

**The Graduate School and University Center**  
of the City University of New York

Center for the Study of Women and Society / Box 135-192  
Graduate Center: 33 West 42 Street, New York, N.Y. 10036-8099  
212 642-2954

September 26, 1991

Mr. Peter Harris  
Supervisor, Educational Resources  
Graduate Center, CUNY

Dear Mr. Harris:

This letter is to introduce Wilhelmina Orozco. Ms. Orozco is a Visiting Scholar at the Center for the Study of Women and Society for the 1991-1992 academic year. Could you please arrange an I.D. card for her for this time period?

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

*Sue Rosenberg Zalk*  
Sue Rosenberg Zalk, Ph.D.  
Director

WILHELMINA S. OROZCO  
89 Kapiligan Street  
Araneta Subdivision  
Quezon City  
PILIPINAS

2 October 1991

Dr. Sue Rosenberg Zalk  
Director  
Center for the Study of Women and Society  
City University of New York

Dear Dr. Zalk,

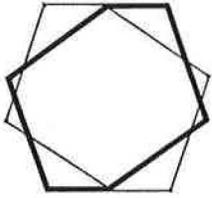
First of all, I would like to thank you for having invited me to speak about the feminist literacy project which we are conducting among the urban poor women of Tondo, Manila. The symposium gave me a chance to interact with other women of similar concerns and to interest them as well with our own aspirations.

Secondly, I wish to conduct research and finish writing the primer on Women and Cooperativism which I am doing for our organization, Makamasa. In this regard, could you help me gain access to libraries and research centers in the State of New York?

I would appreciate very much your help in this regard.

In sisterhood,

WILHELMINA OROZCO  
Coordinator, MAKAMASA



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October 4, 1991

Dean Solomon Goldsetin  
Dean of Research and University Programs  
Graduate School and University Center

Dear Dean Goldstein: *Sol*

I have enclosed a curriculum vitae and research proposal from Wilhelmina S. Orozco. Ms. Orozco is requesting an appointment as a Visiting Scholar to the Center for the Study of Women and Society for the Fall, 1991 semester.

Ms. Orozco runs a literacy program for elderly women in Tondo, Phillipines, the largest slum area in Asia. I invited her to the United States to discuss her project at an international symposium we sponsored on September 20-21, 1991. I have enclosed a program of the symposium for your information.

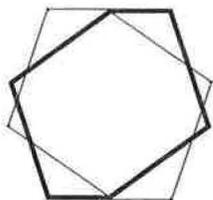
Ms. Orozco has written several books. She is currently writing a book on Women and Cooperatives and gathering materials for a feminist literacy project of the women's organization she belongs to in the Phillipines.

The Center's Board and I support Ms. Orozco's appointment to the Center as a Visiting Scholar, without compensation. I look forward to hearing from you about this appointment.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Sue Rosenberg Zalk, Ph.D.  
Director



**The Graduate School and University Center**  
of The City University of New York

Office of the Dean for Research and University Programs / Box 500  
Graduate Center: 33 West 42 Street, New York, N.Y. 10036-8099  
212 642-2151

October 17, 1991

Ms. Wilhelmina S. Orozco  
89 Kapiligan Street  
Araneta Subdivision  
Quezon City  
Pilipinas

Dear Ms. Orozco:

Upon the recommendation of Dr. Sue Rosenberg Zalk, Director of our Center for the Study of Women and Society, I am delighted to appoint you as a Visiting Scholar to the Center for the Fall 1991 semester. Although the position provides no financial remuneration, you will have access to our facilities including that of our library. Your scholarship makes you very welcome indeed here at the Graduate School and University Center.

I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Solomon Goldstein  
Dean for Research and  
University Programs

hm

cc: Provost Steven M. Cahn  
Professor Sue Rosenberg Zalk ✓

4 February 1992

Dear Sue,

First of all, I wish to thank you for having invited me to the symposium and your party. I really learned a lot from the first, and enjoyed the next.

The tapes are here already - four of them containing the proceedings. May I make a news report about it for WINGS or the Women's International NewsGathering Service, based in Kansas City which farms it to various radio stations all over this country and outside.

