



The **Second** Biennial
Seneca Falls
Dialogues

**Call and Response:
Crossing Feminist Borders**

October 8, 9 & 10, 2010

Hotel Clarence
108 Fall Street, Seneca Falls, NY 13148

A Weekend of *Leadership, Learning* and
Celebrating Women's Human Rights

In Celebration of the 162nd Anniversary of the First Women's Rights Convention,
the signing of the Declaration of Sentiments
and the 62nd Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**In Historic Seneca Falls, New York
Home of Women's Rights National Historical Park
And National Women's Hall of Fame**

"This is winter wheat we are sowing and other hands will harvest."

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

"'Radical' simply means grasping things at the root."

Angela Davis

Seneca Falls Dialogues



Welcome

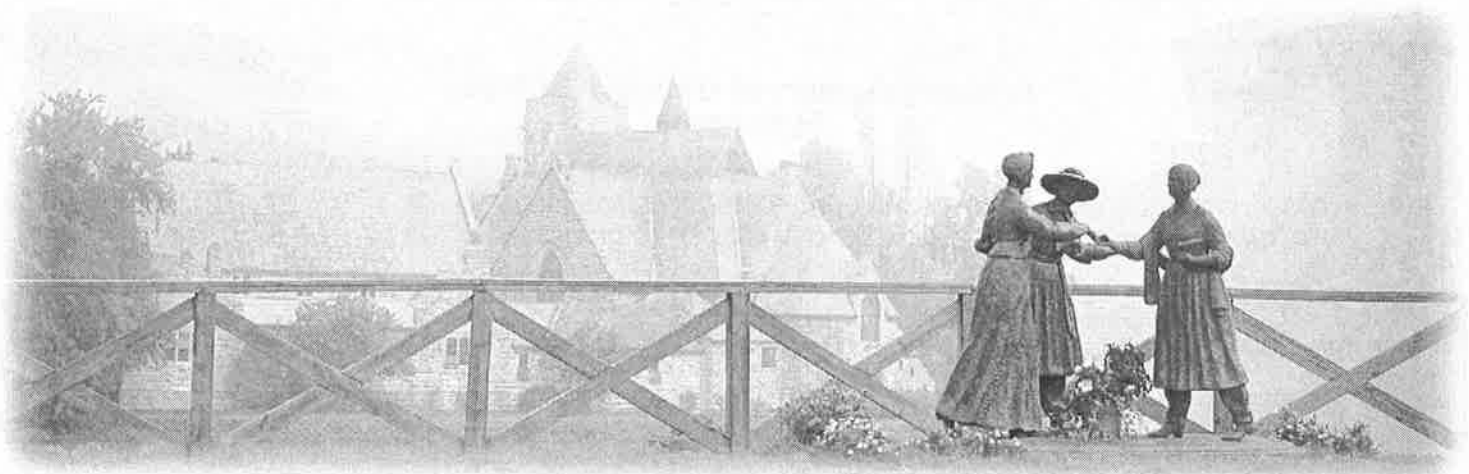


Welcome to the Second Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues, hosted by the American Association of University Women, the College Alliance (our educational partners), the Women's Institute for Leadership and Learning, the Women's Interfaith Institute, and the historic Village of Seneca Falls, where the First Women's Rights Convention was held in 1848.

While crossing our Village streets, imagine that you are following in the very same footsteps where Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer, Margaret Jenkins, James and Lucretia Mott, Richard and Jane Hunt, or the McClintock family once strolled, contemplating their next strategy in initiating a 'call and response.' The knitting mill, many of the downtown buildings, even the Hotel Clarence were part of the community Stanton and her family called home. In Seneca Falls, its impossible to be here without feeling that "Power of Place" I've often referred to when I talk about this community that I love.

Thank you again for participating in the Dialogues. Your willingness to reflect on the history of women's rights, its impact on our world, and the future of human rights demonstrates your commitment to affect change – much the same way Elizabeth Cady Stanton must have made the commitment to do so 162 years ago. Today, when we have such tools as the internet, and still struggle to express reason amongst the chaos, it makes one sense the awesome impact of a few small, but powerful voices emanating from Seneca Falls - and just how radically they changed the world.

Mayor Diana M. Smith



Seneca Falls Dialogues



Dedication of the 2010 Seneca Falls Dialogues to Gretchen Stringer

The Seneca Falls Dialogues Logo - a female figure raising her arms to both joyfully direct and dance with the winds of change around the world - was originally designed by Sassy Design Group for the Pan Am 2001 Women's Pavilion (a group that organized over a dozen events to observe the centenary of the Pan American Exposition of 1901 held in Buffalo, New York) under the direction of Gretchen Stringer, President, the founders and board of managers of the Pan Am 2001 event. The Seneca Falls Dialogues Committee obtained the right to use the logo. It is fitting that this logo now graces the Dialogues and its mission to engage the next generations of women in dialogues and actions to advance women's human rights.

Gretchen Stringer's vision of collaboration between the Women's Rights National Historical Park, the National Women's Hall of Fame, and the Village of Seneca Falls was to establish a world-wide reputation for Seneca Falls as the cradle for women's rights; this led to the First and now the Second Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues on women's issues.

Gretchen Stringer has been a mentor, an inspiration and a driving force in the birth of the Dialogues and we dedicate our work to her.

