

Maine Women Writers Collection  
Maine Women's Studies Consortium  
New England Women's Studies Association

**Spring Academic Conference**  
**March 30-31, 2012**

**Identity · Memory · Testimony**

**PROGRAM OF EVENTS**

**ONGOING EVENTS**

**Research in the MWWC** Appointments are available for visit or study in the MWWC. See Cathleen Miller, MWWC Curator, to schedule.

**Exhibit**

**“Art That Heals”**

Bessie Smith Moulton, Book Artist

**Proctor 104**

*Ms. Moulton will be available to talk about her exhibit during the morning and afternoon breaks (10:30-10:45 a.m. and 3:45-4:00 p.m.) as well as the last session, 5:45-6:45 p.m.*

**Artist's Statement:** This exhibit invites you to enter a theater--of projections, handmade books, sounds, and installations--which is based on childhood memories.

Through this segment of my artwork that I call 'Art That Heals,' I go back to those formative years to retrieve memories of important relationships and events that have contributed to the person I am today. My relationship with my mother takes center stage in this exhibit through an installation and in a book entitled 'Mended.' During the course of a woman's life, the struggle for personal identity often overshadows the importance of the mother/daughter relationship.

My work derives its character not only from my training and experience as an artist but also in the fields of psychology and art therapy. My artist's books are held internationally by private and institutional collections and locally by the MWWC and The Portland Museum of Art.

**Library Displays**

Throughout the Conference, the following displays will be available for viewing. All are located in the Abplanalp Library.

**“Identity · Memory · Testimony”**

**Sarton Room, Maine Women Writers Collection**

**“BOOKS”**

An exhibition of the works of  
Maine book artist Robinson McCarthy

**Large 1<sup>st</sup>-floor display case**

## **“More than Angels of Mercy: Women in Nursing”**

### ***“Behold in me the Registered Nurse!”***

**Small 1<sup>st</sup>-floor display case**

From 1927 until 1930 Mildred Frances McKinley was a nursing student at Cary Memorial Hospital in Caribou, Maine. Her letters, housed within the Maine Women Writers Collection, detail her educational experiences and her search for work in depression era America.

### ***Ruth Banfield Lowderback: Flight Nurse***

**Bulletin board -- stairway**

From November 1944 through November 1945 of World War II, Ruth Banfield Lowderback served as a First Lieutenant, Air Evacuation Nurse, in the South Pacific Theater. Her daily correspondence to her husband is a part of the Bush Legacy Collection and chronicles her flying evacuation missions.

### ***“Black Women in White”: African American Nurses***

**Bulletin board -- lower level**

Long before nurses were trained to care for the sick, nursing was a role assigned to Black women, and they faced a double-edged sword of prejudice—as women and as African Americans.

## **FRIDAY, MARCH 30**

**Women’s History Walking Tour: Gorham’s Corner/Portland Waterfront** 3:15 p.m.

Led by Polly Kaufman and Eileen Eagan. Free, but advance registration requested. See Conference website for more information.

**Registration and Opening Reception**

**UNE Art Gallery, 6:00-7:00 p.m.**

**Poetry Reading**

**WCHP Classroom, 7:00 p.m.**

A reading and discussion by Abenaki writer Cheryl Savageau, Maliseet artist and author Mihku Paul, and Métis Blackfoot/Mohawk/Seneca poet and fiction writer Susan Deer Cloud. The three writers will read from their work and discuss reclaiming Native space, retelling Native history, bearing witness, and adaptation and celebration of the survival of Native culture.

## **SATURDAY, MARCH 31**

**Registration and continental breakfast**

**Proctor Center, 8:00-9:00 a.m.**

*Except during the Keynote Address, the Registration table will be staffed all day in the Proctor Center.*

**New England Women’s Studies Association  
Business Meeting**

**Proctor 105, 8:00-9:00 a.m.**

Everyone is welcome. Please come to learn more about NEWSA and discuss plans for 2012-2013!

