

2016

Souvenir Program Booklet for the Women and Spirituality Symposium


Regennia N. Williams PhD

Initiative for the Study of Religion and Spirituality in the History of Africa and the Diaspora

Patricia A. F. O'Luanaigh MA

California Institute of Integral Studies

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Recommended Citation

Williams, Regennia N. PhD and O'Luanaigh, Patricia A. F. MA (2016) "Souvenir Program Booklet for the Women and Spirituality Symposium," *The Journal of Traditions & Beliefs*: Vol. 3, Article 4.

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Women and Spirituality

**An International Interdisciplinary
Academic Symposium**

Cleveland State University
Main Classroom Building
Main Campus – Downtown Cleveland
March 12-14, 2009



DEDICATION



**Professor MareyJoyce Green, Former Director
The Women's Comprehensive Program
Cleveland State University**

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New paradigms are emerging, and in the context of women and spirituality we need an expanded worldview that honors spiritual realities, offers new tools and maps, includes the sharing of our soul stories, and recognizes the mythic proportions of even our daily lives. A paradigm that allows us to view ourselves as not only the medium and container for change, but as the impetus for change; as not only channels and vessels for the life force, but as the animating spirit itself at work in the world.

We all carry the longing for wisdom, vision, and sacred knowledge within us. We long for connection and authenticity, and this “longing will carry us, like the heavens carry the sky, like stars cresting gravity, stories strung like eyes across a bitten blueberry sky.” We have a yearning for more inclusive levels of reality that allow us to recognize our connection with all of life, as anthropologist Barbara King points out, and we realize the necessity of an awareness that Karen Armstrong calls “ethical alchemy,” one that focuses on the necessity of compassion, and on the integral

nature of belonging. Now that we recognize the interconnected nature of everything, it is everything that we must care for. John O’Donohue, Irish poet and philosopher, incisively reveals this connection when he asks, “What are the dreams of the clay that made you?” At this symposium, we honor our ancestors and the Earth, and gather in a new way. As women, we are not only the guides and guardians of this transformation; we are the initiators, and the voice of those who cannot be heard.

A recent article in the publication *Shift* explores the process of adaptive change. As the old paradigms crumble we cling to the status quo, preferring to wait until destabilizing external forces impose change upon us. A new model of change is called for, one that recognizes that adaptive strain is part of the process, and that this creative tension is invaluable. It is in this gap, this liminal or threshold state between the old and the new, where possibility lies. This is not unlike the archetypal heroic journey, or the initiatory experience of a rite of passage, consisting of separation, transition, and incorporation. It is in the Irish ‘thin place,’ the ‘borderlands,’ where creativity and innovation abound, where the interplay of chaos and order result in a plethora of possibilities. A tolerance for ambiguity is necessary, however, and a willingness to rest with uncertainty. Women know this place well. Out of this, visions of what could be arise. The resulting transformation of consciousness and new ways of being in the world re-weave the stories we have told ourselves.

A multidisciplinary approach is called for, and a community of diverse individuals, each with their own magic to add to the whole. Who is the visionary, the seer? Frank MacEowen, Celtic mystic and author, believes that, “A seer is any individual who seeks to acquire sacred knowledge, whose heart is filled with longing for it, and whose path is a living expression of this sacred knowledge.” We are the wisdom keepers, the story-tellers, the visionaries. We are the alchemists transmuting the waves of chaos and change. We are the spiritual warriors, actively engaged with both the seen and unseen worlds; the shamans straddling the shores of darkness

and light.

It starts with a leap of faith into the unknown, a woman propelled by the call of what could be. She starts where she finds herself. This woman is you. Soon another woman, whose soul resonates with connection, joins in the journey of manifestation that lies at the heart of the vision. Then another adds her energy and wisdom to the dance. They persevere. They stay in the uncomfortable alembic of uncertainty. They are guided and supported by Spirit; inspiration, or *Awen*, is invoked and flows freely; the gathering increases. A new story is born, and poets and bards give the tale its due; a tale of consciousness transformed, of common truths acknowledged, of the unveiling of the ground of being that was there all along; that we are dreaming – and waking - together.

