

BCR REPORTS

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WORK FOR PEACE NOW!

By Michael A. Dover and Marilyn A. Moch
January 22, 1991

As BCR Reports goes to press, war has begun in the Persian Gulf.

In the weeks preceding the war, demonstrations to preserve peace and to restore justice to the Persian Gulf and the Middle East were taking place around the world. Millions of family members of the military forces of all countries involved were praying war could be avoided. Tens of thousands of U.S. military family members were organizing to demand that President Bush and Congress seek a peaceful solution to the crisis. Churches, synagogues and mosques across the land were holding services devoted to peace. Native American Indians invoked their traditions and appealed to the United Nations to prevent war. An unprecedented sentiment for peace was apparent in small towns and major cities, in campuses and workplaces across the country.

Social workers across the land are now immersed in protest. In New York City, B.C.R.S. and S.W.P.N.D. members have been reached by a phone tree urging participation in protests in Washington D.C. on January 19 and 26. Fifty members of the Bertha Reynolds Society joined with hundreds of other university faculty members in signing an advertisement in the Sunday January 13 *New York*

Times insisting on a peaceful settlement of the crisis. Students are raising the issue in classes. Case-workers are talking with clients and co-workers regarding their fears and anger about this war.

This war, which threatens the Middle Eastern relatives and friends of the millions of Jewish and Arab citizens and residents of the U.S.A.; this war, which risks nuclear escalation, chemical and biological warfare, ecological destruction and terrible loss of life throughout the Middle East; this war must be a turning point: Bertha Reynolds Society members and other social workers of many political outlooks will undoubtedly be searching their consciences during the weeks to come to discover how best they can work personally, politically and professionally to respond to the tragic outbreak of war.

Many of us will continue to mobilize our co-workers and work to help build the growing movement to Stop the War Now! Many will support the call of Coretta Scott King for an immediate cease fire.

Many will support a Middle East peace conference devoted to demilitarization, self-determination and secure national boundaries throughout the region. Others will support development of enforcement measures for the 1949 Geneva Convention's provisions.

Others will focus on issues of discrimination and harassment of Arab-Americans, the rights of prisoners of all sides, refugee resettlement, civilian casualties, or will work to prevent Israel, Jordan and other nations from being irrevocably drawn into the conflict.

Many of us may see these issues differently, but what is essential is that we find ways to work for peace and justice as we understand those central concepts. One way to do so would be to create in each of our graduate and undergraduate schools of social work permanent centers for peace, justice and social action involving social work students, faculty, practitioners and people from the communities and constituencies we serve. The example of the Rhode Island College School of Social Work and the Social Work Department at Western Kentucky University, in signing the *New York Times* ad, must be emulated. We must not only take a stand, but take action. Such centers would help bring focus to our debates and enable us to reach consensus on how to act, both now and in the future.

In another form of action which uniquely expresses the concerns and skills of social workers, members of the Society from New York have been meeting with and supporting the work of the Military Families

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LET'S NOT BURY ALL WE STAND FOR!

Stopping the drift towards war in the Persian Gulf was clearly on the minds of many among the thousands of social workers from across the country who poured into Boston in November to attend the Annual "Meeting of the Profession" sponsored by NASW. As they began to arrive, dozens of BCRS members began what has become an annual process of networking, organizing, attending workshops and presenting papers.

Foremost on the minds of many was the military buildup in the Persian Gulf. All week long discussions ensued about what could be done, but finally on Friday morning several social workers began to act. One, Sydney-Anne Ford, A BCRS member from Baltimore, stood up during the discussion period at a workshop on feminist social work and urged fellow social workers to speak out. Reportedly, others did likewise, unbeknownst to each other in some cases! By mid-day, Social Workers for Peace and Justice (freshly renamed from the original Social Workers for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament) was busy coordinating the many initiatives social workers had begun to take.

At least two petitions began to circulate, calling on NASW to take a stand and pass a resolution, and the signatures began to pile up. At the BCRS networking session another petition was developed that quickly garnered several dozen signatures. Shortly afterwards Conference Chair Manuel Fimbres arrived at the BCRS session with the exciting news that a representative of the burgeoning movement was being sought to present a resolution at the next day's plenary session! Marilyn Moch, Joan Dworkin and others searched for the marathon SWPJ committee which had been meeting all day to further the movement. They were found divided into two committees, one hammering together a resolution and the other constructing cardboard tombstones

to be used at a Saturday morning press conference organized around the theme, "Let's Not Bury All We Stand For." Labeled "Homelessness," "AIDS," "Child Welfare," etc., each represented a different vital domestic priority which could be sacrificed by skyrocketing military expenses associated with the Persian Gulf buildup.

An affinity group of SWPJ Massachusetts, which has been meeting regularly for over a year, spearheaded much of the work, with the assistance of Richard Sherman of the NASW staff. The affinity group grew from two social workers who had traveled to the Nevada Test Site to protest continued nuclear weapons testing. Chosen to present the resolution to the plenary conference was Sydney-Anne Ford. Fred Newdom, SWPJ Chair and BCRS Treasurer, hosted the press conference. Meanwhile, the stage was filled with the walking tombstones carried by Pat Shine, Sally Mack and other affinity group members, as well as Eric Hansen from Baltimore, Hank Orenstein from New York, new BCRS member Stuart Rawlings from San Francisco, and others.

The resolution was passed by acclamation and read: "Resolved, that NASW urges President Bush to immediately reduce the military buildup in the Persian Gulf, and to work with other nations towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict. Our country's resources must not be wasted on ever-increasing military agendas, but should be mobilized to improve the health, welfare and education of our people. We urge members when they return to their communities to join with others on this issue, and to speak out for justice and peace." NASW thus became the first national professional association to take a stand on the Persian Gulf buildup.

But BCRS members across the country hadn't waited until the NASW call to action. In New York City, Society Chairperson Marti Bombyk of Fordham University

initiated a phone tree and as a result a couple of dozen BCRS and SWPND members marched under the BCRS banner in the first major demonstration against the buildup held in October. In Houston, Michael Stoll, who along with Wendy Nes and Bob Fisher are organizing a Chapter of the Society, reports that they and other BCRS members participated in a local rally.

In Washington, Lorraine Gutierrez reports that during its second year, the Seattle Chapter is forming three core groups, one on social action, one for reading and discussion and one for support and networking among progressive practitioners. Its membership is now half students/faculty and half community based.

One had only to walk the hallways at the NASW conference and stop people at random to see that social workers are involved in heightened activism around many issues in their communities.

