



*A celebration of the life and times of
Dr. Evelina Antonetty*

“The Hell Lady of the Bronx”

Calendar of Events

September 12—19, 2022



Sponsored by

**Hostos Community College of The City University of New York
The Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College/CUNY**

BronxCare

The Bronx Music Heritage Center

The Bronx County Historical Society

The Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute

Pregones Puerto Rican Traveling Theater

Bronxnet

and the

E100 Centennial Celebration Committee

All events free of charge

Dr. Evelina Antonetty: ¿Quién Fue?

“Para que no se olviden.”

Evelina Antonetty was many things to many different people: precocious child, model student, generous and caring neighbor, labor organizer, meticulous strategist, master diplomat and tactician who could analyze any situation and move people thoughtfully and spiritually, charismatic advocate of bilingual education and parents' rights, mentor to a cadre of young people who would impact New York in the arts, politics and social service...and she was a patriot.

She was formally known as Evelina Antonetty, but she answered to different names. To the members of her household she was “Titi”; to her nieces and nephews – whether blood-related or adopted – she was also “Titi”; to her devoted staff, she was “Mrs. A”; to the Puerto Rican community, she was “The Mother of the Bronx”; to her children, she was appropriately just “Ma.” And to one member of the New York police department brass, she was the “Hell lady of the Bronx.”

Indeed, she was a force to be reckoned with, one of the most effective and impactful leaders of the Puerto Rican diaspora of the twentieth century. She started her public life as a union organizer and aide to progressive elected officials. Then, as a mother, she immersed herself in parental oversight of schools and founded United Bronx Parents, a parent advocacy agency that gained national attention serving as a model for other efforts from coast to coast.

Evelina Antonetty lived through perhaps the most pivotal period in Puerto Rican history, often acting as one of the principal movers and agents of change in her time. Consider the following:

- She lived her early childhood in the 1920's on the southern coast of Puerto Rico where the sugar industry, with its cyclical nature and volatile market, shaped the lives of tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans. At that time, she witnessed and lived in the midst of a flowering of Afro-Puerto Rican culture.
- She was one of the pioneers of New York's fabled Barrio (East Harlem) where, as a teenager, she expertly navigated the shoals of the Great Depression helping fellow Puerto Ricans weather the economic storm and the shock of confronting an alien culture.
- The forties and early fifties saw her become a labor leader honing her skills as an organizer and developing an informal but highly effective

approach to activism, crafting a style and persona – an aura – uniquely hers.

- In the sixties, she developed close relations with Martin Luther King, Jr and other leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, establishing important links between Puerto Rican and African-American communities. Also during the sixties, she founded and built United Bronx Parents (UBP) into a social service agency of national repute. Indeed, UBP's programs, publications and special projects became models emulated throughout urban America. Finally, in the sixties, Evelina Antonetty was the principal force behind the founding of the first fully bilingual school in the nation.
- In the seventies, she witnessed a great crisis threatening the American inner city, especially her beloved South Bronx. In the process, she became a national voice for urban America, the conscience of urban America.

In an interview/photo session with photographer Frank Espada in 1980, she proclaimed: "We will never stop struggling here in the Bronx even though they've destroyed it around us. We (will) pitch tents if we have to rather than move from here... And, after me, my children will be here to carry on... I have very strong children...and very strong grandchildren."

Her life was cut short, much too short when she passed away in 1984. The loss, bitter as it was, turned out to be much greater than originally realized. Indeed, there is a sense even today, forty years after Evelina's passing, that things might have gone differently had Evelina given us twenty more years of her activism.

As Dr. Ignacio Olazagasti, distinguished scholar at the University of Puerto Rico and Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe, said recently at the defense of a doctoral dissertation, "I confess I didn't know much about Evelina Antonetty until I became a member of this panel. Now it's clear to me that, if Puerto Rico had had ten Evelina Antonettys, all its problems would be solved."

The celebration, **Evelina 100, a celebration of the life and times of Evelina Antonetty**, is being sponsored by Hostos Community College of the City University of New York (of which Evelina was a founder), the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College, the Bronx Music Heritage Center, BronxNet, the Bronx County Historical Society, Pregones Traveling Theater and a vast array of educational, cultural, political and social service agencies, primarily in Evelina Antonetty's own South Bronx.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY, September 12

Hostos Community College/CUNY, A-Building Atrium

11 AM | Opening Ceremonies

Mistress of Ceremonies-Malin Falú

Puerto Rican National Anthem, Prof. Thelma Ithier-Sterling, vocals; Matthew González, percussion: Norka Nadal, guiro

Welcoming Remarks: Dr. Daisy Cocco de Filippis, President, Hostos Community College
Greetings: Ms. Anita Antonetty, Daughter and Elba Cabrera, Sister
Bronx Borough President Proclamation

Translation Services by: Parent Action Committee New Settlement

12PM | Citywide Evelina 100 Voter Registration Campaign

Coordinator: Professor Lizette Colón-718-518-4261

At least 11 CUNY schools, and additional social justice and cooperative housing organizations will host a table with coalition members including, APREE (Alliance for Puerto Rican Education and Empowerment), Black Men Build Initiatives Manager, NYC Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety/CSI Liberty Partnerships Program, Unite Here Local 100 and NYPIRG (New York Public Interest Research Group).

