Commemorative Issue V.1
Activism: Past & Present
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Vol. 1 No. 1 July 26, 2019

In this issue: Puerto Rican liberation, message from the Panthers and Cha Cha Jimenez
THE YOUNG LORDS PARTY, NEW YORK
Activism: Past & Present

50th Anniversary

CONFERENCIA DE OBREROS DE LA SALUD

4) PROFESIONALES BLANCOS. Se dirigieron a los jóvenes que ofertan sus servicios a los trabajadores. La historia de la salud es la historia de la lucha de los trabajadores por mejorar sus condiciones laborales y de vida.

PRESIDENTE BLANCOS. Se abordó el papel de los profesionales blancos en el contexto de la lucha de los trabajadores por mejorar sus condiciones laborales y de vida. Los profesionales blancos tienen un papel importante en la lucha de los trabajadores por mejorar sus condiciones laborales y de vida.

5) ORGANIZACIÓN. Se habló de la importancia de la organización de los trabajadores para mejorar sus condiciones laborales y de vida. Los trabajadores tienen un papel importante en la lucha por mejorar sus condiciones laborales y de vida.

TODOS A LA CONFERENCIA DE TRABAJADORES DE SALUD!

MESSAGE TO G.I.s

As they can fight in the rest of the world, the Young Lords have been fighting for years to stop the war in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. People everywhere have been demanding an end to the war in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. People everywhere have been demanding an end to the war in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.

During the 1960's, the Young Lords worked to fight in the rest of the world. During the 1970's, we were drafted to fight in World War II. During the 1980's, we were not drafted to fight in the rest of the world. During the 1990's, we were not drafted to fight in the rest of the world.

We are not fighting to save the world. We are fighting to save our people. We are fighting to save our people.

In the United States, we are fighting to save our people. We are fighting to save our people.

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Art by Denise Oliver-Velez
This celebration is not about the wax museum. As Young Lords we support the struggles of our people and are in solidarity with the people of the world. The 50th anniversary is not just about the past or the legacy...it is about the present and the future. “Let’s be realistic...let’s do the impossible.” Mickey Melendez

There is a place for us to create independent media, we must educate, we must take action...and some of our action has to be in your face action because we’ve been a little too mellow.”

Iris Morales

Deputy Minister of Education

“We launched Palante in January/February 1970. The newspaper became quickly a critical voice of protest and served to educate people on the struggle for democratic rights and independence of Puerto Rico. I recall Young Lord cadre selling out of their 50 paper allotments 2 and three times per day.”

Ramón Morales

Information Mosny Lieutenant, Distribution Manager, Palante Newspaper

“What is a Cadre? A Cadre is a person in the Party who has gone through a change in himself or herself from just another Puerto Rican to a leader of the people, a revolutionary. This change does not take place right away. There is a big change in the whole life of the individual.”

Juan “Fi” Ortiz

Chief of Staff

We walked in and I felt like I was home. It was very gripping. It felt like this was where I wanted to be. It was the realization that this was where I belonged. The struggle, the concerns that I saw that all these people had about equal rights and really making a difference in the world...standing up for what they believed in and really being committed. It moved me so...it moved everything that I felt I was about at that time.”

Gloria Rodríguez Cadre

“We were encouraged to study up, come back, wage ideological struggle, that’s what we called it, battle for your idea. That was a real enlightening thing for so many of us...You were encouraged to develop yourself, because what was at stake was changing the world. That was probably the most intellectually stimulating period of my life. It was like a really good college class, but with much more significance.”

Gilbert “Sabu” Colón

Cadre

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Denise Oliver-Velez

Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Development

“almost nothing comparable to the experiences of the original cadre. But we were encouraged to study up, come back, wage ideological struggle, that’s what we called it, battle for your idea. That was a real enlightening thing for so many of us...You were encouraged to develop yourself, because what was at stake was changing the world. That was probably the most intellectually stimulating period of my life. It was like a really good college class, but with much more significance.”

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The Young Lords Party represents the boldest, the most courageous, the most politically astute resistance in the United States to the colonial occupation of Puerto Rico. We were prophets: free breakfast, tuberculosis testing, patient rights, garbage pick-up, gender equality, lead paint poisoning prevention, Puerto Rican Studies, prison rights, inter-cultural dialogue, etc., all were fought for in huge demonstrations or small hand-to-hand combat on the urban streets of America. I am honored to be a part of history.

