

Chairperson's Corner
Elfriede Schlesinger
Professor Emerita, Social Work

I write my last chairperson's corner with a mixture of satisfaction, relief and sadness. My assignment is to reflect on the experience of four years of chairing this group of wonderful academics. For the group and for me this is one of many of life's "ends," when we also ask "where do we go from here?" What "beginnings" lie ahead? I will use this perspective as a way of reflecting on the current end point and what lies ahead.

As I think of the group, as it was when I first became a member, and then chairperson, there is much that remains the same, although many long-standing practices are being reviewed. We are affiliated with the Council of AAUP-AFT Chapters. Although a name change is being considered as I write this, we are still the Emeriti Assembly. We are academics, now retired, who have spent much of our life devoted to scholarship.

We come from many disciplines—political science, sociology, economics, social work, history—to name a few. The numbers from the biological and physical sciences have been, and remain, small. Recent efforts to recruit new members have sought to reduce this gap. According to the by-laws, membership is open to former Rutgers University faculty, regardless of emeritus/emera status. Discussion about criteria for membership is also underway. We now have 55 paid-up members. The pattern of how the group functioned was well established by my predecessor, Donald Borchardt, who did a yeoman's job as chairperson and outlined my tasks for me when I

became chairperson. We have continued to meet monthly, at the comfortable union building, and have had a union staff person assigned to us, who checks the schedule, handles the e-mail announcing our meetings, keeps our membership lists, collects dues, handles the phones for us, and does a host of other things.

Since I have been in office we functioned with a chairperson, a vice chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer, and a former chairperson, making up an Executive Committee of five. Based on a recent review of the by-laws it was recommended that a number of organizational changes be made. These are being considered and we await the outcome of the full review before implementing them.

During the years when I chaired the group, our programs consisted essentially of monthly speakers, primarily academics both from Rutgers and elsewhere. We served a simple lunch of pizza and soft drinks. Together, lecturers and refreshments made for interesting, pleasant monthly meetings, where most of us also found time to socialize. We had little, if any, regular contact with the union, except that the chairperson of the Emeriti Assembly sat in without voting privileges on monthly AAUP-AFT Executive Council Meetings.

CO-EDITORS:

Ann Gordon & Isabel Wolock
while Donald Borchardt recovers from surgery

I have looked over the list of speakers we have had during the past four years. Without exception, all were outstanding scholars in their fields. Topics have ranged from aspects of the political situation in Israel to the struggle of the peasant people of Peru. Some have focused on sociological analyses of the family, mental health, and the history of voting rights for women. The list is longer than I can possibly cover here. Our website has a newsletter archive that contains summaries of their presentations.

Recently, thanks to the effort of some of our members, we have expanded our program by planning other types of activities, such as trips. On May 16, 2016, we had a guided tour of the Zimmerli Museum and on June 20, 2017, a guided tour of the Grounds for Sculpture.

There seems to be basic agreement with the group's program and essential satisfaction with the speakers that were recruited. Occasionally, one or another person introduces an issue of a political nature calling for the emeriti to engage with the issue in some way.

From my early days as an Emeriti member, I did wonder about the nature of our relationship with the AAUP-AFT. There was little communication between the two groups, other than routine matters, which did not really come to my attention as chair. I went to the AAUP-AFT Executive Committee meetings regularly. When issues were raised which I believed would interest the Emeriti members, I reported on them at our meetings.

Several years ago, one of the long-time members suggested to me that I explore the possibility of asking the AAUP-AFT president about having a joint holiday party (at the end of the year) and sharing the expenses. This suggestion was immediately welcomed by the AAUP-AFT, and we have had joint holiday parties ever since.

Sometime during this same period, I got some communication from the union asking the Emeriti Assembly to join in a letter of support for faculty at another university, which was planning a strike. Given that these kinds of issues had not come up during my chairpersonship, I responded that I could not speak for the group, especially if a quick response seemed to be required. This issue led to discussion within the Emeriti and the AAUP-AFT. This was going on at a time when the AAUP-AFT was concerned about measures being taken by the University

Administration which they feared might impact negatively on the faculty. One of the issues revolved an organization which the university administration paid to summarize and appraise faculty scholarship.

