



THE PRESIDENCY: REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X1000, Pretoria, 0001

13 September 2006

Ms Tony Strasburg
No. 4 Glendovr
204 Highveld Road
Seapoint
8005

Message of Condolences to Ms T Strasburg and family

It was with a great deal of sadness that the Presidency received the news of the passing away of Ms Hilda Bernstein.

At this trying and difficult moment all of us share the loss, sadness and pain that have descended on you and your family. Even though we all know that death is the inevitable end to life in this world, the loss of a family elder is always felt more deeply, removing as it does a pillar of continuity and stability.

Please accept our deepest condolences to you and your family. It is our prayer that you will derive comfort and strength from the long and fulfilled years you spent with her during her life-time. May your load be lightened by the knowledge that our thoughts and prayers are with you.

With my prayers for God's comfort,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Fowler'.

Trevor Fowler
Acting Director-General



16 October 2006

Mr Toni Strasburg
Flat 3 38 Canfield Gardens
LONDON
NW6 3LB

Dear Tom,

Thank you very much for the kind words about the arrangements for your dear mother's memorial event at the High Commission!

I am very happy if you and the family were pleased with the outcome.

Your mother was a great inspiration to many of us ANC women. *For Their Triumphs and Their Tears* remains a key document in the records on fierce resistance to cruelty by South African women.

That is only part of the reason Hilda Bernstein's event had to be done with special care.

Thank you for allowing us the privileged and responsibility to participate in honouring a grand lady.

Sincerely

Lindiwe

Lindiwe Mabuzza
High Commissioner

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS



Office of the Secretary General

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE ON THE PASSING AWAY OF HILDA BERNSTEIN

The African National Congress joins democrats and communists across the country in mourning the passing away of Cde Hilda Bernstein, a stalwart of our movement and an untiring fighter for the cause of the oppressed and exploited.

Like her many family, friends and comrades, the ANC is deeply saddened by this loss. Like them, we nevertheless draw solace from the profound and selfless contribution she made throughout her long and rich life to the cause of freedom, democracy and equality.

Cde Hilda was one among the few white South Africans of her generation who were prepared to stake the relative comfort of a life of privilege in pursuit of her principles and political conviction. Her commitment to the struggle for national liberation and class struggle, including her preparedness to stand for public office as a member of the Communist Party, was an indication of her willingness to defy the norms of an oppressive society, even in the face of arrest, banning, censorship and exile.

Through her writings, Cde Hilda exposed in unflinching detail and honesty many of the iniquities of the apartheid system. She also chronicled the struggles and sacrifices of the South African people, providing an inspiration for all those engaged in struggle and leaving for future generations a rich documentary legacy.

Having been actively involved in democratic and non-racial women's formations over many decades, Cde Hilda was a pillar in the struggle for women's emancipation and a champion of the involvement of women in all elements of the struggle.

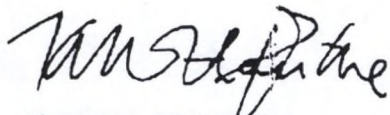
As we mark the 50th anniversary of the heroic women's march of 1956 – of which Cde Hilda was an organiser – and celebrate the launch of the Progressive Women's Movement, we are called upon to draw on the example of Hilda Bernstein as we open up a new front in the struggle for gender equality.

Cde Hilda was a talented writer and artist, who used her skills not only to express herself, but to give a voice to those who had for so long been kept in silence.

As we pay tribute to an extraordinary South African, freedom fighter and communist, let us draw inspiration from what Hilda Bernstein stood for and how she lived her life.

Let us pay her the ultimate tribute, by taking forward the struggle that she pursued with determination and vigour throughout her many years.

Hamba Kahle Qabane.



Kgalema Motlanthe
Secretary General

Johannesburg

13 September 2006



Toni, please forgive my typing the letter
& if it's easy to pass on to the others
- that would be wonderful. We'll
certainly be at the memorial on
Friday to honour her.

Best wishes,

Sarah.

Sarah Cawkwell

Threefold 1996

Painted relief 65 x 37cm

Thinking of You

WITH SYMPATHY



I am at a loss for words.
I hope Hilde was comfortable
and happy in South Africa.
How proud you must be having
such wonderful parents. The
books I have read gave me insight
into your wonderful family. The
media here has been very well-interested
covering Hilde's life and work. What
a remarkable woman. Very few
people accomplish what she & Rusty
did. How talented they were.

Plan to see Heidi & family soon.
The girls are such fun. Mark is
a good husband & father, Toni
and Inun - you have reason to be
very proud.

Dear Toni & Ivan - thinking of
you often and hope to see you
this year.

May it bring you comfort to know
that many caring thoughts
are with you in your sadness.

With love -

Janet



SU 76-0

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PETALS

The Bernstein Family
% Ms Tony Strasburg
Flat 4, Glendover
204 Upper High Level
Rd.
Green Point

Flower Talk

From Petals

Farewell to a Grand
Lady!

From Zanele and
Thabo Mbeki.