Felipe Luciano
Chairman

There was always a feeling, even then, that we were building something for the future. Something new. A Latin pride. They were some of the best years of my life.

Pablo Guzman
Minister of Information

...and a few things have changed.

...It is of utmost importance that we perceived use, but how we perceive ourselves. The Young Lords Party was spontaneous and powerful: “sweep the filthy streets and clean our community, let us change our own reality.” We have the power to change not only how other people perceive us, but how we perceive ourselves, in our own community.

Fifty years later, our dreams remain unrealized, but we did manage to free our own minds, to inspire later generations of Latinos to demand respect, dreaming of Puerto Rico, and build a better world.

...I was the first woman in the Young Lords Party. I think it was a meaningful experience for women to be involved at that level in political activities in political process. Although I had a 3 month old baby it didn’t stop me from participating.

Sonya Ivany
Cadre (First Woman to join The YLP)
There is no better moment than now, to bring together young people, artists, workers, our diverse communities, and the Youths of 50 years later—with the mission of continuing to fight for justice and serve the people. 

Minerva Solla
Caderé
Message from Jamal Joseph
(Black Panther Party)

Before
Facebook, the Young Lords were face-to-face with the people and eyeball-to-eyeball with the oppressor.

Before
Instagram, the Lords were capturing real moments of struggle, pain, loss, joy, sacrifice, victory, heartbeat, and straight up caring for the community.

Before
reality TV, these brilliant, crazy, complicated, restless bold revolutionaries “life streamed” protests, strikes, takeovers, and programs that caught everyone’s attention and touched the lives of poor and working folk from barrios and hoods across the country and the island. Rolling with the Lords was serious. Yes, there were political education classes, the 13-point program, and lots of ideological study and struggle. But true to their Chicago street gang roots, the Lords were about kicking ass and taking names.

The occupations of the People’s Church and Lincoln Hospital, the garbage offensive, little kids’ bellies full with food instead of swollen by hunger. The anti-imperialist swagger. Julio Roldan’s coffin carried through the streets of East Harlem followed by hundreds of people—young, old, educated, illiterate, workers, street folks, Christians and hustlers. A celebration and a rebellion. Tears and music; pain and the undying commitment to liberation in the name of love. That’s why the purple beret had more “likes” and “follow” ers than we can count. The Young Lords’ motto was “ten, go Puerto Rico en mi corazón.” That’s why 50 years later, we have the Young Lords in our hearts.

United with the Many to Defeat the Few
Jose Cha Cha Jimenez
Young Lords National Chairman

All I had was the Young Lords, but I was as ashamed of them as I was ashamed of myself because they were a gang and of course without a purpose. I first tried to reinvent the wheel and started a group called the Puerto Rican Progressive Movement because we wanted self-de-termination and to free Puerto Rico from being a colony of the U.S. Only about four or five members joined and most were Young Lords anyway.

It was then that I realized that we did not need to destroy the Young Lords and change the groups name; we needed to destroy the old negative purpose and enhance what gave us pride—our community and our name.

There was no shame in our name, only shame in our purpose. Our mission became simply to free Puerto Rico and to empower our people. That means that we needed a party, but we had to unite with the many, and we knew those who would be easiest to organize would be the most oppressed by the system. Exactly! They were the folks who grew up with us.

This system of oppression against our people was created like slavery and it is why I could relate to Malcolm X when he spoke about a house Negro and a field Negro. We also had our alacguetas who continue to perpetuate colonialism. They are the ones who fear losing their food Stamps and social security checks and want to be dependent on the Unites States when we paid into the systems with our own sweat and blood.

Puerto Ricans were handed citizenship in the beginning of World War I to fight for the United States, and we have been fighting for them ever since. We gave them our blood. We also gave them cheap labor.