At our joint holiday party, in December 2016, some long-standing leaders of the AAUP-AFT made reference to these issues, suggesting that our members' experience with the history of this country when free speech and academic freedom were being threatened, as during the McCarthy period, could be of great help at this time. On the advice of members of our Executive Committee, I asked the AAUP-AFT leadership that had raised these matters to meet with us.

The meetings that followed have led to proposals for many changes in the relationship between the AAUP-AFT and the Emeriti. As my chairpersonship of the Emeriti Assembly is ending, our new chairperson, Ben Beede, and Jonathan Lurie, our new vice-chairperson, are working with numerous reports and recommendations. I look forward to the discussion of these matters in future meetings.

If many of the proposals that will soon be considered by our members are adopted, together with those that have already been adopted by the AAUP-AFT, there are interesting changes ahead for us all. Thinking back to September 2014 when I became chair, I think I can say with some pride and thanks, that our organization, which was flourishing then, has changed in ways that make for an organization that will continue to serve the Emeriti who look for a group where they can maintain their academic interests, and socialize with their peers but also participate in activities around social and political issues.

I close by thanking all of you for giving me the privilege of serving in this role. My life as a Rutgers University retiree was enhanced in so many ways. I also want to thank the whole group, but especially a number of people who contributed so much to our group. All the people who worked with me on the Executive Committee: Ben Beede, Don Borchardt, Judith Friedman, and Isabel Wolock. Ann Gordon has put in a great deal of effort on the review of the bylaws of both our groups. Judith Friedman introduced the idea of taking trips to artistic institutions. She also worked hard at recruiting new members. I would not have been able to do what I needed to do without the staff that the AAUP-AFT assigned to work with us, Cathy

Stanford, Denise Borsewicz, Mala Kakkad, and Rae Tellefsen. Thanks also to the past AAUP-AFT presidents, David M. Hughes and Rudy Bell, who worked with us on the proposals for strengthening the relationship with the AAUP-AFT.

Having heard many of my fellow members present lectures on their work, their scholarly endeavors, I wondered whether, even after all these years as a member of the Rutgers faculty, I truly belonged here. I overcame these qualms, as I was receiving a warm welcome and good fellowship. For me, the group fulfilled its mission—a place to remain involved in an academic atmosphere with others who were also experiencing this new stage in their lives.

Having spent all of my academic life within the confines of my own discipline and profession—social work and sociology—meeting regularly with artists, economists, librarians, and others, introduced me to alternative ways of thinking. Importantly, I would listen and engage in discussion from their perspective.

For me, the experience of chairperson is now at an end. I have no plans for myself of a similar nature. I will continue as a member and hope to make a contribution.

Having to this point lived a good long life, one that in my childhood thrust me into one of humanity's most horrendous periods, the Holocaust, I have been fortunate in having been rescued from the horror. I take the privilege—which may or may not come with having been chair of this group to suggest that the task of preventing a resurgence of that disaster falls on people like you, the members of the Emeriti Assembly. I am confident that the new beginnings on which the group will embark will prevent the resurgence, which has never been far from my mind.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

In the recent August election Benjamin Beede was elected as chairperson and Jonathan Lurie as vice-chairperson of the AAUP Emeriti Assembly. Both of our new officers were elected by unanimous vote.

“The Legacies of Holocaust: Memory among German Jewish Refugees” A Presentation by Judith Gerson February 21, 2017

This presentation was made by Professor Judith Gerson, Associate Professor, Departments of Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies, Rutgers University at the Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters, AAUP-AFT, 11 Stone Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 08901-1113. Following are notes of that presentation taken by Benjamin R. Beede, Secretary of the Emeriti Assembly.

Professor Gerson received an A.B. magna cum laude from Syracuse University and a Ph.D. from Cornell University. Her academic career has been largely at Rutgers. She has published extensively in her areas of specialization and has presented a considerable number of scholarly papers, many as the result of specific invitations. Her honors include being selected as an Ina Levine Invitational Senior Scholar at the Mandel Center of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. for 2017-2018.

Professor Gerson began by describing the nature of her project, primarily a sociological rather than an exclusively historical study of German Jewish refugees who fled their homes during the early years of the Third Reich before the mass deportations began and arrived in the States before the end of World War II. Interested in the subjective meanings of people's experiences, she concentrates on collective memory—“how people as members of various groups remember as well as forget the past in the present for some future purposes.” She relies on the tools of narrative analysis to discern if the requirements of telling a coherent story impact how people remember, what they relate, and what they avoid or omit.

