



WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

WASCH CENTER FOR RETIRED FACULTY

Newsletter Vol. 2, No. 2

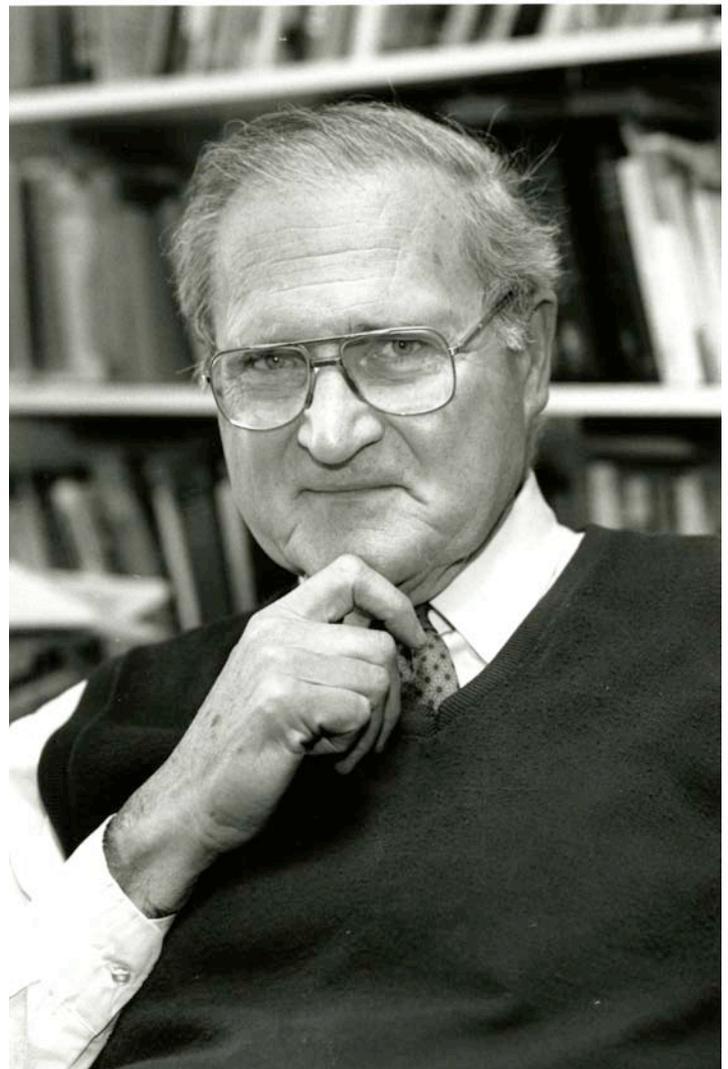
Spring 2011

A Nurturing Relationship: Steve Pfeiffer on Bill Barber

Steve Pfeiffer, Wesleyan Class of '69 and long-time Board of Trustees member and its Chair from 1987 to 1992, writes about his close association through the years with Bill Barber, Andrews Professor of Economics, Emeritus.

By the time I had finished my five-year term as Chairman of the Wesleyan Board of Trustees in 1992 at age 45, Bill Barber had become my most senior and closest confidante on the Wesleyan faculty, a trusted advisor and a close personal friend. He and Sheila and, on occasion one or more of their three wonderful sons, had hosted me or my wife Kris and one or more of our young children at their home on Pine Street during Board weekends. Bill and Sheila were always tolerant and welcoming hosts, graciously accepting the unpredictability of the need to balance the responsibilities of Wesleyan trusteeship with the imperatives of a growing international practice in a large law firm and a growing young family of five children.

Oddly perhaps, this close and trusting relationship did not begin during my undergraduate years. Until I received a Rhodes Scholarship in December 1968, I knew of "Professor Barber" only by his Olympian reputation in the College of Social Studies and the Economics Department. I was very much a product of Wesleyan's Government Department of those days and passed up the obvious attractions of the CSS because of the now almost unfathomable pedagogical and scholarly riches of the Government Department in that era. To list its members is akin to reading off the posters of the 1927 or 1956 New York Yankee teams: E. E. Schattschneider, Nelson Polsby, Clem Vose, Fred Greenstein, Leslie Gelb, Reggie Bartholomew, Russ Murphy, and David Adamany, perhaps the strongest



... an Olympian reputation in the CSS...

undergraduate Government Department ever assembled in an American liberal arts college. That was my world. But when it came time to identify my choice for an Oxford college, each of my teachers and advisors pointed me in the direction of Bill Barber.

