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I met Dora Schwarzstein a few days before the start of the First National Congress of Oral History, at the end of 1993. Through the following years, the works of Portelli and Passerini traveled the 2000 kilometers separating her home in Buenos Aires from mine in the Argentine Patagonia. Owing to her generous intervention I subscribed to *Historia, Antropología y Fuente Oral*. Whenever I traveled to Buenos Aires, she made time for me in her busy agenda to share lunch and comments on my timid early work. I will forever cherish the quick conspiratorial glances exchanged as she headed to chair a panel discussion on History and Memory at the VIII Inter-school Symposium—History Departments, in September of 2001. Her chairing that panel, and the publication later that same year of her book *Entre Franco y Perón. Memoria e identidad del exilio republicano español en Argentina* (*Between Franco and Perón. Memory and identity among the Spanish republican exiles in Argentina*), signified an original contribution to our knowledge of Argentina's contemporary history.

Dora found a way to form new generations of

historians specializing in the use of oral sources, reaching beyond academic distances and practices. I think all of us who have gathered around oral history will concur in that the strength and professionalism of our practice owes a great deal to Dora.

All these years I thought that once I finished my doctoral dissertation I would repay the intellectual debt I had with her. But today this is no longer possible, as her death surprised us doubly, coinciding with one of the worst crises in the history of Argentina. This crisis seriously threatens the continuity of publications and academic spaces that appeared in the last twenty years. We will feel her absence all the more. But then, we have to avoid falling into the passions for memorializing, as she used to say. Instead, our task will be to find ways to preserve the academic spaces created with so much effort, to consolidate our practice and to teach a new generation of researchers. And in doing so, give a new meaning to all we learned next to Dora Schwarzstein.