Professor Gerson's research relies on multiple sources and mixed methods, including sixty-three unpublished memoirs, many interviews with immigrants, and a rich mix of archival materials. Refugees especially those emigrating relatively early brought with them school, health, and military records, family photographs and other keepsakes, which she analyzes along with documents from governmental and social service agencies.

Since its inception, the study and Professor Gerson's thinking about it have changed. Initially her research interests centered on questions of identity as she sought to understand the meanings of the stereotype that German Jews were "more German than Jewish." This template masked much diversity, and failed to capture the more complex ways these refugees think of themselves and narrate their lives. There was considerable variation in people's experiences and memories that stemmed from age, occupation, and gender.

Two frequent themes emerged from many of the memoirs and interviews that were surprising. Many of the refugees wrote or talked extensively about their own or a family member's military service in World War I. When read in historical context, this emphasis made sense. World War I was widely known as the Great War and it was the first time German Jewish citizens could serve at higher ranks. Such service opened the way to new types of occupations for Jews. Yet rising anti-Semitism following Germany's defeat in World War I led to charges that it was the fault of Jewish citizens who refused military service and if they served had not done so with honor. But just the opposite was true—Jewish men had served in disproportionately high numbers and earned a large number of medals for valor.

Nature was also of considerable interest to the immigrant Jews who wrote memoirs and testified. Many described in detail particular landscapes or related hikes, bike trips, and weekly walks in city parks while still in Germany. Nature played an important role in their lives during 1930s, because it was a kind of refuge from the many forms of increasing persecution. Many immigrants described nature as, literally, an escape. In this respect it was nature and less so their good Christian neighbors who functioned as a source of support.

During the early years of the Nazi regime, the government officially favored Jewish emigration from Germany. Yet despite this policy, many laws were passed and actions taken that made their departure more difficult. Taxes, occupational restrictions, boycotts of Jewish stores, and forced sales of businesses were significant weapons used increasingly against Jews. After October 1941, Nazi policies changed significantly, mass deportations began and emigration was generally prohibited.

In the 1930s and early 1940s many German Jews wished to immigrate to the United

States, but there were significant obstacles. Because of the "national quotas" structure of the immigration system enacted in the United States in the early 1920s, only so many immigrants could be admitted during a given year. Officials professed a great concern that immigrants might become public charges, and, thus, a would-be immigrant had to provide "affidavits of support" that proved that someone in the United States would be responsible for maintaining an immigrant. Finding such a supporter was another hurdle, especially during the Great Depression. There were, moreover, only four United States consulates in the whole of Germany and consular officials had a great deal of discretion in who obtained visas. These consulates were besieged by increasingly, and understandably, desperate German Jews. After the beginning of World War II, immigration to the United States became almost impossible.

Once Jewish refugees reached the New York area, immigration agencies often encouraged them to leave for other parts of the country and, in fact, a good deal of dispersion occurred. Worries that anti-Semitism in the U.S. might be fueled if too many Jewish refugees were allowed to enter this country, live in high concentrations in any single place, and fears they could take jobs meant for U.S. citizens drew important parallels to today's refugee crisis and debates.

Her presentation was followed by a vigorous discussion. Some of those present for her talk had had direct experience with the Jewish forced migration from Germany to the United States and added important insights to the conversation.

"Retired Faculty and the Rutgers AAUP-AFT" by Ann D. Gordon

Active members of the Rutgers AAUP-AFT are currently voting on proposed changes to the union's by-laws. If approved by the membership, these changes will affect the Emeriti Assembly, clarifying who is eligible to membership, strengthening the link between the Assembly and the union, and engaging the union in matters affecting those who would retire and those who have done so.

Most of the changes on the ballot now before current faculty will fill gaps more than they

change policies. For example, the union's by-laws contained not a word about retirees or the Emeriti Assembly. If the changes are approved, the Assembly would be named as one of the constituent groups in the Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters, AAUP-AFT. (Preamble.)

