André Tridon Jagendorf
(Currently Liberty H. Bailey Prof Emeritus, Plant Biology, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University), co-recipient, with Wolfgang Junge, of 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award of The Rebeiz Foundation of Basic Biological Research

A Tribute to
My elder brother, Andre Bhaiya
by
Govindjee
September 28, 2013
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URL: http://www.life.illinois.edu/govindjee
Delivered by Govindjee at the Rebeiz Foundation for Basic Biology, Champaign, Illinois
Andre T. Jagendorf (ATJ) in 1946.. with his friend Avnet and his girl friends

A way of academic life: From one celebration to another, 67 years later.. From Cornell to Champaign

I have learned that ATJ used to listen to Gilbert and Sullivan’s operettas on the radio

Govindjee
Some facts about André

❖ Born: October 21, 1926, New York City

❖ Son of Moritz Adolph and Sophie Sheba (Sokolosky); his father was a dentist and children’s book writer; mother was an accomplished and a wonderful person

❖ He learned to type when he was very young; was an avid reader of books especially Science fiction

❖ At young age, he was enamored by classical music; played “mandolin”; and then viola till 1966.

Govindjee
Some facts about André

- Married on June 12, 1952 to Jean Elizabeth Whitenack
- They have 3 children: Suzanne; Judith; and Daniel; 8 grand children; and 6 great grand children
- BA : Cornell, Plant Physiology, 1948; PhD (David Bonner; James Bonner; Sam Wildman; Bernard Axelrod) : Yale, 1951: Merck Fellow (with Sam Wildman) : UCLA, 1951-1953; Johns Hopkins, 1953-1966; Cornell, 1966—
- 1980: Member, US National Academy of Science and has many many honors

Andre and Jean Jagendorf as they were on September 17, 2013, before the Pizza dinner at Tino and Carole Rebeiz’s home In Champaign, Illinois

Govindjee
André has followed the same rules from when he was 6 up to when he is 87.

Take a hammer and hit it at the right place.

His ability to think for himself was obvious when he created, with available blocks and boxes (big and small), a 2-story "ship", with stairs going up the planks laid on top of a big box. His kindergarten teacher had never seen anything like it!
I will not talk about his research. You can read about it in the two articles I had invited him to write for “Photosynthesis Research”


- **Andre recognized many, particularly the following three:**

  - Mordhay Avron
  - Peter Mitchell
  - Geoffrey Hind
Jagendorf’s chloroplast work provided powerful support for Peter Mitchell’s theory for ATP generation.

Chemiosmotic Mechanism for ATP Synthesis
A Proton Gradient Generates ATP in Chloroplasts
Some quotes from Jagendorf (1998)

✧ “The probability of any one event occurring is amazingly small; in retrospect, each step seems like a minor miracle. Any person’s career has to be shaped by interactions with other people;”

✧ “…doing science is fun”

✧ “I had heard Peter Mitchell talk about chemiosmosis at a bioenergetics meeting in Sweden. His words went into one of my ears and out the other, leaving me feeling annoyed they had allowed such a ridiculous and incomprehensible speaker in. But – Geoffrey read Nature. Geoffrey was from England, both better trained and more intelligent than I was. He read Peter Mitchell’s paper, came to me, and said ‘André. could this possibly explain $X_E$ [something that preceded ATP formation]?’”
“At this point I began to communicate with Peter Mitchell himself... and invited me to spend a week there so he could educate me about the chemiosmotic hypothesis in more detail. I was happy to go, and enjoyed very much meeting his family and the family donkey, and .....I doubt that I learned enough about chemiosmosis, however. “

“Later that summer I did the experiment that convinced me ...that we were really seeing a chemiosmotic mechanism at work. The amount of ATP that was made depended on the height of the pH difference between acid and base stages, more than on their absolute values (Jagendorf and Uribe 1966).”
1941--1951

1941:
With
Albert
Novikoff
(Fake bar)

1945 photo.
Enlisted
In US Army
In
1944; learned
to be a
photographer

1950:
At Yale
We can recognize
him here

1951:
Happy
Graduate
From Yale
1953-1966
Johns Hopkins University
Appointed in 1953 by William McElroy without any interview!

- 1955 Photo: With the late Tony San Pietro and the late Mordhay Avron, major discoverers in biochemistry of photosynthesis.
Dr. Andre Jagendorf Cited as Maryland’s Outstanding Young Scientist for 1961

Dr. Andre T. Jagendorf, associate professor of Biology at The Johns Hopkins University, was honored as Maryland’s Outstanding Young Scientist for 1961 at the annual meeting of the Maryland Academy of Sciences on October 4.

Governor William Donaldใจa, accepting the award on behalf of the Academy, extended his congratulations to Dr. Jagendorf. He was cited for his “outstanding work in plant physiology and biochemistry and specifically for his role in establishing the field of photosynthesis.”

Governor a. noted that Dr. Jagendorf’s research has played a crucial role in our understanding of photosynthesis and the conversion of light energy into chemical energy.

Dr. Jagendorf’s research has significantly contributed to our understanding of the process of photosynthesis, which is essential for the survival of life on Earth. His work has not only advanced the field of plant physiology but has also had practical implications for agriculture and energy production.

Governor a. emphasized the importance of recognizing and rewarding young scientists like Dr. Jagendorf for their contributions to science and society.

He further stated, “The next generation of scientists is crucial to our future. Their work will shape the world we live in.”

Dr. Jagendorf, in his acceptance speech, expressed his gratitude for the recognition and stated that the award would serve as a motivation for him and his team to continue their research.

The Academy praised Dr. Jagendorf for his exceptional contributions to the field of biology and for his dedication to scientific research.

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1963: Airlie House, Virginia (B. Kok and A.T. Jagendorf): Nobel laureate James Franck was also there (standing, 2nd from left). Govindjee
Congratulations André

I thank Tino Rebeiz for giving me the opportunity to show my happiness, through my slides, at this gathering about André as a person—

The only request to André is that he holds back his “off-color” jokes (that many of us really love) for a few minutes—may be at least an hour! OK??

Thank you all who have gathered here today to honor two extraordinary persons (Andre and Wolfgang). I will talk about Wolfgang a bit later. I am sure if Eugene Rabinowitch (my professor) was here, he will say “Well.. Let’s get some vodka.”