

Rutgers AAMP

Emeriti

Reporter

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THE 1956 HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION (FROM A PARTICIPANT'S PERSPECTIVE)

Karoly Nagy, Professor of Sociology, Middlesex County College, spoke to the Emeriti Assembly on December 2, 2008, in Lucy Stone Hall on the Livingston Campus. His presentation was especially interesting because of his personal experiences during those years of struggle to freedom. Following are the two introductory paragraphs written by Professor Nagy:

"Liberty, democracy, human rights are like health. Servitude, oppression, discrimination is like sickness. Totalitarian tyranny is death. A revolution that overthrows tyranny and achieves liberty is resurrection. During the last week of October and the first few days of November 1956, most of us in Hungary felt as if we have risen from the dead.

It was euphoria---we sang our long--forbidden national anthem, embraced each other on the streets, laughed and cried with joy. We felt redeemed. We were intoxicated by hearing and saying words of truth. It was also serious and sober determination---we were feverishly drafting proclamations, drew up lists of demands, proposals and plans to eliminate all instruments and institutions of dictatorship and to construct a new, humane society. And we were organizing autonomous local, democratic self-governing bodies to realize those goals."

Professor Nagy went on to emphasize the international significance of this Revolution, and how in a short time Revolutionary Councils, National Councils, and Workers' Councils were organized. A battle was waged and the Hungarians were able to achieve independence from the Soviet

Union. A legacy for freedom was established which continues to live on.

The presentation was followed by questions from those in attendance. Professor Nagy gave responses based on his personal experiences during that period of time.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Gerald M. Pomper, Board of Governors Professor of Political Science, Eagleton Institute of Politics, was invited by the Executive Director, Todd Hunt, of the Retired Faculty Association (RFA) to speak about "The Presidential Election of 2008: An Early Analysis" at The Rutgers Club, on November 12, 2008, one week after the election. Professor Pomper called the Obama campaign "The best campaign I have ever seen." He praised Obama for a skillful campaign which disproved several theories about how groups of voters would vote. Groups included Latinos and other minority groups, the "solid South," younger voters, metropolitan residents, college graduates and white voters. The presentation was the first draft of a chapter for a book collection of essays on the election. Todd Hunt reported on this event in the December, 2008, RFA BULLETIN. The presentation was co-sponsored by the Emeriti Assembly.

**EDITOR:
DONALD BORCHARDT**



AN INTERVIEW WITH BENJAMIN R. BEEDE
Member AAUP Emeriti Assembly
By Isabel Wolock, AAUP Emeriti Assembly



Tell me about your position at Rutgers before you retired.

My total faculty service was from July 15, 1969 to August 1, 1980, at the Camden Law Library and from August 4, 1980, to July 31, 2003, at the Kilmer Library. I held several positions within the Rutgers University Libraries. My titles at the Law Library in Camden were Technical Services Librarian (1969-1972) and Assistant Law Librarian for Public Services (1972-1980). My responsibilities at the Kilmer Library varied. At times, I coordinated reference services or instructional services or both. Collection development was an assignment of mine for some years.

In Camden, as Technical Services Librarian, I oversaw the assignment of Library of Congress classification numbers and subject headings to books that had never been fully cataloged. This project required my working closely with the cataloging department in New Brunswick and my supervising a large number of clerical workers and student assistants in Camden. Later, as Assistant Law Librarian for Public Services, I led reference and instructional services, primarily for law students, but also for members of other user groups.

In 1980, I transferred to the Kilmer Library, partly because in that year the two law libraries were removed from the library system and partly because I wanted to work nearer my home. I lived

in either Highland Park or North Brunswick during my entire service in Camden. Given my marriage to Anne Brugh in 1978, the long commute was becoming tiresome.

Owing to constant personnel changes at the Kilmer Library my assignments changed rather frequently. The role of the library also was transformed several times. At one time, the library served the academic departments on the Livingston Campus, but as a result of the reorganization of the New Brunswick campus our ties with the departments became less significant. For a time, the Kilmer Library was considered primarily as having an "undergraduate role." That classification has never ended, but as time passed more and more resources and services have been devoted to the School of Business, which has undergone considerably expansion.