Though the Assembly's chairperson attends the union's Executive Council meetings, the union's by-laws do not acknowledge that fact in describing Council membership. Proposed is that members of the Emeriti Assembly would elect one of their number to serve on the union's Council. (Article 6, paragraph A.)

To the union's standing committees, it is proposed to add a new one titled "Issues of Retirement." The understanding is that retirees would serve on that committee. (Article 6, paragraph F.)

Finally, to clarify that the Emeriti Assembly is *the* home in the Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters, AAUP-AFT, for retired faculty, without discriminating among campuses or among the varieties of job security and tenure, the union proposes broad language about who is welcomed into the Assembly. (Article 1, Membership.)

The Emeriti Assembly welcomes retired faculty who served at Rutgers as full-time or part-time faculty, tenured or non-tenured, from any of the university campuses.

The purpose of these changes is to strengthen relations between the union and its retired faculty members. To quote the cover letter sent to union members with ballot instructions about why stronger relations are desirable:

Among the several areas of immediate concern, we note just two: (1) changes in medical coverage for retirees, both actual (implementation of Medicare Advantage) and potential; and, (2) phased retirement options, some of which are sunsetting.

If the faculty members approve changes in the union by-laws, the Emeriti Assembly will need to review its own by-laws to reflect new circumstances.

The union's by-laws are found here: <http://rutgersaaup.org/about/union-bylaws>

Emeriti Assembly by-laws are found here:

http://rutgersaaup.org/sites/default/files/images/Emeriti_By-Laws_Revised_7-16-13.pdf

**"Our Aging Bodies"
A presentation by
Dr. Gary F. Merrill
April 18, 2017**

Dr. Gary F. Merrill is Professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience at Rutgers. The following are notes taken by Benjamin R. Beede, Secretary of the Emeriti Assembly.

Professor Merrill received a doctorate from Michigan State University in 1975. His dissertation title was "Interactions of Adenosine and pH in the Coronary Circulation." His books include *Our Marvelous Bodies: An Introduction to the Physiology of Human Health* (2008); *Earning a Ph.D. in the Life Sciences: The Student's Guide* (2008); *Mormons and Mormonism: Guide to Understanding Them* (2010); *Our Aging Bodies* (2015); and *Our Intelligent Bodies* (2018). He has numerous journal articles to his credit, as well. Research at the department's laboratory that he directs is concentrated on the cardiovascular systems of human beings and other mammals and the ways in which physiological factors influence those systems.

An important element of his message to us was that we are constantly faced with choices, and making the right decisions is critical to keeping our bodies healthy. Carefully considering the food we eat, that is, our dietary selections, and committing ourselves to staying physically active are the determining factors in slowing aging processes in the human body. Rather than eliminating unhealthy foods completely from one's diet, however, a person should ingest them in a proper proportion to other food (e.g., grains, vegetables, fruits and all others in that order). Proper nutrition promotes cell health. Professor Merrill attributes great importance to the high consumption of grains, especially wheat, for health maintenance.

Weight control is another major factor in staying healthy, including the maintenance of a properly functioning cardiovascular system. Professor Merrill observed that obesity is unknown among the super-aged people of the world.

Drinking sufficient water is mandatory for good health. Tap water is perfectly safe, even safer than bottled water, which may well contain contaminants. Water intake should be tested, and the best test for appropriate water levels is through the cell, not the blood flow.

Professor Merrill also discussed in some detail the question of how caffeine is related to health maintenance. He asserted that caffeine definitely does have adverse effects on the cardiovascular system. Caffeine decreases blood flow to the brain. People think of caffeine as being largely a threat through drinking coffee, tea, and soft drinks, but, in fact, caffeine is found in many snacks. Thus, careful examination of the ingredients of many foods is essential.

Professor Merrill gave significant attention to what is increasingly described as “lethal sitting,” even called the “new smoking” in terms of the threat that it represents, and reviewed the current literature on the subject. The bottom line is that frequent movement is necessary for cardiovascular health.

Women tend to stay stronger than men as they age, but they are more subject to higher demineralization of bones than men. Patterns in bone breakage indicate a person’s remaining life expectancy.

Although not doing much to prevent colds, vitamin C is highly effective in reducing the severity and the length of colds.

An encouraging note is that increased amounts of nutrition information are influencing consumers. More educated people tend to be healthier than others because they are generally attentive to the latest developments.

