



14 July 2002

Dear Hilda,

You have been very much in my thoughts since I learned of your very sad loss of Rusty, and I'm sending love and special thoughts across the miles. I have fond memories of the day we spent together and I am relieved to hear that my doctor is hearing completion. Although I spent relatively little time with yourself and Rusty, you both made a very strong impression on me. I will always remember and honor Rusty as a man of sound integrity and wisdom.

With love and best wishes, Linda

---



Dear Hilda + family,

Myrtle called and told me about Rusty's death. I just wanted to say that I am thinking of you all. I know that it was only recently that I connected again with you and Rusty but I found our time together to be stimulating and rewarding. I really appreciated Rusty's book and it allowed me to fill in gaps in my own parent's history. Please take care in these difficult times.

Sandy Berman

HANDMADE IN SOUTH AFRICA  
ISABEL : 082 898 8463

*In memory*



*of a wonderful life...*

To dearest Hilda,

I am sorry that this card and  
my condolences are late.

...and in sympathy  
for the sorrow your loss  
has brought

I really admired Rusty and hold a  
special place for him in my heart —  
my happiest memories of him were  
spent watching the cricket together.

My thoughts are with you.

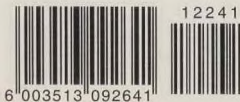
Much love,

Sarah Broido.

Sarah Broide  
16 Melrose Gate  
Noordhoek Close  
Melrose North  
2196 Jhbg.



CARLTON  
CARDS



EE 07894 H

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130, Frances St.,  
Bellevue East,  
Johannesburg.  
2198.

6th July, 2002.

Jean Hilda,

I am sorry to hear of Rusty's passing  
away and this is to pass you my  
deep condolences (I can never spell  
that damn word!).

Although we have only recently met, it  
has been such a pleasure. I know you  
will miss Rusty a great deal but to  
see you together was an inspiration  
which I hope will strengthen you.

With love & thoughts,

Shelley



Deborah Schenck grew up surrounded by English country gardens, winding lanes and meadows. She spent her summers on the beach in Cornwall and the moors in Devon. With a degree in photography, art and design, she has travelled extensively and won various photography awards. Whilst visiting places like India and China, she discovered her true passion for 'simple images in nature and the beauty of colour'. She now lives in Vermont with her family, in a village similar to where she was raised. Her Polaroid transfers of flowers and still life reveal a sense of romanticism and nostalgia in a contemporary format. Schenck's delicate imagery conveys poetic memories of times gone by and celebrates her return to country gardens.

eclipse

the art group

'Wild Red Apples'

© Deborah Schenck 1994

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www.artgroup.com Printed in England 12977

CODE: HI



5 023920 119909 >



With  
Sympathy

Dear Hilda

This heartfelt message  
of sympathy is to  
let you know that warm  
and special thoughts  
are there with you each day.

With Sympathy

Even though I have only known you and  
Rusty for a short while my heart is full  
of admiration for two remarkable people.

My thoughts are with you and  
your family

Lots of love  
Nellaney



Printed in U.K.

165-HPAZ20/1

50  
© UB007537001  
J33462



*Thinking of You...*



To Hilda

love  
E. Bong

To Hilda

love

Carl





Design courtesy of Clive Jenkins

CARD  LINE

**CODE U**

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**TY1**



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*WITH SYMPATHY*



To Hilda  
and family



WISHING YOU  
COMFORT AND PEACE

Love from Elaine, Alan

Beverley & Lloyd xx



**CODE**  
**35**

**E/DAY JS**



F17623  
CSY0351010

HB011699001  
Hallmark Cards UK  
Made in the EU

*In memory*



*of a wonderful life...*

Dear Hilda, Tony, Patrick,  
Frances, Keith and all  
family members —

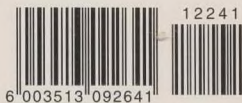
...and in sympathy  
for the sorrow your loss  
has brought

Our very deepest sympathy  
to you all for your recent  
loss. You are all very  
much in our thoughts.  
Leo / Rusty will always  
be in memory

Our very best wishes  
Jenni & Paul Ristic claudie +  
sacha



CARLTON  
CARDS



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WILSON (Ise & Tim)

Hilda Bernstein

---

**From:** "Dr. Tim Wilson" <timwil@sn.apc.org>

**To:** <hilda@bernstein57.freeseve.co.uk>

**Sent:** 24 June 2002 11:07 PM

Dear Hilda

I was so sorry to hear of Rusty's death. I have such good memories of a second home in Regent Street with him there quietly and wisely in the background. Thankyou for that.

