

# Wasch Center for Retired Faculty

Newsletter Vol. 12, No. 1 | Fall 2020

*Edited by Alex Dupuy*



## **Table of Contents**

### **Director's Welcome**

*Krishna Winston*

### **How the Wasch Center for Retired Faculty Came to Be, Part I**

*Karl Scheibe*

### **Two Poems**

### **Middletown in the 1918 Epidemic**

*Sarah Mount '20*

### **Afternoon Talks**

*Duffy White*

### **Fall 2020 WILL Courses**

### **News & Notes**

*Allan Berlind*

*Rob Rosenthal*

*Jan Willis*

*Krishna Winston*

### **Necrology**

*Norman Shapiro*

*Victor Gourevitch*

*L. Kent Bendall*

*Catherine Rachel Ostrow-D'Haeseleer*

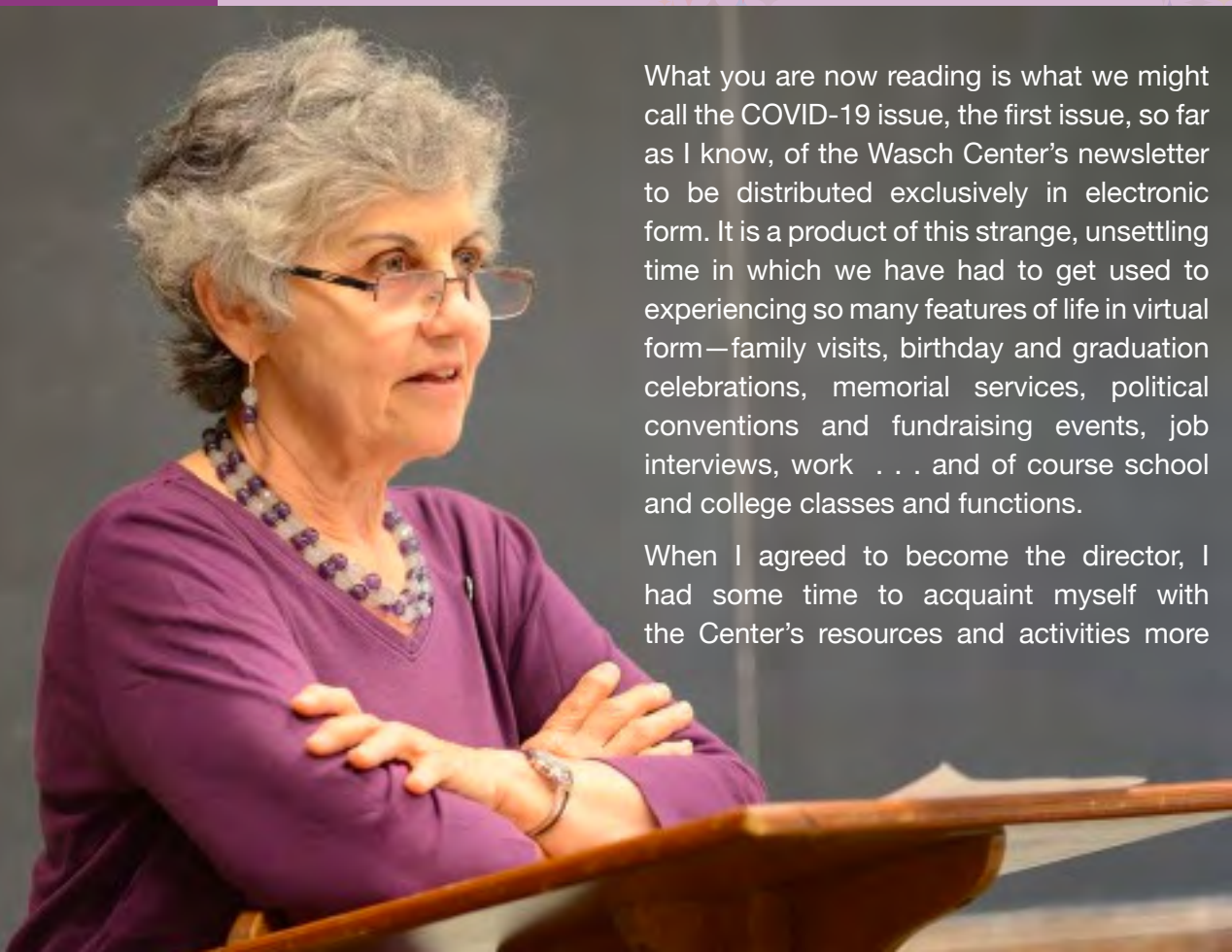


# Director's Welcome

## Director's Welcome to the Fall 2020 Wasch Center Newsletter

Krishna Winston

Marcus L. Taft Professor of German Language and Literature & Professor, College of the Environment, emerita



What you are now reading is what we might call the COVID-19 issue, the first issue, so far as I know, of the Wasch Center's newsletter to be distributed exclusively in electronic form. It is a product of this strange, unsettling time in which we have had to get used to experiencing so many features of life in virtual form—family visits, birthday and graduation celebrations, memorial services, political conventions and fundraising events, job interviews, work . . . and of course school and college classes and functions.

