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*David Mallery Presents*

The Forty-Fifth

# Westtown Seminar

on teaching



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**Thursday,  
June 19, 2008-  
Wednesday,  
June 25, 2008,  
Westtown School,  
Westtown  
Pennsylvania**

The “Westtown Seminar on Teaching,” is a week-long experience which brings together people who are “in education” in many different ways. These people may be working with three-year olds or senior citizens or any ages between. They may be subject-matter specialists or free-wheelers from public and independent institutions, they may be from innovating or traditional places, and they may be at many different stages of their own careers and explorations. They are invited to the seminar because of distinction in their own work and because of the richness they might bring to the seminar and take away from it. The seminar is perhaps a gamble or, better, an act of faith on the part of those coming to it and those designing its framework and activities.

Central to the seminar is the exploration of some new and old ways of teaching and learning, experiencing and reflecting. There will be people, materials, books, films, outdoor partnership activities, and experiences in bringing together ideas and issues, research and hopes, the arts, activities we hope are congenial and useful to people concerned with education. The seminar has had a range of participants from many different religious and secular and national backgrounds, as well as from different kinds of institutions or non-institutions. It does not claim to advance anyone professionally, to save anyone’s soul, or to jack up anyone’s status. It can be, we hope, an enjoyable experience for those who find themselves drawn to it.

The participants live on the Westtown campus, and the experience of the seminar develops each year according to the styles and interests of the people who make up the group. Thus we hold to participation in the full span of the seminar, each member sharing in the creation of the total experience. Those invited to the seminar are urged to respond immediately, yes, no or maybe. There are now some 2,000 past participants, a great many of whom are proposing people for the next of the seminars.

To give something of the seminar’s approach and style, you may view a draft of the program and a list of staff in this brochure. Program activities, topics and leaders vary from year to year, and no participant takes part more than once. The seminar’s real richness is not in program or activities but in the participants themselves. They are the center of the experience even as they are the creators of it.

Cost to the school or college: \$2,500.00 per participant. This includes the tuition and room and board at Westtown School and all during-and-after hours events. Checks should be made payable to: David Mallery Seminars and mailed to him at 9006 Crefeld St., Philadelphia. Pa 19118.

**Note on applying for the seminar:** Participation in the Westtown Seminar is by invitation. We are always looking for excellent school people to invite! If you like the rationale and program for the Westtown Seminar, please contact me and let me know of your interest. I will respond, and we will take it from there. For more information, e-mail me at [mallery@davidseminars.com](mailto:mallery@davidseminars.com), or go to [www.davidseminars.com](http://www.davidseminars.com).

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**David Mallery  
Seminars**

9006 Crefeld St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19118  
215-242-0731  
Fax: 215-242-3911  
[mallery@davidseminars.com](mailto:mallery@davidseminars.com)  
[www.davidseminars.com](http://www.davidseminars.com)

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# seminar program



## Thursday, June 19, 2008

**4:30 P.M.** Arrival at Westtown, welcome, registration, pick up materials for the seminar in Central, the main building, move into rooms, wander the ground and explore the 600 acres, fields, woods, have a swim, meet people, begin to get settled...

**6:00 P.M.** Dinner in Central

**7:00 P.M.** Gather in The Cabin

Opening Session "Westtown 2007" . begins. Its members come together, take a look at the year just completed, share reflections, discoveries, struggles, hopes, a look back, a look at the present, a look to the future. Perspectives... The journey continues. David Mallery and the Seminar Participants.

**9:30 P.M.** End of evening session

## Friday, June 20, 2008

**7:30 A.M.** Breakfast.

**9:00 A.M.** We meet in The Cabin to start Project Adventure. This is an experience of partnership, collaboration, exploration, solving problems, making something out of good company and a good setting. We will move around the Westtown lawns, woods, ending the morning at The Lake for a picnic. Old comfortable clothes, knockabout jeans, shorts, slacks, sneakers are recommended.

**1:00 P.M.** Cookout at The Lake.

**2:00 P.M.** We meet back at The Cabin, and

then go into the same partnership groups as in the morning, to reflect on the experiences, discoveries, tasks, solutions, and moods of the morning session.