*We are God's most
perfect
Creations.
Please Water us
Daily*

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**e-mail:
flower@petalsgroup.co.za
www.petalsgroup.co.za**

54 Elmore Street London N1 3AL

1/10/06

Dear Tomi,

I was very saddened to read of your mother's death. I only met Hilda on a couple of occasions, but she made a deep impression on me. Her was a compelling personality, strong and penetratingly intelligent, but charming as well. I always considered it an honour to have talked to her; when I read her obituary I felt this even more. What a remarkable woman.

Phoebe and I send you our sincerest condolences.

Much love,

Ed.

OBITUARIES

HILDA BERNSTEIN

South African activist who fought against apartheid and after being exiled continued the struggle from London

HILDA BERNSTEIN was one of the last surviving leaders of apartheid resistance in South Africa in the 1950s and 1960s. As the newly elected Afrikaner nationalist government formalised racial segregation and flexed its muscles, opposition leaders were either jailed or, like Bernstein and her husband, forced into exile.

During 30 turbulent years in South Africa, Bernstein became an important opposition figure, campaigning among fellow whites and also organising resistance by anti-apartheid women of all races.

Driven out of the country by the threat to their own safety and the future of their young family, Bernstein and her husband spent the next 30 years campaigning from Britain for an end to white rule in Pretoria and returned in 1994 to help in the election of their friend, Nelson Mandela, as South Africa's first black president.

Bernstein was born Hilda Schwarz in London in 1915 to Russian immigrants. Her father, a Bolshevik, left the family to return to his homeland when she was 10, and when she was 18 she emigrated to South Africa and worked in advertising, publishing and journalism.

Shocked by the rise of fascism in Europe, she joined the youth wing of the socialist South African Labour Party. However, its attitude to the oppression of blacks was, at best, ambiguous, and by 1940 she had joined the non-racial Communist Party.

She rose quickly, serving on a regional committee and the national executive and in 1941 married a party colleague, Lionel "Rusty" Bernstein, a quietly spoken architect five years

PER-ANDERS PETTERSSON / GETTY IMAGES



Bernstein: on one occasion when the security police came in the front door to arrest her she fled through the back door

her junior. Two years later Hilda Bernstein was elected to the Johannesburg City Council, its only communist member.

In 1946 she ended her term as a councillor and was also convicted of helping an illegal black mineworkers' strike.

During the 1950s the Communist Party was banned but its members, including Bernstein's husband, reorganised underground. In between looking after her growing family, Bernstein continued her political work and was a founder and national secretary of the South African Peace Council. She had to give this up after the Government banned her from being a member of 26 organisations and from attending meetings. However, she

found enough ways around the restrictions to help to set up the Federation of South African Women and was an organiser of the massed Women's March to Pretoria in 1956.

In 1958 the grip tightened further and Bernstein's banning order was extended to prevent her from writing or publishing. Meanwhile, Rusty spent four years from 1956 in and out of court as one of the 150 accused in the mammoth Treason Trial, at the end of which all were acquitted.

In 1961 Hilda Bernstein was arrested and held for five months without trial during the state of emergency after the Sharpeville killings.

The Government stepped up its efforts to crush the opposi-

tion and banned several organisations, including the African National Congress (ANC). Then, in 1963 it put on trial ten of most senior activists, including Rusty Bernstein. This was known as the Rivonia trial, the name taken from the Johannesburg suburb where the ANC leaders had been arrested. Rusty was the only one acquitted but, as he left the dock where Mandela and the others had been jailed for life, he was rearrested and charged but then given bail.

A few days later the security police came for Hilda Bernstein, but she fled through the back door as they arrived at her house and went into hiding.

Leaving their three youngest children with their eldest

daughter, the Bernsteins were reunited in hiding and then fled north into Bechuanaland (now Botswana). They arrived eventually in London, where they were later joined by all four children.

Bernstein wrote the autobiographical *The World that Was Ours* (1967, revised 2004) and continued her political work, especially in the women's section of the ANC and also the Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM). Despite initial despair at being wrenched from her adopted country, she took full advantage of being free to write and speak in public.

She also began a new career as an artist, with exhibitions of her etchings, drawings and paintings being held in Britain,

the US and Africa. Her illustrations appeared in books and on book jackets and on posters and cards for the AAM.

She wrote several books, including *No 46 — Steve Biko* (1978), referring to Biko being the 46th person to die in security police detention; *Death Is Part of the Process* (1983), a political thriller; *For Their Triumphs and for Their Tears: Women in Apartheid South Africa* (1985); and *The Rift — The Exile Experience of South Africans* (1994).

The Bernsteins, who later moved out of London to Wales and then rural Oxfordshire, returned to South Africa to take part in the country's first non-racial election in 1994. They visited South Africa several times and donated most of their books to the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Rusty's home city of Durban.

In 2002 the couple took part in a reunion of the Rivonia trialists in Johannesburg. Later that year Rusty died and Bernstein moved to Cape Town to live with one of her children.

In 2004 she was given the Luthuli Silver Award for "contribution to the attainment of a free and democratic society — South Africa".

The same year Bernstein reflected: "Maybe this little group of whites did make a difference, however small. I feel proud we were among those who helped to influence the inevitable change, which has come much sooner and more calmly than I ever felt possible."

She is survived by her four children.

