

# Come To This Sacred Place:

Exploring Gender, Spirituality, Religion and Myth



Thursday and Friday  
April 16 & 17, 2009

Grayslake Campus

Ancient Greek poet Sappho bids Aphrodite, the goddess of love, to dwell in an Edenic island inhabited by women: "Leave Crete/...and come to this sacred place/encircled by apple trees/fragrant with offered smoke." Writing before the birth of Christ, Sappho's concept of woman is defined by a passion for knowledge, love and life. The modern reader conjures up a liberated image of Eve, one who is free to eat as she pleases. This act of "reclaiming" Eve, perhaps as a comment on Christianity, moves her from one sacred place in which she is "fallen" to another sacred place in which she is free. The result is an empowering reconciliation of gender identity and religious tradition, but is only one response within a global movement to re-evaluate the relationship between gender roles, religion and spirituality.

This conference will aim to engage its presenters and participants in a conversation about gender identity and the broad category of religious belief and practice. Community college and university students, staff and faculty will present on various topics, including but not limited to: gender roles in any particular religious faith or spiritual tradition, gay marriage and the church, cultural rites of passage shaping masculinity and femininity, the portrayal of "divine" women or men in literature or art, and ecological stewardship as "women's work".


### Directions to the College of Lake County

- From Southeast: Take 41 North to Washington Street. Go West (left) across Route 45, turn left at Lancer Lane (2nd stop light)
- From I-294/94 (tollway): Exit Route 120 West/Belvidere Road. Go North (right) on Route 45. Go West (left) on Brae Loch Road.
- From Northwest: Take Route 83 South to Washington Street. Go East (left), turn right at Lancer Lane.
- From Northeast: Take Route 45 or Route 41 South to Washington Street. Go West (right) and turn left at Lancer Lane.

*Parking is available in lots 4 & 5.*

Information regarding presentation descriptions, registration, and hotels can be found at our website: [www.clcilinois.edu/womenscenter](http://www.clcilinois.edu/womenscenter) or call 847.543.2771.

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 College of Lake County  
19351 West Washington Street  
Grayslake, IL 60030-1198



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6<sup>th</sup> Gender Conference

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Sponsored by the Women's Center  
at the College of Lake County

## Tentative Program Schedule

### Thursday, April 16

**Registration** 11:30 – 12:00  
**Keynote Lunch** 12:00 – 1:30

**Entertainment:** Donna Herula, Blues Artist

**Rev. Dr. Clare Butterfield:** Caring for the Earth, Women's Work?

**Block 1** 1:45 – 3:00

**Session I:** Virgins, Goddesses and Cunning Women

**Session II:** Religion, Patriarchy and the Construction of Gender

**Block 2** 3:10 – 4:25

**Session I:** Gender Images in Mass Media, Part I

**Session II:** Who Is the Modern Feminist?

### Friday, April 17

**Registration** 11:30 – 12:00  
**Keynote Lunch** 12:00 – 1:30

**Entertainment:** Nino Arobelidze, World Music Singer

**Dr. Patrick Gonder and John Tenuto:** and Captain Kathryn Janeway and The Narratemes of *Star Trek Voyager*

**Block 3** 1:45 – 3:00

**Session I:** God and the Father

**Session II:** Divinely One: Literary Performance Ensemble

**Session III:** Gender Images in Mass Media, Part II

**Reception** 7:00 – 7:30

**Film:** *Persepolis* (2007) by Marjane Satrapi and Vincent Paronnaud. Guest speaker, Dr. Norma Moruzzi.

7:30 – 10:00

## Speakers and Special Guests

**Rev. Dr. Clare Butterfield** is Thursday's keynote speaker. She is Director of Faith in Place, an interfaith environmental ministry in Chicago that gives religious people tools to become better stewards of Creation. Faith in Place congregations work together to support renewable energy, conserve energy, build markets for local sustainable agriculture and fair trade products, and train the next generation of stewards of the earth through urban agriculture with youth. Rev. Dr. Butterfield is an ordained Unitarian Universalist community minister. She has a D.Min. from Chicago Theological Seminary (2008) with a focus on faith and the environment, an M.Div. from Meadville Lombard Theological School (2000), a J.D. (University of Illinois College of Law, 1983), and a B.A. in History (University of Illinois 1980). The title of Rev. Butterfield's keynote presentation is "Caring for the Earth, Women's Work?" In her talk, she will explore theologies that can contribute to an ethic of care for the earth (mainly from the Christian theological tradition) and her own experiences in working with over 500 congregations to improve their programs of stewardship of Creation.