And the deep sky
that was always
within you
lofted you
winded
yet buoyant
and into
the unfamiliar
suspension
of grace

Patricia

Patricia Awen Fey O'Luanaigh
Cleveland State University Graduate Student
Women's Studies, Religious Studies, and English Major
Co-Convener, The Women and Spirituality Symposium



So the beginning of this was a woman . . .

Welcome to Cleveland State University's 2009 International Interdisciplinary Women and Spirituality Symposium, and welcome to my hometown!

When I sat down to write this letter, I was reminded of an amazing line in Zora Neale Hurston's novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. It said, in part, ". . .so the beginning of this was a woman."

As we open this symposium, I applaud the efforts of co-convenor, Patricia A. O'Lunaigh, because she was the beginning of this project. This is only one of the many activities that had its beginning with Patricia, because she is an extremely busy student in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Cleveland State University. She is completing the requirements for a triple major in Women's Studies, Religious Studies, and English. She is also a research assistant in the Department of History, Associate Editor for the *Traditions and Beliefs* newsletter, and an award-winning poet. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with her.

Special thanks to Dr. Gregory Sadlek, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and Dr. Njeri Nuru-Holm, Vice President for Institutional Diversity, for their financial support and words of encouragement. In these difficult economic times, our planning committee worked tirelessly to ensure that this program would be worthy of the time and money invested in it. I am convinced that this symposium will provide on-going benefits to members of our campus community and citizens of the global community, through the published conference proceedings, related films, and additions to our library collections.

I also want to acknowledge the support of Professor MareyJoyce Green, former director of the Women's Comprehensive Program, architect of our Women's Studies Major, and my mentor, confidante, colleague, and friend. I benefited greatly from her numerous acts of kindness and her willingness to share her abundant wisdom, during the planning of this symposium and on so many other occasions. Her life is a splendid wonderful example of the positive difference that African American Christian women continue to make in the lives of others. I thank God for her.

Finally, thank you for your participation in this program. May your experiences this weekend be enjoyable and enlightening.

Regennia

Dr. Regennia N. Williams

**Associate Professor of History and Founder and Director of
The Initiative for the Study of Religion and Spirituality in the History of Africa and the Diaspora
Co-Convenor, The Women and Spirituality Symposium**



I agree with the Dalai Lama: “All major religious traditions carry basically the same message; that is love, compassion and forgiveness...the important thing is they should be part of our daily lives.” There are countless ways to express one’s spiritual beliefs, various traditions and rituals and celebrations, but they share a common theme of love and enlightenment. Throughout life we are searching for answers, and religion and spirituality provide methods by which we may explore and search for those answers.

The Serbian Orthodox Church has been a significant part of my life since I was born, and it is where I learned about God and love and forgiveness. As I grew I became intrigued with other religions and spiritual paths, most notably Buddhism and Hinduism, though I was undoubtedly a Christian. For years read bits and pieces of these and other philosophies and explanations of why we are here. Yoga and meditation were always fascinating to me, but it was not easy to find likeminded people or places to go to find out more. I read some Dalai Lama, listened to Thich Nhat Hanh meditations, found a simple yoga class, but it just wasn’t getting through to me—there was a block, a mental and spiritual block, that was preventing me from really getting what I thought I should be getting. But what was that? I didn’t understand meditation or chanting or anything, at least, not on any profound level. Whatever I needed at the time,

I felt like I didn’t have—perhaps, *couldn’t* have. As I look back, however, I realize that the awakening or enlightenment I was waiting for was within me, not in a book or a class or a person who could tell me what I needed to learn. Things come to you as you are ready to receive them; God and/or the gods and goddesses and spirits have faith in you to accept things, and your only job is to welcome these things and then act accordingly.

In the past year there have been many changes in my life. I hesitate to say that there were any negative changes, because even the bad stuff—*especially* the bad stuff—brings you to a deeper understanding of yourself and of the world. My spiritual path has become an important part of my life—it was always there, but now the trees have been cleared so I can see the road more easily. As I got deeper into my study of Buddhism, and began a regular meditation and yoga practice, my understanding and appreciation of Christianity deepened, which in turn led to a true realization of the universality of all faiths. They are all valid, they are all useful, and they are all welcome. However one worships, however one self-identifies, the thing that really matters is the search for truth, love, and happiness. That is all we can ask for in this life and the next.