**In loving memory of Gretchen Stringer
1925 - 2009**

Seneca Falls Dialogues



Program Schedule At-a-Glance

Friday, October 9

- 7 PM to 9 PM Opening Reception & Registration at Hotel Clarence
- 8:00 PM Music by the women's a cappella group "Vocal Point"
University of Rochester
and
Merrill Amos, Singer and Songwriter
William Smith College

Saturday, October 9

- 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM Registration at the Hotel Clarence
- 8:30 AM – 9 AM Reading by Arlette Miller Smith
Welcome by Diana Smith, Mayor of Seneca Falls
and Cynthia Zepeda, Nazareth College,
Women and Gender Studies Major;
President, Women and Gender Studies Club
- 9 AM to 10:30 AM Dialogues
A. Manifestos, Declarations & Statements
B. Women in Academe: The Dean of Women; ERA and Paycheck
Fairness Act
C. Videotaping of "Declaration of Sentiments" throughout the day
- 10:30 AM – 10:45 AM Break
- 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM Dialogues
A. Feminist Identities
B. Critical Perspectives on the Nineteenth Century Women's Movement
C. Videotaping of "Declaration of Sentiments" throughout the day
- 12:15 PM – 1:45 PM Explore the Village; enjoy lunch at any one of our dining establishments.

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Saturday, October 9 - continued

- 1:45 PM – 3:15 PM Dialogues
A. Transnational Feminist Literature
B. Revisioning First Wave Diversity
C. Free Floating: Visualizing Pain in the 'Hysterical' Female
- 3:15 PM – 3:30 PM Break
- 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM Dialogues
A. Women and Mass Media
B. Women Making Change
- 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Dialogues
A. Making the Video on the Declaration of Sentiments
B. Making of the performance of Free Floating: Art & Community
- 6:30 PM – 7:00 PM Wine & Cheese Reception
- 7:00 PM Dinner & Keynote Address featuring Beverlyly Guy-Sheftall

Sunday, October 10

- 9:30 AM BRUNCH
- 10:00 AM Panel Presentation by Rev. Dr. Allison Stokes and Dr. Sarwat Malik:
Stereotypes, Images and Misconceptions of Muslim Women:
An Inter-generational, Interfaith Dialogue of Women Together
Changing the Story, Changing the World
- 11:30 PM Eleanor LeCain, President & CEO, NewWayUSA
- 12:00 PM Closing Ceremonies

Seneca Falls Dialogues



Program Details Saturday, October 9

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

9:00 – 10:30AM DIALOGUES

SESSION A - Manifestos, Declarations and Statements: New Feminist Theorists

Robin Mitchell, Professor, Women & Gender Studies, SUNY College at Oneonta mitcher@oneonta.edu with Susan Bernardin, Chair, Women's and Gender Studies; Dr. Betty Wambui, and students Ashley Crytzer, Rebekah Cramer, Wesley Worrill, Madison Slagel, Alexandra Brown, Chelsea Brown, Shannon Marlow, Connie Randall and Ileri Vasquez.

In an effort to bridge the gap between Feminist Theory and practice, Oneonta students wrote their own documents on feminist issues that were influenced by their investigation of theory as a space of social change. This resulted in some stunning representations of feminism.

Questions for the Dialogue:

How do we utilize feminist theory with specific forms of practice? How do declaratory documents such as these engage both current feminists (and allies of feminism), and a newer generation who often erroneously feel that feminism is passé?

SESSION B - Women in Academe

"The Dean of Women as Feminist Advocate, 1925-1940: Why did the position disappear?"

Lynne Byall Benson, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor of English and American Culture, Bunker Hill Community College, Charlestown, Massachusetts labbenson@gmail.com

Deans of women were educators, role models, and early feminist women who attempted to find a voice amidst the context of male culture of academia. Discussions in the *Journal of the NADW 1925-1940* revealed that deans of women were unable to reconcile the contradictions between the personal nature of their role as an advocate for college women and the responsibilities that emerged as they professionalized their position. Rather than accepting the diminution of the personal aspects of their work and refocusing on the administrative responsibilities, they ended up losing both and their profession disappeared.

Questions for the Dialogue:

Compare what it means to be a professional within the context of higher education in the first half of

Seneca Falls Dialogues



PROGRAM DETAILS

Saturday, October 9 - continued

the twentieth century and today. Does the context of male authoritarian culture in higher education still rule? Do tensions between the institutional responsibilities of women in academe and their role as educators and role models for women students cause conflict for us today?

“How the Equal Rights Amendment and the Paycheck Fairness Act Can Heat and Transform the ‘Chilly Climate’ of Academia”

Kristen Emery, PhD Candidate in Higher Education, Educational Leadership, University of Rochester
KEmery333@aol.com

While there are more female college graduates than ever before, women typically hover around 30% of faculty at research extensive universities. Female professors are behind their male counterparts in the obtainment of tenure, salary, and a gender-equitable academic environment. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and the Paycheck Fairness Act (PFA) are promising paths in the initiative to gain gender-neutral hiring, promotion, tenure, salary, or professional development policies and practices. Emery will discuss the key points, legislative histories and likely futures of the ERA and the PFA. She will highlight several key points on the ERA and PFA, efforts to redress gender-based faculty pay disparities, and four central policy recommendations that can foster and revitalize a supportive, gender-neutral, academic and professional environment.

Questions for the Dialogue:

Discuss your own experiences and/or witnessing of institutional sexism on American campuses. What ideas do you have for gender parity and equity in higher education?

SESSION C - Declaration of Sentiments 2010 Video Filming: Come have your voice heard

Leah R. Shafer, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor, Media and Society Program, Hobart and William Smith Colleges shafer@hws.edu

The Seneca Falls Dialogues 2010 will be a generative source for a short experimental video about the Declaration of Sentiments. Shafer invites conference goers to appear on camera, introduce themselves and read a line from the Declaration. Ideally, every participant at these Dialogues will individually recite the line, “The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over her.” After the conference, the edited footage will be shown on the www.senecafallsdialogues.com website, with the list of tyrannies scrolling across the bottom of the screen. Dialogue participants will be able to share the video with friends, colleagues, and strangers. In this way, the video will engender a conversation about the legacy of the Declaration across time, circumstance, and location. This project will not only reanimate one of the most powerful and provocative lines from the Declaration, but it will forge a link between the original 1848 Convention attendees and the 2010 Dialogues.

