

*Rutgers AAUP*

*Emeriti*

# Reporter

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## THE CHAIRPERSON'S CORNER

**Shanti S. Tangri**

**Chair & Professor Emeritus, Economics**

I hope you and your family had a better year than the country. The economic crisis, fears of a second depression, natural calamities, nuclear concerns regarding North Korea and Iran, continued tensions in the Middle East, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other conflicts were enough to depress all of us. The election of an African-American with connections to Kansas, Hawaii, Kenya, and Indonesia was a historic event which opened up possibilities of a new America in a new global economy. As retirees we have reasons to be concerned with the future of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and the health system in general.

The rise of religious fundamentalism as political movements in many countries, climate warming, pollution of air and water systems are issues which have concerned all of us as responsible academics and citizens when we were working at the University. As retirees I hope you continue to exercise your participation with fellow academics in our monthly meetings.

It is a pleasure to see my old colleagues and exchange ideas and opinions in a relaxed, intellectual atmosphere. I hope you feel the same way. Hoping to see you soon.

Thank you for letting me serve as your chair one more year and my thanks to the AAUP-AFT staff and officers and the Executive Council for their friendly and efficient support.

## RICHARD WASSON LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR 2008

The Richard Wasson Leadership award for 2008 was awarded to Professor Emeritus Richard Quaintance. He taught at Rutgers University, Douglass College from 1965 to 1998. He was a professor of English and besides teaching composition courses, he developed upper class courses such as *The Birth of the English Novel*, from Bunyan to Austen, and two cross-disciplinary courses in Western satire. He was also helpful in committee work to double the size of the Douglass Library. He was a friend and colleague to Richard Wasson. He succeeded him as AAUP representative in the English Department when Professor Wasson retired. Professor Quaintance has been active in the Emeriti Assembly since his retirement in 1998. He taught some ten semester-long non-credit courses for folks over 50 at RU-ALL now known as OLLI-RU (including satire, Jane Austen, James Joyce, short stories, and the early novel. He has participated in Emeriti Assembly Planning Committee meetings and has prepared several special events for the general membership. One was a slide-show lecture entitled *Satire-Saturated 'Fine' Art: Paintings, Engravings & Sculpture as Weapons of Mass Instruction*. Another was entitled *"Intertextuality in English Landscaping, 1720-80: How Politics, Poetry & Tourism Shaped the Sights"*. It was also illustrated with slide projections. For a third presentation, he showed the Gillo Pontecorvo 1965 controversial classic film *"The Battle of Algiers"*. The story portrayed in documentary style the campaign of terror launched by the National Liberation Front (FLN called "the organization" in the film) against French colonial rule in 1956. He led a discussion following the viewing.

Professor Quaintance has spent the past year in Florence, Italy, assisting his wife, The Rev. Barbara Crafton, on duty there with the Episcopal Church.

The Richard Wasson Leadership Award was established in 1999 in memory of Richard Wasson, Founder and First President of the AAUP Emeriti Assembly. It is

**EDITOR:  
DONALD BORCHARDT**



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.

**AN INTERVIEW WITH MARY GIBSON,  
Member AAUP-AFT Emeriti Assembly  
By Isabel Wolock, AAUP-AFT Emeriti Assembly**



***What is your current title at AAUP-AFT?***

Staff Representative—kind of an “all purpose” title that most of us share

***What kinds of roles and tasks does this position entail?***

We work as a team, with different, but often overlapping areas of concentration and expertise, for example, contract enforcement, communications, legislative relations, membership, data/research, and finance. Together with my colleague BJ Walker, my focus is academic working conditions and grievance administration. We work with faculty members (full-time and part-time), TAs and GAs, and EOF counselors, providing confidential consultation, information, strategy brainstorming and the like regarding all manner of problems and issues that arise in the course of their work. We try to help prevent problems from arising, for example, by organizing panel presentation workshops on the intricacies of the promotion, reappointment, and tenure procedures for potential candidates and department chairs. We try to help constituents achieve constructive, collegial resolution of problems whenever possible. We also advise and inform them regarding the processes and remedies that may be available to them through the negotiated grievance procedures and assist them in pursuit of those procedures when informal efforts at resolution are not successful.

***What other positions have you had at AAUP-AFT?***

While I was on the faculty, I served in many capacities at Rutgers AAUP, including President, Treasurer,

Grievance Chair, Negotiating Committee, Committee on Affirmative Action and Discrimination, and Committee on Occupational Safety and Health. I also served in the National AAUP as First Vice President, Chair of the Committee on Women in the Academic Profession, and member of the Committee on Professional Ethics.