The Women and Spirituality Symposium is an attempt to bring together the common themes of humanity, to search openly with one another, and to highlight the special role that women have always played in the spiritual arena. It is an important way to share experiences and to learn more about the self through the exchange of ideas. I hope that everyone who participates in our event will walk away with a positive feeling about our program, our university, and our city. More importantly, I wish for everyone to be one step closer to finding their own truth. Life isn’t worth living if it isn’t worth sharing!

Namasté,

Dana

Dana Aritonovich
Graduate Student in History, Cleveland State University
Marketing Strategist, The Women and Spirituality Symposium



**Luncheon Keynote Speaker
Saturday, March 14, 2009**

Rev. Selena Fox is a priestess, counselor, psychotherapist, writer, photographer, environmentalist, and activist. Rev. Fox graduated cum laude with a BS in Psychology from the College of William and Mary and has a MS in Counseling from the University of Wisconsin. Since 1974, she has worked as Senior Minister of Circle Sanctuary, a Wisconsin-based Wiccan church that serves Pagans and other Nature religion practitioners worldwide. Rev. Fox's writings and photographs have appeared in a variety of publications, in-print and on-line. She is author of *When Goddess is God*, is senior editor of *CIRCLE Magazine*, a Nature Spirituality quarterly, and is a contributing scholar to reference works

such as the *Encyclopedia of Women and Religion in North America*, and *Religions of the World: A Comprehensive Encyclopedia of Beliefs and Practices*. Since 1985, Rev. Fox has served as the Executive Director of the Lady Liberty League, a national Pagan civil rights and religious freedom organization sponsored by Circle Sanctuary. She was a leader in the successful decade-long quest to have the Wiccan religious symbol, the Pentacle, added to the list of emblems of belief that can be included on veteran grave markers issued by the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Rev. Fox has served as a consultant on Wiccan/Pagan religious accommodation to state and federal government agencies and other institutions, and as an expert witness in court. Over the years, she also has appeared in the public media, including press, radio, television, and film, and during her youth, was among the first women to be employed in the field of corporate photography. Active in interreligious and multicultural dialogue and social action for more than forty years, Rev. Fox has presented talks and facilitated ceremonies at various international interfaith gatherings, including the past three Parliaments of the World's Religions (1993 in Chicago; 1999 in Cape Town, South Africa; 2004 in Barcelona, Spain). She also was the first head of a Wiccan denomination to serve on the Assembly of Religious and Spiritual Leaders that meets in connection with the Parliament. Serving her fifth term as President of the Greater Madison Interreligious Association in Madison, Wisconsin, Rev. Fox is co-founder and organizer of the annual Madison Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration, which celebrates diversity across faith traditions and cultures. Rev. Fox also is active in environmental preservation. She has helped organize yearly celebrations of Earth Day since it began in 1970. She is Executive Director of Circle Sanctuary Nature Preserve, a 200 acre reserve in southwestern Wisconsin that includes one of America's first conservation cemeteries. More information about Rev. Fox and various aspects of her work is at her website: www.selenafox.com and at the Circle Sanctuary website: www.circlesanctuary.org.

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE--THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2009

