6-26-1988

Resist Board Meeting, June 26, 1988

Resist

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Dear board member,

Since some items (double starred below) were not discussed at the June 2nd Resist special policy meeting and postponed until this regular meeting, I am placing them first on our agenda for discussion. Please refer to your policy meeting agenda for fuller explanation and call or write the office with input.

AGENDA

BUSINESS/POLICY ITEMS

** Expectations for Resist board members - Kate and Tess have prepared a draft of suggestions, included with this letter.

** Funding Priority Issues for next six months

** Groups not directly working on organizing North Americans - Should we fund such groups; what criteria do we have?

** New board members - The board outreach committee will have a recommendation on a candidate for discussion.

** Community Building Corporation - This seems to be going nowhere and I need some guidance.

* Office - finance report and other miscellaneous items

GRANT REQUESTS

Third World issues

1) Synapses, Inc. (Chicago, IL) - They're asking for $500 for a TV and a VCR to help with their Southern Africa education/solidarity work.

2) Third World Newsreel (New York, NY) - $600 request toward expenses of distribution of video "Homes Apart: the Two Koreas"

3) Philippine Workers Support Committee (Honolulu, HI) - Request of $800 for printing of brochures and newsletter.
Women/Reproductive Rights work

4) Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights of IL (Chicago) - $500 asked for costs of printing and mailing brochures for their Aug. 30th conference on new reproductive technologies

5) Abortion Rights Fund of Western Mass. (Hadley, MA) - Request of $600 for production of brochure about the fund, its work and for fund raising purposes

6) Women's Coffeehouse (Cambridge, MA) - They're asking for $600 for publicity and outreach expenses

7) Boston Reproductive Rights Network (Jamaica Plain, MA) - $600 request for expenses of producing pamphlet on group for outreach purposes. Copy for pamphlet to come.

8) Say It, Sister (Cambridge, MA) - Request of $600 for skills training in broadcasting for 15 women

9) Boston Area Sistren Support & Educational Group (Cambridge, MA) - $600 asked for mailings, telephone costs and training sessions for Sistren tour in Oct.-Nov. 1988

Central America Work

10) Working Classroom (Albuquerque, NM) - $540 requested for stipends for its Books for Bluefields project

11) Veterans Fast for Life/Vets Peace Action Teams (Santa Cruz, CA) - They're asking for a $600 grant for costs of printing their newsletter and a $1,000 loan (see below) for expenses of a fund raising phone banking campaign

12) The Resource Center (Albuquerque, NM) - $600 requested to help purchase a computer

13) Las Americas Refugee Asylum Project (El Paso, TX) - Request of $425 to cover costs of starting a quarterly newsletter

Gay & Lesbian Organizing

14) Guilford Alliance for Gay & Lesbian Equality (Greensboro, NC) - Request of $600 for expenses of campaign to change city anti-discrimination ordinance to include protection based on sexual orientation

15) Mountain States AIDS Network (Morgantown, WV) - $600 requested for production of brochure for gay and bi-sexual persons on Safe Sex and on the Network

16) National Coalition of Black Lesbians & Gays (Detroit, MI) - Requesting $600 toward cost of producing a slide show on history of organization
17) Gay & Lesbian Defense Committee (Somerville, MA) - They're asking for $600 for printing of brochures addressing Dukakis' position on issues important to gays and lesbians and for info packets and mailing costs

**Peace/Anti-Militarism Groups**

18) Metanoia Community (St. Mary's, GA) - They are asking for $392 for a slide projector and screen

19) United Campuses to Prevent Nuclear War (Washington, DC) - $600 requested for expenses of direct mail membership drive

**Native American Issues**

20) Ikwe Community Education Project (Osage, MN) - Request of $500 for expenses of staff training in marketing and planning skills

21) Tiyospaya Indian Student Org. (Tampa, FL) - $871 requested for office equipment and supplies

**Miscellaneous**

22) Social Movement Empowerment Project (San Francisco, CA) - They're asking for $400 for general funding for project

23) Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (Somerville, MA) - Request of $600 for expenses of production of newsletter

24) Street Magazine (Somerville, MA) - They're asking for $525 for printer for their computer

25) Labor Education & Research Project (Detroit, MI) - $600 asked for expenses of joint seminar with Center for Popular Economics on basic economics geared toward labor activists

**LOAN REQUEST**

26) Vets Fast for Life (Santa Cruz, CA) - They're asking for a loan of $1,000 for expenses of fund raising phonebanking

For peace and justice,

Nancy Moniz, Resist staff

**PLEASE FILL OUT & RETURN TO RESIST**

Since I can't attend the June 26 meeting, below you'll find my choice of the date I can attend a meeting in June in Boston.