***When did you first start working with AAUP-AFT? How did you first get involved?***

I joined the union, as a matter of principle, when I joined the faculty and was actively involved from the beginning.

***I know you were also a faculty member at Rutgers University. Can you tell me little bit about the position(s) you held. ---- When you were first appointed ---- When you retired --- What you did in the areas of teaching, research, writing, administration, etc.***

I was hired in 1972 into the Philosophy Department at Livingston College, which was then only a few years old, having been established with the mission of offering a university education to students who traditionally would not have had access—particularly, though not exclusively, economically and often educationally disadvantaged students from inner cities. When I completed my PhD in 1975, I entered the tenure stream. I was denied tenure in 1980, the same year that I received Livingston College’s award for excellence in teaching. After two grievances and three years, I returned to Rutgers with tenure. In the interim, working at the Center for Philosophy and Public Policy at the University of Maryland, I organized a working group and edited a book, *To Breathe Freely: Risk, Consent and Air*, (1985) on the hazards of and responses to air pollution in workplaces of all kinds, outdoor air, and from cigarette smoke in enclosed spaces. (My single-authored book, *Workers’ Rights*, had come out in 1983.) Another major writing project was an article entitled “Contract Motherhood: Social Practice in Social Context,” examining issues raised by the “Baby M” case, including autonomy, alienation, commodification (of women and babies), and exploitation.

Like my scholarship, my teaching focused primarily on social and political philosophy and feminist theory. I retired from the faculty in 2002 and continued my volunteer work with the AAUP until 2005 when I was hired onto the staff and started getting paid. . .

***After retirement you remained involved with the AAUP-AFT? Any special reason for this?***

I had begun feeling torn between my faculty work and grievance work in the union, and decided to retire so that I could focus more on the union work.

## OBAMA'S NOMINATION

### ***What do you find most satisfying about your AAUP-AFT work?***

Working with my staff colleague, BJ Walker, who has become one of my dearest friends; working with all of my staff colleagues and member activists; and helping faculty colleagues understand issues and options, resolve problems, and determine whether and how to push back when necessary.

### ***What kinds of experiences or situations in the past led to your decision to become involved with union activities?***

A lifelong commitment to social justice combined with the adage my long-time partner and now late husband, Wells Keddie, regularly quoted from a Methodist (?) hymn, "Brighten the Corner Where You Are." (Not to mislead: Wells was a confirmed atheist, as am I.)

### ***What did you do before coming to Rutgers?***

While in graduate school, I was arrested five times, primarily in protest demonstrations against the U.S. war in Vietnam.

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

Probably Wells—although I was already pointed in my chosen direction, he helped me every day to keep going.

### ***What type of prior training/education did you have?***

I graduated with a degree in Philosophy from Hunter College of the City University of New York, having taken nine years to work my way through. I got my PhD from Princeton, beginning in 1968, the first year that women were accepted on a regular basis into the graduate school there.

### ***Any personal information you'd like to share?***

I've had great good fortune in many ways, including more than 30 years of a mutually loving, supportive—and challenging—relationship with Wells until his death on April Fool's Day, 2006. Recently, abundant new joys and challenges have entered my life with Lee Simon, whom I met in Tai Chi class. . .

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

It has been a rewarding, often exhilarating, if sometimes daunting, journey so far. I don't regret the choices I've made and I truly treasure many of the people and experiences I've known along the way.

On Tuesday, June 16, Norman Markowitz, Associate Professor of History, Rutgers University, spoke to the Emeriti Assembly in the AAUP-AFT Conference Room, 11 Stone Street, New Brunswick. His presentation was entitled: The Obama Nomination and the Struggle for a New Supreme Court. Following are excerpts that generated thoughtful consideration.

Professor Markowitz emphasized five overall declarations concerning the United States Supreme Court: It is a most powerful group affecting the lives of citizens. It has been an active power force since it was created. It is the most conservative branch of government. The effect of its decisions last a long time. And, the results of debated policies change the course of law in the United States.