The campaign will provide the public with the opportunity to register to vote, information on the specific poll sites where they will vote in November, along with a bio of Evelina Antonetty, one of the most impactful activists of the Puerto Rican diaspora of the 20th century. Antonetty was a champion for women, minorities and voting rights– all still at the forefront of city and U.S. political and social justice struggle today.

Campaign Locations:

Hostos Community College
Brooklyn College/APREE (Alliance for Puerto Rican Education and Empowerment), PSC, /NYPIRG
Borough of Manhattan Community College/NYPIRG
College of Staten Island/Black Men Build Initiatives Manager, NYC Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety/CSI Liberty Partnerships Program
Hunter College
Centro Library
LaGuardia Community College
Bronx Community College/NYPIRG
Queens College/ NYPIRG
City College/ NYPIRG
Queensborough Community College/NYPIRG
New York City Tech/(NYPIRG)
Casita María
The Point
Nos Quedamos
Jackson Heights & Co-Op City/Unite Here Local 100
Taino Towers

City College/NYPIRG
Penn South /L.E.A.P.S.-Chelsea Rising
and more...

7PM | Votes for Women Concert, Bronx Music Heritage Center- BMH Plaza, 438 E. 163rd St.

Evelina Antonetty used to have cuatrista Yomo Toro play music to attract people to their voter registration table. In that spirit, Nos Quedamos will have a voter registration table at the BMH Plaza during the concert of women vocalists and musicians performing songs they composed in honor of the centennial of women getting the right to vote for the BMHC's exhibit, A Portrait of Persistence (sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution's Traveling Exhibit Service). Featured musicians include; Oxil Febles, Rae Da Vine, Sofia Tosello, Monica Meaux Hope, Antoinette Montague, Marilyn Castillo, Mikaela Curet, Bharati Kemraj, Francesca Lamantia and more.

TUESDAY, September 13

Hostos CC, C-Building, Room C-391

Mistress of Ceremonies- Dr. Laura Kaplan

2PM | A Gift of Community Empowerment: The Legacy of Evelina Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow- Panel Presentation

Translation offered by Parent Action Committee/New Settlement

Also available virtually: <https://hostos-cuny-edu.zoom.us/j/85805107445>

How did Evelina influence her community, and the activism taking place today?

Moderator: Vivian Vázquez-Irizarry

Panelists: Activists of Yesterday: Hector Soto, Hostos Community College Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Law; Anita Rodríguez, United Bronx Parents Alum; United Bronx Parents and early allies in community organizing; Kathy Goldman and Suki Ports; Rebecca Lurie, CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies faculty

Panelists: Activists of Today: Esperanza Vázquez & Aide Zainos, Parent Action Committee of New Settlement; Michael Partis, Bronx Co-Op Development Initiative; Marco Saavedra, La Morada Mutual Aid Kitchen

Panelists: Activists of Tomorrow: Crystal Reyes, Sisters and Brothers United, Northwest Bronx Clergy Coalition; Mundo Martínez, Concrete Park; Jonathan Soto, Human Rights Advocate

Closing Remarks: Anita Antonetty

5PM | P.S. 25 The Bilingual School, Reunion, (Hostos Faculty Lounge)

**6PM | An Embrace between Puerto Rico and New York
La G8 and El Caño de Marín Peña allá, La Casita de Chema y Justicia para Puerto Rico acá**

Also available virtually: <https://hostos-cuny-edu.zoom.us/j/87054954685>

Panelists:

New York: Desseree Soto, Norca Nadal & Julio Pabón

Puerto Rico: Lucy M. Cruz Rivera & María del Mar Santiago

Evelina's Music Playlist by: Jessica De Pasquale

WEDNESDAY, September 14

Hostos CC, C-Building, Student Cafeteria

11AM | Evelina Antonetty ¿Quién Fue? and The Tres Hermanas

Hostos Children's Center

An introduction to the beloved Dr. Evelina Antonetty to the children and parents of Hostos Children's Center

