

Rutgers AAUP

Emeriti

Reporter

Volume 17 – Issue 2

September 2013

THE CHAIRPERSON'S CORNER

Elfriede Schlesinger, Chair
Professor Emerita, Social Work

I feel truly privileged to have been honored with the responsibility of serving as the new chairperson of the Emeriti Assembly. As we start the new academic year, I say thank you, and look forward to our working together in the next few years.

As I take on this new task I have been reflecting on the varied programs we have put together. The speakers, all intellectually stimulating, introduced us to new thinking on a range of issues, i.e., the struggles of the Middle East, major political issues that confront the United States (i.e., the greed of corporations and the power issues that affect our daily lives, the history of contemporary struggles for equality, and more).

In the few short weeks since I started working as chair, I have quickly learned much about the effort involved in putting together high quality programs.

Our meetings, with our humble lunches - pizza or home made brown bag lunches - are a social as well as an intellectual interlude. The Wolock's hospitality, as they invite us to their pool every summer adds another social dimension.

Our past chairperson, and his work, as well as that of others are hard acts to follow. We have already begun discussion as to whether we want to maintain the nature of the group as it has evolved, or whether we want to change and move in other directions. Whichever direction we take, I look forward to an interesting year, and promise to make every effort to be successful in following in my predecessor's footsteps.

EDITOR'S NOTE: DONALD BORCHARDT



As outgoing Chairperson of the Emeriti Assembly I wish to express my gratitude to those who have made the past two years a memorable experience. I have enjoyed the monthly meetings with Emeriti members who have gathered together for the scheduled speakers and discussions. I must also thank those who have made these events possible. As Vice Chairperson and Program Chair Shanti Tangri contacted and arranged for speakers who were willing to introduce us to stimulating topics of interest, followed by interactive discussion. As Secretary, Ben Beede provided written details that could be saved for the newsletter. Isabel Wolock, our Treasurer, conducted interviews with retirees, for publication in our newsletter. Denise Borusewicz, of the AAUP-AFT staff has made it possible to communicate with members, produce flyers for events, and assemble articles for the newsletter. Rae Tellefsen of the AAUP-AFT staff has integrated dues and expenses with AAUP-AFT financial support.

I have bound together the flyers and newsletters from 1996 to 2013 with details about the beginnings of the Emeriti Assembly by the founder Richard Wasson into a volume entitled *Emeriti Assembly in Review*. This book, as a reference to the history of our organization, is on file with the Rutgers AAUP-AFT office.

I look forward to the future of the Emeriti Assembly that is "Looking Ahead" with newly elected Chairperson Elfriede Schlesinger and Vice Chairperson John Leggett.

INCOME INEQUALITY – A VIEW FROM BELOW: THIRTY YEARS OF ESCALATION

Elfriede Schlesinger and Isabel Wolock, Professors Emerita of Social Work and members of the Emeriti Assembly, gave a presentation on January 29, 2013. Emeriti Assembly Secretary Benjamin R. Beede summarized their talk as follows:

Both presenters noted the importance of Timothy Noah's book *The Great Divergence* (2012) in portraying the problems that they discussed. The post-World War II years up until 1979 constituted a period of "great compression," that is, the compression of incomes. From 1979 onward, the "great divergence" began growing steadily. One per cent of people in the United States received ever higher incomes. Concern with the poorest group, which makes up about fifteen per cent of the population, declined. As decision-makers increasingly turned their attention away from the poor, the situation of the poor has continued to deteriorate, according to many measurements. These trends are not peculiar to the United States, but this is one of those countries that has a particularly high level of income inequality.

Although some income inequality is necessary for the efficient functioning of a capitalist economic system, the great growth of income inequality is actually working against the effectiveness of the economy and against a significant recovery from the current recession.

