

THE I-HOTEL REMEMBERS YOU, MANILATOWN  
REMEMBERS YOU . IN THE EYES OF THE MANONGS &  
MANANGS, IN THE HEART OF I-HOTEL TENANTS, IN THE  
HEART OF THE COMMUNITY . IN THE HEART OF MABUHAY  
IN THE HEART OF CARABAOS . IN TRIBAL MEMORIES &  
DREAMS OF LONG AGO & FAR AWAY.  
MANANG, YOU ARE STILL HERE  
YOU CIRCLED THE I-HOTEL WITH YOUR LOVE, WITH YOUR  
SPIRIT, RISING UP LIKE THE MANONGS - PROTECTING THE  
MANILATOWN LIFE GUARDING THE OLD WAYS, THE  
SONGS.

Poetry by Al Robles

Asuncion "Asun"  
Panlibuton (1924-2011)  
was an original defender of  
the I-Hotel, a residence of elderly  
Filipino and Chinese immigrant  
workers who were evicted in 1977 in the  
name of redevelopment. Asun worked  
to inform the city of San Francisco  
of the dire conditions these elders  
lived in. When the residents of the  
I-Hotel were evicted, she opened  
care homes to provide the  
Manongs with somewhere safe to  
move into. She organized Filipino  
Residential Care Home Operators  
and ran care homes for over 30  
years. She showed others that  
wealth is measured by the love,  
compassion, and generosity given  
to others.

# I WAS AN ACTIVIST. I WAS A MOTHER.

THERE WERE A LOT OF WOMEN INVOLVED IN THE I-HOTEL LIKE ME.

I SPENT A LOT OF TIME AT THE I-HOTEL ORGANIZING. ACTIVISM IS 24 HOURS A DAY. I HAD CHILDREN, AND THEY WENT TO SCHOOL.

SOMETIMES WE WOULD HAVE MEETINGS IN THE EVENING AND THAT WOULD BE HARD. IF YOU HAD WOMEN WHO WANTED TO BE INVOLVED, YOU HAD TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR CHILDREN, TOO.

I WAS A DEFENDER. WE WERE DEFENDING FROM EVICTION. WE WEREN'T ONLY ORGANIZING AGAINST EVICTION FOR YOUR BUILDING, BUT ALSO FOR OTHER LOW INCOME PEOPLE WHO WANT TO LIVE IN THE CITY. FOR PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTOOD THAT HOUSING WAS A HUMAN RIGHT, SO IT GREW THE MOVEMENT TO DEFEND THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL INTO A LOW INCOME HOUSING MOVEMENT. THE LEGACY OF THAT IS STILL EMINENT TODAY, BECAUSE THE ISSUE IS STILL CURRENT. PROBABLY EVEN MORE SO TODAY.




Dr. Estella Habal, I-Hotel Defender and author of "San Francisco's International Hotel: Mobilizing the Filipino American Community in the Anti-Eviction Movement".