Many sympathies and much love

Ilse



IAN EDWARDS

**Hilda Bernstein**

---

**From:** "Iain Edwards" <lulach@yebo.co.za>  
**To:** "rusty bernstein" <hilda@bernstein57.freemove.co.uk>  
**Cc:** "John @ Morison" <john@morisonedwards.co.za>  
**Sent:** 25 Juné 2002 09:18 AM  
**Subject:** Condolences  
Dear Hilda Bernstein

On behalf of my colleague John Morison and myself may I convey our deepest condolences to you on the death of 'Rusty'. He was a man I admired - and indeed looked up to - and although we sadly never managed to meet I had the pleasure of important correspondence with him. Indeed, most recently he has been much in John and my thoughts, with us engaged in developing the museum at Liliesleaf and also with 'Rusty' being part of our team for the Freedom Square design competition. In this regard 'Rusty' wrote a number of wonderfully insightful and poignant letters to us on his memory of the Congress of the People and how he conceived of modern South Africa's best way of remembering the event and the Freedom Charter. I would like you to know that I have already passed these e-mails from 'Rusty' on to senior ANC/SACP circles for inclusion in the valedictory which is to be read out in the National Assembly later this week.

Kind regards

Iain Edwards



The Rhodes Trust  
RHODES HOUSE OXFORD OX1 3RG

From the Warden  
Dr J S Rowett

Telephone: 01865 270902 Fax: 01865 270914  
Email: warden@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk

Mrs Hilda Bernstein  
57 1/2 Crescent  
Kidlington  
Oxford OX5 1HF.

Dear Hilda,

I was so very sorry to learn when I was in North America of Rusty's sudden death. You will have been overwhelmed I am sure, by messages of condolence but I did wish to send you my own condolences and warm regards. It was both a pleasure and a privilege to come to know Rusty the past two years.

My former secretary notified me that you are assembling photographs of Rusty. I enclose, therefore, a brochure containing a number of photographs. If you would like copies of these photographs made we can arrange that for you without difficulty.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,  
John

TRUSTEES

Sir Richard Southwood (Chairman), Lord Waldegrave, Dr C R Lucas,  
Professor R J O'Neill, Mrs R L Deech, Sir John Kerr, Miss R Hedley-Miller, Lord Fellowes.



Subj: No Subject  
Date: Saturday, June 29, 2002 2:09:10 am  
From: strasjf@hotmail.com  
To: Tonistras@aol.com

Jeff & Anique

Dear Hilda,

It was very sad to get the news about Rusty and I guess I immediately tried to reminisce over the few encounters I had had with him over the years since you came to England. I had not met him in SA but of course eagerly followed all the news about you both during those tumultuous times and felt a certain pride that I could claim a familial relationship. The first time we met was when I came over to your house which Rusty was renovating in London and after dinner we went to the park and I remember Rusty bemoaning the fact that people were now compelled to buy Long Playing records with a whole lot of tracks that you really didn't want just to hear something that you did. I don't know why that stuck all these years. And the last time, when we went on the grand architectural tour of LA just before Mark's wedding. We went to see the Greene and Greene arts and crafts house on the outskirts of the city. Rusty was really keen to see it and I remember feeling a great kinship as we looked at it in wonderment. Mostly to do with a common architectural training I guess but also remembering how animated and curious he was about every detail. I am sure that you, your children and grandchildren are overwhelmed by

this  
loss, but there is so much comfort in knowing what a remarkable,  
intelligent  
and warm hearted human being you had to share your lives with.  
Jeff and Anique and family.  
Toronto

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Chat with friends online, try MSN Messenger: <http://messenger.msn.com>

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----- Headers -----

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Sat, 29 Jun 2002 01:08:56 GMT  
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To: Tonistras@aol.com  
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TANYA

**Hilda Bernstein**

---

**From:** <anothertanya@another.com>  
**To:** "hilda bernstein" <hilda@bernstein57.freemove.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 28 June 2002 09:53 PM  
**Subject:** The service today  
Dearest Hilda,

I'm not sure when you will want to open up e-mail, but wanted to drop you a note.