A highly significant facet of the "great divergence" is a growing income gap between the highest income group and the middle class. Defining the "middle class" is difficult, but it may best be described as the "three middle fifths of the income spectrum." This group includes a large number of consumers, and it is a vital source of future business leaders. Moreover, with the decline of the middle class, there is a reduction in the growth of human capital, which is essential for increased economic activity. Finally, the middle class can play an important political role by combating the predominant influence of the highest economic class on public policy. Therefore, factors that work against members of the group must necessarily retard economic growth and the achievement of a more just society.

Noah offers a number of proposals for changing the increasing inequitable and inefficient situation. These include making wealthier people pay higher income taxes, enlarging the public employment sector, making pre-school programs generally available, imposing price ceilings on colleges and universities, and ensuring that the Democratic Party wins more presidential elections.

Professor Joseph Stiglitz, an economist and recipient of the Nobel Prize, has also underlined the relationship

between inequality and the persistence of the recession and the association of these developments with the decline in the middle class.

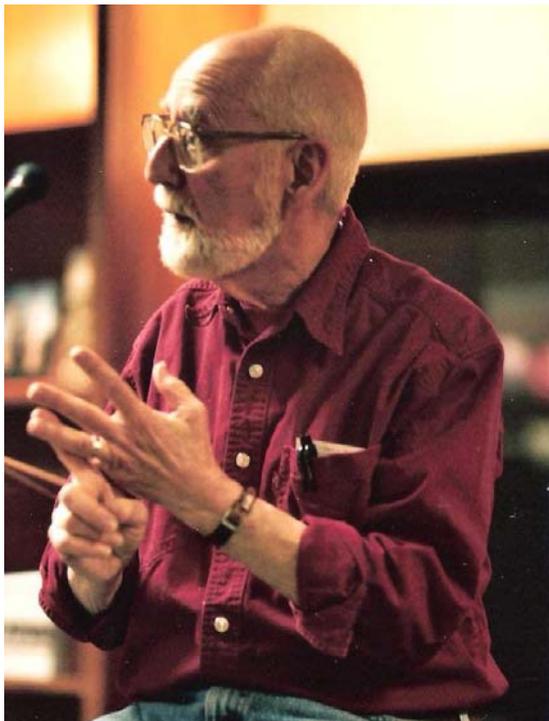
Another important element in the story of economic inequality is what Professor Wolock termed "intergenerational mobility," meaning how socio-economic status changes or does not change between parents and children. As income inequality has increased, mobility has decreased. Children are now much more likely to "inherit" their status from their parents than in the past, whether their families are high or low income. Mobility, though, does vary somewhat by groups. Women are more upwardly mobile than in the past, but African-Americans' mobility is lower than it was at one time.

Despite research results showing that socio-economic status is becoming static, many people in the United States cling to the optimistic view that they can succeed in improving their lot. There is also much more tolerance of income inequality in the United States than in countries with comparable economies and life styles. Nevertheless, quite recently, there has been some change in these patterns. Newer research has shown that there is significantly more concern with economic inequality and an increased perception that class conflict does exist in the United States. These changes in public opinion may well be a result of the Occupy Wall Street movement.

The Emeriti Assembly appreciated the detailed presentation, which was based on the most current data and which included the skilful use of many graphics.

The next meeting of the Emeriti Assembly is
scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on
Tuesday, October 15, 2013
at the AAUP-AFT Office,
11 Stone Street, New Brunswick.
Professor Emeritus John Leggett
will give a presentation on
the civil rights struggle from the mid 1800s to
the present.

**AN INTERVIEW WITH MARTY OPPENHEIMER,
Member AAUP-AFT Emeriti Assembly
Former Associate Professor, Sociology Department
By Isabel Wolock, Treasurer,
AAUP-AFT Emeriti Assembly**



Tell me about your position at Rutgers before you retired.

Actually, I'm only about 95% officially retired. I'm still on the University of Pennsylvania payroll this Fall semester because I'm supervising an M.A. thesis, for which I actually get paid (a little). At Rutgers I was Associate Professor in the Sociology Department from 1970 to 2002. I was hired as one of the first in the Livingston College department, together with Dale Johnson and, a year or so later, John Leggett. The "charter chair" was Irving Louis Horowitz, who, I think, came to regret his choices!

