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**Photo: APSURAN Bert Randall with daughters Jaimie and Alicia, Paradise Indian Grill, Jan. 30, 2017. Photo by Jim Clemmer.**

**The APSURA Spring Luncheon will be held Apr. 12, Mayor Jim Durrett, speaker. Looking Glass, 11:30.**

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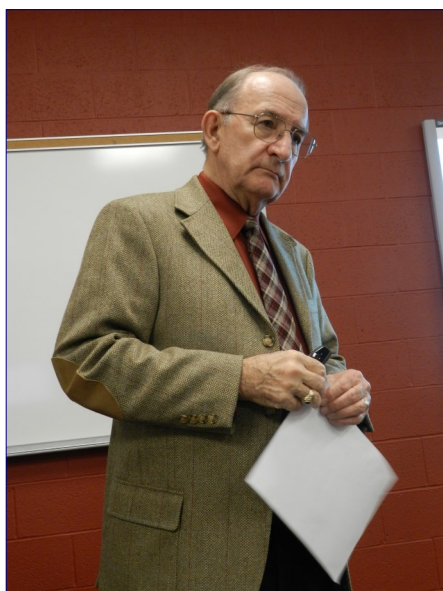
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## Newsletter of the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association



### Browder begins APSURA year with tales of intrigue

It seems appropriate in the current political climate that APSURA Connections began 2017 with a careful look at the classification and protection of governmental information. On Jan. 31, APSURAN Dewey Browder, emeritus professor of history and former U. S. Army officer, drew upon his extensive knowledge and experience to present an in-depth exploration of the complicated and sometimes dangerous work of military intelligence and counter intelligence.



Beginning his military career as a photographer with the 66<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Group in Germany, Browder later was political advisor and speech writer for the Army, NATO's Central Army Group and other offices. He worked with classified material most of his career.

While Browder began his talk by saying "I was not a spy," much of what he told us could well have come from episodes of "Mission: Impossible." Cars were repainted and license plates exchanged overnight to "evade the bad guys," and among those he worked with, disguises and false identities were stock-in-trade. Browder had to clear some of what he wanted to tell us with intelligence officials at Ft. Campbell—and some of it they declined to clear.

As context for the tense situations he recounted, Browder defined the levels of classification of information from confidential through secret and top-secret, and he identified those positions responsible for ordering and enforcing the secrecy levels required. Of special interest were the rules

governing the protection of information, and the many examples of his intelligence work as aided by his wife Helga, who was a German Governmental Relations Specialist.

The February Connections event is scheduled to focus on Black History Month, and especially the life and career of Wilma Rudolph. You will receive more information about this presentation when details are available.

### *Recap of other fall Connections events*

Browder's talk was fourth in the series of APSURA Connections events which since September have become a veritable "movable feast" of excellent and dissimilar presentations. Allene Phy-Olsen and Joe Filippo began the series in September with a colorful dialogue about the uncertainties of the authorship of Shakespeare's plays vs. the relative certainty of his authorship of the sonnets. Jim Thompson followed in October with a fascinating and scary tour through the six global extinctions of planet Earth, emphasizing today's extinction of species which he argued is the most profound of all.



*Helga Browder receiving a commendation*



In November Ann Silverberg led us through her arduous path to a Fulbright fellowship in China, where she studied the cultural context for the evolution of a Chinese instrument, the zheng, which she demonstrated for us.

The Connections series was designed by APSURA to be a showcase primarily for the talents and knowledge of APSURA members and guests, for the benefit of

APSURANS and other retirees, APSU faculty, staff and students, and the community at large. Connections events are to be of the highest quality, comparable to today's well-known TED talks and within the best Lyceum traditions. A subject does not have to be scholarly—it might be a hobby, a skill, a pursuit, a special accomplishment—but it must be presented in an interesting and engaging way, and in one hour. If you would like to develop a Connections presentation, and we hope many of you will, please send APSURA president David Kanervo ([kanervod@apsu.edu](mailto:kanervod@apsu.edu)) your topic and a rough outline.



*Jim Thompson chatting with students following his presentation*

### *Straight Talk about Retirement (STAR)*

We are happy to report that knowledge of the STAR seminar APSURA and Human Resources conduct every fall



*Ann Silverberg with her Chinese zheng*

for employees contemplating retirement has become well established among faculty and staff, some of whom are returning year after year to keep up with changes in the procedure—and changes in the concept of retirement itself. A total of 64 people attended our Nov. 9 program, including 48 employees, 10 presenters and six APSURANS. APSURAN Mitch Robinson, who also happens to be the VPFA, once again graciously provided refreshments for the meeting.