Hilda Bernstein, political activist, was born on May 15, 1915. She died on September 8, 2006, aged 91.

Obituaries

Hilda Bernstein

Activist and author, she fought against apartheid in South Africa and in exile

The partnership of Hilda Bernstein, who has died in Cape Town aged 91, and her husband, Lionel "Rusty" Bernstein (obituary, June 26 2002), featured long and enduringly in the struggle against apartheid, both in South Africa and in their English exile. Perhaps Hilda's most unprecedented accomplishment was to persuade white voters to elect her, a communist, to the Johannesburg city council. But that was 1943, before Hilda and communism were red-carded by the Afrikaner nationalist referee.

Hilda Bernstein was an all-rounder – she could "talk the talk" (through her books and rousing oratory) and "walk the walk" (she was a founder, in 1956, of the non-racial Federation of South African Women; and had a conviction, in 1946, for involvement in a black mineworkers' strike). But alongside her feminism was a devotion to her home and her four children. A colleague at the Johannesburg publishers where Hilda edited a family magazine, recalls her rushing home early to make *naartjie* (mandarin) marmalade.

Hilda Watts grew up in London's East End, the daughter of Jewish Russian emigrants. Her father, Simeon Schwarz was a Bolshevik and was made the Soviet trade attaché in London in 1919, but was recalled to Moscow in 1925, never to return. His widow, Dora, emigrated to Johannesburg with Hilda, the youngest of the three daughters, in 1932. Hilda was quickly active in the youth branch of the Labour party, but in 1940 joined the Communist party. A fine public speaker with an exceptional organisational ability, she was elected to the council by the voters of Hillbrow, the most (or only) avant garde of the suburbs, and certainly helped by South Africa being an ally of Moscow. But it gave her a further insight into the woe-plight of urban Africans, particularly the migrant gold miners.

Throughout the 1950s, Hilda worked tirelessly to better the condition of African women, despite being banned from 28 organisations. She helped organise the march in 1956 in which 20,000 women converged on the Union Buildings, the seat of government in Pretoria, to demonstrate against the pass laws. And she was a founder and national secretary of the Peace Council until it, too, was banned. But there were ways to carry on the work clandestinely, but when, in 1958, her writing and magazine work was banned, it was a serious financial blow.

She had married Rusty, an architect, in 1941. He had drafted the Freedom Charter, the founding document of the liberation struggle. But his ability to pay the bills for a growing family was likewise hindered by political intrusions, notably the four years, 1956-60, as a defendant in the Treason Trial, and then his and Hilda's detention in the State of Emergency that followed the shootings at Sharpeville in 1960.

And yet they managed. In her book *The World that was Ours* (1967), she recounts that their house in Observatory "breathed and murmured with people



Bernstein's family emigrated to Johannesburg in 1932, where she joined the Communist party and became a local councillor. She and her husband Rusty, below, with Mandela, returned to South Africa in order to work for an ANC victory in 1994

and sound – people coming to swim, to talk, to borrow books, the children's friends of all ages; people who never rang the bell or knocked, but called a greeting as they came in." The house "shines brightly at us from one side of the mirror; on the other are the homes and lives of our friends and comrades in the [black] locations".

Rusty was the sole accused in the 1964 Rivonia trial to be acquitted. Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and other ANC leaders were jailed for life. He was immediately re-arrested, then surprisingly bailed, giving the couple the option of quitting a hopeless political stage. And yet the decision was agonising. As the police closed in, Hilda still did the housewifely thing, and took the clothes out of the washing machine and then slipped out through a secret passage in the back garden. They were taken across the border into the then British Bechuanaland and arrived in England in their forties.

Rusty worked as an architect, while Hilda launched a career as a graphic artist. She created book covers, and African National Congress and Anti-

apartheid Movement posters and greeting cards, and combined that with shows of her etchings around the world. She also chronicled the big story with books on the women's struggle. *For Their Triumphs and Their Tears*, 1978; the murdered activist, *Steve Biko, No 46 – Steve Biko*, 1978; and a series of interviews on her countrymen and women's experience in exile. Her novel *Death is Part of the Process* (1983) won the Sinclair prize and was made into a BBC



drama. Those who heard her at meetings were left in no doubt about the seriousness of events in South Africa. After the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, in 1968, she left the Communist party.

They moved from London to Herefordshire in 1981 where guests enjoyed the conversation and the cuisine, though non-smokers endured a ban on the weed as unalterable as an edict from Pretoria. They returned for a visit to South Africa in 1994 to work for an ANC victory.

They were living in Kidlington, near Oxford, when Rusty died. Soon after, Mandela, on a visit to Britain, drove over to talk about old times. In 2003, Hilda returned to South Africa and lived in a flat in the Cape Town seaside suburb of Sea Point, near her son Keith.

Last week her doctor told her there was not long to go. She phoned her children in Europe to say goodbye. She is survived by children, Toni, Patrick, Frances and Keith, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Denis Herbstein

Hilda Bernstein, political activist, born May 15 1915; died September 9 2006

Buck Page

Founder of the Riders of the Purple Sage

Groups dedicated to the songs of the Old West have found themselves many appropriate names, the Sons of the Pioneers, the Ranch Boys, Riders in The Sky, but none more evocative than the Riders of the Purple Sage. Buck Page, the group's founder, who has died aged 84, took the name from a book by the prolific Western writer Zane Grey. How well he chose is borne out by the fact that a rival group borrowed it, and more than a generation later a country rock band called themselves the New Riders of the Purple Sage.