Presenters: Elba Cabrera, and Anita Antonetty

6PM | Opening Reception, Images of Evelina Art Exhibition

Join us in person or via Zoom for the entire program

<https://hostos-cuny-edu.zoom.us/j/82575270155>

An exhibition of 10 portraits depicting Evelina by Marcos Dimas, María Domínguez, Siuko García, Rudy Gutiérrez, Samuel Lind, Maestro Antonio Martorell, Sara Morales, Esther Pagán, Nitza Tufiño, and Manuel Vega. The paintings run the gamut of straightforward portraiture to representations with ethereal, highly symbolic imagery that reference Antonetty's Puerto Rican ancestry, her experience as an immigrant, her role as a pioneer of the early Puerto Rican community in New York City and her distinguished career as an activist and champion of urban America.

Mistress of Ceremonies-Malin Falú

Greetings: Elba Cabrera, Evelina's sister

Evelina in Verse I: A Poetry reading

Dr. Daisy Cocco de Filippis, President, Hostos Community College

Keynote Address

Wallace I. Edgecombe, Director Emeritus, Hostos Center for Arts and Culture

6PM | Evelina 100 Music Premiere

Evelina, Brave Forever

Humberto Ramírez, Composer

In celebration of Evelina 100, Maestro Ramirez has composed a commissioned work specifically for this occasion; its world premiere will be at the opening reception. The composition links the experience of Evelina and the Puerto Rican Diaspora of the South Bronx.

Recognized as one of the most innovative musicians of his generation, Humberto Ramírez grew up in a home where the music of Miles Davis and Tito Puente, was always heard. After graduating from the San Juan Free School of Music, his interest in composing and arranging music motivated him to enroll at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts where he earned his bachelor's degree in music, then studied composition and orchestration for film and television at Dick Grove School of Music in Los Angeles, California.

Musicians

Humberto Ramírez, trumpet

Edsel Gómez, piano
Alexander Ayala, bass
Carlos Maldonado, percussion
Ivan Rentas, saxophone
Tony Cintrón, drums

7PM | *Evelina's Heart*, a reading

Sandra Nía Rodríguez, playwright
A Puerto Rican actor, director, writer and activist reads excerpts from her play *Evelina's Heart*, inspired by Evelina's life.

Prof. Angel Morales, Director Hostos Repertory Theater

Evelina's Heart takes place during the seconds before Evelina transitions. Due to her good deeds in life, she has been placed in Limbo where she would have the opportunity to review her life and make the choice of going back to earth to continue her work or move on. The version scripted for *Evelina 100* will consist of short scenes from the play, in which Evelina, once again, has to reflect on her past life, her afterlife, and her role in working from heaven for peace and justice. Evelina is reunited, once again, with God to remember and maybe more...

Professor Ángel Morales, Director of the Hostos Repertory Theater, is directing the staged reading, along with a great team of professionals to make this special evening a wonderful celebration of Evelina's life.

7:30 PM | 52 People for Progress E100 Concert at 52 People's Park

Kelly St between Avenue St John and Leggett Ave, Bronx, NY

THURSDAY, September 15

Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Silberman School of Social Work: 2180 Third Ave. Rm 115AB, New York, NY 10035

3PM | El Café de las 3: Evelina Antonetty's Activism in Bilingual Education, Food Security and Youth- Panel Presentation

Learn about the powerful work done by Evelina during a panel presentation introduced by CENTRO Director, Dr. Yarimar Bonilla, and hosted by the Mistress of Ceremonies Malin Falu. Panelists include Dr. Laura Kaplan, Dr. Nydia R. Edgecombe, Dr. Ana Celia Zentella, Hildamar Ortiz, Esq., Democracy Now! Journalist Juan González, and Dr. Víctor Vázquez-Hernández as a moderator, with a special reading of an essay by Dr. Lana Dee Povitz. Following the panel will be the Images of Evelina exhibition featuring art works from Maestro Antonio Martorell, Nitza Tufiño, and María Domínguez, among others and a poetry reading by María Aponte. Also on display is The Hell Lady of the Bronx exhibition in the Library and Archives reading room consisting of archival documents and other primary resources from the CENTRO archives. This exhibition will provide further context for Evelina's work and how she improved the lives of the youth in the South Bronx through food activism and advocating for improved education.