Time	Type	Event	Duration	Location
Morning				
8:00	REGISTER	Registration and Continental Breakfast -- Ideas Table	8:00 – 9:30	Lobby
9:00	GREETINGS ANNOUNCE- MENTS	Opening Remarks – Patricia Awen O’Luanaigh and Dr. Regennia Williams	9:00 – 9:15	AUD
9:15	KEYNOTE	“Ties That Bind” Opening Plenary Session – Film and Panel Selena Fox Cassandra Bledsoe Suna Aziz Paula Bloch	9:15 – 10:50	AUD
11:00	PANEL	First Spirit/Last Spirit Co-opting of Indigenous Spirituality (Krisch) The Croning Ceremony (Payerle)	11:00 – 12:00	105
11:00	PRESENTATION INSTALLATION	Spirit Within/Without Inside My Earth (Edowiza) Art is God (Jones)	11:00 – 12:00	104
12:00	FOOD	Luncheon	12:00 – 1:30	105
Afternoon				
1:30	PANEL	Spirit Deciphered Joanna Cotton: Wife of an Unfaithful Puritan Minister (Eden) The Devil’s Skirts: The Myth of “La Quintrala” in Rural Colonial Chile (Marsilli)	1:30 – 2:30	102
1:30	PANEL	Spirit Revealed: Women Who Lead Harriet Tubman’s Charismatic Leadership (Davenport) Catharine Maria Sedgwick’s Contributions to Transcendentalism (Kingston) Leadership of St. Clare of Assisi (Self)	1:30 – 2:30	103

Time	Type	Event	Duration	Location
1:30	WORKSHOP	21 Praises of Tara: Sacred Dance Meditation in Movement Wisdom, Compassion, Power (Thomas)	1:30 – 2:30	104
1:30	WORKSHOP	Zen Meditation: Lecture & Instruction (Rakow)	1:30 – 3:45	MC 444
2:45	PANEL	Spirit in Community: Inspired Living The Impact & Morality of Mandated Clerical Celibacy in the Roman Catholic Church: From Paradigm of Dualism to Theory of Integration (Hanson)	2:45 – 3:45	105
2:45	WORKSHOP	Reiki: Women's Healing Wave (Reiger)	2:45 – 3:45	102
2:45	LECTURE/ DISCUSSION	Faulty Female Empowerment - Films from Taoist Perspective (Baughman)	2:45 – 3:45	103
4:00	ROUNDTBL & OPEN-MIKE	Informal Roundtables and Open-Mike Meet and Share	4:00 – 5:30	LOBBY
6:00	FOOD	Reception	6:00 – 7:00	*Trinity Cathedral, Cathedral Hall
6:00	FOOD	Dinner – On Your Own		
7:00	PERFORMANCE	Performance: Mary of Magdala (Cece Miller & Spirit of Life Dancers)	7:00 – 8:00	*Trinity Cathedral, Cathedral Hall
8:00	DONE	END OF DAY		

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE—FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2009

Time	TYPE	Event	Duration	Location
Morning				
8:00	REGISTER	Registration and Continental Breakfast Ideas Table	8:00 – 9:30	Lobby
9:00	GREETINGS KEYNOTE	Opening Remarks – Patricia Awon O’Luanaigh and Dr. Regennia Williams Keynote Presentation – The Arts and the Goddess: Invocation, Praise, Embodiment Invoking the Goddess in Indian Dance (Shinde) “A Joyous Noise” Tambourine in the Worship of the Black Madonna (DeLuise) Voices of the Goddess: Feminist Poetry in the Oracular Tradition (Monaghan)	9:00 – 11:00	AUD
11:00	PANEL	Spirit in Aspect: Women Engaged in Spirit A Holistic Spirituality of the Oppressed: Tonghak, Ecofeminism, and Merleau-Ponty (Garner) An ‘Unconscious Allegiance’ : Gloria Anzaldua’s Theory of “Spiritual Activism” (Genetin) Ecofeminism: Women as Impetus for an Evolved Spirituality (O’Luanaigh)	11:00 – 12:00	102
11:00	PRESENTATION INSTALLATION	Women and Body Modification: A Spiritual Expression (Aritonovich)	11:00 – 12:00	137 & Display Case
11:00	PANEL	Spirit in Community: Women in Action Sisters of the Cloth: Women and Leadership in the African American Church (Brown) Hex Workers: African American Women, Gender, and Hoodoo in the Civil War and Post-Civil War (Kordas) A Thai Woman and Her Practice of Traditional Thai Astrology (Kosuta)	11:00 – 12:00	103

