

Dear Ben,

Learning of your situation distresses me greatly. Your being less than 100% in pursuing your many humane initiatives must be a great frustration for you and is a loss to all of us. Your leadership in concentrating attention on cities as the locus of cultural and political life with positive potential for the future is invaluable and irreplaceable. Your determination and natural vigor come through in your letter and although the situation sounds serious, you have the character and constitution to overcome it.

I am gratified and honored that you can contribute to Avi's project. I find these sorts of things a bit disconcerting as I have managed to preserve my obscurity. My not replying sooner stems from my having been in the throes of finishing a paper criticizing John Dewey, which I've just finished and suspect may cause a little outcry among educational theorists.

Maxine and I have been living in San Miguel de Allende in Mexico for most of almost three years. Max has been rehabilitating from a serious stroke she had not long after we saw you at Ellen Lagemann's. It paralyzed her left side but luckily did not harm her intellect or speech. She is making real progress in learning to walk again, but her left arm is still pretty useless. We have decided to come back to New York in late April with the intent of staying for half the year (we've luckily been able to keep our apartment so far). We've had some short trips back which proved difficult both logistically and emotionally. Max is more mobile now and I think we can make better support arrangements than we had managed on prior trips home. Support here is easy, but we miss friends and San Miguel, although interesting, is not our idea of a vigorous urban center! I'm looking forward to getting back in circulation, seeing what is happening with GPM. I think the future of governance is in a global network of cities, not bounded areas like nation states. Perhaps Trump's depredations will waken more people to the thought that nation-states have become radically dysfunctional.

Please give our regards to Leah and Nellie, Rebecca, and Jeremy – it is wonderful to have a strong family for support. Will you be staying in the city or going up to Stockbridge for the summer?

Best wishes – be strong!

\Robbie