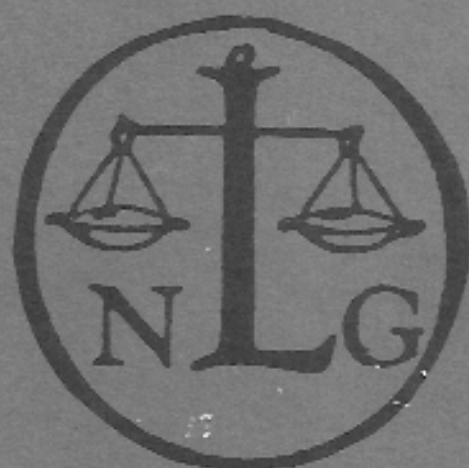


DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CHAPTER

National Lawyers Guild



First Annual Community Justice Awards Dinner

Honorees

Selma Rein

Brint Dillingham

Thursday, February 28, 1985

The Awards

The National Lawyers Guild Service Award



Selma Rein justly deserves to be the first recipient of the District of Columbia Chapter's service award. Selma has long been active in the Guild even before the organization expanded its membership to include non-lawyer legal workers. She was instrumental in bringing the chapter back into existence in 1969. She was the first non-lawyer on the chapter's Executive Board and was a member of the Board until she died. During those years she provided the chapter with her energy and enthusiasm which never faltered. She was the spirit of the chapter and she will always remain so.

The David and Selma Rein Community Justice Award



This award is dedicated to two members of the District of Columbia Chapter whose activism in the D.C. community spanned over forty years, David and Selma Rein.

David was a forceful advocate who never wavered from the principles of justice and liberty. Along with his law partner Joe Forer, he took on the causes and clients when most others in the profession of law were too timid and afraid of being ostracized by the

legal establishment. With his energy and skill more often than not he brought justice to his clients and their cause.

Selma brought the fire of her indignation at social injustice to the struggle. Enough to share and energize the rest of us when the cause seemed hopeless or the task insurmountable.

Neither of them ever retired from the fight for justice. We miss them both and will remember them each year this award is presented.

Brint Dillingham is a fitting first recipient for this award. To the struggle for justice he brings his dedication and perseverance, tempering it with his humanity and humor. In saluting Brint we honor the memory of David and Selma.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CHAPTER

*Welcomes you to the
First Annual Community Justice Awards
Honoring Selma Rein and Brint Dillingham*

8:30 PM FEBRUARY 28, 1985

BLOSSOMS IN THE PAVILLION

WELCOME, M. C.

Carol Bergman
President, DC Chapter

TRIBUTES TO SELMA REIN

Hilda Mason
DC City Councilmember

Ellen Chapnick
Past President, DC Chapter

PRESENTATION OF NLG SERVICE AWARD

PRESENTOR

Jim Klimaski
*Dinner Committee Chair
and Past President, DC Chapter*

RECIPIENT

Richard Rein for Selma Rein

SONGS

Luci Murphy
Steve Jones
Peter Jones

DINNER COMMITTEE: John Dillingham, Joe Forer, Kit Gage,
James Klimaski, Judy Mead, Steve Metalitz, Peter Mitchell, Bill Montross

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD

TRIBUTES TO BRINT DILLINGHAM

John Hanrahan
Writer and Legal Investigator

Tim Coulter
Director, Indian Law Resource Center

PRESENTATION OF THE DAVID AND SELMA REIN COMMUNITY JUSTICE AWARD

PRESENTOR

Jim Klimaski

RECIPIENT

Brint Dillingham

ADDRESS

Barbara Dudley
President, NLG

CLOSING REMARKS

Carol Bergman

SONGS

Fred Feinstein
Karen Collins

Debby Hanrahan, John Hanrahan, Debra Hobbs, Chris Hornig,
Sheila O'Donnell, Selma Samols, Jim True, Bruce Waxman and Ethel Weisser

In Honor

*We join in honoring
Selma Rein and Brint Dillingham,
fighters for justice and liberty.*

*We congratulate Brint and
will remember Selma always.*

Sam Abbott
Joseph Belser
Eleanor Belser
Carol Bergman
Terrie M. Bjorklund
Alice Bodley
Phyllis Britt
Judy Byron
Terence E. Carroll
Mary Chandler
Gordon A. Chapman
Mary W. Chapman
Ellen P. Chapnick
Edith and Abe Cohen
Karen Cordry
David Cortwright
Richard H. Crouch
Daniel Crystal
Armand Derfner
Rosemarie Dillingham
Virginia Durr
Gabrielle Simon Edgcomb
Sara Elpern
Ruth and Tom Emerson
Debra Evenson
Margie Fargo
Joe Forer
Florrie Forer
Kit Gage
Edward L. Genn
Gilbert J. Genn
Carol and Bill Gerson
Debby Hanrahan
John Hanrahan

WANTED

~~WRIT~~ Brint - in
Dillingham



for
**PEOPLE'S
SHERIFF**

SEVERAL YEARS after Brint Dillingham's 1978 marriage to Rosemarie Cornelius, he was given a new name by Rosemarie's mother. In 'Oglala Sioux, the name—Tako Ho Olanisni—means "Respects Nothing."

