

Not Just for the Sake of Argument

Political Pundit George F. Will To Deliver First Cohen Community Series Presentation

Programs

Jon Stewart, JCCC trustee and president of Metcalf Bank, and Dr. Mary D. Cohen, wife of the late Bart Cohen, at the Foundation dinner in September, when the announcement of the Cohen Community Series was made.

While the title of his talk may be *The Political Argument Today*, there will be no fingers wagging or tempers flaring when

George F. Will delivers the inaugural Cohen Community Series presentation at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11 in the Carlsen Center's Yardley Hall.

Known for his erudition and incisive political commentary, Will's writings appear in more than 450 newspapers. He also pens a biweekly column for Newsweek, and serves as a political commentator on ABC.

In 1977, he won the Pulitzer Prize for commentary for his newspaper columns. He was also the recipient of a 1978 National Headliners Award for his "consistently outstanding special features columns" appearing in Newsweek. In 1985, The Washington Journalism Review named Will "Best Writer, Any Subject." He was named among the 25 most influential Washington jour-

nalists by the National Journal in 1997. Currently, Will serves as an analyst with ABC News and has been a regular member of ABC's *This Week* on Sunday mornings since 1981.

Born in Champaign, Ill., Will was educated at Trinity College in Hartford and Oxford and Princeton universities. Prior to entering journalism, Will taught political philosophy at Michigan State University and the University of Toronto and served on the staff of U.S. Sen. Gordon Allott. Until becoming a columnist for Newsweek, Will was Washington editor of the National Review, a leading conservative journal of ideas and political commentary.

The Cohen Community Series is the result of a \$1.3 million gift from Jon Stewart, college alumnus, trustee and president of Metcalf Bank. Stewart designated the gift to initiate the series in honor of the late Barton P. Cohen, president of Metcalf Bancshares, vice chairman and general counsel of Metcalf Bank and an attorney with Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin LLP.

The annual presentations will take place every Dec. 11, the day Cohen was born in 1930 and the day he died in 2006. Proceeds will support JCCC scholarships, programming and training.

Stewart said he made the gift for three reasons. "First, I wanted to honor my friend and a very strong supporter of the community, Bart Cohen. Second, I wanted to raise funds for scholarships and programs at the college. And third, I wanted to bring regional and national recognition to JCCC."

Cohen was a strong supporter of JCCC. He and his wife, Dr. Mary Davidson Cohen, served on the Foundation's board of directors, and a gallery in the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art has been named for them. Cohen helped form the Johnson County Mental Health Association and Johnson County Human Relations Council.



Story by Tim Curry

