

A CONFERENCE ON

WOMEN LANGUAGE
AND AND
SPIRITUALITY IMAGERY



OCTOBER 25 - 27, 1985

RELIGIOUS STUDIES &
WOMEN'S STUDIES
MANKATO STATE
UNIVERSITY

UNITED
CHRISTIAN
CAMPUS CENTER

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 25

- 5:30-8:00 p.m. Potluck for Presenters--United Christian Campus Center (UCCC) 331 Dillon-Meal served at 6:30
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. Registration--Centennial Student Union (CSU)
- 8:00-9:00 p.m. Opening Celebration--CSU Ballroom
- Welcome - Margaret Preska, MSU President
- Group Activity
- 9:00 p.m. Informal time for talking and singing, by those who wish to stay--UCCC

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

- 8:00-9:00 a.m. Registration--CSU Ballroom foyer
- 8:30-9:00 a.m. Group singing--Carol Smith
- 9:00-9:15 a.m. Welcome--Margaret Preska, MSU President
Announcements
- 9:15-10:30 a.m. Introduction--Jane Earley, Dean, MSU,
College of Arts and Humanities
Keynote Address-Rosemary Radford Ruether
"Emerging Women-Church: The Challenge of
Feminist Liturgical Communities"
- 10:30-10:45 a.m. Short Break
- 10:45-12:00 a.m. Workshops
- 12:00-1:30 p.m. Lunch--CSU Cafeteria
- 1:30-2:45 p.m. Workshops
- 2:45-3:30 p.m. Long break, refreshments
- 3:30-4:45 p.m. Workshops
- 4:45-5:00 p.m. Short Break
- 5:00-7:00 p.m. Dinner--CSU Cafeteria
- 7:00 p.m. Evening activities - Nuclear Dance Suite
--Ballroom-a new group of dances about Hope
and Survival in the Nuclear Age.
Performers and Choreographers: Erika Thorne,
Andi Scott and Erica Tisner

9:00 p.m.

BETSY ROSE, composer and performer,
appearing in concert.

OR

FILM: "Devi" ("Goddess")
Satyajit Ray, Director

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

7:30-9:00 a.m.

Breakfast buffet--CSU Cafeteria

9:00-10:15 a.m.

Three concurrent worship services

--Traditional ecumenical service, using
inclusive language, with Communion
Leader: Rev. Martha Nelson

--Wiccan service--combines both ancient
matriarchal concepts and contemporary
feminist issues regarding the empower-
ment of women
Leaders: Patti Lather and Antiga

--A Celebration of our Communion--a liturgy
presented by members of C.U.R.E. (Christians
United to Raise Equality) that emphasizes
feminism and music
Leaders: Christina Potyondy, Jane Regan,
Jean Irvine, Katie Johnson, Lorial Irvine,
and Jean Veenstra

10:15-10:30 a.m.

Short Break

10:30-12:00 a.m.

Panel discussion--CSU Ballroom
Panelists: Kathy Newsome, Jade River,
Nina Samuels, Mary Gail Sovik,
Mary Van Voorhis

12:00-12:30 p.m.

Closing Celebration--CSU Ballroom

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

TITLE: "Emerging Women-Church: The Challenge of Feminist Liturgical Communities"

SPEAKER: Rosemary Radford Ruether

Keynoter Rosemary Radford Ruether is well-known as author, lecturer, theologian, and teacher. Her doctorate was from Claremont Graduate School in 1965. She works widely in various areas of theology and women's studies topics. Her special areas of theology are Historical Theology and Liberation Theology. Many of her works are toward producing a feminist systematic theology and toward documenting and studying women's religious and spiritual experience. Dr. Ruether is currently Georgia Harkness Professor at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. She has served in a number of prominent positions professionally. One long-term commitment has been to the Women's Caucus: Religious Studies, which she co-chairs.

Dr. Ruether's list of publications is lengthy. She has published many professional papers and writes a regular column on religious affairs. Her book-length works, though most often concerned with women's issues, cover a wide range of topics. Her books of most relevance to Women and Spirituality include: Liberation Theology: Human Hope Confronts Christian History and American Power (1972), Religion and Sexism: Images of Women in the Jewish and Christian Traditions (1974), New Woman/New Earth: Sexist Ideologies and Human Liberation (1975), Mary, The Feminine Face of the Church (1977), To Change The World: Christology and Cultural Criticism (1981), Disputed Questions: On Being A Christian (1982), Sexism and God-Talk: Toward a Feminist Theology (1983), and Womanquides: Readings Toward a Feminist Theology (1985). Co-authored with Eugene Bianchi is From Machismo to Mutuality: Essays in Sexism in Woman-Man Liberation (1976). Co-edited with Eleanor McLaughlin is Women of Spirit: Female Leadership in the Jewish and Christian Traditions (1979), and with Rosemary Keller is the multi-volume Women and Religion in America (Volume I, 1980; Volume II, 1983; other work in progress).

A special concern of Dr. Ruether's is the topic of this conference. She has been involved intensely in studying and working for a women's spirituality. The use of language and imagery in feminist religious ritual is the subject of some of her current work.

KEYNOTE PANEL

Kathy Newsome: Kathy is studying for the ordained ministry at Luther Northwestern Seminary in St. Paul. She has a B.A. from the St. Olaf Paracollege, an alternative education program where she designed her own major in Russian Studies with an emphasis on language and fairy tales. She has long been interested in language, the development of language, myths, storytelling, imagery, and theology. She has studied Russian, Greek, and Hebrew; and she is interested in the ways that people express their experiences of the spiritual dimension of life both through Christianity and through other avenues.

