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### **Self Portrait: 29 Questions for Marion Rosen**

This interview took place one evening during the summer residential at The Institute of Noetic Sciences, July 2009. The sun had just gone down over the hills, and it was getting pretty chilly on the deck outside the conference room. We could not go in, because there was practicing going on for the upcoming talent show, 2 days later, when Marion's 95th birthday would be celebrated.

To shorten the waiting time, I decided to ask Marion a couple of questions. She seemed happy and relaxed and was very willing to participate in this impromptu interview. The questions are based on the famous "questionnaire" of Marcel Proust, the 19th Century French author of "Remembrance of Things Past".

Q1: How is your present state of mind?

A: Comfortable.

Q2: Who are your heroes?

A: Amelia Earhart, the Dalai Lama, Ammachi.

Q3: Whom do you get annoyed with?

A: Clingy people, people who keep hanging on to me.

Q4: Do you look like your father?

A: No, well, maybe a bit. My eyes. But luckily I got my mother's nose.

Q5: What are your daydreams?

A: That I live long enough to see my great-grandchildren

Q6: What is your biggest fear?

A: To be an invalid, and to be dependent on anybody.

Q7: Did you ever have a mystical experience?

A: Yes, a very wonderful one. It was the day before the Kristallnacht; the night when the Nazi's burned the Reichstag and many men were picked up and killed I was studying Mensendieck at the time and had fallen asleep late that night. I had a dream, where I saw the face of a woman on the sky. She told me not to worry, that I would be looked after. I have felt protected forever since that. Now I see it all the time.

Q8: Are you attractive?

A: Soso.

Q9: Do you pray?

A: Yes, very often.

Q10: What is your definition of happiness?

A: That the things you like, are just how things are.

Q11: What are you ashamed of?

A: I used to be ashamed of my big feet

Q12: Are you monogamous?

A: Yes.

Q13: When was the last time you cried?

A: The last time I cried...hmmm. I can't remember. Oh yes, yesterday.

Q14: Do you look like your friends?

A: No, I don't look like my friends. I can't say.

Q15: If you could change something about yourself, what would it be?

A: I would walk better.

Q16: Who is your greatest love?

A: Hard to say, my grandson, I think.

Q17: From whom did you learn the most?

A: I learned the most from Mrs. (Lucy) Heyer. And from my father.

Q18: What is your biggest vice?

A: I don't know, I don't perceive the faults (in myself) that other people might see.

Q19: When were you happiest?

A: Maybe after I got to know Hans Axelson, and started working with him.

Q20: Which quality do you appreciate in a man?

A: Truthfulness.

Q21: Which quality do you appreciate in a woman?

A: Caring.

Q22: What do you consider your biggest failure?

A: I always wanted to be married and have 7 children.

Q23: Do you believe in God?

A: Yes.

Q24: Whom are you most attached to?

A: My family.

Q25: How do you relax?

A: I sit in a chair, and look at nature.

Q26: How can one avoid misfortune?

A: To stay aware.

Q27: Whom do you never hope to see again?

A: I refuse to say.

Q28: What is the best place to live?

A: Berkeley! (CA)

Q29: What is your motto?

A: Live and let live.

The interview over, we all hurried inside to warm up, and made some music.

Jetta Van Hemert, *Rosen Method Bodywork Practitioner and Movement Teacher (November 2, 2009)*