For people who know Brint, the name is especially appropriate.

There was the time in Chicago in 1968, for instance, outside the Democratic National Convention, when Brint approached the National Guard Commander whose troops were lining the city's streets to enforce Mayor Richard Daley's peculiar brand of law and order against anti-war demonstrators.

It was a particularly tense moment, during a march led by Dick Gregory, when Brint asked the commander whether he knew the difference between the Boy Scouts and the National Guard. When the commander said he didn't know, Brint informed him that the difference was "that the Boy Scouts have adult leadership." Moments later, the tear gas began to fly.

Then there was the time in one of his favorite Bethesda taverns some years back when Brint, with a few beers under his belt, walked up to two uniformed Montgomery County policemen who had stopped in to buy sandwiches. Brint moved between the two cops, flung his arms over the shoulders of each and said, "Let me tell you a story about Eugene Debs." Brint then proceeded to tell the bewildered cops about a friend of Debs who was once approached after a police officer had died, and was asked to make a contribution "to bury a policeman." To which Debs' friend reached into his wallet, pulled out some money and said, "Here's \$20. Bury two of them." Needless to say, Brint left the two county cops mildly speechless.

Eugene Debs and humor are a pretty fair way of summing up what Brint Dillingham's activist life has been all about. Although Brint has been involved in some of the most serious and important work of his generation—organizing against racism, against the Viet Nam war, against oppression of Native Americans and for a more equitable system of criminal justice, to name just a few of his activities—he has always done it with a ready supply of jokes and quips at his command. Mix Joe Hill with Henny Youngman and you would come out with a reasonable approximation of Brint Dillingham.

Smile when you say that pardner. Brint's 1970 campaign for sheriff in Montgomery County won him a surprising 20 percent of the vote against an entrenched Democratic opponent. For you history buffs, this classic poster appeared in the Quicksilver Times, an underground newspaper in D.C. in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Brint is the most unselfish person I know. He is a man of saintly principles and an aggravating disposition.

JOSEPH FORER

Brint, the son of Dorothy and William Dillingham, was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on July 15, 1943. He spent the first four years of his life on a farm in Platte City, Missouri, where his father, William, an economist for the Social Security Administration, had moved the family.

In 1948, with a change in his father's work assignment, Brint and his family moved to Bethesda, Maryland. He was graduated from high school at St. Anselm's Priory and went on to receive a B.A. in psychology in 1965 from Georgetown University.

Brint says he wasn't involved in activist movements until after he left college. A turning point, perhaps, came in his senior year at Georgetown when he went with his brother, John, to Montgomery, Alabama, for the conclusion of the historic Selma to Montgomery civil rights march. Although he had attended the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington, it was the Selma march that advanced his thinking about racism in U.S. society. He credits his brother, John, and his sisters, Anne and Julie, with having a great influence on his early thinking about social injustice.


After leaving college, Brint joined VISTA and spent a year in Newark, New Jersey, as a community organizer in job training programs. Returning to Washington, he searched unsuccessfully for a job for many months before becoming a juvenile probation officer in Montgomery County. He helped organize a union in his department, and worked generally to try to keep out of prison those juveniles with whom he dealt.

In 1967, Brint and his brother, John, ran unsuccessfully on a civil rights and civil liberties platform for delegate seats to the

Maryland Constitutional Convention which had been called to rewrite the state's archaic constitution.

The following year Brint became director of Compeers, a metropolitan-wide activist organization. Under Brint's leadership, Compeers established anti-racism training for suburban teenagers, helped organize the grape boycott in the Washington metropolitan area for the United Farm Workers, and assisted in organizing local and national anti-war demonstrations and the Poor People's Campaign. Brint also spoke at some 20-30 high schools on anti-racism and anti-war issues.

Two of Compeers' major efforts were in helping form Suburban Teens Against Racism, and in creating in early



Lakota Studios

BRINT

LILIKA
"Well Done"
and
PILAMAYELO
"Thank You"

Love from your family in
Wounded Knee
the Cornelius' and Fresqueszes



Brint protesting recently at the South African Embassy where he goes several times a week to join in the continuing demonstrations against that country's racist apartheid system. Earlier this year, he was arrested at one of the demonstrations.

