Heartland REFORMA and Pura Belpré

Christine Peterson, Library Information Specialist, Johnson County Library; Anitra Steele, Heartland REFORMA Secretary; and Sarah E. Velasquez, Heartland REFORMA Vice President
WHAT IS REFORMA?

- Established in 1971 as an affiliate of the American Library Association
- Governed by an Executive Board which includes officers, committee chairs, chapter Presidents and our one affiliate
- 18 active REFORMA chapters nationally
  - Function independently
  - Work through local library systems to achieve local objectives
- [www.reforma.org](http://www.reforma.org)
GOALS

- Promote the development of library collections to include Spanish-language and Latino oriented materials
- Recruit more bilingual and bicultural library professionals and support staff
- Develop library services and programs that meet the needs of the Latino community
- Establish a national information and support network
- Educate the U.S. Latino population in regards to library services
- Lobby to preserve existing library resource centers serving the interests of Latinos
OUTREACH AND ACTIVITIES

- National Conference
- Scholarship Drive
- Quarterly newsletter
- Publication of an annual Membership Directory to establish a national network
- Programs and workshops that focus on serving Latinos
- REFORMAnet (listserv)
- Online perks to members
AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Pura Belpré

- Estela and Raúl Mora Award: $1000
  - Most exemplary program celebrating El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day)
  - 15th Anniversary this year

- Trejo Librarian of the Year :$1000
  - Member who has promoted, advocated services, and filled an unmet library need to the Spanish-speaking and Latino communities

- REFORMA Scholarship: $1500
  - Spanish speaking graduate library school student
  - Number of scholarships varies from year to year
HEARTLAND CHAPTER

- Those living or working in the states of Missouri, Kansas, Minnesota, and Nebraska
- Founded in 1997
- Professional development
- Online meetings
- Networking
- Mock Pura Belpré
UPCOMING EVENTS WITH HEARTLAND

 October 18 & 25, 2011, 2:00-4:00 pm CDT, Yolanda Cuesta will be presenting online sessions about Marketing Library Services to Spanish Speakers

 October 27, 2011, 6:30 pm CDT, next Heartland REFORMA meeting

 January 12, 2012, 9:00 am-1:00 pm CST, Mock Pura Belpré at the Johnson County Central Resource Library and online
WHO WAS PURA TERESA BELPRÉ (1899–1982)

- First Puerto Rican librarian hired by the New York Public Library
  - Children's librarian
  - Pioneered the library's outreach within the Puerto Rican community
- Developed services to the Spanish-speaking community, bilingual story hours, puppet theaters, and outreach programs
- Author
- Storyteller
- Promulgator of Puerto Rican folktales
Library and Literary Career

- Authored *Pérez and Martina* in 1932
  - A love story between a cockroach and a mouse
  - First book published in English in the U.S. by a Puerto Rican author
  - First published by a major publishing house
- Also collected many other folktales from Puerto Rico,
- Translated 15 children’s books from English to Spanish and had them published
Published Works

- *The Tiger and the Rabbit, and Other Tales* (illustrated by Kay Peterson Parker), 1946; new edition (illustrated by Tomie de Paola), 1965
- *Juan Bobo and the Queen's Necklace: A Puerto Rican Folk Tale* (illustrated by Christine Price), 1962
- *Ote: A Puerto Rican Folk Tale* (illustrated by Paul Galdone), Pantheon, 1969
- *Santiago* (illustrated by Symeon Shimin), 1969
- *Dance of the Animals: A Puerto Rican Folk Tale* (illustrated by P. Galdone), 1972
- *Once in Puerto Rico* (illustrated by C. Price), 1973
- *A Rainbow-Colored Horse* (illustrated by Antonio Martorell), 1978
- *Firefly Summer*, 1996
- *The Stone Dog*
BIRTH OF THE PURA BELPRÉ AWARD

Oralia Garza de Cortés   Sandra Rios Balderrama

- Two Latina children’s librarians, both of Mexican heritage
  - Concern for quality library services to Latino children and families
  - Realized need for Latino authors and illustrators to write books
  - Acted on the promise to create a children’s literature award
THE PARTNERSHIP

• Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC)

• REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking
Award was formally established in 1996

- Joint jury was appointed
- Awards were given during the First National REFORMA Conference–Austin, Texas

Originally awarded every two years (biennially)

Now, awarded annually since 2008
First Author and Illustrator Awards, 1996

An Island Like You: Stories of the Barrio, by Judith Ortiz Cofer

Chato’s Kitchen, by Gary Soto; Illustrated by Susan Guevara
PUPPET KITS FOR PROGRAMMING

- anitrasteele@yahoo.com
- “Heartland puppets" in the subject line
- Or by phone: 816-836-4031
REFERENCES
