agencies is critical before embarking on this adventure.

Numerous back-to-school giveaways events might be happening in your community, which opens opportunities for outreach where you can advertise your programs and services. You might have some school supplies or summer program leftover that you might give away during your outreaches. In past years I’ve had plenty of summer left over books, and some other goodies. Once I have a confirmation date I collect everything I can take for giveaways. During the giveaway outreach is your opportunity to showcase your services and resources. As demographics in our South Florida communities are always changing you will find numerous people with no previous experience of public libraries. Please consider that you will find numerous parents whose first language is not English, and some of them may not speak it at all.

Work on your signage and materials and include bilingual or multilingual materials. These patrons get excited to hear that libraries not only check out books, but they offer opportunities such as online tutoring, language classes (not only for the students but also for family members), physical space for tutoring, printing, scanning, and numerous educational, cultural and community programs and events. Libraries even offer volunteer opportunities for teens! Parents will always have questions for you regarding reading levels, AR, and other related topics, Be prepared!



BY: DAVID HERNANDEZ-RIVERO

During the first week numerous schools have their open houses to show parents the schools, introduce the teachers as well as services and resources available for families. During these events the school invite community vendors including libraries. They will set up tables for their partners. This is your opportunity to talk to numerous parents about your library. Make sure you have plans to make new library cards or facilitate the process. It's also a good opportunity to meet school officials, including the media specialist who will be your liaison to school. Working with the media specialist will always be beneficial for us. By establishing partner relations with the media specialist, you will get future invitations to numerous school events such as science fairs, career days, and others. A great opportunity to coordinate special library events such as reading for the record, summer reading, and others. The critical aspect of our partnership with

media specialists will be sharing information about AR and books that will be assigned during the school year so we can work on expanding our collections to cater for schools' needs.

Other events that you might consider for programming, and displays are numerous Independence days in Latin America such as Bolivia, August 6 th , Ecuador, August 10 th , and Uruguay August 25 th .

Libraries in south Florida continue collecting donations for Venezuela. Our solidarity with Venezuela in these difficult times after a national tragedy continues. Libraries have areas for donations. We might create informational areas about Venezuela and other displays to inform our library patrons.

Ache to all of you

BIBLIOTELE

August Highlights: Beyond Fear: Where Horror Meets Science Fiction

Stories that redefine what frightens us

by: **Javier Hidalgo, Bibliotele**

Some of cinema's most unforgettable stories begin with a simple question: What if? What if reality isn't what it seems? What if the future is worse than we imagined? What if the greatest threat comes from within ourselves?

For decades, horror and science fiction have invited audiences to question what lies beyond the limits of reason. Whether imagining worlds that shouldn't exist or confronting fears rooted in our own reality, both genres share a fascination with the unknown.

Discover a collection of films where suspense, imagination, and unforgettable twists come together for the perfect late-night watch.



Men

Feature Film · United Kingdom · 2022

After the death of her husband, Harper retreats to the English countryside in search of peace, only to find herself trapped in an increasingly disturbing reality. Alex Garland's *Men* combines psychological horror, striking symbolism, and unsettling ambiguity into **one of contemporary genre cinema's most thought-provoking films**.



A Cure for Wellness

Feature Film · United States · 2016

A routine business trip to an isolated wellness center in the Swiss Alps slowly turns into a surreal nightmare. Directed by Gore Verbinski, this visually stunning thriller blends Gothic horror and psychological suspense into **an unforgettable descent into madness**.



Ghosts of War

Feature Film · United Kingdom · 2020

Feature Film · United Kingdom · 2020 Five American soldiers assigned to guard an abandoned château during World War II soon discover that something far more terrifying than the battlefield awaits inside. Constantly subverting expectations, *Ghosts of War* is **a supernatural thriller filled with surprising twists**.



Viral

Feature Film · United States · 2016

When a parasitic outbreak places an entire neighborhood under quarantine, two sisters struggle to survive as the infection spreads closer to home. **Produced by Blumhouse**, *Viral* combines body horror with an intimate coming-of-age story about fear, family, and the loss of control.