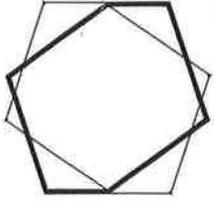
Attached herewith is the revised proposal I made to the Hunter College for a research on the Media Portrayal of American and Philippine Women and Its Relationship to the Political Directions of the Women's Movements During the Period of American Colonization of the Philippines, 1898-1946.

May I request your letter of recommendation for the same. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,



WILHELMINA OROZCO



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*file*  
*file*

12 February 1992

Sue Rosenberg Zalk, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Center for the Study of Women and Society  
City University of New York

Dear Sue,

I would like to express my greatest thanks for the wonderful experience of working with you and the staff, Marie, Gina and Margaret. The moral and other support that I got from the Center have been very helpful indeed in making my stay here productive as a writer and videomaker of women's issues and problems. The following have been my accomplishments during my five months stay in New York through your help:

1. Production and editing of the two videos: Truth in Imane and Alice Speaks: Who Do I Talk To? which I edited at the CUNY Audio Visual Resources. My thanks also go to Foster Henry and Peter Harris. Foster was encouraging especially during the initial stages of the editing process.
2. Writing of articles on women: Manjula Giri, Anne Walker and the International Women's Tribune, the Symposium we had in September, Alice Cardona, and Gender, Ethnicity and Women's Health Agenda in the 21st Century, and Ellen Stewart, La Mama ETC.
3. Networking with various women's groups and film collectives as the International Women's Tribune Center, Women Make Movies, Women's International Resource Exchange, NY State Division for Women, Amauan Multi-Arts Center, Women of Color Collective, and Downtown Community TV Center, Media Network.
4. Viewing of different products of experimental theatre at La Mama ETC. courtesy of Ms. Ellen Stewart who also gave me accommodations.
5. Viewing of women's videos at Women Make Movies
6. Coordination of the Myth of Our Power: A Festival of Filipino Women's Films from November 20 to December 8, 1991.
7. Participation in the workshop on kulintang performance (kulintang is a musical instrument composed of a set of gongs and popularly played in Mindanao, down south of the Philippines.)

8. Visit to Laubach Literacy International in Syracuse, NY to meet with Kathleen Kelly and Lin Newman, coordinators of Literacy programs allied to our feminist literacy project under MAKAMASA.

9. Campaigning through letter writing on the case of the imprisoned on trumped up charges, Filipina Susan Sy-Guillermo at Morristown County, New Jersey

10. Production of two literacy primers, **Kabaro, Mag-Koop Tayo! Women and Cooperatives** and **Huwag Gamitin Ang Kamao! (Don't Use the Fist: Women and Violence)**, and other leaflets on women's issues.

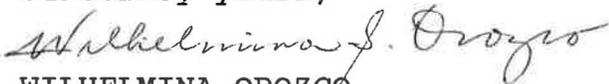
There may be other activities I have not mentioned. Let me say though that because of the openness of your office to my needs as a writer, for example, your lending me the keys, the use of the computer, printer, duplicating machine, the telephone, and communication systems as the telephone and mailing, I have been encouraged to be prolific as a writer and as an artist.

I would like to mention also that Gina, Marie and Margaret were also all great in terms of teaching me how to operate the computer using the Word Perfect program, conveying to me the messages from other parties, and so many other intangible and priceless help I would not easily have gathered from a First World city. *Also Manjula was just morally encouraging also.*

I hope that I could return to New York to do another round of meaningful women's activities. Also I expect that you would come and visit my country so that I could return some of the same favours to you when you visit my country despite our meager resources. Is it possible for you to program visits to my country in the future so that in turn you can experience how our women members and I live? I tell you, our beaches are as great as St. Thomas' Islands.

Once again, thank you very much. Mabuhay kayong lahat! (Long Live!)

