

Ana Celia owes much to many Yiddish speakers in NYC because they were her Puerto Rican mother's teachers of Yiddish and English in the garment district, and because the tattooed numbers on the arms of her Yiddish speaking neighbors in the South Bronx taught her about man's inhumanity to man. Later, studying linguistics, she was in awe of the intellectual gifts of another Bronx resident, one of the greatest defenders of Yiddish that we have known, who also took a leading role in the defense of Spanish in the USA and in unmasking the Bilingual Education act as an Anglicization program. In my writing and my courses this shiksa always acknowledges her debt to Joshua Fishman and to the extraordinary community that he came from.

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