Seeing someone hailing from Teaneck, N.J., *BCR Reports* interviewed her about social worker response to the fatal shooting of Phillip C. Pannell by a Teaneck police officer who was recently indicted for manslaughter after extended protests. Linda S. Poskanzer, ACSW, director of a child welfare agency, reported that she spoke out at an NASW area meeting. A mailing was then done to 200 social workers, and twenty responded by attending a meeting in her home. A number became active in supporting the Concerned Citizens of Teaneck, a multi-racial group working to promote racial justice and harmony and for a thorough investigation of the killing. Social workers in the community have also helped lead dialogue groups of adults and teenagers.

BCRS Reports also interviewed Joan Renehan, MSW, a social worker from Lompoc, California. She is a member of SANE/FREEZE and Amnesty International, and is sending letters and raising funds as

part of an informal peace network centered around a Peace Resource Center. She also votes for peace candidates such as those from the California Peace and Freedom Party. As she puts it, "I lend my body to the cause periodically!"

Chauncey Alexander, a life member of the Society and former NASW Executive Director, stated that he works with the First Amendment Foundation, which is doing civil liberties work, and is active in a local coalition of labor, business, and professional leaders who have studied and endorsed the creation of a state-wide health services system. This work is being done under United Way auspices.

Joan Dworkin reports that in Chicago, a Coalition for New Priorities (initiated by SANE/FREEZE) is linking the military budget with the inability to adequately fund human services. NASW and BCRS members are active in the coalition.

Undoubtedly, were more interviews to be done, it would have become apparent that social workers are actively involved in the whole range of social issues. For instance, in their membership renewals recently, several BCRS members commented that the database form shouldn't limit to two the number of "primary areas of activism" members could check off. One, who checked women's issues and peace/economic conversion, wrote: "I could really check three more!"

Bertha Nepove writes that since her retirement in 1977 all her "energies go to achieving a world without war, with peace and justice." She has served as President of the Women's International League for Peace and Justice and presently serves on the Los Angeles Area Board.

In Philadelphia, Dennis Brunn, member of the BCRS, from Temple University, and other BCRS members were active in a 29-day strike during the Fall semester, which was called after negotiations broke

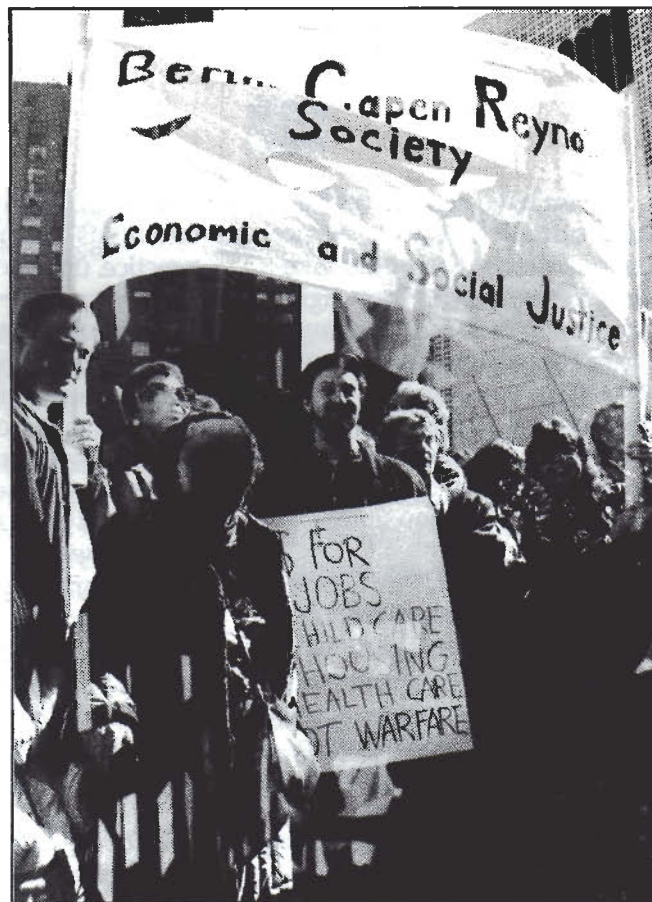
down. A return to work order forced a temporary end to the strike, but only after a near majority of the unionized faculty (over half of faculty are union members) voted to defy the order and continue the strike, which was over long-standing grievances regarding salary, health benefits and faculty participation in planning and policy setting. Approximately 90% of all union and non-union faculty later voted in a mail ballot to issue a statement of no-confidence in the administration of the President Peter Liacouras. "All but one of the social work faculty were very active in the strike," according to Brunn, including the picket captain, Bill Perry, Chair of the Social Work faculty. Negotiations continue.

In Boston, as in past years, the BCRS took advantage of the NASW policy of providing meeting space to other social work organizations, holding a networking session around the theme "Building Alliances for Progressive Practice" which was co-sponsored by the NASW Massachusetts Chapter and its Radical Social Work Committee.

For the first time, the Society was invited to host a formal session of the conference, "Alliances with Labor and Community: Issues and Opportunities for Social

Workers." Steering Committee member Ann Withorn moderated presentations by members Sandy Felder and Miren Uriarte. Several dozen members of the BCRS presented papers, institutes and master sessions, with over a hundred Society members attending overall.

As the above reports seem to indicate, Society members and other social workers are gearing up for the struggles of the nineties by finding new and creative ways of organizing in the schools of social work, within unions and agencies, in the electoral arena, and in their local communities.



About 30 BCRS members from the New York City Chapter marched behind a Bertha Capen Reynolds Society banner to protest the presence of US troops in Saudi Arabia and the build-up for war with Iraq. Chanting such ditties as "Bush wants another war: we say NO! We remember Vietnam: we won't go," the BCRS contingent joined 15,000 other New York City marchers and other protests held around the nation and in other countries on Saturday, October 20th's U.S. Out of the Mideast International Protest.

Pictured in the photo from left to right: Mike Dover, Barbara Joseph, Mary Russak, Hank Orenstein, Ruth Borvillain, and Marti Bombyk. Photo credit: Paul Chen.

*Announcing The Bertha Capen Reynolds Society's Annual Meeting
"Practicing as a Progressive: Organizing For Change"
Smith College School of Social Work
Friday, June 14 - Sunday, June 16, 1991*

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Bertha Reynolds Society will focus on the dilemmas facing progressive human service workers as they struggle to maintain the links between their work and political commitments.