**Session I 9:00-10:30 a.m.**

**(A) Transgression, Conformity, and Gender Identity**

**Blewett 027**

(Panel)

Chair: Elizabeth De Wolfe, University of New England

Amber Reitan, University of New England, "Etiquette and a Nineteenth-Century Woman's Identity: Passivity, Submissiveness and Conformity"

Megan Bagdon, University of New England, "Manners, Duty, and Identity: Nineteenth-Century Etiquette in The Lamplighter"

Caitlin Tetreau, University of New England, "'Pecan Pies and Passion': 1940s Sexuality through the World War II Letters of Ruth Banfield Lowderback"

**(B) Portaging Through Maine's Native History:  
Toward Truth and Reconciliation**

**Maine Women Writers Collection**

(Roundtable)

Chair: Donna M. Loring

Participants: Christina Baker, Acadia Senior College; Anne Funderburk, Acadia Senior College; Bettye Worcester, Acadia Senior College; Gary DeLong; Judy DeLong

**Break 10:30-10:45 a.m.**

**Proctor Center**

**Session II 10:45-12:15 p.m.**

**(A) Making Sense of the Personal: Auto/Biography**

**Blewett 027**

(Panel)

Chair: Lisa M. Giles, University of New England

Kate Culkin, Bronx Community College, "Stories of Mother, Father, Home: Ellen Tucker Emerson's Memoirs of Her Parents"

Esther Gordon Ginzburg, Bar Ilan University, Israel, "From Sense to Nonsense: The Hidden Autobiography of Laura E. Richards"

Kandace Brill Lombart, independent scholar, "'When I am sad/Remembering . . . : Ruth Stone'"

Mary Delaney, Mount Saint Vincent University, "Self as Researcher and Subject: Illuminating the Shadows by Being Interviewed"

**(B) The Spatial Politics of Borders & Movement**

**Blewett 015**

(Panel)

Chair: Kate Winger, University of Southern Maine

Lauren Vedal, Bates College, "'She Had To Tell Her': Talk in Same-Sex Diasporic Communities"

Rhea Côté Robbins, University of Maine, "Franco-American Women's Project: Borders and Beyond"

Desdamona Rios and Carlos C. Rios, Bowdoin College, "Addressing Invisibility in Educational Spaces: Why Identifying with the Curriculum Matters for Feminist Activists and Scholars"

Jan Piribeck, University of Southern Maine, "The Walk of the Pedvale Princess: *She Died for Love*"

**(C) Retelling History, Rewriting Memory**

**Blewett 115**

(Panel)

Chair: Kay Retzlaff, University of Maine at Augusta – Bangor

Zabelle Stodola, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, “Mary Schwandt and Maggie Brass (Snana): A Minnesota Pocahontas Story?”

Annette Vance Dorey, Androscoggin Historical Society/University of New Brunswick, ““Unless the trouble could be got rid of”: The Untold Stories of Maine Mothers Who Murdered, 1875-1925”

Mia Fischer, University of Minnesota, “The Implications of Motherhood and Mothering in ‘And They Didn’t Die’ and ‘The Joys of Motherhood’”

**Lunch 12:30-2:00 p.m.**

**Pharmacy Building 24/28**

Welcoming remarks: Jennifer Tuttle, Conference Director

Welcome to UNE: Paulette St. Ours, Associate Dean, UNE College of Arts & Sciences

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS: "Stuck in the Middle with You: a discussion of parenthood in three genders"**

**Jennifer Finney Boylan, Colby College**

*Boylan’s books will be available for sale at the Keynote venue from noon-2 p.m. After her address (from approx. 1:30-2:00), she will have a limited time to sign books.*

**Session III 2:15-3:45 p.m.**

**(A) Lenses on Invisibility: Feminist Political Methods of Memory, Haunting, Representation, and Deconstructing Narratives**