Jade River: Jade is the coordinator of Of a Like Mind, an international network of spiritual women. Of a Like Mind is a leading newspaper and network providing information to women on feminism, paganism, and women's spirituality. In addition, Jade is a founding member of the Re-formed Congregation of the Goddess. In her spare time, she is the executive director of a women's employment program.

Nina Samuela: Nina, a native of Duluth, is active in the Twin Cities Jewish community. She works as a Jewish family life educator in various settings, bringing family health, feminist and Jewish perspectives to bear on dilemmas of family life. She is employed part-time at Adath Jeshurun Synagogue in Minneapolis and is a member of Beth Jacob Congregation in St. Paul. Her family includes her husband Earl Schwartz and their year-old son Rafael Yochai.

Mary Gail Sovik: Mary Gail has a master's degree in educational psychology from the University of Notre Dame. For the past seven years, she has been the administrator of the Center for Higher Consciousness in Minneapolis. She has studied meditation for twelve years and is currently teaching meditation and lecturing on meditation in community programs.

Mary Van Voorhia: Mary has taught courses on American Indians at St. Cloud State University and at Mankato State University since 1976. She has lectured widely on minority women and done advocacy work in education, health, social service, and employment. She is also a human relations consultant.

WORKSHOPS
Morning--10:45 - 12:00 a.m.

Re-framing Reality: Toward a Visual Vocabulary of Women's Cultural, Political and Spiritual Experience

Lynn Levy

This workshop is a dialogue about women's spiritual processes in photographic image-making, as we turn visibility into possibility and imagery into reality. We will explore how we, as women photographers, view our work in general--our subjects, our goals--and how we view photographs themselves. We will also discuss how intuitive and technical skills merge in image-making to create a re-vision of the cultural view of women.

Lynn is editor of Of a Like Mind, an international network and newspaper of women's spirituality, and a founder of Re-formed Congregation of the Goddess, Inc. In addition, she is a professional photographer employed by the University of Wisconsin Extension. In her own work she specializes in environmental portraiture and photo-documentation.

"This is My Body": Images and Imagination in the Body of Christ

Paula Bremer

Mary Sue Dehmlow Dreier

What images embody our feminine tradition in the church--the body of Christ? As full members of the church we ask ourselves, "Is this body our body?" Letting our imaginations go, what images can we create for our life and ministry in the church? This workshop will explore these questions.

Paula Des Rochers Bremer, senior at Dubuque Theological Seminary, has served as intern pastor in the Houston and Rushford (Minnesota) Presbyterian Churches, where her spouse, Steven Carl Bremer, is pastor; they have four children.

Mary Sue Dehmlow Dreier is co-pastor with her spouse, Gary William Dreier, at Elstad and Highland Prairie Lutheran Churches (ALC), rural Minnesota; they have two children.

Myth of Psyche

Maria H. Turnblom

The myth of Psyche is one of the oldest and most accurately preserved stories of feminine initiation. The presentation will include a dramatic rendering of the story and commentary with an emphasis on feminine mysteries in the individuation process. Using whatever door participants find themselves entering the story, Maria will help individuals gain some important message or symbol or question to actively bring into their lives.

Maria Turnblom has a strong background in Jungian and Archetypal Psychology, Goddess Mythology, fairy tales, and Issues in Women's Spirituality. She is an ordained minister from Light of Christ Community Church and Seminary. Currently, she is working as a family therapist in an in-patient setting, teaching "Dynamics of Family Systems" at the University of Minnesota, and working on her doctorate.

From Bondage into Freedom: Experiencing the Physical,
Psychological and Spiritual Healing of the Incest Wound

Gwen Rust

Recovery from the incest wound must involve all three aspects of our lives, if we hope to experience the true freedom that a spiritual life offers. This workshop will explore the incest wound and share a recovery process.

Gwen Rust is an incest victim become survivor, now becoming woman. She is a Moorhead State University Master's Degree candidate in counseling, an incest group leader and therapist, and a farm wife and mother of four children.

Women as Peacemakers-Imaging the Future

Judi Bernstein

This workshop will help you see what you have done and help you learn practical things you can do for yourself and your family to help work for peace in the world. Future Imaging is an exercise that will help you feel more hopeful about the future.

Judi Bernstein took part in a U.N. seminar on Peace and National Security in New York in 1982 and is a frequent speaker on the peace issue, having been involved in the politics of peace since 1963. She received her M.S. in 1983 from Mankato State University in Peace Studies/Global Interdependence.

Poverty and Spirituality: Bread and Roses

Susan M. Wilhem

A lecture/discussion on issues of poverty (related to meeting spiritual needs) with a strong focus on the consequences of encouraging conditions of spiritual poverty.

Susan Wilhem is the Director of Simpson Transitional Housing in Minneapolis. She is a volunteer chaplain at Hennepin County Medical Center and an advocate for poverty issues.

Compassion: Weaving our Sexuality and Spirituality

Jan Bucher
Peggy Kavaney

A presentation, discussion and ritual of how the dualism of body and soul has led us in Western society to seeing sex and religion as two separate entities. Jan Bucher and Peggy Kavaney will discuss and share how religion and sexism can leave one depressed, empty and without a soul. Reclaiming one's soulness and integrating sexuality and spirituality, one is provided with the basis and climate to take risks and go beyond boundaries of fear, shame and oppression.

