WE WILL NEVER STOP STRUGGLING HERE IN THE BRONX EVEN THOUGH THEY'VE DESTROYED IT AROUND US.

We would pitch tents if we have to rather than move from here. We would fight back, there is nothing we would not do. They will never take us away from here. I feel very much a part of this and I'm never going to leave. And, after me, my children will be here to carry on...

I HAVE VERY STRONG CHILDREN...AND VERY STRONG GRANDCHILDREN

EVELINA'S IMPACT AT 100:

HER COMMUNITY ACTIVISM CARRIES ON...

Evelina migrated from Puerto Rico to New York at 11 years old, carrying a special pride, principles, and a sense of purpose while she envisioned what the world could be. She was a grounded person and understood colonialism and liberation. Her family and the Puerto Rican independence movement influenced her, and Pedro Albizu Campos significantly influenced her. Therefore, when Evelina faced poverty and discrimination, she did so with an understanding of the root causes of social injustice and the critical approaches for systemic changes.

Evelina's activism for workplace justice, community, and political power grew with every struggle she encountered. She worked for Congressman Vito Marcantonio, which gave her direct access to the "halls of power" and deep insight on how to take local issues towards policy change. Public matters such as education anchored her work to ensure that advocacy had a staying power for the people of the impacted communities.

Upon forming United Bronx Parents, Evelina and her partners devised strategies by which they were able to organize locally and think globally. Evelina and UBP emphasized that education mattered to children and to parents and that learning to be a powerful advocate was integral to making change.

Evelina's activism was inspired by her struggle against the public school system after the school mistreated her son. She later mobilized for broader justice in the form of bilingual education in addition to what we now call "Language Justice."

Evelina advocated for the summer lunch program; her strategy was to take care of the student's immediate needs while thinking globally. So, the UBP worked to fill the children's bellies with lunch and to seek broader policy changes in federal dollars for food. They also sought to engage the community to assist with food preparation and delivery. They enlisted the community members by creating a local summer job program that offered employment to all, including gang members. The agency organized to engage with communities throughout the city.

For Evelina, the personal was political; this was her quick and effective approach to addressing local injustice. The education and activism of Evelina and United Bronx Parents ensured connections between the community and the halls of Congress. She empowered people to organize and build power. She's quoted supporting parents becoming effective organizers in1967 when they were preparing each other for public speaking and giving testimony: "We all have our PHDs: Poverty, Hunger, and Determination."

Evelina had moxie. She could get quite angry at the injustice around her, but she chose to be diplomatic towards those in power. Her work matched the interests of people. She knew that real power was not in one's eloquent diplomacy but rested in the people and community organizing.

Evelina was a surrogate Titi, an auntie, to the community. After she passed away, it was common to hear people ask, "What would Titi do?" when confronted with challenges. Titi embodied the principles of genuine community organizing. She focused on inclusivity, listened, and made room within the front lines of the struggle for others. She stepped up and showed solidarity. She taught organizers to embody love and to commit to one another for change on all levels.

The response to today's crisis demonstrates Evelina's approaches. These approaches include aid in the face of immediate scarcity, organizing, deep community engagement, and political advocacy to change the system.

From Evelina's period until tomorrow, we should ask, what would Titi do?

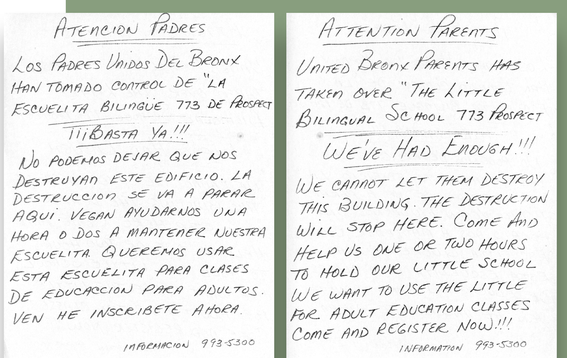
"Be justice, be peace, be a community, and organize!"
And when we organize: Evelina, presente!

REBECCA LURIE
Founder of the Community & Worker Ownership Project
School for Labor & Urban Studies, City University of New York

IN HER OWN WORDS

(scan QR codes to hear audio files)

- "EVERY PROGRAM THAT WE HAVE DEVELOPED CAME FROM A NEED"
- "THE BIRTH OF UNITED BRONX PARENTS"
- "I WAS THE ONE PEOPLE WENT TO FOR HELP"
- "IT SEEMS LIKE THINGS GET WORSE INSTEAD OF BETTER"
- "NOW IM INVOLVED IN SOME SENIOR HOUSING"
- "ON ABORTION SOME OF THESE POLITICIANS DONT TALK FOR US"
- "THEY ALLOWED US IN THE UNION BECAUSE THEY NEEDED TRANSLATORS"
- "WE SAVED THIS CENTER FROM DEMOLITION THE CITY WANTED TO CHARGE US RENT"



ATENCION PADRES

LOS PADRES UNIDOS DEL BRONX HAN TOMADO CONTROL DE "LA ESCUELITA BILINGÜE 773 DE PROSPECT

TIIBASTA YA!!!