Aug. 14 _______ Aug. 21 _______ Aug. 28 _______

NAME
RESIST BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

JUNE 26, 1988

PRESENT: Paul Lauter, Wechsler, Pam C., Louis K., Tatiana S., Roxanna P., Nancy Moniz, Kate C., Wayne. Wechsler took minutes.

Newsletter: General comments complimenting Tatiana on this month's newsletter.

Funding Priorities: The staff was asked whether or not they thought setting priorities had made a difference. Staff thought it had. We discussed keeping the same priorities for another six months. Roxanna suggested we change the Central America from "specifically work around Honduras and Guatemala" to something that would encourage groups to take a regional approach to their Central American work. We agreed to add something like: "Central America, specifically projects that took into account a regional perspective on the area, including Panama and Belize."

We discussed whether we wanted to add groups doing anti-militarist work and counter-recruitment. We decided not to add this to the list of priorities, but that staff would do a mailing to groups doing counter-recruitment work and encourage them to apply to Resist.

Paul suggests putting something in the newsletter about anti-militarism/recruitment work. Include some of Pam's stories and tales of recruiting in the schools.

Tatiana raised the question of how AIDS and prisons fit into our priorities. Staff has been assuming AIDS is a priority, but it hasn't been spelled out.

Wechsler suggests the following language to guide us in our AIDS funding, and for our priorities: "It is a priority for Resist to fund local grassroots activist groups organizing a political response to the AIDS epidemic. That political response should take into account the homophobia and racism that has surrounded the response to the epidemic." People agreed to this framework.

More on Priorities:

The question was raised at the NYC board meeting of whether or not we fund groups whose primary organizing is centered around people who are from other countries but living here. (In other words, organizing immigrants in this country around their own issues.) We discussed difference between Honduras Information Center and Informe Columbiano (which target North Americans about Honduras/Columbia), and these other groups. We decided, Yes, we should support Guatemalans who are organizing other Guatemalans about what is going on in Guatemala, especially if one of the goals is to get them to talk and organize here.
Several people were confused as to why this was coming up now.

We agreed we would fund groups of Central Americans working around issues of their own rights and to gain a better understanding of what is going on in Central America so they can then articulate this to US audiences. This would help them become active in a part of the solidarity movement. We will fund such groups as long as some of their work is organizing here in this country.

**GRANTS**

1. Synapses, Inc. (Chicago, IL) $450 for a TV and a VCR to help with their Southern Africa education/solidarity work. References were positive. Jackie Shad said they were to the left of most church groups. Questions were raised about their answer to the disability question (#7). Some people thought they were too liberal and could get money elsewhere. Many people liked the group and project. We agreed to give them a grant and to say something about the answer to #7.

2. Third World Newsreel (NY, NY) POSTPONE. Karin San Juan did not like video. Passive, descriptive, too liberal, no analysis. John Demeter gave a positive reference for the group. LK: good group but not good video. Role of US down played. US was very active in putting down social protest movements. Film is dated. Student movement isn't in it. Pam: Agree with flaws mentioned. They are presenting the politics of "isn't this sad." That is the prevailing attitude of Korean activists. Paul suggests postponing so that Norm Fruchter can look at it, and so that we can see the whole tape when it is done.


4. Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights of IL (Chicago) NO GRANT. People felt they could get money elsewhere. We should push them on gay/lesbian politics, especially since they are dealing with the new Reproductive Technologies.

5. Abortion Rights Fund of Western Mass (Hadley, MA) $500 for production of brochure about the fund, this work and for fund raising purposes. Good references. People wondered why the group was all heterosexual since there is such a large lesbian community out in Western Mass.

6. Women's Coffeehouse (Cambridge, MA) $200 (SOME) for publicity and outreach expenses. Libby gave a positive reference. This is a way for younger people just moving to Boston or just getting interested in feminism to plug in, and find out what is going on. There are good discussions of feminism at the women's center. The center is very much alive. It was suggested they should fund raise from their own list for the coffeehouse.

7. Boston Reproductive Rights Network (JP, MA) $500 for pamphlet on group
for outreach purposes. Questions were raised as to who they were trying to reach with this pamphlet. Roxanna translated it into Spanish during the meeting, hoping to save them the money they were going to spend to do it.

