

Good Morning

Thank you for Participating in our Cultural Appreciation Celebration and Luncheon.

BEING WHO YOU ARE IN THE WORLD, AS YOU ARE.

SPEAKS OF HONESTY AND SINCERETY

I AM VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE

FIRST I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR TRUST AND YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS.

DURING THESE 15 YEARS I HAVE BEEN WITH YOU AS A SPANISH INTERPRETER, I HAVE NOTICED THE CONSTANT, WELL THOUGHT ACTIONS BEHIND THE CARE YOU GIVE TO OUR LIMITES ENGLISH PROFICIENT KIDS AND THEIR PARENTS.

EQUAL FOOTING AND EQUAL ACCESS BECOME A REALITY EVERY DAY HERE. IT IS MY HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO BE PART OF THIS DIVERSE, HONEST AND SINCERE COMMUNITY.

I WHAT TO TELL YOU THAT I WAS BORN IN HAVANA.

IN 6TH GRADE, A YEAR AFTER THE CUBAN REVOLUTION, AND BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN CUBA, CATHOLIC NUNS TOOK ME IN. AND FOR 5 YEARS THEY GAVE ME PEACE AND AN EDUCATION. THERE, IN CHICAGO I WAS **THE LITTLE CUBAN GIRL VICTIM OF COMMUNISM.**

AFTER HIGHSCHOOL I WENT TO LIVE WITH MY PARENTS IN MEXICO CITY WHERE I BECAME **THE CUBAN GIRL AND SOMETIMES THE LITTLE GRINGUITA.**

18 YEARS, A HUSBAND AND THREE DAUGHTERS LATER I RETURNED TO THE US TO PURSUE GRADUATE STUDIES. THERE IN OHIO I WAS **THE MEXICAN MOTHER WITH THREE MEXICAN KIDS.**

MY CUBAN PAST HAD DISAPPEARED. BY THAT TIME THE EXCITEMENT OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION HAD LEFT THE MEDIA.

I HAD A HARD TIME ADJUSTING IN OHIO. AND WAS VERY TOUCHED BY THE SEASONAL MIGRANT FAMILIES THERE WHO WORKED SO HARD IN THE FIELDS.

ALL MY EDUCATION DID NOT HELP ME ADJUST. I COULDN'T EVEN ENVISION WHAT THOSE FAMILIES HAD TO GO THROUGH... THE COLD, THE SNOW, THE ICE, THE HARD WORK, THE SCHOOLS... THE KIDS TOUCH MY HEART. **THERE I WAS A MEXICAN TOO.**

MY KIDS BROUGHT ME TO BOSTON AND THE CAMBRIDGE AREA, WHERE NOBODY ASKED ME ABOUT MY ACCENT OR WHERE I AM FROM; WHERE IT IS NORMAL TO HEAR 3 OR 4 LANGUAGES IN THE T.

AND, FOR ONCE I FELT IT WAS OK NOT REALLY HAVING ONLY ONE PLACE TO BE FROM, AND THREE NATIONALITIES. BUT I MISSED MY CULTURES... ALL OF THEM.

- I MISS THE SWEETNESS AND THE WARMTH OF MY CHILDHOOD CUBA. THE HAPPY MUSIC AND THE DANCING, JUST BECAUSE YOU FELT THE MUSIC.

- I MISS THE MUSIC, THE PATIONATE DANCING, THE HUMOR, THE MENTAL AGILITY AND ALL THE SAYINGS OF MY SPANISH GRANDPARENTS.
- I MISS THE COLORFUL RIBBONS, THE MANY HOLIDAYS, THE FESTIVITIES, THE DRAMA, THE CELEBRATIONS THAT MAKE MEXICO SO RICH.
- I MISS MY GERMAN IN-LAWS, THEIR WONDERFUL XMAS, DELICIOS MEXICAN STOLEN, AND THE FORCEFUL SONGS.

SO, I STARTED TO TEACH ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE, AND BOY DID I LOVE MY STUDENTS. FOR SOME I WAS THEIR FIRST TEACHER EVENTOUGH THEY WERE ADULTS.

ESL BROUGHT ME TO THE LEPS ---OUR LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT CLIENTS--- AND THEY BROUGHT ME TO REBECCA PRIES AND SHE BROUGHT ME TO "THE KIDS AND THE LAW"

IT'S A VERY CLEAR HANDBOOK. THE WORK MADE ME LEARN MORE THAN WHAT I THOUGHT IT WOULD. REBECCA AND I HAD MANY LUNCHES. SHE KEPT MY TRANSLATIONS AND MY THOUGHTS TOGETHER. I REALLY COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT HER

WE AGREED TO STAY AWAY FROM THE COMMON MISTRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE TERM "DELINQUENT" IN SPANISH 'DELINCUENTE'. VERY OFTEN LEP PARENTS WOULD JUMP AT THE TERM "DELINCUENTE' ... MY SON IS NOT A 'DELINCUENTE'.

YOU SEE 'DELINCUENTE' HAS A MUCH STRONGER CONNOTATION SINCE IN SPANISH IT IS ONLY RELATED TO CRIME. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS DELINQUANT ACCOUNTS, OR DELINQUAT DEBTORS, OR DELINQUENT TAXES.

SO, WE SETTLED FOR “OFENSOR JUVENIL”

THIS WORK, THIS TRANSLATION WAS A LONG AND EVOLVING EFFORT. MY CONTACT WAS REBECCA BUT I KNOW THAT THERE WERE MANY OTHERS BEHIND HER.

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS LITTLE BOOK WHEN WORKING WITH OUR SPANISH LEPS. IT IS WRITTEN IN CLEAR ENGLISH AND IN CLEAR SPANISH FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT THE MOST.

BUT MY THANK YOU DOESN'T STOP WITH YOU. MY THANK YOU ALSO GOES OUT TO THE OFFICE THAT SUPPORTS ME SO I CAN SUPPORT YOU.

THE OFFICE OF INTERPRETER SERVICES HAS A LOT ON THEIR MANY PLATES. SERVING 14 COUNTIES WITH ALL ITS COURTS.

GOOGLE TELLS ME THAT IN BOSTON ALONE THERE ARE 140 LANGUAGES SPOKEN AND 66.6 % OF THE RESIDENTS SPEAK ONLY ENGLISH. I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE COMPLEX MIXTURE OF THE OTHER 35%.

THE HANDBOOK IS \$15 AND YOU CAN PICK ONE UP AT THE COURT CLINIC.

I DO WANT TO LEAVE YOU WITH ONE THOUGHT:

YES, WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT... AND JUST LIKE NOTES,
IF WE WERE ALL THE SAME,
THERE WOULD BE NO MUSIC.

THANK YOU