It would be no surprise to anyone who knows the

Continued on page 2.

tall Kansan that his assistance and guidance for me was immediate, insightful, and generous. While conveying only a very slight bias towards Balliol (his college), he conceded that Christ Church, with 14 Prime Ministers among its alumni, and very few American students, would be an acceptable first choice, especially for a student passionate about political science. I was eventually headed for law school rather than a D. Phil, anyway, so with his blessing that was the direction I took. It was a good choice for me. I remember being impressed with the genuine thoughtfulness of this already highly distinguished member of the Wesleyan faculty; our interaction at that time, however, was short-lived.

We were back in contact in the mid-70s when I was at Yale Law School, after three years in England and two on active duty as an officer in the Navy in Washington. Then, in the fall of 1976, my first year as an alumni-elected trustee of Wesleyan, Bill called me in Houston. I had joined the law firm of Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski with the idea of going back to London and then settling in Washington after an appropriate training period in Houston. Bill was calling to see if I could sit as a substitute member of the Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee in Oklahoma, filling

in for the Honorable Carl Albert, then Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. The Speaker's daughter was a candidate for the scholarship in Oklahoma that year. It was also the first year that women were eligible for the Rhodes, and I think Bill liked the idea of having a youngish Wesleyan alumnus, relatively fresh from Oxford, on the Oklahoma Selection Committee. We were both pleased that Oklahoma sent its (and one of America's) first female Rhodes Scholar to Oxford that year. It was not Miss Albert.

Over those turbulent years after the end of the U.S. involvement in Vietnam, as a member of Rhodes Selection Committees in Oklahoma, Texas and, later, Maryland and the District of Columbia, I was able to observe Bill's disciplined yet progressive leadership of the Rhodes program in the United States. It was a critical period. He served as American Secretary for more than a decade during which the scholarship increasingly attracted able students from less traditional backgrounds, colleges and universities. There were stresses and storms aplenty within the Rhodes Trust during those years; Bill always guided the American selection process and advised those students lucky enough to emerge as its beneficiaries with wisdom, courtesy and generosity.

As a charter member of the Wesleyan Board during the 1980s, I observed firsthand the regard in which

WASCH CENTER LECTURE PROGRAM: SPRING 2011

All presentations are on Wednesdays at 4:15pm at the Wasch Center

FEBRUARY 9

Kätchen Coley, "A Childhood in Hitler's Germany: An Interview with Bill Wasch"

FEBRUARY 23

Richard Adelstein, "What Economists Really Know and What they Don't"

MARCH 2

David Leipziger Teva and Marwa Aly, "What we have Learned about the Jewish-Muslim Dialogue at Wesleyan"

MARCH 9

Nancy Smith, "BREVITY: An Editor's Take on the Long and Short of it"

MARCH 23

Joe Siry, "Frank Lloyd Wright's Steel Cathedral Project and Beth Sholom Synagogue"

APRIL 27

Jeremy Zwelling, "Hospice Dying Practices as a Contemporary Rite of Passage"

MAY 4

Vera Grant, "Happily Ever After: Some Grimm and not so Grim Fairy Tales Revisited"

R E T I R E M E N T S E S S I O N S A T T H E W A S C H C E N T E R

In the spring semester the Wasch Center will present two programs of interest to retiring faculty members or to those contemplating retirement. Both are at 4:15 p.m. in the Butterfield Room.

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

A discussion of retirees' benefits with representatives from Human Resources and TIAA/CREF.

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

A panel discussion and question session about more general matters of retirement with three emeriti faculty members.



... a promising South African named Isaac Shongwe ...

Bill Barber was held by his faculty colleagues, university administrators, trustees and those students fortunate enough to come into contact with him. He was truly a giant in this extraordinary group during the summer and autumn years of the Campbell presidency. It was at this time that I began to stay regularly with Bill and Sheila on Pine Street during Board weekends.

In 1987 a promising South African named Isaac Shongwe graduated from Wesleyan. After a fractured, disjointed and often unsupervised education in apartheid South Africa in his early years, and two years at an English preparatory school, Isaac had been admitted to Wesleyan in the late fall of 1982. His admission was based on an interview with me in London and the desire of Colin Campbell and Karl Furstenburg to “do some real and positive things” for black South Africans during those dark days of apartheid and the long debate over divestment. In the CSS, as well as in soccer and track, Isaac’s achievements at Wesleyan surpassed everyone’s expectations. After graduation, he lived with our family for six months in Washington and completed a bank management training program before deciding, on his own, to return to apartheid South Africa. He had been away for over six years.