Oppression is a process like urban renewal which was the primary is-sue that gave us our official birth on Puerto Rican Independence Day, September 23, 1968. That urban renewal was marketed in our Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago to create an inner city suburb; fifteen minutes from the downtown Loop, next to Lake Michigan. Sounds wonderful but that’s where Blacks and Latinos lived, and the new inner-city suburb today is nearly all white. In fact, they have repeated this strate-gy in many US cities and in other parts of the world.

But from early on I discovered what our Little Red Book taught us; that the way to win is to seek out allies and to “Unite with the many to defeat the few.” It is why we followed Chairman Fred Hampton’s (Black Panther Party) lead and formed the Rainbow Coalition.

Young Lord members who have transitioned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bobby Lemus</th>
<th>Louie Rivera</th>
<th>Georgie “Little Man” Garcia</th>
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<tr>
<td>Husky Willie</td>
<td>Lil Tony</td>
<td>Mickey Agret (first LGBTQ)</td>
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<td>Georgie Lill Man</td>
<td>Margaret Trinidad</td>
<td>Ruben Vidot</td>
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<td>Huracan</td>
<td>Pablo Resto</td>
<td>Jose “GI” Paris</td>
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<td>Robles</td>
<td>Carlos Montez</td>
<td>Dingo Africa</td>
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<td>Tintan</td>
<td>Hilda Ignatin</td>
<td>Charlie Marzan</td>
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<td>Frenchy</td>
<td>Andre Gonzalez</td>
<td>Isreal/Frenchie Villegas</td>
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<td>Robert Ortiz</td>
<td>Mirna Flores</td>
<td>Julio Roldan</td>
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<td>Johnnie Rodriguez</td>
<td>YLP New York</td>
<td>Bobby Lemus</td>
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<td>Danny Rodriguez</td>
<td>Ray Gonzalez</td>
<td>Mickey Rivera</td>
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<td>Joe Vincente</td>
<td>Richie Perez</td>
<td>Herman Flores “Huracan”</td>
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<td>Bienvenido Perez</td>
<td>Luis Garden Acosta</td>
<td>Pedro Pietri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blanca Perez</td>
<td>Felix Velasquez Robles</td>
<td>Rafael Viera</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lacey Smith</td>
<td>Yaya ? (Last name)</td>
<td>Jose “Tati” Melendez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ralph (Spaghetti) Rivera</td>
<td>Georgie Robles</td>
<td>Georgie Robles</td>
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Felix Resto
Alvin Crawford
Charles Smith
Eddie Figueroa

YLP CLOSE SUPPORTERS
Victor Feliciano
Jose Chegui Torres
Dr. Carlos Russell...father of the Young Lords we met him at Old Westbury and he showed us why we need to struggle.

Dr. Evelina Antonetti mother of the Young Lords
Dr. Steve Levine
Dr. Helen Rodriguez

YP LPHILY
Johnny Rodriguez
Pete (need last name)
Cuco (need last name)

YLO Chicago
Alfredo Malias
Jose Pancho Lind
Angela Adorno
Manuel Ramos

YLO Chicago suppporter
Reverend Bruce Johnson and Eugenia Ransier Johnson, killed on September 29, 1969

Revolutionary Readings
1. WE WANT SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PUERTO RICANS--LIBERATION OF THE ISLAND AND INSIDE THE UNITED STATES. For 500 years, first Spain and then United States have colonized our country. Billions of dollars in profits leave our country for the United States every year. In every way we are slaves of the gringo. We want liberation and the Power in the hands of the People, not Puerto Rican exploiters.

Que Viva Puerto Rico Libre!

2. WE WANT SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL LATINOS. Our Latin Brothers and Sisters, inside and outside the United States, are oppressed by Amerikkkan business. The Chicano people built the Southwest, and we support their right to control their lives and their land. The people of Santo Domingo continue to fight against gringo domination and its puppet generals. The armed liberation struggles in Latin America are part of the war of Latinos against imperialism.

Que Viva La Raza!

3. WE WANT LIBERATION OF ALL THIRD WORLD PEOPLE. Just as Latins first enslaved under Spain and the yanquis, Black people, Indians, and Asians enslaved to build the wealth of this country. For 400 years they have fought for freedom and dignity against racist Babylon (decadent empire). Third World people have led the fight for freedom. All the colored and oppressed peoples of the world are one nation under oppression.

No Puerto Rican Is Free Until All People Are Free!