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PROGRAM DETAILS

Saturday, October 9 - continued

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM BREAK

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM DIALOGUES

Session A - Feminist Identities: Thinking Across Person, Place, and Medium

Barbara LeSavoy, Ph.D., Director of Women and Gender Studies, The College at Brockport SUNY blesavoy@brockport.edu with Amber Humphrey, Associate Faculty Member, Women and Gender Studies; student presenters Sherly Urena, Meeka Mason, Emily Scirvini, and Brittani Hughes

The students will discuss diverse spaces of feminist identity realized in multiple contexts including campus cultures, urban and rural settings, and virtual environments. As a beginning frame for the roundtable, the students will briefly present their projects completed in the Spring 2010 feminist theory class. The projects address various dimensions of identity understood through different theoretical locations including Queer, GLBT, Black, Liberal, and Radical feminist thought. The faculty members will augment these student pieces by discussing working scholarship that interrogates binary gender systems constructed in contemporary text and virtual-based media platforms.

Questions for the Dialogue:

How is identity written on the body and how does this identity change over multiple contexts? Does identity function as a source of political conflict or a site of constructive analysis? What are some effective strategies that invite in perspectives that are outside of traditional feminist practices, theories, and politics? How do marginalized identities establish voice and what contexts optimize / inhibit this voice? What stereotypes get tagged to feminist identity and what are barriers to working across difference in contexts of marginalization?

Session B - Branching Out: Some Critical Perspectives on the Nineteenth-Century Women's Rights Movement

Sarah Russo, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor, Dept. of English and Comparative Literature, Hobart and William Smith Colleges russo@hws.edu with student presenters Christine Nerney-Zapetis, Senior, William Smith College CHRISTINE.NERNEY-ZAPETIS@hws.edu, Bernadette Wormuth, Junior, William Smith College bernadette.wormuth@hws.edu, Tatianna Echevarria, Sophomore, William Smith College tatianna.echevarria@hws.edu

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PROGRAM DETAILS

Saturday, October 9 - continued

Brief panel presentations will precede the audience discussion of student research and the teaching of women's history and literature. Each participant will briefly summarize her project that examines the women's rights movement through a distinct critical perspective. A concise historiography of the movement from 1848 to the present is the focus of Tatianna Echevarria's work, which begins with identifying the practical bases of Stanton's political theory and concludes with an historically-aware appreciation of her own access to higher education today. From a biographical research perspective, Bernadette Wormuth offers an insightful portrait of Amelia Bloomer as an individual who progressed from a reticent to a radical reformer. Using an interdisciplinary method, Chris Nerney-Zapetis applies physics chaos theory to discern historical patterns of the women's rights movement, showing that the diversity of groups within the movement is a sign of its strength and dynamism. Dr. Russo will briefly address learning goals for teaching women's history and writing as both locally and nationally significant.

Questions for the Dialogues:

What role does research play in raising awareness of the relevance of women's history, personally and politically? How might creative work dialogue with critical perspectives in feminist teaching and learning? And how do these perspectives impact activism? How might disciplines cross borders to reveal new insights into the history and present state of feminist thinking and practice? What is the role of experiencing an historical site (such as Stanton's home, the M'Clintock home, the Wesleyan Chapel) in raising awareness of the contingent paths to political and social equality for men and women?

SESSION C - Declaration of Sentiments 2010 Video Filming

Leah R. Shafer, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor, Media and Society Program, Hobart and William Smith Colleges shafer@hws.edu

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PROGRAM DETAILS

Saturday, October 9 - continued

12:15 PM – 1:45 PM EXPLORE THE VILLAGE; LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:45 PM – 3:15 PM DIALOGUES

Session A Transnational Feminist Literature

Sharing/Seeing Our Own Story: Transnational Feminist Narrative and Witness

Kaitlin Legg, 2010 Communications and Rhetoric Program Graduate, Nazareth College.

Ashley Manchester, Senior, English and Women's Studies, Nazareth College kaitlinlegg@gmail.com,
amanche5@naz.edu

Our discussion is a larger project based on two separate papers written in spring 2010. What connects our work is the broader theme of transnational feminist potentials in literature and media. In particular, we examine witness, narrative, genre, and authorship within visual and literary texts. We think our discussion will offer new ways to think about activism, story-telling, visibility, and agency. We believe that the interdisciplinarity and transnationality of vision present in our work follows closely with the goals set forth by the Dialogues.

Kaitlin Legg's paper, *Raising Their Voices Above the Storm: Documentary and Cultural Trauma*, examines the experience of trauma, witness to trauma, and representation in the context of Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans. Here she examines three different documentaries: *Belly of the Basin*, *Desert Bayou*, and *Trouble the Water* and argues that documentary films have the potential to be venues for healing and sites for the inspiration of activism driven by witness.

Ashley Manchester's paper is titled *Esperanza Cordero: A Manifestation of the New Mestiza*. This paper is a literary analysis of Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*. Connecting this novel with Gloria Anzaldua's 1987 book *Borderlands/La Frontera*, Manchester employs feminist theory to engage with the two texts simultaneously. It is argued that Cisneros' protagonist, Esperanza Cordero, encompasses the Anzalduan concept of the new mestiza and thus serves as a new and empowered template for Latina identity construction. Through this paper, Manchester connects the two feminist writers, calling attention to the power that is emphasized by witnessing Esperanza's life in the ambiguous borderland space.

Questions for the Dialogues:

What is transnational feminism, and what does its activism look like? Does the medium of a message - feminist, activist, or otherwise - matter? Is there one to be valued over the other? How do the Katrina documentaries serve to heal the New Orleans community? Where do texts like *Mango Street* or Katrina documentaries fit in terms of genre?