Given his prowess as both a student and an athlete, the following autumn I encouraged Isaac to apply for a Rhodes Scholarship from South Africa. Bill Barber was supportive of the idea, having seen the quality of Isaac’s

undergraduate work at Wesleyan. Bill and I were both well aware that American Rhodes Scholars in those days had been increasingly critical of the Rhodes Trust over the lack of non-white scholars from South Africa. Overcoming a natural reluctance, Isaac applied. He quickly received a letter from a regional secretary of the Rhodes selection process in Durban informing him that, under the terms for the scholarship, he would be too old upon matriculation at Oxford and, therefore, could not apply. He informed me of this, and I assured him that he would merely need to write again, pointing out that he had had an interrupted preparatory education in South Africa and had studied abroad, and he would be sure to get an interview. Once again Isaac received a letter saying he was too old, by several months. He telephoned me in a client’s office in London to inform me of this. I recall that Isaac seemed almost relieved that the process was over before it had begun.

I was astounded. I asked him to stay where he was in an office building in Johannesburg and to give me his telephone number. I immediately called Bill, finding him in the Economics Department at Wesleyan, as dusk fell where I was working in the West End of London. Bill seemed more irritated than surprised, asked me where I was and to give him my phone number. He asked me to stay where I was. Bill then telephoned directly to Rhodes House at Oxford, seeking and finding the then Warden, Robin Fletcher, an old friend of Bill’s. I am told that, upon hearing the story of our inability to get a fine, black candidate into the Rhodes selection process, the Warden of Rhodes House asked Bill where he was, got his telephone number and asked him to stay put for a few minutes. After a surprisingly short time, Robin Fletcher called Bill back in Middletown with the instruction, “Have your Wesleyan chap apply again; he will not be rejected based on his date of birth.” Bill then called me in London, and I immediately called Isaac who, by then, was waiting, somewhat uncomfortably, in a darkened office building in the outskirts of Johannesburg, with the sound of the cleaning staff vacuuming away in the background.

Isaac was reluctant to proceed. He was home in his beloved country, had a job and was anxious to join the struggle against apartheid. It was October 1988; Nelson Mandela would not be released from Robben Island until February 1990. I assured him that the Rhodes process was a long shot in any event, that he would benefit from the experience of being interviewed, and that two years at Oxford would go by quickly were he to get the scholarship. I told him that Bill Barber and I felt strongly that he should try for it.

Isaac wrote off to Durban a third time, and the rest is history. He became the first black Rhodes Scholar from the province of the Transvaal (now Gauteng) and only

Continued on page 7.

WILL Program Continues into the Second Semester

The Wesleyan Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL), after a successful inaugural semester, will present a new set of courses for the spring. Six regular courses plus a one-day program will make up the curriculum. The offerings are listed below. For more complete descriptions of the courses and the one-day event, cost, and enrollment information, please go to www.wesleyan.edu/will or call the Wasch Center at 860 685 2273.



Life is But a Dream

Herbert A. Arnold, Professor of German Language & Literature, Emeritus

Four Mondays: 4:30-6:00 p.m.
in the Butterfield Room
March 28, April 4, 11, 18



Positive Psychology

William Arsenio, Professor of Psychology, Yeshiva University
Four Thursdays: 5:00-6:30 p.m.
in the Butterfield Room
March 10, 17, 24, April 7



Germes Are Us

William Firshein, Professor of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Emeritus

Three Mondays: 4:30-6:00 p.m.
in the Butterfield Room
April 25, May 2, 9



Exploring the Mysteries of Finance

Richard A. Miller, Woodhouse/Sysco Professor of Economics, Emeritus

Two Wednesdays: 4:30-6:00 p.m.
in 004 Allbritton Center
April 13, 20



Legacies in Words: An Introduction to Memoir Writing

Sheila Murphy, Teacher of English, Glastonbury Schools, retired
Five Wednesdays: 1:00-2:30 p.m.
in the Butterfield Room
March 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27



Life's Great Transitions and Four Essential Dialogues

Bill Roberts, Former Congregational Minister, Private Consultant
Three Tuesdays: 6:00-7:30 p.m.
in the Butterfield Room
May 10, 17, 24

The Saturday Institute for Lifelong Learning Brownstone Stories: Quarries and Dinosaurs

An all-day event. A series of three lectures in the morning will be followed by lunch and guided tours of the Portland quarries and Dinosaur State Park.
Saturday, April 30, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