What were your major accomplishments and sources of satisfaction during the years you were at Rutgers?

I was pleased to have coordinated the proper cataloging of books at the Camden Law Library. The completion of this project contributed to the eventual establishment of an online catalog for the library. During my period as Assistant Law Librarian for Public Services, an extensive instructional program for law students was introduced, and one of the other librarians and I conducted a nationwide survey of instructional practices in academic law libraries that led to an article in the *Law Library Journal* that is still cited.

At the Kilmer Library I established a "career collection" that remains a unique resource within the library system. Another of my achievements was my planning a summer course for McNair students, which I taught for several years. The program, officially called the Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program, is a federally supported endeavor designed to prepare juniors and seniors with demonstrated academic potential with the research and scholarship skills necessary for entry into doctoral studies.

I also worked steadily on collection development both at Kilmer and within the University system. Towards the end of my work at Kilmer I devoted considerable time to making proposals for rationalizing periodical holdings in the New

Brunswick libraries, a project that others are continuing.

From our initial meetings in 1969 onward I participated actively in the development of a library faculty to parallel other faculties in the university and to provide a measure of faculty governance within the libraries.

Please tell me about any writing or research or community service that you have done.

My publications were usually reference books or journal articles. Several of the reference works dealt with United States military history or defense policy. My wife Anne Brugh and I also compiled a bibliography of publications relating to New Jersey politics and government that was well received. We wrote a survey of the literature about women in librarianship that was published in the fourth issue of the first volume of *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. That article was reprinted twice. Rutgers professor Jay A. Sigler and I wrote a book about the relationship between law and public policy in the United States that was published in 1977. An article of mine discussed foreign influences on United States reformers of the early 20th century. This was one of the first references to those influences, which are now acknowledged to be of considerable importance in the reform tradition in this country.

Did you receive any honors?

I was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in connection with my A.B. from Rutgers.

As a result of my military service, I received an Army Commendation Medal for "meritorious service." The "ArmCom" has been watered down considerably, but in the 1960s it was supposed to be awarded for "meritorious service" or "valor" equivalent to what was required for a Bronze Star Medal.

What did you do before coming to Rutgers?

My experience before being a Rutgers faculty member consisted largely of going to school, mostly at Rutgers and three years of service in the army (1964-1967). Just prior to being appointed to the Camden Law Library, I was Supervising Reference Librarian at the Linden Free Public Library in Linden, New Jersey (1968-1969).

Going back to earlier times, had you always planned on having an academic career?

My first serious career objective was to teach English at the high school level. That goal eventually changed to teaching political science at the college level, although librarianship was a possible alternative early on.

A business career never interested me. Continuing controversies about the nature of the New Deal attracted my interest and gradually drew me to political science and history. Moreover, libraries and bookstores were important parts of my family life. We had a large home library to which we added constantly, and we were frequent library users, even socializing with some librarians in public libraries.

What type of prior training/education did you have?

I graduated from what was then the Newark College of Arts and Sciences of Rutgers in 1961 with high honors in 1961. Later, I earned an M.L.S. and an M.A. in political science from Rutgers. I also attended the Princeton Graduate School in 1961-1962, but I did not receive a degree. Although I was doing reasonably well at Princeton, I was intimidated by the prospect of taking the qualifying examinations in another year. I am active in Princeton alumni activities, however.

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

My career experience was generally quite satisfactory. If I had the opportunity to relive my life, I would doubtless do some things differently, but not many and none drastically.

Why did you join the Rutgers AAUP? Were you an active member? If you were active, what did you do?

I became an AAUP member very early in my Rutgers career, even before the Rutgers Council became firmly established as the faculty bargaining unit. Although my father had been dead since 1959 his views about unions were well-known to me. Despite the fact that he had never been a union member and had been in management since the early 1930s, my father believed unions were

essential for workers in the United States if they were to protect themselves from exploitation by corporations.

Thus, I became a member of the Delegate Assembly, in which I served for many years. Later, I joined the Executive Council, served as an interim president of the Camden Chapter, and participated in the work of the bargaining team for several years. My service also included chairing the Legislative Relations and Membership Committees at different times. I was president of the New Jersey State Conference for a year but did not serve the second year of my term because of other demands.