8. Say it Sister (Cambridge, MA) NO GRANT. The person who now does SIS has a reputation of being difficult to work with, though she is energetic. The collective that started SIS split over people not being able to work with Jennifer. Jennifer kept doing SIS, while the rest of the group does the yearly International Women's Day program. People had problems with Jennifer encouraging women to pay money so she can teach skills so that she can have a collective. Members of the ex-collective were asked to participate in teaching but were not offered any money to do so.

People agreed that SIS is a good project, goals are good, but unless Jennifer is going to start a new collective and then take herself out of it, people didn't think it would work. We agreed we would not fund and we would say: we do not fund one person projects, we were unclear about the budget and specifically the sources of income, and though there is a clear need in the community for this--given our limited resources this is not a priority for us at this time.

9. Boston Area Sistren Support & Education Group (Cambridge, MA) $500 for mailings, telephone costs and training sessions for Sistren tour in Oct-Nov, 1988. Evelynn Hammond—positive reference for group and project. People were glad that the women's theatre festival had been successful in creating enough excitement for this group that people wanted to organize to bring them back.

10. Working Classroom (Albuquerque, MA) $500 for stipends for its Books for Bluefields project. Wayne gave a positive reference for group, project, and individuals in group.

11. Veterans Fast for Life/Vets Peace Action Teams (Santa Cruz, CA) $500 grant for costs of printing their newsletter and $1000 loan for expenses of a fund raising phone banking campaign. Vanguard gave a positive reference. They gave them $ and also gave them an award at an anniversary party.

12. The Resource Center (Albuquerque, NM) $500 to help purchase a computer. Roxanna gave a very positive reference for this group. Best documentation center on Central America in this country. A question was raised about the amount of grants they got...but Roxanna said they really needed money for the computer. They have a very tight budget.

13. Las Americas Refugee Asylum Project (El Paso, TX) $425 to cover costs of starting a quarterly newsletter. Excellent references. Questions raised about their funding.

14. Guilford Alliance for Gay & Lesbian Equality (Greensboro, NC) $500 for expenses of campaign to change city anti-discrimination ordinance to include protection based on sexual orientation. References were positive. People liked the different kinds of things the group does--forums, demos, etc.

15. Mountain States AIDS Network (Morgantown, WV) NO GRANT. Nancy M.
couldn't get a reference for this group. We decided this wasn't the kind of AIDS project we wanted to fund. We will write them a letter letting them know that while we support the efforts of gay/bisexual men to produce explicit safer sex brochures, Resist priorities for funding AIDS work is to groups organizing a political response to the AIDS epidemic, specifically which takes into account the homophobia and racism surrounding the response to the disease.

16. National Coalition of Black Lesbians & Gays (Detroit, MI) $500 towards cost of producing a slide show on history of organization. Evelynn H. gave positive reference. They need the money. They are having some financial troubles.

17. Gay & Lesbian Defense Committee (Somerville, MA) NO GRANT. People really did not like the brochure, especially now that the primaries are over. People thought they should do a new brochure that encouraged people to build a movement that will challenge Dukakis on his positions. Also people wanted to see a brochure that holds all the presidential candidates accountable on their positions of gay/lesbians and AIDS. People felt we should tell GLDC that the nature of the work that needs to happen is different now. This brochure shouldn't go out any more, it needs to be revised. Wechsler argued to fund the group and thought that in fact they were seeking money to cover costs of a printing and mailing they had already done.

18. Metanoia Community (St. Mary's GA) $200 (SOME) for slide project and screen. This is an important part of country to work in. Discussion around Christian base and the number of people involved.

19. United Campuses to Prevent Nuclear War (Washington, DC) NO GRANT. Reference said this was single issue group. No students. We agreed to turn them down and say we fund groups that have a more articulated left-wing multi-issue political perspective.

20. Ikwe Community Education Project (Osage, MN) POSTPONE. Midge Taylor gave a positive reference. People wanted to know who would be doing the training? Questions were raised about the group's politics. What was political about what they are doing? Pam suggested it was a public relations campaign in support of land rights in Minn. Not just selling wild rice. Wechsler wanted to make sure this was true, especially if the marketing was getting more successful. We agreed to postpone to get more info on training and to find out more about the groups politics.

