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In Memoriam: Denise Henderson, 1953-2003

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## This Kiss She Gave To All the World

by Rachel Douglas and Katherine Notley

Denise Henderson, who recently has been Book Reviews Editor for both *EIR* and *Fidelio*, but is better known to readers of the weekly newspaper *New Federalist* as a writer on American history and on Russia, died on Sept. 15. Denise, 50, was struck by a hit-and-run commercial mini-van as she crossed a major intersection in Washington, D.C. The driver has been charged with negligent homicide.

The passing of Denise is an incalculable loss for her friends, for the LaRouche movement internationally, and for our country. Her death coincides painfully, with the intense development by Lyndon LaRouche, in his writings, of the concept of community of interest among sovereign nation-states. Denise made it her special business to educate people about the contributions of President John Quincy Adams to the flourishing of that very idea. On Sept. 15, the day she died, LaRouche's beautiful new pamphlet, "The Sovereign States of the Americas," was released by his Presidential campaign, with its preface, "The Monroe Doctrine Today," illustrated with the portrait of John Quincy Adams (see *EIR*, Sept. 19, 2003).

Denise Marguerite Dempsey was born on June 20, 1953. Growing up in Suffolk County, Long Island, she attended public schools and thereafter, the State University of New York at Stony Brook, a hotbed of recruitment to the LaRouche movement in the early 1970s—and that is where Denise joined LaRouche's philosophical association, the International Caucus of Labor Committees. She had no patience for facile sloganeering, such as permeated campus politics in that era, so she put high demands on LaRouche activists who were recruiting her. "You can't just say that!" she would challenge them, demanding to see the reason behind an idea.

She organized in New York City, while working on *New Solidarity* semi-weekly newspaper and other LaRouche publications, in 1974-76 and again in the early 1980s. In between, Denise was an LaRouche organizer in Albany, New York. She went to Albany in 1977, as did Fred Henderson, whom she later married. The Albany organizing was the spearpoint of a successful international campaign by LaRouche's forces, which defeated the decriminalization of marijuana in New York State. New York was also the epicenter of the battle to block the takeover of U.S. banks by the

old drug-running British banks, starting with the British Empire's flagship of the Opium Wars, the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, which made a grab for New York's Marine Midland Bank in 1978.

During LaRouche's 1984 Presidential campaign, Denise organized in Philadelphia. Beginning in 1987, she worked in the national center of the LaRouche movement, in Leesburg, Virginia.

### A Tireless Worker

Denise took on dozens of jobs: She has been a mainstay of EIR News Service's work on the Soviet Union and Russia for 15 years. She wrote and edited for *New Federalist* and *EIR*. She regularly produced incisive book reviews, exposing frauds or bringing to our attention some overlooked gem.

She shouldered tasks others might have found too burdensome, with a zeal rooted in her grasp of their importance. When Lyndon LaRouche was incarcerated (1989-94), Denise made it her mission to produce speedy and accurate transcripts of his interviews, statements, and memos, tape-recorded over the phone. She became Editorial Assistant for the Schiller Institute quarterly *Fidelio* at its inception in 1992, to help prepare LaRouche's major, transcribed articles for publication.

We all remember Denise for her brilliant and intense intellect. She lived the life of ideas. We are indebted to her for her impassioned work on John Quincy Adams, whom she brought to life in her classes and groundbreaking articles. Among those were "John Quincy Adams and the Creation of America's Republican Leadership" (*New Federalist*, Sept. 8 and 15, 1989), and "John Quincy Adams, the Amistad Case, and the Idea of the Inalienable Rights of Man" (*New Federalist*, August 1998). She explored the struggle against slavery in the United States, beginning with the Founding Fathers and going through to the fight for a republican South after the Civil War.

She also wrote studies on well-known and little-known African-American and other heroes of the fight for "justice for all" in the United States: George Washington's staff officer David Humphries; Frederick Douglass; and O.O. Howard, including: "Frederick Douglass and the Lincoln Tradition," *New Federalist*, June 8, 1992; "How the Founding Fathers Fought for an End to Slavery," co-authored with Fred Henderson, *New Federalist*, March 15, 1993; "Gen. O.O. Howard's Fight for Education of the Freedmen," *New Federalist*, Feb. 15, 2003. She reviewed the biography of Robert Smalls, the "Gullah Statesman," whose niece is civil rights heroine Amelia Boynton Robinson, Vice Chairwoman of the Schiller Institute ("South Carolina Patriot Was a Reconstruction Hero," *EIR*, Aug. 23, 1996). Some of her articles can also be found on *New Federalist's* website, at [http://members.tripod.com/~american\\_almanac/intro.htm](http://members.tripod.com/~american_almanac/intro.htm).

