Response

Judyth Weaver’s Commentary on Marjorie Huebner’s review
The Life and Teachings of Elsa Gindler

By:
Marjorie Huebner
Rosen Method Bodywork practitioner
Rosen Method Movement Teacher Trainer
Authentic Movement Facilitator
Minneapolis, Minnesota
wren@mm.com

Thank you Judyth, for taking time to read and comment on my review of The Life and Teachings of Elsa Gindler. I can see from your investigations that the information we assumed was correct about the Gindler/Heyer/Rosen connection hasn’t been substantiated. It reminds me of family “stories” that have been passed down generation to generation that may have some truth, but also may not be true at all. This knowledge may change our ideas of the exact lineage of influence for Marion Rosen and, at the same time, it doesn’t change our understanding that there is resonance between the work of Elsa Gindler and Marion Rosen. I appreciate your honesty and efforts to set the record straight and your willingness to upset what we have thought was “gospel” about who influenced Marion’s work. Living from the truth is what Rosen is founded on. So if the truth brings less clarity, so be it.

What makes it challenging about investigating these connections between Marion Rosen and Elsa Gindler, in part, comes from the disruption and destruction of WWII, the diaspora of Jews and others from Europe, language differences and then the passing of time and the loss of people who lived at that time. This makes me appreciate all the work going into the Marion Rosen Film Project. It is important to gather information from Marion while she is with us in body.

How did the connections between Marion Rosen’s work and Elsa Gindler’s teaching happen? It makes me wonder about how we get information. How does consciousness and awareness come through “the times,” culture, and society. How do people arrive at similar ideas through explorations unconnected from one another? What is universal about being a human being and is this how we arrive at similar ideas? One of the points I tried to make in my article is that much of what happened in Europe during that era influenced the world of psychology, movement, art and bodywork. How that happened is indeed complex.

I’m so glad you spoke up about the meeting of Marion Rosen and Charlotte Selver, and that there is a video of that meeting. I have contacted the Berkeley Center to see if they can find the VHS of the meeting of Marion Rosen, Charlotte Selver and Ilse Middendorf at CIIS on May 3, 1992. Gloria Hesselund and Sara Webb are checking the archives. If it can be found they agree that it should be preserved on a DVD. I’m waiting to hear what they discover.

I agree with you that what is most important is that “we are working for the benefit and wholeness of human beings,” and that who influenced whom isn’t as important as bringing this presence into the world. And do I think it is important to honor those who have come before us, knowing we are always supported by what came before us. Alice Walker said it well, “And so our mothers and grandmothers have, more often than not anonymously, handed on the creative spark, the seed of the flower they themselves never hoped to see—or like a sealed letter they could not plainly read” [http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/a/alicewalke408670.html].