

March 10, 1986

Dear Michelle,

Your really deserve a celebration by meeting the challenge of being heard in other groups with so comprehensive and original a review of WLDOR in OOB. I was especially impressed with the manner in which you dialectically wrote of part IV on the selected letters on the process of writing, because it is there that you definitely show no division between revolution in permanence and women's liberation. By achieving that integrality there is no way that even those who are hostile to philosophy and to whom activity just means "physical action", not the activity of thought by possibly claim that "others" do not feel that passionately about philosophy as about revolution.

I was watching the TV screens on the ^{magnificent} march and demonstration in Washington D.C. and whereas I know that a California demonstration will not have that massive a turnout, I do believe that we will achieve as much with your presence there.

I don't know whether you happened to notice a rather stupid article in the NY Times on how many new magazines there are on business and fashion and "how to" on WL. Nevertheless the article has one saving grace. And that was saying that this "proves" that the women's movement far from being dead is alive and kicking. And the great thing about that was that the OOB masthead was included. Is that magazine only 10 years old, because it was on magazines of this decade? Finally you must know that the very next day after receiving the OBB we received an order as a result of it.

Yours,

Jaya

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Dear Raya Durgensky

APR 13 1986

On November 11 in Bisbee, beside the ravaged open pit mine of Phelps Dodge he died and was resurrected. ~~and was w~~ ^{resurrected} so didn't

respond to your wonderful book on Rosa Luxemburg. and the strange opening out of the experience of the first world war and the socialists and how the women in the midwest knew about and loved Krupskaya and Rosa and Zetkin... and knew about the ~~and~~ the betrayal of the German working class in supporting the war...

I was at the 1916 meeting of the Socialist party in St. Louis where they split on the war. My father was one of the founders of the Non-Partisan League in North Dakota which came out of the Socialist party. Also the midwest followers of E. Debs believed in the consciousness of the working class as the basis of a revolution. The elitist leaders were in the east. *Wolfgang et al.*

But what is so illuminating to me and I was not conscious of it, was how my mother and the socialist women knew Rosa Luxemburg. Kate Richards O'Hare the great socialist organizer in Oklahoma gave a lecture on Rosa and Clara Zetkin ~~and the war~~ ^{It must have been that had the} been thru the Appeal to Reason that had the biggest circulation of any paper in the U.S. A full file of this paper is in the university of Pittsburg Kansas. *Capitalist*

This history is not known even by the radicals, the history of Socialism in the midwest. Oklahoma was a socialist state. Arizona - *was* the constitutions of these states of the midwest are radical documents. The settling of German Marxists in Wisconsin and Minn. elected Lincoln. Weydemeyer and Shurtz and the Hegelians in St. Louis who recognized the importance of the Indian communal structure. I am writing a short novel of the Green Corn Rebellion in Oklahoma against the war because they thought the German workers were going to be against the war and their revolt in the corn of Appalachian poor and Indians and blacks in solidarity, they thought with the European workers who would not be for the war.

The history of the third parties, anti-monopoly parties, the organization of farmers and workers in the midwest from the democratic socialist grass roots struggle has not been told.

I am sending you my book North Star Country which was published in 1945, an attempt at a history of the midwest radical people... it should be carried on. Debs and the midwest socialist and the IWW. My father was an organizer of the 1905 convention. Their belief in the permanent revolution and the rising from below.

Your book illuminates this intl. consciousness and especially the women like my mother and Kate Richards O'Hare and Mother Jones.. and Elizabeth Flynn.. the story of the IWW led strike on the iron range.. is untold.. The r.r. strike against Hill centered in St. Paul with Debs and Hill meeting.. Debs was the great Humanist.. This history is now rising out of the furrow the sod the organic memory... The Hormel strike and the farmers movement now is the reappearance of the history buried.. the perpetual consciousness of freedom.. The prairies like the great grain elevators rise like cathedrals of memory alive as corn... Also my book *The Girl was Harvested from the* women in the depression... I went to Africa to the women's meeting and for the first time third world women flooded over the white racist puritan women...

I wish my mother could read your wonderful book that is an illumination there will be an intl. women's union.. to org the sweat shops.. where 70% of world production will be out of the bodies of women..

Y 90

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When the socialist party split during the war the middle west stood against the war and we were tarred and feathered imprisoned and killed. We had to flee Fort Scott Kansas when the Peoples School was physically destroyed.. we fled the back roads to get back to St Paul where the Non Partisan league still had an office and where Lindbergs father also fled the mobs who threw red paint on the parade and he fled across the pasture in Red Wing and a train with a Nonpartisan league engineer who took the train and picked him up just before he was snatched by the mob.

Our books were burnt in our yard in St Paul, Minn was like a fascist state.

Workers history is never lost. Found a man sitting on a hill outside St. Louis who remembered the green corn rebellion when they crossed that bridge and even the militia wouldnt fire on them.. they were like the eastern rebellion.. Ameringer and the intellectual socialist tried to get them to stop ...but like Connelly they said you had to keep the rebellion alive and the roots alive for the people..

Your contributions are so great illuminating this memory comes up green like corn found in caves for a thousand yrs .. moisture and heat and they make cob again..

This concept of revolution springing green and perpetual from the proletarian is now becoming a reality

thank you deeply.

deepest solidarity..

Merle LaPointe

I think I subscribed to Notes in Bisbee could you have my address changed from 416 Schoon Terrace road Bisbee Ariz 85603 ... to 1653 Victoria road St Paul Minn 55118 let me know if I owe you more .. a wonderful paper...

please forgive this terrible script I cant sit up or see to type very well I have hesitated to write this at all but felt I wanted to send you the books and keep in touch ...

