



Many Voices

Fall, 2008

A newsletter of the University of St. Thomas
Luann Dummer Center for Women, the
University Committee on Women, and the
Women's Studies Program

Women and Politics

Eleanor Clift

Monday, September 29, 2008

7:00 pm

OEC Auditorium



Washington power struggles can make for a confusing and opaque world. Eleanor Clift, a contributing editor at Newsweek and lucid writer on national politics and the influence of women in politics, penetrates this murky world to offer startling insights.

As somebody who knows this world inside out, Eleanor Clift is often assigned to follow key stories such as presidential nomination and election campaigns. Clift brings a wealth of experience and perspective to her work. Formerly Newsweek's White House correspondent, Clift also served as congressional and political correspondent for six years. Clift is a regular panelist on the syndicated talk show, "The McLaughlin Group," and a political analyst for the Fox News Network. She is also on the board of the International Women's Media Foundation. Eleanor Clift's lectures shed light on key national issues and political developments. Eleanor Clift started as a secretary at Newsweek and worked her way up. She has covered every presidential campaign since 1976, and can share what it's like and how life for reporters has changed both on the campaign trail, and for those who achieve the coveted position of White House correspondent.

Always insightful and timely, her talks combine the specialist's expertise with a populist touch to produce a lively, provocative, and enjoyable event for any audience.



Women in the Classroom: A Discussion of the Harvard Video Vignettes

On Thursday, Oct. 16, from 3:30-5 pm, the Women's Center will be partnering with Faculty Development to offer a discussion of women's experience in the classroom, a program designed to address the experiences of both faculty and students. Do students view female and male faculty differently? Do faculty interact with male and female students in the same way? How might race intersect with gender in the classroom? These are a few of the questions addressed in the 5 Harvard video vignettes, created by the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning and based on real classroom situations. We will discuss the vignettes, all under 5 minutes, to discern the issues raised and brainstorm strategies for addressing them, from both faculty and student perspectives.

In "Women in the Classroom," five vignettes show moments based on real classroom experiences in which the role of women is an issue, either because of the gender of the teacher or students or because of the topic under discussion. The classrooms scenes present issues such as gaining authority, gendered modes of expression, male and female dominance, race and gender conflicts, and faculty responsibility. Also included is a series of "Shorts," provocative, unrehearsed student one-liners on gender issues that are grouped in eight sets by topic. All the vignettes are intentionally provocative, and can lead to fruitful discussions of complex topics.



Everyone invited to Yarn Tamers get-togethers

Yarn Tamers is an opportunity for faculty, staff, students and outside community members to spend a relaxing hour working on yarn projects, meeting new friends and colleagues and socializing. Newcomers are encouraged to stop by either location and join in the fun. Members of the group are always happy to teach others the skills they know.

Each year the St. Paul group works on a service project with materials funded by a small grant from the Women's Center.

We are currently crocheting and knitting squares to be sewn into afghans that will be donated to family shelters and/or hospices. You are welcome to join us in this project or work on your own yarn crafts.

Yarn Tamers – MPLS meets on Thursdays from noon-1:00 pm in Food for Thought and Yarn Tamers – St. Paul meets on Mondays from noon-1:00 pm in Room 103, OEC in the Luann Dummer Center for Women.

Anyone can come to Yarn Tamers, even if they don't have knitting or crocheting experience. There is no formal registration; interested people can just show up to a meeting. Contacts: pmalexander@stthomas.edu for St. Paul group and mkwimer@stthomas.edu for MPLS group.



16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

This year, the Women's Center, along with the Sexual Violence Prevention Programming Committee, is spearheading an "event" called "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence." It is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991. The 16 days begin on November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women, and end on December 10, International Human Rights Day. It also includes November 29, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December 1, World AIDS day, and December 6, the

Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. It is observed in over 40 countries world-wide. At the University of St. Thomas, different groups on campus will pick an activity for each of those days that will highlight and address the prevalence of gender violence. Such activities might include providing information to our community of current statistics, celebrating achievements and milestones, signing petitions to lobby the government, and hosting a prayer service for victims of gender violence.