Jan Bucher, M. Div., consultant at SYCAMORE, is a chaplain in a CD unit, retreat leader, therapist and spiritual director. She also circles Lake Harriet on roller skates.

Peggy Kavaney, graduate of the Pastoral Ministry Program, College of St. Catherine, is a pastoral minister at a 1200-member parish in St. Paul. She has participated in and led days of reflection, given talks and homilies, and ministered to men and women in search of their "soulness."

Spiritual Preference/Sexual Preference (limit of 30)

Jan Bodin

The workshop is based on my experience as a lesbian Christian, and also on Carter Heyward's The Redemption of God. The goal of the group is to examine the interplay of our life choices and preferences with our spiritual lives, particularly with respect to rites, power, self-image and responsibilities.

Women and the Catholic Church: A Discussion for Ambivalent or Alienated Women

Barbara Keating

Many Catholic-reared women have a frustrating love-hate relationship with the Church. This workshop will provide a forum for discussion with practicing and non-practicing Catholic women. We will discuss the influence of the Catholic Church on social policy (especially regarding women), the pain of struggling with the Church patriarchy, and the hope and potential for change. Participants are welcome to introduce other topics of interest or concern.

Barbara Keating is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Mankato State University. She was raised as a Roman Catholic and attended only Catholic schools through a college B.A. She has been working to reduce sexism in the Catholic Church for twelve years and has recently dropped her affiliation with the Church. She has been married for 16 years and has two teenage daughters.

Women's Experience of the Divine Christine Maria Potyondy

Humanity is called to a personal experience of the Divine Abundance. This is a call to wholeness-to Holiness. Women must trust, claim and share their unique experiences of ultimate Reality in order to bring wholeness and healing to all of the human family and to Mother Earth. Using excerpts from musical pieces as well as literature, we will consider the "mystical" dimensions of life.

Christina Potyondy has a Master of Arts Degree from the United Theological Seminary in Religious Studies. She taught elementary school for six years and is the mother of two daughters. She is affiliated with St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Minneapolis, as well as the Aquarian Light in Minneapolis (an esoteric Christian Church). Born in Hungary, she has lectured on mysticism, the immortality concept and reincarnation.

Women and Music

Carol R. Smith

This will be a lecture/discussion involving images of women in music throughout the ages: How have we been portrayed? What messages have we received? What can we do now to change negative messages or messages of submission to men? Included will be examples of how to change sexist language in hymns.

Carol Smith is secretary to the Dean of Arts and Humanities at Mankato State University, mother of six, stepmother of one, grandmother of five, and interested in love, laughter, music and peace in the world.

Discovering our Own Images of Spirituality

Merra Young-Prottengeier
Marie Boler

An experiential workshop: explore and connect with our own images of personal power that come with finding our center within. Define your spirituality and learn ways to tap into your own inner resources. Workshop includes guided imagery and incorporates experience with the use of retreat, silence, meditation, hatha yoga. Wear or have available comfortable clothing.

Merra Young-Prottengeier, M.S.W., A.C.S.W., is an experienced psychotherapist, working with individuals, groups and families at Chrysalis, a center for women and mental health clinic in Minneapolis. She has been a practitioner of yoga since 1976 (including study in India), and currently teaches hatha yoga at the Minneapolis Yoga Workshop.

Marie Boler, C.C.D.P., M.S.W. practitioner, is a spiritual pilgrim of many years. Her experience includes counseling families and individuals, and leading and participating in women's groups. She believes the search for the spiritual self is life-long and life-giving.

Prairie-Tao: A Philosophical Field Guide

Mary Lynn Banning Berger

Through the examples of prairie wildlife, you will chart your own philosophical field-guide by melding nature with the basic principles of Christianity, Judaism, and Taoism. Through the personal charting of your own religious-spiritual field guide, you will arrive at a better understanding of how you can partake of hallowing the everyday to celebrate a more wholesome life.

Mary B. Berger, B.A., University of Iowa; M.A., Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago. Mrs. Berger has been an educator in the Chicago area for 14 years. She has conducted seminars in Iowa since November, 1984, in the areas of giftedness, humor and education. She is presently engaged in independent research in philosophy of religion and communication.

Meditation and The Feminine Experience

Mary Gail Sovik

In this workshop you will experience relaxation techniques, breath awareness and a meditation method. This workshop acknowledges womanhood and evokes the energy of the Divine Mother.

Mary Gail Sovik, M.A., manager of the Center for Higher Consciousness in Minneapolis, is educated as a guidance counselor. She is a long-time student of the Himalayan Raja Yoga tradition.

Videocassette: Women, Ritual and Religion

Interviews with women active in religion, including Carol Christ, Naomi Goldenberg, Z. Budapest, Madonna Kolbenschlag, and Elizabeth Fiorenza.

Film: Not a Love Story

Landmark documentary produced by the National Film Board of Canada. It "addresses the issue of pornography within the context of what it means for women, expressing a point of view that is personal, feminist and based on the experiences of the women who made it." Those interested in attending the "Pornography: The Destruction of Eros" workshop (late afternoon session) should see this film beforehand.

Videocassette: Exalting the Lowly and Casting Down the Powerful

Maureen Fiedler

Maureen Fiedler's keynote address at last year's Women and Spirituality Conference; an interpretation of the Magnificat as a revolutionary document.