I was very moved by the service today and it made me realise just how important that trip to SA in December was for me as it gave me the opportunity to meet you all and especially you and Rusty. I feel very privileged to have been invited to Rusty's funeral and feel very sad about all the wasted years that I didn't know you both. You have both had a profound influence on me and I will cherish the short time I knew Rusty.

My Employment Tribunal case kicks off on the 15th July. (I'm suing my X company for making me redundant after the attack on me by a Director in the firm) I have sort of run out of money so I have had to give up my solicitors and am now representing myself. Pretty scary stuff, but hey, I'm telling the truth so, hopefully truth and justice will prevail. I am inspired by all that you and Rusty told me while we were in SA. Everything you endured is so massive and you were fighting for other people. I'm trying to emulate your strength and commitment. I told Joel and Vanetta about this today and Joel said "your Father would be proud of you" I have a feeling he might be freaking out where ever he is but they were kind words.

I'm so happy to have met some of your children and grandchildren today. I'm so sorry it had to be on such a sad occasion.

Please keep in touch and remember I am just down the road if you have any low moments or just need a friend. I can jump in the car and be there.

My thoughts and love are with you.

Love Tanya x

--  
Personalised email by <http://another.com>

30/06/02



Subj: No Subject  
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2002 4:00:35 pm  
From: strasjf@hotmail.com  
To: Tonistras@aol.com

Hi toni just got the news both from Lynn who called and Naomi who e-mailed about your dad. Its very sad. Did'nt know him intimately but on the few occasions that we were together particularly the day we spent together looking at houses in LA before Marks wedding I came away thinking that he was a lovely man. I'm sure it is an incredible loss to you, your mom and and the rest of the family. I think maybe a difficult life but a very rich one and there is some consolation that he had reached a nice old age before the end.  
If you have time could you send your mom's address. Tried to speak to Ivan but just go a message machine.  
Hope your holding up OK  
Jeff and us all

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----- Headers -----  
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Thu, 27 Jun 2002 08:00:13 -0700  
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Thu, 27 Jun 2002 15:00:12 GMT  
X-Originating-IP: [64.229.194.133]

Subj: Sorry news  
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2002 3:12:09 pm  
From: Widdup@btinternet.com  
To: Tonistras@aol.com

Dear Toni

I am so sorry to hear of your father's sudden death - what a sad time for you all. I read today a little of his life in the Times newspaper - what an amazing man he was and how proud your memories must be. As you know I didn't know him but I remember meeting him at the showing of your film in South Africa House and I remember how warm and gentle a man he was. There is no doubt about it loosing a parent is hard, partly because they have always been there and to a certain extent you take that for granted and always expect them to be. But it's true - that old saying - that time heals. It ambles along and you still miss them but eventually you realise you've got used to missing them and it doesn't hurt anymore. I apologise for my sympathies being sent by email but Peter and I are just about to leave for the airport for a short break in Barcelona and I wanted to write quickly. We send you all our love...our sympathies...and our thoughts. Much love....Jane xx

<HEAD>  
<TITLE>Sorry news</TITLE>  
</HEAD>

Dear Toni

I am so sorry to hear of your father's sudden death - what a sad time for you all. I read today a little of his life in the Times newspaper - what an amazing man he was and how proud your



Subj: For Hilda  
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2002 7:32:21 pm  
From: barhar@mweb.co.za  
To: tonistras@aol.com

Barbara H

Dear Hilda,

I am so sad about Rusty's death. And it is painful to think of what it must mean to you. Such a very long marriage, and, more importantly, such a blessed one. I know that it is never possible to truly see 'inside' the partnership of others, but it has always seemed to me that you and Rusty were always wonderfully careful of yours. In this it represented an ideal of maturity to me, where there was genuine respect for one another's person, as well as deep caring. Whatever the differences between you, and however irksome or even burdensome they may have been at times, I felt as though you were able to manage them, to retain an extraordinary friendship and sharing. That he loved you deeply was always so clear to the outside world. It's been an incredible journey for you and Rusty, through far more than most ever experience in a lifetime, and it was mostly if not constantly together. How it must be for you to see ahead without him I cannot imagine.