When I agreed to become the director, I had some time to acquaint myself with the Center's resources and activities more

thoroughly than I had done while still fully engaged as a faculty member. I talked with Karl Scheibe, David Beveridge, and Alex Dupuy, who very graciously shared their wealth of knowledge, wisdom, and nuts-and-bolts advice about running the Center. For the first time, I toured the building, learning about the faculty offices and the process by which colleagues could secure a berth. To my relief, Alex offered to put together this fall newsletter. Allan Berlind filled me in on the oral history project, and together we met with the University librarian and members of his staff to learn about changes in their involvement in the project that they were considering. Rick Friswell and I had stimulating conversations about the lifelong-learning program, WILL. I gained a sense of the lecture program, so ably organized by Duffy White. I put in my application with Richie Adelstein to become a member of the Emeritus College. When I met the administrative assistant, Alison Gallagher, she immediately impressed me

## Director's Welcome

with her intelligence, competence, and dedication to the entire Wasch Center enterprise and the individuals it serves. While trying to finish up some translation projects, I found myself mulling over ways in which I could support the Center's ongoing activities, as well as some new ventures I might propose to the Advisory Board. Knowing that Bill Wasch, whom I first met when I arrived at Wesleyan fifty years ago and whose kindness and generosity I always cherished, approved of my appointment and wished me well, added to my eagerness to make him proud.

How could I have suspected that on July 1, 2020 I would be assuming responsibility for a Center that had been essentially locked down, while its formal activities moved on line? The necessity for doing just that became increasingly obvious halfway through the first week of spring break, when Wesleyan officially announced the decision to close.

Without missing a beat, Karl Scheibe continued via Zoom the spring psychology course he had been teaching in the Butterfield Room. Rick Friswell immediately recognized that WILL courses under way or pending would have to be cancelled. In the meantime he has intrepidly created a new schedule of fall courses, offered at a one-time reduced rate (<https://www.wesleyan.edu/will/courses/index.html>), and with the help of Alison Gallagher and Bonnie Solivan in ITS, we are offering training to those instructors not yet comfortable with teaching on Zoom. Duffy White has already scheduled three fall lectures, which he describes in this newsletter. We hope that making the WILL courses and the lectures available on line will increase our outreach to participants who could not have come to Middletown, including alumni/ae and retired colleagues living many miles away. Thanks to

Zoom, e-mail, the good old telephone, and occasional in-person meetings—complete with masks, social distancing, and regular on-campus testing—we can continue offering tutorials through the Emeritus College. Interviews for the oral history project can take place remotely as well. To supplement the lecture program, I plan to offer a monthly get-together on line for any retirees who would like to join. The Advisory Board has also met, and will continue to do so.

We retired faculty members have the luxury of being able to “stay safe, stay home,” as Connecticut's official—and strikingly successful—approach to the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic mandates. We have the rich inner resources with which a lifetime of teaching and scholarship has equipped us. We certainly have no dearth of reading material, as well as professional and personal connections we can maintain. We all miss, and will continue to miss until the danger of contagion eases, the stimulation and pleasure we derive from being in the physical company of others—sharing a meal, striking up a conversation, hugging friends and family members, going to the movies, a concert, a museum, or a sporting event, perhaps joining protests or campaigning door to door for candidates.

I have faith that the Wasch Center will reopen, later if not sooner, and with as much vitality as ever, if not more, now that we feel even greater appreciation and gratitude than before for what it offers. For the present, I welcome your suggestions as to how we can serve you better remotely, and ideas we might adopt in a post-COVID-19 future. Feel free to call or text me at 860 918-8713, or write to [kwinston@wesleyan.edu](mailto:kwinston@wesleyan.edu)

# Welcome

# How the Wasch Center for Retired Faculty Came To Be: Part I

## **Karl E. Scheibe**

*Professor of Psychology, emeritus, and Director emeritus of the Wasch Center*

After the year 2000, I had the sense of entering into the homestretch of my Wesleyan career. I had several years earlier opted for early partial retirement (teaching half-time while receiving 75% of salary). This allowed me to give additional time to the development of a practice in clinical psychology, for which I was licensed late in my career. I developed the practice, opened and operated a counseling center in Old Saybrook for most of the next 20 years. This was a great satisfaction to me and also highly instructive. In a vestigial way, I continue the practice to this day.

But I did not want to drop out of Wesleyan entirely. When talking with retired colleagues about what they were doing with their post-Wesleyan lives, I discovered two things. First, Wesleyan at the time devoted next to no attention at all to supporting the continuing lives and careers of retired faculty members. They were, in general, dropped off mailing lists, and were not regularly informed of or

invited to community events and meetings. It is as if they were forgotten but not gone. The second thing I discovered was that many retired faculty members had lots of free time and attention and were eager to find good and useful things to do with their resources.

