

## A Poetic Soul

Having studied Classical Greek as well as Russian, Denise delved into poetry and language. She kept up the custom according to which literate people may address their friends in verse on their birthdays. Birthday poems, distichs scrawled on scraps of paper, translations—she left dozens in her own papers and with her friends, who treasure their verses from Denise. She loved Russian poetry: Alexander Pushkin, of course, but especially Mikhail Lermontov. At the time of her death, her article on Lermontov was in preparation for *Fidelio*.

At a 200th birthday celebration for Pushkin in 1999, she recited the famous letter to Eugene Onegin from the morally steadfast heroine, Tatyana. Denise loved to sing, enchanting her friends, singing “Il cor mi più non sento” and other songs in her high, sweet soprano.

Denise seemed to live in temporal eternity. She collaborated with people no longer living, be it John Quincy Adams or LaRouche associate Allen Salisbury, author of *The Civil War and the American System*, as if she had just been talking with them over supper. When she spoke of what “JQA” had said, it was as if she had been stargazing with him the night before, and was recounting their conversation.

During the past year, Denise felt stronger and better. She grasped her new “hat” as Review Editor with a zeal bespeaking both her vast knowledge and love of teaching, eagerly trading ideas with *EIR* editors and authors over the books they were assigned to review. She volunteered for increased organizing responsibilities within LaRouche’s 2004 Presidential campaign. She happily relaunched her work on John Quincy Adams, preparing classes for the LaRouche Youth Movement. For her 50th birthday, last June, her gift wish was for JQA’s *Lectures on Rhetoric and Oratory*.

Denise Henderson was buried on Sept. 23, 2003 at Union Cemetery in Leesburg, Virginia, not far from her fellow immortals, Allen Salisbury and Marianna Wertz.

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## In Memoriam

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# Iraqis and the World Mourn Patriarch Raphael I Bidawid

by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

The death of His Beatitude Raphael I Bidawid, Patriarch of Babylon of the Chaldeans, and spiritual leader of the Chaldean Catholic Church worldwide, was a heavy blow for the Iraqi population. His death, on July 7 in Beirut, Lebanon, is mourned by all.

Patriarch Bidawid was born in Mosul in 1922, and entered

the seminary there at the age of 11; from 1936-47, he studied at the Papal Colleges in Rome, where he was ordained in 1946. In 1947, he returned to Mosul to carry out his ministry with the Chaldean Catholics, of whom there are 1 million worldwide. In 1989, he was elected Patriarch of the Chaldeans.

His social and political activities sought to defend the integrity, sovereignty, independence, and dignity of all of Iraq’s people and their nation.

Shortly after Desert Storm, in 1991, Patriarch Bidawid joined with Dr. Hans Köchler of the International Progress Organization (IPO) of Vienna, and Helga Zepp-LaRouche of the Schiller Institute, to establish the Committee to Save the Children in Iraq, to organize regular shipments of medical equipment, medicine, and other humanitarian aid, for several years. It also arranged for Iraqi children, with war injuries to receive medical treatment in Germany and the United States. The Patriarchate in Baghdad was a distribution center for the food, particularly powdered milk, which the Committee delivered to Iraq.

The Patriarch was an outspoken opponent of the sanctions which had devastated Iraq, killing especially its elderly and very young. Despite intense pressure—slanders said he was a “servant of the regime”—he untiringly denounced the aggression against his country as genocide. During a visit to the Vatican in 1991, he said: “These [coalition] nations should feel pretty guilty. It was a vendetta, a shame for humanity.” In April 2001, he similarly criticized the Israelis, saying, “The Jews who suffered repression under Hitler—who said force was always right—are today applying the same policy against Palestinians.”

Patriarch Bidawid worked energetically for Pope John Paul II’s trip to Ur, the birthplace of Abraham, the father of the monotheistic religions; but it was sabotaged by the warhawks in Washington.

Schiller Institute members visiting Baghdad always visited him. This extraordinarily learned man—he had mastered nearly a dozen languages, and catalogued the ancient Chaldean manuscripts—was equally eager to discuss political developments, and to learn from others. He avidly read *EIR*, and had the highest regard for the writings of Lyndon LaRouche, whom he considered America’s hope. Patriarch Bidawid’s unwavering commitment to his nation was a source of moral strength, for Iraqis and all people of good will: We have lost an irreplaceable friend.



Patriarch Raphael I Bidawid