Toni may have told you that by dreadful coincidence I wrote Rusty a letter on Monday - not yet posted by the time Tom Lodge phoned to tell me he had died the day before. I had just finished reading his book, waiting for a library copy to become available, and I so wanted to tell him how enormously it had affected me. Not only did I experience the 1950s and early '60s in South Africa as 'a child of the movement', as you know, but I had also spent long years studying that period. It was so rewarding to find Rusty's account so refreshing an experience, and an uplifting one. It seemed to me one of the most candid accounts of dark days, poor decisions, brave acts. Rusty as a man of such passionate and unostentatious principle came through the pages with such force, his unaffected beliefs in fundamental goodness coupled with no naiveté, presented without any proseletysing. He was such a good man, so fundamentally honourable a man - words not easily or frequently applied to many others.

I wanted to tell him how touched I was by the honesty of his writings



of his times in prison - during the Emergency, even more so after the Rivonia arrests. No bravado, no pretence to be more than human. And also to tell him how clearly I remembered that dreadful evening he did not come home. I was staying with you in Regent Street at the time, and 6 o'clock came and went as we sat huddled in front of Claude's fire waiting for him. That you were becoming increasingly anxious was clear to me, and that you were struggling to prevent us all from

recognising it equally so. Then you left, I think to meet Bob Hepple and discover what you could, and came home with bad news. The next morning they brought Rusty home for the raid and I was shocked by how drained and tense he was. Not a face Rusty let 'the children' see. Rusty to me was the gentlest of people, quiet but seemingly contained and content to potter for hours in your garage at the end of a line of jacarandas - as I saw it then. A wry joke, a wry smile, but for us younger ones then, no evidence of anxiety or distress. I wanted to thank him for that, knowing better now of the difficulties he confronted. I wanted to let him know that as a former scholar of those times, I greatly appreciated his frankness about the major failures in the early '60s of which he wrote without apology but also without bitterness. Perhaps one of the greatest gifts of his book for me was a restoration of pride in those times and the people who participated in them when today there is much confusion about direction and intent and actions.

There was another gift which was singularly important to me, and of which I also wrote to Rusty: that he wrote of Mick, my own father. Today is a confusing time too in terms of who is and isn't the flavour of the month, and that Rusty accorded to Mick an honest place was enormously meaningful to me. I told Rusty that recently I'd read a batch of my grandfather's letters to his sister, letters peppered with tales of his son Mick. In one of them he wrote heartbreakingly of a lunch he'd had with Mick in around 1940, before he married Ray, when Mick was - well, the same age as you were then! - 25 years old. Mick had broken down at that lunch, and he told his father, Arthur, of his agony, of how he felt he had to leave the Communist Party, that he knew so well how disorganised and undisciplined he was, that he didn't seem to be able to change that, and that he felt he was going to be a terrible liability and of no use to the Party. Arthur, puzzled by his son's weaknesses, seemed blissfully unaware of the impact on Mick of losing his mother (in the great 'flu epidemic of 1918) when he was only three years old and of his subsequently being shunted from pillar to



post by his father through all his formative years, Arthur very much the idealised and absent parent. And so Mick remained; but Rusty remembered other things - and I remember you too mentioning them to me at one time - of Mick and of his stronger points and this was healing for me.

Forgive me if this all seems like a stream of consciousness rather than a well-thought-out letter to you. I know you have no need to be told of how fine a man you shared your life with, and I know there are many others who will tell you of how they shared those thoughts. I feel bereft by Rusty's death, Hilda, strange though that may seem, years and miles away. But I am also thinking of you in these days. You have always been fiercely independent in so many, many ways, always very much your own person, living your own life. But you have also been Rusty's life-long partner, sharer of so many experiences and thoughts and ideas and opinions; comrade, friend, love, co-parent, wife, all these many, many years and this must feel like the most dreadful of times. I am so sad about that too. And yet I also feel the beginnings of glad, though it may not be my place to feel so, that you have had the experiences you did with Rusty at your side.