I taught at all levels from introductory to graduate level courses, including Ph.D. supervision. For a couple of years I was chair. I also did a lot of writing --- several books, articles, book reviews. One of my books, called the *Hate Handbook: Oppressors, Victims and Fighters* was about causes of hatred and bigotry. My other books include *The Sit-In Movement of 1960*, *The Urban Guerilla*, *White Collar Politics*, and *The State in Modern Society*.

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

In the years 1970 to about 1982 our department (and Livingston generally) was hopping with enthusiasm and controversy (over student demands, democratic governance, and other political issues). My colleagues, especially in Labor Studies (Wells Keddie, whom Leggett and I were instrumental in hiring), were a great bunch despite occasional disputes. The graduate students, many international, were really stimulating. We had a ball until centralization, which most of us opposed. After that, our fun was pretty much over. About that time I began to do grievance counseling, which did give me satisfaction.

Did you do any community service work?

The only "community service work" I did was that I was an active member of the "collective" that produced New Brunswick's alternate newspaper, *All You Can Eat*. I was also active in the various radical caucuses in sociology, and with the journal *The Insurgent Sociologist*, which was first published in newspaper format by several people in the Douglass College Sociology Department plus myself. It's now called *Critical Sociology*.

Did you receive any award / honors before or after retirement?

Yes, I received the Miles Galvin AAUP award for my work as grievance counselor; and I got the "lifetime achievement" award of the Marxist Section of the American Sociological Association in 2007.

What did you do before coming to Rutgers?

That would be a long answer, but the short version is that I taught sociology at Haverford, Bryn Mawr, Vassar, Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, where I also chaired the department. Then I went to Rutgers at the invitation of none other than Irving Louis Horowitz. I also did two years in the Army, mostly in England. I was a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania, where I was pretty active in socialist circles. I was a member of the Young Socialist League and later of the Socialist Party (of Norman Thomas), and even served on the Socialist Party National Committee. This was in the late '50s and early '60s, when I was also active in the civil rights movement. I wrote my dissertation, as you know, on the 1960 sit-ins.

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

Actually I started out as a journalism major at Temple University, but then decided the academic world was really my thing, and I switched to sociology because I

figured that was a field in which I could do just about anything. I took a lot of anthropology in graduate school, though.

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

Today it would be really tough for a younger version of myself to get a tenured job in sociology. I think I would go for a job in some non-profit, like the American Friends Service Committee. I did work for them just after I got my Ph.D., for two years.

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

Adolf Hitler, thanks to whom we came to the U.S. from Germany. I think what people nowadays call "the period of the Third Reich" runs like a thread through all of my life, including my choice of careers and field and subject area (political sociology, especially social movements). My M.A. at Columbia University was on the Nazi movement.

What did you do after you retired?

Right now I'm still writing. My current "big project" is a book on the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee for a German publisher. I'm working with a German friend who is doing most of the translation. The book will include the work of several others.

My German friend Helmut got me into this. He's had a book published by this same publisher. I had sent him a short piece on SNCC I had published in the socialist magazine *Against The Current* and he contacted the publisher, who agreed at once to do our book in a series on social movements in several countries.

What do you see as the best thing about retirement?

You have the choice of never going to a committee meeting again (or choose committees very carefully!) Plus not being tied to a schedule.

Are there any drawbacks? Do you have any regrets?

After retiring from Rutgers I taught seminars in the Master of Liberal Arts program at the University of Pennsylvania for eight years, one every year. I created my own courses, no questions asked. I had a ball. I finally decided the car commute was too much, but I do miss that experience, and those kinds of adult, working students.

Any personal information you'd care to share?

Hobbies and interests

I continue to participate in socialist activities at least in a limited way given that I live in a suburban community where there is no real left presence. I also do some volunteer work with the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, as does my wife.

