

MINUTAS
UNY AATSP
Organizational Meeting via Zoom
Sunday November 29, 2020
7PM-8:30PM

PRESENT: UNY AATSP President Elizabeth Juárez-Cummings, UNY AATSP Past President Gerardo Cummings, UNY AATSP President Elect Emma Ticio Quesada, Webmaster/Newsletter Editor Cynthia Flax, Central NY Representative Ana Guerrero, & NSE Representative Evelyn Ledezma.

- I. Welcome:** Those present spend time exchanging greetings, talking about family and doggies. President Juarez-Cummings thanks and welcomes everybody.

- II. Approval of Minutes from the August 30th, 2020 Meeting:** There's discussion of a few items that need to be corrected from the 8/30/2020 meeting.

- III. Treasurer's Report:** \$1,892.20

- IV. Discussion of Ideas for Tertulias or other Events for 2021:** Juarez-Cummings encourages members to create a topic for a tertulia in order to offer it to our members. Juarez-Cummings mentions that the experience of Gerardo Cummings and his two presentations of the Mexican film *Ya no estoy aquí* could be something that we could emulate. Juarez-Cummings states we could create a 'Film Club': people watch films, and we could meet to analyze and discuss X, Y or Z film. Emma Ticio wants to know how we're encouraging folks to participate in these 'clubs' and suggests that we use that to recruit people for the UNY AATSP. We're also realizing that Covid-19 is affecting people in many ways. Some may not be interested in a book club. Others may not be interested in spending money in membership for an organization. The discussion of Tertulias or Events for 2021 makes us revisit topics that were broached in the 8/30 meeting, such as exploring whether Jennifer Cornell (who was UNY AATSP president) could give us dancing lessons instead of Roberto--an ex-student of Syracuse University that gives salsa lessons remotely. We discuss previous ideas of offering cooking classes and the sorts of dishes that would be popular if they were to be included in a "This is how

to cook it” type of tertulia or workshop. The name of “Verónica” (someone who has a Youtube channel) is brought up as someone that could offer a workshop. Cynthia Flax revisits ideas that were discussed when we initially planned on offering an entirely remote (due to Covid-19) ‘Fall Immersion.’ This or any future immersions during the age of Covid-19 could just offer cooking classes and salsa lessons and forego anything related to literature. Evelyn Ledezma agrees that people don’t want to do more ‘homework’ such as reading books in an “immersive experience” setting. She believes that people are tired due to Covid-19 and all the online teaching. That is why the events should be ‘light’, such as cultural discussion, dancing and cooking classes. Ana Guerrero believes that people are also tired of using Zoom. There’s discussion as to when it could happen. Juarez-Cummings suggests January or February 2021. Emma Ticio suggests that an event such as this one, a “Fall Immersion” which by now would be something like a “Winter Immersion” could be in the middle of January, before the new school semester begins. Evelyn Ledezma shares that the Regents in January 2021 has been cancelled so there’s a chance that offering this in January would be a better idea. We all agree that we should review dates with other schools and/or instructors to avoid any conflicting events and to agree on the best date to offer this. President Juárez-Cummings suggests including something for Valentine’s Day. Cynthia Flax wants to confirm what days (Friday, Saturday and Sunday?) and Juarez-Cummings thinks that it could be just two days to avoid overwhelming people with three days. Elizabeth would like for the discussion on dates to happen at a later point. Flax wants to firm-up days: Juarez-Cummings suggests Friday evening (2-3 hours) and Flax suggests Saturday 10AM-2PM. Elizabeth and Emma Ticio will decide the schedule.

V. AATSP 2021 Conference: There’s discussion that we need to promote the 2021 AATSP Annual Conference which happens July 8-11 in Atlanta, GA.

VI. Quick Updates (if there are any to report):

- President Juárez-Cummings shares an update on reaching out to Sheri-Spain Long and discussing the suggestion that the 2020 committee members of the UNY AATSP stay in the same positions for the 2021 year due to Covid-19.
- President Juárez-Cummings reports changing the setting on Facebook and that now more people will be able to post things. We all feel we should be using Facebook more often to promote, discuss and raise awareness about different topics and in so

doing, engaging more with current members of the UNY AATSP or future ones. For example, Gerardo Cummings shares that Mark Warford had recently shared to his Facebook page the fact that the film *Ya no estoy aquí* had been nominated for the Oscars. Cummings had come across the same information but had not thought about sharing it in the UNY AATSP Facebook page. He realizes now that it's a vehicle to publish information and that it's up to us to use it.

- Evelyn Ledezma states that the NSE will give the exam in a hybrid format. Students will be able to take the exam either in person or remotely.
- Gerardo Cummings and Cynthia Flax will work together on creating a flyer and a pamphlet to introduce the UNY AATSP to people from New York institutions and high schools and to hopefully, recruit new membership.
- SHH: Cynthia Flax and Evelyn Ledezma feel that it's worth trying to explore promoting SHH at schools, for example, at Syracuse University. Emma Ticio Quesada states that many students from college are already gone. There's consensus that we could try this during the Spring 2021 semester. Ticio Quesada thinks this could be linked to 'Las Naranjas' (the Spanish Club of Syracuse University) or perhaps, there are potential candidates for SHH that are also members of 'Las Naranjas.' We agree that there needs to be some leg work done: are there administrative impediments to SHH existing at Syracuse University? Is there a need to request special permits from the student's parents? Does any agreement between SHH and a school like Syracuse University first need to be approved by administration or their legal department?

VII. Call for Items for our Next Newsletter: Gerardo Cummings invites everybody to submit ideas for the newsletter, articles, anecdotes, or anything they would like to be included in the newsletter.

VIII. Other Topics: We originally had this section in the agenda for people to submit ideas of things they'd like to discuss. It was a productive meeting, so by this point there was nothing to add.

XIII. Reminder to Renew 2021 Membership: President Juárez Cummings reminds everybody to renew their membership. Ana Guerrero confides about a recent issue about

her membership and President Juárez-Cummings offers to assist her in solving the problem.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerardo T. Cummings