Grounds for Sculpture Group Tour June 20, 2017

The 2017 cultural trip took place at the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, New Jersey.
www.groundsforsculpture.org

Gathering in the Seward Johnson Center, we individually toured the public art display area. The tour guide provided background information about the history of the center, providing details of and insight into the current indoor exhibitions. Our guided outdoor walking tour culminated with lunch at the Peacock Café. Experiencing great weather and stimulating art, we enjoyed a

rewarding day. I personally look forward to future trips of this type. - John Krenos

AN INTERVIEW WITH JON LURIE Member AAUP-AFT Emeriti Assembly Former faculty member in the Department of History

By Isabel Wolock,
Treasurer, AAUP-AFT Emeriti Assembly



Tell me about your position at Rutgers before you retired.

I spent 45 years at Rutgers (1969-2014), mostly in the Rutgers Newark History Department. Besides teaching a wide variety of American History courses (especially Legal History and Civil War and Reconstruction), I also taught courses in the New Brunswick history department and Rutgers Law School. For my entire career at Rutgers I was the advisor for pre-law students, mainly on the Newark campus. Administrative work beckoned, with me not volunteering as much as being unwilling to decline when asked. I was Department chair from 1981 to 1987, Associate Dean of the Graduate School in Newark from 1976-1980, and held the same post in New Brunswick in 1983-1984. When I became emeritus in 2009, Rutgers invited me to stay on as an Academic Officer, facilitator for five years. My responsibilities dealt with investigating, adjudicating and resolving cases of alleged student academic misconduct. During my years at RU, I also participated in many cases as a member of the hearing boards in both Newark and New Brunswick. At Newark College of Arts and Sciences, I was faculty parliamentarian for more than 40 years, and had many stints as a member of the A & P committees.

What were your major accomplishments and sources of satisfaction while you were at

Rutgers?

Because RU makes no bones about it being a publish-or-perish institution, one must produce, at least in our department. Thus I have written seven books, and the eighth is now at the University Press of South Carolina. In 2004, I received the Scribes Award for the best book written on law in 2003. The book was about our study of the Slaughterhouse Cases, co-authored with the late Ronald Labbe. The Scribes Award is given by the American Society of Writers on Legal Subjects. However, my greatest satisfaction has not been publishing as much as watching some of my former students succeed. One of my best, for example, is now the Assignment Judge for Hudson County. I also had wonderful experiences as the Visiting Professor of Law at West Point in 1994-95, and as a Fulbright Senior Specialist at Uppsala University Law School in Stockholm. 2007.

What experiences or people influenced your pursuit of an academic career?

I knew from a very early age that I loved to teach, whether it be telling stories to my classmates in third grade, or returning to my old high school to student teach as a volunteer. I majored in history as a Harvard undergrad, took my master's in Arts in teaching also at Harvard, and armed with these two degrees set out to join the faculty of Oak Park and River Forest High school, outside of Chicago in 1962. Although I received tenure there, by the end of my third year, I found myself becoming bored, and a bit restless. The School willingly granted me leave for one year, and in 1965 I relocated "up north" to undertake additional course work at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. In those days, the Madison History Dept was regarded as one of the finest in the country. When I started there, however, I had every intention of returning to Oak Park and River Forest High School. Yet you could not just apply to take a few courses at Madison. On the contrary you had to be accepted into a graduate seminar as a prerequisite for course work. I so applied, and was admitted to a seminar in late 19th century American History. One class was on an introduction to American Legal History. I was hooked!! As it happened, one of the most distinguished scholars in this field, Willard Hurst, was at the Law School in Madison. I was able to take every course he offered, passed my comprehensives, and fell in love with another grad student. (In 2018, we will have been married for 50 years.) Somehow my high school teaching went by the board, and at the 1968 job

interviews, Rutgers University in Newark offered to create a course in legal history for me. We arrived in 1969, and over the years, our children (3) and later grandchildren (5) arrived also. Except for various academic leaves (law school fellowship and sabbaticals), in a real sense I never left Rutgers.

If you were to do it all over again, would you pursue the same career or would you choose another one?