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PROGRAM DETAILS

Saturday, October 9 - continued

Session B - Revisioning First Wave Diversity

Blurring the Borders, Erasing the Barriers: Reimagining & Revisioning First Wave Diversity in the Contemporary College Classroom

Arlette Miller Smith, Ph.D., Associate Prof English/Co-director AFAM, asmith@sjfc.edu, Marianne Simmons, Head of Reference Services, Lavery Library, St. John Fisher College.

This interactive workshop will address the pedagogical and cultural issues that frame the introduction of novice college students to real and electronic historical phenomena. The SJFC intensive writing course "Research Based Writing: Woman's Rights and the Suffrage Movement" will be used as the focal point of the workshop.

The workshop will center on the following elements: locating, viewing and analyzing historical artifacts; identifying local, easily accessed resources such as museum, library and private collections, knowledgeable experts and related events; building research skills and experiences that permit alternative analyses/multiple perspectives; re-examining the parallel historical tracks that created divisions and barriers between Native, African American and White participants in the women's movement, particularly those involved in the suffrage effort; understanding the "old landmarks" that may have hindered early rights' activists' navigation across barriers and borders; and re-imagining new pathways to full participation by all women.

Questions for the Dialogue:

Consider parallel historical tracks/tools to investigate the divides or gaps between Native, African American and White women in the women's movement, particularly those related to suffrage.

Session C - Free Floating: Visualizing Pain in the "Hysterical" Female

Ellen Rogers, DVM, MFA student, University at Buffalo SUNY ellenrog@buffalo.edu, Carrie Firmin, MFA student, University at Buffalo carriefi@buffalo.edu

We propose making pain explicit by marking the female form where symptoms of illness are commonly dismissed as simple hysteria. In a public performance where the audience is invited to participate, Rogers will use a larger-than-life female form as a means of recording the intense pain experienced by people (mostly women) with fibromyalgia, migraines, and other forms of chronic pain. Audience members who do not experience these symptoms themselves will be invited to don 'clothing' that mimics the symptoms of these conditions. After experiencing the pain of others, they will be asked to recreate their sensations on the figures, making visible that which is otherwise private. The end product will be an art piece that boldly declares to the world that women's pain and suffering need to be treated as physical symptoms and not just dismissed as hysteria.

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Saturday, October 9 - continued

Questions for the Dialogues: What would it be like if we could see pain in the body, not just rely on self-reporting? What if pain was visually arresting, the way bleeding from a wound is? Would this produce more sympathy, more serious investigation or medical treatment?

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM BREAK

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM DIALOGUES

Session A - Women and Mass Media: Understanding Present-day Constructions of Femininity in Popular Culture

Angelique Johnston, Instructor, English/Philosophy Department, Monroe Community College ajohnston@monroecc.edu with student presenters Jessica Craig, "The American Pornography Endeavor: An Endorsement of Sexual Myths and Misapprehensions," Aaron Fleisher, "Barbies and Bullets: Kids Learning Gender Stereotypes at an Early Age," Tiffany Laursen, "The Transculturation of Eastern Religious Practices through Western Popular Culture that Lures Women"

This student-centered panel will explore various feminist responses to the representations of gender in American popular culture. The panel seeks to ask critical questions of popular media, culture, and television today. Panel members will bring in visual media and ask critical questions with the goal of engaging the audience in a dialogue about popular culture, positive and negative gender representations, and past and present feminist responses.

The online Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy states that, "Feminism is both an intellectual commitment and a political movement that seeks justice for women and the end of sexism in all forms." The panel supports this broad and important goal; and yet feminist response can be conflicting and what constitutes "sexism" is still widely debated. Present-day popular culture reflects and reinforces images and values that both question and accept various sexist behaviors.

Questions for the Dialogues: Where are we as a society in the struggle to end sexism? Why is our society still attracted to traditional male and female roles? How does popular culture explore and reflect the socio-cultural expectations for both women and men, girls and boys?

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PROGRAM DETAILS

Saturday, October 9 - continued

Session B - Women Making Change

Terry Tempest Williams and the Lived Rhetoric of Antiwar Activism Post 9/11

Jill Swiencicki, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English, St. John Fisher College
backtosnow.jd@gmail.com

Dr. Swiencicki's book-in-progress examines the feminist responses to the Bush administration's military policies after 9/11. Dr. Swiencicki will be presenting a portion of this work on Terry Tempest Williams' *The Open Space of Democracy*. Swiencicki focuses on the rhetorical strategies Williams both calls for and enacts in her writing about civil liberties and the power of listening to create consensus and change. In analyzing activist rhetoric such as *Open Space*, the context and reception of the writing is as important to assess as the text itself. To that end, she will discuss Williams' arguments in relation to her 2004 speaking engagement at Florida Gulf Coast University, which was cancelled by the university's president due to her anti-war activism and her critique of the Bush administration, but which occurred informally when the students banded together to pay her travel expenses and host her themselves. Excerpts from Williams' dialogues with the president of Gulf Coast, along with her written exchanges with students, and portions of her journal entries from this period, will serve to create a study of how one feminist activist's arguments moved from the page to the civic space of debate.

Question for the Dialogues: This rhetorical trajectory serves as a model for the kind of brave, open, incisive dialogue that we are in sore need of now.

Women in Russia

Rebecca Perkins, Senior, William Smith College, Women's Studies, Russian Language and Culture. She has studied in St Petersburg, Russia and conducted research in Novgorod, Russia for the Linkages Program of Rochester, NY. She will discuss individualization and organization of women in Russia and how this has been shaped by changes in the political structure. rebecca.perkins@hws.edu

Elena Lukovitskaya, PhD, is Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies at Novgorod State University, Novgorod Russia. A guest of the Linkages Program of Rochester, she will discuss current issues for women in Russia.