WORKSHOPS

Afternoon - 1:30-2:45

Changing the Patterns: Quilting, Prayer, and Social Transformation

Jane Regan

Susan Margot Smith

The Boise Peace Quilters are at the heart of a project, less than four years old, to promote world peace through quilting. The Calico Quilters of Parchman prison are part of a sewing enterprise which offers a transition to new lives for the inmates of correctional institutions. This workshop will look at quilting as a uniquely American design tradition that has always fostered social change and spiritual transformation in the life experiences of women. Slides, written materials, and quilters from other projects will supplement the lecture/discussion.

Jane Regan has worked for several years with volunteer community organizations in Minneapolis. Her interests at present focus on the patterns of women's lives, the culture of American Indians, and quilting; she is now at work on a quilt with the Navaho Broken Circle motif, a pattern which embodies the idea of change in the Indian worldview.

Susan Margot Smith did her doctoral work at the University of Minnesota in American Studies, focusing on religion in America. Her interests have been in areas of spiritual autobiography and renewal movements.

Out of the Closet and Into the Courtroom: Responding to Sexual Harassment on the Job

Larry Gaffin

The workshop will consider the difference between 1) flirting and sexual harassment; 2) love, sex and friendship in the workplace; 3) the ambiguity of office relationships; 4) types of responses to harassment; 5) the use and abuse of power among employees; and 6) practical and legal responses to what the individual considers harassment.

The Reverend Larry Gaffin directs the United Christian Campus Center at Mankato State University.

Spirituality and Mother Earth

Delmarie Gibney

We are at a critical juncture in history as a human race and as a planet. It is a time of breakthrough and/or breakdown. The happening of breakthrough will depend on the depth of our spirituality.

Delmarie Gibney is a Franciscan sister who has spent 14 years working in Central America. She is presently the coordinator for Global Education Associates Upper Midwest.

"God the Mother" in Scripture

Lucille Matousek

Following a brief exploration of the masculine and feminine within each person, and in God as revealed in Scripture, we will focus on some key scripture passages that reveal God's maternal love and positive regard for us. Suggestions for nourishing one's relationship with God our Mother will be offered.

Lucille Matousek is a School Sister of Notre Dame and Director of Good Counsel Education Center in Mankato. A Christian feminist, she is open to surprises in her search for God and loves to share with others who also are.

From Convent to Coven--A Journey to the Old Religion of the Goddess

Joan Keller-Mareash

From convent to coven is the story of my personal journey. It is the story of bringing together the inconsistencies I found in the religion I was taught and the woman-valuing rituals, practices and experiences I found in the Old Religion of the Goddess. Though not a member of a coven, I have found a "home" in the Old Religion. Come dream the dark with me.

Joan Keller-Mareash is a nurse, teacher, and childbirth educator, as well as a wife and mother. She spent 13 years in a religious order in Kansas and is active in feminist groups in the LaCrosse area. She is presently pursuing a certification in Women's Studies from UW-LaCrosse.

Homophobia: Impact on Spirituality and Gay/Lesbian Liberation

Anita Hill

This workshop will explore interconnections of homophobia, heterosexism and sexism. We will discuss the impact of sex-role rigidity, male-exclusive imagery of Deity, and homophobia on the lesbian and gay liberation movement.

Anita Hill is a Ministry Associate with Wingspan, a ministry with and on behalf of gay and lesbian people. She serves with the Lesbian and Gay Interfaith Council of Minnesota and is a member of the Working Group on Justice Agendas and the New Lutheran Church.

Images of God and Creative Spirituality in Poems by Sexton and Plath

Kathryn Christenson

Workshop participants will try to discover what insights for feminine spirituality are offered in the poetry of Anne Sexton and Sylvia Plath. We will read and focus upon selected poems by the two writers, particularly their images of disintegration and resurrection, of God, Death, and creative spirituality.

Kathryn Christenson, Development Associate at Gustavus Adolphus College, occasionally teaches poetry at Gustavus; three of her courses have focused specifically on Sexton and Plath. She has published poetry of her own in both anthologies and periodicals.

Songs of Christian Feminism

Dorothy Davies

Dorothy Davies, musician and homemaker, sings her original songs written from a Christian feminist perspective. She will share her personal story of breaking through traditional restraints on a woman's discovery of personal identity to a new freedom of personhood in feminism, while relating to the institutional church in a stance of "loving confrontation."

Dorothy Davies is a "reconstructionist" Roman Catholic feminist, educationally and experientially grounded in music, sociology, theology and philosophy. She began writing music four years ago when sexism forced her to leave major ministries (choir and religious education) in the institutional church as a matter of personal integrity.

Questions and Answers on the 12 Steps as a Way of Life

Ellie Polifka

This workshop will focus on the 12 steps as a workable approach to healthy, happy living, based on spiritual growth and understanding of others.

Ellie Polifka is a Christian feminist, and a counselor for battered women and chemical dependents.

Visualizations: Imagery for Communication, Healing and Re-enchantment

Sage Passi

Kaia Svien

Guided imageries, powerful tools in individual and group rituals, free us to go beyond our normal patterns of thought and problem solving and allow us to experience new insights and shape imaginative directions. We will focus on preparing for visualizations through relaxation and centering, imaginative communication, journeying to a healing nature space, exploring

playfulness and a final group vision quest. Expand your sense of self and join us in the re-enchantment of the Earth as we awaken new hopes and dreams.