Throughout the course of history the Supreme Court has had the power of judicial review. It declared acceptance or rejection of policies governing the lives of citizens. Presidents such as Washington, Jefferson, and Polk were permitted to be slave holders, for example. Constitutional amendments were made as a result of the Civil War. The 14th Amendment, for instance, gave national power over the rights of states. From 1870 to the 1890's national citizenship rights were favored over state's rights. Capitalism and monopolies were given support. In FDR's administration in the 1930's Social Security and National Labor relations were established. Child Labor laws were accepted, and cigar manufacturing was protected. Roosevelt tried to expand the Court but was prevented. From the 1950's to the 70's there was a progressive movement which changed the prevailing conservatism. It was called "legal realism". Lyndon Johnson made Court appointments in the late 1960's. Then, when Richard Nixon came to office he appointed three justices, Burger, Renfield, and Black which moved the Court to the right. States were allowed to use executions as a form of criminal punishment, and the laws governing affirmative action were changed. Reagan attempted to establish a right wing, and H.W. Bush appointed Suter, and Clarence Thomas, who were right-wingers. Clinton appointees were centrist and traditional; Sandra Day O'Conner is an example. Barak Obama appears to be the most progressive of presidents and would make Supreme Court appointments. Sonia Sotomayor was number one on the list. Two major concerns will emerge. What will the Court do about National Health Care, and what will it do about National Labor regulations?

After the presentation, Professor Markowitz opened the topic for informal discussion with all in attendance. The historical perspective provided a basis for consideration of current events in the country's political arena.

## **ECONOMIC CRISIS**

"The Current Economic Crisis" was the topic of a round table discussion scheduled on May 12 at the new AAUP-AFT facilities at 11 Stone Street, New Brunswick. Chairperson Shanti Tangri, Emeriti Professor Economics, led the discussion. He first asked each of those attending to express a question regarding the current economic situation prevailing in the United States. The questions introduced topics which then led to a discussion of the issues involved.

The seriousness of the recession was considered and comparisons were made to the depression of the 1930s and how the country recovered. Origins and causes of the present recession were introduced included the financial sectors of the United States, Europe, and what effect China might impose. In all, the problem was regarded as a global one effecting many countries of the world. Analytical models of the problem were enumerated such as the classical, neo classical, Keynesian and post Keynesian. Patterns of wealth distribution and the Marxist model provided examples for comparison. The need of capital by banks to carry on business and the lack of incentives for depositors provided details on the on-going crisis. Lack of knowledge on what a budget is really like in large institutions, where spending plans are made and what kind of transfers of assets produce business growth, creates a great uncertainty in the minds of the general public. Terms used to communicate in the media can be misleading. Terms such as "depositions" and "reserves" receive little discussion, and government's huge loans to financial institutions is not understood. Remedies relate to the analytical and ideological models preferred. And the historical perspective is given to classical and neo classical models.

The discussion led by Professor Tangri included his expertise, and provided for a stimulating exchange of ideas regarding the current economic crisis.

## **ANNUAL POOL PARTY**

Isabel and Mel Wolock hosted what has become known as the "Annual Pool Party". On Friday, August 7, members of the Emeriti Assembly, AAUP-AFT staff, and invited guests met in the beautiful backyard with a swimming pool of the Wolock residence in Metuchen. Nature provided a day of sunshine for the friendly gathering with good food and beverages in addition to lively conversation. Thanks to the Wolocks for a pleasurable and relaxing afternoon.

## **RETIRED FACULTY SERVICES**

The Executive Director of the RFA (Retired Faculty Association) has scheduled a meeting with Brent Ruben, Center for Organizational Development and Leadership, to discuss "What Services Retired Faculty Would Like to Have from University Human Resources". It will be held from 9:30 to 11 a.m. on Friday, November 6, at The Rutgers Club. The AAUP-AFT Emeriti Assembly will co-sponsor this event.

## **IN REMEMBRANCE**

We were only recently made aware of the death of one of our former Emeriti Assembly members, John C. Berkey, Sr. Professor Berkey passed away in April 2009. He had retired in 1996 as Professor Emeritus of the English Department at Rutgers Camden and had been a member of the Emeriti Assembly through 2004. Professor Berkey had been active in the Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters as President of the Camden Chapter and was involved in the union's bargaining sessions. He was awarded the 1996 Georgina M. Smith Award for creative and distinguished leadership by Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters.

## **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

If you haven't already paid your 2009-10 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 2009 through August 2010. Thank you for your prompt attention so that the Emeriti Assembly can continue its activities.

Renewing members need only send a check; you do not need to complete the application. We do, however, request that you advise us of any changes in address, phone, or e-mail information.

**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](mailto:aaup@rutgersaaup.org)  
[www.rutgersaaup.org](http://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](mailto:aaup@aaup.org)  
[www.aaup.org](http://www.aaup.org)

**American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO**

555 New Jersey Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
Phone: 202-879-4400  
[www.aft.org](http://www.aft.org)

**AFT's Web Page for Retirees:**

[www.aft.org/retirement/index.htm](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.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.

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 2009-10 <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWING membership 2009-10
Return to Rutgers AAUP-AFT, 11 Stone Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1113