5 PM – 6 PM ARTISTS' DISCUSSION

Experimental Video on the Declaration of Sentiments with Leah Shafer, Hobart & William Smith Colleges.

Free Floating: Art & Community with Ellen Rogers, University at Buffalo SUNY

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Program Details Sunday, October 10

9:30 AM BRUNCH

10:00 AM PROGRAM

Stereotypes, Images and Misconceptions of Muslim Women: An Inter-generational, Interfaith Dialogue – Women Together Changing the Story, Changing the World

Rev. Allison Stokes, Director of Religious Life, University of Rochester, Dr. Sarwat S. Malik, Co-founder and Vice Chair, Muslim Women's Fund

It is apropos that Muslim Women bring this discussion to the fore in Seneca Falls, the birthplace of the women's movement in this country. Let history reflect the determination and motivation of Muslim women to reclaim their faith-based rights, in spite of all the challenges from within and outside their faith communities. Let this showcase for the world that Muslim women are determined to find their rightful place in society, and to progress and advance as free citizens of the world in exercising their God-given rights and responsibilities.

11:30 AM Remarks: Eleanor LeCain, President, NewWayUSA

12:00pm Closing Ceremonies with Special Guest Rev. Katya, MSSW, Minister of Peace

Seneca Falls Dialogues



2010 Seneca Falls Dialogues Key Note Speaker



Beverly Guy-Sheftall

As a young professor in the 1970s, Beverly Guy-Sheftall set out to address an imbalance in the field of women's studies. Her efforts have yielded two decades of scholarship dedicated to African American women's issues, a ground-breaking scholarly journal, and the creation of the highly regarded Women's Research and Resource Center at Spelman College in Atlanta. Guy-Sheftall, the Anna Julia Cooper Professor of English at Spelman, is the founding co-editor of *SAGE: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women*. She has also edited several influential anthologies by and about African American women. Today Guy-Sheftall is widely recognized as an authority on black feminist scholarship--or, as she put it in *Ms. Magazine*, a practitioner in "the stunning tradition of black female intellectualism."

Beverly Guy-Sheftall was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. Her mother, Ernestine Varnado Guy, was a feminist before the term had even been coined. As a single parent in the 1950s, she supported her three daughters by teaching math and, later, working as an accountant. Her daughters were taught to work hard on their studies and to prepare for an independent, productive adulthood. Dr. Guy-Sheftall recalled in the *Atlanta Constitution* that her mother "emphasized that every tub sets on its own bottom. She said you need to be independent and self-reliant, even when you're married."

Guy-Sheftall graduated with honors from Memphis's Manassas High School in 1962, when she was only 16. That same year she entered Spelman College in Atlanta, an institution specifically for African American women. There she majored in English and minored in secondary education. After earning her bachelor's degree--again with honors--in 1966, she moved on to Wellesley College for further study. She completed her master's degree requirements at Atlanta University in 1970.

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While completing her master's degree thesis, "Faulkner's Treatment of Women in His Major Novels," Guy-Sheftall began to cast a critical eye on her own education. She determined that her literature studies had been far too "male-oriented," and she embraced the relatively young field of women's studies instead. In 1971, when she returned to Spelman College as an English professor, she decided to help broaden the women's studies movement to include issues pertinent to African Americans.

Guy-Sheftall began editing books of literature by African American women and publishing articles about black feminism. She helped to establish two pioneering resources for black women's studies. The first was Spelman College's Women's Research and Resource Center. Guy-Sheftall founded the center and still serves as its director. The second was the periodical SAGE: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women, which Guy-Sheftall co-founded with Patricia Bell-Scott. Today SAGE remains the only scholarly journal devoted to the concerns of women of African descent. Author Paula Giddings described the magazine in the Atlanta Constitution as "the only place where, every time you pick it up, there's a concentrated emphasis on ... scholarship on black women."

Guy-Sheftall's other books include *Double Stitch: Black Women Write About Mothers & Daughters*, which she co-edited with Bell-Scott, and *Words of Fire: An Anthology of African-American Feminist Thought*, in press. An Atlanta Constitution reviewer noted that *Double Stitch* "gives unprecedented and long-overdue attention to the ties that bind mothers and daughters," adding that the work reveals "a patchwork of provocative scholarship, revealing autobiography, impressive poetry and fine fiction." For these and other accomplishments, Guy-Sheftall was given Spelman's Presidential Faculty Award for outstanding scholarship. She was also named to the Anna Julia Cooper Professorship--an endowed chair in the English department that honors the daughter of a slave who earned a doctorate degree from the Sorbonne in Paris.

A sought-after speaker on feminist issues and a prolific reviewer for magazines as diverse as *Ms.*, *Essence*, and *Ebony*, Guy-Sheftall has served as a consultant to numerous universities with women's studies and other multicultural programs. Her own Women's Research and Resource Center in Atlanta serves as a model for what can be accomplished to enrich the understanding of African American women. Atlanta Constitution contributor John Blake observed that under Dr. Guy-Sheftall's direction, the center "has forced the women's studies movement to confront the 'double whammy' for women of color--sexism and racism."

With her colorful wardrobe and zest for life, Dr. Guy-Sheftall hardly fits the worn-out stereotype of a college professor. She enjoys living in Atlanta, she told *Ms.*, because the city has "a rich tradition of black activism and empowerment through education." On a personal level, Dr. Guy-Sheftall has only one regret: that her mother did not live to see her accomplishments. Ernestine Guy died in 1981 after a prolonged battle with breast cancer. Asked in the Atlanta Constitution how she thought her mother might respond to her career--and her considerable status in the scholarly community--Guy-Sheftall concluded: "She'd be happy. She would feel that she had made her point."