RSVP required via the event page at centropr.hunter.cuny.edu/event/the-hell-lady-of-the-bronx/ or evelina100.org

4:30 PM | Reception & Images of Evelina Art Exhibition

Welcoming Remarks

Dr. Yarimar Bonilla, Director
Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College/CUNY

Greetings

Elba Cabrera, Sister
Anita Antonetty, Daughter

6PM | Evelina 100 Centro Library E100 Document Exhibition**Evelina in Verse II, Poetry reading**

María Aponte

FRIDAY, September 16

Pregones Puerto Rican Traveling Theater at 571 Walton Ave, The Bronx, 10451

Welcoming Remarks:

Rosalba Rolón
Dr. Steven Payne

6PM | Screening of TITI: A Collective Oral History of Dr. Evelina Antonetty, with panel discussion

Over the last year, the Bronx Latino History Project, an oral history project of the Bronx County Historical Society, has been recording oral histories with family members and friends of Dr. Evelina Antonetty. The project's oral historian, Dr. Steven Payne, librarian and archivist at The Bronx County Historical Society, has edited together select clips from these oral histories into a short 20-minutes collective oral history of Dr. Antonetty, her towering legacy, and the incredible impact she left on her family and beloved Bronx community.

Panelists:

Elba Cabrera
Anita Antonetty
Donald Antonetty
Esperanza Martell
Dr. Steven Payne

Moderator:

Dr. Melissa Castillo-Planas, Associate Professor, Lehman College, Co-Director of The Bronx Latino History Project

Evelina in Verse III: A poetry reading

Caridad de la Luz, aka, La Bruja

Closing Remarks:

Dr. Nydia R. Edgecombe

SATURDAY, September 17

Fort Apache, The Bronx Revisited Bronx Music Heritage Center, 1303 Louis Nine Blvd, The Bronx, NY 10459

The BMHC will present a day-long program focusing on Fort Apache-the movie since we are located near the site of the original precinct--and Fort Apache in the west and the emergence of the empire through the U.S. dealings with Native Americans and the island of Puerto Rico. This program will honor Evelina's work in the Fort Apache protests and as an Independentista.

12 PM | George Stonefish land acknowledgement/welcome

Welcoming remarks: Elena Martínez and Bobby Sanabria

12:30 PM | Indigenous Perspectives on Fort Apache and the Politics of Sovereignty, A Panel Discussion

Panelists:

Nadema Agard
David Bunn-Martine
Dr.Charles Venator-Santiago

2:15 PM | Fort Apache, The Bronx: RESISTANCE, A Panel Discussion

Panelists:

Joe Conzo Jr.
Lourdes Torres

3PM | Evelina Antonetty's Activism: The Coalition Against Fort Apache, The Bronx Presentation

Welcoming Remarks:

Elena Martínez, Co-Artistic Director
Bobby Sanabria, Co-Artistic Director

Panelists:

Lourdes (Lala) Torres
Joe Conzo, Jr.

Moderator:

Elena Martínez

5PM | Fort Apache Band Revisited BMHC Plaza, 438 E. 163rd St.

Featuring Bobby Sanabria & Abure' performing the music of the Fort Apache Band to recognize the role of arts & culture in resistance.

SUNDAY, September 18

Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute, 120 E 125th St, New York, NY 10035

2PM | Images of Evelina: A Conversation with the Artists and Elba Cabrera, La Madrina de las Artes *

Panelists:

Siuko Garcia
Sara Morales
Esther (Star Angel) Pagán
Marcos Dimas

Moderator: Melba Olmeda

***LIMITED SEATING. BY INVITATION ONLY**

Images of Evelina Digital Exhibition by The Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute

Melody Capote, Executive Director
Sabine Blazin, Director of Programs
Michael Cordero, Director Digital Media

A digital exhibition of 10 portraits depicting Evelina by Marcos Dimas, María Domínguez, Siuko García, Rudy Gutiérrez, Samuel Lind, Antonio Martorell, Sara Morales, Esther Pagán, Nitza Tufiño, and Manuel Vega. The paintings run the gamut of straightforward portraiture to representations with ethereal, highly symbolic imagery that reference Antonetty's Puerto Rican ancestry, her experience as an immigrant, her role as a pioneer of the early Puerto Rican community in New York City and her distinguished career as an activist and champion of urban America.

Evelina in Verse IV: A Poetry reading

Karina G. López

MONDAY, September 19

Evelina Antonetty Playground

Hostos CC, A Atrium

11AM | Tree Planting Ceremony at the Evelina Antonetty Playground

Anita Antonetty
Donald Antonetty

Libation:

Baba Mondesire

12PM | ¡Feliz Cumpleaños Evelina! Cake Presentation by artist Pepón Osorio & Ricardo de Obaldía, Chef, Chocolate Cortés/ChocoBar

Pepón Osorio is known for his provocative, large-scale, multimedia installations. His visual language challenges traditional art canons with monumental assemblages that travel far beyond accepted notions of beauty and aesthetics. He recreates fantasy-like everyday environments—from barbershops to home interiors and taxis—that advance critical discussions.

