

Important in my life

These are some events, ideas and people that have been important to me:

- Being a young child under a Nazi regime with my father sent to the front and my mother shielding me from fears.
- My father coming to get me from the Red Cross home in Budapest to take me back to the factory after he returned from the war. See *Bela.doc* It is on my website.
- My relationship with my first cousin Agnes, who is like a sister to me, esp. in view of the fact that my twin sisters lived such short lives.
- *The Jungle Books* by Rudyard Kipling and some other children's books. From Kipling I got my concepts of 'the law' and justice, bravery, determination and leadership.
- Being a school child under a communist regime –this had a huge impact- my outrage at the schoolteacher and her spying – my developing sense of justice and freedom.
- Being inspired by Hungarian epic poetry and particularly “The Bards of Wales” by Janos Arany (1817-1882) (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bards_of_Wales). The poem is about the story 500 bards being executed by James I in the thirteenth century for refusing to sing his praises at a banquet, and was intended as a metaphor to criticize the Hapsburgs for domination of Hungary after 1848.
- Adjusting to life as an Aussie—finding acceptance by doing well at chess and swimming and, much later, tennis (although I am definitely a motor moron).
- The conflict-of-ideas education that I received starting with History and English courses in the final two years of high school at North Sydney Boys High School, and then at Sydney University especially in Bill O'Neil's Psychology department.
- The intellectual excitement and stimulation of Sydney University in the late 1950s to mid-1960s. Becoming an Andersonian philosopher (I did philosophy honours along with psychology). Andersonian realism has underpinned my approach to intellectual debate and to research. It promotes the search for truth over instrumentalism.
- Exposure to libertarianism –I am still essentially a libertarian.
- My commitment to critical thinking, to all points of view being aired and argued out. Learning to be a scientist.

- Meeting Chris when we stood beside each other looking at the results of Psychology 1 for 1958, when I turned to her and said “Do you know who is Christine Roche?” and she said “I am Christine Roche”. We had tied for first position. It was love at first sight, on my part, to use a hackneyed phrase.
- My broad interest in, and commitment to, psychology as a discipline and to psychophysiology. I was critical of applications such as the polygraph and biofeedback.
- My interactions with some excellent graduate students – the ‘lab sessions’ when we argued about experimental psychology and disputes in my field, the rehearsals for my conference presentations and theirs.
- My concern about the quality of university education. Chris and I have collaborated over decades on this and have written papers together.
- The fact that Chris and I have been a ‘team’ loyal to and supportive of each other through our friendship and marriage. We both owe an untold amount to each other in numerous ways. We are proud of what we accomplished, separately and together
- The opportunity I had to work for academic freedom, freedom of speech and excellence in scholarship, in being a founding member of the Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship and then serving as president of the society. See www.safs.ca. Also the academic freedom award of SAFS funded in the memory of Dusi and Bela. <http://www.safs.ca/awardsmain.html>
- My continuing concern with political correctness esp. in universities. (Chris and I had an article published in *Quadrant* not so long ago on this subject).
- Freedom of speech in general and how it is often misunderstood. [Chris and I sponsored a symposium at the University of Sydney in 2007 *How Free should Free Speech be? Philosophical Perspectives*]. I think freedom has been my main motivation ever since my parents smuggled me out of Uncle Joe’s worker’s paradise in 1949.
- Outrage at the boycott, sanctions, and divestment movement against Israeli academics: Support to Society for Peace in the Middle East to combat this.
- Hope that the memory of the Holocaust does not die: support to Courage to Care.
- My recreation and relaxation: As a boy I played competitive chess. In my twenties I learnt duplicate bridge and became an avid player. There was a regular lunchtime bridge game in the psychology department at the Uni. of Toronto from 1968, first in my office, and then in the

departmental lounge. My father, Bela, was a keen player and I played with him on my many visits. I started playing international competition on the internet in Toronto and when I came back to Sydney I played every day including at least twice a week with two colleagues from the department. I loved tennis although I am not a natural athlete. I studied the game closely. Chris and I played doubles together from the beginning and in spite of not being great players we could often beat better players due to our strategies. "Tandem" was one of these, Chris being left-handed. I swam for North Sydney Boys High (mainly breaststroke) and I never lost an opportunity to get into a swimming pool, but my later passion was body surfing, to which Chris introduced me in about 1960. I loved Bondi Beach and Chris and I had several glorious holidays at Brenneke's beach in Kauai, Hawaii.

John Furedy