

2-2002

Women's History Celebration

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THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS/DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES COMMITTEE GRANT APPLICATION

PROVIDE 10 (TEN) COPIES, INCLUDING THE ORIGINAL.
PLEASE PLACE A COPY OF THIS COVER SHEET ON TOP OF EACH COPY

I. Applicant/Organization: Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program

II. a. Responsible Organization Officer: Ann Schonberger

b. Title: Director

c. Campus Address (include EMail and Telephone): 101 Fernald Hall 581-1228

III. Summary of program requiring funding (title; featured artist(s); speaker(s); scheduled date (s):

Spring 2001 Women's History Celebration, February 21 to March 14.

This year's celebration, "Kaleidoscope: Women's History from Diverse Perspectives", is committed to encouraging the academic community to consider history from diverse perspectives. As always, we will provide an array of speakers, panels, films, and displays that will reflect the diversity of women's experiences culturally, religiously, and artistically.

Expand in fuller detail, a supporting statement with detailed, itemized budget. Funding for current application is contingent upon submission of detailed budget and attendance report for any previous years' grants.

IV. a. Total funding required for program:	>	10,636
b. Amount committed by applicant organization:	>	1,000
c. Amount committed by/requested of (please indicate which) other funding sources:	>	800
d. Amount requested of Cultural Affairs/DLS Committee:	>	8,836

Signature of responsible organization officer/date: Ann Schonberger 11/30/01
SIGNATURE DATE

SPACE BELOW FOR COMMITTEE USE:

4,718
- 10%

\$ 4,247

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
C/O PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
200 ALUMNI HALL



November 30, 2001

Kathleen March and Francois Amar
Department of Modern Languages and Classics
274 Little Hall

Dear Kathleen and Francois:

Enclosed you will find our proposal for next spring's Women's History Celebration to be held from February 21 through March 14. (In order to avoid fracturing the celebration with March break, this year we are starting in February. We will be featuring African American women in the first week in support of African American Heritage Month.) We are submitting this as a package, although not all of the pieces are in place, to simplify the work of your committee and to enable us to know how much additional money we need to raise from other campus units. We have some of our own money to commit to the project and have support from the Music Department, but the amount is small. In the past, much of the money for Women's History Celebration has come from other sources. A list of those campus units contributing last year is enclosed.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Kaleidoscope: Women's History from Diverse Perspectives." Inspired in part by recent events which call for us to look at others' points of view and in part by the fact that one of the committee members is from Nepal and at least two others have spent a year abroad, the planning committee is committed to encouraging the academic community to consider history from multiple perspectives. We think that we have a unique opportunity to bring different voices to the campus and to attract a large number of students and faculty who are eager for this information. To this end we are planning on bringing to campus speakers who will broaden our world view.

September 11 has focused much of the world's attention on male Muslim terrorist organizations and on the victimization of women under the Taliban. It is extremely important at this moment to give voice to Muslim women who can articulate their position in the Islamic world and can make clear the role of women in promoting human rights and women's rights within Islam. Riffat Hassan, Professor and Chair of the Religious Studies Program at the University of Louisville, has been involved in representing women and supporting women's rights within the Islamic tradition since 1974. Noting that she is "a Muslim, a theologian, and a women's rights activist," Hassan has made it clear in numerous ways that "Muslim women are no longer nameless, faceless, or voiceless; they are ready to stand up and be counted." A Pakistani by birth, she has been a spokesperson for liberal or progressive Islam at international conferences and at meetings for interreligious dialogue. Her address at the 2002 National Women's Studies Conference was forceful, informative, and engaging.

Humor provides an important additional perspective. Historian, musician, and story teller, Gerri Gribi will present "A Musical Romp Through Women's History." Gribi has toured North America for nearly 20 years sharing her understanding of women's history through traditional women's music. Observing that the well-known women's folk songs "portrayed women as victims...killing themselves because they couldn't get married or killing themselves because they did," she set out to recover songs that showed women in a more positive light. Gribi has been a frequent guest on television and radio and has been ranked among the Top Ten Artists by the national Women's Radio. Her work is both interdisciplinary and multicultural.