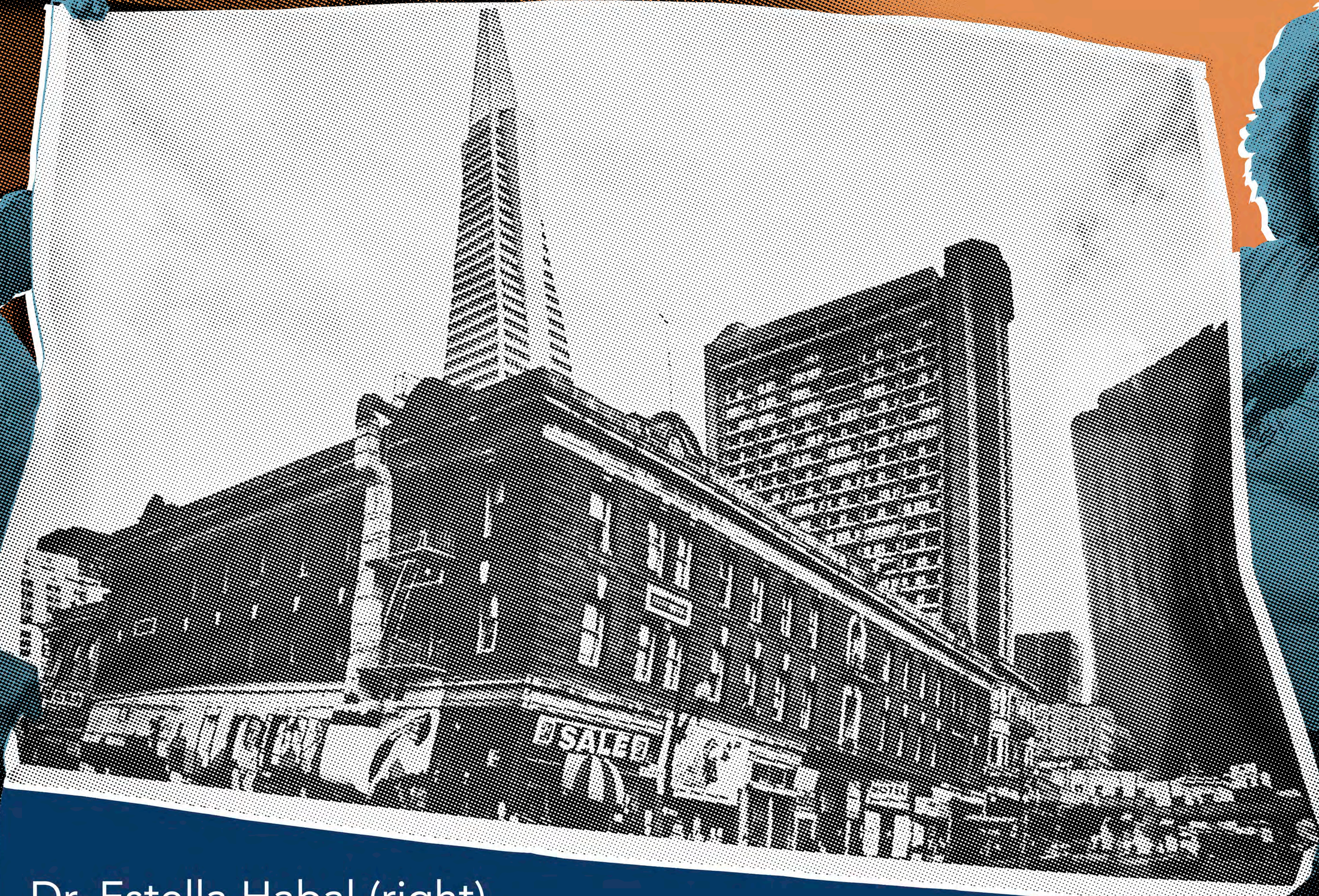
# IT WASN'T ONLY A HOTEL.

IT WAS A GATHERING  
PLACE THAT BROUGHT  
THEM TOGETHER.  
IT WAS CELEBRATION;  
IT WAS RITUAL.  
IT WAS  
A BRINGING  
BACK TO LIFE

*Poetry by Al Robles*



Annie Panlibutan Barnes, current I-Hotel tenant and longtime volunteer for the Manilatown Heritage Foundation. Her mother, Asuncion "Asun" Panlibutan, is a founding activist and defender of the I-Hotel in the 1960's. Asun's work in the community paved the way for low-income senior housing in San Francisco.



Dr. Estella Habal (right), Professor Emerita at San Jose State University, was an organizer who fought to stop the eviction of Manongs, elderly Filipino men, from the International Hotel at 848 Kearny. She went on to document the history of this historic anti-eviction fight in a book, and helped to resurrect low-income housing at the reopening of the International Hotel Manilatown Center in 2005. The two are shown here holding a photograph of the original building before the evictions in 1977 and its eventual demolition in 1978.