To ease attendees into the myriad details of retiring, we began this year's program with socializing and eating, followed by a section called "Been There and Done That," with short talks by well-known APSURANS Hester Crews and George Mabry. Then in a section called "Fast and Furious"

HR Benefits Director Angie Judish outlined the retirement procedure, and representatives from Social Security, Retiree Ready Tennessee (TCRS), TIAA-CREF, and Benefits Administration presented their perspectives.

## Betty Joe Wallace Memorial Dinner

Michele Butts and Jill Eichhorn

For nearly forty years, Professor Betty Joe Wallace pioneered at APSU the teaching of African American and Women's history and championed gender equality. We invite you to attend our Betty Joe Wallace Memorial Dinner, March 2, 2017 at 6 p.m. in the Morgan University Center Ballroom. Our guest speaker will be Ron Carter, a founding member of the Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration and former student of Professor Wallace. Currently, he serves as a logistic and operations executive for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This dinner begins a fundraising campaign sponsored by the Department of History and Philosophy and Women's and Gender Studies to endow a lectureship in honor of Professor Wallace. Each Spring, we will host a major speaker sharing Betty Joe Wallace's pioneering spirit and academic rigor to inspire students, faculty, staff, and our community as a "Pioneer of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Endowing the lectureship will require \$25,000 in donations. We hope for your support in creating this new educational opportunity for our students and community. The cost for the dinner will be \$30 per person. Please make checks payable to the Department of History and Philosophy and mail to APSU Department of History and Philosophy, P.O. Box 4486, APSU, Clarksville, TN 37044. Please join us in honoring Professor Wallace by attending the dinner and contributing to the Betty Joe Wallace Lectureship Fund.

## Travelogue: Historic trains of the Old West

Aleeta Christian

I love trains. I went to college commuting on the L & N train from Union Station in Nashville to Birmingham. I remember, rather fondly, Floyd picking me up in Birmingham in his blue 1953 Plymouth with the dollar tires. More recently, my friend Anne Powers (remember the Peru adventure) and I rode the trains all over Alaska, plus the Empire Builder from Portland, Oregon, to Chicago. So when my travel group, Dream Vacations, A CRUISEONE Company, based at Tennova with Senior Circle, announced last year that it would be offering "Historic Trains of the Old West," I immediately planned to go. [This travel group meets every first Thursday of each month at 10 o'clock at the hospital. Contact me at [christiana@apsu.edu](mailto:christiana@apsu.edu) or 931-552-7908, for more information.]

The trip turned out to be better than I even expected. First off, our own Wayne and Bonnie Chester were in the group and were so compatible every day of the trip. I believe Wayne especially loved the different plant life. As we walked one afternoon on a scruffy, western

landscape, Wayne said that he "wished he had ten more years to learn these plants." Later, our tour director, Carol Palmer, took a picture of Wayne beside a life size cut out of Billy the Kid. Wayne was thrilled.



Durango to Silverton, sported breathtaking, straight down visuals, which were rather scary, plain heart-racing sometimes. The third train we rode was the most spectacular. At Colorado Springs, we journeyed 14,110 feet up Pikes Peak, a breath taking experience on a cog train. I felt like I was on top of the world. This train was



Wayne Chester with Billy the Kid

Wayne and Bonnie Chester with Aleeta Christian

**Mesa Verde  
National  
Park**



also special to me because my daughter, Lea, and her husband, John, both work for Cummins, who built the engines for the new trains.

**Pikes Peak  
Cog Railway**

In addition to the main feature, three different kinds of trains, another memorable occasion was a morning visit to Mesa Verde National Park, home of ancestral pueblo people for over 700 years. The National Park official brochure says that these cliff dwellers' accomplishments, living in a stacked world, are "among the finest expressions of human culture in North America." All of us travelers stood at mountain lookouts, amazed at these distant dwellings.



Other treats on this tour were a visit to Santa Fe, state capital and artist mecca, and the Royal Gorge, highest suspension bridge in the world, which you can "zip line" across, which I did not do! Riding the rails, experiencing Native American culture, visiting with others of like minds, can't be beat. Consider this trip—and don't forget your hiking stick, sunscreen, altitude meds, and an adventurous spirit.

