

UNY AATSP
Organizational Meeting via Zoom
Sunday February 28, 2021
7PM-8:30PM
Minutes

PRESENT: Cynthia Flax, Gerardo Cummings, Sherry Sebesta, Emma Ticio Quesada, Ana Guerrero, Evelyn Ledezma, Myriam Santos & Cindy Hoetzer

i. **Welcome:** Greetings from President Juárez-Cummings, discussion of the Covid-19 vaccine and discussion of what the future looks like once everybody is vaccinated.

ii. **Approval of Minutes from the November 29, 2020 Meeting:** Approved

iii. **Treasurer's Report:** \$1,892.00

iv. **Important Updates:**

First Update: President Juárez-Cummings shares an update on the required paperwork that Cynthia Flax, the President, others and the AATSP HQ had to complete. Said process is over and done with.

v. **"Fall" Immersion details and dates:** Juárez-Cummings and Emma Ticio Quesada have discussed a potential version of our Fall Outing which would happen in the month of March 2021. There are actual firmer dates that have been discussed: Friday March 26 & Saturday March 27 to be more precise. Juárez-Cummings asks if there's anything in the high school yearly calendar that would prevent it from taking place. Juárez-Cummings reminds us of previous conversations where we wanted this immersion to only take place in the span of two days and that we want to offer a schedule of events that does not tie us down to Zoom the whole 2 days. There's discussion of a plate like *tortilla española*, or teaching people how to make salsas. We want to offer something that will not be too complicated to cook, so a *tortilla española* or a salsa could be less complicated. Juárez-Cummings references previous discussion of cocktails. Juárez-Cummings proposes a class teaching people how to make 'agua de horchata' because her niece makes a very easy one. Ana Guerrero mentions that she could teach how to make *sangría*, a traditional Spanish drink. Guerrero suggests giving instructions to participants ahead of time so that this way, the time in the event isn't spent getting things ready or cooked but instead, the participants are "ready to go" so to speak. In other words, if *tortilla española* is to be taught how to be made, the participants should have previously cooked potatoes or have all ingredients ready, only to be told the last steps on how to finish the *guiso*. Ticio Quesada suggests that during

the *tertulia*, whatever was cooked or prepared previously is then consumed. The *tertulia* could be about music or a poetry reading. There shouldn't be a need to prepare anything for the *tertulia* and it shouldn't feel like homework. At Syracuse University they did an activity with poetry and music, it was online and it was successful. It was an enriching activity. Juárez-Cummings wants to also discuss tips as to how to integrate music or poetry in the classroom. For the second day of the "Immersion" there would be an event called "Diversidad en la clase de lengua" then a break and then an activity about 'Pronunciation.' Emma Ticio Quesada has research on the first event (diversity of language). Juárez-Cummings wants everybody to benefit from the activities.

Gerardo Cummings discusses whether we should still be using the term "Fall Outing" to refer to it. Members present have fun suggesting changing the name to just 'Annual Outing' or even 'Quarantine Outing.' The point is that it doesn't matter what it is called. The question is then raised: when would this happen on Friday and Saturday? Juárez-Cummings suggests the first day (Friday) should be 5-8PM but Sherry Sebesta suggests 6-9PM. Cynthia Flax suggests starting at 6:30PM. The second day (Saturday) it could go from 10AM-1PM. Sherry suggests an optional hour at the end of each day and Cynthia Flax agrees with it. Jennifer Cornell told Cynthia Flax that she would love to teach salsa dancing for the optional social hour.

vi. Quick Updates (if there are any to report) on Book Club, Tertulias, Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, AATSP Poster Contest or NSE: Update #1: Evelyn Ledezma offers an update on the National Spanish Exam (NSE) and reports that in March (2021) the NSE exams begin to be proctored. Some schools around Rochester, NY will not be conducting the NSE. There are people unhappy with last years' Remote Proctoring. The national headquarters of the AATSP reports that not everyone that took the NSE last year paid. Ledezma believes that there's Covid-19 exhaustion or perhaps, it's fatigue that is affecting NSE in the Upstate NY area. **Update #2:** Discussion of brochure: Cynthia Flax will ask for the template or *machiote* from HQ from AATSP. Sherry Sebesta would like to help with the brochure. Gerardo Cummings will work with Sherry Sebesta and Cynthia Flax on his current draft of the brochure. **Update #3:** Cynthia Flax wants to approve the money for the "Poster Contest" because Brianna Dingmon is asking for said funds to be approved, perhaps no more than \$50, \$30 or \$20. We think that once the categories are established, then the total for each prize would be clarified. We discuss what would be most practical: a gift card for food, perhaps from Toks or Wegman's or gift cards from Amazon, Target, etc. We are not sure of what the total amount of categories it will be, perhaps 3 or 5. At the national level, the money awarded to the winners of *Albricias* was in checks and children didn't know what to do with a check. Sherry Sebesta suggests an Amazon card, although we

