

NVM/p13/2003/29

4/4/91

Dear Selena,

I hope the enclosed helps.

One day, things will be put into
perspective again.

I'll write again.

Amanda!

Donna

870-2325
Kevin Brown
of
Joe Butti

March 21, 1991

Resources Statement

*Given to Public
Assistance in
New York*

From July, 1982 to October 5, 1990 I consistently worked as a legal assistant in San Francisco, California, supporting myself and, for a few years, an adult child. On October 12, 1991, I moved to New York.

In March 1990 I met Dr. Robert Starling Pritchard, who represented himself as a documented international altruist, in San Francisco. Pritchard took great interest in a book I am co-authoring with a civil rights activist in South Africa, Naz Gool-Ebrahim. The book-in-progress is entitled Rare Blooms On A Forgotten Continent. The non-fiction work covers "Colored" oppression in South Africa as seen through the eyes of two women historical figures. After I had made three trips to Pritchard's "Applecrest" in Baldwinsville, that allegedly houses two foundations, Pritchard invited me to become a writer-in-residence with the Kahre-Richardes Family Foundation, in order to work with an editor at Applecrest (Antoine Polgar) and complete the book. (See Attachment A.) I was additionally invited to participate in a World Tour (the Festival Sankofa-Masianoke) that would help to promote the book. I was to be one of the facilitators with the Writers Forum of the Festival. (See Attachment B.) Two of my cross-country airline trips were for meetings around the Festival, which other artists attended.

I accepted Pritchard's invitations, sold most of my personal property in San Francisco (i.e., furniture, etc.), and shipped approximately 25 boxes of personal property to Baldwinsville in order to complete the book and participate in the Festival. The Festival was to begin February 11, 1991 in Cotonou, Benin. (See Attachment C.) I was to be paid a monthly amount while working on the book, and paid for participating in the Festival.

When I arrived in New York, I had plenty of money to support myself, but told Pritchard I could work part-time in Syracuse while additionally working on the book. I thought the foundation was having financial difficulties. He told me that "won't be necessary. Just bear with me for about a month." I asked about working outside of Applecrest because I wanted to make certain my bills were kept up-to-date. There was never any forthcoming money from Pritchard. As a matter of fact, he "borrowed" money from me, which was never repaid. Upon arrival, I bought food for the entire household of approximately 16 people. Eventually, residents began to steal from me. Then Pritchard told me dangerous criminals were living in the household. I fled Applecrest, with very little of my money left, in the early morning hours on February 6, and then contacted Vera House, a

shelter for battered women and women in crisis. I have been at Vera House since the above date.

I want to return to California, but I have no resources to do so. Nor can I ship my personal property, that is still in New York, to California. An addendum to the above is that my daughter and her male companion were additionally to participate in the Festival Sankofa-Masianoke. They were scheduled to come to Applecrest just days before I fled. They had moved out of their apartment, shipped their boxes to Baldwinsville via UPS and then found themselves homeless because of my decision to flee Applecrest. There were no other choices for me. Pritchard had completely misrepresented himself, his staff and other residents. The atmosphere there is emotionally abusive, physically threatening and dangerously bizarre. Further, Pritchard protects criminals. Obviously, New York's judicial and political systems do too.

Donna R. Brenneis

Donna R. Brenneis
P.O. Box 365
Syracuse, New York 13209

March 28, 1991

Mr. Matthew Spina
Herald Journal
P.O. Box 4915
Syracuse, NY 13221

Dear Mr. Spina:

Several weeks ago I called you two or three times to request copies of your May 1990, two-part, investigative piece on Robert Pritchard, with no luck. I am a Californian and wanted to send copies of your article to some people on the west coast. Had I read your findings last year, I would not have accepted Pritchard's invitation to become a writer-in-residence with the Kahre-Richardes Family Foundation at Applecrest, primarily because I would have begun my own inquiries. That aside, before leaving New York I will make copies of your article at the library. To be clear about any of my written material, and considering Robert's "staff," "old" friends, loose acquaintances, etc., I realize that the truth is the defense.