**Dr. Patrick Gonder**, College of Lake County Instructor of English and Humanities, is one of two Friday keynote presenters. Dr. Gonder specializes in Film Studies and English Composition. He teaches film courses and themed composition classes on horror and comic books. He holds an MA in English from University of MO, Columbia, and a doctorate in Modern Studies/Film Studies from University of WI, Milwaukee. In 2008, he was the recipient of CLC's Outstanding Faculty Award, he runs the CLC International Film Series, and he is the author of "Like a Monstrous Jigsaw Puzzle: Genetics and Race in Horror Films of the 1950s" (2003). The title of Dr. Gonder's presentation is "Refusing to Stay Buried: Horror Films, Female Spirituality and Dark Ecology," which is about recent horror films like *The Ring* and *Shutter* that feature vengeful female ghosts, and how they work to blur the boundary between the natural and the technological, thus calling into question traditional ideas concerning women and female spirituality.

**John Tenuto**, College of Lake County Instructor of Sociology, is Friday's co-keynote speaker. Mr. Tenuto is an internationally recognized expert on the *Star Wars* and *Star Trek* TV and film series who has done extensive research on both series and their fans. He has taught such courses as The Sociology of *Star Trek* and Introduction to Sociology: *Star Wars* Edition. He received CLC's Outstanding Faculty award in 2005 and is adviser to the CLC Star Trek Student Discussion Group. He has an MA in Sociology from DePaul University and is working on a second MA in Humanities from Tiffin University in Ohio. He was recently featured in a documentary about *Star Wars* fans called *The Force Among Us*. In his presentation titled "Captain Kathryn Janeway and The Narratemes of *Star Trek Voyager*," Mr. Tenuto will present on the TV show *Star Trek Voyager*, a spin-off of *Star Trek: New Generations*, focusing on the character of Captain Kathryn Janeway and her crew, and their linkage to previous mythologies.

**Dr. Norma Moruzzi**, University of Chicago Associate Professor of Political Science and Gender/Women's Studies, is our guest expert for the Friday evening film showing of *Persepolis* (2007), an animated film about a girl who comes of age during the Iranian Revolution. The film won the Jury Prize at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival. Dr. Moruzzi will introduce the film and then facilitate discussion after the film. Dr. Moruzzi received her doctorate from Johns Hopkins University in 1990, and she is currently the Associate Head of Political Science at UIC. She teaches courses and conducts research on political theory, feminist theory, Middle Eastern Islamic Women and Film Studies. She is the author of *Speaking Through the Mask: Hannah Arendt and the Politics of Social Identity (Psychoanalysis and Social Theory)* (2000) and "Out of the Frying Pan, Into the Fire: Young Iranian Women" (2006).

## Advanced Registration

6th Gender Conference: Gender Conference 2009:

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 April 16 and 17, 2009

**Advanced Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 15, 2009**

Prices will be \$5 more at the door.

Name of Registrant \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Status \_\_\_\_\_

College/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### General Public

Thur & Fri \$90 \_\_\_\_ Thur Only \$45 \_\_\_\_ Fri Only \$45 \_\_\_\_

Keynote lunch attendance only, fee per day \$15 \_\_\_\_

Individual session fee \$10 \_\_\_\_

### CLC Faculty & Staff

Thur & Fri \$75 \_\_\_\_ Thur Only \$37 \_\_\_\_ Fri Only \$37 \_\_\_\_

*Faculty and staff volunteers receive a discounted rate.*

*Contact Women's Center for details.*

### Student

Thur & Fri \$30 \_\_\_\_ Thur Only \$15 \_\_\_\_ Fri Only \$15 \_\_\_\_

*Registration sponsorship is available for students with financial hardship. Complete "Advanced Student Sponsorship Registration" form.*

I wish to sponsor \_\_\_\_ # of students at \$30 \_\_\_\_ or \$15 \_\_\_\_.

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*All proceeds help support Women's Center programs for low-income students.*

**College of Lake County Women's Center B212 – B213**  
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