Notes from the Director



Climate Change

At the end of last Spring the results of the most recent Climate Study were revealed. And they were pretty much what people suspected: a chilly climate for persons of color, GLBT persons and women. The results of conversations with focus groups revealed that one contributing factor to

the chilly climate has been the controversies surrounding public programming at the University over the years. For women, the climate remains chilliest for female faculty who have to negotiate both the interplay of their students' gender expectations, as well as the same workplace forces that make it difficult for women to advance in any organization.

Last Spring at a workshop titled "Dismantling Racism" the workshop leaders stressed that organizations do not progress towards the goal of an authentically diverse community until they develop a recognition of the interrelatedness of all "-isms." In other words, if the climate is chilly for one group, it will be chilly for all groups.

But the fact is, it is hard to work from a holistic (or what liberation theologians call a "systemic") understanding of oppression, marginalization, or privilege/patriarchy.

All of us have been socialized to think of things like sexism apart from racism. Just look at the coverage of the current Presidential race, where the race between Obama and Clinton was often cast (and is still being analyzed), not as a race between two equally qualified candidates with similar but distinct platforms, but rather as a contest between whether America is more racist or sexist.

It has long been pointed out by those who have struggled for the oppressed that binary thinking, i.e. putting all problems into an "either-or" framework, is a tool of oppression. The only way power relationships are maintained is if the majority of those who experience marginalization spend more effort struggling with each other rather than banding together to revolt against the marginalization itself. Although this theory has been used to talk about political revolution, the fact is, any real change or "conversion" of an institution can only come about if we all refuse to give in to the false dichotomies that keep groups apart.

Yet, as the Advisory Board and I have discovered, working under a different model often makes us and others uncomfortable. We are often confronted with difficult choices.

What programs do we support financially? How much support do we give to a speaker who addresses racism, but not sexism, for example? What if their views on gender or sexual orientation are antithetical to those of the Center? Are we open to criticism if our major speakers are white? What percentage of our programming should be devoted to addressing the intersection of various marginalizations? And how do we continue to educate a student population that is often well-trained in sexist assumptions, regardless of their ethnic identity? As we have set up our programs for 2008-09, these have been some of the principles with which we have struggled.

This year we are bringing in a major speaker in the Fall, because we want to give students, many of whom will participate in their first presidential election, a chance to think about the relationship of gender and politics. We are hosting Eleanor Clift, a regular on "The McLaughlin Group," a political analyst for Fox News Network, and co-author of the book, *Madam President*. Although this book is a bit dated, its analysis of the obstacles facing women in American politics remains timely. What I most appreciate about it is its bi-partisan look at the topic. Clift will speak on September 29 on "Women and Politics," an important topic not just for the presidential election, but for all of the races that we vote on. We will prepare for her visit by offering a book group discussion on *Madam President*.

Later in the year, we will also host our annual March Women's History Month Speaker, who will be noted feminist, Susan Faludi, whose talk is titled, "Why Feminism Still Matters." We chose her because of her continued focus on how feminist ideals have been whittled away, especially in popular media. Her first book, *Backlash* demonstrates the phenomenon many of us have experienced, that there is a backlash on several fronts against the gains made in the Civil Rights Movements of the 1960s and 70s. Her most recent book, *Terror Dreams*, which we will use for our February book groups, looks at the portrayal of gender in the media in our post-9/11 world.

In addition to these two major speakers, we have a variety of other events and co-sponsorships that I am very excited about. We will have only two Feminist Fridays this Fall, one by Dr. Angela High-Pippert on gender issues in local elections, and one by Dr. Mary Ann Ryan on the difference women make in designing buildings that serve college students. We will also co-host some events in connection with the Havel Symposium, including a reception for Zora Bútorová, who will give a public lecture on Oct. 9 at 3:30 on "The Role of



Women in the New Democracies – at Work, in Politics, in Changing Family Dynamics.” We will co-sponsor a discussion of “Women in the Classroom: A Discussion of the Harvard Video Vignettes” with Faculty Development on Oct. 16 at 3:30. In November, we will host a book group related to the campus visit by Immaculee Ilibagiza, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide. With the Sexual Violence Prevention Programming Committee, we will facilitate an “event” titled “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence” from Nov. 25-Dec. 10. Lastly, we continue to partner with the Twin Cities group, WomenSpirit, which is planning a series of panels on global women’s experience of war. We are also continuing to host “Feminists in Faith,” an inter-religious dialogue group associated with WomenSpirit that meets once a month.