I would pursue the same career again if I had to do it all over again. My three years of high school teaching prepared me for the class room in a manner denied to most Ph.D. candidates. It made me a better instructor. Teaching had always been my calling. Only the level changed.

Is there any one event or experience or person that had the greatest influence on your life?

I had some wonderful role models for my professors, among them Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., and Archibald Cox of Watergate fame. One of the most important influences was my father. A Judge in the Great Trial Court of Massachusetts, he taught me the importance of listening, and listening carefully.

What have you been doing since you retired?

After I became emeritus in 2009, I stayed on at Newark College of Arts and Sciences for another five years, and in 2014 retired a second time, this one for good. Our lives changed little; but with more time for reading, research, writing, travel, enjoying music and opera.

What do you see as the best things about retirement?

Retirement frees you from daily commuting, which I grew to hate, and gives one the freedom to do what you wish to do.

What advice would you give to others who are planning to retire?

One should NOT retire-- if they have such an option--until they have a sense of how they want to spend their remaining years.

How did it happen that you got involved in the Emeriti Assembly?

As I recall, I received an invitation to attend an emeriti meeting, and I guess I sort of stayed, as it were.

As a newcomer to the Emeriti Assembly what are your impressions?

The people in our emeriti group are very nice, friendly and cordial. On the other hand, I think it faces very real challenges. Always a strong Union man, nevertheless I think the worst thing that could happen to us is to be swallowed up by the larger University labor group. Association with it is fine, but amalgamation is a very different matter, and I, for one, would strongly oppose it.

**Rutgers Faculty and Staff Retiree
Coordinating Committee
by Harvey Waterman**

A group led by Brent Ruben and Gus Friedrich worked with the central administration to form a university-wide retiree association, modeled on the many such associations at our peer institutions. Eventually bylaws were approved and a board was formed, the members selected by the four chancellors and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara Lee; it also contained representatives of HR, the alumni office and the Foundation. That board met for the first time in the fall of 2016 and selected Paul Leath as its chair (and as President of the Association). The board explored issues concerning retirement and retirees by interviewing representatives of the library, parking and IT. As its discussions proceeded it seemed to the members that attempting to function as a true association, and developing programs for retirees, was unrealistic at the central level and that such functions were better served by “local” associations, such as the ones already in place for staff (Silver Knights), for Camden, for RWJMS and the one sponsored by the AAUP. The absence of a broad and robust association for either New Brunswick or Newark was particularly noticed.

After the first semester, health issues forced Paul Leath to step down as chair and he was replaced by the vice chair, Harvey Waterman. After further discussion a revised set of bylaws was adopted (and approved by SVPAA Lee) that reformed the board and relabeled it as a coordinating committee, meant to serve the local associations and to address central issues affecting retirees. The new committee’s membership will consist of representatives of the local associations, with

the addition of one or two appointees named by Dr. Lee. Harvey Waterman will continue as chair of the new committee. One of its first acts has been the formation of a subcommittee to address the general retiree website and seek improvements and a process for keeping it current.

Among the ambitions of the committee is the development of a robust New Brunswick association: our peer institutions do far more than we do to serve retirees. Another is improvement of the information and advice offered to those considering retirement: though much is currently provided, faculty members, in particular, are not given a sufficient sense of how welcome they will be if they wish to maintain their connections to their departments or centers. Finally, we believe that it would be helpful to establish a residence for retirees on or near the campus and we are pursuing the possibilities with other offices in the university.

Obviously, suggestions are welcome.
waterman@rutgers.edu

Editor’s note: Ben Beede and Don Borchardt will be the initial members representing the Emeriti Assembly.

Pool Party

We all enjoyed the “pool” party on August 15th graciously hosted by Isabel and Mel Wolock. Despite the rain blurring the vision of a very inviting pool and patio, we did see a hummingbird feeder being used outside while we partook of delicious goodies and liquid refreshments inside the Wolock’s cozy (and dry) home.

Camaraderie and conversations with old friends and new acquaintances rounded out a perfect afternoon that will be remembered as a highlight of the summer. Our thanks to our host and hostess for their hospitality in again opening their home to the Emeriti family. – Janet & Joe Potenza

**Judith Friedman
Recipient of the 2016
Richard Wasson Leadership Award**

Established in 1990 in memory of Richard Wasson, founder and first president of the AAUP Emeriti Assembly, this award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated leadership in the area of academic retirement. The leadership can take a variety of forms such as teaching, research writing, public service, organizing programs, or promoting the provision of resources and legislation.

