The Barnard Bulletin

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A VERMONT WRITER

BY MARGARET EDWARDS

This column is an offering of The Danforth Library in Barnard and a chance to introduce a Vermont writer who deserves wider renown.

Susanne Hoeber Rudolph 1930 - 2015
Lloyd Irving Rudolph 1927 - 2016

Lloyd and Susanne Rudolph, circa 1992

Could anyone in Barnard, Vermont, at the start of the twenty-first century, ever have guessed that the Rudolphs, the devoted elderly couple summering in their lakeshore house who daily walked together down the hill to the post office and back, were world famous?

Poets and fiction writers whose works are well known are generally treated as celebrities, at least while they are living. Even if their work isn't well known, there's always the possibility that a general reader will pick up and peruse the odd volume of poems, or read an obscure novel recommended by a friend, or come across a short story in a stray magazine—and suddenly become aware of the author and look for other works. Or perhaps the unheard-of author will be interviewed in the media and make a good impression, or gain a following from a public performance.

But great writers who are exemplary scholars are steeped in obscurity. Only fellow scholars in their field become acutely aware of their brilliance. Only the general reader who shares their specific interest will become absorbed in their published research and specialized insights.

Townsfolk knew both Rudolphs were professors at the University of Chicago. And yes, they were distinguished in local terms because they had bought their house overlooking Barnard's Silver Lake decades before, in 1960. Their three children had grown up spending summers in the town. Only a person who got to know Susanne and Lloyd a bit better became aware that they were highly unusual. They had a house in Jaipur, India, where they lived periodically, and they were fluent in Hindi. Both had received their doctorates in political science from Harvard, where they had met. They married in 1952, and four years later drove all the way from London to New Delhi in a Land Rover. Their scholarship became grounded in India, and among their many notable achievements, they were to bring to light a remarkable book, a late 19th and early 20th century diary written in English for over 44 years by an Indian prince named Amar Singh. *Reversing the Gaze* (2002) reveals an Indian's perspective on colonialism that is as prolific, astonishing and culturally significant as the seventeenth century diary of Samuel Pepys.

Susanne Hoeber Rudolph circa 2010

Only in their obituaries—both died within weeks of each other, Susanne in December of 2015, Lloyd in January 2016—does their magnificent accomplishment become clear. A reverent assessment appeared in *The Indian Express*: "The range of their work was breathtaking. Encompassing not only Indian politics but also comparative politics as a general field, with special interest in the political economy and political sociology of South Asia, state formation, Max Weber, political psychology, methodology, and the politics of category and culture….Their sixty-year partnership, rare in American academia, [is] distinguished by its scholarly excellence and its extraor-

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Rudolph - Cont. from front page
dinary respect and affection, for each other and for their students."

This eulogy goes on to note that the Rudolphs' first book, *The Modernity of Tradition*, had a "groundbreaking" thesis: the "politics of countries outside Europe could differ from the European model and still be 'modern.' " Specifically the Rudolphs showed deep respect for Indian culture in arguing "that many so-called traditional institutions, such as *caste*, can perform what Westerners think of as modern functions, as caste groups do when they serve [as] modern interest groups or political parties." For good reasons, *The Modernity of Tradition* is still in print more than fifty years after its first publication.

The Rudolphs' close collaboration produced numerous influential works, and these won them many accolades, chief of which was the 2014 Padma Bhushan Award, India's third-highest civilian honor. As *The Indian Express* concluded: "The Rudolphs' extraordinary teaching and scholarship helped make the University of Chicago a leading institution for the study of India."

Lloyd I. Rudolph, circa 2014

Their backgrounds differed in an interesting way. Who would guess that Lloyd, the Chicago son of two business people and a former West Point cadet, would choose a life of ambitious scholarship with Susanne, a reserved young German native whose family had fled the country after her father's 1939 imprisonment for anti-Nazi activities?

An extraordinary career—in this case, two careers entwined—is usually a braid of blind luck and courageous choices. In London in 1956, Susanne and Lloyd made their brave decision to set off together in a Land Rover to drive the 5,000 miles to New Delhi. Luck helped them arrive at their destination, exhilarated and unscathed. Then fifty-seven years later, in 2013, they spent their summer in Barnard working on *Destination India* (2014). This fascinating book is a quiet, intensely personal retrospective of how they started on their life's work. The notes from their trip, transcribed, are samples of first-rate travel writing in clear prose full of telling details.