I am sure that Spring will be equally full and exciting. In addition to our March speaker, we will also co-sponsor Challenge Day, a campus-wide activity meant to challenge

various forms of stereotypical thinking. Currently for one of our Feminist Fridays, we will have a panel by International women students on issues concerning dating on February 13. And we hope to host Take Back the Night once again; last Spring we doubled our attendance at the event. One of the things that makes UST’s celebration unique is the number of men who attend. All of these programs in both the Fall and Spring demonstrated the interconnectedness of women’s experience across the globe.

Thank you for all of your support last year. I feel so lucky to be able to work with all of the people that I do, from my Advisory Board, to the various people in other offices with whom we co-sponsor. I am convinced that more binds us than separates us, and that we really can change the climate at UST if we stubbornly insist on a view of justice that is imbedded in the full dignity of each individual person. Hopefully our programs this year will reflect that message.

— Corrine Carvalho



News from the Sexual Violence Prevention Program Committee

Fall Welcome Keynote: “Can I Kiss You?”
by Mike Domitrz, OEC Auditorium

4 p.m. (Residents of JPII, Brady, Murray, SYE apartments, transfer houses, Morrison, Selby and all commuter students)
7:30 p.m. (Residents of Dowling, Ireland, Cretin, Grace, SJV)

College students love Mike Domitrz’s hilarious, high energy, interactive and unique program on healthy relationships, dating and intimacy. Do you get fed up with all the games people play in dating and with hooking up? While some games may seem entertaining, dating games can lead to confusion and even danger. “Can I Kiss You?” will show you precisely how to eliminate the games by saying exactly what you want. You will discover how raising the level of respect between you and your partner actually heightens the romance! After attending this presentation, you and your friends will be talking about it for days. If you are unable to make your assigned session, you may attend the other session.



University Advocates for Women and Equity

The University Advocates for Women and Equity (formerly University Committee on Women) will hold its annual fall meeting for all interested members of the UST community on Thursday, October 9, from noon to 1 pm in JRC 126 on the St. Paul campus. Our focus for the 2008-2009 academic year will continue to be the campus climate for women, with a special emphasis on concerns related to workplace bullying.

Be sure to notice the new brochure racks in women’s restrooms on campus, sponsored by UAWE, with items of interest for women!



What's Happening at the Center

Our calendar is already filling up here at the center. We welcome you to any or all of our programs and co-sponsored events. See the LDCW website for information on additional events and activities.

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| September 19 | Feminists in Faith, WomenSpirit
"Feminisms and Christianity"
Noon - 1 p.m., Luann Dummer Center
for Women (LDCW) | November 14 | Feminists in Faith, WomenSpirit
<i>Dr. Fatmah Reda, "Feminisms and Islam"</i>
12-1 p.m., LDCW |
| September 29 | Eleanor Clift, "Women and Politics"
7 p.m., OEC Auditorium | November 16 | WomenSpirit event
<i>Panel, "Hearing Women's Stories of War and
Creating Initiatives for Peace"</i>
2-4 p.m., 100 McNeely |
| October 9 | Havel Symposium
<i>Zora Bútarová, "The Role of Women in the
New Democracies – at Work, in Politics, in
Changing Family Dynamics."</i>
3:30 – 4:30 p.m. 100 McNeely | December 5 | Feminist Friday
<i>Dr. Mary Ann Ryan, "Women Who Build
Buildings: Student Affairs Professionals
Experiences"</i>
Noon - 1 p.m., LDCW |
| October 10 | Feminist Friday
<i>Dr. Angela High-Pippert, "Whiplash:
Women Candidates, Media Coverage, and
Gender Stereotyping"</i>
Noon - 1 p.m., LDCW | | |
| October 10 | Reception for Havel Symposium speakers
Martin and Zora Bútorá
3:00-4:30 p.m., LDCW | February 13 | Feminist Friday
<i>Panel of international women students,
"International Love, Dating, Marriage and
Family"</i>
12-1 p.m., LDCW |
| October 12 | WomenSpirit event
<i>Nazrin Jewell, "Women of Iran: Myth and
Reality"</i>
2 - 4 p.m., Central Lutheran Church,
Minneapolis | March 3 | March Women's History Month
<i>Speaker Susan Faludi, "Why Feminism Still
Matters"</i>
7 p.m., OEC Auditorium |
| October 16 | <i>Women in the Classroom</i>
Workshop co-sponsored with Faculty
Development
3:30-5:00 p.m., LDCW | | |
| October 17 | Feminists in Faith, WomenSpirit
<i>Rabbi Amy Eilberg, "Feminisms and
Judaism"</i>
Noon - 1 p.m., LDCW | | |
| November 11 | <i>Immaculee Ilibagiza, "Left to Tell"</i>
Co-sponsored with University Lectures
7:30 p.m., OEC Auditorium | | |

