

U.S. FRIENDS OF SOVIET PEOPLE



BULLETIN

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2000

P. O. Box 140434 • Staten Island, NY 10314-0434
Northstar Compass web-site: <http://www.northstarcompass.org>.

AUTUMN MEMBERSHIP MEETING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2000

- *Membership Meeting - 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.*
- *Public Memorial - 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
for Bernard Livingston*

Comrade Bernard Livingston: "A Celebration of a
Revolutionary's life Spanning Almost 100 Years".
Eulogies from family, friends and comrades

Refreshments

*Place: International Action Center
39 W. 14th Street (Room 206) (At 6th Avenue) in Manhattan*

Bernard Livingston 1911 - 2000

Comrade Bernard Livingston, an Editorial Board Member of Northstar Compass, died Sept. 7 of a heart attack at age 89 in N.Y.C. Spending over 60 years in the Communist movement, Bernard was described by his close friends as "provocative and feisty". Bernard attended political meetings and protests up to the last days of his life.

People who knew him in the past 70 years knew him as an outspoken defender of world Socialism and the Soviet Union. Around 1985 he

began organizing and attending an informal gathering of people who shared Marxist ideas and his support for the Soviet Union. The group met every two weeks at a Ukrainian restaurant on Second Avenue and Ninth Street in Manhattan for discussions.

More than outspoken, he wore oversized buttons on his jacket with photos of revolutionary leaders like Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin. He

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didn't flinch from the arguments these sometimes provoked in the streets or the subways.

Comrade Livingston was born in Baltimore in 1911 and raised in that city. He graduated from law school and then moved to New York. He never practiced law.

Many of his current friends and comrades didn't know that he was a successful photographer and author of six books, including *Their Turf*, *Pop's Burlesque House*, *Zoo Animals*, *People*, *Places*, and the best known, which he published himself, *Closet Red*.

In *Closet Red* Comrade Livingston revealed how his photography career started from an abortive stint in the Army during World War II. Though he was already a Marxist-Leninist, joining the Communist Party USA in 1933, he was asked to serve in a counter-intelligence unit. He assumed he'd be tracking down Nazi sympathizers.

Not so, he wrote:

"Listen to what your buddies talk about" I was instructed. "Keep an eye open for communists and red propaganda, and file regular reports".

Comrade Livingston was suddenly relieved of that distasteful assignment and later pushed out of the Army for his leftist world outlook, though he managed to fight for an honorable discharge based on his flat fee. He then began, what was for a communist, an unorthodox career.

"After discharge from the Army I managed to be admitted into the world of the ruling class as an observer. There, not being suspected of sympa-

thy with the 'red focus of evil', I was able to circulate with an open eye among Kennedys, Dukes, Whitneys and other Pillars of the Establishment. In the process I learned something about how, in its special style, that Establishment responds to the issues of the day.

His book provides an insightful and amusing view of the lives of the rich and otherwise banal.

Ending his contact with the power brokers, Comrade Livingston began writing for the *Daily World*, the newspaper of the Communist Party USA. He later left the party over its initial support of Perestroika and Gorbachev in 1986. While the Party leadership and its publications considered Perestroika a way of producing a "better socialism", Comrade Livingston analyzed that Gorbachev's "new thinking" would not only liquidate the power of the Party in Soviet life, but ultimately liquidate the Soviet Union itself.

Although history, unfortunately, proved Comrade Livingston correct, he remained loyal to the Party's ideology of Marxism-Leninism and never became anti-Party. His loyalty to the cause of world socialism and to the USSR's memory remained intact. He gravitated towards *U.S. Friends of Northstar Compass* and later to *U.S. Friends of Soviet People*, where he remained in the leadership and active to the end.

He will be missed by his comrades and friends in the struggle for proletarian internationalism and the struggle to re-establish the Soviet Union as a socialist state.

Membership Application/Renewal

New Renewal

- I want to become a member of USFSP. Please enroll me as a member in the following category
 Send me information on how I can get involved with U.S. Friends of Soviet People

| | | |
|---------|---|--|
| Name | <input type="radio"/> Student—\$5.00 | <input type="radio"/> Contributing—\$25.00 |
| Address | <input type="radio"/> Senior Citizen—\$5.00 | <input type="radio"/> Patron—\$50.00+ |
| City | <input type="radio"/> Individual—\$10.00 | <input type="radio"/> Donor—\$100 |
| State | Zip | <input type="radio"/> Family—\$15.00 |
| Phone | <input type="checkbox"/> Please call me, I'd like to volunteer. | |

- Put me on your mailing list and send me a free sample copy of *Northstar Compass*
- Send me a special 3-months subscription to *Northstar Compass* for \$1 (enclosed)
- Send me a full year subscription to *Northstar Compass* for \$20 (enclosed)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____