

RADICAL TEACHER

A SOCIALIST, FEMINIST, AND ANTI-RACIST JOURNAL ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TEACHING

Poetry

Evelina Fue Tu Nombre / Evelina Was Your Name

by Sonia E Maldonado Torres



IMAGE 1. 2011 TATS CRU MURAL OF EVELINA LÓPEZ ANTONETTY ON UNITED BRONX PARENTS' HEADQUARTERS, PHOTO BY JOE CONZO JR.

Who was Evelina López Antonetty

Known as the “mother of the Bronx,” community organizer and education leader Evelina López Antonetty was a driving force behind the efforts that transformed the Bronx from a symbol of urban blight in the 1960s and 1970s into a livable place in the 1980s. Born in Puerto Rico and raised in the United States, López Antonetty, the woman everyone called ‘Titi’, or ‘Auntie,’ found herself frustrated by the inferior services the public school system provided to poor Puerto Rican and African American children. In 1965 she founded United Bronx Parents (UBP), an organization that fostered quality education and community control of schools. In the 1970s UBP became a model of urban grassroots organizing. Expanding to include a bilingual care center, an adult education program, and a youth leadership center, it empowered residents to fight against the social ills caused by failed urban and economic policies.

References

Smithsonian, National Portrait Gallery. (2020). Retrieved from: https://npg.si.edu/object/npg_NPG.2015.49

Evelina fue tu nombre

Evelina fue tu nombre
y dejaste aquí en la tierra
la huella de una presencia
de coraje y de valor.

Fuiste madre, amiga, hermana.

Fuiste la titi adorada,
de las masas olvidadas
que reclamaban su voz.

De nosotros los golpeados,
nosotros los maltratados,
de los que con miedo ocultan
su indignación y dolor.

Y es por eso que sabemos
Titi, que tú no te has ido,
y que aún tu nombre evoca
cambio, justicia y pasión.

Gracias por este legado
que no quedó en el pasado,
pues tu visión ha transformado
la vida de esta nación.

Evelina Antonetty and Her Struggle for Bilingual Education in NYC
Hostos Community College
Thursday, April 17, 2019

Evelina was your name

Evelina was your name
and you left here, on earth
the trace of a presence
of courage and bravery.

You were a mother, a friend, a sister.

You were the adored "titi"
of the forgotten masses
who claimed their voice.

Of us beaten,
Of us, the mistreated,
of those who with fear hide
their indignation and pain.

And that's why we know titi,
that you have not left us,
and that still your name evokes
change, justice and passion.

Thank you for this legacy
that did not remain in the past,
because your vision has transformed
the life of this nation.

Poem translated in English by EDU 130 Multicultural/Multilingual Class- Fall 2019.

This poem was presented in the event: Evelina Antonetty and Her Struggle for Bilingual Education in NYC at Hostos Community College (Thursday, April 17, 2019).

وتركت هنا على الأرض
أثر الوجود
من الشجاعة والشجاعة .

كنت أم ، صديق ، أخت .
كنت تيتي المعشوق ،
الجماهير المنسية
الذي ادعى صوته .

منا تعرض للضرب ،
لقد أسىء معاملتنا ،
من أولئك الذين يختبئون مع الخوف
سخطه وألمه .

وهذا هو السبب في أننا نعرف
تيتي ، أنت لم تغادر ،
وهذا حتى اسمك يستحضر
التغيير والعدالة والعاطفة .

شكرا لك على هذا التراث
لم يكن ذلك في الماضي ،
لأن رؤيتك قد تحولت
حياة هذه الأمة .

Poem Translated in Arabic by Althara Alrubay

A student of the EDU 130 Multicultural/Multilingual Class- Fall 2019

Evelina nye wo dzin
Evelina nye wo dzin.
Nkaa dum a igyaa no asaase
Do a yjdzee kaa wo daa
Nye akokodur na ahocdzen.

Nna eyj nã, nyjnko na akyerjbaa.
Cwo a wohuan wo "Titi"
A dcm kukuankoma a nkyj
wcaka hcn ahyj no ndj wctse hcn ndze.

Hjnom a wcabor hjn,
ahyj hjn atseetsee.
Hjn a cnam suro ntsi,
Yenntum annda hjn yawdzi edzi.

Djm nti na yenyim dj Titi,
Ingyaw hjn, osiandj
Wo dzin kenyan nsesa,
pjrprjryj na cdc kann.

Yjda wo ase wc, djm egyapadze a
Hjn werj nnkefir da.
Osian w'enyidoadzehun a
Asakyer abrabc wc cman yi mu.

Translated in Ghanaian Fanti by Lawrencia Mensah Brown
A students of the EDU 130 Multicultural/Multilingual Class- Fall 2019



IMAGE 2. This is my group of students from the EDU 130 Class: Teaching in the Multicultural/Multilingual Classroom at Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College. On Thursday, April 18, 2019 my students and I coordinated an activity in which we celebrated the National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month. In this activity, one of our adjuncts professors presented information about the struggle that a Puerto Rican woman, Evelina López Antonetty had in providing access to bilingual education to a monolingual-Spanish community in the South Bronx. The group worked collaboratively in the English translation of the “Evelina fue tu nombre” poem. Picture of students who translated the poem in Ghanain Fanti and Arabic



IMAGE 3. Lawrencia Mensah Brown (left), Prof. Sonia Maldonado Torres (center), Althara Alrubay (right)



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