We are lucky to have on our committee Satyam Barakoti, a nontraditional student from Nepal. Before coming here, Satyam worked with the Janakpur Women's Development Center. The Center has offered economic opportunities and self empowerment to Maithil women by enabling them to produce their traditional wall paintings on ceramics and cloth for sale. Since 1989 the JWDC has grown from to include 63 women artists. Satyam will use her contacts with the JWDC to bring an exhibit of the paintings to the University and will give a gallery talk as part of the exhibit.

With the History Department we plan as well to bring a cutting-edge historian on women in the south. Historian Glenda Gilmore of Yale has recently published a book which "examines the unfamiliar world of middle class educated black women at a time that was one of the nadirs of black-white relations."

We hope as well to bring Cheryl Townsend Gilkes, professor of Sociology, Colby College, to present "Shirley Caesar and the Souls of Black Folk: Gospel Music as Cultural Critique." Gilkes is exploring in her current research the ways that black women in the twentieth century have used gospel music to deliver their own cultural critique and religious perspectives.

This year we are requesting \$8,836 from the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Committee. This is the budget for the events we are hosting, including the keynote speaker and the closing event. We will be raising funds from other campus units although our success in that arena decreases every year as units consolidate and budgets continue to be tight. With this in mind, although we know you usually only fund half of the cost of the program, we hope you will consider funding the whole program this year.

Thank you for your consideration of our proposal which is the thoughtful work of a committee of students who range from first year to graduate standing.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ann K. Schonberger, Director
Women in the Curriculum and
Women's Studies Program

Janakpur Women's Development Center: Maithil Paintings, an Exhibition

Established in 1989 as a pilot project for economic empowerment of women, Janakpur Women's Development Center is a success story among development workers. The project started with seven village women in a rented space in 1989 and has grown to include 63 women artists, three artisan men, and an office complex with child care facilities. Over the years the women of JWDC have received training in literacy, management, planning, gender awareness, health services, and child care. The structure of the organization, as chosen by the women themselves, allows them to be members of the governing body, which makes important decisions regarding the direction the organization takes.

Artists associated with the JWDC are earning recognition as some of the finest contemporary artists in Nepal. The artists' pleasure in the development of a profession and in the new-found freedom to express themselves through painting is reflected in the stories they tell in their paintings. The paintings are rooted in traditions which Maithil women have passed down through generations. On the occasion of marriage or for festivals such as Deepawali, Maithil women paint lively designs on the mud walls of their houses, only to wash them away in preparation for another occasion or holiday. In JWDC those images are preserved in the form of paintings on paper, ceramics, and cloth. The artists now work daily at the Janakpur Women's Development Center. In the complex that has been decorated with the traditional, mud-relief designs, the artists share ideas and images with women working in other sections of the Center who produce art using ceramics, textiles, and paper mache. For women working in the JWDC, art using painting is synonymous with a new social life with friends from different villages and castes. For more information about JWDC on the worldwide web:

<http://www.asianart.com/exhibitions/jwdc/index.html>

http://www.wallah.org/art/index_en.html

Shipping and Display Costs: 600

Christa Rakich

Rakich is a world class organist who is a faculty member of Westminster Choir College and Music Director at Boston's Jesuit Urban Center. In cooperation with the music department we are bringing her to this area where she will perform a lecture/concert of women composers for the organ at St. John's Church in Bangor.

Honorarium: 1,200
Total 1,200

110

Riffat Hassan

Hassan, Chair of the Religious Studies Program, University of Louisville and student at the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Hassan is a pioneer of feminist theology. She has been engaged in exploring and explaining women in the context of the Islamic tradition since 1974. "What I will say," she commented, "may surprise both Muslims who 'know' women's place and non-Muslims who 'know' what Islam means for women. It is this: I am a Muslim, a theologian, and a woman's rights activist."

Hassan has been extensively involved with Jews, Christians, and Muslims in interreligious dialogue with a focus on human rights in religious traditions. In February, 1999, she founded the International Network for the Rights of Female Victims of Violence in Pakistan (INRFVVP) (<http://ecumene.org/INRFVVP>), a nonprofit organization with a world-wide membership, which has played a major role in highlighting the issue of violence against girls and women in "crimes of honor."