feel that Brianna could poll her students as to what they would prefer and from there, a decision is made as to which cards to purchase as awards. Juárez-Cummings suggests confirming how many awards there are, but we tentatively discuss that perhaps, a \$50 dollar gift card would be acceptable for 1st place winner, a \$30 dollar one for a second-place winner, and a \$20 dollar one for 3rd place. Cindy Hoetzer suggests \$75 for 1st place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for third place. We discuss giving Brianna Dingmon the freedom to decide how the money is spent and which cards are bought. At this point, we approve \$200 so that Brianna Dingmon can purchase the gift cards that must be purchased. Brianna Dingmon thinks that \$200 dollars is enough. There would be approximately 6 awards. She believes students are overwhelmed but perhaps there would be 12 entries. Dingmon suggests that perhaps we only need to recognize the top 4 students. Perhaps we need to give her \$200 for last year, and \$200 for this year. Cindy Hoetzer suggests \$150 for last year and \$200 for this year and perhaps even anticipate the \$200 for next year. Flax suggests that Dingmon should give us a report to know how it functions.

vii. Social Media Administrators: President Juárez-Cummings points out that the Instagram page hasn't been updated often. Facebook is a different platform and Juárez-Cummings mentions that she tries to post things regularly in the page for the UNY AATSP. She knows that not everybody is on Facebook, but she asks everybody that is present to share content on Facebook. Evelyn suggests including information of all our social media accounts in our newsletter. Juárez-Cummings states that before people couldn't share posts on Facebook and now they can. She believes this will now allow people to interact more with our Facebook page.

viii. Brainstorming for ideas or new ways to “foster community”: Juárez-Cummings asks for ideas to foster a community in our group. She feels that the ones that always participate are the usual colleagues and she would like more people to engage with us. She'd like for everybody to become more active and engaged. She wants this to be the homework for our next meeting: how can we engage more people to expand it, make the chapter be more active, attract more people so that we can have future members and we don't rotate positions among the same people. Cynthia Flax suggests that there are museums doing virtual excursions, so we should make a list of events or programming and offer those virtual excursions among our people. Gerardo Cummings suggests sharing information from organizations, institutions or companies that are offering free movie screenings. Cummings was thinking of Mexico's “Cineteca Nacional” which has been offering free virtual movie showings while the Covid-19 pandemic has been raging. We all agree that all ideas could trigger more involvement from others and that this could create a sense of community. Sherry Sebesta suggests offering *charlas* or discussion, for example, how about offering a talk or a presentation

with this tagline: “Do you want to practice your Spanish? Do you want to talk with native speakers in a relaxed atmosphere?” Cynthia Flax feels that that is more for a tertulia. Sherry thinks the word ‘tertulia’ has more of an academic feel. Evelyn Ledezma suggests changing the name to something like: ‘Cafecito entre amigos. Emma Ticio Quesada suggests we give cards to those that participate in future tertulias or “Cafecito entre amigos.” For example, a Panera gift card or a \$5 electronic gift card and the gift card is sent to those that participate. Cynthia Flax is concerned that it would eventually add up and be costly for our budget but Ticio Quesada thinks that we should take advantage of having money now that we are in this Covid-19 situation. The budget for tertulias before Covid-19 was \$40 dollars (enough for hosts to buy cheese, crackers, etc.). We do the math: \$40 dollars between 8 people is approximately \$5 per head. Sherry and Ana Guerrero agree that each “Cafecito entre amigos” could be limited to just 8 or 10 people. A final idea to create a sense of community could be what Sherry Sebesta offers: she suggests that she can give out freely her teaching resources for which she usually charges \$5 dollars. She does not mind giving them out freely.

ix. AATSP 2021 Conference: For the time being, the annual AATSP conference is scheduled for July 8-11, 2021. Evelyn Ledezma tells us that the conference her husband goes to every year is going to be virtual for 2021. She suspects that the AATSP Annual Conference will also end up being virtual. Gerardo Cummings makes the point that other conferences such as the annual LLL-LECNy in the campus of Syracuse University were probably cancelled, but he is told by Emma Ticio Quesada that it took place virtually in 2021. Cummings does still believe that other conferences have been cancelled or just are not taking place because of Covid-19.

x. Call for Items for our Next Newsletter: Members suggest including information about the new idea or new name for tertulias ‘Cafecito con amigos’ as well as information on the Fall Outing; Cynthia Flax also suggests that we send a document for people to sign-up for the different ‘Cafecitos’. Cynthia will work with Gerardo about researching the virtual museum visits. Cynthia suggests creating a poll. Cynthia suggests sending the questions to President Juárez-Cummings and/or Gerardo Cummings to create the poll, perhaps using Doodle Poll or Survey Monkey.