

DEEPAK INTRO – speaker, MWD August 18, 2024

I love this man -- Most of all, I love his unique combination of MIND and HEART, of ANALYTIC chops and EMPATHY. Too few people express personal feelings alongside political analysis as well as Deepak -- for example, he is amazingly incisive about GRIEF and its role in our movement. I also love his full embrace of SPIRITUALITY as vital to our future -- AND that he gets that this is a struggle for the LONG-TERM that requires different strategies at different times.

Deepak is brilliant -- a writer and thinker, and social justice movement leader – on poverty and immigrant rights especially. When I met him, he was the longtime ED – and I was lucky to serve on the Board of -- the Center for Community Change, a DC-based national nonprofit that strengthens low-income communities of color. He joined the staff there in 1994 and later served as ED for 16 years. Then in 2020 he taught at CUNY and took time to study theory and strategy by both the Left AND the Right –*I LOVE THAT!* Last year, he became an official leader in philanthropy although he is here today as an activist and author. With his partner of close to 30 years, Harry Hanbury, he put out my favorite newsletter of all time, named The Platypus after that improbable

critter – a delightful mix of humor, culture and politics that I have quoted from to you many times....

His recent book is PRACTICAL RADICALS co-written with labor movement expert Stephanie Luce. They wrote it because QUOTE “we think the practice of rigorous strategy on the Left has deteriorated in recent years.” UNQUOTE. READ IT! It teaches in every paragraph.

We’ll forgive him that he’s a big Yankees fan. I can’t wait to hear his thoughts about what’s happened politically in the past month and what it means for progressives....Over to you, Deepak!