1. The Tectonic Setting of Connecticut's Rift Valley

Jelle DeBoer, William T. Searns Professor of Earth and Environmental Science, Emeritus

2. From Portland to San Francisco to Mark Twain and Back Again

Alison Guinness, Environmental Scientist with special expertise on the Portland brownstone quarries

3. The Evolution of the "Brownstone Town": Headstones, Hurricanes and Water Park. Oh My!

Bob McDougall, Director, Ruth Callander House, Museum of Portland History



Wesleyan Hosts Conference of Retirement Organizations

The fifth biennial conference of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) was held at Wesleyan on October 14-17, 2010. Wesleyan was host to 96 delegates representing 50 institutions. Bill Wasch and Karl Scheibe were co-hosts, though much of the work of preparation and the actual logistics were handled by Gloria Gdovin, a retired Wesleyan staff member. Also, Brandi Cahill, of the Events and Scheduling Office, participated in the planning for most of the year leading up to the conference. Both Gloria and Brandi were highly competent and thorough.

Most participants arrived on Thursday, October 14. Gloria had organized a transportation system involving 10 volunteer drivers to pick up and drop off delegates at the airport and railroad stations. Volunteers, with some paid student assistants, worked on registration. All events were at the Usdan Center—which proved to be an excellent facility for such an event.

The welcome on Friday morning by President Michael Roth (by video from California) and Vice-President for Academic Affairs Rob Rosenthal was followed by keynote speaker Dr. Becca Levy of Yale, who spoke on “The Longevity Revolution.”

The featured speaker for the Friday afternoon session was Professor Annabel Patterson, also of Yale. Citing the Koerner Center for Emeritus Faculty at Yale, she outlined the multiple advantages of such an

institution to extend the professional lives of retired faculty members. Later a group of 48 conference delegates boarded a bus for New Haven to enjoy the generous hospitality of the Koerner Center, hosted by its director, Dr. Bernard Lytton, and Patricia Dallai, its Executive Secretary.

Saturday’s lunch provided entertainment by Professor Helen Lange, of the University of Vermont, who gave a convincing, costumed portrayal of Agatha Christie. On Saturday afternoon the featured speaker was author, artist, and ‘creative catalyst’ Fred Mandell, who captivated his audience with an illustrated presentation about what the Old Masters can tell us about achieving fulfillment in the second half of life. The final featured speaker was Joyce Cohen, the CEO of Unconventional Wisdom, who spoke on Sunday morning on the topic of “Diving into Life.”

Approximately 47 people participated in round-table discussions, presented papers, led discussions, or gave talks. The title of the conference, “Purpose and Passion in Retirement: Models and Best Practices” reflected the considerable purpose and passion generated during the four days of the meeting. People came away with the sense that retirement centers in higher education are part of a growing movement that significantly contributes to the lives of retired faculty and to the academic communities of which they are a part.

NECROLOGY

NORM DANIELS

Norm Daniels, Professor of Physical Education, emeritus, was born in 1907. He was a three-sport athlete at the University of Michigan, where he received his B.A. in 1932. He joined the Wesleyan faculty and coaching staff in 1934 and remained until his retirement in 1973. He died in Windsor, Connecticut on May 11, 2009.

PHYLLIS BRUCE

Phyllis Bruce, wife of Professor of Music Neely Bruce, died November 8, 2010 at Middlesex Hospital. Born in 1940, she received her B.A. and M.A from Wesleyan in, respectively, Music and American Studies, and was for many years one of the driving spirits of vocal music in the Middletown and Hartford areas.

BARBARA MACEACHERN

Barbara MacEachern, Director of the Graduate Liberal Studies Program from 1981 to 2000, died at Middlesex Hospital on December 24, 2010. Born in 1939, she received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of Rochester and taught at Rochester, Mt. Holyoke, U.S.C., and Wisconsin before coming to Wesleyan.

News & Notes

from retired members of the faculty

Retired faculty members are encouraged to submit short descriptions (150 words or fewer) of their scholarly work, community service, or related activities. The deadline for the September 2011 issue is August 1.

Bill Firshein

I gave a talk about bioterrorism myths and realities to the Exchange Club of Portland on Nov. 8 at Farrell's Restaurant. The club was founded in 1945 after World War II by returning veterans and they meet every month or so to discuss fraternal projects in Portland (like the Lions Club in Middletown). They also schedule talks by "experts" in various fields. They have about 50 members. A wonderful dinner and good interactions were had by all.