Hassan grew up in Lahore, Pakistan where she was educated at an Anglican missionary school. She graduated with double honors in English and Philosophy from St. Mary's College, University of Durham, England, where she also received her Ph.D. in 1968. Her numerous books include On Women in Islam, Islam and Interreligious Dialogue, Human Rights in Islam, and Peace Education in Islam.

Hassan was a spokesperson for liberal Islam at the International Conference on Population and Development at Cairo in 1994 and at the 4th UN Conference on Population and Development at Beijing (1995). She has been a consultant to a number of international agencies and women's organizations on issues of human rights and women's rights. She is currently a member of the Spiritual Life Committee of the Cathedral Heritage Foundation, a member of the Advisory Board of the Center for Development and Population Activities in Washington, DC, and a member of the Board of the Religious Consultation of Population, Reproductive Health and Ethics (an international NGO).

Honorarium:	2,500	
Travel (flight from Louisville and ground transportation)		614
Lodging		75
Publicity	150	
<u>Total</u>	<u>3,339</u>	

Glenda Gilmore

Gilmore is the Peter V. and C. Vann Woodward Professor of History at Yale University. Gilmore is author of the critically acclaimed Gender and Jim Crow: Women and the Politics of White Supremacy in North Carolina, 1896-1920 and the co-editor of Jumpin' Jim Crow: Southern Politics from Civil War to Civil Rights. Her third book, Who Were the Progressives?, will be out this coming spring.

In all her works Gilman provides a new look at race relations in the South and emphasizes the ability of blacks to respond to a persistent and institutionalized racism. Gender and Jim Crow "examines an unfamiliar world...a world of middle-class, educated black women at a time that was one of the nadirs of black-white relations in America. With the Supreme Court's affirmation of

legal segregation, Southern black men found themselves disfranchised and excluded from politics. Black women filled that vacuum, Gilmore argues, making a place for themselves as ambassadors to the white community, and as activists on behalf of blacks, and bequeathing to their descendants a heritage of resistance that culminated in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s." The essays in Jim Crow "bring to life the southern men and women--some heroic and decent, others mean and sinister, most a mixture of both--who supported and challenged Jim Crow, showing that white supremacy always had to prove its power. "This volume is especially pertinent because so many historians over the last decade have de-emphasized the importance of race in the South. These essays argue that the central dance of southern history was the efforts of whites to dominate African Americans. The Library Journal deemed the book to be "cutting edge history and belongs in every academic library."

Gilmore received the CCWH/Berkshire Graduate Student Prize for the best dissertation in 1991.

Honorarium:	750
Travel (Flight from White Plains and ground transportation)	512
Lodging (one night)	75
Publicity	150
<u>Total</u>	<u>1,487</u>

Cheryl Townsend Gilkes

Gilkes is the John D. MacArthur Professor of Sociology and African-American Studies and the Director of African-American Studies Program at Colby College. She also teaches at the Harvard Divinity School.

Honorarium:	300
Travel (drive from Waterville)	40
<u>Total</u>	<u>340</u>

A Musical Romp Through Women's History.

Gerri Gribi has toured North America for nearly 20 years, sharing her understanding of women's history through traditional women's music. Observing that the well-known women's folk songs "portrayed women as victims...killing themselves because they couldn't get married or killing themselves because they did," she set out to recover songs that showed women in a more positive light. Delving into the resources at the Library of Congress Archive of Folk Culture and listening to people on their front porches, she discovered "songs which portray our foremothers more realistically as workers, creators, survivors and dreamers." Gribi has been a frequent guest on television and radio, and her original music has been featured in a variety of media outlets including ABC Prime Time Live. She has been ranked among the Top Ten Artists by the national Women's Radio Play and composed and performed in the award-winning documentary Poverty Shock: /Anywoman's Story. She has received the Write Women Back into History Award from

the National Women's History Project. She was graduated Magna cum laude from Thomas More College and studied voice at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. In 1998, after singing as a member of the African American Community Chorus, she returned to school and received an M.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis on African American Studies through Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In addition to performing Gribi will also attend a number of classes.

Honorarium:	2,500
Travel (air fair from St. Paul and ground transportation)	870
Lodging (2 nights)	150
Publicity	150
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<u>Total</u>	<u>3,670</u>