I was introduced to Pritchard by his cousin, Dr. Leo Kimbrough, in San Francisco, March 1990. Dr. Kimbrough knew about my project (see enclosed statement and letter for minor details), and was quite insistent I meet his cousin. For months, Leo expressed only praise for Robert. With my background and Leo's input, deceit never would have entered my mind's eye. Unknown to me in March, Pritchard immediately began a con with our first meeting in California. During the latter, Robert introduced two men as members of his "staff," Bill Ruidl and Tomas Pedamo. (See my "Resources Statement" to Public Assistance, explaining some results of my first encounter with Robert.)

After nearly four months at Applecrest, I fled in the early morning hours of February 6, with very little money left. I have lived in California all of my life, and knew no one in the Syracuse vicinity. I do not know what my plight would have been without Vera House. Eventually, a staff member at the shelter photocopied your article for me and others. It helped in my efforts to understand the maze invented by Pritchard. Due to Robert's methods of creating a threatening atmosphere at Applecrest, inter alia, I was concerned for my safety. The latter fact ultimately led me to the FBI, District Attorney's office, State and Baldwinsville police.

Your conscientious article struck a nauseous chord in me because of its descriptive accuracy regarding Applecrest and two residents. However, the term "cult leader" and labels Robert (not others) has chosen for himself like "drug lord," "CIA agent" and "communist" elevate him too much. His use of euphemisms serve him, because they contribute to the myth he weaves around himself. I have not heard one Central New Yorker, who knows, knows of, or who is acquainted with, call Robert what he is. Local residents who refer to him as a "jerk" and a "joke" only, which are truisms, really dismiss the serious financial and emotional effects he has had, still has, and will continue to have on others.

Though a local Assistant District Attorney quickly succeeded in the return of my personal property from Robert, some in the D.A.'s office can, on occasion, act as though Robert is a jerk and/or joke. It is difficult to refrain from stereotyping any Syracuse Assistant D.A. when individual behavior and attitudes cry out to be stereotyped. Moreover, if the D.A.'s office is not investigating Pritchard in connection with a hefty Syracuse robbery allegedly committed by Tomas Pedamo, then my question must be, why not? Until arrested in Vermont by the FBI, Pedamo visited Applecrest 3-4 times while I was there. Pedamo is also wanted for a robbery he allegedly committed in California.

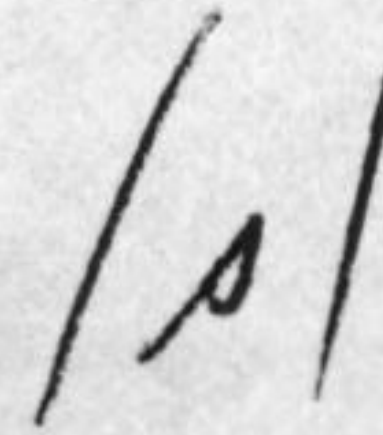
As previously stated, and based on conversations, generally local residents do not describe Robert accurately. He is emotionally abusive, a thief, con man, pathological liar, devotes a large percentage of his time to character assassinations, thinks he has mastered projection, and survives without a conscience. (Your article references interviews with two doctors as I recall. I assume you know one of the results of porfiria. I have had only one reliable source (not Kimbrough) on the west coast research Robert's disease. Obviously, I need more. However, if additional sources confirm this result, then perhaps all terms and descriptions are moot. I have my own feelings concerning what might be the consequences of Robert's illness.) I will not cover the web of lies that Pritchard, his entourage, and Antoine Polgar told me, nor the severe emotional abuse Robert orchestrates at Applecrest. But, seemingly, Robert's intent was to use me (as well as a prominent civil rights activist in South Africa) to authenticate himself and make money. As an aside, I do agree Robert always uses mind alteration techniques, as does his obedient "staff." Something finally obvious to me.