Time	TYPE	Event	Duration	Location
11:00	PERFORMANCE	We Are One (performance) (CeCe Miller and the Spirit of Life Dancers)	11:00 – 12:00	AUD
12:00	FOOD	Luncheon	12:00 – 1:30	105
Afternoon				
1:30	PANEL	Spirit in Perspective: Women of Vision Understanding the Experiences of Yoruba and Latin American Women in Christianity (Akinyele) Audre Lord's Seboullisa: Muse for the Death Journey (Barnes) A Qualitative Perspective of Outreach Ministry from the Eyes of African American Women in Christian Ministries (Faithwalker)	1:30 – 2:30	102
1:30	WORKSHOP	Visual Representation of the Mind/Body/Spirit Connection (Stahl)	1:30 – 2:30	103
2:30	BREAK	Schedule Announcements/Adjustments Break	2:30 – 2:45	
2:45	PRESENTATION	Woman as Shapeshifter: Goddess, Priestess, Seer, Witch Goddesses of the Indo-European World (Liafal) Priestess, Seer, Witch: Notable Women in the Occult Revival (Ian Corrigan)	2:45 – 5:00	102
2:45	LECTURE	Women in Buddhism: Deities, Masters, and Practitioners (Ani Palmo)	2:45 – 3:45	104
2:45	WORKSHOP	Don't Just Dress Up the Outside, Dress Up the Inside (Delores Pressley)	2:45 – 3:45	105
3:45	ILLUSTRATED LECTURE	Women of Afghanistan (Peggy Kelsey)	3:45 – 5:00	103
5:00	POETRY PERFORMANCE	Bardic Women: Transcendence Meets Immanence (O'Luanaigh)	5:00 – 6:00	103
6:00	FOOD	Dinner – On Your Own		

Time	TYPE	Event	Duration	Location
7:00	ROUNDTBL & OPEN-MIKE	Informal Roundtables and Open- Mike Meet and Share	7:00 – 8:00	MC ATRIUM
8:00	DONE	END OF DAY		

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE--SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2009

Time	TYPE	Event	Duration	Location
Morning				
8:00	REGISTER	Registration and Continental Breakfast Ideas Table	8:00 – 9:30	Lobby
9:00	SPEECHES	Opening Remarks – Patricia Awen O’Luanaigh and Dr. Regennia Williams	9:00 – 10:00	Lobby
10:00	WORKSHOP	Mindfulness of Breathing and/or the Practice of Exchange (Ani Palmo)	10:00 – 11:00	104
10:00	PANEL	Women in Spirit: Goddess Divine The Re-Emergence of the Divine Feminine in the Late 20 th Century (Balog) A Goddess in Your Own Image: The Sexualization of the Constructed Feminine in the Lives of Modern Ritual Magickians (Oughton)	10:00 – 11:00	102
10:00	WORKSHOP	Singing in Sacred Circle (Graff)	10:00 – 11:00	105
10:00	LECTURE & DISCUSSION	The Biblical Call for Women to Preach (Petties)	10:00 – 11:00	103
10:45	BREAK - TIME PERMITTING	Schedule Announcements/Adjustments Break	10:45 – 11:00	
11:00	KEYNOTE	KEYNOTE SPEAKER SELENA FOX Women, Spirituality, and Social Change	11:00 – 12:30	AUD
12:30	FOOD	Luncheon	12:30 – 1:30	105
Afternoon				
1:30	WORKSHOP	Facing Conflict: Spiritual Preparation for Loving Criticism – Spiritual Warriorship (Doetsch-Kidder)	1:30 – 2:30	104
1:30	PRESENTATION	God Is Not Three Guys in the Sky (Clancy)	1:30 – 2:30	102
1:30	RITUAL	Liturgy of the Mothers (Ian Corrigan & Liafal)	1:30 – 2:30	AUD