Page conceived the idea of the group in 1936, when, barely in his teens, he led a quartet playing cowboy songs on radio station KDKA in his home town of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. At the time such groups were usually stringband formations of fiddles, banjos and guitars, following the example of popular troupes such as Otto Gray's Oklahoma Cowboys. Page, who played many instruments, among them, fiddle, banjo and guitar, augmented the line-up with an accordion to "fill up the sound".

After three years, the band moved to New York to broadcast over WOR and play regularly at the Village Barn, in Greenwich Village, opened by Meyer Horowitz in 1930, that presented downhome country music to uptown sophisticates. When the United States entered the second world war, Page served in the US Navy.

Then, in 1943, Foy Willing, a singer working on the west coast, redeployed their name. His Riders of the Purple Sage had better luck with the title, both on records and in Western movies. Eventually Page found out about his Californian rival, but, according to his manager, Gary Bright, he and Willing became friends. Besides, Willing retired his Riders in 1952.

About that time Page himself moved to the west coast, where he worked as a studio musician, as well as for TV shows such as *Tales of Wells Fargo*, *Wagon Train* and *Laramie*. His guitar playing was featured in the theme music for *Bonanza* and *77 Sunset Trip*. He also took acting roles in movies as varied as *Destry Rides Again*, *Spartacus* and *A Star is Born*. In the early 1960s he re-formed the Riders of the Purple Sage. Over the next 40 years he recorded several albums, the most recent a solo effort, *Right Place to Start*, in 2005.

One of his last public appearances, in July this year, was on the National Day of the Cowboy in Scottsdale, Arizona. His services to Western music were acknowledged in 2001 by a Country/Western Living Legend Award. As the punctuation implies, the border between Western music and mainstream country music can be contested territory. Page made it clear where he stood on the matter. "You're either country or you're western," he told the *Los Angeles Times*. "We sing about the Grand Canyon, cows and girlfriends back home. We don't sing about the girl at the corner bar. We don't cry in our beer."

He is survived by his daughter, Christine Hanson.

Tony Russell

Buck Page, musician, born June 18 1922; died August 21 2006

Birthdays

Ray Alan, ventriloquist, 76; Frankie Avalon, singer, actor, 67; Sol Campbell, footballer, 32; Jack Cardiff, cinematographer and director, 92; Peter Clarke, cartoonist, 69; Siobhan Davies, dancer and choreographer, 56; Huw Edwards, newscaster, 45; Tara Fitzgerald, actor, 39; Jason Gardener, athlete, Olympic 2004 gold medalist, 31; Darren Gough, cricketer, 36; Sir Thomas Hetherington, QC, former director of public prosecutions, 80; Meredith Oakes, playwright, 60; Derek Pringle, former cricketer, 48; Prof Christopher Ricks, scholar of English, 73; Peter Shilton, former footballer, 57; John Spencer, snooker player, 71; John Stoddart, former principal and vice-chancellor, Sheffield Hallam University, 68; Prof Dorothy Wedderburn, economist and social scientist, 81; Kieran West, rower, Olympic 2000 gold medalist, 29.

Other lives

Roma Morton-Williams

Roma Morton-Williams, who has died aged 82, was the epitome of a self-effacing public servant. Active in local affairs in south London, until her health failed, she combined an interest in other people with a wicked sense of humour, a sharp intellect and the skills to turn concern into effective action.

Roma was born in north Wales, the second of three children, whose vicar father died when she was eight, and whose teacher mother returned to work as a single parent. After boarding school, she read psychology at Bedford College, University of London. She joined the army in 1945 as an occupational psychologist, and three years later, promoted to major, left to work in the personnel department of Hoover. Uncomfortable with the harsh

world of industrial hiring and firing, she joined the Civil Service in 1950.

She moved from personnel into the Social Survey division of the then Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, where she remained until her retirement as its head in 1984. Roma's high standards in design, quality control of field work, and analysis, together with her ability to operate with confidence as a woman at a senior level, were highly valued.

After retirement, she served for eight years as a Labour councillor for the St

Roma Morton-Williams was the epitome of a self-effacing public servant. She also served as a Labour councillor



Margaret's ward in Lewisham. She combined local knowledge (she instigated fact-finding walkabouts) with understanding of the interplay of local and national government. As vice chair of Lewisham social services, she extended her concern for the elderly and most vulnerable, and after her second "retirement" became the first chair of Carers Lewisham.

Roma was also connected with Crossroads, which provides support for carers, and Lewisham Pensioners' Forum. She had supported the Blackfriars Settlement since her civil service days, and helped at its Sunday afternoon club for the young.