Denise accomplished much of her work under conditions of health that would have laid most people low.

## A Poetic Soul

Having studied Classical Greek as well as Russian, Denise delved into poetry and language. She kept up the custom according to which literate people may address their friends in verse on their birthdays. Birthday poems, distichs scrawled on scraps of paper, translations—she left dozens in her own papers and with her friends, who treasure their verses from Denise. She loved Russian poetry: Alexander Pushkin, of course, but especially Mikhail Lermontov. At the time of her death, her article on Lermontov was in preparation for *Fidelio*.

At a 200th birthday celebration for Pushkin in 1999, she recited the famous letter to Eugene Onegin from the morally steadfast heroine, Tatyana. Denise loved to sing, enchanting her friends, singing “Il cor mi più non sento” and other songs in her high, sweet soprano.

Denise seemed to live in temporal eternity. She collaborated with people no longer living, be it John Quincy Adams or LaRouche associate Allen Salisbury, author of *The Civil War and the American System*, as if she had just been talking with them over supper. When she spoke of what “JQA” had said, it was as if she had been stargazing with him the night before, and was recounting their conversation.

During the past year, Denise felt stronger and better. She grasped her new “hat” as Review Editor with a zeal bespeaking both her vast knowledge and love of teaching, eagerly trading ideas with *EIR* editors and authors over the books they were assigned to review. She volunteered for increased organizing responsibilities within LaRouche’s 2004 Presidential campaign. She happily relaunched her work on John Quincy Adams, preparing classes for the LaRouche Youth Movement. For her 50th birthday, last June, her gift wish was for JQA’s *Lectures on Rhetoric and Oratory*.

Denise Henderson was buried on Sept. 23, 2003 at Union Cemetery in Leesburg, Virginia, not far from her fellow immortals, Allen Salisbury and Marianna Wertz.

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## In Memoriam

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# Iraqis and the World Mourn Patriarch Raphael I Bidawid

by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

The death of His Beatitude Raphael I Bidawid, Patriarch of Babylon of the Chaldeans, and spiritual leader of the Chaldean Catholic Church worldwide, was a heavy blow for the Iraqi population. His death, on July 7 in Beirut, Lebanon, is mourned by all.

Patriarch Bidawid was born in Mosul in 1922, and entered

the seminary there at the age of 11; from 1936-47, he studied at the Papal Colleges in Rome, where he was ordained in 1946. In 1947, he returned to Mosul to carry out his ministry with the Chaldean Catholics, of whom there are 1 million worldwide. In 1989, he was elected Patriarch of the Chaldeans.

His social and political activities sought to defend the integrity, sovereignty, independence, and dignity of all of Iraq’s people and their nation.

Shortly after Desert Storm, in 1991, Patriarch Bidawid joined with Dr. Hans Köchler of the International Progress Organization (IPO) of Vienna, and Helga Zepp-LaRouche of the Schiller Institute, to establish the Committee to Save the Children in Iraq, to organize regular shipments of medical equipment, medicine, and other humanitarian aid, for several years. It also arranged for Iraqi children, with war injuries to receive medical treatment in Germany and the United States. The Patriarchate in Baghdad was a distribution center for the food, particularly powdered milk, which the Committee delivered to Iraq.

The Patriarch was an outspoken opponent of the sanctions which had devastated Iraq, killing especially its elderly and very young. Despite intense pressure—slanders said he was a “servant of the regime”—he untiringly denounced the aggression against his country as genocide. During a visit to the Vatican in 1991, he said: “These [coalition] nations should feel pretty guilty. It was a vendetta, a shame for humanity.” In April 2001, he similarly criticized the Israelis, saying, “The Jews who suffered repression under Hitler—who said force was always right—are today applying the same policy against Palestinians.”

Patriarch Bidawid worked energetically for Pope John Paul II’s trip to Ur, the birthplace of Abraham, the father of the monotheistic religions; but it was sabotaged by the warhawks in Washington.

Schiller Institute members visiting Baghdad always visited him. This extraordinarily learned man—he had mastered nearly a dozen languages, and catalogued the ancient Chaldean manuscripts—was equally eager to discuss political developments, and to learn from others. He avidly read *EIR*, and had the highest regard for the writings of Lyndon LaRouche, whom he considered America’s hope. Patriarch Bidawid’s unwavering commitment to his nation was a source of moral strength, for Iraqis and all people of good will: We have lost an irreplaceable friend.



*Patriarch Raphael I Bidawid*