Time	TYPE	Event	Duration	Location
1:30	PANEL	Written Spirit/Guiding Spirit 21 st Century Women in Leadership: A Biblical Perspective (Batchelor) Jesus as Leader: A Sacred Textual Analysis of Philippians 2: 5-11 (Porter)	1:30 – 2:30	103
1:30	PRESENTATION	Mystical Activism in the Lives of Jarena Lee, Sojourner Truth, and Rebecca Cox Jackson (Bostic)	1:30 – 2:30	105
2:30	DOCUMENTARY DISCUSSION	“Creating Buddhas: The Making of Fabric Thangkas” (Leidenfrost)	2:30 – 4:00	102
2:45	LECTURE & PERFORMANCE	Transformation and Journey Women’s Spiritual Transformation: Understanding the Circle of Pain to Power and I AM HERE: Journey of A Hummingbird Minister (Reash)	2:45 – 5:00	AUD
2:45	PRESENTATION	Wicca/ Goddess Worship (Curran)	2:45 – 3:45	103
2:45	PERFORMANCE	Singing in Sacred Circle Musical Performance (Graff)	2:45 – 4:00	104
4:00	PERFORMANCE	AWEN – Folk Music Performance (Ian Corrigan and Liafal)	4:00 – 5:00	105
5:00	PRESENTATION & PERFORMANCE	Yes, Lord, Yes! A Tribute to African American Women in Gospel (Williams)	5:00 – 6:00	137
6:00	FOOD	Dinner – On Your Own		

Time	TYPE	Event	Duration	Location
7:00	ROUNDTBL & OPEN-MIKE	Informal Roundtables & Open-Mike	7:00 – 8:00	MC ATRIUM
8:00	DONE	END OF DAY		

*******ADDED ATTRACTION*******

Embedded Film Festival Featuring the Following Titles from
 Women Make Movies
 Main Classroom Auditorium

BELFAST GIRLS (58 minutes)

Saturday, March 14, 2009, 6 p.m.

BELFAST GIRLS is a quiet, powerful story of two young women growing up in a city where neighbors are cut off from each other by permanent concrete and corrugated iron screens. These so-called “peace walls” have also become mental walls, dividing one community from another. Living in different worlds within the same city, Mairéad Mc Ilkenny and Christine Savage share the legacy of 30 years of conflict in Northern Ireland . With insightful clarity, Swedish director Malin Anderson reveals how, in their daily struggles and triumphs, these two strong women have more in common with each other than they have differences.

For 20-year-old Catholic Mairéad, childhood memories of brutal arrests of her father at night and a constant fear for her life mix with wonderings what the “other side” looks like. She has never gotten to know a Protestant in her entire life – until the day her flatmate starts a new relationship. Suddenly “the other side” has moved into her house. Christine is Protestant and walks on the other side of the wall, dreaming about a house of her own and a boy to love. When she finally finds him, he’s a Catholic. Both girls find the courage to defy the legacy of separation handed down to them, creating a more hopeful future for themselves.

THE SERMONS OF SISTER JANE: Believing the Unbelievable (53 minutes)

Saturday, March 14, 2009, 12:30 p.m.

From Oscar and Emmy Award-winning filmmakers Allie Light and Irving Saraf (*Dialogues With Madwomen* and *In The Shadow of The Stars*), in partnership with Carol Monpere, also an Emmy Award-winner, comes their latest film, *The Sermons Of Sister Jane: Believing the Unbelievable* . This documentary is an engaging portrait that sparkles with the courage, wit and humanity of Sister Jane Kelly, who combines her deep spiritual faith with her equally powerful commitment towards resistance and change.

When Sister Jane discovered that a priest in her church was molesting young men and stealing from the congregation, and when the evidence was ignored by the church, she contacted the press, creating a scandal. Throughout the film she shares her progressive views on issues such as birth control, homosexuality, and women priests. She impels the Catholic Church to return to egalitarian roots of community. The scenes filmed at Plowshares, an organization she created to feed and serve the poor and homeless, demonstrate Sister Jane's powerful ability to translate her faith into profoundly meaningful action. This touching documentary, skillfully produced by these acclaimed filmmakers, reveals Sister Jane's long struggle to speak out against what she believed was wrong, and how this ongoing battle ultimately has heart-breaking results.

THEY CALL ME MUSLIM (27 minutes)

Thursday, March 12, 2009, 12:45 p.m.

In popular Western imagination, a Muslim woman in a veil – or hijab – is a symbol of Islamic oppression. But what does it mean for women's freedom when a democratic country forbids the wearing of the veil? In this provocative documentary, filmmaker Diana Ferrero portrays the struggle of two women – one in France and one in Iran – to express themselves freely.