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Speaker Biographies



Merrill Amos lives a life devoted to music. She is a completely self-taught singer/songwriter who incorporates a multitude of instruments, from piano and guitar to ukulele and harmonica, into her original compositions. Merrill's first EP, *Cold Hands, Warm Heart* dropped on iTunes in March 2010 and has gained followers worldwide. Her career has included working with acclaimed artists such as Carolina Liar, SafetySuit, Holly Brook and others. Merrill spends her time organizing concerts, playing a variety of venues around the country - from festivals to fundraisers - and says her greatest goal is for others to feel connected to her words and music.

Dr. Lynne Byall Benson received her PhD from Cornell University. Her dissertation focused on aspects of the dean of women's position: "Transformations in the Role of Dean of Women in the Post-Progressive Era, 1925-1940". In addition to the history of women in higher education, her research interests include the history of home economics, the history of women's professional organizations, girl studies, and American cultural history. In 2009-2010, Dr. Benson was a Visiting Scholar in Women's Studies at Northeastern University, Boston, MA, and is currently adjunct faculty at Bunker Hill Community College in the Charlestown neighborhood of Boston, MA. Dr. Benson teaches developmental writing, college writing and American culture. labbenson@gmail.com

Jeri-Danielle Coleman is a Sophomore majoring in Women and Gender Studies. In her future, Jeri aims to educate younger generations in Canada and the United States about Feminism and LGBTQ-IA issues through writing and other advocacy efforts. Jcole3@brockport.edu

Jessica Diane Craig, originally from New Mexico, will be graduating with a degree in Business Administration in December 2010 from Monroe Community College. "I have been named to the Dean's List three semesters, and I am currently averaging a 3.4 GPA. I am interested in almost everything- from auto repair to botany to sewing- and I suppose I would call myself a Renaissance Woman. My educational goal is to graduate from a State University of New York school with my four-year degree in Business Administration. Then I shall try my hardest to move back to New Mexico to attend the Anderson School of Management to pursue a dual degree JD / MBA program that focuses on business law." jcraig032@student.monroecc.edu

Tatianna Echevarria is a Sophomore at William Smith College, where she is considering an Anthropology major and Asian Studies minor. She is Captain of Hip-Notiq's Dance and Step Team. As a resident member of the Domestic Violence Awareness House at Hobart and William Smith, she is active in fundraising for domestic violence prevention programs and will be training for New York State certification in rape crisis counseling in order to volunteer with the Rape Crisis Hotline.

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Kristen Emery is a PhD candidate in Higher Education at the Warner School of Education at the University of Rochester in Rochester, NY. She is presently working on her dissertation, which explores the intersection of gender, tenure, and faculty work-life balance at research-extensive universities in the Northeastern United States. Kristen is also an Adjunct Instructor for Finger Lakes Community College and a Teaching Assistant in the Business program at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. KEmer333@aol.com

Carrie Firman is a 2005 graduate of Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, where she earned her BA in Commercial Design. She worked as a graphic designer until 2009, when she was accepted to the Master of Fine Arts program in the Visual Studies Department of SUNY at Buffalo. She has been living with a painful undiagnosed condition since 2007 and has made a "Sympathy Pains" jacket in order to describe it. carriefi@buffalo.edu

Aaron Fleisher is currently a student at SUNY Buffalo. Aaron is an alum of Monroe Community College with an interest in psychology. aaronfle@buffalo.edu

Professor Angelique Johnston teaches English composition, literature, and children's literature at Monroe Community College. Her research interests include composition pedagogy, sexism and gender roles in 20th century American literature and popular culture, and children's literature and film. ajohnston@monroecc.edu



Kaitlin Legg graduated from Nazareth College in May 2010 with a degree in Communications and Rhetoric and a minor in Women's Studies. She is currently fascinated by the creative ways that humans experience texts of all mediums, and is particularly preoccupied with questions of audience agency and identity. Currently Kaitlin enjoys surveying the social landscape as a full-time barista and observer of the world. She plans to attend graduate school in 2011.

Tiffany Laursen is an MCC student with hopes of making a difference in women's lives through international politics. tlaursen001@student.monroecc.edu

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Eleanor LeCain is currently President of NewWayUSA, dedicated to improving lives and cutting costs by identifying and building on breakthrough solutions. She brings fresh perspectives that enable people and organizations to see new opportunities, improve relationships, strengthen leadership and generate new streams of revenue. She draws on her twenty years of research and experience in social innovation and her wide network of colleagues with expertise in the best of what's working in their fields. She is a leading expert in breakthrough solutions, a dynamic speaker who gives people hope and inspiration by helping them understand what is happening now and what they can do to build a new life for themselves and to build a new world. She speaks about leadership and social innovation to emerging and established leaders around the world. Ms. LeCain earned a degree in Economics from Yale University and a degree in Law and Social Policy from the University of California Boalt Law School. She lives in Washington, DC with her husband and daughter. team@newwayusa.com.



Barbara LeSavoy, PhD, is Director of Women and Gender Studies (WMS) at The College at Brockport in Brockport, NY. In addition to directing the WMS Program, Dr. LeSavoy teaches Feminist Theory, Sex and Culture, and a senior seminar course that bridges feminist theory and practice. Dr. LeSavoy is active in college governance and also maintains a dynamic scholarship agenda. Her research interests include attitudes on feminism, intersectionality and educational equity/success, women's stories as feminist standpoint, and women's global human rights. Dr. LeSavoy chairs Rochester/Novgorod sister city Linkages Women's Partnership Committee, focusing on linking women and gender activities in Novgorod, Russia with women's leadership and learning initiatives at Brockport. Dr. LeSavoy also chairs the Greater Rochester AAUW newly formed College/University Partnership committee and is a member of the Greater Rochester Consortium of Women and Gender Studies Faculty. blesavoy@brockport.edu

Elena Lukovitskaya, PhD, is Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies at Novgorod State University, Novgorod Russia. Active in research in gender equality in the energy and environment sectors in Russia's transition economy, gender interests in decision-making at municipal levels, gender discrimination on the Novgorod labor market, and the state children assistance system in Russia. She recently worked with an American Fulbright scholar in studying the influence of maternity capital on children's birth in Novgorod families. Additional research interests include institutionalization of sex education and issues around masculinity.