Thanks again for your informative and skillful piece, though restrained. If I knew you, I would ask what about East Coast Marketing and the Roger Scott connection? For

starters. Perhaps someday someone will dig deep enough to find something that will indite Robert for more than second- and third-degree grand larceny, etc., etc. (I see his entire Applecrest crew as equally culpable.) Money has to come from somewhere. The printing business on the premises appears to be minimal by my standards, and not likely to cover household expenses.

Enclosed are my letter to Governor Cuomo and Resources Statement, with enclosures.

Sincerely,



Donna R. Brenneis

DRB/drb
Enclosures

cc: Naz Ebrahim

Donna R. Brenneis
P.O. Box 365
Syracuse, New York 13209

February 23, 1991

Honorable Mario Cuomo, Governor
State of New York
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

In March 1990 I met Dr. Robert Starling Pritchard on the West Coast. (He is the publisher of the infrequently published newspaper The Impartial Citizen.) Three months later, Dr. Pritchard invited me to become a writer-in-residence, under the Kahre-Richardes Family Foundation, at the Two Foundations at "Applecrest," Baldwinsville, New York. Here, I was to complete a two-author book dealing with "Colored" oppression in South Africa. The non-fiction work is seen through the eyes of two women who are historical figures in the country. The story belongs to Naz Ebrahim of Cape Town. I moved nearly 25 boxes of personal property from San Francisco, California to Applecrest in October 1990. Nearly four months later I fled because of Dr. Pritchard's misrepresentation of himself, his staff, other Applecrest residents and the environment. Robert Pritchard promotes a physically threatening, emotionally abusive and dangerously bizarre setting at Applecrest. I left early one morning with one bag, my purse and \$30.00. Faced with unfamiliar and unsafe streets, without contacts, the terror of my situation was (and still is) beyond language.

Through a miracle, the Women's Resource Network referred me to Vera House, a shelter for women in crisis (predominantly battered women) in Syracuse. I was accepted into, at last, a safe, clean, secure and supportive atmosphere. Eventually I learned Dr. Pritchard and his staff have remained free in New York to con, threaten and terrorize people for many years. Equally distressing was my discovery, from observations at Vera House, that New York's law enforcement (which is supposed to be crime prevention across the nation) does less than minimum to assist brutally abused women. From my experience, the exception to a disinterested and uninformed police force is the Baldwinsville Police Department. Their efforts to assist me with the return of my personal property have been exemplary. A fact that is apparently consistent.

Governor Mario Cuomo

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February 23, 1991

I write to you because of your personal and political endorsement of the Crime Victims Board. New York's 1991-92 proposed budget cuts for domestic violence programs represent a 60% decrease. From \$3 million to \$1.2 million. As a destitute woman in New York, presently living among dangerously abused women with children, the proposal is a terrifying one. It is additionally unconscionable, and reveals the legislators' profound lack of knowledge concerning the realities with which thousands of women are faced in your state alone. Clearly, and generally, women are not as economically, judicially, personally and politically safe as elected officials. If the deep cut in funding is passed, there is no doubt desperately needed programs will be closed. I am only one of thousands of women in New York who is presently safe because there are open safe houses. I am pleading with you, begging in fact, to not reverse gains the Battered Women's Movement has attained.

On a separate issue, I also understand deep financial cuts are proposed for the Division of Youth (DFY), which provides broad services to children and adolescents affected by domestic and dating violence, respectively. At one point in U.S. history the youth represented tomorrow's hope. How can any of us truly believe the latter is still a possibility for a large percentage of our younger population? Please do not allow the loss of DFY funds to eliminate mandatory services that New York's children and adolescents deserve. Surely, the State Constitution holds similar promises as the U.S. Constitution.

Governor Cuomo, in 1984 I worked quietly with a Jerry Brown committee during the San Francisco Democratic Convention. As a Californian, I knew little of you until I heard the memorable address you delivered at that historical convention. It remains one of the most moving speeches I have ever heard. I am 48 years old. I hope time has not changed your commitments, ethics and standards as exemplified in your 1984 address.