1969 Freedom House, an actual house in Bethesda where teenagers could come to organize anti-war, anti-racism and educational reform activities. Freedom House also served as a place to stay for teenagers in trouble.

While continuing his other activities, Brint decided to run for sheriff of Mont-

gomery County in 1970. That genteel suburban county has probably never seen a campaign quite like that one.

Running on a campaign to disarm law enforcement officers, to open up the jails, and to make a separate peace with the Viet Cong (Brint now refers to the latter proposal as "possibly an ill-advised tactic"),

WITH PRIDE AND OUR LOVE TO BRINT AND COMMITMENT TO THE GUILD'S UNRELENTING FIGHT FOR JUSTICE . . .

THE DILLINGHAMS

Rosemarie, Bill, Anne, Jane, Brinton, Paul, John, Julie, Tom, John C.,
Julie C., Judi, Jennifer and Shirley

Brint managed to pick up 10,300 votes—more than 20 percent of the ballots cast—in the Democratic primary against a well-entrenched incumbent, Ralph Offutt. (Naturally, one of Brint's slogans was "Get Offutt.")

One of the highlights of Brint's campaign was a sound truck which toured the county's streets and shopping centers, with Brint broadcasting such messages as, "Vote for Dillingham for sheriff. If you don't vote for Dillingham, then _____ you."

Perhaps the voters really liked Brint's campaign message, but they may also have been becoming aware that Brint was a gutsy, principled person who put his beliefs on the line. For during the 1969-71 period, Brint was arrested 13 times for anti-war and anti-racist activities—with about half of the arrests coming in the District of Columbia and the other half in his home county of Montgomery.

One of the arrests isn't on Brint's record, but he counts it anyway. After one major anti-war rally, which was followed by a demonstration in Georgetown against the then-planned construction of the Three Sisters Bridge, the police began sweeping through neighborhoods, dispersing and arresting activists. Brint plunked himself down in the street and assumed his best nonviolent position. Four cops struggled to pick him up and carry him to the paddy wagon—but to no avail. Finally, daunted by Brint's size, they gave up and left Brint sitting in the street. "That," says Brint, "is what I call being a heavy revolutionary."

Brint's best publicized arrest was for selling to a cop—outside the Bethesda police station—what Montgomery County police judged to be an obscene issue of *The Washington Free Press*. Brint had deliberately courted arrest after he heard that county police were confiscating copies of the underground paper from news stands.

In two tumultuous trials in 1969 (which featured youthful supporters of



Brint here portrays *Washington Post* publisher Katharine Graham's favorite union-buster, Larry Wallace, in a skit developed around the Local 6 pressmen's strike at the Post from 1975-1977. Students of the theater may recognize in this picture two other noted thespians, Jim Dugan and Chip Berlet.

Brint wearing pigs' heads and nun's outfits, walking across court benches and chanting words of support). Brint was convicted. Brint's lawyer, Joe Forer, appealed and the conviction was reversed the following year, sparing Brint a possible long jail sentence.

After his unsuccessful campaign for sheriff, Brint went on to organize D.C. area residents for the major May Day anti-war demonstration of 1971. After organizing for six months, Brint was arrested in the first hour of the demonstration for blocking Maine Avenue in the vicinity of the Southwest Freeway. He was among the 7,000 persons arrested on the first day, and among the 13,000 arrested in three days of demonstrations.

In 1971, Brint, working with attorney David Gespass, started the People's Law Institute, which went on to train hundreds of non-lawyers in a wide variety of law—divorce law, welfare rights law, con-

Brint,

In the Long run you'll be
a winner.

Grant, Jane, Lynn,
Randy, Patrice

the **Public Eye**

343 South Dearborn — Suite R18 — Chicago, Illinois 60604
a project of Citizens in Defense of Civil Liberties

**Dare to giggle,
Dare to grin**

"'Fuck 'em if they can't take a joke . . ."

—Brint Dillingham

Watching
the people
that are
watching
you...



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*For Selma Rein
and
Brint Dillingham*

PEOPLE LIKE YOU
Words and music
by Si Kahn

Old fighter, you sure took it on the chin
Where'd you ever get the strength to stand
Never giving up to giving in
You know I just want to shake your hand

Because people like you
Help people like me
Go on, go on
People like you
Help people like me
Go on, go on

Old battler, with a scar for every town
Thought you were no better than the rest
You wore your colors every way but down
All you ever gave us was your best

But you know that people like you
Help people like me
Go on, go on
People like you
Help people like me
Go on, go on

Old dreamer, with a world in every thought
Where'd you get the vision to keep on
You sure gave back as good as what you got
I hope that when my time is almost gone

They'll say that people like me
Helped people like you
Go on, go on
Because people like you
Help people like me
Go on, go on, go on

reprinted with permission
S. Kahn's album "Home".

