

# CREATING WOMEN ACTIVISTS, ORGANIZERS, AND LEADERS

## IN MEMORY OF CAMARADA PATRICIA MARIN

In January of 1996 the Women's Commission of Unión del Barrio changed its name to the Comité de Mujeres Patricia Marín. Unión del Barrio made this decision to honor and respect the work and dedication that camarada Patricia Marín had for the Revolutionary struggle of all our Raza. Compañera, Patricia, who died on December 18, 1995, had dedicated her life to the struggle for the National Liberation and reunification of our nation (México/México Ocupado).

For 15 years now, CMPM, has worked to involve Raza women in the struggle for liberation as activists, organizers, and leaders. The Comité understands that Women's oppression can only be eliminated through national liberation and that national liberation can only be successful to the extent that women participate and take part in that struggle.

Therefore, the CMPM works under a political platform that reflects the principles that we must follow as revolutionary mujeres, hombres, organizations, communities and movements as a way of ensuring the liberation of all Raza. All of the CMPM's activities are guided by this basic and fundamental understanding.

## CMPM CONTINUES TO ADVANCE THE LIBERATION OF WOMEN AND ALL OF THE RAZA COMMUNITY

During the month of November 2010, the CMPM organized three actions that represent its adherence to the struggle for Raza women's liberation.

One of the activities organized by the CMPM was a workshop at the Annual MEChA SDSU High School Conference held on Nov. 20th (San Diego State University). The workshop was titled: *Mujeres En Lucha: Women In Organization and Leadership! Si Se Puede!* The workshop, attended by about a 10 high school students, focused on the role women have played in social justice/revolutionary struggles throughout the Americas—from Mexico and Cuba, to right here in Aztlán. Cathy Espitia and Isabell Peña, the workshop presenters, explained why it's important for Mujeres to be organizers of change. They used as examples the work and activism of such leaders as Lucia Parsons Gonzales, Celia Sanchez, and Patricia Marín.

Another event organized by CMPM, was the showing of the film, *In The Time Of The Butterflies*, held on Nov. 27th. The event was co-sponsored by the Filipina organization AF3IRM (Association

of Filipinas, Feminists Fighting Imperialism, Re-feudalization, and Marginalization), formerly known as the Gabriela Network. The film was a "historical novel" based on the struggle of women who died fighting for the liberation of the people of the Dominican Republic and against the U.S. dictator and puppet, Rafael Trujillo. The film specifically dealt with the activism of three sisters, Patricia, Maria, and Minerva Maribal, who were brutally beaten to death on orders of Trujillo on November 25, 1960. Close to 20 people, most members of the CMPM and AF3IRIM, attended the film show, which was held at the Bonita Public Library (Bonita/San Diego County). Compañeras Liz Ochoa and Judy de Los Santos were key organizers of this event.



Cathy Espitia and Isabell Peña at the MEChA SDSU High School Conference

### THE STRUGGLE AGAINST GENTRIFICATION AND THE LIBERATION OF RAZA WOMEN

**Editor's Note:** The following article was written by Cathy Espitia for the November 2010 issue of the *Comité de Mujeres Patricia Marín* (CMPM), a journal of theory and practice. Contributions to it are a space in which you and we, along with other neighbors, are connected to "other" individuals and communities or "oppressed" communities. This journal is the place where we can discuss our struggles, our experiences, and our hopes for the future. We are looking for articles that are relevant to the struggle for the liberation of all Raza. We are looking for articles that are relevant to the struggle for the liberation of all Raza. We are looking for articles that are relevant to the struggle for the liberation of all Raza.



**ONLY UNITY AND ORGANIZATION WILL LIBERATE WOMEN**  
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### Image of Statement On Gentrification

## RAZA WOMEN AND THE FIGHT TO SAVE OUR COMMUNITIES

The third important activity of the CMPM was the publication of an article on gentrification, which describes how this is a process that destroys working class communities for the benefit of the rich and how it—in particular—affects Mexican-Raza women. The statement is titled: *The Struggle Against Gentrification and The Liberation of Raza Women*. It sums up how "gentrification" impacts women and children, connecting it to the need to struggle for the national liberation of all Raza. The article was posted on the Save Our Barrios Coalition's web page and the CMPM's newsletter, *Mujer En Lucha!*

The CMPM holds meetings once a month. For the next few months the CMPM will concentrate on organizing a Mujer Conference to take place in March 2011. For more information, please see the Unión del Barrio website at: [uniondelbarrio.org/](http://uniondelbarrio.org/)

**Que Viva Patricia Marín! Que Viva La Mujer En Lucha!**



Olive Panes of AFIRM and Judy de Los Santos (CMPM) introduce the film, *In The Time of the Butterflies*