

## **JORDAN JOURNAL TRIBUTE: THE TEACHINGS OF RAMON JIMENEZ** by Howard Jordan



**Introduction:** On May 10th, 2016 at the age of 67 activist Ramon Jimenez passed away of prostate cancer. The Harvard-trained lawyer, litigator, activist, writer, former administrative law judge, and journalist was a permanent fixture in the movement for social justice and a champion of progressive struggles. He led the fight to save Hostos Community College in the South Bronx, organized rallies against police brutality, took on South Bronx corrupt politicians and spearheaded a campaign that led to the removal of a corrupt National Puerto Rican Day Parade board to one with a more reform-oriented bent. On the electoral front this fiercely proud and unapologetically Black Puerto Rican disenchanted with the Republican and Democratic duopoly was the Attorney General candidate for the Freedom Party and the Green Party

After Ramon's passing I approached Ramon's daughter Laila-Roman Jimenez and asked if I could create this premium for WBAI which broadcast The Jordan Journal. a program which Ramon called "one of his favorites." I felt that Ramon's message **MUST** not be forgotten, recast or de-radicalized as has become common right wing practice for progressive icons like Albizu Campos, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and others.

Familia, since it is rapidly approaching the one-year anniversary of his passing I once again offer this collection of "The Teachings of Ramon Jimenez" to the progressive community in **its entirety free**. Links will also be placed on my website [howardjordan.net](http://howardjordan.net) Some of you ordered part of this compilation as a premium on WBAI but due to internal problems at the station delivery was delayed. My sincerest apologies. This tribute is presented in two parts. First the show I did shortly after Ramon's passing on May 20<sup>th</sup> where I interviewed Assemblyman Charles Barron, Ponce Espinal of the Ramon Jimenez Legacy Project, Laila Roman-Jimenez, Ramon's daughter, Lucky Rivera, and Javier Nieves. Press link to listen [click here](#)

**The rest of the compilation of interviews spans from 2007 to 2016** and some additional tributes to Ramon. Press the link at the beginning of this letter for the total collection of nearly every interview I did with Ramon and a brief introduction of some segments. Please share this information and ask that it be included in your local library. During the coming months many will hold anniversary activities and a possible street naming to honor Ramon and I hope these recordings are informative and give you some insight into this progressive apostle of our movement. Again my thanks to all that have assisted me in this effort. Un abrazo,

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Ramon Jimenez on Sonia Sotomayor, the Latino political class, the Yankee Benefits Agreement, and the African heritage of Puerto Ricans. (Sept.11, 2007) [click here](#)

Ramon Jimenez and lawyer and police reform activist Hector Soto (Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010) [click here](#)

Ramon Jimenez, Iris Morales former Young Lord, producer of the documentary Palante, and Angelo Falcon President of the National Institute for Latino Policy. (Nov. 12, 2010) [click here](#)

The Freedom Party, Cuomo and Bloomberg budget, labor, and problems in the Freedom Party? (March11, 2011) [click here](#)

Ramon Jimenez (November 18, 2011) [click here](#)

We discuss his column "The Case Against Police Commissioner Ray Kelly" that appeared in the Amsterdam News. (April 13, 2012) [click here](#)

We discuss the Occupy Wall Street movement, unity building efforts between African-Americans and Latinos, relations between Latinos of varying nationalities, the struggle of workers at Woodlawn cemetery and more. (June 5, 2012 Talkback) [click here](#)

Ramon Jimenez and Julio Pabon author of *Knockout* on elections. Has the Democratic Party lost its relevancy to the people? What are the obstacles to electing alternative candidates given the dwindling influence of "political bosses"? What does it mean to be a reformer against the political party machine? Do reformers become regulars once elected? (August 8, 2012) [click here](#)

Ramon Jimenez and David Galarza of the Justice Committee of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights. Also Hip Hop artist Rod Starz of the nationally recognized group Rebel Diaz. They discuss the racist attacks on Marc Anthony for singing the Star Spangled Banner at the baseball All-Star game, Latino support for justice for the family of Trayvon Martin, police reform and the possible naming of NYPD Commissioner Kelly to head Homeland Security, and the culture of corruption in the Bronx Democratic Party. (July 19, 2013) [click here](#)

Ramon Jimenez and Lucky Rivera of *Boricuas for a Positive Image* on upcoming New York Post demonstration on Martin Luther King Day. Latino and progressive organizations protested the racist, anti-Latino coverage of the Post which included the slanderous coverage of Puerto Rican Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito accusing her of putting "a Caribbean hex on a rival. (Jan 17, 2014). [click here](#)

Truly out of love Ramon takes time away from writing his memoirs to call in and chastise Howard for his show bringing State Senator Ruben Diaz and journalist Gerson Borrero who strangely enough found common ground on the Puerto Rican Day Parade. (Recorded 2-14-14) In a strange twist Diaz attacked Attorney General T. Schneiderman for changes in the parade and Ramon responds blasting Diaz for his lack of integrity and defending Schneiderman. (February 7, 2014) [click here](#)

During our fundraising drive some preliminary reflections by me on the passing of Pan-African giant Elombe Brath and an interview with Ramon on his efforts to change the Puerto Rican day Parade and a harsh criticism of some of the weaknesses of the “reformed” board. Some of the strong language is a reflection of the combative tone over Parade reform and some would argue since that time there have been changes? Also a critique of the “whitening” of Latinos and an appeal for financial support of the Jordan Journal. (May 24, 2014) [click here](#)

On the August 29th edition of The Jordan Journal "A look at the Viability of Third Political Parties in NYS. (August 29, 2014) [click here](#)

As the Green Party candidate for Attorney General Ramon Jimenez reflects on his campaign lessons and experiences being only one of three Latinos to run statewide in the last 30 years, the prospects of a Latino Equality Party, and the role of the media in suppressing third party candidacies. (November 7, 2014) [click here](#)

On Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, fifteen hundred Latinos and African Americans from the Bronx and Harlem led by Boricuas for a Positive Image and Black Economic Survival marched to the Harlem State office building to protest the decision of the grand jury not to indict the police officer that killed Eric Garner. Ramon comments on the protest and the future demonstrations every Thursday for the month of December. (December 5, 2014) [click here](#)

The Trump-Ramos Confrontation- Ramon comments on journalistic ethics and the racist treatment by the Trump campaign team of Univision journalist Jorge Ramos. (December 5, 2015) [click here](#)

*Con Sabor Latino's* Tribute to Ramon Jimenez Interview with Howard Jordan (May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016) [click here](#)

(In Spanish) After the passing of Ramon Jimenez an audio of Juan Manuel Benitez host of *Pura Politica* interviewing Emilio Carrion, Enrique Coss, and Howard Jordan on his legacy [click here](#)

**Laila Roman Jimenez** daughter of the late civil rights lawyer Ramon Jimenez and the efforts to name a street after the legendary activist. Also she discusses her battle against the gentrification of the South Bronx (April 7, 2017) [click here](#)

*Howard Jordán is an educator, attorney, journalist, and political activist and serves as host of the popular radio program The Jordan Journal heard Fridays from 3-5 p.m. on WBAI 99.5 F.M. The Journal is a current event driven program that is committed to a cross-fertilization of ideas between people of color and the progressive community in the United States. Jordan is also a tenured Professor and Chair of the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences at Hostos Community College and Unit Coordinator for the Public Policy and Law Unit where he teaches in the areas of Criminal Justice, Paralegal Studies, and Public Administration.*