**3:00 P.M.** Free Time.

**6:00 P.M.** Dinner in Central.

**7:15 P.M.** We gather in The Cabin.

Fran Norris Scoble: Is School Good for Our Souls?

Leaving the path to find our path: Is School good for our souls? Our careers begin in hope and idealism. We are drawn to teaching and the work of schools in order to make a difference, to pass something on. What sustains the "pilgrim" on the journey? This session will begin with reflections from a diary of days in school woven with poetry to focus our discussion in three ways: 1) to recognize the questions our life and work seek to answer: 2) to examine the connectedness between our deepest selves and the work we do, and 3) to awaken passion and compassion -the natural language of the soul.

**9:30 P.M.** Evening Adjourns.

## Saturday, June 21, 2008

**7:30 A.M.** Breakfast.

**9:00 A.M.** Gather in The Cabin.

Michael Thompson: Understanding Family Styles

Contrary to pop psychology, we did not all come from dysfunctional families. The vast majority of



families are doing a loving and good-enough job with their children. At the same time, normal families differ on a number of dimensions, and children from these various families come to school with very different assumptions and values. In this interactive talk we will look at our own families, we will examine how the style of our family of origin still affects the way we teach and the expectations that we bring to bear on children.

**10:30 A.M.** Going Beyond Fear in the Parent-Teacher Relationship.

Both parents and teachers are exposed in their relationship to one another. Parents are vulnerable because they are trapped by their love and their anxieties. In addition their amateur parenting-and isn't every parent an amateur?-is on display to the teacher through their child. Teachers are vulnerable in the relationship because theirs is an intrinsically difficult profession often devalued by society, and many of them chose teaching because they were interested in working with children, not parents. Dr. Thompson discusses the fears that both parents and teachers bring to every encounter between them and he proposes solutions that can help both parties get past these barriers in order to create an effective working relationship on behalf of children.

—*Michael Thompson and the Seminar Participants.*

**12:00 Noon** End of Morning Session.

**12:30 P.M.** Lunch in Central.

**1:30 P.M.** Gather in The Cabin.

Michael Thompson: “Dealing With Difficult Parents.”

The vast majority of parents want to form a helpful alliance with their child’s teacher. However, a small minority, for reasons of narcissism, ambition, anxiety or mental disturbance, act in

troubling ways. Teachers need to be prepared to deal with such parents. Using case examples and role plays, Dr. Thompson will help “arm” teachers to deal with difficult parents so that they can better enjoy the majority.

**3:30 P.M.** End of afternoon session. Free Time.

**6:00 P.M.** Dinner in Central

**7:00 P.M.** Gather in The Cabin for screening of the film, *Love and Pain and the Whole Damn Thing* starring

Maggie Smith and Timothy Bottoms, directed by Alan Pakula and written by Alvin Sargent. This little known film was made, shelved then released in a few locations around the country in the early Seventies, and then it dropped out of sight before it had found an audience. People have begun to find it in the ensuing years, and have told others about it. (Maggie Smith won Academy Awards in 1970 for *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* and in 1979 for *California Suite*. She continues to flourish on the London stage and in films, right through the 2007 *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. Recent outstanding performances were in *Ladies in Lavender* (2004) and *Gosford Park* (2001).

**9:00 P.M.** After the film, we move to the theatre of the Living Arts and take the seats together in front of the auditorium for *Scott Joplin and Friends: A Ragtime Revue*. Donald Kawash, and Fred Jaques re-create in music, mime, comedy, history, the ragtime era of Turn-of-the Century America.



# seminar program



## Sunday, June 22, 2008

7:30 A.M. Breakfast.

9:00 A.M. Friends Meeting for Worship, for the Seminar Participants, in the Westtown School Meeting House, on the right as you start down from Central toward The Cabin.

9:45 A.M. Coffee and buns in The Cabin.

10:00 A.M. Gather in the Cabin.

*Roland Barth: Collegiality and Adult Relationships in School*

“The relationship among the adults has more to do with the character and the quality of a school than any other factor. In this interactive conversation, Roland Barth will consider independent, adversarial, and collegial forms of interaction. Special attention will be devoted to the central elements of healthy, collegial relationships.”

