

Anne Wyatt-Brown in Honor of Linda Hartling 2016

Back in 2004, Evelin invited Bert to be on the board of Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies and of course, to attend the meeting. I had the Gerontological Society of America meeting the same days that Bert was in New York. He came back from the meeting full of enthusiasm for the group. He told me that he had asked Evelin and Linda if they could change the date of the meeting because of the conflict with GSA. In 2005 they scheduled the date for December 15-16.

I was amazed by the willingness of Evelin and Linda to make the change and had a wonderful time at the meeting. That year Linda was Associate Director of the Jean Baker Miller Training Institute, and Rick had a good job teaching as well. One way that we can demonstrate the value of the meetings is that many people who came persisted in coming over the years. Beside Bert and me, Michael Britton, Maggie O'Neill, Donald Klein (who like Bert came until he died), Morton Deutsch, Phil Brown, Beth Fisher-Yoshida, and Tonya Hammer attended. What a group and how helpful and enthusiastic they all were.

In 2008 Bert and I went to the Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies Meeting in Oslo, Norway, which gave us a chance to spend more time with Evelin, Linda, and Rick. We spent part of the Oslo trip on a boat tied up in the harbor, which fortunately had a lovely lounge where the group met most evenings. What a difference that lounge made. We really got to know the participants and to escape our "staterooms." The room was so small that one of us had to crawl over the bed to get in on the other side.

The next part of the trip took place at The Center for Studies of Holocaust and Religious Minorities, which is located in a mansion that is deeply inscribed into Norwegian and European history. We attended group meetings and presentations given by Norwegian students and faculty. Linda and I bonded at those meetings because we both thought offering support for the people who were participating in their second language was worthwhile. I felt appreciated by Linda, and I hope she realized how impressed I was by her.

The cruise of the fiords that followed was lovely, and once again Norwegian scholars went with us. I remember one woman saying as we went past villages on the side of the water, that she had spent World War II living with a family in one of those houses. She was moved by the chance to see places like the one that had sheltered her when she was a girl. Fortunately, our staterooms on board were rather larger than those on the Oslo boat. We ate as a group in the dining room, and had a lovely time. Bert gave a presentation on board to our group, which made him feel appreciated as well.

The trip home was more arduous for Linda and Rick than for us. Linda emailed us later that when she and Rick crossed into Canada, after the trip, they were "busted" by a drug-smelling dog for carrying an orange. Such criminals.

At the Oslo meeting we had learned that Linda and Rick were planning to terminate her position at the Jean Baker Miller Training Institute so that they could leave New England for good. Jean Baker Miller had died in 2006. They realized that they should move to Oregon so that they could

be available to help Linda's father, who needed family members nearby. Rick had to give up his position at Brandeis where he was the Administrator of the Martin Fisher School of Physics University. Neither Linda nor Rick complained about the anticipated move, but both were going to have to give up jobs they really liked and move across the country. I was impressed by their willingness to make the move without complaint. They were able to terminate Linda's job by October, and both moved out to Oregon unemployed. I thought they were very brave to take such a chance, especially considering 2008 was entering what became known as the Great Recession.

As it happened we were unable to attend HDHS in New York the following December because Bert's sister Laura had died in London of pulmonary fibrosis. Her children planned a commemoration of her life in a London pub the same weekend that HDHS was meeting so we had to email Linda and Evelin and explain why we couldn't attend. As usual, Linda understood and was very empathetic. She realized that Laura's death was especially painful as Bert had the same disease that had killed Laura, the last of his remaining siblings.

During the early months of 2009, Linda and Rick read Bert's *Southern Honor*, and she found it helped her better understand her family's past history. Because both were academics, they got a lot out of the book. When I wrote her about Bert needing to travel with oxygen, Linda responded with the news that from 1996 to 2006 she had helped Jean Baker Miller, who had multiple health problems including lung disease, to continue to be productive. As a result of our email correspondence, Linda sent us "Strengthening Resilience in a Risky World: It's All About Relationships," which she had written for the Institute. I found it especially interesting because it ended with the story of how the training allowed foster parents to help the elder of two sisters overcome the trauma of her unhappy childhood. The training helped the foster parents enable the unhappy older sister develop resilience, a characteristic many people thought was inborn.

During 2009 we emailed Linda about our trip to Palestine. She continued to send us work she had written and to express an interest in Bert's writing. We also learned that Rick was tutoring children in math, a worthy occupation. I told her I could have used his help when I took geometry. Ultimately he got a job teaching math at a nearby college. Meantime Linda became the Director of HDHS and the Editor of the Journal of Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies (JHDHS). Every time we mentioned work in progress Linda would chime in with interesting ideas that she had accumulated over the years on the same subject. That response made it fun to share our interests with her. I sent Linda information about people we met in Palestine, who might want to join our network. She emailed them, but I don't think any of them responded to her offer.

In 2010 Bert's health took a turn for the worst, and we had to give up the idea of traveling to Turkey for a HDHS meeting, which we would have enjoyed. Thanks to Baltimore's great snow that took place in February, we decided to move into a continuing care retirement community even though both of us would be younger than many of the residents. Once again Linda understood our plight and arranged that Bert and I would be given a lifetime achievement award from HDHS. Of course we were thrilled, and the plaque sits in a place of honor in our living room. Linda put together a slide show about our work to accompany the presentation.

After the successful conference, on December 18, Rick had a stroke. Fortunately, the emergency procedure worked, and Rick recovered full functioning for which we are all grateful. Once again in 2011 we exchanged news of health problems. In the fall Bert decided that a trip to New York in December would not be good for him so we did not attend.

In 2012 Bert died November 5 so work on his estate kept me from going to the meeting. I told Linda all about Bert's book that he completed just before he died. In it he referred to Evelin's work on humiliation. At the meeting that I missed, the board extended an invitation to me to join the board of directors, which of course I accepted with great pleasure. In 2013 I learned about the accidental death of Abou Bakar Johnson, whom Bert and I had met in Norway in 2008. HDHS immediately put an on-line dedication to Abou, one which included a picture of those of us who attended the Norwegian conference. We also lost Garry Davis who had attended an earlier conference. He believed in One World so ardently that at one point he gave up his American passport. I dug up some information on his life from the *New York Times* and shared it with Linda and Evelin. I went to the conference in New York, which was a great success.

In 2015 I attended the conference and wrote Linda and Evelin about how inspiring it was. I said that I would not forget Tony Gaskew's passionate but measured talks about how the black community has lost any sense of connection to the police. I also reported that having James Shanahan there was a real pleasure. He is obviously trying to change the police culture.

Now that 2016 has come upon us, I have reflected upon my 11 years of connection to Linda and Rick. We have all experienced health issues and losses, but we continue to soldier on in the effort of making the world a better place, more free of humiliation as well as an expanded place for human dignity.