In 2004, the French government instituted an "anti-veil law," forbidding Muslim girls from wearing the hijab to school. Samah, a teenager in Paris who, at 14 decided to wear the veil, explains how the law attacks her sense of identity – and does not make her feel liberated. "Who says that freedom is not wearing anything on your head?" she asks. Half a world away in Tehran, "K," forced to wear the hijab by the Islamic regime, defiantly wears it her own way – and her translucent scarf loosely draped over her hair puts her at risk of arrest. When Ferrero films her at home, K, comfortable in a tank top and shorts, says, "They call me Muslim... But do you see me as a Muslim? What do you have in your mind for a Muslim person?" Beautifully shot and finely crafted, *THEY CALL ME MUSLIM* highlights how women still must struggle for the right to control their own bodies – not only under theocratic regimes, but also in secular, democratic countries where increasing discrimination against Muslims and sexism intersect.

THE NOBLE STRUGGLE OF AMINA WADUD (29 minutes)

Friday, March 13, 2009, 12:45 p.m.

On March 18, 2005, Amina Wadud shocked the Islamic world by leading a mixed-gender Friday prayer congregation in New York . THE NOBLE STRUGGLE OF AMINA WADUD is a fascinating and powerful portrait of this African-American Muslim woman who soon found herself the subject of much debate and Muslim juristic discourse. In defying 1400 years of Islamic tradition, her action caused global awareness of the struggle for women's rights within Islam but also brought violence and death threats against her.

3 TIMES DIVORCED (74 minutes)

Thursday, March 12, 2009, 4 p.m.

How does a Palestinian woman in Israel survive an abusive husband? When Gaza-born Khitam's abusive Arab Israeli husband divorces her and gains custody of her six children, she suddenly finds herself fighting two heart-breaking battles: against the Sharia Muslim court to get her children back, and against the state of Israel , which considers her an illegal resident and denies her protection in a shelter for battered women.

3 TIMES DIVORCED is a fascinating and disturbing look at a civil and religious legal system that denies women the right to get a divorce independent of their husbands. It highlights the bind that abused women find themselves in when their immigration status is contingent upon marriage. With remarkable access and an unflinching lens that never sensationalizes, award-winning filmmaker Ibtisam Salh Mara'ana captures Khitam's astonishing courage as she faces an impossible situation with no country or court to protect her.

MY DAUGHTER THE TERRORIST (58 minutes)

Friday, March 13, 2009, 12:30 p.m.

This fascinating documentary is an exceedingly rare, inside look at an organization that most of the world has blacklisted as a terrorist group. Made by the first foreign film crew to be given access to the Tamil Tigers (LTTE) of Sri Lanka, the film offers important insights into the recently re-ignited conflict in Sri Lanka.

Twenty-four-year-olds Dharsika and Puhachudar have been living and fighting side-by-side for seven years as part of LTTE's elite force, the Black Tigers. Their story is told through cinema verité footage, newsreel footage, and interviews with the women and Dharsika's mother. The women describe heartbreaking traumas they both experienced at the hands of the Sri Lankan army, which led them to join the guerrilla forces. As they discuss their readiness to become suicide bombers and their abiding loyalty to the unnamed "Leader" – who they are sure would never harm civilians – grisly images of past LTTE suicide bombings provide somber counterpoints. Their curiously flat affects raise the possibility that they have been brainwashed. This even-handed documentary sheds light on the reasons that the Tamil Tigers conti

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Initiative for the Study of Religion and Spirituality in the History of Africa and the Diaspora (RASHAD) is seeking contributions for

AFRICAN RELIGIONS & PHILOSOPHY: **CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF** **THE REVEREND DR. JOHN S. MBITI'S** **LANDMARK PUBLICATION**

A Special 2010 Issue of

The Journal of Traditions and Beliefs

Dr. Regennia N. Williams, Founder and Editor
Dana Artonovich, Managing Editor

Publishable articles will reflect scholars' diverse viewpoints on the place of this work in the study of religion and spirituality in the history of African and the Diaspora.