Sage Passi and Kaia Svien are performing artists who enjoy using imagination and creative audience participation to enhance social change. They have led many empowerment workshops and rituals and have performed in churches and parks. Both are presently involved in the Whole Mind Learning Project, a consortium of Twin Cities teachers and parents who are trying to incorporate New Age ways of learning in the classroom.

Women Who are Poor

Rose Tillemans

Talk-alide presentation on poor women who call me to stand tall, women I've known as friends, whose stories I've heard in my Free Store ministry.

Rose Tillemans manages the Free Store on Nicollet Avenue in south Minneapolis. She is a free lance writer, satirist on churchy topics, active in WomanChurch in the Twin Cities, and a peace activist. She enjoys being a counter-culturist and rebel.

The Many Faces of the goddess

Indira Junghare

Goddess worship is an important component of Hinduism. Along with the male gods (Siva and several manifestations of Vishnu), the Mother Goddess is worshipped in many forms. More of the images are representative of her dual role, benign and malevolent. The workshop will examine several images of the Great Goddess and will discuss their functions and roles in Hinduism. Also, the relationship of Hindu women and the dual aspect of the Goddess, benevolent and malevolent, will be discussed.

Indira Y. Junghare was born and brought up in India. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. in Linguistics at the University of Texas and is presently an Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota where she teaches Indian languages, literature, and Hinduism.

Women's Imagery and Prayer

Roseann Giguere

This workshop will explore women's experience of God as related to tradition in Church, family and society. Images and ways of prayer will be developed to deepen and encourage a life of personal prayer.

Roseann Giguere, CSJ, is a graduate of United Theological Seminary and the director of Ascension Place, a supportive living residence for women. She also works in the areas of retreats and spiritual direction, with particular emphasis on women.

Not a Love Story: A Film about Pornography

Landmark documentary produced by the National Film Board of Canada. It "addresses the issue of pornography within the context of what it means for women, expressing a point of view that is personal, feminist and based on the experiences of the women who made it." Those interested in attending the "Pornography: The Destruction of Erotica" workshop (late afternoon session) should see this film beforehand.

Women, Ritual and Religion

B/W videocassette. Interviews with women active in religion, including Carol Christ, Naomi Goldberg, Z. Budapest, Madonna Kolbeneschlag, and Elizabeth Fiorenza.

Exalting the Lowly and Casting Down the Powerful

Videocassette of Maureen Fiedler's keynote address at last year's Women and Spirituality Conference; an interpretation of the Magnificat as a revolutionary document.

WORKSHOPS

Afternoon - 3:30-4:45

Experiencing God: An Analysis of Five Novels by Women

Ruth Ann Alexander

An analysis of five novels--The Awakening (Chopin), The Stone Angel (Laurence), The Dollmaker (Arnow), Final Payments (Gordon), The Color Purple (Walker) - written at different times and in different environments, in which women reject the traditional God of theology, hierarchy, and doctrine for a spiritual reality emerging from women's experience in nature, sexuality and human relationships.

Ruth Ann Alexander is an English Professor at South Dakota State University. She teaches an Honors Colloquium on "Women, God, and Literature."

Visual Imagery and Meditation

Bonnie Wright

A brief introduction to imagination from the perspective of cognitive psychology. Opportunities to try imagery, both external and internal, as a group and with some direction. Slide presentation of a variety of religious images with suggestions of meditative differences between the more sensing and intuitive persons. Discussion.

Bonnie S. Wright, a professor in the Psychology Department at St. Olaf College, is interested in sensation and perception, memory, and the psychology of religion.

Keeping Sane in an Insane World: Creative Humor for Leaders

Gerri Perreault

Lee Colby

Marilynn Taylor

This session will focus on the use of humor as a way to cope with 1) traumatic and dehumanizing situations in general; 2) situations women face, for example, regarding sexist remarks; and 3) situations feminists face in organizing for change. We will integrate humor concerning patriarchal and feminist images related to religion and spirituality into the above.

Gerri Perreault chairs the leadership committee of the Minnesota Women's Consortium. Lee Colby owns Colby and Associates. Marilyn Taylor is research and education director of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

Sexuality and Spirituality

Antiga

Visit a time when the Goddess was worshipped and sexuality was sacred. Discover what you want your own sexuality to be if you could let go of the rules and the definitions of sexuality as evil.

Antiga is a feminist witch, writer, singer and artist who is developing celebrations of sexuality based on the belief that sexuality is sacred.

Images of Affirmation in the Visionary Experience of Dame Julian of Norwich (1342-c.1416)

Mary Ann Millhone

Julian, a 14th Century mystic and theologian, is the first woman known to have written a book in the English language. It is full of images of hope which transformed a woman near death and despair. These will be presented through lecture and readings. Books and articles on Julian and other medieval mystics will be available for examination.

Mary Ann Millhone (MA, History, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; further study at Yale Divinity School and Drake University) lives in Clarinda, Iowa, where she recently has done independent research and writing on Julian of Norwich under a grant from the American Association of University Women.

Blood Rites: The Passages of Women

Elaine Wynne

Nancy Ortenstone

Elaine and Nancy will tell stories, perform original poems and play music on flute, drum and keyboard around the theme of blood rites. Through imagery, story and sound they will guide the participants toward remembering and reconnecting with the spiritual significance and power of women's rhythms and cycles. Participants will have the opportunity to share their own passage stories.