Pepón is the recipient of various distinctions including a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, the Skowhegan Medal for Sculpture, The Herb Alpert Award in the Arts and a Pew Center for Arts & Heritage Fellowship. He has exhibited three times at the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture where he collaborated with his wife, Merián Soto, in the production of a fully staged dance and music production titled *Familias* (1994) which focused on the experiences of eight immigrant families living in the South Bronx. Pepón was a member of the staff of United Bronx Parents when he moved to the Bronx in early eighties.

Pepón Osorio, Artist
Ricardo de Obaldía, Chef
Carlos Cortés, Sponsor

Evelina in Verse V: A poetry reading

Bonafide Rojas

Proclamation, Town of Salinas, Puerto Rico

Donald Antonetty

Closing Remarks

Dr. Daisy Cocco de Filippis, President, Hostos CC
Elba Cabrera

6PM | Bembe de Cumpleaños Para Evelina sponsored by Comité Noviembre

Taller Boricua 1680 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10029

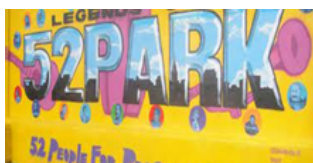
Comité Noviembre will announce the establishment of the Dr. Evelina Antonetty Scholarship for Community Activism and will introduce a major educational program "Teaching Evelina " that will incorporate the "Images of Evelina" exhibit to develop lesson plans and classroom activities to introduce future generations to the work and legacy of Dr. Evelina Antonetty.

Welcoming Remarks:

Teresa Santiago, Director, Comité Noviembre

Marcos Dimas, Director, Taller Boricua

Sponsoring & Partnering Institutions





Hostos Community College(CUNY), Centro (The Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College), The Bronx Music Heritage Center, the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute, Pregones Puerto Rican Theater, BronxNet, Bronx County Historical Society, 52 People for Progress, Rincon Criollo, Caño de Martín Peña (Puerto Rico), Nos Quedamos, The Point, Brooklyn College Caribbean Studies Department, Borough of Manhattan Community College, LaGuardia Community College-Dean of Students Office, Taino Towers, Casita María, Chocolate Cortes/ChocoBar, Vito Marcantonio Forum, College of Staten Island, BronxCare Health System, 1199SEIU, Iron Union Workers Local 417, UniteHere Local 100, APREE, NYPIRG, L.E.A.P.S./ Chelsea Rising, Latina 50 Plus, Taller Boricua, Parent Action Committee/New Settlement, Seis del Sur and more.

Individual donors: Bob Sancho, Enrique Godreau, Wallace I. Edgecombe, Maria Aponte, Ana Alicea, Idelsa Mendez, Joseph Conzo Jr., Rosalie Román, Olga Ayala, Laura Kaplan, Paul Ramírez, Anthony Ramírez, Subida Taylor-Louineus, María D. Vives, Carol Kaplan, Lana Povitz, Nydia R. Edgecombe, Lourdes Torres, Franklyn Pérez, Carlos and Kim Sanabria, Lucinda Zoe, Lisanka Soto, Paul Mondesire, Louis Romero & Dr. Gerald J. Meyer Family, Jennyza Vázquez Rodríguez, Donald Antonetty, Connie Tirado, María Sylvia Rodríguez, Virginia Barr, Digna

Sánchez, Rebecca Lurie, Julie Goldman, Malin Falú, Elba Cabrera, Anita Antonetty, Chauncy Young, Ricky Flores, David González, Edwin Pagán, and Francisco Molina Reyes II.

For further information on these events, visit the following websites: www.evelina100.com, www.hostos.cuny.edu or <https://centropr.hunter.cuny.edu>

To sponsor the E100 celebration, please visit: <https://hostos.thankyou4caring.org> to make a donation. Please write under comments that your contribution is for the E100 Centennial Celebration. Thank you!

Important:

For the health and safety of our guests, some venues will require proof of covid-19 vaccination or negative test results from an accredited laboratory.

E100 Committee Members:

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President

Elba Cabrera, Honorary Chair

Nydia R. Edgecombe, Ph.D., Chair

Anita Antonetty, Logistics & Program Committee

Donald Antonetty, Logistics & Program
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Raul Antonetty, Member-at-Large

María Aponte, Poetry Reading Coordinator

Yarimar Bonilla, Ph.D., Center for Puerto Rican
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Joe Conzo, Jr., Photography, Images of Evelina
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Victor Vázquez-Hernández, Ph.D, Member-at-L