Typewritten, double-spaced manuscripts, no more than 30 pages in length (including endnotes), should be prepared using *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th Edition (University of Chicago Press, 2007). **Manuscripts submitted for publication will be peer-reviewed.**

Submit manuscripts to: African.Diaspora@csuohio.edu

Deadline for Submissions: November 15, 2009

Notification of Acceptance: March 15, 2010

Publication Date: Fall 2010

For more information, call (216) 523-7182.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

for

**THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
2009 WOMEN AND SPIRITUALITY SYMPOSIUM**

Patricia A. O'Luanaigh, Managing Editor

Typewritten, double-spaced manuscripts, no more than 20 pages in length (including endnotes), should be prepared using *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th Edition (University of Chicago Press, 2007). Original poems are also welcome.

Manuscripts submitted for publication will be peer-reviewed.

Submit manuscripts to: spirituality@csuohio.edu

Deadline for Submissions: May 12, 2009

Notification of Acceptance: July 12, 2009

Publication Date: Fall 2009

For more information, call (216) 523-7182.

**The Initiative for the Study of Religion and Spirituality in the History of Africa and the Diaspora
(RASHAD)**

presents

Spiritual Gifts

**A PROFESSIONAL BLACK SACRED MUSIC REPERTORY ENSEMBLE
David Manning Thomas, Music Director**



In Concert

Sunday, April 26, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

Cleveland State University


Music and Communication Building, Waetjen Auditorium

2001 Euclid Avenue

Tickets

- \$12** General Admission
- \$ 8** Students, Seniors, and Groups of 25 or More
- \$20** *Friends / "Gift Givers" (in advance) \$25 (at the door)
* *Includes music packet*

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**Live recording
with
orchestra!**

SYMPOSIUM PRESENTERS

Olufunmilayo Akinyele MA, NCC
Dana Artonovich, BA
Rev. David Balog
Sharon L. Barnes, PhD
Marquita E. Batchelor, MS
Rhonda Baughman, EdS
Joy Bostic, PhD
Beverly J. Brown, BA
Jeanette Clancy, MA
Ian Corrigan and Liafal
Kathleen Curran
K. Ann Davenport, MA
Dolores DeLuise, PhD
Sharon Doetsch-Kidder, PhD
Jason E. Eden, PhD
Karine Anotho Edowiza, MA
Melanie Faithwalker, BA
Nicole Garner, BA
Victoria A. Genetin, MA
Shelley Graff
Karen M. Hanson
Vanessa Jones, MA
Peggy Kelsey
Sarah Kingston, MA
Ann Marie Kordas
Matthew Kosuta, PhD
Candi Krisch, MA
Isadora Gabrielle Leidenfrost, MS
Maria N. Marsilli, PhD
Ce Ce Miller
Patricia Monaghan, PhD
Patricia A. O'Luanaigh
Karen Oughton, PhD Candidate
Ani Palmo (Catherine)
Dr. Margaret, PhD
Vivian A. Petties, MDiv
Tracy H. Porter, MS
Susan R. Rakow, PhD
Rev. Georgia M. Reash
Rev. Mary Ann Reiger
Catherine Self, MA
Gargi Shinde, PhD
Dianna Stahl
Julie E. Thomas
Dr. Regennia N. Williams, PhD

*We made every effort to incorporate all requests for program updates that were received through Tuesday, March 10, 2009. Please check with volunteers at the registration desk for daily updates, and listen for announcements at daily plenary sessions.

With the permission of the presenters, we will publish and distribute a comprehensive listing of their contact information, in order to facilitate networking beyond the March 2009 Women and Spirituality Symposium.

-- RNW

Acknowledgements

Symposium Planning Committee

Dana Aritonovich
Oretha Barnett
Paula Bloch
Dr. Delia Galvin
Prof. Mareyjoyce Green
Judith Hanna
Cassandra Jablonski
Dr. Elizabeth A. Lehfeldt
Patricia O’Luanaigh
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*Special Thanks to the Dean and Staff of the Division of Continuing Education
and
Conference Services at Cleveland State University*