21. Tiyospaya Indian Student Organization (Tampa, FL) NO GRANT. Couldn't get a reference for this group. Goals seemed vague. Newsletter looks good, but are they doing any work we can support? Say no for now and write them "when your plans become more clear and you have specific organizing projects, come back to us with another proposal.

22. Social Movement Empowerment Project (SF, CA) NO GRANT. This is MNS. Vanguard is not too familiar with them. Did not fund them. They are not involved in direct organizing. Dan P., Pacific Peace Fund said the trainers
were good and it has been effective.
Kate said she thinks this project/training are unbelievably bogus. Many people concurred. Paul said there was no fundamental grounding in material conditions of world. Not rooted. Analytical framework is bogus, doesn't provide a useful framework that explains anything.
We agreed we would say NO, and say we didn't support this kind of training.

23. Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (Somerville, MA) NO GRANT. Linda Thurston (AFSC) said they do lobbying, public education, worked on furlough bill, trying to do grassroots work. Older people are involved. Liberal group, not radical. Is this a one person operation?? CURE is a national group, but who is involved in the local? Questions were raised about reconciliation of prisoners and "victims." Just Say NO. We fund radical projects of a leftist nature.

24. Street Magazine (Somerville, MA) NO GRANT. Haymarket funded them once, then turned them down a few times due to conflicts within collective, as well as lack of analysis, condescending attitude, and sexism.
The audience doesn't seem to be homeless people, but college students and yuppies who might be interested in this issue. Not that different from the Phoenix. The central issue in homelessness is housing. This magazine treats it as a cultural issue, not a serious political project.
Say no...we don't support publications that don't directly relate to organizing people.

25. Labor Education and Research Project (LERP) (Detroit, MI) $500 towards expenses of joint seminar with Center for Popular Economics on basic economics geared toward labor activists. Tess gave a positive reference. People thought this was a good project.

26. Vets Fast for Life (Santa Cruz) yes to $1000 loan for expenses of fund raising campaign. (see above)

Next Board Meetings:

August 28th, Sunday, 11am placed to be announced

October 2nd, Sunday, 11am placed to be announced

Expectations of Board members:

People basically thought the proposals were good and were accepted. Bell said she still wants to get the NY packet even though she should be considered "inactive."

We agreed to send out the BIOS we have, and encourage those who have not sent theirs, to do so now.
New Board Members:

Renae Scott, former Haymarket staff person. Roxanna said Renae's perspective from understanding what minority grassroots groups are doing will be a good perspective to have at Resist. LK: very experienced. Has done a lot of things. We agreed to ask Renae to join the board.

Merble Reagan: She's interested. Paul knows her. She lives in NYC. Organized for Northern Student Movement and National Council of Negro Women, Women's Center for Education and Development. George didn't interview her before he left for Nicaragua. People thought George should still talk to her and that if Grace couldn't attend, a woman from Boston be involved. We did not get any further with this. Perhaps the committee should pursue what to do about this.

Community Building Coalition:

This group is no longer meeting. Nothing is happening. Nancy Moniz feels like she still ends up doing work for the group even though nothing seems to be coming of it. Haymarket has bought a building with Sojourner. We agreed that Resist should pull out and therefore withdraw our commitment of $10,000.

Other business:

We received two letters from groups--one we had funded and one we had turned down. There wasn't time to go over them at the meeting so they were passed on to the board/staff lunch meeting for review.

Finances: Cambridge Trust: $8400; Working Assets: $67,700; Loan: $2900.

New Brochure: A copy of our new brochure is enclosed. A mailing went out in June to the Guardian list, National Lawyers Guild list, and CISPES national list. Most of this was on a trade. (Total # 20,000.) We will be doing a big mailing in September, probably to the following lists: Greensboro Justice Fund, Socialist Review, MADRE, NICA Network (45,000) and in November: Nation list (40,000) and probably NACLA (6,000). Wechsler hasn't decided whether or not to use this brochure for another year, or do a completely new one for spring 1989/fall 1989. She will decide soon.

That's it. Hope everyone is having a good summer. See you on August 28th.
Nancy Wechsler

I grew up in Levittown, NY in the 50s' and early sixties. My parents grew up in Washington Heights from poor and working class Orthodox Jewish families. They had been in and around the young Communist League, and the Young People's Socialist League (YPSL). They were in a group at CCNY with Max Shachtman, Irving Howe and Hal Draper. In Levittown they remained active in local community politics, mostly around school board issues and elections. They identified as anti-stalinist (but not Trotskyist) socialists. Dinner conversations were filled with discussions of world and local politics, English literature, books and plays.

