

AH: That's something we're struggling with, honestly. Early on we did have some turnout. One of the ways that we were reaching out to folks were through universities. Emailing some of the Latino cultural centers at universities, emailing teachers from grade schools. Certainly, social media, doing our best to connect with people online, and really trying different avenues of communal spaces. Putting up our flyers, putting up signs and what we could through those channels, but we did have [chuckle] a bit of a struggle with the pandemic.

Our chapter is still new. It started October 2019. Almost immediately as our events started to pick up and we had 25 people registered for our Earth Day event, and 15 people registered for our first March hike, [chuckle] and obviously March 2020 was the beginning of lockdown. So that really stifled some of the energy and the momentum that we were picking up. That's been difficult for us because how do we do digital programming when we were just starting to get people to physically be there and be present? That's been difficult, but I think just seeing how nationally we've handled virtual programming, virtual events, I do feel a little encouraged. For example, last fall, we had a fall bingo. [chuckle] We had a bingo board that could be shared on Facebook or Instagram where we had different events or things that you could do. Jumping in a pile of leaves or [chuckle] observing the foliage, going on a foliage drive, picking out a pumpkin, or seeing a squirrel. Random stuff that you could do and see in every day fall Connecticut. We had a raffle giveaway, and we did have some good participation in that. It was very encouraging to see, and now we're just excited to get ready for the actual in-person events. That's really what we're here for and what we're excited about.