> *The great asset of Turkey, and we sorely missed it in Iran, was the ever-present well. Wherever there was a source of water along the road, a pipe had been put in a wall, usually with a basin underneath. The pipes signified a fresh spring. We drank from them throughout the land unless a house seemed to be immediately above or some other possible source of contamination. We also used them for "air conditioning"—i. e. whenever we came to one we splashed off our faces and arms and drove off dripping. Delicious!*
>
> *For the rest, we consumed unending amounts of fruit, replenishing with peaches and tomatoes and grapes and plums once or twice a day. In Iran we added watermelons and other melons to our list—one large, juicy, cantaloupe-style melon was usually all we required for lunch. On the road from Trabaon to Evzurum, where bright orange patches on the mountainsides announced the places where apricots were being dried, we relieved many little girls of big plates of fresh-picked apricots at very little cost. As a result, our digestion, which became the subject of major interest to us on the trip, was unusually splendid. (pp. 39-40)*

Their day-to-day progress was never routine but subject to constant surprises. Here, as the Rudolphs leave Iran (also called Persia), they depict themselves meeting yet another adversity and overcoming it cheerfully.

> *One difference was the road, which immediately announced that in Afghanistan we should not expect to travel at more than 20 mph and that the bouncing we had gotten on some Persian roads was insignificant. Another difference was a powerful hot wind which began to blow…It whipped up the dust and sand from the arid land and chased it over the road. When we stopped, as we had to four times that morning, to readjust and eventually completely reload the equipment in the back, it blew so strongly that we had difficulty moving about. Once it tore the wooden folding table from Sue's hands. This is the "wind of 120 days" for which the region is famous—or infamous. Its unhesitating persistence tires the body and irritates the spirit. We were almost spitting at one another after an hour of it.*
>
> *The terrible, uneven road, where even 15 mph was no guarantee against bounces that would send us flying out of our seats, produced several disasters. The new aluminum water container, bought in Teheran, was crushed to an octagonal shape, and the metal side gave way and the back of the car was flooded. We had six large book packages wrapped in heavy paper lying under the middle seat where the water could reach them. So twenty miles out of Herat, we had to stop, rush around to save the packages, and mop up the back. But it wasn't too bad. The wind had its virtues: it dried off the book packages quickly. (p. 68)*

Cont. next page –Rudolph

Rudolph - Cont. from previous page

The book's quotations from the Rudolphs' 1956 notes, written during and shortly after their trip, are given context later in the book as they both reflect on how their careers were being shaped:

> *But how was it that we came to study caste and politics? One reason was our interest in Alexis de Tocqueville. His* Democracy in America [1835-1840] *taught that associational life was a necessary condition for democracy. So we came to India with that question on our minds. We also came with a commitment to political ethnography, e.g. finding out how those Indians living in the "mofusil" and in villages, as well as those living in cities who were English educated, think about self-help and collective action. We tried to avoid…the imposition of concepts derived from European and American experience on distant cultures and peoples. (pp. 138-139)*

From the start of their journey, the Rudolphs were haunted by a tragic story that was being reported internationally. The newspapers were describing an adventurous young man named Peter Winant, nephew of a recent U. S. Ambassador to Great Britain, who had gone missing with his beautiful Swedish companion, a young woman he had met in his wide travels. The two set out, against all advice, to hitchhike and beg meals as they traveled, having no clear destination in mind; and they had disappeared in northern Afghanistan. A truck driver who had given them a ride was the last person to report seeing them. The Rudolphs wrote their own conjectures:

> *We don't know how reliable our material is, but this is what we have pieced together…The fact that they were clearly unmarried caused some gossip among those who had not met them, but those who had generally agreed that the relationship must have been Platonic. The Pakistan border officials described him as shoeless, wearing a long Indian shirt and trousers. She also wore some simple white garment…They left Kabul in May with very little money... (pp. 99-100)*

Eventually members of the prosperous Winant family came to Afghanistan to look for the missing couple. Their foreign service connections were useful in goading many officials into high gear organizing searches. The Rudolphs set forth in their trip diary the two reigning rival theories about the young people's fate. One held that they had gone north to Russia and were somewhere there, alive and well. The other conjecture was that he had been "slain for her" and she had been "carried off to the brown tents in which the nomads live."

> *We saw the nomad colonies on the move, with an elder leading out front, the heavily laden camels lumbering in line with poultry perched on top, and the women in their brilliant clothes and bangles bringing up the rear. A blond woman would be much prized there, and among the ever-moving tribes she would be hard to find. (p. 101)*

Having arrived in Peshawar, India, the Rudolphs were clear in their notes how their own safe passage through Afghanistan had involved good luck rooted in wise choices. With relief, they could reflect:

> *While this tale [of the missing couple] was no comfort to us on our travels, we never ran the risks they did. Travelers on foot who beg their way and give the impression of poverty and helplessness are a more vulnerable target, according to Kabulians, than travelers in a well-equipped vehicle who look as though they have recently been seen by civilization and obviously are prosperous enough that the forces of law and order would take an interest in them. The Afghans have made the Winant case their special concern because the disappearance makes their land seem wild and uncivilized. They are striving hard to extend law and order, and this case has been a blow to their prestige. (p. 102)*

In fact, the Winant mystery was never solved.

