



Ethnic Services Round Table Membership Meeting
Date: Friday, September 9, 2022
Location: New Rochelle Public Library
Time: 11AM

Agenda:

- **Welcome & Introductions**

1. Rio Aucena raucena@wlsmail.org (New Rochelle Public Library)
2. Indira Mukherjee indira.mukherjee@queenslibrary.org (Queens Public Library)
3. Fred Gitner fred.j.gitner@queenslibrary.org (Queens Public Library)
4. Manny Figueroa mfigueroa@queenslibrary.org (Queens Public Library)
5. Tejas Desai Tdesai@queenslibrary.org (Queens Public Library)
6. Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace giannace@wlsmail.org (Harrison Public Library)
7. Galina Chernykh gchernykh@wlsmail.org (Harrison Public Library)

- **Approval of NYLA Membership Meeting Minutes**

Since Secretary Madellen Garcia was absent, President Rio Aucena asked for a volunteer to take notes. Member-at-Large-Elect Tejas Desai volunteered to take the notes.

Firstly, the minutes of the last meeting on Friday June 3, 2022 at Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library, NYPL, were read. A motion to pass the minutes was made, seconded, and passed.

- **Committee Status Update**

Manny Figueroa reporting for Jay Dela Cruz

Election results: Vice President/President-elect Rosemary Kiladitis, Queens Public Library

Members-at-Large: Tejas Desai, Queens Public Library; Chantal Stewart-Matana, Queens Public Library

In addition, Kacper Jarecki, QPL was appointed by the Executive Board to complete the remaining year of the term of Member-at-Large Victoria Kowanetz who resigned.

An email will be sent to ESRT members with the results.

It was recommended that for next year's election, ESRT align with the NYLA election schedule

- **NYLA 2022 Programs Update**

Indira Mukherjee

Three programs are scheduled for the conference: "Combating Racism" on Thursday, 11/3 at 1:45 pm; "Utica, NY: Views of Refugee Revitalization..." on Thursday, 11/3 at 4 pm and "Reinventing Ethnic Services" on Friday, 11/4 at 8:30 am.

Treasurer Fred Gitner stated that the title and description of the "Utica the Last Refuge" program was incorrect on ESRT's draft conference flier but correct on the NYLA conference website. Manny Figueroa volunteered to schedule volunteers for the conference booth, which costs ESRT \$100. The Trade Show hours are Thursday, 11/3, 10:30-5 and Friday, 11/4, 8-12.

The discrepancy about the number of members appearing on the website was discussed, and Indira noted she would bring it up at a NYLA meeting on 9/22. The new Listserv for members, the free NYLA associate memberships and possible refunds for memberships were discussed.

ESRT plans to print its own materials for the conference. An “Appliography” is being prepared by member Lindsay Davis. Some of the remaining Connecting Cultures copies will be given away to new members at the booth, or used as raffle prizes, along with any other prizes donated by members. Manny Figueroa will be the point person for suggestions. It was brought up whether or not gifts should be wrapped, but that idea was declined.

Raffle tickets are left over from last year’s conference, and ESRT has ordered more ribbons. NYLA will deliver the ribbons at the conference. It was suggested that the ESRT Membership brochure be updated for the conference.

Manny Figueroa will create the flier and needs feedback by mid-October on the Back to the Future theme. ESRT has a banner but former President Wilma Glover-Koomson had it last and Irina Kuharets had access to the archives, but they are no longer members.

Next week is the deadline for the Brian G. Martin Professional Development Award. Manny Figueroa confirmed we have received two applications, so it is unlikely the deadline will need to be extended as in previous years.

The possibility of having a Genealogy program or programs at next year’s conference was discussed, using the example of Harrison Public Library’s programs featuring Dani Shapiro.

Décor for the Booth was discussed and whether anyone should wear white suits for the Back to the Future theme. Manny Figueroa volunteered to create evaluation forms after it was decided they were helpful in creating future programs. Room monitors will be assigned for programs. Indira will find out the deadline and email members to ask for volunteers.

It needs to be corrected on the Combatting Racism program listing that ESRT is the primary sponsor. Two programs have no co-sponsors. (To be verified)

- **Treasurer’s Report**

- Fred Gitner

- Treasurer Fred Gitner noted he has not heard any financial information from NYLA since March 2022. He suggested it was possibly due to a new software issue.