The program is almost completely planned, so that by February most of our energy can shift toward outreach for the Conference. Members should receive an official conference brochure in early March. Please plan to attend. As you will see from the summary below, it is a challenging program, and one that should help us all sharpen our political analysis and practice.

If you have ideas to help us with outreach for the conference (i.e., newsletter that would take ads or organizations that might include a flyer in their mailing) please contact Fred Newdom at 518-475-1199. At the very least, we hope that all BCRS members will spread the word about the conference to friends, co-workers and students. See you there!

FRIDAY INSTITUTES: These are day-long sessions where skilled practitioners share their ideas – with lots of concrete examples and exercises – about how to address the daily problems of progressive practice. Institutes offer CEU's and may serve as a way for folks to receive workplace reimbursement for some conference costs. This year there will be four institutes:

"Feminist Practice: Going Beyond Good Social Work" will examine the principles and experience of feminist practice in order to help practitioners explore how they are similar to, or different from, what has been defined as "good social work."

(facilitated by Mary Bricker Jenkins and Barbara Joseph)

"Organizing within the Workplace" will help unionists and supporters understand the diversity within the human service workforce and identify specific strategies and tactics for going beyond "lowest common denominator" trade unionism to progressive practice. (facilitated by Ginny Cutting, Nick Unger, Renae Scott [tentative])

"Responding to the Effects of Racism within Progressive Practice" will suggest theories and behaviors that allow practitioners to understand and explore the complex ways in which racism both impedes personal change and limits options for progressive practice. (facilitated by Joan Adams)

"Teaching as Political Practice" will explore strategies for tackling some of the toughest aspects of relations with students: grading; ways to introduce political content that empowers students and links them to the broader world; how to create lively, nurturing environments where students will also be challenged to change; linking learning and community. (facilitated by Margo Okasawa Rey, Fred Newdom, Marie Kennedy, and Ann Withorn)

FRIDAY NIGHT PLENARY: The theme will be "Seizing the Time in the Nineties" with Heather Booth and Barbara Joseph.

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS: These are forums to discuss strategic and tactical questions critical to political practice today.

"Coming Out as a Radical Social Worker" will explore strategies for accepting the links

between our personal lives and the taking of political risks. (Marti Bombyk and Barbara Simon)

"Gay/Lesbian Practice" will explore the ways homophobia affects both options and interpersonal relationships and what this means for interpersonal, advocacy and political work. (Pat Reeves and David Farr and TBA)

"Health Policy and the Pressure of AIDS." Will AIDS be the means for getting a more comprehensive health care system or the justification for social control? This workshop will critique current strategies. (Marian Beensaft and Risa Dinnenberg)

"Training Ourselves to Combat Workplace Racism." This workshop will focus on theories, techniques and strategies for doing anti-racism work on the job and how to train ourselves and others. (Margo Okasawa Rey and Eileen Levy)

"Drugs and Crime: What Should We Really Be Worried About?" The war on drugs is often a war on the poor that overlooks deeper issues of racism. Strategies will be discussed for addressing the real problems and recognizing the real fears of violence within urban communities. (James Jennings, Free My People Collective, Wendy Chavken [tentative])

"Dilemmas of Welfare Rights Organizing" will explore options for creating joint tactics for workers and recipients; for allying with other movements; for getting the message to a hostile public. (Nancy Rose, Jackie Pope [tentative], Betty Reid Mandell and the Survival News Collective, John Templeton)

— Continued on next page

"How Empowering is the Goal of Empowerment?" Professional and grassroots activists have posed the notion of empowerment as an alternative to traditional practice in mental health. Has its acceptance into general usage blurred the original goals? What should it mean? (Lorraine Gutierrez, Lee Staples, Deborah Anderson)

"Are we in a Depression?" The meaning of our economic situation for social policies, social workers, and the working poor will be explored by members of the Center for Popular Economics to help us understand the current economy and consider strategic implications. (Tom Riddell)

"Breaking our Dependence on Co-Dependency Models" will

examine the political meaning of twelve-step programs and the co-dependency concept. (Elisa Meredith and David Forbes)

"Rebuilding Social Movements for the 1990's - What's New and What's Not." If the 1990's are to be a decade of activism we need to review the lessons learned from recent efforts to build stronger strategies, tactics and organizations. (Bob Fisher, Joel Kling)

PLUS workshops in formation on: "Working with Homeless People around the Prevention of AIDS," (Caroline Haskell); "International Issues," (Hank Orenstein); "Assisting Families and Children in Transition: The Politics of Practice," (Sara Greenblatt and Steve

Burghardt); "Are the Aging Losing Their Social Protections: What Does This Mean?," (Ellen Wallach); "The Political and Social Impact of the Growth of Latino Communities" and "Tax Revolt vs. Tax Revolution - Lessons from the Tax Campaigns."

SATURDAY NIGHT: Music and Socializing with Ruth Pelham

SUNDAY MORNING: "The Traditions and Future of Social Work Radicalism": A participatory discussion with Bert Weinert, Dave Wagner, Sandy Felder and veterans of Black social workers' struggles as well as representatives of today's students.

CLR James Conference to be Held at Wellesley College

CLR James remains an undervalued (and underrecognized) figure, and too few people are aware of even the basics concerning his impressive career. He wrote important books and essays on literature, politics, history, economics, and popular culture; he was among the first readers of and commentators upon Marx's *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844*; he was one of Stalin's staunchest critics in the late 1930's and participated in crucial debates and discussions with Trotsky about Marxist theory; and he was, and is, one of the most revered figures in Caribbean cultural, political and intellectual life. James is considered by many to be one of the foremost intellectuals of the twentieth century. Robin Blackburn, E.P. Thompson, Edward Said, and Fredric Jameson have praised him in the highest terms, and Paul Buhle has recently authored

a biographical study entitled *CLR James: The Artist as Revolutionary* (Verso 1988).

The CLR James Society exists to promote the work of James, to act as a clearinghouse of information about James, and to demonstrate aspects of his scholarship and organization.

The Black Studies Department, American Studies Program, and the CLR James Society will hold a major conference at Wellesley College in Massachusetts on April 19-21, 1991, to honor the memory of CLR James and to celebrate his contributions to intellectual thought in the twentieth century. The conference will include critics, scholars, admirers, and friends of James from the United States and abroad, and is intended to examine in depth and win wider recognition for his extraordinary work in many fields.