Spouse

I'm married to an artist, Hannah Fink. We've been together for 33 years. We have an adopted son, from Chile. We are also the parent/step parent of my two older kids, both married, and together we have three terrific grandchildren. One was born last March, 2013.

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

Stay mentally active and do something useful or helpful to others.

How did you come to be involved in the AAUP Emeriti Assembly?

It's part of the "stay mentally active" program. I like many of the presentations, and was flattered to be asked to give one myself. The companionship, even if only once a month or so, is very valuable.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

"Human Trafficking and Organized Crime: An Overview," was a presentation by James Finckenauer, Emeritus Professor II, Rutgers School of Criminal Justice, at the Rutgers AAUP-AFT office building in New Brunswick on March 19, 2013. The following report of this event was written by Benjamin R. Beede, Secretary of the Emeriti Assembly.

Dr. Finckenauer began by describing his Rutgers service and his involvement with the study of human trafficking. He came to Rutgers in 1974 as part of the initial faculty for the School of Criminal Justice. At one point, he spent four years at the Department of Justice where he worked on the human trafficking issue. His co-authored book, *Selling Sex Overseas: Chinese Women and the Realities of Prostitution and Global Sex Trafficking* (New York: New York University Press) was published in 2012. He is a member of a task force of the American Psychological Association on trafficking women and girls, which has pulled together knowledge about the problem and the programs that exist for dealing with it. Dr. Finckenauer's special interest is the involvement of organized crime in trafficking.

He stated that human smuggling and human trafficking are different. Illegal immigrants undertake their movement voluntarily. With human trafficking, however, there is either force, fraud, or coercion. The trafficking victims are promised legitimate jobs, but when they arrive in host countries, their identification papers may be taken from them, and they may be forced to become sex workers. There are some overlaps between smuggling and trafficking, however. Sometimes, illegal immigrants are held against their will until they have finished paying for having been brought into the destination countries.

Within the task force mentioned there are some differences of opinion about the relationship between sex trafficking and prostitution. Some task force members want to conflate them, but others argue that not all prostitutes are forced. The issue of human trafficking is complicated by such controversies.

Human smuggling is only transnational, involving the crossing of national borders. Trafficking, however, can be either domestic or international. Transnational operations involve operations involve "source countries," "transit countries," and "destination countries." Source countries generally have weak economies and may be scenes of civil strife. Transit countries, such as Mexico and Turkey, receive people, who are destined to go elsewhere. Destination countries include Japan and Singapore, which have sex industries, as well as the United States, which has a variety of exploitative work situations.

Prices for sex work are often based on ethnicity in countries, such as Singapore and Taiwan. There are "push/pull" factors. In Thailand, for example, there is a large child sex industry that serves businessmen from Asia, Europe, and the United States. Economics is the driving force, and economic development is the key to coping with the problem. Women are vulnerable to exploitation because of their low status in some countries.

People organizing and carrying out trafficking risk relatively little, because there is not much chance of being caught. The industry is highly compartmentalized, moreover, making it difficult for its members to identify other people involved. Official agencies, such as the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) assert that sex trafficking is highly organized, but Dr. Finckenauer disputes the degree of involvement by organized crime. To be sure, there is a "street tax," for criminal organizations that provide security services, but many trafficking operations are on the "mom and pop" level. "Safe houses" exist in China, for example. Sex workers themselves are often used as recruiters. Employers want their workers to be relatively "happy." That principle applies to adults. Child sex victims are, of course, all victims.

A basic question about sex trafficking is its size. Numbers vary, and they tend to be inaccurate. The CIA estimated at one time that 50,000 women and children were coming into the United States every year, but that was clearly an over estimate. Later estimates were 14,500-17,500, and now the United States no longer offers estimates.

Dr. Finckenauer's research indicates that in China, at least, forty per cent of the women studied were already sex workers before they moved outside the country. They were often recruited by prostitutes. About thirty-one per cent of them moved on their own, fifteen per cent of them moving in company with other women. There was no evidence of abductions or deception. In Indonesia about fifteen per cent of the women were not free, having lost control of their identity papers.

