

**Ethnic Services Round Table  
Combined Board/Membership Meeting Minutes  
Friday, March 27, 2015  
Queens Library at Long Island City**

Attendees: Fred J. Gitner, Manny Figueroa, Selina Sharmin, Margaret Whitehead, Brigid Cahalan, and Adriana Blancarte-Hayward (via Skype)

After sharing lunch at a nearby Brazilian restaurant and a tour of the Queens Library at Long Island City by Community Library Manager Tienya Smith, the meeting began at 3:00 p.m. In the absence of the president and vice-president, Treasurer Fred Gitner led the meeting. Minutes from the previous ESRT meeting were not available.

1. **Treasurer's Report.** Fred Gitner submitted a Treasurer's report indicating revenue and expenses since July 1, 2014, and reported that we have a current balance of \$3,110.59. It was noted that the raffle at the conference went very well.
2. **Awards:** We hope to provide a Professional Development Award this year, but need to find a sponsor to provide \$250. Deadline for applicants is July.
3. **Publications:** We need to send out a call for bibliographies, to be printed and distributed at the October NYLA conference. Brigid volunteered to be newsletter editor, and Margaret offered to help with formatting. Sales of ESRT's book, *Connecting Cultures*, have been slow, perhaps due to its being hard to find on Amazon.
4. **Upcoming joint meeting**, of ESRT and the Diversity & Outreach Section of the New Jersey Library Association, will be held on May 29, 2015. Fred Gitner asked for suggested agenda items or presentation topics. Some suggestions were: a professor from Western University, Ontario, who is studying reading habits of immigrants could speak; .how to find material in other languages; Reader Services; Multilingual websites; Online language learning tools (e.g., Duolingo), the Mimix app, which translates speech to American Sign Language; Microsoft translator that uses AI.
5. The **Annual New York Library Association conference** will take place October 21-24 in Lake Placid, New York. ESRT will be presenting two programs: *Fifty Shades of Brown: Varieties of the African-American experience* (moderator will be Margaret, monitor will be Selina); and *Get the International Language Materials that You Need*. We need moderator and monitor for the second program, as well as someone to handle the ESRT booth.
6. As Secretary Tom Brogan resigned from the board, Fred motioned that member-at-large Brigid Cahalan be appointed Secretary, and that Manny Figueroa be appointed to fill out the remainder of her term as member-at-large. Both motions were passed unanimously.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m., after which attendees were offered a tour of the Adult Learning Center.