Her personal values informed a life of passionate involvement in the community, which brought her much happiness and satisfaction. She is survived by her brother and sister Hazel Taylor

Announcements

DEATH NOTICES

RICE. John Michael, aged 74 years, died peacefully in Ringway Mews Nursing Home on September 12. A dearly loved and loving husband of Elizabeth, devoted Father of Clare, Peter, Anne, Katherine and David, Father-in-Law of Gary, Joanne, Cengiz and Simon. The proud and much loved Grandad of Ellen, Sarah, James, Sophie, Noah and Natalie and caring brother of Dorothy and Frank. John will be greatly missed by his family and friends. Mass in celebration of his life at Christ Church, Heald Green on Wednesday, September 20 at 10am followed by committal at Alltrincham Crematorium at 11.30am. No flowers please, donations if desired to the Parkinson's Society, Enqs. and donations to Jonathan Alcock & Sons Ltd., Brook House, Brook Road, Cheadle SK8 1PQ Tel. 0161 428 2097

IN MEMORIAM

LAFFIN. Trevor John BA, 1927-2004. Much loved husband to Pat and dear father to Martin, Clare, Simon and Sian. Endeared by grandchildren, his sister Ruby and his many friends.

For Announcements, Acknowledgments, Adoptions, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Births, Deaths, Engagements, Memorial Services and In Memoriams phone 020 7611 9099 fax 020 7278 6046 or email advertising.copyright@guardian.co.uk including your name address and telephone number between 9.30am and 12pm Mon-Fri

Manchester University
University Challenge

W_08 CIP_1 4th

Hilda Bernstein

Holding a line of continuity in a ferocious period under apartheid required a quality of courage that does not fully emerge in Hugh Macmillan's obituary of Hilda Bernstein [20 September], writes Paul Trehwela. While her husband Rusty was on trial with Nelson Mandela in the Rivonia trial of 1963-64, facing a real possibility of being hanged, Hilda embraced the risk herself.

Because of arrests and flights into exile, there were not enough people to carry out indispensable underground political functions. Duplication of roles - always dangerous - became a norm. Despite herself being under police surveillance, Hilda doubled up as an emissary of the central committee of the illegal Communist Party and the High Command of Umkhonto we Sizwe (the military wing of the SACP and the African National Congress), to set up and supervise production in Johannesburg of an underground journal for Umkhonto, *Freedom Fighter*, of which I was editor. The journal advocated military action against the South African regime, the matter for which Mandela, Rusty Bernstein and their trial colleagues faced the possibility of a death sentence.

We lasted through three issues. One month after the end of the Rivonia trial - in which Rusty was acquitted - further arrests put an end to the journal. Shortly afterwards, Hilda and Rusty were spirited out of the country.

None of this appeared in her autobiographical account, *The World That Was Ours*, a too-romanticised evocation that appeared in Britain in 1967.

Hilda was one of that generation of "Stalin's Jews" who played a major role in the political transformation of South Africa. The present government, which has presided over spectacular levels of corruption, crime and deaths from HIV/Aids, shares some of the moral problems from that inheritance.

PASSINGS

Armin H. Meyer, 92; U.S. Ambassador, State Department Official

Armin H. Meyer, 92, who served as U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, Iran and Japan, died Aug. 13 of Parkinson's disease at a hospital in Washington, D.C.

He was deputy assistant secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs when President Kennedy named him ambassador to Lebanon in 1961. He spent four years in Beirut, followed by four in Tehran.

In Tokyo, Meyer helped negotiate the return of Okinawa to Japanese control and tried to smooth relations with the Japanese when it was announced in 1971 that President Nixon would visit China.

After leaving Tokyo in 1972, he spent a year heading a Cabinet committee to combat terrorism. Nixon launched the committee after the killing of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany.

Meyer was born Jan. 19, 1914, in Fort Wayne, Ind. He received an associate's degree from Lincoln College in Illinois in 1933, a bachelor's degree from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, in 1935, and a master's degree in mathematics from Ohio State University in 1941.

He served in the U.S. Office of War Information in Cairo during World War II.

Hilda Bernstein, 91; Fought Apartheid in South Africa

Hilda Bernstein, 91, an anti-apartheid activist and author who was a founding member of the Federation of South African Women, the first nonracial women's organization in South Africa, died of heart failure Friday at her home in Cape Town, South Africa.

Bernstein, whose husband was tried for treason along with Nelson Mandela, was born in London in 1915 and emigrated to South Africa in 1932, working in advertising, publishing and journalism.

A fiery orator, she served as a city councillor in Johannesburg from 1943 to 1946 as the only communist elected to public office in a whites-only vote.

She and her husband were active in the early days of the South African Communist Party and the African National Congress. They both suffered banning and detention by the apartheid state.

Bernstein's husband, Rusty, and Mandela were tried with other anti-apartheid activists in the infamous Rivonia Trial in

1964. Mandela received a sentence of life imprisonment; Rusty Bernstein was the only defendant who was acquitted.

Bernstein and her husband fled the country and eventually settled in Britain. They returned to South Africa after democratic elections in 1994.



Bennie Smith

Bennie Smith, a St. Louis-based blues musician who played with such stars as Chuck Berry and Ike and Tina Turner, died Sunday after a heart attack there. He was 72.