None of the Chinese women reported experiencing violence, unsafe or serial sex. They wanted to earn a specified amount of money and then return to China. Some authorities have made much of debt bondage. In fact, about thirty per cent of the women were already in debt in China. The average fee of about US\$ was 6,000, and it was, on the average, paid within twenty days. Most women retained about seventy-five per cent of their wages for themselves.

The situation was different in Macau, where some fell into gambling and drug use. Prostitution and sex trafficking are low priorities for Chinese authorities. Generally, transnational trafficking is tolerated.

Dr. Finckenauer's conclusions are that sex trafficking can be reduced by further economic development in the "resource countries," by publicizing information about the traffic, and by cracking down on sex industry consumers.

The presentation was highly informative and well received.

RAPE OF NANJING

"The Garrison State and the Rape of Nanjing" was the title of a presentation by John Leggett, Professor Emeritus of the Sociology Department and the School of Labor Studies and James Finckenauer, Professor II Emeritus, Rutgers School of Criminal Justice. The presentation was given at the Rutgers AAUP-AFT office building, in New Brunswick on April 30, 2013. The following report was written by the Secretary of the Emeriti Assembly, Benjamin R. Beede.

Professor Leggett discussed Iris Chang's book, *The Rape of Nanjing: the Forgotten Holocaust of World War II* (New York: Basic Books, 1997), which describes

widespread assaults on Chinese civilians in 1937 during the Sino-Japanese War of 1937-1945. Chang (1968-2004) and her book have aroused considerable interest and much controversy, and several other books have been written about her and her study. She seems to have been affected by the deeply troubling subjects that she investigated, and she became depressed, finally shooting herself.

China was resisting Japanese imperialism. Nanjing was the capital of what was then referred to as Nationalist China, and the Japanese military leadership seems to have decided to use the seizure of that city as an object lesson to the Chinese about the folly of continuing their resistance. As many as 300,000 Chinese are said to have been killed. Many women were raped, and the deaths of many men, women, and children were slow and painful.

Although some Japanese scholars and others have admitted the brutality of the Nanjing incident, successive Japanese governments have been unwilling to acknowledge the nature of the second Sino-Japanese War.

Professor Leggett connected Chang's description of events at Nanjing in 1937 with the theory of the "garrison state" propounded by Harold D. Lasswell, a political scientist at the University of Chicago, most notably in a short article, entitled "The Garrison State," which appeared in the January 1941 issue of the *American Journal of Sociology*.

Based in part on his interpretation of the conflict between Japan and China, Lasswell strongly suggested that regimes led primarily by military figures might become the dominant pattern in world politics. According to Lasswell, "the trend of our time is away from the dominance of the specialist on [sic] bargaining, who is the businessman, and toward the supremacy of the soldier." [page 455]. At the same time, the "soldier" would learn ways of guiding and manipulating civil society.

Japanese society in the 1930s and 1940s seems to have been a "garrison state," one which could produce such events as the "rape of Nanjing." Professor Leggett compared Nanjing with Belgian exploitation and massacres in the Congo during the early 20th century and brutality during Pinchot's rule in Chile much later.

Pointing to Eri Hotta's *Pan-Asianism and Japan's War 1931-1945* Ben Beede suggested that Japanese policy toward Asia was janus faced. There were many Japanese who genuinely wanted to free Asia from Western imperialism, yet, with respect to China, Gerald E. Bunker's *The Peace Conspiracy: Wang Ching-wei and the China War, 1937-1941* suggests the Japanese government's attitude was profoundly cynical. He also

observed that Japanese leaders who opposed their country's imperialism were risking death, as shown by Hugh Byas' *Government by Assassination*.

Professor Finckenauer offered a number of conclusions:

- a. The crime of rape is a particularly intrusive attack, which is a significant tool of war;
- b. Sexual harassment often seems to be associated with the military role;
- c. Warfare frequently involves the demonizing of the enemy, thereby seeming to justify any actions, no matter how degrading or brutal, toward members of the hostile forces and, indeed, the hostile society;
- d. Mass rape during military operations reflects the low societal role of women in many societies;
- e. A culture of tolerance often exists that facilitates the victimization of those who come into the power of stronger forces.