Is there any one event or experience or person that had the greatest influence on your life? If so, please tell me about it.

Doubtless my wife Anne Brugh had the greatest influence on my life. Despite some difficulties in adjusting to married life initially, we had a happy marriage. Her role in my life is discussed at more length under the section about my "spouse."

What did you do after you retired?

I continued my publication activities. Indeed, one of the reasons that I retired when I did was to have more time for them. I am under no illusion that I am a major scholar, but I enjoy research and writing.

I also planned and had implemented various house improvements, and I anticipate continuing to have my home made more attractive and functional.

What do you see as the best thing about retirement?

I find having freedom to control my time and activities thoroughly rewarding. Between September 1945, when I started first grade, and July 1, 2003, other people often determined where I would be at a given time and what I would be doing. Now, I am relatively free.

Are there any drawbacks? Do you have any regrets?

There are no drawbacks for me in retirement. The longer I am retired the more I enjoy retirement. That feeling of fulfillment comes from accomplishing what are to me worthwhile goals, including

improving my home. I have completed several reference books since 2003, as well as a journal article, a book review, and a number of encyclopedia entries.

Is there any personal information you'd care to share?

Hobbies and interests:

Philately is my major hobby. I am highly interested in the postal history of Germany generally and particularly in regard to the World War II and immediate post-World War II years. After retirement I prepared a book about the ambitious attempt of the Allied powers to have every piece of mail found in postal channels in Germany and Austria at the end of World War II censored, even money orders, which sometimes carried brief messages.

Spouse:

The primary benefit of having worked at the Rutgers University Libraries for me was having met and later successfully courted Anne Brugh, who was another Rutgers librarian. We were a close couple. Anne often said that "we were meant for each other." We did just about everything together, including serving on the Executive Council of the AAUP and the Executive Committee of the New Jersey Library Association. Anne chaired Committee W of the Rutgers AAUP, as well as being a member of the Executive Council. Anne was an excellent editor, and she helped me improve my writing. We co-authored or co-compiled several publications, and she assisted me significantly with various reference books. After the beginning of her terminal illness, she was frustrated by her inability to help me more effectively.

Family members:

Although Anne and I did not have any children between us we enjoyed a large family. At present, I have four nephews and two nieces, along with their spouses. In addition, there are twelve grandnephews and grandnieces, and one great grandniece. These family members are in other parts of the country: California, Indiana, and South Carolina, but we manage to keep in touch. Moreover, I am in contact with several cousins on my side and some of Anne's cousins. Although I have donated Anne's extensive family history files to a public library in Virginia, I continue to have an

interest in her family. Some of us are working on the maintenance of the family cemetery in Virginia.

How did you come to be involved in the AAUP Emeriti Assembly? Is there anything in particular you like about being part of this group?

Given the level of my activity in the Rutgers AAUP it was simply a matter of course for me to join the Assembly. Although I am also an enthusiastic member of the Rutgers Retired Faculty Association, I am acquainted with proportionately more members of the Assembly, of course, and these prior acquaintances enhance my enjoying of the group.

Advice to Prospective Retirees:

I am confident that most Rutgers faculty members prepare intelligently for retirement and make their decision to retire at the proper time. To those who are hesitant about retiring, I would simply say do not hesitate to retire when you begin to find yourself attracted by the idea.

There is plenty of constructive work, and there are enjoyable activities for retired faculty members. Remember, too, that when you are retired, "every day is Saturday."

IN REMEMBRANCE

We called him "Bernie" in our Emeriti Assembly meetings and special events. Bernard F. Downey was a longtime member and participant in our discussions and planning meetings and will be remembered fondly by all who knew him. He was 87 years old when he died on November 27, 2008, at Buckingham Place in South Brunswick. He had worked as a librarian at Rutgers University Institute of Management and Labor Relations for 29 years before retiring in 1987. He was a faculty member of the library school at Rutgers and had co-authored the book "Library Sciences to Labor," with Dorothy Kuhn Oko in 1963. Bernie's wife, Gloria, died in 1998. They had a son, Stephen, and a daughter, Ann, who married and had families in Nashville, Tennessee and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Bernie was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend. We remember him dearly.