Sincerely yours,



WILHELMINA OROZCO

Coordinator, MAKAMASA

119 Sta. Elena Street, Bloke 2, Magsaysay Village, Tondo, Manila  
Residence: 89 Kapiligan Street, Araneta Subdv., QC, PILIPINAS

# MAKAMASA

Pahayagan ng mga Kasapi ng Makabayang Kababaihan ng Masa

\*\*\*\*\*  
Tomo 1 Bilang 3/ Abril-Hunyo 1992/ Maynila, Pilipinas



## Women celebrate March 8

Tondo, Manila. MAKAMASA WOMEN celebrated International Women's Day at Happyland, Tondo, a community settlement standing on Manila Bay. The coordinator, Ester Caingles, spoke on the need to be economically self-reliant. Marcela Farola gave a background on MAKAMASA and what it aims at at present, which is literacy for women - to empower them. Lota one of the learners, rendered a song full of pain over a playboy lover. The daughter of Fely Capelar, another learner, performed a dance number together with her friend. Wilhelmina O. sang a song about a prostitute who has to dance her way to freedom after being arrested by police officers. Another learner decried the situation of Happyland whereby she cannot even talk continuously without a fly trying to land in her mouth. Garbage has been continually dumped beside their community creating mountains of waste so attractive to flies and mosquitoes. The last part of the program was a skit performed by the Happyland women, about a woman who desires to attend the literacy classes but gets beaten up and battered by her husband instead. Together the women coach her how to fight back.

## Mindorenas learn about Feminism and Coops

Naujan, Oriental Mindoro. MAKAMASA recently held a basic feminist course for rural women here in this coastal town. Mindoro Island is located in Southern Luzon. It is accessible by bus, boat and jeep from Manila the rides taking about 8-10 hours. Ester Caingles of Happyland Tondo and Wilhelmina Orozco, coordinator conducted the course together with Mandy Mipo of the Center for Women's Resources.

They spoke on the process of socialization which brings about the subordination of women, the need for understanding of feminism, and cooperativism. Ester gave an account of how they started the coop in Happyland, and how it is running successfully now. They started the coop, she said, by just contributing one peso everyday. Now they are able to buy and sell basic commodities such as soap, lard, matches, condiments, and others. Through a loan from MAKAMASA, they were able to buy rice and sell it per kilo to members and other interested community people who find their prices lower than the prevailing market rates. Ester proudly said that their lard costing one peso can already cook vegetables.



One interesting sidelight of the seminar was when the women were asked to compare the tasks of the mothers and the fathers at home. The women's tasks are geared for

everybody's satisfaction, it seemed. The men's activities, on the other hand, are mostly for themselves. Women cited the following as their partners' activities from waking time: rinse their mouth; caress the feather of the cock; gamble; gather firewood, watch television; etc. The women's tasks centered on filling up the needs of the children and the husband, through cooking, setting the table, washing and ironing clothes, and tending to the needs of the husband at night, as well, among others.

Nanay Romualda de la Torre offered her place as seminar venue and provided the seminar participants with sumptuous meals at a very low cost. She also gave shelter to the trainers in her all nipa spacious hut situated beside her huge pig-gery project.

Participants to the seminar were the following: Nemia C. Abes, Miling Andaya, Enya B. Belano, Adelina J. Cabrera, Amelia Canarias, Jovita Canarias, Nellie Garing, Juliet J. Ilaog, Filipinas Jong, Baby Rocal, Apolonia S. Sarmiento, Edith Sarmiento, Yolly A. Tolentino, Jean R. Viray, Martina Rino, Lourdes J. Ylagan. Second day participants were Lina Garing and Eustaquia C. Acinas.

### **Bagmaking for a Living**

Magsaysay Village. An income generating project of MAKAMASA is the production of bags. Edna Farola, a high speed sewer in a clothes factory, makes these bags using native cloths and materials, as much as possible. Her bags are all sold out when sent to market, usually at offices of women's groups such as the Institute for Women's Studies of St. Scholastica, and the Women's Resource and Research Center. Edna is now finishing more bags for sale to church groups.