Elaine Wynne is a therapist and storyteller who has been on the teaching staff of the National Conference for Storytelling and the Religious Message. Nancy Ortenstone is a published poet, storyteller and teacher currently writing a non-fiction book on the attitudes toward women within the patriarchy.

Articulations of Intuitive Knowledge: The Emerging Vocabulary
of Women's Spiritual and Psychic Information

Jade River

A discussion and exploration of the ways in which language affects women's abilities to communicate spiritual and psychic information, including information on the emerging body of language that describes intuitive knowledge, the cognitive process of generating new language, and the role of language in forming women's reality.

Jade River is the Coordinator of Of A Like Mind, an international network of spiritual women. In addition, she is a founding member of the Re-formed Congregation of the Goddess, Inc.

Re-vision and Recovery: Christian Spirituality for Adult
Children of Alcoholics

Lynn McLean

Once I wrote, "Hope is for others - not for child victims of drunk fathers and mothers." My spiritual journey has allowed me to re-vision myself, hope and God - and recover these and more. This workshop is an opportunity for us all to share.

Lynn McLean is Associate Pastor at Judson Memorial Baptist Church. She is a member of PPM Board of Directors, a co-chair of Religious Affairs Committee for PPM, and a child of alcoholic parents.

Pornography: The Destruction of Eros

Martha Reineke

Pornography destroys the dream of love, of erotic mutuality, and in so doing denigrates embodiment and nature, which are the foundation of human spirituality. A connection between pornography and the Christian tradition will be discussed, as will - in an attempt to suggest points where we can begin to reclaim positive attitudes about sexuality in religion and culture - interpretations of the love stories of Genesis and the Song of Solomon. I hope that we will begin to see eros both as an alternative to pornography and as a clear and profound manifestation of human spirituality. People interested in attending this workshop should view the film "Not a Love Story" during either the morning or early afternoon session.

Martha J. Reineke is an Assistant Professor of Religion at the University of Northern Iowa.

A Theological Approach to Teaching Human Sexuality

Joan Timmerman
Patricia Bartacher

This workshop will explore and approach the study of human sexuality as it impacts women's experience of spirituality.

Joan Timmerman, Ph.D., Marquette University, is an Associate Professor in Theology. Patricia W. Bartacher, M.S., University of Minnesota, is an Associate Professor in Nursing.

The Missionary Experience of American Women in India, 1870-1930

Lealie Flemming

This workshop will deal with the experiences of American Protestant women missionaries, primarily in north India. The workshop will begin with an introductory lecture sketching American women's mission organizations, women missionaries' self-understandings and motivations, changing patterns of interaction between them and Indian women, and the consequences for both the Americans and the Indians of the mission encounter. Following the formal presentation, participants will be asked to reflect on the missionary enterprise and its consequences for women both in the third world and in our own country, how we relate to women of other religious persuasions from our own, and how our concepts of mission differ from those of nineteenth and early twentieth century missionaries.

Lealie A. Flemming is an Associate Professor of Oriental Studies at the University of Arizona.

Androgynous Spirituality

Lora Slater

Where the deity is imaged and spoken of as male, many women find there is no place for them, no sense of participation, identity, dignity or honor. Yet in matriarchy, where is the place for males? Is it necessary to go from one side of the pendulum to the other, or can we create an image of deity, a spirituality, where each gender and sexual orientation can be recognized and honored?

Lora Slater is double-majoring here at MSU in Women's Studies and Psychology, and plans to do graduate work in Feminist Therapy.

Spirituality and the Web of Life

Dorothy Olinger

Who we are as the consciousness of the earth related to every thing that exists; how we live in harmony with the universe - depicts the spirituality needed to sustain and inspire us to be the shapers of the future and the guides of further evolution.

Dorothy Olinger is a School Sister of Notre Dame, on the staff of Global Education Associates Upper Midwest with the mission of consciousness-raising that we are citizens of Planet Earth, responsible for creating a kind of future that is good for humans and all the earth.

The Churches and the Woman Question, 1870-1900

Dennis Norlin

This workshop will discuss the varied responses of the denominations to the rising expectations of suffrage leaders and the harsh attacks on the churches by radical suffragists like Matilda Joselyn Gage and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Different churches took different approaches: Methodists began admitting women to seminary education on a limited basis; Baptists encouraged women to become home and foreign missionaries; Episcopalians emphasized the Cult of True Womanhood; and Lutherans and Catholics stressed the priority of the claims of motherhood for all women.

Dennis A. Norlin is Associate Professor and Head of Philosophy and Religion at South Dakota State University.

Looking for the Feminine Aspect in Spirituality: Going to the Women and to the Poets

Carmen Lampe

This workshop will expose the vast resources of female spirituality - Emily Dickinson, Anne Belford Ulanov, Alice Walker, Erma Bombeck, Mother Teresa, Julian of Norwich, Catherine of Siena, Biblical women, the psalmists, Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Brooks, Elizabeth O'Connor, Mary Travers, etc. - and explore ways of sharing those resources with others, particularly in group settings.

Carmen Lampe is a senior student at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in suburban Chicago.

Women, Ritual and Religion

B/W videocassette. Interviews with women active in religion, including Carol Christ, Naomi Goldenberg, Z. Budapest, Madonna Kolbenschlag, and Elizabeth Fiorenza.