For further information, write Selwyn Cudjoe and Bill Cain, CLR James Conference, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA 02181

Upcoming Conference Announcement

"Continuities And Discontinuities In Social Policy":

On August 25-28, 1991, a conference titled "Continuities and Discontinuities in Social Policy" will be held at Bishop's University, Lennoxville, Quebec. The themes are: "political economy in transition," "new faces of poverty," and "target groups" (i.e., youth, women, native people, ethnic groups, etc.). For additional information, contact Andrew F. Johnson, 5th Conference on Social Welfare Policy, Bishop's University, Lennoxville, Quebec, J1M 1Z7. 819-822-9600.



A Progressive Reflects on the November Election

On Tuesday, November 7, 1990, the nation held elections. From a progressive perspective this event seems more like an exercise in futility and frustration. With excessive use of political action committee financing and media, the economic elite influences both political parties to reinforce its power base. This negative assessment had added confirmation with the defeat of John Hightower the populist Agricultural Commissioner in Texas and the defeat of Harvey Gant in North Carolina.

There were, however, two significant bright spots which appeared on the political horizon with the election to the U.S. Senate of Paul Wellstone from Minnesota and Bernie Sanders who won the Vermont Congressional seat. These two elections raised my spirits and faith in the democratic process, at least in the states of Minnesota and Vermont. Both of these elections were won through aggressive efforts to both mobilize the electorate and build on progressive networks throughout the respective states.

Paul Wellstone ran as a progressive Democrat against a highly entrenched and politically incumbent Republican Senator. The Senator elect, Paul Wellstone, is a political science professor from Carlton College in Northfield, Minnesota. He Taught and practiced grassroots politics and community organization. He built on his experience as the statewide coordinator of the Rainbow Coalition. He was successful in this role by mobilizing various groups throughout the state which had not previously been politi-

cally active. With very few financial resources and limited media exposure, he was able to pull off a typical "David vs. Goliath" victory. Wellstone crafted a high energy campaign on specific issues of economic and social justice.

Another significant election took place in the state of Vermont where Bernie Sanders, a Socialist, ran as an independent to defeat both the Democratic and Republican candidates for U.S. Congress. Bernie Sanders built his political base on being the former Mayor of Burlington, Vermont. He appealed to a nationwide network of progressive organizations and individuals who in turn responded with moral and financial support. This election of a Socialist to the US Congress is a first in modern United States history. He is committed to advocate for a national health care plan, full employment policies and massive election reform. He wants to be a thorn in the side of the corruptive system of politics.

In summary, this election contained both good and bad news for progressives throughout the country. The bad news is the continued process of "politics as usual." The good news is the election of Wellstone and Sanders which provided a possible opening for the next decade. It is obvious that the road to progressive action and reform is a difficult one and the barriers are tremendous for any meaningful reform. However, with this election it may be a significant signal for things to come.

— David S. McKell
Flagstaff, Arizona

Upcoming Conference

"WORLD ASSEMBLY 1992: IMPROVING THE HUMAN CONDITION" sponsored by the International Federation of Social Workers, the National Association of Social Workers and other organizations, will be held in Washington, D.C. July 18-24, 1992. This conference will provide a unique opportunity for the international exchange of information and experiences among social welfare and development practitioners, educators and researchers. Program themes include human rights and human needs – social and economic development – impact of global change on families.

For more information contact: Marketing Dept., NASW, 7981 Eastern Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20901 or call 1-800-638-8799.

BCRS is seriously exploring the possibility of holding its 6th National Meeting in Washington, D.C. in 1992 in conjunction with the above dates, since this World Assembly features several conferences.

1991 Donnelly/Colt Catalogue Available

The Progressive Resources for Grassroots Organizing and Fundraising catalogue is an excellent resource for progressive T-shirts, buttons, bumperstickers, books, posters, and much more. These items are reasonably priced and cover such issues as gay and lesbian rights, the environment, Central America, reproductive choice, etc. To order a copy, contact: Donnelly/Colt, Box 188, Hampton, CT. 06247 (203) 455-9621.

Report From The Committee For International Human Rights Inquiry:

Vincent Cheng, Singapore social worker, has finally been released after more than three years of imprisonment. Our supporters have played a major role in this successful outcome, along with the NASW and the International Federation of Social Workers.

And Janet Small, South African social worker, is at last freed of restrictions that followed her imprisonment. She has now returned to her job with the famous Black Sash human rights organization of South Africa.

While we are happy to inform you of these victories, we also have to remind you that our efforts are still desperately needed to bring an end to the capture and torture of social workers in the Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, El Salvador, Guatemala, Malaysia and Burma.

Our efforts over the past 16 years to assist social service workers and other champions of human rights who are victimized by oppressive governments have been made possible only through the support of people like you - people who care enough to share in carrying the struggle forward.

Our newsletter (formerly named "Chilean Freedom" now titled "Human Rights Inquiry" to reflect our expanded focus) can give you the particulars of our efforts over the past year. We have initiated a membership system ranging from \$10/year for those on limited incomes to \$100/year to be considered a contributing member. You will regularly receive our newsletter and bulletins and will be invited to attend all forums and conferences held by the Committee. There are other ways you can help. For more information contact: Ruth Wilson, 415 Grand Street, #E1905, New York, NY 10002 or call 212-674-3762.

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SYLVIA

by Nicole Hollander



I WAS HALFWAY DOWN THE AISLE WHEN I NOTICED THAT MY FLOWER GIRL WAS SCATTERING PIECES OF POLYSTYRENE PACKAGING INSTEAD OF ROSE PETALS, AND EVERYONE IN THE WEDDING PARTY WAS EATING BURGERS. THE MINISTER BECKONED ME, AND AS I CAME CLOSER I SAW HIS HUGE SHOES AND BIG RED MOUTH... IT WAS RONALD McDONALD. I THINK THIS DREAM IS ABOUT CORPORATE POLLUTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT. MY THERAPIST SAYS IT'S JUST WEDDING NERVES.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Chapter Updates:

Puget Sound Area: The Chapter enters its second year with a clearer picture of what we will be. However, this did not come without extended, perhaps over-extended, discussion of organizational structure. Our concerns regarding consistent participation led us to survey members and potential members. Based on this input and evolving consensus, three sub-groups have formed: 1) support group; 2) reading and study group; and 3) social action group. These groups will meet separately and collectively on a monthly basis. The social element seems important and in the Seattle tradition, potlucks are incorporated.

In addition to monthly meetings, forums will be organized as ideas and organizational energy are evident. Current activity of the chapter is aimed at organizing a roundtable discussion for the NASW Annual Northwest Regional Conference. The discussion will focus on progressive social work and its application in practice, the history of Bertha Reynolds, and the Bertha Reynolds Society.