Coming Soon



Coming in October: Learn about Changes in Women's Lives in Slovakia and East Central Europe

Each year the House of Hope Presbyterian Church and the University of St. Thomas host a week-long residency of a scholar/activist for the Vaclav Havel Civil Society Symposium. This fall we are fortunate to have two scholars in residence for the week of October 6th, Martin Bútorá and Zora Bútarová. Both are well-published sociologists who have been active in the development of post-Communist Slovakia. Martin Bútorá, the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States from 1999-2003, and Zora Bútarová is one of the leading scholars in public opinion research in Slovakia.

Of particular interest to readers of *Many Voices* is the public address that Zora Bútarová will be delivering on Thursday October 9, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. in 100 McNeely titled: “The Role of Women in the New Democracies – at Work, in Politics, in Changing Family Dynamics.” Come hear how

women's lives have been changing as Slovakia and other east central European countries transition to democracy. A reception will be held after the talk in the lobby of McNeely. All are welcome.

If you would like the opportunity to meet with both Zora and Martin Bútorá in a smaller and more informal venue, please join us at an open house reception in the LDCW on Friday afternoon, October 10, from 3:00 to 4:30. The guests of honor will offer some remarks and will then be available to answer questions and chat with us. This reception is being sponsored by the Luann Dummer Center for Women, the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice and the Justice and Peace Studies Program. Everyone is invited and we would particularly like to encourage students to stop by and meet these two incredible Slovakian scholars and leaders.



Reduce stress, get focused and find balance with the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program

The UST Wellness Center is happy to sponsor the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program, a powerful program for reducing stress, improving general health, and helping one stay focused, productive and on track.

Mindfulness is the practice of cultivating non-judgmental awareness in day-to-day life. It develops the potential to experience each moment, no matter how difficult or intense, with greater serenity and clarity. Mindfulness meditation helps restore and maintain a sense of personal balance and develops the skills to avoid emotional, physical and professional burnout.

The MBSR Program was pioneered by Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn in the late 1970s and has a 29-year track record for successfully treating stress, chronic pain and illness. It is currently being taught around the world.

The program, which will be held at the Luann Dummer Center for Women, will begin in late September. This is an opportunity to really take your health into your own hands and learn tools that will help you better cope with stressful situations, reduce anxiety and worry, improve concentration, and help you find more energy and calm in daily life.

The eight-week program consists of one weekly class, and a full-day Saturday retreat. CDs to help you practice and reduce stress during the week are included in the cost. The class is lively and engaging as well as quiet and relaxing. The instructor, Barbara Wulf is a long-time meditator and yoga practitioner and took her formal training at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center's Center for Mindfulness. Barb teaches in the Twin Cities business and non-profit community and begins her third year teaching at UST.

The cost for this 26-hour class and four CDs is \$345.00. There is a \$60.00 discount for students.

To find out more about the MBSR Program, please register for one of our free on-campus orientation sessions. These 45-minute sessions will be held on Tuesday, September 9th and Wednesday, September 10th. Please call for time and location.

