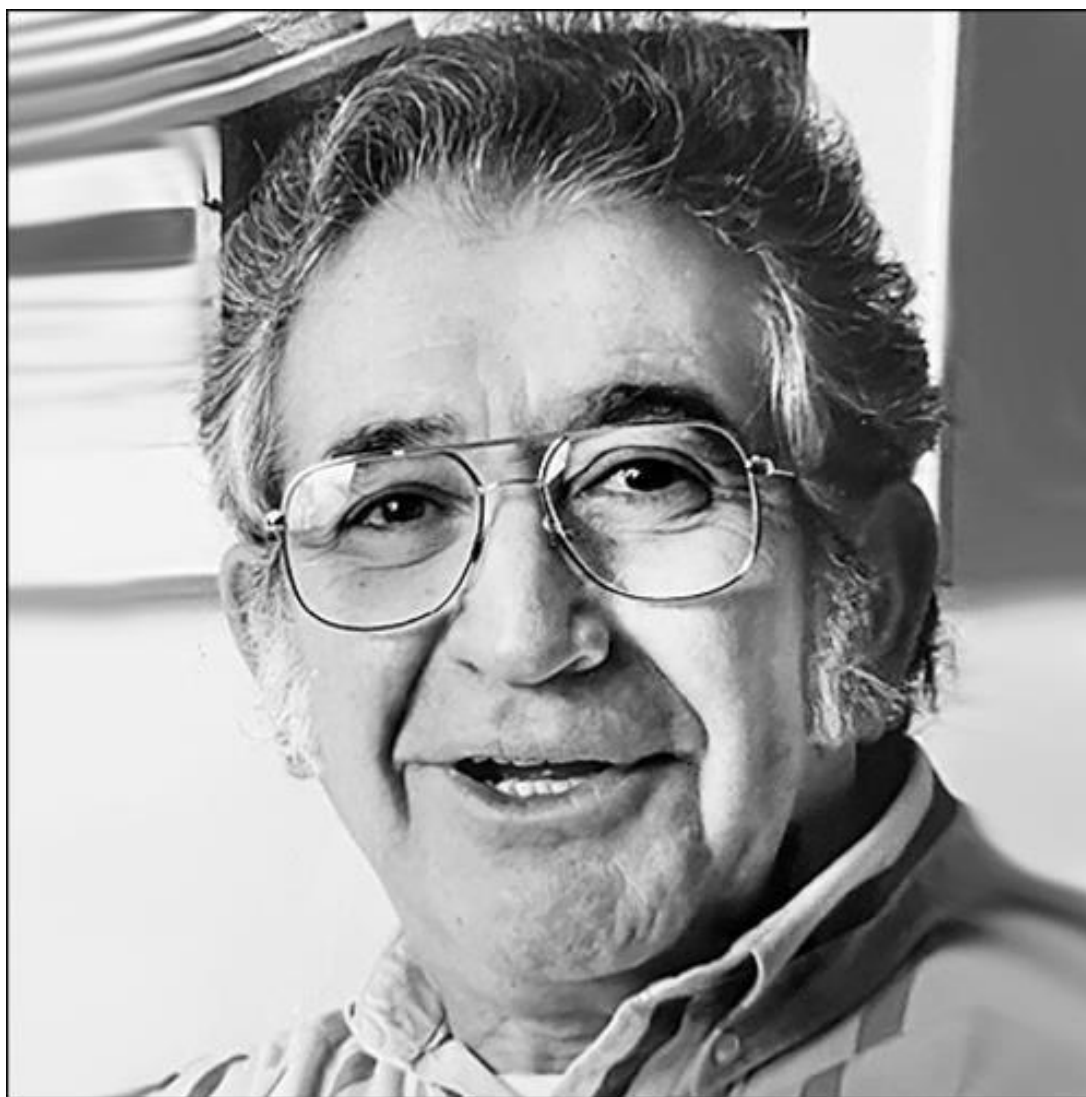


RADICAL TEACHER

A SOCIALIST, FEMINIST, AND ANTI-RACIST JOURNAL ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TEACHING

Remembering Saul Slapikoff

by Susan Gushee O'Malley



SAUL SLAPIKOFF

Saul Abraham Slapikoff, a long-time member of the *Radical Teacher* Editorial Board, died on August 26, 2022 at age 90. Saul taught in the Department of Biology at Tufts University for 30 years and was instrumental in the establishment of the Tufts American Studies Department for which he served as chair.