Take care Hilda  
My love to you  
Barbara

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<DIV>I am so sad about Rusty's death.&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;And it is
painful to think of what it must mean to you.&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;Such a very long
marriage,
and, more importantly, such a blessed one.&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;I know that it is never
possible to truly see 'inside' the partnership of others, but it has
```

03/08/02

## **Hilda Bernstein**

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**From:** <Bettyherb70@aol.com>  
**To:** <HILDA@BERNSTEIN57.FREESERVE.CO.UK>  
**Sent:** 03 July 2002 02:57 AM  
**Subject:** REMEMBERING OUR WONDERFUL TIME IN WASHINGTON  
DEAR HILDA,

GLENN PHONED TO TELL US THE SAD NEWS ABOUT RUSTY. WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HIM AS OUR HERO IN THE FACE OF SUCH ADVERSITY.

WE WILL ALL MISS RUSTY, AND WE HOPE THE FUTURE WILL BE KIND TO YOU.

WITH OUR BEST WISHES AND CONDOLENCES TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

BETTY AND HERBERT FRANKEL

**Hilda Bernstein**

---

**From:** <Bickshalom@aol.com>  
**To:** <hilda@bernstein57.freemove.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 15 July 2002 05:16 PM  
**Subject:** No Subject

Dear Hilda. I share the sadness of thousands at Rusty's death. There is little that I can add to all that I am sure has already be said and written to you. You know how privileged I feel at having had the opportunity to get to know you and Rusty, due to your kindness in inviting me to your home, to enjoy your lovely garden and the richness of your art; the pleasure of having you both at the Vineyard, and the interest and treat of reading all your books, especially your first and then Rusty's. This is a hard time to be a witness to the present sad state of the world but I hope you can find some comfort with your friends, comrades, children and grandchildren. All my best wishes, Shalom, Barbara Bick



KEVIN SCHIFF

**Hilda Bernstein**

---

**From:** "Kevin & Debbie Schiff" <shofty@iafrica.com>  
**To:** <hida@bernstein57.freemove.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 26 June 2002 07:37 PM  
**Subject:** Condolences from family in SA  
Dear Hilda

So sorry to hear of your loss, our loss it came as a shock as my mom was saying how healthy Rusty was not so long ago  
From my whole family our deepest condolences

Never really got to know him too well but was always very proud to be connected to him as he was somebody to look up to

He was acknowledged on tv two days ago

Please send love and sympathies to the whole family

All my love

Kevin Schiff and family

26/06/02

**Hilda Bernstein**

SHANTIE NAIDOO

---

**From:** "Shanthie Naidoo" <shanthie@pop.co.za>  
**To:** "Hilda Bernstein" <hilda@bernstein57.freemove.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 25 June 2002 09:10 PM  
**Subject:** Sympathy message  
Dear Hilda

We are sad at the news of Rusty's death. I remember him coming home when my dad was a live. We have lost a great comrade and friend.

Our sympathy to you and the family.

Love

Shanthie  
011 882 0752

26/06/02



RONNIE KASRILS PAYS TRIBUTE TO RUSTY BERNSTEIN  
AND FRED CARNESON

11<sup>TH</sup> SACP Congress Rustenburg 24 – 28 July 2002

Rusty Bernstein and Fred Carneson were of that courageous band of communists whom Nelson Mandela famously praised many years ago. They set an example, he said, of sharing every danger with us Africans and acquired a heroic reputation amongst black people in the fight against racism. Let me quote from the renowned communist poet Bertold Brecht "... There are those who struggle for a day and that is good; there are those who struggle for a year and that is better; there are those who struggle for 20 years and that is better still; and then there are those who struggle all their lives and they are the ones we cannot do without."

Without any shadow of a doubt comrades Bernstein and Carneson fit into that category and their contribution is incalculable. There is so much that our present and future generations can learn from these stalwarts and those like them, for learning from them is learning history. Both comrades were born in 1920. Comrade Fred was born into a working class family in Goodwood in Cape Town. His family lived in a wood and iron house, with no running water and for sanitation purposes – the bucket system. Fred's family could not afford to keep him in school like many African families, so he left early and became a post office worker.