4. WE ARE REVOLUTIONARY NATIONALISTS AND OPPOSE RACISM. The Latin, Black, Indian and Asian people inside the U.S. are colonies fighting for liberation. We know that Washington, wall street and city hall will try to make our nationalism into racism; but Puerto Ricans are of all colors and we resist racism. Millions of poor white people are rising up to demand freedom and we support them. These are the ones in the U.S. that are stepped on by the rules and the government. We each organize our people, but our fights are against the same oppression and we will defeat it together.

Power To All Oppressed People!

5. WE WANT EQUALITY FOR WOMEN. DOWN WITH MACHISMO AND MALE CHAVINISM. Under capitalism, women have been oppressed by both society and our men. The doctrine of machismo has been used by men to take out their frustrations against their wives, sisters, mothers, and children. Men must fight along with sisters in the struggle for economic and social equality and must recognize that sisters make up over half of the revolutionary army: sister and brothers are equals fighting for our people.

Forward, Sisters, In The Struggle!

6. WE WANT COMMUNITY CONTROL OF OUR INSTITUTIONS AND LAND. We want control of our communities by our people and programs to guarantee that all institutions serve the needs of our people. People’s control of police, health services, churches, schools, housing, transportation and welfare are needed. We want an end to attacks on our land by urban removal, highway destruction, universities and corporations.

Land Belongs To All The People!

7. WE WANT A TRUE EDUCATION OF OUR CREOLE CULTURE AND SPANISH LANGUAGE. We must learn our history of fighting against cultural, as well as economic genocide by the yanqui. Revolutionary culture, culture of our people, is the only true teaching.

8. WE OPPOSE CAPITALISTS AND ALLIANCES WITH TRAITORS. Puerto Rican rulers, or puppets of the oppressor, do not help our people. They are paid by the system to lead our people down blind alleys, just like the thousands of poverty pimps who keep our communities peaceful for business, or the street workers who keep gangs divided and blowing each other away. We want a society where the people socialistically control their labor.

Venceremos!

9. WE OPPOSE THE AMERIKKKAN MILITARY. We demand immediate withdrawal of U.S. military forces and bases from Puerto Rico, Vietnam and all oppressed communities inside and outside the U.S. No Puerto Rican should serve in the U.S. army against his Brothers and Sisters, for the only true army of oppressed people is the people’s army to fight all rulers.

U.S. Out Of Vietnam, Free Puerto Rico!

10. WE WANT FREEDOM FOR ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS. We want all Puerto Ricans freed because they have been tried by the racist courts of the colonizers, and not by their own people and peers. We want all freedom fighters released from jail.

Free All Political Prisoners!

11. WE FIGHT ANTI-COMMUNISM WITH INTERNATIONAL UNITY. Anyone who resists injustice is called a communist by “the man” and condemned. Our people are brainwashed by television, radio, newspapers, schools, and books to oppose people in other countries fighting for their freedom. No longer will our people believe attacks and slanders, because they have learned who the real enemy is and who their real friends are. We will defend our Brothers and Sisters around the world who fight for justice against the rich rulers of this country.

Viva Che!

12. WE BELIEVE ARMED SELF-DEFENSE AND ARMED STRUGGLE ARE THE ONLY MEANS TO LIBERATION. We are opposed to violence—the violence of hungry children, illiterate adults, diseased old people, and the violence of poverty and profit. We have asked, petitioned, gone to courts, demonstrated peacefully, and voted for politicians full of empty promises. But we still ain’t free. The time has come to defend the lives of our people against repression and for revolutionary war against the businessman, politician, and police. When a government oppresses our people, we have the right to abolish it and create a new one.

Boricua Is Awake! All Pigs Beware!

13. WE WANT A SOCIALIST SOCIETY. We want liberation, clothing, free food, education, health care, transportation, utilities, and employment for all. We want a society where the needs of our people come first, and where we give solidarity and aid to the peoples of the world, not oppression and racism.

Hasta La Victoria Siempre!
¡Basta Ya!

FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS FREE PUERTO RICO
LIBERTAD PARA TODOS LOS PRISIONEROS POLITICOS QUE VIVA PUERTO RICO LIBRE