He was an invaluable member of *Radical Teacher*. His article, "A Course on Bio-Social Problems — And How I Came to Teach It" (1977), reprinted in this issue, begins this way:

I joined the Communist Party in 1948 while a high school senior, a few weeks after the presidential election in which Henry Wallace had run on the Progressive Party ticket. Following four stormy years at Brooklyn College as a party activist and a brief stint in the Army (I had been discharged early as a security risk) I decided to become an "industrial concentrator" for the Party. I worked in a series of jobs on the railroads in the New York City area (11).

He later became disillusioned with the Party after he read Nikita Khrushchev's speech to the 20th Party Congress of the CPUSSR that criticized Stalin and detailed some of the horrors Stalin had perpetrated. Thus began Saul's quest to find meaningful work that he hoped was "relatively value free" (12) and the path to his becoming a biologist. He eventually came back to politics and got involved with Resist and the anti-war movement, and developed a course "Contemporary Bio-Social Problems" to integrate his politics with the study of biology.

Saul joined *Radical Teacher* in 1979. With few exceptions, all the members of the Board were English professors. Because of Saul, *Radical Teacher* has had articles on the environment, women scientists, science teaching, and health care. In a tribute to Saul, RT board member James Davis wrote, "Saul's accessible style and thoughtfulness about politics reads ... like a model of *RT* essays." Saul also served as treasurer of *Radical Teacher* for many years, filed our annual report for the Center for Critical Education with the State of Massachusetts, and mailed out the magazine to our many subscribers before we became an open access online journal.

Saul was also an advocate for human rights for Palestine. His book, *Consider and Hear Me: Voices from Palestine and Israel* (Temple University, 1992) describes his experiences working in the West Bank. After retiring, Saul wrote plays and became involved with the Underground Railway Theater in Boston.

Memories of Saul I cherish include his eloquent tribute to Richard Ohmann at the Radical Teacher Memorial; in spite of Saul's Parkinson disease, the discussions we used to have about gardening and growing fruit trees; his visits to Richard Ohmann and me at the farm with his wonderful life partner Flora Gonzalez the summer before Dick died; and his attendance at my mother's funeral at St. Joseph's Church in Belmont, MA, where Saul was utterly bemused by the

Catholic mass and the practice of offering up suffering to the souls in purgatory.

Those who comprised the Boston contingent--Frinde, Pam, Linda, Louis, and Saul-- remember with fondness our wild rides (Saul driving superbly) from Boston to Middletown, CT, every 6 weeks to RT editorial board meetings. We'd talk and laugh about movies, theatre, protest marches, courses we were teaching, occasionally the upcoming meeting agenda, and whether it was time to have another bake sale to keep *Radical Teacher* going—all this at 85 mph.

I, and the rest of the Radical Teacher Board, will miss him intensely.



MEMBERS OF THE RADICAL TEACHER EDITORIAL BOARD. SAUL SLAPIKOFF IS PICTURED SECOND TO LEFT.

Susan Gushee O'Malley was one of the founders of the *Radical Teacher* in 1975. She is Professor Emerita, City University of NY, where she taught composition, Shakespeare, Women's Studies, and Liberal Studies (Kingsborough, Graduate Center) for 37 years. The recipient of Fulbright, NEH, Huntington, and Folger Library grants, she has published in early modern women's studies (*Custom is an Idiot: Jacobean Pamphlets on Women*, University of Illinois Press), disability, higher education, and civil rights. She was on the executive committee of the Professional Staff Congress for 9 years and Chair of the CUNY Faculty Senate for 4 years. For the last 11 years she has served on the Executive Committee of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women at the UN. She plays cello in the UN Symphony Orchestra.



ASSORTED PHOTOGRAPHS OF SAUL SLAPIKOFF



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