The Wesleyan Press first accepted my book "The Infectious Microbe" for publication last spring, but after much discussion and acerbic interactions they changed their mind, as did I, and I have since sent my manuscript off to another publisher. In any event, I am in the process of adding another chapter to my manuscript concerning cholera, which has really played a role in epidemics for centuries, especially now.

Sheila Gaudon

Retirement in Paris suggests many possibilities, but in my case it has meant direct access to primary sources as well as personal contact with autograph dealers, collectors and descendants of Victor Hugo. This intellectually rewarding and fabulously interesting work has been facilitated by the availability of material and by the continued activity of my husband, Jean Gaudon, in the publication of Victor Hugo's immense correspondence. Office space at the Victor Hugo Museum and its specialist library are decided advantages! Nevertheless, this type of publication is only too dependent on commercial publishers who prefer an immediate bestseller to a long-term scholarly enterprise. Publication of Hugo's family correspondence (Laffont, collection « Bouquins »), halted for a while, is now being continued by a new publisher. Volume 3 is at last to go to print, and the other three volumes should continue normally over the next few years.

A volume of letters exchanged between Victor Hugo and Victor Schoelcher, who put an end to the

French slave trade in May 1848, was a real pleasure to produce with my husband (Paris, Flohic, 1998). It sold out within the year (but I did send a copy to Olin). In 2004, I published my second volume of correspondence between Hugo and his publisher, Jules Hetzel, focussing on the preparation, publication and reception of Hugo's most well-known volume of poetry, *Les Contemplations* (Paris, Klincksieck). The years between 1995 and 2000 were years of European travel: I was invited to speak at four colloquia, two in Italy, one in Sicily, and one in Brittany, on subjects concerning Hugo.

«Victor Hugo, poète de l'enfance», was my contribution to the catalogue of an exhibition, *Victor Hugo et l'enfance* held in 2002 in Normandy as part of the bicentennial celebrations of Victor Hugo's birth. I curated and wrote the catalogue of a modest exhibition, in 2002, entitled *Exilium Vita Est*. It was shown in the museum in Guernesey, Hauteville House, where Hugo spent fifteen years in exile. The catalogue was published by « Paris-Musées ».

And today? To write this note, I have interrupted proof-correcting of an issue of an Italian journal, *Plaisance*, put together by Jean Gaudon and myself. It should appear early in 2011. Best wishes for 2011 to all, and warmest greetings to former colleagues and friends.

Joyce Lowrie

My translation of the *ILLUMINATIONS*, by Arthur Rimbaud, has just been published by XLIBRIS. If you are at all interested, you may see what it looks like, and to read a bit about its contents at www.xlibris.com/ARTHURRIMBAUDILLUMINATIONS.html. I am very grateful to Norman Shapiro for writing an essay of introduction to the book. Do not buy it, for heaven's sakes, but you might ask your local library to buy a copy. I have asked Wesleyan to order two copies, and they have done so.

John Paoletti

Leslie and I were in Australia from November 5 to December 19 where I was a Macgeorge Fellow at the University of Melbourne. It has been wonderful to see a new part of the world and to be able to talk to a number of historians at the University of Melbourne, Monash University and the University of New South Wales whom

I know through our work in Florence and our occasional encounters at professional meetings - and who are now our friends. Leslie has been working with faculty at the Education School of the University of Melbourne and has been able to visit a number of schools in Melbourne to gather information relevant to her work in the New York public schools. I gave the Margaret Manion Lecture at the University of Melbourne, the inaugural Bill Kent Memorial Lecture at Monash University, and a keynote address for the annual meeting of the Art Association of Australia and New Zealand (AAANZ) in Adelaide. A busy time—but a pleasurable one, given trips along the Great Ocean Drive and to Kangaroo Island. We prefaced our stay in Melbourne with a 12-day visit to China—an astonishing eye-opener. Now to find a way back!

Joe Reed

My critical essay about Kit Reed's seven collections of short stories, "What She Thought She Was Doing," appears as an Afterword in her eighth collection, *WHAT WOLVES KNOW*. It is being published in both limited edition and trade paperback by the British company PS Publishing, both here and in the UK. I drew on critics' assessments of her work in both countries as well as biographical material and a close reading of all the short stories to write this piece.