My Junior High and High School days were filled with after school intra-mural sports and intense discussions and arguments with teachers and fellow students about the Civil Rights movement, the Vietnam War, Marx, and the US internment of the Japanese during WWII.

In 1967 I went off to Colorado College in Colorado Springs where I began to identify with the New Left (which didn't really have much of a presence in Colorado), and helped organize small but lively anti-ROTC demonstrations, and a campaign to end the freshman curfew. Disgusted by the provincialism, anti-Semitism, and reactionary nature of Colorado Springs and CC's students, I transferred to the University of Michigan my sophomore year.

In Ann Arbor I soon became heavily involved in the newly formed Ann Arbor Tenants Union, the early women's and gay liberation movements, anti-Vietnam War protests, and student power movement. I joined IS (International Socialists) for a brief but meaningful time--finding Ann Arbor IS'ers to be some of the most interesting political people in town at that time. Our IS chapter was anti-Leninist and most people identified with the politics of Rosa Luxemberg. I met people in Ann Arbor IS who remain good friends today.

With the winding down of the Vietnam War and the student movement, we looked for ways to keep the momentum of the 60s going. By 1970 many of us had begun discussing with several other leftist groups forming a radical independent party. The Radical Independent Party ran its first write-in campaign in 1971. That same year I became the party coordinator. Soon after, we met with a group of disenchanted Democrats who had recently left the Democratic Party over the Vietnam War issue. They had formed the Human Rights Party and were trying to get state-wide ballot access as a third party. We joined with them, and HRP got on the ballot. In 1972 five of us ran for Ann Arbor City Council, and two of us won the election. During those two years HRP organized demonstrations, participated in strike support work, and used City Council meetings as a public forum for radical politics. I was active in HRP's left wing Debs Caucus.

I got off City Council in 1974 and moved to the Boston area where I became involved in the Boston Area Socialist Feminist Organization, Somerville NAM (New American Movement), Gay Community News, Boston Grand Jury Project, and the Susan Saxe Defense Committee. Our NAM chapter was quite active in NAM's Left Wing, and helped organize against the merger with DSOC. When NAM finally did merge with DSOC to become DSA, we formed solidarity, a Socialist Feminist Network. I was in Solidarity for two years.
until it folded. After Solidarity I became active in Boston Mobilization for Survival. Mobe’s Feminist Task Force was heavily involved in organizing for the National Gay/Lesbian March on Washington.

At present I am still involved with Gay Community News, and Mass Act Out, a radical gay/lesbian organization formed as a result of the organizing for the March on Washington. I have just dropped out of active participation in Mobilization for Survival.

I found the merger of NAM and DSOC, and in particular the faction fighting, manipulation, and dishonesty in NAM before the merger, to be one of the most politically demoralizing experiences I have been through. I did, however, learn a tremendous amount from this experience. I continue to find it depressing that there is no viable non-sectarian national organization to the left of DSA.

I have lived in the Boston area for almost 14 years, and held a number of very different jobs including counselor, clerical worker, bookstore clerk, GCN writer/typesetter, typing teacher, and Resist staffer. Just a little under 6 years ago I bought a small single family house in Somerville and "settled down."

I identify myself as a feminist, gay liberationist, and third camp revolutionary socialist (anti-Stalinist and anti-capitalist) even though I know those words don't mean much to anyone anymore. I still believe in Third Party Politics and feel it is essential for people to break from the Democratic Party. I do not support Jesse Jackson, as I did not support George McGovern in 1972. When I am politically demoralized about everything else, I can usually be re-energized by the incredible spirit and fight of the gay and lesbian movement.

My parents, who had an incredible influence on my life and politics, both died during the years I lived in Ann Arbor. I've written one article for GCN about my parents deaths, and am in the process of working on another article about my mother. I have an older brother (Jerry) and a younger sister-in-law (Elizabeth), who live in Manhattan. An aunt and uncle (Leo and Mildred) are Orthodox Jews who live in the Bronx, but we do not keep up with each other.
Louis Kampf

I was born in 1929, an event which obviously caused the Crash. Birthplace: Vienna, Austria. My parents were born in Poland, and were moderately Jewish-Orthodox. They sent me to a Yeshiva (Parochial School, Jewish version). We fled from Hitler in 1939, went to Belgium, then Vichy France. We arrived in the U.S. in Feb. 1942. I was raised in a working/lower middle class neighborhood in Manhattan. I stopped believing anything about religion around the time of my bar-mitzvah.