Common Concerns

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sumer law, street law, prisoners' rights law. Brint wrote many people's law manuals which were distributed to National Lawyers Guild chapters around the country.

Both for the People's Law Institute and as a private investigator, Brint has done substantial research—and has written considerably—on police brutality. One major investigation Brint worked on as a volunteer was in support of Terrence Johnson, a black Prince George's County teenager who was charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of two Prince George's County policemen who had taken him into custody.

Johnson was acquitted of all of the charges in one of the deaths, but was convicted of manslaughter and a related gun charge in the other death. The convictions came despite evidence that Brint helped develop which supported Johnson's testimony that he had been beaten by police and feared he would be killed unless he fought back.



Brint demonstrating over delays in unemployment benefit payments.

More recently, Brint served as an investigator in the *Hobson v. Wilson* case in which D.C. activists sued the FBI and D.C. police—and won a judgment against the FBI—for spying on them in the 1960s and 1970s.

One of Brint's most significant achievements in the 1970s was in building the Maryland Coalition Against Patuxent, which included some 40 Maryland and District of Columbia organizations which opposed the injustice of the indeterminate



Brint's Record

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Record

(Faint handwritten notes)

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Print On the Issues

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NOTE FOR BRINT DILLINGHAM IN THE
SEPTEMBER 12 DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

from those who go before and
those who march with us we
gain strength to continue.

MAGGIO AND KATTAR, P.C.

*Dare to be a Brinton,
Dare to stand alone,
Dare to have a purpose,
Dare to make it known.*

The Foxes
Michael, Susan, Erin and Daniel Brinton

**The D.C. Statehood Party
Salutes Selma Rein
and Brint Dillingham
and our allies in the
National Lawyers Guild**

Honoring Brint Dillingham
and the memory of Selma Rein
for their long dedication to
Guild principles and objectives.

Ned Smokler
Detroit Chapter Member
and Advisory Board Member

**SELMA AND BRINT
Fighters for Peace and Justice**

*"... as life is action and passion, it is
required of a man that he should share
the passion and action of his time at peril
of being judged not to have lived."**

—Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

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Mary C. Dugan

*We know, we know. 1961 was a product of those times still with us
that also showed an oppression of women. The point is Selma lived.

sentences meted out to prisoners at the Patuxent Institution in Maryland. In many cases, people spent more time incarcerated at Patuxent than their original sentences called for because the law allowed the state to hold so-called "defective delinquents" for as long as it felt necessary to insure the inmates would commit no further crimes.

Through lobbying efforts led by Brint, the Maryland General Assembly did away with the provision that had permitted Patuxent officials to keep prisoners there beyond their original sentences.

Brint also worked extensively in the defense efforts of Local 6 union pressmen accused of damaging the *Washington Post* presses at the beginning of a strike in October 1975. He also assisted in defense and publicity work for the Wilmington 10, and in the late 1970s helped organize demonstrations around local labor issues. Throughout the 1970s, Brint also represented public employees at grievance hearings in Maryland.

From its founding by long-time National Lawyers Guild member Tim Coulter in 1978 to the present, Brint has worked for the Indian Law Resource Center as an investigator and researcher on human rights and energy-related cases. He has written for the *American Indian Journal* on a variety of subjects, including land rights, multinational development on Indian lands, sterilization of Indian women, and political prosecutions of Indian activists. In addition, he has written on government issues (both seriously and humorously) for *The Nation*, the *D.C. Gazette*, *Public Eye* and the *Takoma Park Newsletter*.



Brint and Rosemarie Dillingham

Brint also made one more foray into the electoral political thickets in 1978, running for the Democratic nomination for Congress in Maryland's 8th District. Brint's prediction—"Dillingham will win in a mudslide"—failed to materialize. An upstart named Michael Barnes soundly defeated Brint—despite campaign endorsements for Brint by both Superman and Mother Nature at a rousing rally at a Bethesda bar.

Brint has been active in other progressive candidates' campaigns in recent years, including work for the successful reelection of Takoma Park's Mayor, Sam Abbott, in 1983.

In January of this year, Brint was briefly back in a familiar place—the D.C. jail—after being arrested as part of the daily anti-apartheid demonstrations at the South African Embassy.

This arrest, and his long record of activism, show that Brint Dillingham—despite his new name—does indeed respect some things: justice, human rights, human dignity. And if fighting for these things can be done with a touch of humor and irreverence, well then so much the better.

