

H450INT: "UU History Through UU Women's Hymns"

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Meadville Lombard Theological School

Summer Course at Ferry Beach

August 16-22, 2009

To take this course you must sign up with Meadville Lombard and Ferry Beach. It will be important that each class member do some serious reading beforehand, and work out at least the outline of a paper or two. We will be focusing on American Unitarian and Universalist history through some of the creative hymns of UU women from the beginning. Ferry Beach has – for our purposes – no library. I will bring most of my library of hymnals and songbooks containing women's hymns, biographies and background books where possible. I will bring a basic collection of UU history books to be kept and used only in the meeting room. You should assemble as many of the resources you will need to use as possible. Each class member should own and bring "Singing the Living Tradition," "Singing the Journey," "Hymns for the Celebration of Life" (1964), and "Hymns of the Spirit" (1937). If you do not have the older two I can send copies to you or save one for you at FB. Still older hymnals that are very useful are: "Church Harmonies New and Old" (last edition 1913), "New Hymn and Tune Book" (1914), "The Cheshire Collection (Christian Hymns)" (1845), "The Hopedale Collection" (1850), and "Hymns of the Spirit" (1874, Johnson & Longfellow). Don't forget the amazing resources of the web, and especially the DUUB (Dictionary of UU Biography).

There will be ten class sessions through the week. We will schedule sessions as much as possible to avoid conflict with other women's events during the week. It would be very useful if you would gather all the contemporary UU women's songbooks for at least the song writers you most enjoy (ie Mary Grigolia, Caroline McDade, Shelley Jackson Denham, Grace Poley, Alicia Carpenter, etc.). A (c 15 p.) paper is required on one woman UU hymn or song writer chosen from past or present. Two one or two page assignments are required – exploring (one) the receptivity of a U, U or UU hymnal's (your choice) receptivity to all women's hymns, and (two) a hymnal (your choice, but not SLT or SFJ) that seems progressive in response to women's and other's rights.

Before you Come to Ferry Beach you should read C. Conrad Wright's "A Stream of Light," UUA (Boston, 1975) and Charles Howe's "The Larger Faith," Skinner House (Boston, 1993), Other resources you may wish to consult are: "A History of Unitarianism in Transylvania, England and America" by Earl Morse Wilbur, Harvard University Press (Cambridge, 1952), "Freedom Moves West," by Charles H. Lyttle, Beacon Press (Boston, 1952), "Prophetic Sisterhood," by Cynthia Grant Tucker, Beacon (Boston, 1990), "Standing Before Us," ed. By

Dorothy May Emerson, Skinner House (Boston, 2000), "The Larger Hope," Vols 1 & 2, by Russell Miller, UUA (Boston, 1979 & 1984), "The Universalist Church of America," by Clinton Lee Scott, UHS (Boston, 1957), and "The Universalist and Unitarian Women Ministers," (second edition), by Catherine F. Hitchings, UUHS (Boston, 1985). For those with an antiquarian interest "Singers and Songs of the liberal Faith" by Alfred Putnam, Roberts Brothers (Boston, 1875) is invaluable for early liberal women poets and hymn writers.

All those who register in time will receive a copy of my long out of print, "Bibliography of UU Hymnwriters" which, inadequate as it is and prone to errors, still is the only marginally comprehensive overview.

SESSION ONE "In the Beginnings" – Unitarian and Universalist beginnings across the Atlantic and UU beginnings on this side.

HYMNS OF: Anna Laetitia Barbauld, "Madame" Guyon, Helen Maria Williams, Sarah Flower Adams, Harriet Martineau, Judith Sargent Murray, Jane Roscoe

SESSION TWO "Organizing Universalism and Unitarianism"

HYMNS OF: Emily Taylor, Mary Whitwell Hale, Eliza Lee Cabot Follen and Caroline Gilman

SESSION THREE "Universalism pre Civil War and Unitarian Transcendentalism"

HYMNS OF: Sarah Edgarton Mayo, Jane Coburn, Abby Hills Price, Mrs. H.F. Gould, Alice Cary, Eliza Cook, Louisa May Alcott, Maria Weston Chapman, Caroline Weston, M.W. Hale, Margaret Fuller

SESSION FOUR "War and its Aftermath" Port Royal experiment and others – UU organizing and the place of women.

HYMNS OF: Mary Livermore, Julia Ward Howe, Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, Ann W. Hall, Mary Safford

SESSION FIVE UU women – post Civil War – Centenary Assn., Women’s Alliance, UU Women Ministers – denominational openness and closures.

HYMNS OF: Phebe Hanaford, Ada Bowles, Frances Dana Gage, Minnie Colegrove, Ellen Watkins Harper, Eliza Scudder.

SESSION SIX Late 19th Century – Free Religious Association, Western Conference Women, Prophetic Sisterhood, Caroline Soule and missions.

HYMNS OF: C.P. Wooley, Mary Gordon, the Cary sisters, E.D. Cheney, Augusta Larned, Julia C.R. Dorr, Abby Gannett, Caroline Mason, Emma Marean, Jane Taylor

SESSION SEVEN Early 20th Century – Denominational struggles – public issues (FOR, NAACP, ACLU, WILPF, Statement of Social Principles) – war and its aftermath, Sadie Ellis’ mission

HYMNS OF: C.P. Gilman, Margaret Crook, Helen Hunt Jackson (aka Saxe Holm), Anna Garlin Spencer, Florence Harris, Love Maria Willis, Caroline Sawyer, Florence Harris, Emily Green Balch, Francis Whitmarsh Wile and others

SESSION EIGHT Depression and awakening after WW II – Women in Universalism & Unitarianism

HYMNS OF: Anna Garlin Spencer, Francis Whitmarsh Wile, Sara Comins, Malvina Reynolds – and other folk singers

SESSION NINE Late Twentieth Century Blossoming of the movement and women in it, Women and Religion, Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, *Standing Before Us* and Women's Heritage Society, etc. Merger, Black empowerment, women's rights, youth rights, gay rights, etc.

HYMNS and SONGS OF contemporary UU women hymnwriters including Grigolia, Denham, Poley and McDade [including Gaia].

SESSION TEN An open session that may be placed anywhere in the week – with guest UU woman hymnwriter TBA.