UTILITIES

"Utilities: The Struggle for Affordable Rates and Dependable Service," by Sy Larson was presented to the Emeriti Assembly on June 4, 2013. The following notes were taken by Benjamin Beede.

These are matters of concern to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). The hurricane experiences and the requests by utilities for rate increases have raised the visibility of the rate issue.

New Jersey is what is described as "a de-regulated state," because thirteen or fourteen years ago, power production was de-regulated. Distribution remains regulated by the Board of Public Utilities, consisting of five members with six-year terms. Members are appointed by the governor, and they must be approved by the New Jersey Senate.

There is the Division of Rate Council, a state agency that is responsible for protecting consumers' rights.

There have been allegations of overcharging by Jersey Central Power & Light and complaints about its performance. Seniors began complaining many years ago in regard to rates and reliability of service. Many of them live in facilities that heat with electricity, making rate levels of special importance to them.

Jersey Central Power & Light has not requested any rate increases since 2005. Doing so would open its books to inspection. Regulations allow a return of 8.5% on its equity, but independent consultants have alleged that the company is making a rate of 12.3, which amounts to about ninety million dollars a year.

Performance involves:

(1) Preparation; (2) Communication; and (3) Restoration of service.

(1) Preparation. One of the elements is tree control, which is a complicated matter. Not much is really done. Substations are the key. They are relatively old and are in high-water areas. Even the Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) headquarters was flooded in the latest storm.

(2) Communication. It was poor to governmental officials and the public in the recent storm.

(3) Restoration of service. The infrastructure needs to be revamped.

Payment for improving the infrastructure is the key issue. PSE&G has requested an increase of 3.9 million dollars. Oversight is essential to see that monies are allocated properly and that consumers are not charged for these repairs.

SUMMER ACTIVITY

The Emeriti Assembly members met on July 16 and discussed the future direction of the organization. The discussion was continued at the September 18 meeting. August was the time for the annual Pool Party. Members and AAUP-AFT staff met on August 13 at the home of Isabel and Mel Wolock in Metuchen. Comfortable surroundings, friendly conversation, and delicious refreshments resulted in a relaxing afternoon. Our thanks to Isabel and Mel for a very special day.

RICHARD WASSON LEADERSHIP AWARD

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Emeriti Assembly presented the 2013 Richard Wasson Leadership Award to Professor Emeritus Gustav Friedrich on September 18. Professor Friedrich was interviewed by Isabel Wolock in the February 2013 issue of our newsletter. He came to Rutgers in 1998 as

Dean of the School of Communication, Information, and Library Studies and Professor II in the Department of Communication. He retired in 2011 but remained active professionally in communication. He was appointed by President McCormick in 2011 to Chair a university-wide Faculty and Staff Retiree Advisory Council. The charge was to assist the administration in creating the strongest possible program for retired faculty and staff from Camden, Newark, and New Brunswick -- one that creates synergy by optimizing what the university does for retired faculty and staff **and** what retired faculty and staff do for the university. The focus has been on such issues as creating a comprehensive database of retirees, building a website that addresses retiree concerns and hopes, and planning for a physical presence (Retired Faculty and Staff Center) located at ASB II on Route 1. The Center has been completed. The Council continues to plan for the opening of the Center when a full-time staff member has been employed to manage the new office. Professor Friedrich also functions as a docent at the Zimmerli Art Museum on the New Brunswick campus.

The Richard Wasson Leadership Award was established in 1999 in memory of Richard Wasson, founder and First President of the Rutgers 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.



Past Chair Donald Borchardt (left) presenting the Richard Wasson Leadership Award to Gus Friedrich at the September 18 Emeriti Assembly meeting.

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

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/yourwork/retirees/>

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
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>