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Dr. Sarwat S. Malik is Co-founder and Vice Chair of the Muslim Women's Fund (MWF), a special project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. MWF is a global fund focused on the educational and economic advancement of Muslim women and girls. Committed to interfaith dialogue, she also serves on the advisory board of the Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue at Nazareth College in Pittsford, NY. She advocates and supports contemporary scholarship of the religious interpretation of women's status in Islam, to address the challenges Muslim women face due to patriarchal interpretations and cultural practices which often trump faith-based rights. Dr. Malik supports gender equality and believes that it can have a positive impact on families, communities and nations.

In May 2010, *Women's e News* named her one of 21 leaders for the 21st Century for lifelong efforts on behalf of women. Other honors include a medical medal of honor for her medical services to the indigenous community of Rochester and in 2008, the "Woman of the Year" award by the Women's Forum at the Islamic Center of Rochester.

Ashley Manchester is a senior at Nazareth College, scheduled to graduate in December of this year. As an English literature and Women's Studies student, she focuses on intersections of gender and sexuality in classic and contemporary literature. Ashley is interested in new media forms of literature and hopes to continue her literary analysis studies in graduate school, focusing on gender and sexuality within the medium of graphic narrative.

Shermeeka Mason is a senior with a Social Work major/Women and Gender Studies minor. Her future goal is to be a therapist working with sex abuse survivors, and possibly a professor. smaso2@brockport.edu

Robin Mitchell received her Ph.D. Candidate in History, with a Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender and Sexuality from the Gender and Women's Studies Department, at the University of California, Berkeley. Her research interests include Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century Paris; the histories of women of the African Diaspora in France and the United States; Race, Gender, and Sexuality; and Representation and Popular Culture. She has an essay in the forthcoming anthology, *Venus 2010: They Called Her "Hottentot"*, published by Temple University Press. mitcher@oneonta.edu

Christine Nerney-Zapetis is currently a senior at William Smith College in Geneva, NY. Ms. Nerney-Zapetis, a participant in Hobart and William Smith's Lifelong Learner program, is an Anthropology major with a double minor in Women's Studies and History. Her academic interests include food security and sovereignty, rural communities, gender, and incarcerated populations. She was the 2010 recipient of William Smith College's Rosemary Currie Award for Academic Excellence.

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Rebecca Perkins is a senior at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, studying Women's Studies and Russian Language and Culture. She has studied in St Petersburg, Russia and conducted research in Novgorod, Russia for the Linkages Program of Rochester, NY. perkins@hws.edu

Ellen Rogers earned her bachelor's degree at Harvard and her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at Tufts Veterinary School before working for Tufts developing wildlife veterinary medicine courses in Africa. Awarded the African Wildlife Medicine and Conservation Fellowship, Rogers trained in South Africa for six months of hands-on work with elephants, lions, rhinos, hippos, giraffe, and more. During this time, she was filmed for the thirteen-episode documentary, *The Great African Wildlife Rescue*, produced by Disney. When forced to change careers due to health reasons, Rogers attended the Maine College of Art and was the the Artist-In-Residence at Paul Smith's College. She is currently a graduate student in the University at Buffalo's MFA program. ellenrog@buffalo.edu

Sarah Russo is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the department of English and Comparative Literature at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, where she teaches courses in nineteenth-century British and American literature. Her pedagogy emphasizes experiential learning. She earned her doctorate at Syracuse University in 2008. Her current research focuses on nineteenth-century race science and medical discourse in American women's autobiography and fiction.

Emily Scrivani is a senior at The College at Brockport. She will be graduating in May 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Arts for Children with minors in Women and Gender Studies and Studio Art. Emily has applied to graduate school and hopes to become a Creative Arts Therapist and work at a nonprofit organization or outpatient facility serving a population of transitional young women.

Leah R. Shafer is Visiting Assistant Professor of Media and Society at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. She earned her Ph.D. from Cornell University, where she wrote a dissertation on props, product placement, and branding strategies in popular films of the American 1980s. She has published in *Transnational Cinemas*, *In Media Res*, *Women and Performance: a Journal of Feminist Criticism*, and *The Dictionary of American History*. Her current work focuses on advertising aesthetics, celebrity culture, and interactive New Media art. shafer@hws.edu

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Marianne Simmons is the Head of Reference Services at Lavery Library, St. John Fisher College. Her training and experience has emphasized historical and social sciences bibliography. A strong advocate for engaging young college students in original research as early as possible, Ms. Simmons has developed information literacy courses focused on research strategy for this audience. msimmons@sjfc.edu



Dr. Arlette Miller Smith is an Associate Professor of English, co-director of African American Studies and a faculty member in Women & Gender Studies and the Executive Leadership Doctoral Program at St. John Fisher College. The founding and immediate past Dean of Fisher's Office of Multicultural Affairs & Diversity Programs, Miller Smith's academic work and avocation center on the following areas: African American literature & culture; the intersection of the raced, gendered, classed, and artistic voice of African American women; the written production of 19th century African American women writers; the mobilization of socio-political movements in African American life, particularly the colored club women's movement and the modern civil rights movement; and the impact of the exterior (public) life on the interior lives of African American women, as well as the *divergent convergence* of the experiences and African American and White suffragists. asmith@sjfc.edu