The Rudolphs seemed to lead a charmed life, both of them optimistic, energetic and purposeful well into their post-retirement years. They involved themselves in any community where they lived, and that held true for Barnard. Lloyd took a great interest in town affairs and was active in the Silver Lake Association. Memorably, Su-

Cont. next page - Rudolph

LOCAL CRYPTOGRAM

A cryptogram is a code in which one letter is substituted for another. For example, the word "Church" could be written BWMSBW. The letter B would be the letter C and would be so throughout the entire message. In this message T = S. The solution is found by trial and error. The CRYPTOGRAM answer is on the last page.

"E V M W V Q L G T H R J T H V Q H

X K V M J U L J V Q. R X N J K W D,

X N H G P G T H G A. L J H K X Q H R J

M X Q H R J Q M R J P G T N R J Q J,

G H G T U G M H J Q. I D X X P L,

A X D B, B Q V Z V M B

A X M T H Q V G M G M I. V U G D D

X K G Q X M G T M J J B J B H X

F J J N H R X T J M J U L J V Q' T

Q J T X D W H G X M T.

Rudolph - Cont. from previous page

sanne prepared a community dinner and served it at the "Karmic Café" in 2008, when the Barnard General Store was owned and managed by the much-missed duo: Carolyn Dicicco and Kim Furlong. The meal, entitled "Taste of India," showed how much Susanne's urge to teach about the distant land she loved remained strong.

Mon. August 4, 2008

Karmic Café

With our Guest Chef Suzanne Rudolph

planned by Suzanne Rudolph

"Taste of India"

~ Murg Masala ~
grilled chicken marinated in yoghurt sauce prepared with cumin, coriander, turmeric, cayenne, onion, fresh ginger, and garlic

~ Mutter Paneer ~
baby peas in a spiced tomato sauce with sautéed farmers cheese

~ Rahasthani Pillau ~
basmati rice sautéed with cinnamon sticks, cloves, cardamom, allspice, cooked with a five vegetable medley topped with almonds and crisped onions

~ Rhaita mere Baghse ~
yoghurt salad from the garden with cucumbers, tomatoes, seasoned with cumin and fresh ground pepper

~ Papad ~
roasted crisp wafers made of chick peas or lentil flour

DESSERT

~ Tanda Aam ~
mango with coconut ice cream

Iced Tea, not too sweet ~ Nimbu Pani, fresh lemonade

Neither fame nor the Rudolphs' many honors ever swayed them as they persisted in living a quiet life of rigorous discipline wherever they found themselves. Even as their enormous productivity as writers and scholars never ceased, it did not sever them from fellowship and conviviality. Their dinner table on the back porch, commanding a sweeping view of Silver Lake, was often the focal point of delicious meals, intense conversations, and merry laughter.

The Charles B. Danforth Library owns a copy of *Reversing the Gaze: Amar Singh's Diary, A Colonial Subject's Narrative of Imperial India* (published by Westview Press in 2002) as well as several beautifully illustrated books on Indian and Southeast Asian art, all of them donations by the family of Lloyd and Susanne Rudolph.

DANFORTH LIBRARY NEWS

Hours: Wednesdays 3:00-5:00 p.m.
and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2022

Newest Books:

Non-Fiction:

The Afghanistan Papers by Craig Whitlock

Mr. and Mrs. Prince: How an Extraordinary Eighteenth-Century Family Moved Out of Slavery and into Legend by Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina

On Animals by Susan Orlean (Essay)

***Below the Edge of Darkness*: A Memoir of Exploring Light & Life in the Deep Sea** by Edith Widder (Memoir)

Fiction:

Marked Man by Archer Mayor **(**Publication Date: October 12, 2021)

Carnival of Snackery by David Sedaris

Matrix by Lauren Groff

My Monticello by Jocelyn Nichole Johnson

Oh William! by Elizabeth Strout

The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles

Silverview by John LeCarre

Crossroads by Jonathan Franzen

Trustees: *Margaret Edwards, Judy Maynes, Susan McNulty, Ellen Miles, and Edythe Wright*
Contacts Us*: During open hours: 1-802-234-9408;*
Email anytime: *charlesdanforthlibrary@gmail.com*