DONALD BORCHARDT THEATRE LIBRARY SEMINAR ROOM

The Donald Borchardt Theatre Library Seminar Room was dedicated on October 25, 2008, in Bradley Hall, Rutgers-Newark Campus, in a special reception ceremony honoring Professor Emeritus Borchardt. The reception was organized by faculty members of the Rutgers-NJIT Theatre Program and members of the Rutgers Alumni Association. Professor Borchardt directed plays at Rutgers and taught courses in Theatre, Television, and Film for 26 years before retiring in 1993. He donated books on visual arts from his personal library, and slides of his productions, and was liaison for books donated by Carole Wendt, surviving wife of William Wendt, a friend who acted on the stage in New York City and in films for many years while also giving private lessons in performance. William's wife, Carole, was a writer for the Today Show on NBC. Professor Borchardt was Chairman of the Department of Theatre Arts and Speech from 1975 to 1978. He published scholarly articles on theatre, and methods of teaching theatre, and wrote a book entitled Think Tank Theatre. After his retirement, the Department joined with Art and Music and Journalism to become the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, and the theatre productions and courses joined with the theatre department at the New Jersey Institute of Technology to form a unified Theatre Program open to students on both campuses, with a proscenium theatre at NJIT and a thrust stage at Rutgers in Bradley Hall. Professor Borchardt and his wife, Audrey, have continued to attend faculty-direction theatre productions on both campuses after retirement. Dedicated faculty, staff assistants, and students, have worked several years to increase book donations, catalog them, and develop a computer program to record the visual history of the designs and performances. Professor Borchardt helped to establish the AAUP (American Association of University Professors) Emeriti Assembly along with Professor Emeritus Richard Wasson. Since 1998 he has served as Chairperson of the Emeriti Assembly for 4 years, and he has been editor of its biannual newsletter the Rutgers AAUP Emeriti Assembly Reporter.

Speakers for the dedication of the Donald Borchardt Theatre Library Seminar Room included Dr. Ian Watson, Chairman of the Department, Jim Rhodes, President of Rutgers Alumni Association,

Dan Drew, Scenic Designer and Director, Michele Rittenhouse, Managing Director, and Donald Borchardt. Three of Professor Borchardt's original paintings decorate the special room. He was presented with a special honorary plaque.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you haven't paid your 2008-09 membership dues, please send a check for \$10.00 made payable to Rutgers AAUP Emeriti Assembly to Rutgers AAUP-AFT, 11 Stone Street, New Brunswick, N.J. 08901-1113. This is the membership fee for September, 2008 through August, 2009. Thank you for your prompt attention so that the Emeriti Assembly can continue its activities.

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

Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters, AAUP-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

Sign up with Rutgers AAUP-AFT's Action Center:
<http://www.unionvoice.org/rutgersaaupaft/home.html>

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:
www.aft.org/retirement/index.htm

Rutgers University's Web Page on Retiree Services:
<http://uhr.rutgers.edu/ben/RetireeServices.htm>

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
<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.htm>

MISSION AND MEMBERSHIP

The Mission of the Emeriti Assembly is to sustain and enhance the personal, intellectual and University interests of retired faculty. These interests will be met through meetings, special programs, a communications network, and work with other groups concerned with retiree issues. All retired faculty individuals, who are members of AAUP-AFT, are eligible for full membership. Non-voting, Associate Membership is available to retired faculty who are not AAUP-AFT members.

Membership extends from September through August. If you are not a paid member you may fill in the application form below. Your membership enables us to continue to publish the newsletter and make plans for the activities during the year. Membership in the Emeriti Assembly also entitles you to an associate membership in the Rutgers AAUP-AFT Chapters. Some Emeriti also continue AAUP National dues and membership.

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| Name _____ Telephone () _____ |
| Street Address _____ |
| City _____ State _____ |
| Zip Code _____ E-mail Address _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is my check for \$10.00 payable to Rutgers AAUP Emeriti Assembly. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEW member 2008-09 <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWING membership 2008-09 |
| Return to Rutgers AAUP-AFT, 11 Stone Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1113 |