This led me to plan a series of informal discussions with retired faculty members about possible affinities among us and good ways to plan for retirement and deal with its challenges. These meetings took place in the old dining room at Downey House, and were supported by Andy Szegedy-Maszak (at the time the Director of the Mellon Center for Faculty Career Development) and some key retirees—including Bob Rosenbaum, George Creeger, Puffin D'Oench, and Bill Barber.

There must have been five or six such meetings in the years 2000-2002. The main result of these meetings was immediately evident: If you invite them, they will come. With help from Academic Affairs, Andy and I quickly came up with a list of retired faculty members living in or near Middletown. There must have been about 60 names on the list. We issued an invitation by mail. About 35 people came to our first meeting. The group decided to have more meetings and suggested topics for discussion that included: health and insurance benefits; support for continued professional development (scholarship and teaching); financial planning, opportunities for new program development; and sports and exercise programs. But the most important result of these early meetings was not the suggestion of topics. It became clear from the outset that this group was animated by a desire to develop and extend the forum we had adventitiously discovered.





In retrospect, all of this was analogous to the preparation of a seedbed. The seed to fall into that bed was supplied by my Psychology Department colleague Jill Morawski. Jill showed me a notice she had just received in a Yale publication of the founding of the Koerner Center for Retired Faculty. The article noted that the Koerner family had provided Yale with a bequest of \$10 million for the purpose of founding a center to serve retired faculty members. Two years after receiving this gift, the new center was open and functioning at its Elm Street site on the Green in New Haven.

Several days after reading this notice, I visited the house of Bill and Susie Wasch on Coleman Road to partake of beer and pizza, after a group of about eight of us had completed some squash matches at the new courts of the Freeman Athletic Center. While at this function, I told Bill Wasch of the article I had just read about the founding of the new center for retired faculty at Yale. It was a brief conversation, and I didn't have anything in mind about his involvement in such a venture at Wesleyan. But the following Monday morning, if memory serves aright, Bill came by my office in Judd Hall for a visit.

At this visit, he told me that he and Susie had been talking about our conversation concerning faculty retirement centers. He went on to tell me of their prolonged quest for an opportunity to make a substantial named gift to Wesleyan. Coming right to the point, he asserted that they were willing to commit the sum of \$1 million to this effort. They asked me if I would write and present a proposal for the establishment of such a center at Wesleyan.

I quickly agreed to do this. Within a few days, I had developed a three-page proposal, drawing on the series of meetings we had conducted with retired faculty members. I knew that the response to such a proposal would be immediate and positive. I sent this proposal to President Doug Bennet, who responded with invitation to meet with him in his office.

After this meeting, which could not have lasted more than 40 minutes, we parted with the understanding that



he would soon get back to me with a firm and probably affirmative response to the presented request.

Within a few days, Doug called to tell me that he

supported the plan for the development of such a retirement center for Wesleyan. He would, of course, later present this proposal to the Board of Trustees and to his officers in the Wesleyan administration.

The rest, as they say, is history. After he had obtained approval of the proposal from his officers in the Administration and the Board of Trustees, a Charter for the Susan B. and William K. Wasch Center was quickly developed by the Office of Academic Affairs. At this point, we established a planning committee. This led to the identification of 51 Lawn Avenue as the best site for such a center. We also quickly hired an architectural firm to provide a design. In addition to the initial gift of \$1million from the Waschs, we were able quickly to receive gifts of another \$125,000 from alumni and others.

In October of 2004, we held the Grand Opening of the Wasch Center. We quickly began to develop an ambitious and varied set of activities and programs at the Wasch Center for Wesleyan and the Middletown community.

(In the next issue of the Newsletter, I shall describe these developments. Suffice it to say for now that the Wasch Center has enjoyed remarkable success as a support for the continuing lives and careers of Wesleyan faculty members and has done much to strengthen the impact Wesleyan has on the surrounding community).

## From the Archives



### Black lives have long mattered at Wesleyan

Read more about Professor Edgar Beckham, Wesleyan's first African American faculty member, pictured here teaching COL 370: The Literature of Black Experience: "It was the first course in black studies offered by a black instructor."

*from the Wesleyan Magazine, published April 1, 2017 by Leith Johnson*

**Editor's note:** Emma Smith interviewed Karl Scheibe, David Beveridge, and Alex Dupuy about the Wasch Center in the February 28, 2020 edition of the *Wesleyan Argus*. See <http://wesleyanargus.com/2020/02/28/wasch-and-learn-wasch-center-for-retired-faculty-promotes-continued-education/>