From Times Staff and Wire Reports

denent needy children), c/o Pa
na Tabernacle Salvation Army.
Cabot & Sons, Pasadena

BLACK, Mavourneen Joyce

August 10, 1930-September 2,
Funeral services were
Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2006 at 2:00
at **Harrison-Ross Mortuaries**,
Crenshaw Blvd., L.A. CA 90
Interment, Inglewood Park Ce
tery.

BLUMENTHAL, Norman

Born July 25, 1923 passed a
at his home on Sept. 12, 2006
was a devoted and loving husb
father and grandfather.

He is survived by his
daughters, Susan and Jani Blun
thal and his grand daughter Bri
Blumenthal-Cohen. A gentle
who made the world a better p
Kind and compassionate he i
helping others.

In lieu of flowers, please
donations to the Parkinsons Fe
dation or the Brain Institute.

Services will be noon Th
Sept. 14 at Mount Sinai Memoria

CARPENTER, Sharon

(62) Of Chino Hills, a much l
philanthropist, homemaker
devoted grandmother, died Sept
ber 9, 2006 after a long and co
genous battle with cancer. She
was active in CHOC (Child
Hospital of Orange County)
Ebell Club of Anaheim Hills.
and her husband were involv
many charity groups and educat
al programs.

The Memorial Service is Fri
September 15th, at 10:00 a.m.
Canyon Hills Presbyterian Ch
in Anaheim Hills.

Sharon is survived by her t
son Glenn, daughter Christine,
Scott and two grandchildren, B
thew Glenn and Ryan Jacob C
penter.

FLORES, Francisco

www.guerragutierrez.com
(323) 722-1900

FUJIOKA, Anson Tadoo

(92) Resident of Los Ange
passed away on September 9, 20
Beloved husband of Marga
Fujioka and brother-in-law of La
Fujioka and John and Willi
(Mickey) Yamaguchi; also survi
by many nieces, nephews and o
relatives.

Graveside Funeral Service, F
day, September 15, 10:30 a.m.,
Green Hills Memorial Park, 27
S. Western Ave., Rancho Pa
Verdes, CA, with Rev. Stev

1977

TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

Vietnam joins United Nations

A year on from the official reunification of North and South, Vietnam was admitted as the 149th member of the United Nations, after the US dropped its opposition

HILDA BERNSTEIN

Anti-apartheid campaigner

Hilda Bernstein was a woman of many talents who devoted most of her long life to the promotion of equality for all South Africans regardless of race, colour, or gender. Small, attractive and feisty, she was one of the few survivors from among the leaders of the legal Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA), which was banned in 1950.

As Hilda Watts she was the first, and only, member of that Party to be elected to public office by members of an all-white constituency or ward. She shared the view of her comrades that her election to the Johannesburg City Council in 1943 was a bit of a fluke – a product of the wartime popularity of the Soviet Union and of local politics. She was in 1945 one of two women elected to the central committee of the CPSA – the other was the late Ray Alexander, with whom she worked closely in the establishment of the Federation of South African Women.

During almost 40 years in exile in London and Oxford, she worked tirelessly for the African National Congress and the Anti-Apartheid Movement as an organiser, lecturer and writer.

Born in London in 1915, she was one of the three daughters of Samuel and Dora Watts, who were both Russian Jewish immigrants. Her father, a Bolshevik, was born Simeon Schwarz.

When Hilda was 10 he responded to an order from the Soviet Communist Party to return to Russia to help build the revolution. Hilda never saw him again – he died there from typhoid seven years later.

Her mother never understood how he could have put politics before family, but 40 years later Hilda was herself, with her husband and political partner, Lionel “Rusty” Bernstein, whom she had married in 1941, to face the same dilemma. She had moved to South Africa with her mother in 1933, and had progressed politically through the membership of the white Labour Party to the non-racial CPUSA in 1940.

Hilda Bernstein's most important political work inside South Africa related to the establishment of the non-racial Federation of South African Women in 1954 – she drafted the “Women's Charter”. With her husband she was also deeply involved in the organisation of the Congress of the People in 1955 – Rusty was the main draftsman of the Freedom Charter.

She had been charged in connection with the black mineworkers' strike in 1946 and was banned from trade union work in 1953. She was also detained during the state of emergency in 1950. She described her husband's, and her own, experience of the Rivonia trial, and their dramatic flight into exile through Bechuanaland and Northern

Rhodesia, where they were declared prohibited immigrants by the outgoing British colonial government, in *The World That Was Ours* (1967).

Her sensitivity to the issues surrounding political exile, separation and loss, were shown in her two most original books, *A Life of One's Own* (2002) in which she examined the lives of her father and of an elder sister who had travelled to the Soviet Union and was compelled to remain there through the privations of the Second World War, and *The Rift: the exile experience of South Africans* (1994).

The latter was an anthology based on more than 300 interviews with exiled South Africans which she began to conduct in 1989 at a time when the return from exile did not appear imminent. The majority of the interviews were with members of the African National Congress and its affiliates, but it is not a partisan work and draws on the experience of exiles of widely differing political persuasions, including the hit-squad commander Dirk Coetzee and the politically unaligned actor Anthony Sher. It remains her most substantial publication and the only serious treatment of an important, but neglected, subject.