*Roland Barth, founding Director of the Principal's Center at Harvard and International Network of Principal' Centers. His most recent book is Learning By Heart, published by Jossey Bass (CA), 2000.*

12:15 P.M. End of Morning Session

12:30 P.M. Lunch in Central.

1:30 P.M. Aikido Session. Groups II and III have free time. Group I meet in the Gymnasium. Conflict and resolution, defense and collaboration, the joining of energies: presentation, demonstration and some trying out



of certain self-defense techniques in aikido with Robert Binkley. Aikido is seen here in physical terms and as a metaphor for some ways people can relate to each other in and beyond school settings. ( Loose, comfortable, old clothes should be worn for this session.)

2:15 P.M. Group I's session ends.

2:30 P.M. Groups I and III have free time.

Group II meets for its session in the Gymnasium.

3:15 P.M. Group II's session ends.

3:30 P.M. Groups I and II have a free time.

Group III meets for its session in the Gymnasium.

4:15 P.M. Group III's session ends.

4:15 P.M. Free Time for all.

6:00 P.M. Picnic supper on the lawn back of The Cabin. (Comfortable clothes for easy moving around for picnic and evening session.)

7:00 P.M. Gather in The Cabin.

Westtown 2007 meets with The Rev. Paula Lawrence Wehmiller, writer, teacher, artist, consultant, visiting presence in schools around the world. She is the author of *A Gathering of Gifts*. Her session is entitled: Sojourning in Schools - Stranger Within the Gate.

10:00 P.M. End of Session.



## Monday, June 23, 2008

7:30 A.M Breakfast.

9:00 A.M Gather in The Cabin.

**School as a Repertory Theater Company.** What each has in common with the other, in their best intentions and achievements. Developing and capitalizing on each person's strengths, minimizing or working to improve each person's weaknesses. Collaboratikon for a purpose beyond individual fighting for the spotlight. You're Hamlet Monday, Rosencrantz Tuesday. We will work with exercises for training actors and rehearsing theater companies to explore the theater-school metaphor.

—Victor Miller and the Seminar Participants.

12:15 P.M Morning session ends.

12:30 P.M. Lunch in Central.

1:30 P.M. Gather in The Cabin.

**Competition and Cooperation**—Ways of moving toward a desired objective...Options in dealing with conflicts...Discovering, celebrating individual strengths in a group focused on a task that engages it.

—Victor Miller and the Seminar Participants.

3:30 P.M. End of Session. Free Time.

6:00 P.M. Dinner in Central.

7:00 P.M. Promptly: Buses will leave in front of Central to go to the Independence Square area of Philadelphia to the Ritz Theatre for a special private screening for the Westtown Seminar of Frank Capra's 1937 classic film, *Lost Horizon*. This print of the film has been restored by the American Film Institute's archival department. (The film was out repeatedly for re-issue in the years following the original release. Much of the missing material has been found, and other sequences have been reconstructed with special stills and sound tapes from Capra's own materials which he has given

to Wesleyan University.) More important than the restoration process is the fact that the film itself has a resonance way beyond its own period, Depression-era U.S.A. This has proved true for so many of Frank Capra's films (*It Happened One Night*, 1934: *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town*, 1936: *You Can't Take It With You*, 1938: *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, 1939: *Meet John Doe*, 1941: *State of the Union*, 1948) These have been showing around the world to eager and

welcoming audiences in the past thirty years, sometimes with Capra jubilantly present to discuss the films with young or old, usually young (Capra died in 1991. Clearly his films live.) Of all his films, *It's a Wonderful Life*, 1946 has emerged today as perhaps the Quintessential American Film in the 21st century, something like what *Citizen Kane* was to the 1960's and 1970's. *Lost Horizon* stands apart, different from the Capra masterpieces in content and style and scope, yet very connected with them in the idealism and vision.

The screening will begin with our arrival around 8:00 P.M. The buses will have us back at Westtown by around 11 P.M.

## Tuesday, June 24, 2008

7:30 A.M. Breakfast.