## Two Poems

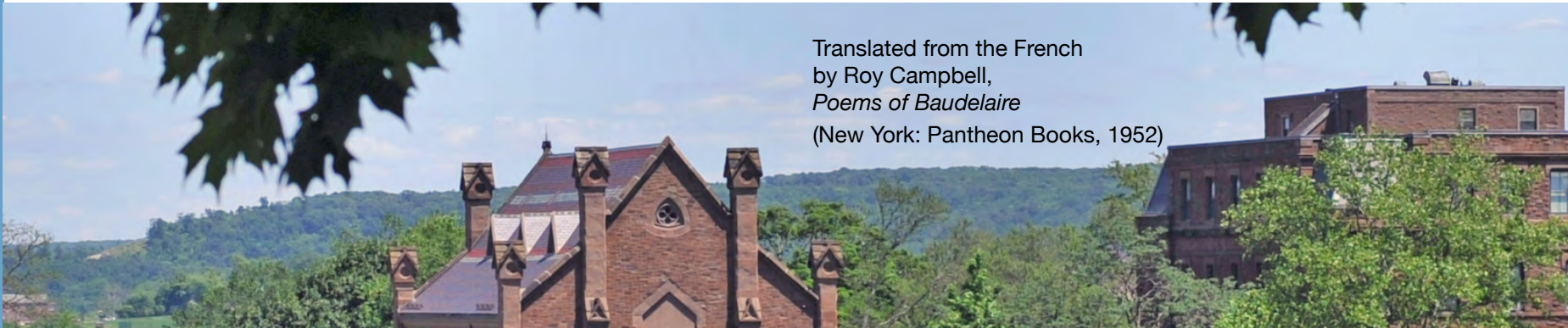
*Editor's note: Paula Paige and Krishna Winston, our resident translators, offer two poems that evoke some of the sensations and emotions of this time and season.*

Charles Baudelaire (1821–1867)  
*Spleen LXXVII (ca. 1850)*

Quand le ciel bas et lourd pèse comme un couvercle  
Sur l'esprit gémissant en proie aux longs ennuis,  
Et que de l'horizon embrassant tout le cercle  
Il nous verse un jour noir plus triste que les nuits;  
Quand la terre est changée en un cachot humide,  
Où l'Espérance, comme une chauve-souris,  
S'en va battant les murs de son aile timide  
Et se cognant la tête à des plafonds pourris;  
Quand la pluie étalant ses immenses traînées  
D'une vaste prison imite les barreaux,  
Et qu'un peuple muet d'infâmes araignées  
Vient tendre ses filets au fond de nos cerveaux,  
Des cloches tout à coup sautent avec furie  
Et lancent vers le ciel un affreux hurlement,  
Ainsi que des esprits errants et sans patrie  
Qui se mettent à geindre opiniâtrement.  
— Et de longs corbillards, sans tambours ni musique,  
Défilent lentement dans mon âme; l'Espoir,  
Vaincu, pleure, et l'Angoisse atroce, despotique,  
Sur mon crâne incliné plante son drapeau noir.

When the cold heavy sky weighs like a lid  
On spirits whom eternal boredom grips,  
And the wide ring of the horizon's hid  
In daytime darker than the night's eclipse:  
When the world seems a dungeon, damp and small,  
Where hope flies like a bat, in circles reeling,  
Beating his timid wings against the wall  
And dashing out his brains against the ceiling:  
When trawling rains have made their steel-grey fibres  
Look like the grilles of some tremendous jail,  
And a whole nation of disgusting spiders  
Over our brains their dusty cobwebs trail:  
Suddenly bells are fiercely clanged about  
And hurl a fearsome howl into the sky  
Like spirits from their country hunted out  
Who've nothing else to do but shriek and cry —  
Then long processions without fifes or drums  
Wind slowly through my soul. Hope, weeping, bows  
To conquest. And atrocious Anguish comes  
To plant his black flag on my drooping brows.

Translated from the French  
by Roy Campbell,  
*Poems of Baudelaire*  
(New York: Pantheon Books, 1952)





Rainer Maria von Rilke (1875–1926)  
*Herbsttag (1902)*

Herr: Es ist Zeit. Der Sommer war sehr groß.  
Leg deinen Schatten auf die Sonnenuhren,  
und auf den Fluren laß die Winde los.

Befiehl den letzten Früchten voll zu sein;  
gieb Ihnen noch zwei südlichere Tage  
dränge sie zur Vollendung hin und jage  
die letzte Süße in den schweren Wein.

Wer jetzt kein Haus hat, baut sich keines mehr.  
Wer jetzt allein ist, wird es lange bleiben,  
wird wachen, lesen, lange Briefe schreiben  
und wird in den Alleen hin und her  
unruhig wandern, wenn die Blätter treiben.

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### *Day in Autumn*

Lord, it is time: the summer was so full.  
Cast your shadow on the sundials,  
And o'er the meadows loose the winds.

Order the last fruits to be rich in juice,  
Give them but two more-southerly days,  
Push them toward consummation,  
And force last sweetness  
Into the heavy wine.

He who has no house now  
Will never build one.  
He who is alone  
Will long remain so.

Will stay up reading,  
Writing lengthy letters,  
And wander restless  
Along deserted byways  
As the leaves drift down.