**Hester Crews**



**Hester Crews to address APSU Women's Club**

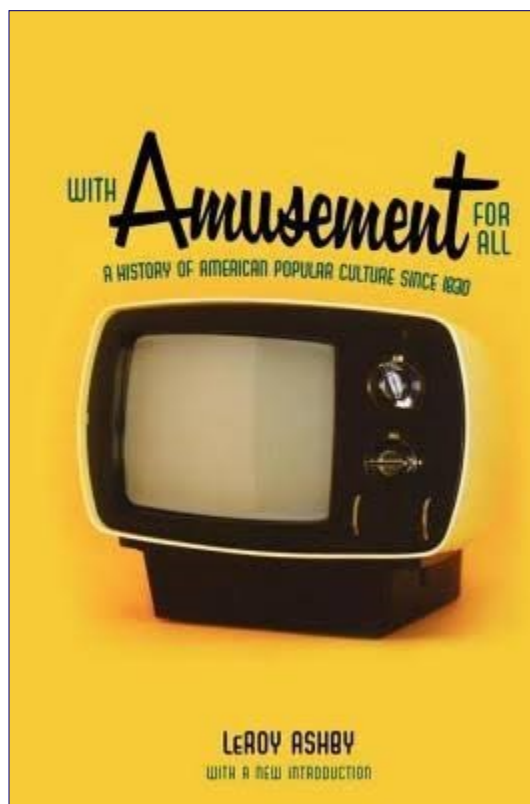
On Thursday, Apr. 6, Hester Crews will talk with the APSU Women's Club about APSURA in the Iris Room at 12 Noon. Some of the members have become acquainted with APSURA through attending the STAR seminar and other of our events, and they look forward to joining us when they retire. Retirees may also continue their memberships in or join the Women's Club, which was founded in 1933. The club supports the Catherine Evans Harvill Scholarship, which awards one scholarship annually to a female APSU student. Hester was president of the club in 1990. For more information about the Club, contact Joanne Shepard, Secretary (shepardj@apsu) or Crystal Faulkner, President (faulknerc@apsu.edu).

*From the bookshelf: LeRoy Ashby, **With Amusement for All: A History of American Popular Culture since 1830** (University Press of Kentucky, 2006) Review by Richard P. Gildrie*

**T**rolling the Friends of the Library book sales often turns up unexpected gems at rock bottom prices. At last fall's sale LeRoy Ashby's sweeping but sophisticated account of the development of American popular culture surfaced amidst many gushing celebrity biographies and vapid picture books of stage and screen. The pleasure is that it is an intelligent and entertaining work about entertainment. Thinking and laughing make a nice combination.

American popular culture has long been a lively but not quite respectable area of academic history. The result has been numerous works on sports, vaudeville, movie studios which, while often informative and amusing, tend to be narrow in topic and only vaguely connected to larger social or political contexts. Thus the field of popular culture remains marginal, having little impact on the main streams of American and British historical thought and debate. Oddly enough, the situation is quite different among French and Italian historians. In any case, there have been recent attempts to incorporate the study of popular culture into the interpretive mix of American academic history, but with limited effect.

This book, to my knowledge, is the most promising effort to date. There are three keys to its success. First, it is comprehensive in that it addresses an impressively broad range of popular entertainments over a long span of time. Indeed, the publisher's blurb claims that it the first academic book to attempt such a synthesis. I do not doubt it. Second, the author explores common themes within these amusements, thereby linking such apparently unrelated subjects as baseball and vaudeville in interesting ways. Third, these comparisons and trends are set within larger social, economic, and political trends. We are led, then, to appreciate not only how "pure entertainment" reflects larger social and cultural conditions but also contributes to them. We all know, for instance,



that in our time TV satire and celebrity interviews influence political debate. Now we know that is nothing new.

Such an intellectual feat requires not only an encyclopedic knowledge of many forms of entertainment but also a sophisticated understanding of major facets of American society and politics over the last 180 years. This is no job for a novice. The author of this work is a highly respected historian at Washington State University who has developed his chops writing books in American political and social history. He is just the sort of person to bridge the gap between popular culture and mainstream historical topics.

The work is organized around the standard chronological divisions of American history. There are, for instance, chapters on the Jacksonian, Ante-Bellum, Progressive, and Great Depression eras. This pattern allows comparisons within the same time frames as well as identification of more permanent trends, pressures, and aspirations transcending each. In short, the author is able to uncover a distinctive American tradition of popular culture whose operation we can still see.



**APSURANS**  
**Richard**  
**Gildrie and**  
**George**  
**Mabry**

The interplay between capitalism and democratization is a major shaper of American popular culture. Prior to 1830 most popular amusements were primarily social activities. Events requiring tickets or paid performers were restricted to the upper classes. That was the distinction between balls and dances, for example. Rapid urbanization, the early industrial revolution, and large-scale immigration soon turned elements of popular culture into commodities. P.T. Barnum personified the trend, transforming the elitist museum into the popular “freak show.” Professional singers and musicians increasingly appeared in taverns and at revivals. It became possible to charge admission to boxing and wrestling matches. Managing such events and creating special sites for them became big business by the 1880s. The odd notion that entertainment and sports are significant “industries” is a hallmark of our popular culture.