She was equally alive to the problems of exile, which she saw as “a desertion”, and to the problems of return to South Africa by people who had been compelled to become “citizens of the world”. She returned to South Africa with her husband for the installation of President Nelson Mandela in 1994, but she did not return to live in the country until after Rusty's death in 2002.

They had not enjoyed exile in a country that Hilda always found cold – both climatically and emotionally – but they had enjoyed a model political marriage and had brought up children who, un-



Bernstein: the problems of exile

like the children of many activists, had little cause to resent their parents' political activities.

Hilda Bernstein's other publications included *For Their Triumphs and For Their Tears* (1975), a study of women under apartheid, and *Death is Part of the Process* (1983), a prize-winning novel based on the early days of the ANC's armed struggle which became a two-part BBC television film (1986).

She began work as an artist in 1972 and her etchings, drawings and paintings were exhibited at the Royal Academy and featured in many one-man and group exhibitions in the United Kingdom and South Africa.

Hugh Macmillan

Hilda Watts, political activist, writer and artist: born London 15 April 1915; married 1941 Lionel Bernstein (died 2002); two sons, two daughters; died Cape Town 8 September 2006.

Obituaries

Hilda Bernstein

Activist and author, she fought against apartheid in South Africa and in exile

The partnership of Hilda Bernstein, who has died in Cape Town aged 91, and her husband, Lionel "Rusty" Bernstein (obituary, June 26 2002), featured long and enduringly in the struggle against apartheid, both in South Africa and in their English exile. Perhaps Hilda's most unprecedented accomplishment was to persuade white voters to elect her, a communist, to the Johannesburg city council. But that was 1943, before Hilda and communism were red-carded by the Afrikaner nationalist referee.

Hilda Bernstein was an all-rounder – she could "talk the talk" (through her books and rousing oratory) and "walk the walk" (she was a founder, in 1956, of the non-racial Federation of South African Women; and had a conviction, in 1946, for involvement in a black mineworkers' strike). But alongside her feminism was a devotion to her home and her four children. A colleague at the Johannesburg publishers where Hilda edited a family magazine, recalls her rushing home early to make *naartjie* (mandarin) marmalade.

Hilda Watts grew up in London's East End, the daughter of Jewish Russian emigrants. Her father, Simeon Schwarz was a Bolshevik and was made the Soviet trade attaché in London in 1919, but was recalled to Moscow in 1925, never to return. His widow, Dora, emigrated to Johannesburg with Hilda, the youngest of the three daughters, in 1932. Hilda was quickly active in the youth branch of the Labour party, but in 1940 joined the Communist party. A fine public speaker with an exceptional organisational ability, she was elected to the council by the voters of Hillbrow, the most (or only) avant garde of the suburbs, and certainly helped by South Africa being an ally of Moscow. But it gave her a further insight into the woe of the migrant gold miners.

Throughout the 1950s, Hilda worked tirelessly to better the condition of African women, despite being banned from 28 organisations. She helped organise the march in 1956 in which 20,000 women converged on the Union Buildings, the seat of government in Pretoria, to demonstrate against the pass laws. And she was a founder and national secretary of the Peace Council until it, too, was banned. But there were ways to carry on the work clandestinely, but when, in 1958, her writing and magazine work was banned, it was a serious financial blow.

She had married Rusty, an architect, in 1941. He had drafted the Freedom Charter, the founding document of the liberation struggle. But his ability to pay the bills for a growing family was likewise hindered by political intrusions, notably the four years, 1956-60, as a defendant in the Treason Trial, and then his and Hilda's detention in the State of Emergency that followed the shootings at Sharpeville in 1960.

And yet they managed. In her book *The World that was Ours* (1967), she recounts that their house in Observatory "breathed and murmured with people



Bernstein's family emigrated to Johannesburg in 1932, where she joined the Communist party and became a local councillor. She and her husband Rusty, below, with Mandela, returned to South Africa in order to work for an ANC victory in 1994

and sound – people coming to swim, to talk, to borrow books, the children's friends of all ages; people who never rang the bell or knocked, but called a greeting as they came in." The house "shines brightly at us from one side of the mirror; on the other are the homes and lives of our friends and comrades in the [black] locations".

Rusty was the sole accused in the 1964 Rivonia trial to be acquitted. Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and other ANC leaders were jailed for life. He was immediately re-arrested, then surprisingly bailed, giving the couple the option of quitting a hopeless political stage. And yet the decision was agonising. As the police closed in, Hilda still did the housewifely thing, and took the clothes out of the washing machine and then slipped out through a secret passage in the back garden. They were taken across the border into the then British Bechuanaland and arrived in England in their forties.

Rusty worked as an architect, while Hilda launched a career as a graphic artist. She created book covers, and African National Congress and Anti-

apartheid Movement posters and greeting cards, and combined that with shows of her etchings around the world. She also chronicled the big story with books on the women's struggle, *For Their Triumphs and Their Tears*, 1978; the murdered activist, Steve Biko, No 46 – Steve Biko, 1978; and a series of interviews on her countrymen and women's experience in exile. Her novel *Death is Part of the Process* (1983) won the Sinclair prize and was made into a BBC



drama. Those who heard her at meetings were left in no doubt about the seriousness of events in South Africa. After the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, in 1968, she left the Communist party.