— *Translated from the German by Krishna Winston*





# Middletown in the 1918 Epidemic

Sarah Mount '20

Submitted and edited by Krishna Winston

**Editor's note:** Sarah Mount '20, an Economics and Environmental Studies major, recently gave a research talk in the Middlesex County Historical Society's Webinar that examined Middletown's experiences in the 1918–19 and 2020 pandemics. Here Sarah summarizes her research, which she carried out in 2018–19. For access to the recording of the Webinar, please email [mchs@wesleyan.edu](mailto:mchs@wesleyan.edu).

One century ago, the 1918 Influenza swept the globe, killing upwards of one hundred million people worldwide in a matter of months. Inspired by Professor William Johnston's course "The 1918 Influenza Pandemic," I decided to study the effects of the pandemic on Middletown. I was aware of only one major historical study of that epidemic, Arnold Crosby's *Epidemic and Peace*, published in 1976 and re-released in 1989 as *America's Forgotten Pandemic*. Crosby offered pages and pages of statistics, contextualized the disease with WWI, and gave side-

by-side accounts of major cities. In an interview, Crosby stated that the flu was very democratic, affecting all equally. That sounded wrong to me; I hypothesized that socio-economic status must have played a part in outcomes; and more recent studies, similar to mine but focused on large cities, concurred. I hunted through the Middletown's Health Department's handwritten records for influenza deaths between September and

December of 1918, when the flu was rampant across Connecticut. The records gave victims' names, addresses, ages, occupations, and immigration status. In an ideal world, the death records would have provided all the information I needed. In reality, there were bits that were missing. Women often didn't have an occupation; they relied on the incomes of their husbands or fathers. Here the City Directories came into play. If I could find the victims' husbands or fathers, I could get the men's occupations and have an idea of the families' economic status. Also, the Health Department's address entry actually listed the "place of death." The "PoD" was often a home address, but sometimes it was the hospital or was left completely blank. I used the City Directories to find missing addresses. Combining these records, I was able to investigate the effects of immigration and socio-economic status on mortality rates, using statistical and spatial analyses. Immigration status has often been linked to economic status. It can be assumed that Middletown's first-generation immigrants were generally poorer, causing them to work even when ill, and were also often illiterate, making them unable to read newspaper health guidelines. I concluded that such factors were the likely cause of disproportionate first-generation immigrants' deaths, because other reasons investigated (such as the distance between an individual's residence and a hospital) did not explain the discrepancies. The research culminated in a mapping project that enables us to see where the majority of victims lived. I was thus able to contribute to the evidence that socio-economic disparities do affect outcomes in a pandemic.



# Wasch Center Wednesday Afternoon Talks, Fall 2020

Contributed by Duffy White

When the Wasch Center Board met a few weeks ago to discuss what activities we might continue to have at the Center in spite of the strictures of COVID-19, we decided to arrange a reduced schedule of our Wednesday afternoon lectures as Zoom talks.

These talks will take place at the traditional time for our lectures: **Wednesday afternoons, from 4:30 to 5:45.** We'll miss the experience of getting together, but we will be able to enjoy some stimulating talks, with the opportunity for real-time discussion.

There are some advantages to this arrangement. If it's normally a hassle for you to drive or to park, or you



zoom

can't drive, or you live too far away to come to these talks, or you like to have food in the oven by 5:45 so that you can have supper at 6, or if there aren't enough chairs to accommodate the audience, attendance at these talks will be less problematic.

In fact, we may learn new ways of doing things that will improve our lecture series once we get beyond social distancing. After we're all vaccinated, and the talks resume live at the Wasch Center, those who would like to attend but can't be there in person will be able attend the talks live on line or view the recording. And if they attend by Zoom, they'll be able to participate in the discussion period.

The three Zoom talks scheduled for the fall are:

## September 16



**Andy Szegedy-Maszak,**  
*Professor of Classical Studies*  
"The Pleasure of the Ruins: Early Photographs of Ancient Sites"

## October 21



**Fred Cohan,** *Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies*  
"Plagued by Our Success: How Human Domination of the Planet Is Making Us Sick"

## November 11



**Rob Rosenthal,** *Professor of Sociology, emeritus*  
"On Being Provost at Wesleyan in 2020"

To receive links to the talks, please email Duffy [dwhite@wesleyan.edu](mailto:dwhite@wesleyan.edu).



# The Wesleyan Institute for Lifelong Learning

## Fall 2020 courses ([online](https://www.wesleyan.edu/will))

Visit [www.wesleyan.edu/will](https://www.wesleyan.edu/will) to register!