Exalting the Lowly and Casting Down the Powerful

Videocassette of Maureen Fiedler's keynote address at last year's Women and Spirituality Conference; an interpretation of the Magnificat as a revolutionary document.

RITUAL COORDINATORS

Rev. Martha M. Nelson is one of the pastors of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ALC, in Mankato. She received her Master of Divinity Degree from Luther Northwestern Seminary in St. Paul, MN, and was ordained in 1981. In addition to her ministry at Bethlehem Lutheran, Pastor Nelson is presently involved in the Doctor of Ministry Program at Luther Northwestern Seminary.

Antiga is a feminist witch, writer, singer and artist who is developing celebrations of sexuality based on the belief that sexuality is sacred.

Patti Lather is an Assistant Professor of Women's Studies at Mankato State University. She was a member of a Wiccan Spirituality Circle in Indiana for four years and continues to explore and experience woman-centered spirituality.

Christina Potyondy, M.A. in Religious Studies from United Theological Seminary, has been working with contemporary liturgies since 1973.

Jane Regan, a feminist, member of WAMM and WomanChurch, is interested in social transformation and patterns of women's lives.

Jean Irvine, C.S.J., is a Catholic sister and is active politically in issues concerning Central America and nuclear war.

Katie Johnson, elementary school teacher, musician and experienced liturgist, is one of the founding mothers of C.U.R.E.

Lorial Irvine, CCDP, Director of Rathman Intervention Services in Minneapolis, has a lifetime commitment to peace and social change, and is a continuing member of the women's liturgy group.

Jean Veenstra wrote the main part of the consecration prayer used in C.U.R.E.'s monthly liturgy, inspired by the Spirit and her experience in sisterhood.

MUSIC

Carol Smith is secretary to the Dean of Arts and Humanities at Mankato State University, mother of six, stepmother of one, grandmother of five; and is interested in love, laughter, music and peace in the world.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Program Co-Chairs: Suzanne Bunkers
Rosemary Krawczyk

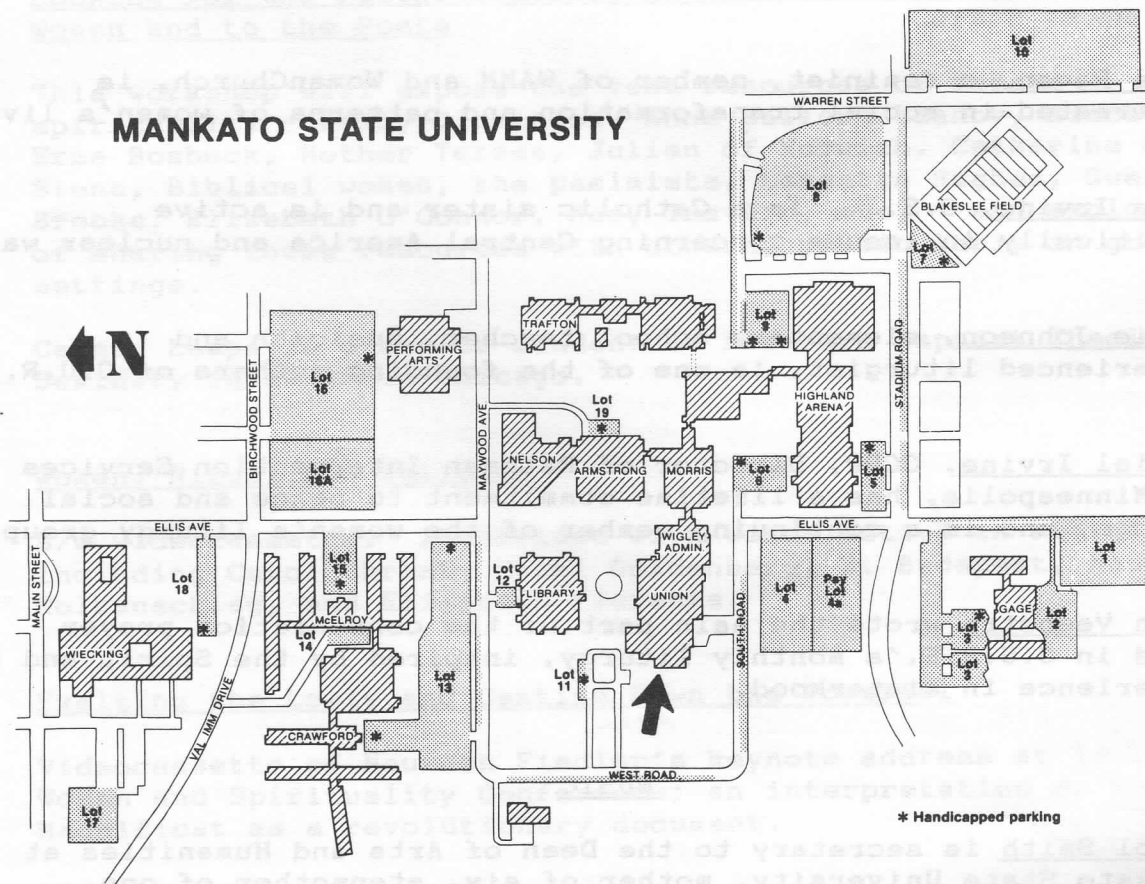
Program Committee Members: Candace Black
Clare Bright
Mary Jo Meadow
Judy Stow

Local Arrangements Co-Chairs: Patti Lather
Cheryl Lee

Publicity Co-Chairs: Larry Gaffin
Louisa Smith

Program Preparation & Typing: Cindy Veldhuisen

MANKATO STATE UNIVERSITY



ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

MEALS: Those desiring meals MUST pre-register. The meal packet is \$15.00 extra and includes beverages, Saturday lunch and dinner, and Sunday breakfast buffet. You are also welcome to bring a bag lunch or to make your own food arrangements. Food service on campus is, however, limited on weekends. (Vegetarian meals will be available.)