For more information contact Lorraine Gutierrez at 206-543-3544 or Graydon Anderson at 206-725-2713.

Kalamazoo, Michigan: We have been involved in a number of activities such as fundraising for a day care center in Nicaragua. A group of BCRS members took a trip to Nicaragua and El Salvador to deliver the funds last Spring. Another BCRS member will deliver this year's raised funds (\$200.00) in January. We have raised a total of \$600.00 in the last two years.

We have been bringing in numerous speakers such as Nancy Amidei, who spoke in

a two-part series that we had on the drug problem. We organized a study to assess our community and held a community meeting with a local panel of experts. Two hundred people attended this series.

The majority of our efforts have been geared towards the Persian Gulf crisis. We have documented our needs in this country in terms of education, social services, housing and medical care and the amount of money that has been spent on defense, particularly in the Persian Gulf. We have created a resolution demanding the re-ordering of the federal budget away from defense spending towards meeting the basic needs of our people. We also state that peaceful alternatives must be explored in the Persian Gulf and we do not support our military involvement there. We will be presenting this resolution at our city commission meeting and will increase our anti-war activities as tax day approaches.

We also recruited and organized students of Western Michigan University to participate in a local tutoring program whereby college students and other volunteers tutor underprivileged children on a weekly basis.

Our group has also applied for a Michigan Campus Compact Venture grant. Our ultimate goal is to open a storefront center in a low income neighborhood in Kalamazoo by February 1991.

Boston Bertha: The on-going activity of Bertha Reynolds members in Boston continues to center around the activity of the Workplace Issues Support Group. This group meets and discusses practice dilemmas, as well as offers

The group put on a successful NASW institute, with forty people attending, on the principles and practice that it has developed.

Another Boston activity at NASW was the BCRS issues forum on "Building Links with Labor and Community: Barriers and Prospects for Progressive Practice." Bertha Reynolds member and president of the Massachusetts Social Workers Union SEIU 509, Sandy Felder, and Miren Uriarte, Director of the Gaston Institute for Latino Policy Studies, spoke about the need for social workers to examine the ways in which their own privilege and professional isolation can inhibit their success within unions and community work. About thirty people attended, and engaged in a lively discussion of the issues.

Boston Bertha members look forward to meeting together in Northampton this summer, and perhaps to finding new ways to come together. Anyone interested in organizing Boston folks to come to the conference in Boston should contact Ann Withorn at 617-287-7225.

Please mail all contributions for the next *BCR Reports* to:

Barbara Kasper, Editor
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Brockport, NY 14420

Letters to the editor, essays, news items, BCRS Chapter activities, cartoons, etc., are all welcome!

BCRS Members In Action:

Mary Bricker Jenkins published, "Another Approach to Practice and Training" in the Spring 1990 *Public Welfare*, arguing that clients must be considered the primary experts.

Benjamin Harris contributed the entry on "Psychology" to *The Encyclopedia of the American Left*, edited by Mari Jo Buhle, Paul Buhle, and Dan Georgakas (Garland, 1990).

Tony Platt, the president of Global Options, a research and advocacy group on world affairs, published "Racism in Academe: Lessons from the Life of E. Franklin Frazier" in *Monthly Review* (September 1990).

Dorothy Van Zust and Fred Newdom will be presenters at a conference, "Our Global Commitment to Peace and Justice - Is this Incorporated in our Social Work Teaching and Clinical Practice?" at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York, on April 13th, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

How To Organize A BCRS Chapter:

"How to Organize a BCRS Chapter" organizing packets are available by contacting Marti Bombyk at: BCRS, Columbus Circle Station, P.O. Box 20563, New York, NY, 10023. The contents of the packets include such things as posters, brochures, book order forms, recent newsletter(s), copy of by-laws, name(s) of BCRS organizer from the Steering Committee who will help you, and much much more! Allow 4 weeks for delivery.

From The Editors of the Journal of Progressive Human Services:

We are delighted with the enthusiastic response of progressive human service practitioners to our "new" journal. We have well over 1,000 individual and institutional subscribers in the U.S. and other countries. Our first volume, consisting of two issues, is out. We continue to welcome manuscripts for possible publication. Send manuscripts (5 copies) to:

Mimi Abramovitz
Hunter College
School of Social Work
129 E. 79th Street
New York, NY 10021

For the instructions for authors brochure, write:

Marti Bombyk
Graduate School of Social Service
Fordham University
113 W. 60th Street
New York, NY 10023-7479

Finally, if you have not already subscribed, we hope you will do so by completing the check-off and sending \$10 using the form on the last page of the newsletter. If you have any questions concerning your subscription or delivery, call Haworth Press at 1-800-3-HAWORTH.

BCRS Member Writes News Column

Mimi Abramovitz, member of BCRS and author of *Regulating the Lives of Women: Social Welfare Policy from Colonial Times to the Present* (Boston: South End Press, 1988) is writing a news column called "Spreading the Word" about activism among low-income women. The column's goal is to provide an exchange of information among grassroots groups working on economic justice issues. These community groups often involve many women, even when they do not have a specifically "women's issues" focus. By turning her pen into an organizing tool, Mimi hopes the column will make policy makers, elected officials, and the wider public more aware of the growing activism among low-income women and build support for the low-income women's policy agenda which is not fully heard or adequately reflected in today's policy debates.

"Spreading the Word" depends on the information received from grassroots groups. A letter is written to groups asking two things: (1) Would they add "Spreading the Word" to their mailing list and (2) Would they like to receive a free copy of the column for publication in their newsletter or other types of circulation. To date, more than 150 groups have indicated an interest in cooperating with the column and it has begun to appear in newsletters from Boston to Atlanta; from Washington, D.C. to Chico, California.

If you know of groups that could be contacted by "Spreading the Word," please drop a note to Mimi Abramovitz c/o "Spreading the Word," Hunter College School of Social Work, 129 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10021.

TEARING DOWN THE WALLS ON THE U.S. LEFT

By Michael A. Dover

BCRS members across the country are flocking to the growing number of meetings of activists from a variety of political perspectives. They are meeting together, many for the first time, to discuss how to unify and build the left movement. Reportedly, attendance nearly always is double what was expected, as activists are eager to exchange views.