### **VISUAL MAGICIANS:**

The Power of American Realist Painters

Instructor: Richard Voigt

### **A HERO'S JOURNEY:**

Parzival or the Quest for the Grail

Instructor: Herb Arnold

### **MAJESTIC REPOSE:**

Classical Antiquity and Renaissance Sculpture at Connecticut's Slater Memorial Museum

Instructor: Rhea Higgins

### **UP FROM THE SMOKE AND ASH OF WAR:**

Examining the Sequel to Global Conflict, 1944-1956

Instructor: Giulio Gallarotti

### **MIRRORS, MASKS, LIES, AND SECRETS:**

The Psychology of Human Predictability

Instructor: Karl Scheibe

### **HENRY DAVID THOREAU:**

Listening to a Different Drummer

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull

### **EGO INTEGRITY:**

Self-Actualization in a Disarrayed World

Instructor: Bill Roberts

### **READ ALL ABOUT IT!**

The Search for Utopia

Instructor: Giulio Gallarotti



# News & Notes:

Updates and  
Announcements  
from Retired  
Faculty Around  
the Globe

## Allan Berlind

*Professor of Biology, emeritus*

Life goes on in the COVID era, but its patterns have certainly changed.

During the spring semester, I was able to make progress on the research project I've been working on, a study of articles about science and health in the *Daily Worker*, the old communist newspaper that was in print between the mid-1920s and mid-1960s. I started this project after discovering a few years ago that an uncle had been a long-time science writer for the paper. I had, well before COVID struck, copied many articles from Olin's microfilms of the paper to my office computer, and was able to send them home so that I could mostly work on them there. I've now pretty much exhausted what I had saved, but since Olin will be reopening to some extent in the fall, I will be able to access the microfilms again to get more material. (I do consider it odd, to say the least, that the administration thinks it reasonable that we can mingle in the library, however cautiously, with populations that present a significant threat in terms of disease spread, while banning us entirely from the much safer confines of the Wasch Center).

Another major change in the spring was with regard to my volunteer work at the hospital, something I have been doing two mornings a week ever since I retired. I've greatly enjoyed it, interacting with many different types of people (all of whom appreciate what I do), and getting good exercise. It's also something that has helped give a shape to my week. The hospital banished all volunteers in March, but is now inviting some of us back. I will likely start working again, although I will want to consult first with some of the medical people about

details, since my work takes me all around the hospital.

In contrast to the situation in Middletown, the summer has in many ways seemed almost normal. We've spent our usual two months at our New Hampshire house, doing pretty much what we have done in years past: going to the pond almost every day to swim, making use of our rowing shell, and catching up, from a safe distance, with very long-time old friends and newer ones. Projects around the house: touch-up repainting of the outside clapboards, which suffer every year from the ravages of NH winters; building a small new native rock patio (a bit lumpy but serviceable). We've hiked, although not in the high peaks of the White Mountains (that might be more a concession to age rather than an effect of COVID). We celebrated our anniversary by going, as we do every year, to our favorite ice cream place, but we brought the treats home to eat rather than having them there. Some things have, of course, changed. Almost no shopping trips, except for food (which means no taking advantage of tax-free NH outlets). None even to the hardware store. We haven't set foot in anyone's house, nor has anyone set foot in ours, since March. The biggest change was that our children and grandchildren didn't come to NH from California this summer. They normally spend extended periods, and we miss them. This too shall pass.

We've appreciated the responsibility shown by most Connecticut and New Hampshire people in dealing with the situation. The question is, will Wesleyan students show similar levels of responsibility???



# News & Notes:

Updates and Announcements from Retired Faculty Around the Globe

## Rob Rosenthal

*John Andrus Professor of Sociology, emeritus*

At the University's 188th Commencement on May 24, Wesleyan will present the Baldwin Medal, the highest award of the Alumni Association, to Rob Rosenthal, John Andrus Professor of Sociology, emeritus.

The Baldwin Medal pays tribute to the late Judge Raymond E. Baldwin '16, the only man to have held the offices of Connecticut governor, U.S. senator, and chief justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court. First awarded Sept. 20, 1981, during the opening convocation of Wesleyan's Sesquicentennial, the Baldwin Medal is the highest honor Wesleyan's alumni body presents for extraordinary service to Wesleyan or for careers and other activities that have contributed significantly to the public good.

From [News@Wesleyan Blog](#)

## Krishna Winston

*Marcus L. Taft Professor of German Language and Literature, emerita*

Krishna Winston, Marcus L. Taft Professor of German Language and Literature, emerita, recently translated four film narratives by German screenwriter and author Werner Herzog.

The collection, titled *Scenarios III*, was published by the University of Minnesota Press in 2019. It presents the shape-shifting scripts for Herzog's early films: *Stroszek*; *Nosferatu*, *Phantom of the Night*; *Where the Green Ants Dream*; and *Cobra Verde*.

*Scenarios III* completes the picture of Herzog's earliest work, affording a view of the filmmaker mastering his craft, well on his way to becoming one of the most original, and most celebrated, artists in his field.

Winston also translated Herzog's *Signs of Life* and *Even Dwarfs Started Small* for *Scenarios II*, published in 2018.

From [News@Wesleyan Blog](#)

## Jan Willis

*Professor of Religion, emerita*

Jan Willis published *Dharma Matters: Women, Race and Tantra: A Collection of Essays* by Jan Willis (Wisdom Publications 2020). The book brings together her essays written over thirty-five years of studying and teaching and ranging over the subjects of women and Buddhism, Buddhism and race, Tibetan tantric biographies, and Christian and Buddhist reflections.