HOUSING: Those interested in housing must make their own arrangements. A special bed-and-breakfast housing arrangement is available in the homes of members of Church Women United. Hostesses will provide driving information to their homes. The fee is \$12.00 a night.* For accommodations, please contact: Vera R. Ballman, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~, Dolly Ellgren at ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ or Sister Inez Hoey ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ by October 18, 1985.

*The money received from the Bed and Breakfast Project will be a donation to the Fund for the Fifth Decade, which is a nation-wide project during 1983-85 for Church Women United.

The following motels are within the Mankato area:

Single /Double
Holiday Inn North Hwy. 169 N. / (507) 625-9333 / \$34.00 / \$42.00

Holiday Inn Downtown 101 Main St. / (507) 345-1234 / \$35.50 / \$44.00
(A block of 20 rooms is being held for conference participants on a first-come, first-served basis.)

Redwood Motel Hwy. 22 & 14 / (507) 388-1621 / \$19.00 / \$26.00

Super Eight Motel Hwy. 169 N. / (507) 387-4041 / \$22.88 / \$26.88

Cliff Keyes Motel 1227 N Front / (507) 388-1638 / \$18-\$20 / \$22-\$24

Prime Rate Motel Hwy 169 & 14 / (507) 345-8800 / \$25.00 / \$34.00

Sleeping bag space will be available at the United Christian Campus Center. Contact UCCC at (507) 625-6779.

CHILD CARE; Past experience has taught us that child care arrangements made are seldom used. However, we want no one to miss the conference due to lack of child care. If you have a need in this area, contact Patti Lather at ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ by October 11. There will be a charge for this service.

MSU is accessible to the HANDICAPPED. Anyone who desires special arrangements should indicate those needs on the pre-registration blank.

Women whose religious practices require special arrangements for food, housing, or other needs should so indicate on the pre-registration blank.

CREDIT: Those interested in taking the Conference for one (1) credit either in Women's Studies or Religious Studies need to be aware that additional sessions and study are required and that the conference registration fee and meals are in addition to the fee for credit.

PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS for any MSU students otherwise unable to attend are available. If desired, please pre-register and simply pay the student/senior citizen rate. Several full scholarships are available by contacting the Women's Studies Department at MSU (507) 389-2077.

PARKING: You may park in any lot or other legal locations on Saturday. Lots 4, 6, or 4A will be the most convenient.

Other QUESTIONS: Call Women's Studies Department (507) 389-2077; or the United Christian Campus Center (507) 625-6779.

EMERGENCY MESSAGES will be relayed to you during the Conference by calling (507) 389-2111 (MSU Security).

NOTE: This form may be duplicated for multiple registrations

P R E - R E G I S T R A T I O N

Return to: Women and Spirituality Conference
Box 64, Mankato State University
Mankato, MN 56001

RETURN BY OCTOBER 11, 1985, FOR PRE-REGISTRATION

Checks are payable to: Mankato State University. (NO refunds can be made).

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
Street City State Zip

Please check ALL that apply: (These fees are IN ADDITION to fees paid for credit).

I wish to pre-register: _____ \$10 (minimum income)
_____ \$20

I wish to attend meals: _____ \$15 (lunch, dinner & break on Saturday; breakfast on Sunday)

Keynote Address only: _____ \$ 3

I will need the following special arrangements: (including signing for the hearing impaired) _____

For those wishing to register for credit:

Soc. Sec. # _____ (We MUST have this information)

Registering for credit in _____ Religious Studies
_____ Women's Studies

Have you previously attended Mankato State University?
____ Yes ____ No

Are you a resident of the State of Minnesota?
____ Yes ____ No

I am registering as: ☐ Undergraduate resident - \$33.55
 (check one) ☐ (P/NC option only)
☐ Undergraduate non-resident - \$58.00
☐ (P/NC option only)
☐ Graduate resident - \$43.55
 Specify: ☐ P/NC ☐ Credit
☐ Graduate non-resident - \$73.10
 Specify: ☐ P/NC ☐ Credit

The above fees include the MSU Activity fee.

Receipts can be picked up at the pre-registration desk in the CSU from 8:00 - 9:00 Saturday morning, October 26. Full information packets will be distributed at that time.

Pre-registration greatly helps us, so we offer you a price bonus for pre-registering. Later fees will be \$25.00 (regular) and \$12.00. We will also have a quick pick-up line for those who have pre-registered.

TOTAL ENCLOSED:

\$ Preregistration Fee

\$ Meals

\$ Credit Costs

\$ Keynote Address Only

\$ TOTAL Amount Enclosed

(Checks payable to: Mankato State University)

Women's Studies Department
Box 64, Mankato State University
Mankato, MN 56001

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A CONFERENCE ON

WOMEN
AND
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LANGUAGE
AND
IMAGERY

October 25 - 27, 1985