### **Trining Loses Hut as Smokey Mountain Goes up in Smoke**

Smokey Mountain. Trinidad Cantiga, the literacy trainer of Happyland underwent a harrowing experience recently. Her house containing all that she had saved for through these years such as a television set, a stereophonic radio, and all other valuables in her small wooden hut got burned down along with the other hundreds of huts of the residents of Smokey Mountain, the former huge garbage dumping ground of the government for the wastes of MetroManila.

A Chinese sympathizer, Philip Tan, a neighbour of another member, gave Trining P200.00. Peter G. gave her some plywood to add to her building materials for her hut while other MAKAMASA members contributed in cash and kind to Trining.

### **Trustee Quitco-Caccam Visits Magville and Happyland**

Magsaysay Village. A member of the board of trustees of MAKAMASA, Gloria Quitco Caccam recently visited the Tondo women to see for herself their actual conditions. She gave away some goods, clothing and shoes which will be included in the rummage sale of MAKAMASA sometime in July.

## **RECENT VISITORS OF MAKAMASA: MABUHAY!**

- \* LOT FELIZCO of OXFAM
- \*
- \* LYNN CURTIS of Laubach Literacy
- \* International and his son, CHAT.
- \*
- \*\*\*\*\*

**Kindly send your articles  
comments and/or suggestions to:**

**The Editor**  
119 Sta. Elena St, Block 2  
Magsaysay Village, Tondo, Manila, Pilipinas  
Tel No. 712.27.10/ Pocketbell 722.27.11  
ID No. 1004955.



# MAKAMASA

## TONDO WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

119 STA. ELENA ST.  
BLOKE II, MAGSAYSAY VILLAGE  
TONDO, MANILA, PHILIPPINES  
8 August 1992

Residential address:  
89 Kapiligan Street  
Araneta Subdivision, QC  
PILIPINAS/ Tel. 712.27.10

Dr. Sue Rosenberg-Zalk  
Executive Director  
Center for the Study of Women and Society  
City University of New York  
33 West 42nd Street  
NY, NY 100836

Dear Sue,

Hello! I hope you and the stff- Gina, Margaret and Marie are well and hearty from the summer season.

We are experiencing the rains and typhoons here. Our place got flooded again, only a foot high. My car nearly got submerged, so everyday I have to bring it to a higher place. I don't really drive around with it much because gasoline is costly. The women of Tondo are used to wearing boots, crossing streets through wooden gangplanks. They also go hopping on jutting stones for a fee.

The women of Tondo are going into income generating proejects so that we can sell their products at Christmas bazaars. We are finding great difficulty looking for literacy teachers. Most of them are already working in government schools which also has one functional literacy teacher. So we are now replanning our strategies to make our program relevant to women's realities.

Thanks a lot for sending me the two boxes of materials. I really appreciate it. May I know what happened to the three watercolor paintings placed inside a carton roll? They were donated to MAKAMASA for sale here to raise funds for the printing of the literacy primer. I hope you could find them.

Attached are a newsletter of MAKAMASA and a copy of my article on consumerism citing you and Gina. It generated a response from the legislative sector requiring establishments to give change.

Here is wishing you all more political power. Will the Democrats win this time? Will they bring changes to women's lives?

Warm regards and love,

*Wilhelmina*

WILHELMINA OROZCO



# When customers complain

WOMEN bear the brunt of facing many business people in our country who seem to be more conscious of making profits rather than servicing the needs of their clients properly. They face these people, especially those from the service sector who always think in those terms, and who sacrifice courtesy, respect and proper handling of complaints of their customers in their dealings. Then, as they are immersed in that Philippine trait of wanting peace at all costs, women hardly complain, in the end contributing to this lack of attention to courteous service.

We have to look into this matter because it can be one major reason why our economy does not take off at all.

In the marketing sector, many groceries, department stores and bookstores are still not instilled with that habit of giving exact change. When confronted, the cashiers give a much bigger change and ask the customers to give them back the change or sometimes hint as they give away a coin, "What a small matter to quibble about!" But even a centavo can accumulate to a thousand considering the number of customers in a day.

We have gained so much in terms of goodwill because of the People Power Revolution but it seems some members of the business sector are not prepared to capitalize on that. As we women are the traditional

## Feminist Reflections

Wilhelmina Orozco



purse holders and buyers of goods for the families, we have to take a stand against all forms of business malpractices.