- **Bylaws Task Force Update**

- Fred Gitner, Kacper Jarecki, and Indira Mukherjee

- Treasurer Fred Gitner reviewed changes to bylaws regarding accepting library workers and student members, rights and privileges, duties of secretaries and treasurer duties, as well as changes to nominations for elections, running as slates and notifications to NYLA. Terms for President and Vice President were reviewed, and it was noted that there are no consecutive terms other than for Secretary and Treasurer.

- Fred Gitner stated that NYLA is also revising its bylaws and reviewed procedures for submitting revised bylaws to NYLA, which don’t need further approval.

- **Publications Committee/Bibliography Committee Status Update**

Jo-Ann Wong, and Lindsay Davis

Fred Gitner reiterated that Lindsay Davis is working on the appliography and passed around a sample copy. It needs to be edited, fact-checked, printed and shared at the conference. Indira suggested using Microsoft publisher to create it.

Newsletter Update

Member-at-Large Jo-Ann Wong, who is heading up the Newsletter, was not in attendance. In her absence, VP Indira suggested a 3-fold brochure, but Fred Gitner noted we already have one.

There was discussion about whether to include a Membership page and whether to use Mail Chimp, a PDF link, or email for recruiting.

It was suggested we could include photos from the Ukrainian Museum excursion in the newsletter. Giovanna volunteered to take photos at the booth. It was also suggested that a post-conference issue be published. Fred volunteered to proofread the issue.

- **Combating Racism Series 2022 Update**

Kacper Jarecki

Member-at-Large Kacper Jarecki, who heads the series, was not in attendance, but President Rio Aucena shared information from an email he had sent. He is asking for members to participate in a subcommittee regarding programs and planning for the Combatting Racism III webinar series, as well as ideas for speakers and topics.

Manny Figueroa noted that EDI is now called DEI, and the question was raised of whether or not participants in this program can receive certifications for DEI. Indira noted NYLA does provide Continuing Education and other credits, and that she can bring this up to them.

It was noted that participants were charged a registration fee for the live viewing of the Combatting Racism series, but that NYLA only charged per library system, not per participant.

Galina suggested making the Combatting Racism series title less combative and more inclusive, noting the political divide and impending “civil war” in the USA. Manny Figueroa disagreed, saying there was nothing cozy or nice about racism. Fred and Indira said the title was already well-known now, so it didn’t make much sense to change it.

There was also discussion about whether the series included all racism or just anti-black racism, since Queens Public Library’s internal PCRE had focused solely on anti-black racism. Fred Gitner noted that both anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim hatred was on the rise. Fred reviewed the sessions already presented and noted there were many diverse topics tackled, including anti-Asian discrimination among others.

- **Membership/Public Relations Committee Status Update**

- Kacper Jarecki and Indira Mukherjee

- The excursion on August 28th to the Ukrainian Museum, Swiss Institute and Ukrainian Home Restaurant was noted. A future excursion was suggested to former member/President Wilma's Tea Cosy shop in Valley Cottage in Rockland County, with a possible membership meeting at Valley Cottage PL.

- Future programs were also discussed, noting the success that former President Selina Sharmin has with a Bengali sewing circle on Saturdays at QPL (Queens Village) despite now working at Hartford Public Library. A QPL Bengali program about the FAFSA application was also discussed.

- Galina noted that programs featuring food and drink are always popular, and that she had a program featuring different teas from cultures around the world, including Russian tea and a samovar. It was noted that Queens Public Library has banned food and drinks at most of its programs, given COVID precautions.

- **Old Business/New Business**

- The exact amount of the Brian G. Martin Award was discussed. The total is now \$350, not \$250.

- Once again, it was noted that a genealogy program series could be a good idea, including Family Tree, DNA studies, arts, genealogy in different countries, and it was noted that former member/President Wilma Glover-Koomson had done a Black genealogy workshop.

- **Schedule of Next Membership meeting**

- President Rio Aucena stated that the next Membership meeting will be at the NYLA Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs, most likely on Friday November 4, 2022 at 5:15PM, at Sushi Thai Garden Restaurant.

- President Rio Aucena motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Manny and Indira. A tour of the Library led by New Rochelle Public Library Assistant Director Elizabeth Joseph followed the meeting and those who wished stayed for lunch at a local Mexican restaurant.

Prepared by **Madellen Garcia, Secretary** from notes by **Tejas Desai**

Edited by **Fred Gitner, Treasurer**