Another is the marvelously creative tension between rebellion and respectability. Most of the genres and content of popular culture originate among the marginalized—“hillbillies,” African Americans, immigrants and their children. These “amusements” often offer alternatives to or criticisms of the elite ethos of an era. Over time there is a drift toward respectability. Jazz and Rock are obvious examples, as is the evolution from burlesque to vaudeville and finally musical comedy, as performers sought wider audiences and critical appreciation. This process often has political and social consequences. It is hard to imagine the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1960's without folk music and rock anthems.

On occasion, the guardians of propriety deliberately work to tame or co-opt popular “amusements.” The transformation of Christmas and Halloween from rowdy lower-class begging sprees into middle-class family celebrations based on consumerism was a significant trend from 1830 to the present. “Trick or Treat” used to be a real threat and not giving “carollers” refreshments often had serious consequences before 1850. Despite such campaigns, the tensions between rebelliousness and respectability remain central to such things as stand-up comedy, TV sitcoms, and even NASCAR. This continuing tension remains a hallmark of a healthy popular culture and both reflects and expresses a vital democratic ethos.

This superb history, peppered with acerbic quotes from the likes of Groucho Marx, is a sophisticated account of a crucial element of American experience.

*Eloise Weatherspoon and Inga Filippo.*

*Dewey's former student Robert Lusk with George Pesely.*

*ROMEOs regular meeting, Thursday, Jan. 6*

*Lifetime AP-SURA member Bill Taylor at Dewey's Connections*

*Connections audience hearing Ann Silverberg*



## MEMBERS AS OF FEBRUARY 5, 2017

Your officers and board appreciate each and every one of you. For questions about your membership status, write Membership Director Nancy Smithfield at smithfieldn@apsu.edu or Treasurer Nancy Irby at nanirb63@yahoo.com (552-0208).

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**On the Web**

*apsu.edu/retirees-association*

*See our website for current and past issues of our Newsletter and NewsNotes, a retirement checklist, and information on retiree benefits.*

**Publication Information**

*The APSURA Newsletter is published quarterly by the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association. A supplement to the Newsletter, the APSURA NewsNotes, is published occasionally to update APSURA members on time-sensitive coming activities and events, both those in which APSURA is participating officially and others recommended by APSURA members. Both the Newsletter and NewsNotes are available at [apsu.edu/retirees-association](http://apsu.edu/retirees-association).*

*We invite APSU retirees to send us specific information about coming activities and events you believe will be of interest to APSU retirees. Please send to to Jim Clemmer at [clemmerj@apsu.edu](mailto:clemmerj@apsu.edu) or to APSURA at the physical address below, and include exact dates, times, locations, deadlines, costs, etc. We also welcome the submission of original articles for possible publication in the newsletter, especially descriptions of your accomplishments, travels, discoveries and other experiences as APSU retirees.*

*Submissions are limited to 500 words and a maximum of three high-resolution photographs. Send texts as regular email (no tabs) or Word attachments to Jim Clemmer at [clemmerj@apsu.edu](mailto:clemmerj@apsu.edu) with photographs sent individually as separate .jpg files. Or you may submit typed manuscripts and good-quality photo prints to APSU Retirees Association, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044.*

*Please let us know of retirees who for some reason are not receiving the Newsletter, and of errors or needed changes in your own name and address. If you would prefer not to receive the printed copy of the Newsletter, please notify Membership Director Nancy Smithfield ([smithfieldn@apsu.edu](mailto:smithfieldn@apsu.edu)). If you are not a member of APSURA but would like to receive the Newsletter via email, please notify Nancy Smithfield and provide her your email address.*

## APSURA Members Registration Form

☐ New member   ☐ Renewing member   ☐ Retired faculty or staff   ☐ Associate member  
Check both of the above-right boxes if your spouse or partner is joining or renewing as an associate member.

Dr.\_\_\_\_ Mr.\_\_\_\_ Ms\_\_\_\_ Mrs.\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Name of member: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Name of spouse/partner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number and Street (Apartment Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

Telephones: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail addresses: \_\_\_\_\_

Former department: \_\_\_\_\_ Years of service \_\_\_\_\_ Year you retired \_\_\_\_\_

Activities in which you would like the APSURA to be involved (check all that apply): ☐ Group travel; ☐ Athletic events; ☐ Cultural events; ☐ Social events; ☐ Scholarship activities; ☐ Seminars; ☐ Community work; ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues for Austin Peay State University Retirees Association:

Regular (APSU Retiree) Membership ☐ \$25.00 Please send to APSURA, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044  
Associate Membership ☐ \$25.00 ☐ 5 years for \$100  
Additional donation for Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Lifetime Membership \$500