Rusty was born in Johannesburg of Jewish immigrant parents who died when he was eight. Relatives looked after him and provided him with the means for a good education and he graduated from Wits as an architect. Rusty and Fred did not know each other at that stage. They were both 18 and before long they joined the South African Army and went off to fight the fascists in North Africa and Italy. They served with distinction. Years later in 1995, when I was Deputy Minister of Defence, I took a small party of black and white second world war veterans to Italy to participate in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the victory over fascism. I witnessed Fred Carneson crying over the graves of his close comrades-in-arms who had perished on the battlefield in Italy all those years before. With the onset of war these two had joined the Communist Party.

After the war in 1945 their lives continued to move along similar lines. Both of them married their war-time sweethearts who were members of the Party, Hilda Watts and Sarah Carneson. Both women were senior in the Party to the men and had influenced them considerably. Both marriages lasted for nearly 60 golden years – based on love, respect and honesty. Communist families in every sense of the word. They shared their trials and tribulations together, as they did their hopes and triumphs. And despite the persecution they suffered and endured, they produced children with good values of whom they could be proud.



Their lives were packed with notable events and achievements. For example, both Rusty and Fred were involved in the 1946 Mineworkers strike, were arrested and charged with JB Marks. Both they and their wives continued to work in the underground Party after its banning in 1950.

Rusty was instrumental in the editing and writing of the Freedom Charter, for he had developed as a brilliant thinker and writer. In fact he became renowned as one of the movement's most outstanding Marxist theoreticians. By contrast Fred Carneson was an impassioned orator and organiser. Inevitably such outstanding leaders were targets of the enemy and both were arrested in 1956 and were part of the 156 patriots (charged with treason – a trial lasting four years). They were again detained in the 1960 state of emergency. Given their military background both Rusty and Fred were founder members of Umkhonto We Sizwe in 1961 and participated in early actions.

As is well known Rusty was arrested at Rivonia in 1963 and stood trial with Nelson Mandela and others. He was fortunate to be acquitted but placed under house arrest. Together with Hilda he escaped into exile the following year and settled in Britain.

Fred Carneson went into exile in Britain in 1972, having been arrested and tortured for Umkhonto activities, and sentenced to six years imprisonment.

During the long years of exile the faith of the Bernsteins and Carnesons in a free South Africa never wavered. All their spare time was devoted to the Party, ANC and Anti-Apartheid work. Rusty was a regular contributor to the AC, edited by Brian Bunting.

Rusty Bernstein's articles in the AC appeared under the pseudonym "Toussaint" – a black revolutionary in Haiti who led a slave revolt.

Even when he was in his seventies Rusty lectured students in Moscow and SOMAFSCO. Last year he spoke at Oom Gov's memorial in London.. He was a quiet reserved person, with a subtle wit and one of the movement's most influential thinkers.

While in exile Fred worked full time for the British National Union of Teachers and chaired the Trade union committee of the British anti-apartheid movement. Few could match Fred's passion, his love of life, his great outgoing humour, his sheer grit and determination.

Fred and Sarah returned to South Africa to Cape Town in 1991. Fred became a local councillor and the Treasurer of the SACP in the province.

What wonderful human beings this struggle has produced, this Party, this trade union movement, this ANC. For they were produced by the revolutionary alliance. Something we must cherish, sustain and be eternally proud of.



If there's one word that sums up such lives of selflessness, courage and devotion it surely is integrity. They wanted nothing for themselves, they did not crave position, wealth or fame. What was always at the fore was a life of struggle and service in the cause of the people.

They hailed from a tradition of communists who understood that in South Africa class and national struggle are inextricably linked like a tree and its roots to the soil. Therefore as communists they consistently worked to strengthen, and support the ANC as the leading force in the national democratic revolution. When Bertold Brecht says "There are those who struggle all their lives and they are the ones we cannot do without" think of Kotane, Dadoo, Luthuli and Tambo and don't forget Bernstein and Carneson.

Fred died in Cape Town two years ago in Cape Town at the age of 80. Rusty died a month ago in England at the age of 82. They are survived by their wives and children. Long live their memory!



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