Rev. Allison Stokes is Director of Religious and Spiritual Life at the University of Rochester. She is also Founding Director of the Women's Interfaith Institute (WII), a nonprofit organization that has two affiliates: the WII in the Berkshires (1992) and the WII in the Finger Lakes (2002). The WII's home is an historic church located next door to the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls. Ordained to ministry in the United Church of Christ in 1981, Allison has served as Protestant Chaplain at Ithaca College, Associate University Chaplain at Yale, Vassar College Chaplain and pastor of the West Stockbridge Congregational Church in West Stockbridge, Massachusetts. While studying for her Ph.D. degree at Yale, she was honored and grateful to receive an AAUW Dissertation Fellowship. She has a Yale M.Div. and a Harvard Th.M. allisonstokes@earthlink.net

Jill Swiencicki is a Visiting Assistant Professor at St. John Fisher College and teaches courses in writing, rhetoric, and gender studies. She has published essays on activist rhetoric, rhetorical history, and public sphere writing pedagogy. backtosnow.jd@gmail.com

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Sherly Urena majors in Women and Gender Studies and English and is currently a junior at the College at Brockport. Her goal is to get a M.A. and eventually a PhD in Women and Gender Studies. suren1@brockport.edu

Bernadette Wormuth is a Junior at William Smith College. She is double majoring in English and Psychology and minoring in Health Professions. Her English concentration is focused on Nineteenth Century American Women Writers. Bernadette is a Presidential Scholar and was recently inducted to the William Smith Junior Honor Society (The Laurel Society). She is an active volunteer and participates in America Reads and is the Co-President of the HIV/AIDS Awareness Collective on campus. Bernadette is also a Community Coordinator for Residential Education for all women's housing.

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Seneca Falls Dialogues Conference Committee Co-Chairs



Adriene Emmo, Co-chairwoman of the Seneca Falls Dialogues is Secretary/Treasurer of the Women's Institute for Leadership and Learning, Past President of the Finger Lakes Chapter of the Friends of the Women's Rights National Historical Park as well as a current member and membership chair of the national board of Friends. She is an active community leader in her hometown of Seneca Falls, NY, where she is currently Director of the Heritage Area Visitor Center and Chair of the Heritage Area Commission, Vice President and board member of the Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry, a board member and publicity chair of Seneca Falls-Waterloo Kiwanis, Vice President and publicity chair for the SMS Auxiliary and board member of One Voice Alliance. Adriene is also Founding President of Emmo Consulting which administers chapter 11 bankruptcies and is a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute.



Diana M. Smith was elected Mayor in 2004, the first woman to hold that position in the history of the Village of Seneca Falls - the birthplace of Women's Rights. She was re-elected in 2008.

Public service has been an important part of Mayor Smith's life. From her volunteer work for the National Women's Hall of Fame, the Seneca County Arts Council, the former Child Care Council of the Finger Lakes, the Convention Days Committee, and the Seneca Falls Historical Society, to serving as Fourth Ward Trustee on the Village Board prior to being elected Mayor, she has always been compelled to protect her community and preserve its character and important history for future generations.

Mayor Smith was selected to serve on the Executive Board of the New York Conference of Mayors in 2006, and currently serves as Vice President of NYCOM, an organization which provides training, counsel, and a proactive voice in the state legislative process to nearly 1000 cities and villages across New York State. Next year, she will serve as President of that highly respected organization.

Diana's advocacy for Seneca Falls is unwavering. She is driven by her passion for inspiring young women with the story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's world-altering impact -- the Declaration of Sentiments and its continuing imperative. She is also a founding member of the Women's Institute for Leadership and Learning, an organization dedicated to ensuring the long-term continuation of the Seneca Falls Dialogues with the mission to inspire more women to lead, especially in elected office.

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Marilyn Tedeschi, Co-chairwoman is an urban educator, youth advocate, business entrepreneur and social activist whose interests lie in economic development of the working poor and the communities in which they live. Marilyn was trained as a teacher at SUNY Geneseo, and completed a thirty-year professional career as a high-school administrator with the Rochester City School District. She is a member of several not-for-profit boards whose missions are dedicated to youth, self-development and educational advocacy for women and girls. She is a co-founder of the Community Microenterprise Center, a not-for-profit small business incubator, and the Progressive Neighborhood Federal Credit Union which serves the needs of Rochester's lowest income communities. Marilyn is currently a board member of the Friends of the Women's Rights National Historical Park, and is President of the Greater Rochester Area Branch of the American Association of University Women. She has been a student of Conscious Evolution for the past 15 years and is an active member of a forward-moving organization called Evolutionary Women.

Seneca Falls Dialogues Conference Committee Members & Volunteers

Maria Brandt (Monroe Community College)
Angela Clark-Taylor (Susan B. Anthony Center, University of Rochester)
Betty Bayer (Hobart & William Smith Colleges)
Vickie Fumia (AAUW Rochester)
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**2010 Seneca Falls Dialogues
University/College Alliance**

The College at Brockport SUNY: Barbara LeSavoy, Ph.D.,
Director, Women's Studies Program

Hobart & William Smith College : Betty Bayer, Ph.D.,
Professor and Chair, Women's Studies

Monroe Community College: Maria Brandt, Ph.D.,
Depts. of English and Philosophy

Nazareth College: Sekile Nzinga-Johnson, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor, Department of Psychology;
Director, Women and Gender Studies Program

Rochester Institute of Technology: Donna Rubin,
Director, Women's Center

St. John Fisher College: Arlette Miller Smith, Ph.D.,
English/Co-director AFAM

St. John Fisher College: Deborah Uman, Ph.D. English

University at Buffalo SUNY: Patricia Shelly, M.S.W.,
Associate Director, Institute for Research & Education on Women & Gender

University of Rochester: Angela Clark-Taylor, M.A.,
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