Franklin Reeve

If you kind crazy people really want a January stocking stuffer, here's a tot-sized one: *The Puzzle Master and Other Poems* came out during the summer. Gave readings here and there, did a staged reading of the play in Ogunquit in November. Poet Andy Croft and wife Nikki came over from Middlesbrough (UK) at the end of October, read in New York and Connecticut, lunched up here in the Green Mountains at our house with Jim and Arlene Scully, Bob and Mary Bagg, Steve and Ginny Sandy, Dick Wilbur and the Jon Andersens. Dick is more spirited and energetic than ever.

Quintupled the size of our garden this year--plowed up god knows how many rocks the old oxen missed--and are still living on the kale and chard, the turnips and potatoes. Some apple sauce and tomato sauce hides in a little freezer.

On election day stood for justice of the peace in our village on the Progressive ticket and made it. These days third party is the only way to go. Happy skiing and skating to all.

A Nurturing Relationship *continued from page 3.*

the second ever from South Africa, the country whose mineral wealth gave Cecil Rhodes the resources for his scholarships. Isaac Shongwe, Wesleyan University, Class of 1987! It would never have happened if Bill Barber had not taught Isaac in CSS, gotten to know him as a person, and written in support of his application. Most of all, however, it happened because Bill would not allow bureaucratic inflexibility in apartheid South Africa to deny a young, worthy black student/athlete a chance to be considered for his country's most prestigious student recognition and opportunity.

By the late 1980s I was back in Washington after seven plus years in London with Fulbright & Jaworski, and my young family. I knew by then, from direct contact with various constituents far from Middletown, Connecticut, just how widely and highly respected Bill Barber was as a scholar, thinker and colleague. What impressed me more and more in those years was that this man of gargantuan national and international reputation and accomplishment never seemed to lose his respect, concern and affection for Wesleyan, its faculty and its students.

On reflection, whether it was his Midwestern American roots in Kansas, his narrow escape from death as a young soldier at the Battle of the Bulge in 1944, his lovely Scottish wife Sheila's gentle but direct ability to keep the great scholar anchored in the here and now of family, university and community life in Middletown, or just the basic character of a brilliant yet humble man . . . I do not know. But, whatever it was, it never left him. He maintained the highest standards in all that he did, yet could see the value and goodness in others less talented, less disciplined and less accomplished.

My years as Chairman of the Wesleyan Board, 1987 to 1992, were not easy ones. A week after my first Board meeting, my mentor and friend Colin Campbell informed me at a private lunch in Washington, that, after 17 years, he was ready to leave the Wesleyan Presidency. Two weeks later the stock market crash of October 1987 occurred. The Board had a presidential search, a fire bombing of the President's office, real graffiti on the new Freeman Athletic Center during the night before its dedication, fake racist graffiti in Malcolm X House, and the murder of a Wesleyan student in Hartford in late June, 1990. My last two years fell in the middle of the 1990 to 1993 financial crisis, at that time the worst since the Great Depression, with saving and loan associations and banks failing across the country. Throughout that period, Bill Barber became a close personal friend and valued mentor. His respect for Wesleyan, his discerning understanding of its virtues and idiosyncrasies and his wise and generous advice helped us navigate through many a difficult situation during those challenging years.

LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES!

Joe Reed continues to provide an enticing selection of classic films for our spring-semester delectation. All showings are on Tuesdays and will begin at 3:15 p.m. in the Butterfield Room of the Wasch Center. Popcorn will be available and discussions will follow the showings.



FEBRUARY 1

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE, 1946, dir. John Ford. With Henry Fonda, Linda Darnell, Ward Bond, Walter Brennan, Victor Mature, Cathy Downs, Time Holt, John Ireland, Alan Mowbray, and Jane Darwell.

MARCH 1

RIO BRAVO, 1959, dir. Howard Hawks. With John Wayne, Dean Martin, Ricky Nelson, Angie Dickinson, and Ward Bond, written by Leigh Brackett and Jules Furthman.

APRIL 5

THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE, 1962, dir. John Frankenheimer. With Frank Sinatra, Laurence Harvey, Janet Leigh, and Angela Lansbury.

MAY 3

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA, 1935, dir. Sam Wood with the Marx Brothers. Sig Rumann, Margaret Dumont, Kitty Carlisle, and Allan Jones.



Wasch Center for Retired Faculty
Wesleyan University
51 Lawn Avenue
Middletown CT 06459
agertz@wesleyan.edu
(860) 685-3005

Editorial Board of the Wasch Center Newsletter

Peter Frenzel, Chair
Gene Klaaren
Jerry Long
Paula Paige
Karl Scheibe
Al Turco
Jerry Wensinger