BARNARD REPRESENTATIVE SEAT ON WCUUSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS OPEN

The Barnard representative seat on the Windsor Central Unified Union School District Board of Directors is open for election on March 1, 2022. You must be at least 18 years old, a resident and registered voter of Barnard, not employed by the district, and eligible to be elected to public office to fill this position. Please contact the Barnard Town Clerk, Diane Rainey, 802-234-9211, if you would like to run for this position. If you have questions about being a board member, please email Chair Bryce Sammel, or WCSU Exec. Asst. Rayna Bishop.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION meets on the Monday prior to the first Wednesday of every month at 7 PM in the Town Office.

BARNARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION meets the second Monday of the month, 7:00pm, Town Hall.

BEES MEETINGS are held at 6:30pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the library at the school.

DANFORTH LIBRARY HOURS: Wednesdays 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to Noon. ECFiber Wi-Fi access available .

SELECTBOARD meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at the Town offices at 7:00pm.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, Rob Ramrath, selectboard@barnardvt.us, 234-2911 x 2, Cell 603-762-5280. By phone at any time, in person by appointment.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR, Rob Ramrath, zoning@barnardvt.us, 234-2911 x 2, Cell 603-762-5280. By phone at any time, in person by appointment.

TOWN CLERK office hours are Monday & Tuesday, 8:00am-3:30pm. Public access is restricted. Call 234-9211 for an appointment.

THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at the Barnard Town Hall as necessary.

THE BARNARD ENERGY COMMITTEE meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm at the Town Hall

YOGA CLASSES offered at Danforth Library, Mondays 9:00am - 10:30am with Amanda Anderson. Classes are by donation; for more information contact Amanda@innerliftyoga.com. Yoga Classes are also offered on Thursdays from 9-10:30 with Beth Umba. Contact Beth at: bethumba@gmail.com.

BARNARD GENERAL STORE, Monday-Saturday: 7am-7pm, Sundays: 8am-6pm.
https://www.facebook.com/barnardgeneralstore

BARNARD LISTSERV: to subscribe please send an email to: barnard-subscribe@lists.vitalcommunities.org

RECYCLING Click here for Hours and Regulations

THE BARNARD INN is running a "Feeding Neighbors & Sustaining Community" campaign. Purchase an e-Gift Card and in turn the chefs will feed neighbors. Whole chicken dinners (serves 4-6) and individual sized meals to help feed Vermonters in need. Thank you and please stay safe. E-Gift Cards are available at www.barnardinn.com.

ECFIBER Governing Board meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm in 012 Oakes Hall, Vermont Law School. More information at https://www.ecfiber.net/

HISTORICAL SOCIETY Programs to be announced. Questions? Email: historicalbarnard1761@gmail.com

ARTISTREE PRESENTS CHRISTMAS AT THE GRANGE

DECEMBER 22 AND 23, 2021

Join Artistree for a fun-filled performance of Christmas songs and Holiday Broadway Hits sung by the Artistree Music Theatre Festival performers.

Artistree is offering two matinees at 2pm each day and two evening performances at 7:30pm each night.

There is special pricing available for area senior citizens. Call 802-457-3500 x 111, or email Artistree for details.

See artistreevt.org/christmas-at-the-grange-theatre.

WINTER/SPRING ARTISTREE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER CLASSES.

WINTER CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 3RD.

Toddler Classes
Homeschool Classes
Afterschool Programs
Creative Wellness
Culinary Arts
Ceramics
Visual Arts
Music Classes
Theatre arts

Artistree Community Arts Center & Gallery
2095 Pomfret Road/PO Box 158
South Pomfret, VT 05067
802.457.3500 ext. 111
Support Artistree
www.artistreevt.org
Contact: info@artistreevt.org.

TRANSFER STATION HOLIDAY HOURS

The Barnard Transfer station will be CLOSED Christmas Day, December 25, 2021.

The Transfer Station will be OPEN Sunday, December 26, 2021, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

The Transfer Station will be OPEN New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1, 2022, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

CRYPTOGRAM ANSWER

"January is the start of a new year. Hopeful, optimistic. Yet for the northern hemisphere, it is winter. Gloomy, cold, drab and constraining. A will of iron is needed to keep those New Year's resolutions.

WCSU SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dec 23-31, Holiday Recess (school closed)
Jan 5, 2 Hour Delayed Start (students)
Jan 17, Martin Luther King Jr. Day (school closed)
Feb 2, 2 Hour Delayed Start (students)
Feb 14-18, Winter Recess (school closed)