I became involved in left politics in high school, and was a Schachtmanite Trot for 6 weeks. In college I worked in the Wallace campaign, but had problems relating to political action, since it was dominated by the C.P.

I was drafted into the Army in 1951, sent to Korea, defended democracy, and drank a great deal of free booze.

A year after discharge from the Army, I wound up in grad school (comp. lit.) in Iowa. There I participated in protests against local barbers (they wouldn't cut blacks' hair). While on vacation in NYC, I got arrested for refusing to participate in a nuclear war drill.

I went to Harvard in 1958, became involved in picketing Woolworth's, and low level peace activities. Then came the '60's, and the rest is history - sort of. I was involved in starting the Educational Cooperative (a community school in the South End), was in SDS, NUC, Resist, etc.

In 1961 I began to teach at MIT. I've been there since (mostly: I lived in Italy for a year and a half), and teach literature, politics, women's studies, sports.

I got married to Ellen Cantarow in 1969. We had been "relating" since 1962. We have no children, though we both love kids. I'm lucky enough to be friends with the children of people I love.

My politics are pretty much what they've been since the '60's: libertarian, pluralist, convinced that people desire both material well-being and spiritual sustenance, and that a revolution which does not embody both those objectives is not worth fighting for. I can see no grand strategy that will bring the society I would like to live in into being - here or anywhere. So I try to take it bit by bit, sometimes with more passion and joy than at others. I'm convinced my life would be very much narrowed if political activity were not a part of it.

Oh yes, I love jazz. A fact which has not political significance, I think.
To: Resist Board
From: Renae Scott

Dear Friends,

Please find highlights of the last 15 years of my life in Mass.

I'm a 37 year old Black woman, mother of a 13 year old daughter.

For the last 10 years I have been most active in the women's movement in this area. I have worked on the issues of violence against women. I have worked at Casa Myrna Transition House, and was a founding member of the Mass Coalition of Battered Women Service groups. In that movement I fought actively for the inclusion and voice of women of color. I produced a manual Outreach to Third World Women as tool for activist in this area. I was also responsible for one of the few conferences focusing on violence and battering in Third World communities.

For the last 7 years I was employed at Haymarket Peoples Fund. While there I was active in setting up the Boston Women's Fund. I have been active with the Up to Poverty Campaign and was the co chair of that campaign with Nancy Ryan.

I think my strengths include bringing diverse people together, helping create a space where people feel heard, and respected. I have also provided technical assistance and resources to many groups in the area. I also have done and continue to do anti racist work, working with organizations around issues of inclusion and diversity.

I have also been active in my community. I am the parent body of my daughter's school. I serve on a number of boards in my community. I have been active in the Cambridge YWCA, served on the Board of the Local CDC, Community Development Corp.

Three years ago I ran for City Council, worked on the campaign of Mel King for Congress.

I'm currently a consultant for The Multicultural Project in Cambridge.
I think what I would bring to the Resist Board would be an overview of groups in the New England area. I have had experience in looking at funding requests. I have knowledge of funding sources in this area and I have good organizational abilities. I am able to work with diverse groups of people. I have a great sense of humor and am hard working.

I hope this brief note gives you a little piece of who I am.

Renae Scott
Looking back, I suppose the biggest influences on my present state of being have been as follows: being born into the working class, the Catholic Church, Portuguese and a woman.

I was born in New Bedford, MA in 1937. Both parents worked in factories there, one was in a union, another worked in a non-union shop. All my early life I heard labor talk and pretty clear (but non-ideological) talk about capitalism. I experienced a little of this, working in "five & dimes" during high school and, before going to art school, as a time-keeper in an electrical parts factory. I lived in a working class, mainly Portuguese, neighborhood and was the first kid in my family (or my neighborhood) to go to, graduate high school and then go on (and eventually away) to higher education.

Early on, I started questioning the hypocrisy of the Catholic Church, capitalism, prejudice (Portuguese in N.B. although a majority were looked down on), and sexism. At that point, in my teens, I didn't do much with my growing consciousness: I didn't realize one could. I left the Church basically as soon as I left home at 19 to go to school in Boston. My last formal encounter with the Church was an argument I had with a priest in a confessional over the Vietnam War.