9:00 A.M. Gather in The Cabin.

Plans for today to be worked out during the



# seminar program



previous days by the seminar participants: Explorations and activities and conversations of special interest to individuals and combinations of people. Options will be developing all week, but they can be really pursued today, morning, afternoon and early evening.

12:30 P.M. Lunch in Central.

1:30 P.M. Continue small-group or individual options, projects, conversations, activities designed by the participants.

3:30 P.M. Free Time.

6:00 P.M. Banquet in Central, given by Westtown School in honor of the 44th Seminar on Teaching

8:15 P.M. Gather in The Westtown Meeting House. The Singing City Choir meets with, performs for, sings with the participants. Jeffrey Brillhart, Music Director.

Then about ten minutes after the choir and the seminar participants finish their time together in The Meeting House, we adjourn to The Cabin for screening of *Casablanca* (1943) and join the company of Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Paul Henreid, Claude Rains, Conrad Veidt, Peter Lorre and Sidney Greenstreet.

*"Louie, this could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship..."*

**Wednesday,  
June 25, 2008**

7:30 A.M. Breakfast.

9:15 A.M. Meet in The Cabin for final session of the seminar.

11:00 A.M. Seminar Adjourns

## Free Time Notes

Some people will be bringing musical instruments, examples of musical or athletic or curricular or dramatic or professional or personal interests, adventures and talents. Such interest might bring together a handful of people during free time hours. These special interests will be surfacing as we go along.

Olympic size swimming pool will be available to us from 4 to 6 P.M. and after evening sessions end (about 9 P.M.)

Tennis Courts are available to us. (Bring your own racquet.)

Please bring athletic or artistic equipment you like to have with you: musical instruments, running shoes, etc..

The Lake and the 600 acres surrounding the school are open for exploring fishing, boating. When you request a boat at the lake, simply say you are with the Westtown Seminar or Teaching. If you are interested in fishing, bring your own gear and Pennsylvania fishing license.

There are also ample options, need we add, for not doing anything organized in the free times. Our idea is that each person can create alone and/or partnership with others.





## Staff for the 45th Westtown Seminar on Teaching

**June 20:** Project Adventure, 701 Cabot St., Beverly, MA 01915, 800-468-8898. [www.pa.org](http://www.pa.org)

**June 20:** Fran Norris Scoble, Head of School, Westridge School, 324 Madeline Drive, Pasadena, CA 91105-3399, 818-799-1153.

**June 21:** Michael Thompson, Psychologist, family therapist, consultant to over 100 schools in the U.S. and abroad. Author of Finding the Heart of the Child, Raising Cain and Best Friends Worst Enemies. 34 Robin Hood Rd., Arlington, MA 02474, 781-646-5230

**June 21:** "Scott Joplin and Friends." Donald Kawash, Germantown Friends School, 31 W. Coulter St., Philadelphia, PA 19144.

**June 22:** Roland Barth, May to October - P.O. Box 94, Alna, Maine 04535, 207-586-5872 and from November to April - 142 Guilford Ct., Tavernier, FL 33070, 305-852-2825.

**June 22:** Robert Binkley, techniques in aikido, 20 Landis Mill Rd., New Britain, PA 18901, 215-348-3973

**June 22:** The Rev. Paula Lawrence Wehmiller, 343 Market St., Lewes, DE 19958, 302-645-7046.

**June 23:** Victor Miller, 1708 Cornell Drive, Alameda, CA 94501, (510-521-8788.) Author, teacher, screen and television writer, former workshop coordinator at the Center for Theatre Techniques in Education, the American Shakespeare

Theatre in Stratford, CT. Author of Aikido in Everyday Life, by Terry Dobson and Victor Miller; North Atlantic Books: Berkley, California, 1993.

**June 24:** The Singing City Choir, 2111 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19103, Phone (215) 561-3930. Jeffrey Brillhart, Music Director.