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April 8, 1986

Dear Meridel Le Sueur,

Your great letter (received April 7) was to me an exciting demonstration of how retrospective, when one is so rich in history as you are, can become perspective. I knew of you long before your '45 North Star Country, since I landed in Chicago in 1922 and no sooner got to know English then, as a 12 year old, I became a reader of The Appeal to Reason and the Haldeman-Julius "Bluebooks. Since I considered myself a young Bolshevik, the labor history that was not in school texts was my passion.

It will interest you to know that this very week when I received your letter, a young colleague of mine, Eugene Walker, the managing editor of News & Letters, had just returned from giving a talk at Pittsburg State University. There he visited the Haldeman-Julius Collection at the library, examined the Appeal To Reason and the "Bluebooks." He spoke to the librarian in charge, Gene DeGravel, who had seen you at a Midwest conference and spoke of you warmly. In fact, there were other older people he met in Gerard who remembered Appeal to Reason way back when.

The whole idea of the type of retrospective that leads to, is indeed grounded in, a perspective, is what has preoccupied me for I would say a full half century. It was in the 1930s, with the Depression on one side and the Spanish Revolution on the other, that I also became dissatisfied with the Communists, the so-called orthodox Marxism and began to call myself a Marxist-Humanist.

By the early 1970s we finally had Marx's Ethnological Notebooks which reveal his "new moments" in his last decade as both a return to his early concept of Man/Woman relationship as well as his excitement with Iroquois women as he excerpted Morgan's Ancient Society. These same 70s was the very period when I became critical of the Women's Liberation Movement for their very nearly total disregard of Rosa Luxemburg just because she supposedly didn't write "directly on the "women question."

So you see my concept that dialectical history, no matter how many natural leaps it undergoes, must know the continuity of history to assure that any new revolution doesn't retrogress, and that "revolution in permanence" does mean continuing revolution in self-development. Women's Liberationists especially must not just be the opposite of male, but must strive for totally new human relations. Which is why Marx from the beginning (1844) called his philosophy a "new humanism." And that is what we are aiming for.

Thank you very much for your letter and the inscription in the books. The 1984 edition of your North Star Country will be reviewed soon in N&L by the Women's Liberation page editor, Suzanne Caspy.

In the issue going to press now I am anxious to share your view with our readership and will print it.

Your work in progress sounds quite exciting and I hope I will hear more about it. Under separate cover I am sending you my latest work, Women's Liberation and the Dialectics of Revolution: Reaching for the Future which is a 35-year collection of essays from women in the miner's general strike of 1949-50 through 1985. Since you mention the St. Louis Hegelians, did you

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also know that there were unsung women philosophers in it? With my book I am enclosing our pamphlet on the first General Strike in the U.S. by Terry Moon and Ron Brokmeier which covers this dimension.

In deepest solidarity,

Raya Dunayevskaya

P.S. I was interested in, but critical of the recent UN Conference in Kenya closing out the Decade on Women and enclose my comments on it which were included in the Draft Perspectives of Marxist-Humanism which we published.

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"Los niños son el jardín de la Revolución" (Detalle)
Mural de la Biblioteca Infantil, Parque Luis Alfonso Velásquez,
Managua, Nicaragua, diciembre de 1983.

Auspiciado por la Asociación de Niños Sandinistas (ANS).
Creado en solidaridad por los artistas norteamericanos Miranda Bergman,
Marilyn Lindstrom, Jane Norling y Odilia Rodríguez, con la ayuda de muchos otros
artistas, organizaciones y gente del pueblo nicaragüense.

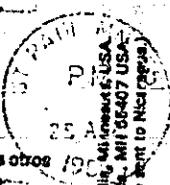
"The Children are the Garden of the Revolution" (Detail)
Mural on the Children's Library, Luis Alfonso Velásquez Park,
Managua, Nicaragua, December 1983.

Sponsored by the Sandinista Children's Association (ANS).
Created in solidarity by North American artists Miranda Bergman,
Marilyn Lindstrom, Jane Norling and Odilia Rodríguez with help from many
Nicaraguan artists, organizations and community people.

Thanks for your great letter & the
Book - Kenya really has wonderful
ideas - 5000 3rd world women come
annointed - president the women who
women - 1st time - history such a
meeting - them are equal - Peace - Development
has no relevance + then -
for - Mercedes Salazar



"Solidaridad es la ternura del pueblo"
"Solidarity is the Tenderness of the People"



Printed in Minneapolis, Minnesota, EEIU/Printed in Minneapolis, Minnesota, EEIU
For more cards: The Children are the Garden, P.O. Box 7523, Maple, MN 55407 USA
\$4.00 per set of 8 cards. For every set purchased, one set will be sent to Nicaragua.

Kenya Duran
302 So Blvd #1
Counselor
W 60702





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"Los niños son el jardín de la Revolución" (Detalle)
Mural de la Biblioteca Infantil, Parque Luis Alfonso Velásquez,
Managua, Nicaragua, diciembre de 1963.

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Thanks for your great letter & the
Book - Perry really has wonderful
been - So far 2nd world women know
wanted - just want the women that
women - (5) item - Unity Sud -
meetings - them on equal - Lisa - beautiful
begin to overcome for - "Solidarity is the
Tenderness of the People"



"Solidarity es la ternura del pueblo"
"Solidarity is the Tenderness of the People"



Raymond Duvignaud
302 So Blvd #1
Evansville IN 47702



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