**Blewett 015**

(Roundtable)

Discussant: Heather M. Turcotte, University of Connecticut

Participants: Jamie Huff, University of Connecticut; F. Shaznene Hussain, University of Connecticut; Shawna Lesseur, University of Connecticut; Caryl M. Nuñez, University of Connecticut

**(B) Narrating Violence, Illness, & Survival**

**Blewett 027**

(Panel)

Chair: Melinda Plastas, Bates College

Christine Holden, University of Southern Maine, “Jutka, Gerda, Julia and ME: Jewish Survivors as Mainers”

Indira K. Skoric, Community College of Vermont, "Advocacy and Survivors of Sexual Violence in Bosnia and Kosovo"

Sarah Gurley-Green, Lesley University, “The Effect of Invisible Illness on Female Identity”

Jessica Jennrich, Dartmouth College, “Meaning, Memory, and Medicine: A Feminist Personal Narrative of Disability”

**(C) Feminism & Race Relations in Historical Perspective**

**Blewett 115**

(Panel)

Chair: Mazie Hough, University of Maine-Orono

Rachel A. Snell, University of Maine-Orono, "The Little Lady Who Started this Great War: Harriet Beecher Stowe and the Power of Persuasion"

Chelsea Grieve, University of Maine-Orono, "The Relationship between Abolition and Women's Suffrage: Radical Feminism in the First Month of *The Revolution*, January 1868"

Stephanie Harp, independent scholar, "Inheriting Home: Race, History, and Family Memory"

**(D) Out & Allied:**

**Mining Story, Performing Pedagogy, Creating Change**

**Cahner's Lounge**

(Workshop)

Cathy Plourde, Add Verb Productions/University of New England

This workshop, drawn from an anthology of youth-written performance pieces featured in *Out & Allied*, Add Verb's anthology and handbook, will focus on what it means to be an ally for LGBTQ youth. Working with Cathy Plourde, participants will generate short performance pieces that can be used for raising awareness and inspiring dialogue. These pieces will be performed during this session by participants. The workshop methods are adaptable for nearly any type of topic, action, or issue.

**Break 3:45-4:00 p.m.**

**Proctor Center**

**Session IV 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

**(A) "The humiliation of the past not remade into art':**

**Franco American Art High and Low"**

**Proctor 202**

(Roundtable)

Chair: Susan Pinette, University of Maine-Orono

Participants: Danielle Beaupré, University of Maine-Orono; Mara Bonsaint, University of Maine-Orono; Elise Robichaud, University of Maine-Orono; Susan Poulin, Poolyle Productions

**(B) Legal Subjectivities**

**Blewett 115**

(Panel)

Chair: Leslie Hill, Bates College

Courtney D. Marshall, University of New Hampshire, "'Darky Damsels and Cheeky Wenches': Theorizing Black Ladyhood in the Era of Jim Crow"

Alicia Peters, University of New England, "'Things that involve sex are just different': Or, are they?: Challenging Criminal Justice Perspectives on Human Trafficking with Victim Experience"

Alan D. Brown, III, Mount Saint Vincent University, "Damned if you do. . . . : Paradoxes of (In)Visibility on the Stroll"

Geniece A. Crawford, Harvard University, "Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places: Female Ex-Offender Accounts of Intimate Partner Victimization"

**(C) Representing the Body: Gender & Sexuality****Blewett 027**

(Panel)

Chair: Erica Rand, Bates College

Kathleen March, University of Maine-Orono, "Was it Their Words or What They Wore?  
Bluestockings on Both Sides of the Atlantic"Kerry Gross, Bates College, "'Women's Rugby isn't So Feminine': Challenging Gender  
Norms through Participation in Rugby"Julie A. Eastin, American School of Professional Psychology, Argosy University, "Death  
and Rebirth: The Transformation of Identity and Memory upon Disclosure of  
LGBTQ Status"Kevin Benisvy, University of Massachusetts, Boston, "The Queer Identity and Glitch:  
Deconstructing Transparency"**Performances 5:45-6:45****(A) The Poets and the Assassin: the Daughters of Iran****Ludcke Auditorium**