## Dharma Matters

WOMEN, RACE, AND TANTRA

Collected Essays by

JAN WILLIS



## Scenarios III

Stroszek  
Nosferatu, Phantom of the Night  
Where the Green Ants Dream  
Cobra Verde



## Norman Shapiro

Dear friends,

I am sorry to inform you that Norman Shapiro, Distinguished Professor of Literary Translation and Poet in Residence, formerly Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures, passed away on April 3 at the age of 89.

Norm arrived at Wesleyan in 1960 after receiving his BA and MA from Harvard University, completing a Fulbright Fellowship at Université d'Aix-Marseille in France, and returning to Harvard for his PhD. He stepped down from regular duties in 2017 but continued in his roles as Distinguished Professor of Literary Translation and Poet in Residence.

In addition to his classes in Romance languages and literatures, Norm also taught American Sign Language and served as the faculty advisor to DKE for almost 60 years. For their 50th reunion book, the class of 1965 named Norm as the faculty member who had the biggest impact on their post-Wesleyan lives. One former student was quoted as saying, "Those of us who had the privilege of knowing Norm as a counselor and mentor will remember his natural ability to guide us through our transition from childhood to adulthood. He 'got us.'"

Norm was a productive scholar who published extensively. His translations of Feydeau, Labiche, and other French comic playwrights were performed in the United States and throughout the English-speaking world. In April 2010 he was named Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres,



an honor bestowed by the minister of culture and communication of the French government.

"Norman knew laughter, and spent his life evoking smiles, witticisms, mirth, and linguistic enjoyment in writing, in speaking, in life," said Joyce Lowrie, Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures, emerita. "He will be missed by students, readers of his magnificent translations, by colleagues and friends."

Associate Professor of French Typhaine Leservot recalled, "He knew the French language like no other. Like the true Québécois he never was, he could repurpose long-forgotten English words to translate those pesky French words that the French insist on using."

"Uncle Nort" is survived by his nieces Carolyne and Leslie; nephew Paul; grandnieces Patricia, Miro, and Suni; grandnephew Tanner; and great grandniece Madelyn. A celebration in his honor will take place in the fall for what would have marked his 90th birthday. In

lieu of gifts, the family asks that friends consider a donation in his memory. Norman's favorite charities included the [Leukemia & Lymphoma Society](#) and the [American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals \(ASPCA\)](#).

Sincerely,

Rob

*Rob Rosenthal Interim Provost and Vice President  
for Academic Affairs John E. Andrus Professor of  
Sociology, emeritus*



## Victor Gourevitch

Dear friends,

I am sorry to inform you that Victor Gourevitch, William Griffin Professor of Philosophy, emeritus, passed away on April 14 at the age of 94.

Victor received his BA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison before serving as a French Government Fellow at the University of Paris (Sorbonne). He later studied with renowned political philosopher Leo Strauss on the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago, where he received his PhD. After teaching at the University of Chicago, Temple University, and Wellesley College, Victor arrived at Wesleyan in 1966, where he taught philosophy until his retirement in 1995. His wife, Jacqueline, also taught painting at Wesleyan for many years.

He was actively engaged in service to the University during his career. He served as director of the Center for the Humanities, chair of the philosophy department, and was a member of many committees. Victor also held visiting appointments at Yale University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Fordham University, and served as a scholar-in-residence at Universität Bielefeld and at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin. He published a review of Strauss's *On Tyranny* and Strauss's thought in *The Review of Metaphysics* in 1968, and, in the ensuing decades, a number of other essays and reviews in scholarly journals. He also translated and edited Rousseau's political writings in a two-volume set for



the Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought series, and was editor with Wesleyan President Michael S. Roth of Leo Strauss's *On Tyranny*, Corrected and Expanded Edition (University of Chicago Press, 2013).

“Based on over half a century as a friend and colleague at both Wellesley and Wesleyan and beyond, I believe that Victor Gourevitch more than anyone I have known demonstrated in his life the proper meaning of the term ‘philosophical scholar,’” said Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus, L. Kent Bendall.

President Roth recalled: “Victor Gourevitch was an extraordinary teacher—severe and generous, demanding and welcoming. I am deeply grateful to have studied with him and to have been in conversation with him for over forty years. Victor and I collaborated on an edition of Leo Strauss's *On Tyranny*, and I would say of Victor what he said of Strauss: ‘He was teaching the respect for and the utter importance of philosophers, of philosophy, and that one ought not to give in to the temptation of believing that...a homogenized culture, or social science... eliminates that.’” President Roth also wrote a 2013 blog post on his work with Victor, [both as an undergraduate and more recently](#).

Victor is survived by his wife, the painter Jacqueline Gourevitch, his sons Marc and Philip, and four granddaughters. He is buried at Indian Hill cemetery in Middletown. A memorial service will be planned in more settled times.