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Governor Mario Cuomo
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February 23, 1991

Please treat this request and the thousands more I know you must be receiving with urgency and compassion. Women (and their children) were not born to be abused and victimized repeatedly on the personal, economic, political and judicial levels. Yet, thousands of women in New York continue to experience this grim and senseless reality.

Sincerely,


Donna R. Brenneis

/drb

cc: Honorable Nancy Lorraine Hoffman
Timothy D. Paul, Police Administrator, Baldwinsville
Victoria M. Anthony, Ass't. District Attorney, Syracuse
Catherine M. Abate, Chair, Crime Victims Board
Naz Ebrahim, Cape Town, South Africa

FOUR STAR BOND
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PANAMERICAN ASSOCIATION

Administrator of the African-American History Month (Formerly Black History Month) Founder's Commission
and The 1991-1993 Dumile-Pritchard Touring Festival Sankofa-Mašianoke

"Applecrest" • P.O. Box 143 • Baldwinsville, New York 13027 • Tel. (315) 638-7379



ANC EXILES
TO RETURN TO SOUTH AFRICA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24 October 1990

WINNIE MANDELA CALLS ON BLACK HISTORY MONTH FOUNDER TO SUPPORT EMERGENCY REFUGEE APPEAL

At no time heretofore has the international community's commitment to the end of Apartheid in South Africa and the establishment of a non-racial democracy been more challenged than TODAY, as tens of thousands of refugees return home for repatriation and resettlement.

At no time in the history of the ANC's struggle has the leadership of that world-wide organization been challenged more than TODAY to assume responsibility for its compatriots-of-colour under the dire circumstances of an impending initial influx of 3,000 refugees who cannot depend on the white minority Apartheid South African Government to either welcome them home or provide for their needs.

At no time in the outstanding history of American support of the ANC's Independence Struggle is American moral leadership required more than TODAY, when even a biblical widow's mite financial contribution to the ANC's Department of Social Welfare is a contribution to PEACEFUL CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

These were the key points of a consensus reached in the wee hours of the morning by members of the Board of Directors, Staff, Career and Student-Interns at "Applecrest," the English Tudor Estate Headquarters of the Panamerican/Panafrican Association, Inc. (the Baldwinsville, N.Y.-based Cultural, Educational and Economic Exchange Foundation), following an eleventh-hour meeting earlier on October 21 with Mrs. Winnie Mandela in Boston.

In response to an unexpected telephone invitation from Mrs. Mandela, Concert Pianist-Composer and African-American History Month Founder Robert Starling Pritchard, as Chairman of the Panamerican/Panafrican Association, his staff and student-interns, and members of the ANC Cultural Committee of the USA and Canada, met in Boston with Mrs. Mandela in her capacity as Head of the ANC's Department of Social Welfare.

Among the Social Welfare Programmes under Mrs. Mandela's responsibility is the creation of Emergency Transit Reception Centers to provide returning refugees with individual and family counseling, health care, skills assessment and employment training, transportation and relocation assistance. The returnees are estimated as numbering from 22,000 to 40,000.

Contributions are urgently needed to:

- Acquire space for the transit sites where returnees will arrive for reception, documentation, health examination and counseling by social workers;
- Provide temporary accommodations for refugees whose families were uprooted during their absence by forced removals;
- Provide transportation assistance to refugees to their final destinations;
- Provide resources for continuing education and training facilities for skills which a new South Africa requires.

Following his meeting with Mrs. Mandela, Dr. Pritchard pledged his assistance in bringing the critical needs of the South African refugee resettlement programme to the attention of the American public. "On behalf of the Panamerican/Panafrican Association, Inc., I respectfully urge all American citizens to contribute generously to this effort. Your gifts will represent an enduring investment in South Africa's peaceful transition from Apartheid to Freedom, Justice and Liberty for all."

Contributions may be sent to: The Panamerican/Panafrican Association, Inc., P.O. Box 143, Baldwinsville, NY 13027. Please indicate that you wish your contribution to be earmarked for South African Refugee Resettlement.

— 30 —

Gifts and contributions to the Panamerican/Panafrican Association, Inc. are tax deductible.