Judith Friedman is the recipient of the 2016 Richard Wasson Award. She received her Ph.D. in sociology in 1970 from the Rackman Graduate School at the University of Michigan. She achieved an enviable career as a teacher and researcher at Rutgers. Her scholarly interests include the innovative field of "visual sociology." Her numerous peer reviewed articles have appeared in major journals, such as the *Social Science Quarterly*, *Social Problems*, and *Journal of Contemporary Sociology*.

Judith Friedman joined the Emeriti Assembly soon after her retirement and, rapidly, she became one of its leading members. She was a natural choice for the position of Vice-Chairperson. Her persistent and enthusiastic efforts in the critical areas of recruitment and program planning have helped materially to expand our role in the complex structure of retiree groups at Rutgers. There is no doubt but what Judith Friedman has a truly deep commitment to the Emeriti Assembly. The Richard Wasson Leadership award was conferred on March 21, 2017. -Benjamin Beede

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The fee for AAUP Emeriti Assembly membership is \$10 per year beginning each September. If you haven't already done so, please send your check to the AAUP-AFT office at 11 Stone Street in New Brunswick to cover the year 2017-2018 (sorry, cash cannot be accepted). You may also renew membership for one, two, or three years by paying \$10, \$20, or \$30.

Below is a list of organizations and their contact information including web sites you may find useful:

AAUP Emeriti Assembly

11 Stone Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1113
Phone: 732-964-1000
Fax: 732-964-1032
E-mail: aaup@rutgersaaup.org
<http://www.rutgersaaup.org/Emeriti-Assembly>

Retired Faculty & Staff Association

<http://retirement.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers Retiree Benefits

<http://retirement.rutgers.edu/retiree-benefits/>

**Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters-AFT
11 Stone Street**

New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1113
Phone: 732-964-1000
Fax: 732-964-1032
E-mail: aaup@rutgersaaup.org
www.rutgersaaup.org

**American Association of University
Professors**

1133 Nineteenth Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-737-5900
Fax: 202-737-5526
E-mail: aaup@aaup.org
www.aaup.org

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

555 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202-879-4400
www.aft.org

AFT's Web Page for Retirees:

<http://www.aft.org/retirement>

AARP

601 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20049
Phone: 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277)
www.aarp.org

AARP NJ
Forrestal Village
101 Rockingham Row
Princeton, NJ 08540
Phone: 1-866-542-8165 (toll-free)
Fax: 609-987-4634
E-mail: njaarp@aarp.org
Web site: <http://www.aarp.org/states/nj/>

NJ Department of Treasury
Division of Pension & Benefits
Links for retirees
<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/retiree-home.shtml>

Information about Retiree State Health Benefits in 2018

<http://www.nj.gov/treasury/pensions/hb-retired.shtml>

Retirees don't have an open enrollment period. You can make changes at any time, as long as you've been with a plan for at least a year.

What's New for 2018? Pharmacy benefits will be managed by OptumRx (ExpressScripts is out).

Beginning January 1, 2018, the State Health Benefits Program (and School Employees' Health Benefits Program) prescription drug benefit will be managed by OptumRx.

Here's a link to the OptumRX Welcome page:

<https://informedrx.rxportal.sxc.com/rxclaim/SONJ/StateofNewJersey.html>

Following a competitive bidding process, OptumRx was awarded the contract for pharmacy benefits management for the State Health Benefits Program and School Employees' Health Benefits Program.

Retirees should receive more information directly from OptumRx during the implementation process, including a welcome letter and OptumRx ID cards to be mailed to member home addresses.

It is possible that a change in the drug formulary could impact you. If this is the case, you should receive additional communications from OptumRx. You may contact OptumRx directly: 844-368-8740.

Please contact the AAUP-AFT office if you have any questions or problems with the transition to OptumRx. The AAUP-AFT faculty union is working in coalition with other unions to monitor the health benefits program for members and retirees. Executive Director, Patrick Nowlan, and other staff at the union welcome questions and try to get answers. Phone 732-964-1000 or aaup@rutgersaaup.org