NO PODEMOS DEJAR QUE NOS DESTRUYAN ESTE EDIFICIO. LA DESTRUCCION SE VA A PARAR AQUI. VEGAN AYUDARNOS UNA HORA O DOS A MANTENER NUESTRA ESCUELITA. QUERENOS USAR ESTA ESCUELITA PARA CLASES DE EDUCACION PARA ADULTOS. VEN HE INSCRIBETE AHORA.

INFORMACION 993-5300

ATTENTION PARENTS

UNITED BRONX PARENTS HAS TAKEN OVER "THE LITTLE BILINGUAL SCHOOL 773 PROSPECT

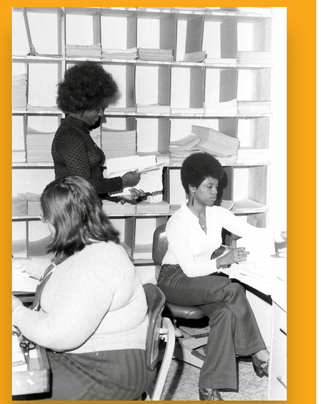
WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!!!

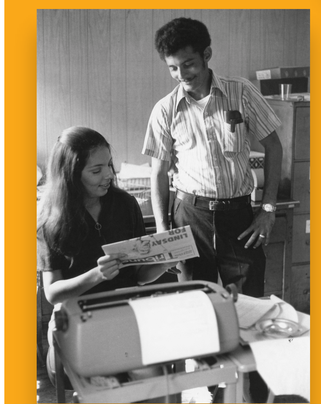
WE CANNOT LET THEM DESTROY THIS BUILDING. THE DESTRUCTION WILL STOP HERE. COME AND HELP US ONE OR TWO HOURS TO HOLD OUR LITTLE SCHOOL WE WANT TO USE THE LITTLE FOR ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES COME AND REGISTER NOW!!!

INFORMATION 993-5300

The Little Bilingual School takeover letter

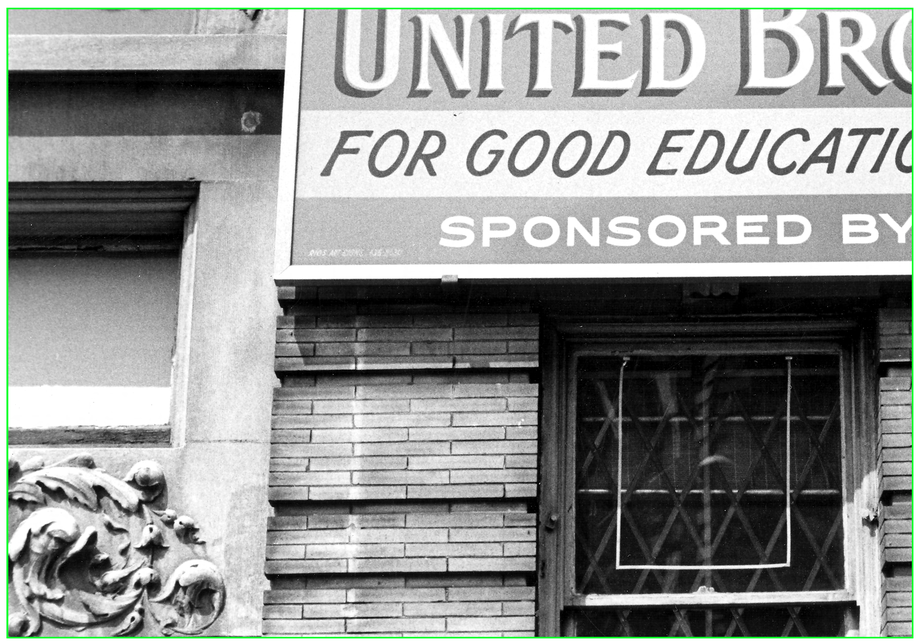
UBP Staffers Mattae Folk (Standing), Maritza Lopez & unidentified person





UBP Staffers Melvin Felices & Ana Delia

Evelina Poses Outside The United Bronx Parents Office Window



Evelina in front of images of her mentors Malcolm X & Don Pedro (El Maestro) Albizu Campos