In Oakland, several BCRS members attended the first of these gatherings, an unprecedented session in July titled "The Conference on Socialist Upheaval and the U.S. Left," and attended by over 800 people. The list of plenary speakers included Barbara Ehrenreich, honorary co-chair of Democratic Socialists of America; Linda Burnham, of Frontline Political Organization; Manning Marable, University of Colorado; Kendra Alexander, Communist Party USA; and Leon Wofsy, independent Socialist activist.

In Chicago, BCRS steering committee member Joan Dworkin reports she and other Society members attended the Midwest Radical Scholars and Activists Conference, which was attended by over 1000 participants. This both surprised and gratified the organizers.

In New York, several Society members, including this writer, attended the International Conference on the Future of Socialism, a packed weekend conference held at Hunter College, where speakers from Europe, Africa, Latin America and the U.S. analyzed the developments in Eastern Europe and the Third World from a wide variety of political perspectives. Among the other Society members attending were Harold Lewis, former Dean at Hunter College School of Social

Work, and Elizabeth Most Bobrick, retired from the faculty at Southern University School of Social Work.

Currently, grassroots forums are being developed in many areas across the country, as activists not only from the established Left groups but also from the entire range of movement organizations get together to compare notes and find ways to support each others' organizing.

Conference participants report being impressed by the frankness of self-criticism, and inspired by a sense of determination to restore creativity and unity to the Left. There was a desire to maintain our ideals and faith in the future of humankind, but to also view present and past reality more objectively. Realism, consensus building, self-criticism and pluralism were the watch words of the conferences.

At the New York conference, Daniel Singer of *The Nation* concluded, "by the time they admitted that it wasn't the Socialist dream, they had forgotten the dream!" After a scathing self-criticism of un-democratic tendencies within the Communist movement, Joe Slovo, General Secretary of the Communist Party of South Africa, and member of the Executive Committee of the African National Congress, brought laughter, cheers and finally tears to many present when he stated: **"I remain an unrehabilitated utopian. I believe that the human soul is quite capable of reaching a form of society in which one person does not live off the labor of another. And that kind of idea is not only that which is an expression of the basic normative values of all radicals both before and after Marx, but is that which will in the end be capable**

of realization. It will come about through the organization and struggle of the wretched of this Earth - the 90% or more of humanity for whom if socialism is not an answer, there is no answer at all. And that is how human society works."

He was accompanied by several other representatives of the African National Congress, who spoke on issues facing the labor and anti-apartheid movements in South Africa and national liberation movements in general.

This participant concluded that most on the Left in the U.S., including most considering themselves to be Marxists and scientific socialists, have really been practicing a disguised form of idealism or utopianism rooted in 19th century utopian socialist and anarchist traditions. When confusing historical developments threatened our belief systems, these utopian and idealist beliefs were protected by and began to coexist with dogmatism and sectarianism, but also with a stubborn and admirable refusal to give up the day-to-day struggles as they manifested themselves here in the U.S.A. Depending on our political outlook, we tended to either uncritically support or completely reject each of the many different forms the socialist and national liberation movements have taken thus far during this century. This was largely due to both the utopianism and the sectarianism which affected most of the Left.

Conspicuous in its absence from all these conferences however, was any substantial discussion of concrete issues of social welfare, housing, health care, education, etc. This leaves a num-

Continued on next page

TEARING DOWN THE WALLS ON THE U.S. LEFT

Continued from Page 10

ber of questions unanswered for the Left and social workers on the Left. For instance, now that many on the Left have concluded that transitions to socialism will be uneven, diverse and long-term, where does that leave the immediate survival needs of people? What was the realistic level of and what will be the fate of the social welfare systems in Eastern Europe? How will introduction of increased market mechanisms impact on social welfare provision there and elsewhere? Is it possible that even with economic "growth" an impoverished and exploited minority will become institutionalized within many societies around the world, even those with majority electoral rule? What implications will current developments have for heightened racism, anti-Semitism and national oppression? How will all of this affect international social welfare and social development?

It is clear that progressive social workers need to enter the fray of these debates on the Left in order to help ensure that meeting human needs is the number one objective of any political re-thinking.

Audio tapes of the New York sessions are available from *Monthly Review*, an independent socialist magazine, at 122 W. 27th St., NY NY 10001. Send for session descriptions and costs. Subscriptions: one year \$22, students and senior citizens \$17. Reprints of the plenary presentations of the Berkeley conference are available for \$3.00 plus 20% postage from Crossroads, PO Box 2809, Oakland, CA 94609.

San Francisco Society Joins Labor-Led Coalition

In San Francisco, the 4th Annual Conference of the Society last Summer sparked a concerted effort by the area Chapter to support a campaign to prevent unnecessary budget cuts. The state budget adopted would have led to a \$11.5 million shortfall to mental health services in San Francisco and a \$27 million shortfall in the Department of Public Health, including AIDS funds.

Faced with subsequent proposals by the Department of Public Welfare to eliminate 950 jobs and close 23 programs, the Service Employees International Union convened a coalition of community providers and advocate organizations, including a number of Society members. A debate ensued community-wide on the issue of progressive vs. regressive taxation. As a result, an atmosphere was created which made it more difficult for politicians to vote for cuts as opposed to new taxes.

The Society chapter decided to support the platform and program of the coalition. Chapter

members Michael Reisch, Jim Calonico and Ken Grossinger fired a letter off to the Board of Supervisors using the Society's new letterhead. A cover letter also went to members urging them to call the Supervisors to support new forms of progressive taxes as an alternative to cuts (a payroll receipts tax, an increase in business registration taxes, etc.).

The Board of Supervisors subsequently voted for part of the package and adopted other revenue-enhancing measures, with a resulting loss of only three permanent and five temporary jobs.

According to Ken, an organizer for Local 535, "The Society's activism wouldn't have happened without the Conference. But what is really important is that the coalition reflected a mood in the country that it doesn't make sense to continue to raise taxes on the middle class. It represented awareness of a growing income inequality, and focused on preventing cuts in essential services."