After graduating art school, I worked in advertising as a commercial artist. My last full time job lasted 8 years with an ad agency on Newbury St. in Boston. I was the defacto art director there but being a woman I received neither a comparable to men wage nor the recognition until I quit, at which time the owners offered me the world to stay. I was living at the time on Beacon Hill, just above Louisburg Square.

The reasons I left the advertising business as well as Beacon Hill eventually, was a turning point in my life. I went on a vacation to London and Paris in the Spring of 1968 and ran into the May Revolution. Seeing what I did there, an industrial nation stopped short by a general strike and an insurrection, caused me to start to analyze my need to work for drastic change in the United States. I remember talking it over with myself on the plane back. Up until that time political consciousness had developed through the Civil Rights movement and the Vietnam War but I hadn't become very active. I made a decision on returning to the U.S. that I needed to find people to work with to change the system in the U.S. First I would quit my job, start freelancing. This would give me the time and energy to do this. I guess my reasoning was that my political commitment wasn't something to do after work and on weekends nor was it one that I could practice in the repressive world of advertising.

The last twenty years have come from that decision. I first found a small peace group to work with, I then found the Catholic Left which led to Uphams Corner, Dorchester and community organizing, which led to Latin America and also CCNV in Washington, DC, which led to Common Stock Restaurant, which led to Central America and then Resist. I've been very fortunate that my work, my politics and my jobs have meshed and overlapped so well.
A page or so is so short to summarize a life. There's not a lot of room to mention how I love music, having good friends, art, sports, photography, cooking, gardening, the country, Mexico, films, rainbows. Feel free to ask me for more details.

Below is a short list of the different groups I've been part of in the past 20 years.

1968 - 1971 Beacon Hill Support Group
1972 - 1974 Uphams Corner Info Center
1972 - 1975 Unaffiliated work in the anti-Vietnam War movement, food co-ops and a Chilean group.
1972 Vocations for Social Change
1973 - 1975 Dominican Republic Task Force
1974 & 1976 EPICA, Washington, DC
1974 Community for Creative NonViolence, DC.
1974 Deborah's House, DC
1975 Panama work - Co-coordinator of Boston part of a national tour of two Panamanians speaking on the issue of Panamanian sovereignty over the Panama Canal (fore-runner of Committee for Panamanian Sovereignty).
1975 - 1978 Common Stock Restaurant
1978 Boston Women's Health Book Collective
1975 - 1977 Overview (later Overview Latin America)
1975 - 1977 Committee for Panamanian Sovereignty this group
1978 - 1983 Nicaragua Solidarity Committee
1980 After spending two months traveling through Central America (Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua & Honduras) returned to join
1982 - 1983 CASA - Worked as staff person and fund raiser
1984 - Dorchester Committee on Central America
1984 - 1985 Honduras Information Center - Fundraising volunteer
1985 - present Resist staff and board
NORM FRUCHTER
577A Sixth Street
Brooklyn, NY 11215

EDUCATION:
M.Ed., Teachers College, Columbia University, 1982
Charles Revson New York Fellow, Columbia University, 1981-82
Columbia University, School of Social Work, 1962-63
Fulbright Fellow, Shakespeare Institute, Stratford-on-Avon, UK, 1959-60
B.A., Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, 1959, magna cum laude

EMPLOYMENT:
Current:
Senior Consultant, Academy for Educational Development (AED), NYC. (1982-present)

Project Director, Ford Foundation Dropout Prevention Collaboratives; provide technical assistance to six cities in developing school/business/community agency collaborative plans for dropout prevention.

Project Director, Lilly Endowment's Middle Grades School Recognition Project; assessment and training for middle grades improvement in Indiana.

Designed evaluation process, trained site visitors and wrote evaluation report for City University of New York's Partnerships Program and Ford Foundation's Urban Community College Transfer Opportunities Program.

Senior Consultant, Minority Education, Aaron Diamond Foundation, NYC. (1987-present)
Review all education grant-making decisions and develop strategies for grant-making to improve minority education in New York City.

Director, Institute for Citizen Involvement in Education (ICIE). (1982-present)
Initiated ICIE's Public Policy and Public Schools course for parent activists. Wrote and field-tested pilot curriculum, developed materials and trained instructors currently teaching course in 12 New Jersey cities.

Past:
Directed research project to identify effective NYC schools and wrote the resulting study Meeting Adolescent Need: Four Effective Middle Schools. Organized AFC's citywide hearings on "Our Children in Crisis" and edited report of hearings. Developed policy papers on reducing special education referrals and improving high school articulation.

