

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Library Journal Selects Six REFORMA Members as Movers & Shakers

Each year, Library Journal selects 50 library professionals as Movers & Shakers in the field as a representation of exemplary contributions to the library and the communities they serve. This year, out of over 300 nominations, Library Journal selected their superstars, six (6) of which are proud and active REFORMA members.

REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking, is an organization that is strong in its mission to serve, educate, and promote the underserved populations of the Nation.

This year's Movers & Shakers are just a percentage of the committed individuals making change through REFORMA.

Here are the REFORMistas selected by Library Journal's, who are "moving and shaking" things up in the profession.

### ADVOCATES

**Oralia Garza de Cortés** / Independent Consultant - Austin, Texas  
*REFORMA Chapter: Corazon de Tejas Chapter* *Member since: 1986*

Oralia Garza de Cortés is a leading voice for bilingual, multicultural and Spanish language children's literature. A native of Brownsville, Texas, she is Past President of REFORMA. In 1996 she co-founded the Pura Belpré Award, a children's literature award established within the American Library Association that honors Latino authors and illustrators of books that exemplify the best in Latino writing and illustration for children. The first Latina elected by the membership (1995) to serve on the Board of Directors of ALSC, the Children's Division of the Association of Library Services for Children, she was also the first Latina children's librarian elected to serve on the 2000 Caldecott Committee. Garza de Cortés also co-founded the Children and Young Adult Services Committee of REFORMA. She has served on numerous book award committees and has played a leading role in advocating for library and community programs in celebration of April 30<sup>th</sup>, *El día de los Niños/El día de los libros*. In 2012 she received the Advocacy Award from the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color; was named to the Women in Library History 2013 by the Feminist Task Force of the American Library Association.

**Lucia M. Gonzalez** / Library Director - North Miami Public Library  
*REFORMA Chapter: Florida* *Member since: 1991*

Lucia M. Gonzalez is an MLS graduate from the University of South Florida. She has worked in different capacities for the Miami-Dade Public Library and Broward County Library Systems and is now Library Director at the North Miami Public Library. Lucia is also a children's book author and two-time Belpre Award Honor winner. Lucia is 2010-11 Past-President of REFORMA, and Co-Chair of REFORMA's Children and Young Adult Services Committee.

**Patrick Sullivan** / Emeritus Librarian - San Diego State University Library  
& Information Access

*REFORMA Chapter: LIBROS* *Member since: 2000*

Patrick is a retired Business Librarian at San Diego State University who continues to work within the profession. He has been involved in international relations as Past Chair of the ALA IRRS Sister Libraries Committee and the Americas Committee. He is also a Past Chair of REFORMA's International Relations Committee. He has worked extensively with the Baja Libraries Association and the Mexican National Library Association and has assisted in coordinating the Guadalajara Book Fair Book Donation Program between ALA, the Department of State and the Mexican Public Library Association. Currently Patrick is Co-Chair of the REFORMA Children in Crisis Task Force.

## **EDUCATORS**

**Manuel J. Escamilla** / Archivist - Santa Ana Public Library  
*REFORMA Chapter: Orange County* *Member since: 2011*

Manuel 'Manny' Escamilla grew up using the McFadden branch of the Santa Ana Public Library. It was there that he first experienced what it is like to join a library community. He began working at the Santa Ana Central Library at the age of 18 where he followed his passion for local history and continuously volunteered with the Santa Ana History Room. This led him to pursue a career as a community archivist. You can often find him wandering around Santa Ana collecting flyers, posters, and other soon to be historical materials. He shares this passion for preserving local history through the 'Teen Community Historian' program that he leads every summer.

**Jacqueline Welsh** / Program Manager - Los Angeles Public Library/  
Library Foundation of Los Angeles

*REFORMA Chapter: Los Angeles* *Member since: 2011*

Jacqueline Welsh received her MA in Information Resources and Library Science from the University of Arizona's School of Information Resources and Library Science in December of 2012, and was a member of the 10th Cohort of the Knowledge River program at SIRLS. She recently completed a two year contract with the Los Angeles Public Library as a librarian-in-residence, and currently serves as the Program Manager for the newest joint project between the Library and the Library Foundation, *To Live and Dine in LA*.

## **COMMUNITY BUILDERS**

**Cecilia Tovar** / Principal Librarian Branch & Public Services - Santa Monica Public Library  
*REFORMA Chapter: Los Angeles*                      *Member since: 2007*

Cecilia started working in libraries 19 years ago as an undergraduate at the University of Arizona as an Interlibrary Loan Page. She earned her B.A. in Spanish and began working for the Superior Court Law Library. Throughout her career, she has gained experience in a variety of special, school, academic, and public libraries. Cecilia has a Master's degree in Education from Northern Arizona University and a Master's degree in Information Resources and Library Science from the University of Arizona (Knowledge River Scholar Cohort 5). This program focuses on educating information professionals who have experience with and are committed to the information needs of Latino and Native American populations. Most of her library career has been spent in Arizona but now she works in Santa Monica, CA where she found a wonderful system to work with as Branch Manager and now as the Principal Librarian Branch & Public Services for the Santa Monica Public Library. Her goal as a librarian is to offer balanced, friendly, traditional as well as innovative services with multiculturalism in mind.

REFORMA would like to congratulate all of this year's Movers & Shakers! See the full list of the 2015 Movers & Shakers here: <http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2015/03/people/movers-shakers-2015/the-reveal-announcing-ljs-2015-movers-shakers/#> Movers & Shakers are profiled in the March 15 issue of *Library Journal*, and those profiles will be posted in an online version.

Get to know this year's Movers & Shakers at the REFORMA National Conference (RNCV) in San Diego, CA April 1-4, 2015 [www.reformanationalconference.org](http://www.reformanationalconference.org)

For more information on REFORMA, visit: [www.reforma.org](http://www.reforma.org)

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