All these titles — and many more — are available on Bibliotele, supporting libraries in their cultural programming, community conversations, and seasonal outreach initiatives throughout May.

BIBLIOTELE

July Highlights: Too Hot Outside? Stay for One More Episode



Loop Track

Feature Film · New Zealand · 2023

Seeking solitude in New Zealand's remote wilderness, a man begins to suspect that something unseen is following him through the forest. Written, directed by, and starring Thomas Sainsbury, **Loop Track masterfully blurs the line between psychological suspense and supernatural terror** until its unforgettable final twist.



Cell

Feature Film · United States · 2016

After a mysterious signal transmitted through cell phones turns people into violent killers, a comic book artist joins a small group of survivors searching for safety—and for his missing family. **Adapted from Stephen King's novel**, Cell blends apocalyptic horror with a chilling reflection on technology, mass communication, and human isolation.



Stake Land 1 & 2

Feature Film · United States · 2011/2016

These **two cult favorites** follow a young survivor and a legendary vampire hunter across a post-apocalyptic America devastated by violence and fanaticism. Blending horror, western, and road movie traditions, the saga explores survival, community, and hope amid the collapse of civilization.



REFORMA Member Benefit: Complimentary Bibliotele Subscription:

Did you know that REFORMA members receive a FREE Bibliotele subscription?

If you would like to activate your subscription or need assistance with your account, please contact David Padilla directly at:

✉ david@bibliotele.com

He will be happy to help you get started with your complimentary access.

All these titles — and many more — are available on Bibliotele, supporting libraries in their cultural programming, community conversations, and seasonal outreach initiatives throughout May.



DEAR FUTURE LIBRARIAN

by: *Gaby Gomez*



IT'S OKAY NOT TO BE OKAY

Dear Future Librarian,

Today, I don't want to talk about cataloging, metadata, or discussion boards. I want to talk about something that's much harder to organize than a MARC record: our mental health.

As I'm writing this, I'm drinking a protein coffee while listening to "Dragula" by Rob Zombie. It's probably the most accurate soundtrack for how life has felt lately. Loud, chaotic, and somehow still motivating enough to keep moving.

If you're studying library science or working in a library in Florida right now, you may have noticed that this profession feels... heavy. Jobs are increasingly competitive, opportunities seem fewer than we'd like, and it's easy to start wondering if you're doing enough. You begin comparing yourself to everyone else, questioning every interview, every application, every decision, until one day you realize you've become your own biggest critic.

I've been there.

The hardest part isn't the workload or even the job search. It's protecting your confidence while everything around you makes you question it.

Please don't forget to take care of yourself while you're building your career. Celebrate the small victories. Take a break when you need one. Talk to someone you trust. Reach out to a mentor. If things begin to feel overwhelming, don't be afraid to seek professional support. Asking for help has never been a weakness, it has always been an act of courage.

And if there's one thing I hope you take away from this month's column, it's this: your worth is not determined by your current job title, the number of interviews you've had, or how long your job search has been.

There are people who believe in you. Former coworkers, professors, classmates, mentors... people who have seen your potential, even when you struggle to see it yourself. Hold on to them. But most importantly, hold on to yourself. Through every rejection, every setback, and every difficult season, keep believing that your place in this profession exists. Sometimes the right chapter simply takes a little longer to begin.

P.S. I'm still on the lookout for MLIS students to interview! If you'd like to be featured in the next Dear Future Librarian, [email me](#).

Until next time, I'll be finishing my protein coffee, turning up "Dragula" by Rob Zombie, and reminding myself that the best stories rarely have easy beginnings.

Gaby



LO-QUE-LEO

by: *Lucia Gonzalez*

FOR ADULTS:

El tiempo entre costuras / The Time in Between by Maria Dueñas. Editorial Atria Español, Enero 2011. Book is only available in Spanish. The series title is “The Time in Between” and is translated.