Program dates: Tuesdays, Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18 with an all-day Saturday session on Nov. 8th.

For more general program information or to register, please contact Barbara Wulf at bw@meditationmatters.com or 612-374-2876.



Speak Out: Preventing War; Creating Peace

WOMENSPIRIT, the ecumenical collaboration of 11 Twin Cities women's organizations supporting women on their spiritual journey, has responded to recent rhetoric about war and nuclear weapons as well as military action around the globe by sponsoring a 3 Part Series on Women, War and Peace.

Part I

"Women of Iran—Myth and Reality"

Sunday, October 12, 2008, 2-4PM, at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Nazrin Jewell, PhD, faculty member at the College of St. Catherine will speak

Part II

"Hearing Women's Stories of War and Creating Initiatives for Peace"

Sunday, November 16, 2008, 2-4PM at McNeely 100, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, a panel of women living in the Twin Cities who have experienced war in their countries will share their stories:

Following the panel presentation, audience members will participate in small group conversations about their response, thoughts and possible action for peace both personally and or community based.

Part III

"Women, Religion and War"

(Date and Location to be announced.)

An invitation has been extended to Sr. Joan Chittister, Benedictine nun from Erie, Pa. to speak on "Women, Religion and War." If Sr. Joan's schedule can't accommodate our invitation, The DVD of "Women, Religion and War" will be shown followed by audience discussion. More information to follow on the WomenSpirit website: www.womenspirit-twincities.org.

Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10. Students: \$5 with student ID. Scholarships are available.

For additional information call the Luann Dummer Center for Women at 651-962-6118 or WomenSpirit at 612.823.5901

WomenSpirit member organizations are: Central Lutheran Church, Wisdom Ways, St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, the League of Catholic Women, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Plymouth Congregational Church, Wayzata Community Church, the Luann Dummer Center for Women, the Loyola Spiritual Center, St. Olaf Catholic Church, and the Basilica of St. Mary.



Feminists in Faith

Feminists in Faith is an inter-religious dialogue group initiated in 1984. Catholic, Jewish, Muslim and Protestant women met monthly over the lunch hour for interfaith discussion. It encourages openness to diverse faith thought to enrich individual thinking and the broader community. Each program has a presenter or facilitator responsible for that program. Members included academic professors of religion, professional ordained, lay and religious ministers and rabbis and professional women in the community.

This Fall we have decided to feature three programs dealing with the intersection of feminism(s) and the three

monotheistic traditions. On Sept. 19th we will look at Feminism and Christianity, with Dr. XXX. On October 17th, Rabbi Amy Eilberg will lead us in a discussion of Feminism and Judaism, while November 14th will feature Dr. Fatmah Reda speaking on Feminism and Islam.

All events take place from noon - 1 p.m. at the Luann Dummer Center for Women at the University of St. Thomas. Participants can park in the ramp on Cretin; we will provide parking vouchers. Please bring a brown bag lunch and we will provide cookies and drinks.



Why Feminism Still Matters

Susan Faludi

March 2009 Women's History Month Speaker

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

7:00 pm

OEC Auditorium

Reception/book signing following lecture



A compelling voice in American feminism, writer Susan Faludi is one of the most astute chroniclers of the changing roles and expectations of men and women. After winning the Pulitzer Prize in 1991 as an investigative reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*, Faludi “set off firecrackers across the political landscape” (Time) with her groundbreaking book *Backlash: The Undeclared War Against American Women*. An eloquent examination of the issues facing women today, the book was an international best-seller and winner of the 1992 National Book Critics Circle Award.

Considered a “groundbreaker” in terms of redefining gender perceptions, Susan’s thought provoking presentations challenge modern stereotypes and force people to re-evaluate their views and convictions in order to better understand and relate within the social structures of a modern society.

LUANN DUMMER CENTER FOR WOMEN

Hours: M - F 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Staff: Corrine L. Carvalho, Director
Pat Alexander, Administrative Assistant
Mai C. Vang, Student Assistant
Betsy Corr, Student Assistant
Laura Thayer, Graduate Student Curator (Art
History Dept.)

Telephone: (651) 962-6119
From this number you can access hours and leave a message.