Sincerely,

Rob

*Rob Rosenthal*

*Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
John E. Andrus Professor of Sociology, emeritus*

# L. Kent Bendall

Dear friends,

I am sorry to inform you that L. Kent Bendall, Professor of Philosophy, emeritus, passed away on May 15 at the age of 88.

Kent received his BA from Rice University and his MA and PhD from Yale University. He arrived at Wesleyan in 1963 where he taught philosophy until his retirement in 1992. During his 29 years at Wesleyan, Kent was an integral part of the University and the Philosophy Department. He served many terms as chair of the Education Policy Committee and of the Philosophy Department; he also served as chair of the University Senate and was a member of the planning committee for the new African American Institute in 1974.

He was a philosopher who was devoted to the ideal of truth and a rigorous search for it. Joe Rouse, Hedding Professor of Moral Science and Professor of Philosophy, recalled: “Kent Bendall was an excellent logician and philosopher, and a generous colleague and friend. Two considerations will always stand out in my recollection of Kent: his extraordinary clarity of thought and expression, and his utterly unquestionable personal and intellectual integrity.”

Professor of Philosophy Sanford Shieh said: “Kent’s best-known work in logic is on non-standard, non-metaphysical semantics for modal logic in terms of probability and of theories, and on proof-theoretic characterizations of the meanings of logical constants. He had been working on the former throughout his



retirement, which, happily for me, was mostly around Wesleyan. The latter is now finally getting attention it richly deserves, playing a significant role in recent philosophy of logic.”

“It was a privilege to have been a colleague of Kent Bendall,” said Brian Fay, William Griffin Professor of Philosophy, emeritus. “He was probably the most brilliant person I’ve ever known; listening to him from my adjoining office provided me with an ongoing philosophical education that I treasure. In addition, behind his intelligence and intensity was a deeply caring, kind man who was a model citizen of, and contributor to, the University and the Philosophy Department. His passing has deprived me of an enriching and animating presence that I deeply miss.”

Kent is survived by his wife of 37 years, Janice, his daughters Carol and Reninca, his stepson Christopher, and his grandson Blake. Plans for a memorial event are currently on hold. Memorial contributions may be made in Kent’s name to Médecins Sans

Frontières, (<https://www.msf.org/>) or to the food bank of your choice.

Sincerely,

Nicole

*Nicole Stanton, Provost and Senior Vice President  
for Academic Affairs, Professor of Dance*



# Catherine Rachel Ostrow-D'Haeseleer

Catherine Rachel Ostrow-D'Haeseleer, Adjunct Instructor of French, died on Saturday, Nov. 23, at age 65.

Ostrow-D'Haeseleer was born in Kananga in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). In the fall of 1983, she was asked to take over a French course for a professor who had to take an unexpected leave. With only a high school education, she immediately demonstrated the professionalism, commitment, and excellence as a teacher that characterized her entire career. After stints as both a part-time and full-time visiting faculty member, Ostrow-D'Haeseleer was hired as an adjunct lecturer in 1991 and taught at Wesleyan for the next 29 years.

Ostrow-D'Haeseleer served multiple years as head of the French section and was the face of the French program for most students. She co-authored *Prête-moi ta plume: A Student's Guide to Writing French Papers* and served as an advisor and contributor to the third edition of *French in Action*.

"Catherine was an extraordinary teacher," said her colleague Stéphanie Ponsavady, associate professor of French. "It was always a pleasure and a reward to inherit the students she had taught. Catherine was a dedicated colleague and



a generous mentor to the junior faculty. She held herself, her students, and us to the highest standards of integrity academically and personally."

Vice President for Student Affairs Michael Whaley, who worked with Ostrow-D'Haeseleer on the Student Judicial Board, wrote that he "will miss her love for our students, her steadfast dedication to them and to Wes, her joy in teaching, and her wonderful, wry humor."


Andy Curran, professor of French and chair of Romance Languages and Literatures, remembered Catherine as "a superb and dedicated teacher; but she was also an incredibly generous spirit who gave of herself in a variety of situations, whether it was helping out a sick colleague or volunteering her time with local refugee families."

A memorial event will be held on campus later in the year. Donations in her memory can be made to a [GoFundMe campaign](#) that has been established to foster the creative work of an artist/asylee from the DRC who became dear to Ostrow-D'Haeseleer over the last years of her life.

Ostrow-D'Haeseleer is survived by her husband, Kirk Bartholomew; her close friend and former husband, Daniel Ostrow; her cousin, Michel De Waha, and his daughter, Aurélie; her godchildren, Gaeton Lillon and Mary Rider; and a large circle of loyal and caring friends.

Olivia Drake,  
Editor, *Campus News @ Wesleyan*





Thank you to the faculty who contributed to this issue of *The Wasch Center Newsletter*.

We welcome news and notes (and features too!) for our next issue, planned for the start of the spring semester.

Please submit your update to Krishna Winston at [kwinston@wesleyan.edu](mailto:kwinston@wesleyan.edu)

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