We must also ask the Department of Trade and Industry to flex its muscles to make them serious about all aspects of their business, by imposing penalties or suspending business licenses or closing down businesses which fail to give adequate public service.

The United States which has a longer history of conducting business seems to have learned a lot through the years. Sue Rosenberg Zalk, the executive director of the City University of New York Center for the Study of Women and Society, and Gina Seleme, her associate, told this author that they assert themselves whenever they find business stores do not give proper service or their products fall short of the standards. Aren't the storeowners scared of the reper-

cussions for fear of loss of reputation resulting in low sales.

Another instance of the strength of Western consumerism is when I once I picked up the receiver of the phone at La Mama Experimental Theatre Club Artists' Residence where I stayed last winter courtesy of the erstwhile Ms. Ellen Stewart. A New York telephone man asked me: "Ma'am do you have any trouble with your phone?" I answered: "Oh no longer. I used to weeks ago but the line is ok now except for those arrogant AT & T operators who refuse to give out their numbers for fear of being reported. They are highly impolite once they hear me speak with an Asian accent." Instead of shifting the blame on me for this lack of courtesy, the operator told me: "Oh, thank you Ma'am. You can rest assured that we shall look into that. I shall make a report about it."

Ever since that time the operators became more patient and understanding. Sometimes though, as I wanted to get accustomed to their system of communications thus making me much more inquisitive than usual, I could hear their deep sighs of controlled exasperation. But the soft and gentle voice was still their despite the barrage of inquiries, like how to call the Philippines collect.

### Answer from the Cardinal

## He does mingle

DEAR Ms. Orozco,  
Peace.

the parishes to address their plight in open forums, he always

C  
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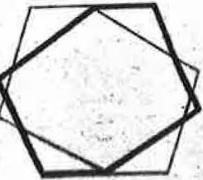
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212 642-2954 / Fax 212 642-1987

February 18, 1993

Wilhelmina Orozco  
89 Kapiligan Street  
Araneta Subdivision  
Quezon City  
Pilipinas

Dear Wilhelmina:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing for Sue because she is in Costa Rica attending a conference and wanted me to write regarding your application to the PhD Program in Music at the Graduate Center.

Sue received a call from the head of the department, Mr. , I believe, saying that the Music Program was for conservatory trained musicians and that he was not certain that you fit into that category.

Sue had two suggestions. One was that you have your application transfer to another program, which Mr. would be happy to do. For that you need to write to him, asking for a transfer. The other is that you write a "sweet" letter to the Registrar/Admissions Office stating that you misunderstood the nature of the program and the fee is a great deal of money for you and could you please have a refund.

Please keep us informed. Good luck.

yours,

MARGARET



# KAMALAPINA

WOMEN IN MEDIA - THEATRE COLLECTIVE  
89 Kapiligan St., Araneta Subdivision, Q.C. Pilipinas / 712-27-10

19 March 1993

Dear Sue and Margaret,

Thank you for your letter to me. I really appreciate receiving letters from you folks.

How's New York? We only receive dire stories about your place - the bombing and the snowstorms. I hope you are all fine and nothing untoward happened to you though. I'd be very sad to hear that. You know a newspaper here headlined for two consecutive days events in NY - when deaths occurred due to the storms. A lot of Filipinos have relatives and American relative-friends over there, so the news is really sympathetic.

I have already written Mr. Allan Atlas to transfer my application to the theatre arts program.

I have been busy working as coordinator for the Development Institute for Women in Asia-Pacific. So now I am shuttling back and forth between MAKAMASA, which I do on weekends, and weekdays (Part-time) with DIWA. We had a week-long celebration. Would you believe this institution is attached to the Phil. Women's University headed by a man? And he is so macho. God. He denigrates our efforts at raising the consciousness of women on a non-formal basis such as holding symposia. PWU after so many generations of women presidents suddenly begins to have a male president. Things change differently over here.

Best wishes.

Love,

*Emma*  
*Wilhelmina (P. Orozco)*

WILHELMINA OROZCO