Welfare Rights Newsletters Available

The following newsletters can help BCRS members keep up with today's welfare rights activities. They are all published by groups of welfare mothers:

Survival News

102 Anawan
W. Roxbury, Ma 02132

Economic Justice Speakout

Women's Economic
Agenda Project
518 17th Street, Suite 200
Oakland, CA 94612
415-451-7379
Ethel Long-Scott

Welfare Warriors

4504 N. 47TH
Milwaukee, WI 53218
414-444-0220
Pat Gowans

Poor Times

Women, Work and Welfare
310 East 38th Street, Suite 206A
Minneapolis, Mn 55409
612-822-6265
Betty Christensen

Forced Relocation of Native Americans in Arizona

In an isolated area located in the northwest corner of Arizona, bordering the Navajo and Hopi Reservation, an unresolved land dispute has resulted in the forced physical relocation of over one thousand Native American families from their traditional homeland to locations in and around the Navajo Reservation. For many families, particularly the small children and the elderly, this move has brutally uprooted their traditional lifestyle and forced them to painfully adapt to non-Indian Anglo culture. A number of studies sponsored by various governmental agencies documents numerous incidents of mental health problems that often lead to alcoholism, suicide and premature death that are way out of proportion to the normal population of Native Americans.

The forced relocation is a result of an historic land dispute resulting from an infamous executive order by President Arthur in 1882 that led to the sharing land by two different tribes. In 1974, the U.S. Congress, in an attempt to resolve the problem, passed the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act (P.L. 93-531) requiring the physical removal of thousands of traditional Native American families from their respective homes. The Navajo and Hopi Relocation Commission was established to carry out this difficult task.

In 1986, the relocation was to be completed. However, due to the resistance of approximately fifteen hundred families (of which a number are organized under the name of the "Big Mountain Community") the process

has been effectively stopped. Many within the community have organized the Big Mountain Legal Defense/Offense Committee to lobby for the repeal of the 1974 Act. As of this date, there is a stand-off with the future in doubt. The U.S. Government could order the removal of the resistant families with the possible consequence of an armed resistance by those who have resolved to stay.

On September 23, 1990, the Bertha Capen Reynolds Society Steering Committee adopted a resolution in support of the Big Mountain Community, calling on the United States Government to terminate the policy of forced physical removal of Native American Families.

It is the hope of this author that all progressive social workers in the BCRS will want to become well informed on this issue and will individually or collectively petition their congressional representative to repeal or amend the 1974 Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act in order to terminate this continuing brutal process of physical relocation.

As background to this disgraceful chapter in U.S. Government relationships with Native Americans, I recommend the book, *The Second Long Walk: The Navajo-Hopi Land Dispute* by Jerry Krammer, published by the University of New Mexico Press.

- David S. McKell, Flagstaff, Arizona
- October 1990

A Tribute

Sol Peck - When he joined the Society, Sol wrote he was active in issues around peace and economic conversion, and in the field of aging. He wrote the Society: "Support, yes. Encouragement, as I can. I'm a retired social worker battling metastatic cancer." Clearly, he fought until the end.

Josephine Harris Stewart, 66, died September 26 in Houston. A 1949 MSW graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, she practiced, taught and organized in many areas of the country. From 1975-1989 she was a clinical social worker at Houston Methodist Hospital. She was a feminist therapist in private practice, and a leading social work activist in NASW, CSWE, the Association of Women in Social Work, and the Association of Social Workers Concerned with Gay and Lesbian Issues. She was nationally renowned for her leadership in raising gay and lesbian issues within the field of social work. Josephine was among a group of two dozen members who provided significant financial support to the Society in its first years by joining as Life Members.

Beulah Rothman, 66, died last year in Miami. For many years she was a group worker and executive director in Jewish community centers in the New York area. She was a faculty member for many years at Adelphi University School of Social Work. She was the founder of the Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups. She held a DSW from Columbia. Since her retirement from Adelphi in 1981, she served as Distinguished Professor of Social Work at Barry University in Florida. Rothman was an endorser and founding member of the Society.

Worth Reading:

The following is a partial list of suggested readings on various topics of interest to progressive social workers. This bibliography will be continued in the next issue. Please send comments and suggestions for additional readings to the editor.

Corrigan, P. & Leonard, P. (1978). *Social Work Practice Under Capitalism: A Marxist Approach*.

London: MacMillan.

Danzinger, S. & Weinberg, D. (Eds.). (1986).

Fighting Poverty: What Works and What Doesn't. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Ehrenreich, J. (1985).

The Altruistic Imagination: A History of Social Work and Social Policy in the United States. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Freire, P. (1985)

Pedagogy of the Oppressed. NY: Continuum Press.

Freedberg, S. (1989).

Self-determination: Historical perspectives and effects on current practice.

Social Work, 34, 33-39.

Galper, J. (1980).

Social Work Practice: A Radical Perspective.

Englewood, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Gil, D. & Gil, E. (Eds.). (1985).

Toward Social and Economic Justice: A Conference in Search of Strategies for Social Change, March 23-25, 1984. (essays presented at a conference held at Brandeis University)

Cambridge, MA: Schenkman Publishers.

Gil, D. (1990).

Unraveling Social Policy: Theory, Analysis and Political Action Towards Social Equality.

Cambridge, MA: Schenkman Publishers.

Katz, M. (1989).

The Undeserving Poor: From the War on Poverty to the War on Welfare.

NY: Pantheon Press.

Piven, F.F. & Cloward, R. (1972).

Regulating the Poor: The Functions of Public Welfare.

NY: Vintage Books.

TO BE ON THE LEFT

Don't hide your face
or your voice,
Uncover the ashes,
Expose the bones and the blood –
still lukewarm –
from the recent past.

Don't let the curtain fall.
The tragedy is not over yet.
They want to make yesterday's
despotism into today's comedy.

Rip off the masks.
Condemn the wolves
that are dressed up like sheep.

Stay on the Left
as your heart desires.

Don't bury the arms of an
illusion, because
the future – once again –
has still not arrived.

Just because the old slogan
of ambition,

"We are all equal, but
some of us are more equal,"
has triumphed in the East
does not mean for a second that
the bridge of hope will not be
crossed again,
unconquerable,
despite the enemy's attack.
The utopia of equality
and justice
will only be impossible
when the human dream
collapses into the ground.

Don't hide your hand
or your gaze.
Only you, woman and man
can transform
the misery of the land
into a fertile harvest.

Remember
despite the fog
despite the forgetfulness
and silence
still, stay on the Left
with the sureness of your heart.

by Christian Guadiana,

from the Chilean magazine *Punto Final*, June 30, 1990.

Piven, F.F. & Cloward, R. (1982).
*The New Class War: Reagan's Attack
on the Welfare State and its Consequences*.

NY: Pantheon Books.

Piven, F.F. & Cloward, R. (1989).

*Poor People's Movements: Why They
Succeed and How They Fail*.

NY: Pantheon Books.

Reynolds, B. (1934).

Between client and community.

Smith College Studies in Social Work,
5 (special edition).

Reynolds, B. (1935).