Consultant, Community School District 12, South Bronx, NYC. (1981-82)
Designed and implemented an intensive evaluation of the district's poorly performing schools, using instruments developed from school effectiveness research.

Director, Public Policy Program, St. Peter's College, Jersey City, NJ. (1975-81)
Founded and directed Bachelor's Degree program for community activists, which provided an interdisciplinary curriculum focused on urban problems. Program received federal, state and foundation awards and is recognized as a national model by the U.S. Department of Education.

Director, Independence High School, Newark, NJ. (1975-81)
Founded and directed alternative high school for dropouts. Responsible for fundraising, liaison to all federal, state and local support agencies, budgeting and evaluation. Directed the English and Social Studies Departments. School's Work Experience Program selected as national model by U.S. Department of Labor.
OTHER EDUCATION-RELATED EXPERIENCE

Community School Board Member, District 15, Brooklyn, 1983-present.

Board Member and Secretary, National Coalition of Advocates for Students, 1986-present.

Board Member, Community Service Society of New York, 1987-present.

Board Member, Teachers and Writers Collaborative, 1972-present.

Member, NJ Commissioner of Education’s Policy Advisory Committee, 1982-86.

Director, Jersey City Parents Union, 1978-81 (citywide school improvement org.)

Officer, elementary and middle school PTAs, Brooklyn, 1976-82.

Member, Jersey City Title I & Bilingual Advisory Councils, 1978-81.

Member, NJ Dept. of Education’s School Evaluation Team, 1978-80.

Member, Mayor’s Task Force on Education Finance, Jersey City, 1978-80.

Director, Writing Program, Park East High School, NYC, 1969-71

Lecturer, British Film Institute, London, 1966-68


OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director, Ironbound Youth Project, Newark, 1968-present.

Secretary-Treasurer, Artists Civil Rights Assistance Fund, 1972-present.


Researcher, HARYOU-ACT, NYC, 1963-64.


PUBLICATIONS


Education articles and essays published in The Nation, Social Policy, In These Times, Network, and other journals.


FILMS

Had Us a Time, 1965; We Got to Live Here, 1966; Troublemakers, 1966; Summer '68, 1969.
Dear Fellow Resisters:

This is a long -- and overdue -- response to the questions, comments, and requests made in the Minutes of the meeting of 8 November.

First, the request for a brief biography of board members who haven't been to many meetings in the recent past. There has been a tradition of communitarian anarchism in my family for four generations now, and even though I did a stint in the Marines during the Korean War, I more or less keep the tradition, and have been more or less politically active, as the exigencies of time, money, and raising five children have allowed.

My first contact with Resist came shortly after it was founded, when I contacted Ken Hale about some materials and money for the Draft Counseling Center I was running at Oakland University, where I was a rookie instructor of philosophy. When I came to MIT in 1969 I replaced Ken as the midwestern outreach person at Resist, helped with the Newsletter, worked around the office, and did the teach-ins, sit-ins, marches, etc. that everyone was engaged in at the time. From 1969 through 1977 I was regular in attendance at meetings, and somewhere around 1972 was promoted to board member status along with Ken, Hilde Hein, and a few others. After getting fired from Brooklyn College in 1977, the best position for me was here in the (beautiful) boondocks of Southern Maryland, and since then I've been able to attend the board meetings only very sporadically, to my regret. My interests and competencies have been in the areas of anti-red-baiting (especially China and the USSR), civil rights (SCLC, 1962-69), the peace movement, and speaking and writing on these topics.
EXPECTATIONS OF RESIST BOARD MEMBERS

ACTIVE MEMBERS: Active members participate in board meetings and committee work.

If unable to attend a meeting, board member will send proxy sheet.

Non-Boston people should try to attend both NY meetings plus two Boston meetings a year. Boston people should try to attend all meetings.

* Receives packets
* Attends board meetings or sends in proxy sheet
* Participates in committee work

INACTIVE MEMBERS: Board members who know they will not be coming to meetings for a period of time and do not want to make a commitment to sending in proxies should notify staff. Staff will stop sending packets until member notifies them about returning to active status.

* Does not attend board meetings or attends infrequently
* Does not receive packet
* Open to being contacted for consultation when appropriate

Staff follow-up: Staff should call people who have missed two or three meetings in a row to inquire about status. Do they want to remain active, keep receiving packets?

A "welcome back" packet should be prepared for board members coming back from extended inactive status. This could include policy decisions, minutes, etc.