(Readings from five-act monologue)

Reza Jalali, University of Southern Maine

Reader: Mihku Paul, Maine Women Writers Collection/Stonecoast MFA

Although women in Iran have historically been at the forefront of national struggle for liberation and democracy, their stories of courage, resistance, and survival are unknown to most in the West. They live contradictory and intricate lives in an intensely traditional and patriarchal society. *The Poets and the Assassin* offers insight into the plight of women in Iran and portrays their struggle against religious and cultural tyranny while countering stereotypes about Muslim women. Readings will be followed by discussion with the author.

**(B) ENDOME****WCHP Classroom**

(Performance from long poem)

Holly Bittner, Moore College of Art and Design

This multimedia poetic performance is the testimony of one woman's experience living with the disease endometriosis. Infusing medical records and surgery reports with memories, songs, and dreams, ENDOME treats the body's symptoms as a call to personal transformation and spiritual discovery, at the same time undressing collective wounds of the feminine in Western culture.

**(C) Art That Heals****Proctor 104**

(Book Arts Exhibit)

Bessie Smith Moulton, Book Artist

Please see description on p. 1. Ms. Moulton will be available during this session for questions and discussion.

## Conference Planning Committee

Cadence Atchinson, Library/Reference Services, UNE  
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 Lori Power, Learning Assistance Services/Proctor Center, UNE  
 Heather Turcotte, Departments of Political Science and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies,  
 University of Connecticut  
 Jennifer Tuttle, Maine Women Writers Collection/Department of English and Language Studies, UNE

## Sponsors

The Maine Women Writers Collection  
 The Maine Women's Studies Consortium  
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## About the Sponsors

**The Maine Women Writers Collection** is a permanently endowed special collection of published and unpublished literary, cultural, and social history sources by and about Maine women. The MWWC includes rare and contemporary volumes, manuscript material, memorabilia, artifacts and artwork documenting Maine women's engagement with regional and national concerns, from the late 18th century to the present. Now in its 53rd year of operation, the Collection has been dedicated as a national Literary Landmark by the Friends of Libraries USA. Among its goals are to honor and celebrate the work of new, established, and historical women writers, as well as to foster archives-based scholarly work in women's and gender studies. More information is available on our website, [www.une.edu/mwwc](http://www.une.edu/mwwc), or by calling (207) 221-4334.

**The Maine Women's Studies Consortium** provides support and intellectual community for faculty engaged in interdisciplinary feminist scholarship and teaching at colleges and universities throughout the state. Twice a year, members from across the University of Maine System, Southern Maine Community College, Bates, Colby, Bowdoin, and the University of New England come together to share resources, knowledge and strategies. The Consortium also organizes a research conference and a work-in-progress scholarship retreat each year. For more information contact Wendy Chapkis (Director of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Southern Maine) at (207) 780-4955 or [chapkis@usm.maine.edu](mailto:chapkis@usm.maine.edu).

### **The New England Women's Studies Association**

The New England Women's Studies Association (NEWSA), comprised of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, is a regional branch of the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA). The Chair of NEWSA serves as the liaison between NWSA and the region, and represents the concerns and issues of the individual and group members of the region to the governing board of NWSA. NEWSA's primary goal is to encourage regional outreach, organizing, development, and networking. It seeks to bring together regional women's, gender, and/or sexuality studies programs, departments, and centers to share scholarship, community events, educational, and professional opportunities for students, faculty, and staff. NEWSA's Chair for 2011-2013 is Dr. Heather M. Turcotte at the University of Connecticut, and she may be reached at [heather.turcotte@uconn.edu](mailto:heather.turcotte@uconn.edu).