Whom do social workers serve? *Social
Work Today*, 2, 5-7.

Reynolds, B. (1942).

*Learning and Teaching in the Practice
of Social Work*.

NY: Russell & Russell (re-issued,
1985, NASW

Classics Edition.

Reynolds, B. (1951).
Social Work and Social Living.
Silver Springs, MD:
NASW Classics Edition, 1975.

Reynolds, B. (1952).

*Focus on Peace: Social Work Faces
Social Conflict*.

NY: Social Service Volunteers
for Peace.

Reynolds, B. (1963)

Uncharted Journey.

NY: Citadel Press.

Sandefur, G. & Tienda, M. (Eds.).
(1988).

*Divided Opportunities: Minorities,
Poverty and Social Policy*.

NY: Plenum Press.

Survey of Progressive Activities in the Human Services

For a chapter in an anthology on contemporary left activism in the professions, Mimi Abramovitz and Ann Withorn seek information about the nature and range of current activism for social justice in the human services. Below please tell us especially about your organization's work, but also use the space provided to direct us to other interesting efforts. Thanks.

Your Name _____

Your Phone _____ (w) _____ (h)

Name of Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Type of Organization (check all categories that seem applicable)

- Advocacy
- Community
- Grassroots
- International Affairs
- Neighborhood
- Peace
- Personal Growth
- Political Party
- Self-help
- Social Reform
- Social Service Delivery
- Study Group
- Support Group
- Trade Union
- Professional
- Student
- Other _____

Major Purpose/Strategy (number in rank order)

- Education
- Lobbying
- Organizing
- Theory building
- Other _____

Structure of Group/ Organization Membership

- Mass
- Dues Paying
- None
- Other _____

Number of Meetings

- Regular weekly/monthly
- Occasional
- None
- Other _____

Decision Making

- Vote
- Consensus
- A leadership committee
- Other

Size

- Small
- Medium
- Large

Issues Addressed (check all categories that are a major focus for your group)

- Anti-crime
- Anti-rape
- Antiwar
- Battered women
- Central America
- Child Care
- Child Welfare
- Civil Rights
- Disabled rights
- Empowerment
- Gay/lesbian rights
- Health care
- Homelessness
- Housing
- Hunger
- Illegal drugs
- Immigration reform
- Prisons
- Public Assistance/welfare reform
- Racism
- Reproductive rights
- Schools
- Self-esteem
- Sexism
- Social Security
- Women's rights
- Work with refugees
- Other _____

Political Identity of Organization

(what terms fit the major or stated ideology of your group)

- Professional
- Political
- Progressive in general
- Left in general
- Socialist
- Communist
- Feminist
- Or Your own term

Major Tactics

- Consciousness raising
- Demonstrations
- Developing position papers
- Forums
- Letter writing
- Meeting with public officials
- Newsletter
- Protests
- Service delivery
- Speakers bureau
- Other _____

Other comments: _____

Please return by 3/15/91 to:
Ann Withorn
College of Public & Community
Service University of
Massachusetts/Boston
Boston, MA 02125

WORK FOR PEACE NOW!

Continued from on Page 1

Support Network. The Network, with chapters across the country, is a unique and grassroots force in the peace movement.

It's slogan is Support Our Troops - Work for Peace. The Network supported the U.N. resolutions while opposing offensive military action. Many of it's members participated in the January 19 and 26 actions. The Network is successfully working to prevent the peace movement from being isolated from our soldiers and their families. Social workers may wish to lend their support to the network around the country. There are three ways social workers can do this: (1) If you have a family member in the military, and wish to join the Network, call the national headquarters in Milwaukee at (414) 964-5794. (2) Refer your clients who are family members to the local networks. (3) Become a supporting member of the network and/or offer to use your skills and training to help develop the comfort and support committees of the network's chapters. If you wish to do this, call (215) 736-8454 to speak to Society members already involved in this work.

In all our efforts, we must combine our anti-war work with a strong insistence that we redirect our nation's will and resources to meeting human needs here and abroad. We must begin and sustain a heightened and ongoing activism which recognizes that the world has entered a period of crisis which can only be resolved by reason and compassion activated by political struggle.

Book Order Form

Name _____ BCRS Member? _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State/Prov _____ Zip Code _____

TITLE	QUANTITY	UNIT/PRICE	TOTAL
Learning and Teaching in the Practice of Social Work Reynolds stresses the need for the professional social worker to be educated as a whole person. She describes the stages of conscious intelligence in the process of learning and relates them, to the motivation for learning. Softbound		\$11.00	
Social Work & Social Living The practice and philosophy of social work are critically examined. Reynolds argues, based upon her experiences with labor unions, that the orientation of social agencies toward psychological dynamics makes it difficult for clients to seek help. Softbound.		\$ 7.00	
Between Client & Community Caseworkers are often caught between the conflicting needs of their clients and the community, especially in times of rapid change. Reynolds examines how these conflicting demands can be resolved. Softbound		\$ 7.00	
Uncharted Journey Reynolds' inspirational autobiography dedicated to "young social workers who are facing realities and shaping our profession with courage and creativity." Covers the development of her practice philosophy and the course of her career from 1914-1964. Softbound.		\$10.00	
The Years Have Spoken A collection of annual greetings sent by Reynolds to her friends from 1935-1973. The collection includes her annual original verse and narrative describing the condition of the world that year and how she had been affected by these events. Makes an excellent holiday or graduation gift. Softbound.		\$10.00	
		TOTAL	
		ADD 10% SHIPPING	

Uncharted Journey to be Reissued

BCRS is offering a reissue of *Uncharted Journey*, Reynolds' autobiography, with a new forward by member Sharon Freedberg. Use the order form above to order your copy. This is a special pre-publication offer, with a publication date sometime during late Winter.

Response to the Call to Join the BERTHA CAPEN REYNOLDS SOCIETY

- Please send me more information about the Society.
- I would like to join the Bertha Capen Reynolds Society.
- I would like to renew my membership.

Enclosed is my check:

- \$10 Student, unemployed, low-income member
- \$25 Member
- \$100 Sustaining Member
- \$250 Institutional Member
- I would also like a subscription to the *Journal of Progressive Human Services*:
 - Individual Subscription: \$10 for BCRS members (regularly \$12.00)
 - Institution Subscription: \$20
 - Library Subscription: \$25

Name
(please print or type)

Address

Institutional/Organization
Affiliation (optional)

Telephone
(Home) _____ (Work) _____

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New York, NY 10023**

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