They moved from London to Herefordshire in 1981 where guests enjoyed the conversation and the cuisine, though non-smokers endured a ban on the weed as unalterable as an edict from Pretoria. They returned for a visit to South Africa in 1994 to work for an ANC victory.

They were living in Kidlington, near Oxford, when Rusty died. Soon after, Mandela, on a visit to Britain, drove over to talk about old times. In 2003, Hilda returned to South Africa and lived in a flat in the Cape Town seaside suburb of Sea Point, near her son Keith.

Last week her doctor told her there was not long to go. She phoned her children in Europe to say goodbye. She is survived by children, Toni, Patrick, Frances and Keith, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Denis Herstein

Hilda Bernstein, political activist, born May 15 1915; died September 9 2006

Buck Page

Founder of the Riders of the Purple Sage

Groups dedicated to the songs of the Old West have found themselves many appropriate names, the Sons of the Pioneers, the Ranch Boys, Riders In The Sky, but none more evocative than the Riders of the Purple Sage. Buck Page, the group's founder, who has died aged 84, took the name from a book by the prolific Western writer Zane Grey. How well he chose is borne out by the fact that a rival group borrowed it, and more than a generation later a country rock band called themselves the New Riders of the Purple Sage.

Page conceived the idea of the group in 1936, when, barely in his teens, he led a quartet playing cowboy songs on radio station KDKA in his home town of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. At the time such groups were usually stringband formations of fiddles, banjos and guitars, following the example of popular troupes such as Otto Gray's Oklahoma Cowboys. Page, who played many instruments, among them, fiddle, banjo and guitar, augmented the line-up with an accordion to "fill up the sound".

After three years, the band moved to New York to broadcast over WOR and play regularly at the Village Barn, in Greenwich Village, opened by Meyer Horowitz in 1930, that presented downhome country music to uptown sophisticates. When the United States entered the second world war, Page served in the US Navy.

Then, in 1943, Foy Willing, a singer working on the west coast, redeployed their name. His Riders of the Purple Sage had better luck with the title, both on records and in Western movies. Eventually Page found out about his Californian rival, but, according to his manager, Gary Bright, he and Willing became friends. Besides, Willing retired his Riders in 1952.

About that time Page himself moved to the west coast, where he worked as a studio musician, as well as for TV shows such as *Tales of Wells Fargo*, *Wagon Train* and *Laramie*. His guitar playing was featured in the theme music for *Bonanza* and *77 Sunset Trip*. He also took acting roles in movies as varied as *Destry Rides Again*, *Spartacus* and *A Star is Born*. In the early 1960s he re-formed the Riders of the Purple Sage. Over the next 40 years he recorded several albums, the most recent a solo effort, *Right Place to Start*, in 2005.

One of his last public appearances, in July this year, was on the National Day of the Cowboy in Scottsdale, Arizona. His services to Western music were acknowledged in 2001 by a Country/Western Living Legend Award. As the punctuation implies, the border between Western music and mainstream country music can be contested territory. Page made it clear where he stood on the matter. "You're either country or you're western," he told the *Los Angeles Times*. "We sing about the Grand Canyon, cows and girlfriends back home. We don't sing about the girl at the corner bar. We don't cry in our beer."

He is survived by his daughter, Christine Hanson.

Tony Russell

Buck Page, musician, born June 18 1922; died August 21 2006



The New York Times

Hilda Bernstein, 91, Author and Anti-Apartheid Activist, Dies

JOHANNESBURG, Sept. 12 — Hilda Bernstein, an anti-apartheid activist and author whose husband was tried for treason in South Africa alongside Nelson Mandela, died Friday at her home in Cape Town. She was 91.

The cause was heart failure, her son Keith said.

Ms. Bernstein's husband, Rusty, and Mr. Mandela were tried along with other anti-apartheid activists in the Rivonia Trial in 1964. Mr. Mandela received a life sentence, while Mr. Bernstein was the only defendant acquitted and freed.

But police harassment made life so difficult for the Bernsteins, a white couple, that they were forced into exile, leaving their children behind. They crossed the border into Botswana on foot — a journey described in Hilda Bernstein's book "The World That Was Ours."

In exile, Ms. Bernstein was an active member of the African National Congress and a regular speaker for the Anti-Apartheid Movement organization in Britain and abroad.

The couple eventually settled in Britain, but returned to South Africa after the 1994 democratic elections, which made Mr. Mandela president.

Ms. Bernstein was a founding member of the Federation of South African Women, the first multiracial women's organization in South Africa. She was also an artist, and her work has been used as book

jackets and illustrations, posters and cards for the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

Ms. Bernstein was born in London in 1915 and emigrated to South Africa in 1932, working in advertising, publishing and journalism.

A fiery orator, she served as a city councilor in Johannesburg from 1943 to 1946 as the only Communist elected to public office in a "whites only" vote.

She and her husband were active in the early days of the South African Communist Party and the African National Congress. Rusty Bernstein died in 2002.

She is survived by four children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

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