**June 24:** Richard Blaine, former proprietor of Rick's Cafe in Casablanca. Write "please forward" on the envelope.

**June 19-25:** David Mallery, Consultant to Schools, Office: 9006 Crefeld St., Philadelphia, PA 19118. Phone 215-242-0731



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## Westtown Seminar Participants, 2006

**Adam Marcia**  
University School-OH

**Alex Zinnes**  
Paideia School-GA

**Anne Griffith**  
Miami Valley School-OH

**Becky Kotake**  
Maryknoll School-HI

**Bonnie Jones**  
Teton Science Schools-WY

**Camille Callner**  
Meridian School-WA

**Caryn Olson**  
Rye Country Day Sch.-NY

**Cassandra Aldridge**  
Wm. Penn Charter Sch.-PA

**Dave Gibson**  
Princeton Friends Sch.-NJ

**David Qua**  
Bancroft School-MA

**Elizabeth Allen**  
Harpeth Hall School-TN

**Emily Warren**  
Latin School of Chicago-IL

**Eric Thomas**  
Paideia School-GA

**E.T. Tilden**  
Good Hope School-USVI

**Faye Johnson**  
Alexander Dawson Sch.-CO

**Greg Changnon**  
Paideia School-GA

**Jane Carter**  
New Garden Friends Sch.-NC

**Jay Kaawa**  
Kamehameha School-HI

**Jean Colebank**  
Allen-Stevenson Sch.-NY

**Jim Garrett**  
University School-OH

**John Davis**  
Tandem Friends Sch.-VA

**John Foster**  
Doane Stuart School-NY

**John Kern**  
Bush School-WA

**John Silbaugh**  
Kent Denver School-CO

**Jon Kendall**  
Friends Select Sch.-PA

**Joyce Roush**  
Culver Academies-IN

**Gail Kuba**  
Kamehameha Schools-HI

**Lance Miller**  
Windward School-CA

**Lauren Lee**  
Oak Park & River Forest High School-IL

**Laylah Borchers**  
Miami Country Day Sch.-FL

**Lina Wessels**  
Paideia School-GA

**Lynn Bowman**  
Gordon School-RI

**Lynne Brick**  
Moorestown Friends S.-NJ

**M.A. Mahoney**  
Madeira School-VA

**Margaret Petrey**  
Paideia School-GA

**Marion van Arkel Dear**  
Westtown School-PA

**Mary Anker**  
Berwick Academy-ME

**Melissa Lindsay**  
Lampighter School-TX

**Mike Hannon**  
Berwick Academy-ME

**Nancy Kropp**  
Catlin Gabel School-OR

**Nat Coffman**  
Bishop's School-CA

**Norman Maynard**  
Thornton Friends Sch.-MD

**Richard Mandel**  
Retired-PA

**Sandy Cordes-Vaughan**  
Sage School-MA

**Shannon Smith**  
Moses Brown Sch.-RI

**Sharon Carter**  
Brooklyn Friends Sch.-NY

**Sue Caldwell**  
Carolina Friends School-NC

**Sue Lloyd**  
The John Cooper School-TX

**Sukran Basarir**  
Istanbul-American Robert College-Turkey

**Susan Bauman**  
Greenhill School-TX

**Tim Burgess**  
Good Shepherd Episcopal School-TX

**Tucker Janes**  
Desert Willow School-AZ

**Woody Malot**  
Rabun Gap-Nacoochee-GA

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## David Mallery's Other Seminars



### The Experienced Pro

A National Seminar for Ace Teachers

A gathering for the school's stars—a chance to come together with fellow Experienced Pros to reflect, explore, and share news and ideas.

### the administrator's life

For anyone who has administrative responsibilities in your school. It is about using your talents and energies to flourish as yourself and as part of your school.



### The First Five Years of the Teaching Career

A Gathering for New Teachers

A set of vigorous, practical, explorative experiences for people in the first five years of their teaching careers.

### *Writing Our Lives*

A Seminar for People Who Write  
(or who would like to write)

The Writing Our Lives seminar combines a lively discussion with sustained periods of quiet time for personal reflection and writing.

### *The Twenty-First Seminar-Treat for the Head of the School*

An invitational gathering which offers time with 20 or so other people who share the experience of heading a school.

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**For more information and dates, go to [www.davidseminars.com](http://www.davidseminars.com)**

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