

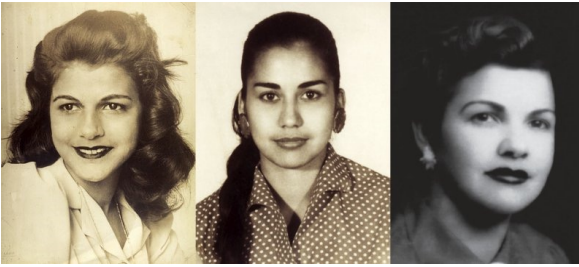


YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School Dedication Ceremony

October 13, 2022
1:30 PM
195 McLean Avenue
Yonkers, NY 10705



Minerva

María Teresa (Maté)
Mirabal Sisters

Patria

Las Hermanas Mirabal

Patria, Minerva and María Teresa Mirabal—three sisters from a middle-class family, all married with children—may not have seemed the most likely revolutionaries. However, living under the Dominican Republic's brutal dictator Rafael Trujillo in the late 1950s, the Mirabal sisters risked their lives to work in the resistance. During Trujillo's 31 years in power, the regime violently repressed civil liberties and dissent. The Mirabal sisters helped to organize and grow the underground movement challenging the regime, and were repeatedly arrested for their activities.

As middle-class women, wives and mothers, the Mirabal sisters were not obvious revolutionaries. Patria, Minerva and María Teresa, along with their sister Dedé, grew up in the town of Ojo de Agua, Salcedo Province, where their parents owned and operated a successful farm, along with a coffee mill and general store. After attending the Colegio Inmaculada Concepción, a Catholic boarding school in the city of La Vega, Minerva headed to college in Santo Domingo, the capital, to study law. At the University Minerva met fellow activist Manolo Tavárez Justo, and they married in 1955. Minerva became increasingly aware of the injustices that existed in the Dominican Republic during Dictator Rafael Trujillo era.

Known as “El Jefe” (“the Boss”) or “el Chivo” (“the Goat”), Trujillo was the commander in chief of the army before he seized power in 1930. The prosperity, modernization and stability his regime brought to the country came at a high price: Trujillo took over the country's economy, including production of such

goods as salt, meat, tobacco and rice, and channeled the profits to his own family and supporters. Civil and political liberties disappeared, and only one political party, the Dominican Party, was allowed to exist.

Trujillo's fearsome secret police rooted out dissenters, using tactics of intimidation, imprisonment, torture, kidnapping, rape of women, and murder. His regime would ultimately be responsible for tens of thousands of deaths, including the massacre of an estimated 20,000 Haitians living near the border.

Resistance was still building against Trujillo's regime, both among exiled groups of Dominicans abroad, and at home. The majority of those involved were men, but many women also joined the movement, led by the Mirabal sisters. By the end of 1949, Minerva had been arrested for suspected opposition activities; she also reportedly angered Trujillo by rejecting his sexual advances.

Minerva and her husband Manolo became resistance leaders. They were soon joined by Patria and her husband Pedro González and María Teresa and her husband Leandro Guzmán. In early 1960, they helped form the 14th of June Movement, named for the date of a failed insurrection against Trujillo led by a group of exiled Dominicans with the support of the Cuban government the previous year.

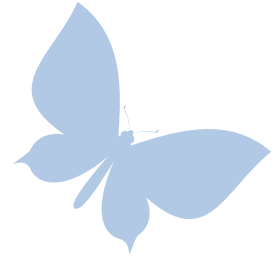
The assassinations of the three Mirabal sisters sparked a public outrage, which in part led to the assassination in 1961 of Rafael Trujillo by former allies. The Mirabal sisters became symbols of the democratic and feminist resistance. They became known as ‘Las Mariposas’ which translates to ‘The Butterflies’ and instantly became martyrs to the revolutionary cause, helping solidify resistance to Trujillo both at home and abroad.

The fame of the Mirabal sisters, fueled by Julia Alvarez's historical novel *In the Time of the Butterflies* (1994), spread worldwide. In 1999, the United Nations designated November 25, the anniversary of their deaths, as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Dedé Mirabal also ensured her sisters' legacy, managing a museum out of their childhood home, the Casa Museo Hermanas Mirabal.

PROGRAM



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| Welcome..... | Dr. Robert Vicuña, Principal |
| Pledge of Allegiance..... | Color Guard Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School |
| Greetings..... | Rev. Steve Lopez President, Board of Education Mayor Mike Spano City of Yonkers |
| Remarks | Dr. Edwin M. Quezada Superintendent of Schools <i>History of Las Hermanas Mirabal</i> Nader Sayegh New York State Assembly Member Former School 13 Principal |
| Legacy of the Mirabal Sisters | Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School, Grade 3 Students Arianna Jimenez Genao & Johari Morales Teacher: Ms. O'Neill |
| Special Guest | Minou Tavarez Mirabal Daughter of Minerva Mirabal & Manolo Tavárez Justo |
| “Stand by Me” by Prince Royce | Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School, Grade 4 Students Omar Algeradi, Frantz Almonte, Daniela Baizan, Aubrey Booker, Giselle Caraballo, Emma Castillo Vasquez, Andrew Cespedes Cruz, Kyree Chang, Lia De Leon, Iker Duran, Ashley Espinal, Joshua Espinoza, Giovanni Esteban Gonzalez, Fabricio Frias Zabala, David Garcia, Zoe Guerrero, Camila Gutierrez, Troy Hinson, Logan Johnson, Liana McLean, Iris Moran, Mariel Morel, Camila Ruiz Escalante, Ramses Vaquero, Kenya Villalba, Alhabib Zaman Teachers: Mr. Salon & Ms. Zaros, Music |
| “Ojalá Que Llueva Café” by Juan Luis Guerra | Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School, Kindergarten Students Ayden Ariza, Allison Carino-Romano, Rayden Debora Jimenez, Alice Diaz Cuevas, Valentina Diaz, Noah Estrella, Arlenys Ferrer Reyes, Aarnav Ghosh, Royalty Hector, Allison Lemus, Juana Lopez Villar, Maimuna Manhoor, Nova Marrero, Isabella Olvera Medina, Aidette Ortiz, Yarety Ramirez Palma, Ava Rodriguez, Serenity Romero, Iker Soriano, Serenity Stanley, Ransett Urena Alberto, Alexa Vaquero, Isabella Villegas Teacher: Ms. Hutton-Woodberry |
| Dedication Plaque Unveiled..... | Rev. Steve Lopez |
| Closing..... | Dr. Robert Vicuña |



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Special Thanks

Amy Ast, PTA President

Teachers

Ms. Woodberry – Kindergarten

Ms. O'Neill – Third Grade

Mr. Salon – Fourth Grade

Ms. Spagna – Fifth Grade

Ms. Zaros – Music

Staff

Ms. Rabadi – School Aide

Ms. Ramirez – School Aide

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