David Padilla, from Bibliotele, jokingly suggested adding a Part II to this column and calling it “LoQueLeo / LoQueVeo.” So I thought that this month I’d share both “lo que leo” and “lo que veo” by highlighting the wonderful novel by María Dueñas, *El tiempo entre costuras*, which is also a Netflix series. I watched the series years ago and only recently read the book. If the series was excellent, reading the novel was an unforgettable experience that created a deeper, more intense connection. *El tiempo entre costuras* is one of those novels that entertains and moves us while also inviting us to discover a fascinating period in history. The Spanish Civil War is the novel’s historical context. Following in the footsteps of Sira Quiroga, I traveled to Morocco, to Tetuán and Tangier, while escaping and trying to understand the devastating effects of the war. The novel intertwines espionage, love, and the great events of the 20th century. I highly recommend both, the book and the series. It is truly a captivating and unforgettable story!

FOR YOUNG ADULTS

From: Alma Ramos-Mcdermott

“Hear ye mortals” by Yamile Saied Méndez. Levine Querido (Chronicle Books), 2026.

A teen girl is murdered in Rosario, Argentina, and an angel is sent to collect her soul, but her body hasn’t yet been discovered, and she doesn’t remember her name. To help her remember while they waited, the angel told her the story of a band called Río Babel. Though it had been fifty years since she’d been with them, the angel had never forgotten.

In 1976, teen brothers Daniel and Adrián felt the pulse and beat of music in their souls. After a truck filled with pigs crashed near their home and was slaughtered by the hungry people, Adrián wrote a song about it. With Daniel’s melody, it transfixed everyone. As Argentinians were suffering under the brutal heel of an authoritarian government, it was easy for the public to believe the song was about the police and their heavy-handed treatment. The band thought the song would make them stars. Instead, they found themselves in the crosshairs of those cleansing the country from people who make music that moves souls. As Death narrated horrors in Zusak’s “The Book Thief,” so too, does the angel as she describes how the brutal regime imprisoned, tortured, murdered, and disappeared tens of thousands. This would make an excellent addition to a high school book club, as it has much for students to discuss.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR LIBRARY

this September?

We want to highlight the **amazing things** happening in libraries across *Florida!*



WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- Programs & events
- Success stories
- New initiatives
- Community partnerships
- Outreach & literacy projects
- Library celebrations
- And more!



SHARE IT WITH OUR COMMUNITY!

Submit your article, announcement, or photos for the **REFORMA** de Florida Newsletter.

Email your submission to:
gabylibrarianfl@gmail.com



SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

August 28, 2026



CELEBRATE OUR WORK

Let's celebrate the impact we make together.



SHARE YOUR IMPACT

Your stories can encourage and inspire others.



INSPIRE OUR COMMUNITY

Together, we build stronger libraries and communities.



TOGETHER, WE TELL THE STORY OF **HISPANIC/LATINO LIBRARIANS IN FLORIDA.**



CORPORATE MEMBERS OF REFORMA DE FLORIDA

Corporate members are an important part of our chapter. Thank you, *Bibliotele, Cinco Books, MakeMake, Penguin Random House, The Shelf Media, Planeta* and *Spanish Publishers* for being part of our chapter!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?: NORTHERN, CENTRAL, OR SOUTHERN REGIONS

✨ **YOUR LIBRARY DESERVES THE SPOTLIGHT!** ✨

Programs, celebrations, community partnerships, innovative services, staff achievements; if it's making a difference, it's worth sharing. Email us your name, title, library, region, a brief summary, and photos to be featured in an upcoming issue.

WERE YOU FORWARDED THIS NEWSLETTER BUT ARE NOT YET A MEMBER OF THE FLORIDA CHAPTER OR REFORMA NATIONAL?

To join, go to REFORMA National's Membership page and make sure REFORMA de Florida becomes your local chapter by checking "Florida." We'd love to have you join our familia.

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRING?! ARE YOU A MEMBER-AT-LARGE?

If you're not sure if your membership is expiring, email us. If you're a REFORMA National **Member-at-large** (not associated with any chapter) and you live in Florida, **join the REFORMA de Florida chapter**. Log into your membership account, and check "Florida." That's it! Once you check "Florida," you'll become a member of our familia. It's as easy as that!