Announcing the 28th Annual
Women and Spirituality Conference:

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Vandana Shiva

Saturday and Sunday, October 31 and November 1, 2009
Minnesota State University, Mankato

Greetings from the 2009 Women and Spirituality Conference! The purpose of this conference is to bring together people of diverse spiritual traditions and to create an atmosphere where ideas about traditions and spiritual growth can be shared. Participation of all people from diverse cultural, spiritual, racial, and ethnic backgrounds is encouraged. We do not advocate or exclude any view, nor do we permit proselytizing. Respect for each other’s views is essential for the success of the conference.

Attached are the Call for Workshop Proposals, Invitation to Exhibit and Opening/Closing application forms. Postmark deadline for workshop proposals and exhibitor applications is April 25, 2009! PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU WISH TO SELL ANY ITEM PERTAINING TO YOUR WORKSHOP, YOU MUST APPLY FOR AN EXHIBITOR TABLE IN ADDITION TO THE WORKSHOP PROPOSAL! You may not sell items as a part of Conference workshops. No late proposals or exhibitor forms will be accepted! Due to a lack of Conference resources, this year and all subsequent years we will be unable to offer any type of stipend or meals for presenters.

Please feel free to make copies of this information to share with friends, publish in newsletters, or post at bookstores, churches, women’s centers, and co-ops. If you know an individual, organization, or publication that would like to be on our mailing list, please give out our mailing address and phone number. See you in October!

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

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<th>Saturday, October 31, 2009</th>
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<td>12:00 - 12:30 Book Signing</td>
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<td>12:30 - 1:30 Lunch (on your own) / Exhibit Browsing</td>
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<td>6:00 Dinner (advance reservations required)</td>
<td>WE NOW OFFER CEU’S</td>
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<td>7:30 Saturday Evening Entertainment</td>
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109 Morris Hall
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-2077 Fax: 507-389-6377
veldhc@mnsu.edu
Web page http://sbs.mnsu.edu/women/
Then click on women and spirit proposals
Call For Workshop Proposals

The 28th Annual Women and Spirituality Conference will be held at Minnesota State University, Mankato, on Saturday and Sunday, October 31 and November 1.

The keynote speaker this year is Dr. Vandana Shiva, a physicist, author, and international leader in multiple interdisciplinary, environmental, and sustainability movements, including the Slow Food and Biodiversity Movements, Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) exploration, challenging and exploring Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, and engaging activism which seeks to acknowledge women’s diversity and contributions to farming and science. Dr. Shiva combines sharp intellectual enquiry with courageous activism. Originally from Dehradun, India, she obtained a doctorate in Physics from the University of Western Ontario in Canada, later using her knowledge to help movements in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Ireland, Switzerland and Austria with their campaigns against genetic engineering. In 1991, Dr. Shiva founded Navdanya, a national Indian-based movement to protect the diversity and integrity of living resources, especially native seed, the promotion of organic farming, and fair trade. For the last two decades Navdanya has worked with local communities and organizations serving more than 200,000 men and women farmers. In 2001 Dr. Shiva started Bija Vidyapeeth, an international college for sustainable living in Doon Valley in collaboration with Schumacher College, U.K.

Dr. Shiva has contributed in fundamental ways to changing the practice and paradigms of agriculture and food. Her books, The Violence of Green Revolution and Monocultures of the Mind have become basic challenges to the dominant paradigm of non-sustainable, reductionist Green Revolution Agriculture. Through her books Biopiracy, Stolen Harvest, and Water Wars, Dr. Shiva has made visible the social, economic and ecological costs of corporate led globalization. Further, she has contributed significantly to gender issues, dramatically shifting the perceptions about Third World women. In 1990 she wrote a report for the FAO on Women and Agriculture entitled, “Most Farmers in India are Women”. Dr. Shiva founded the gender unit at the International Centre for Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Kathmandu and was a founding Board Member of the Women Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). She has initiated an international movement of women working of food, agriculture, patents and biotechnology called, Diverse Women for Diversity. The movement was launched formally in Bratislava, Slovakia in 1998. Diverse Women for Diversity has carried out studies for the National Commission of Women and the Department of Science and Technology. Dr. Shiva chairs the Commission on the Future of Food set up by the Region of Tuscany in Italy. She is a Board Member of the International Forum on Globalization and a member of the Steering Committee of the Indian People’s Campaign against WTO. She also serves on Government of India Committees on Organic Farming. She is an International Councilor of Slow Food and a founding council member of the World Future Council.

Time Magazine identified Dr. Shiva as an environmental “hero” in 2003 and Asia Week has called her one of the five most powerful communicators of Asia. Among her many awards are the Alternative Nobel Prize (Right Livelihood Award, 1993), Order of the Golden Ark, Global 500 Award of UN, and Earth Day International Award.

We invite you to send a proposal for a workshop on any aspect of spirituality. We are particularly seeking workshops that focus on ways in which women of diverse spiritual traditions work together, understanding and respecting the similarities and diversities of their own and others’ lives and traditions. We encourage participants and presenters from varying ethnic, racial, age, ability, and class backgrounds. We emphasize no one spirituality or religion – all approaches are invited.

There will be four workshop periods which will be 90 minutes in length. We welcome a variety of formats: formal paper presentation, round table, activity, ritual, experiential, demonstration, discussion, and child-friendly. Child-friendly sessions can either be geared toward children or children and adults. Although children are welcome at these workshops, we expect all other workshops to be adults only and will make a note of that in the conference program. Activities related to celebration of spirituality are encouraged, including worship services and rituals. In an effort to provide maximum accessibility of workshops to participants, repeat workshops are sought. Your willingness to offer multiple sessions is appreciated. We will attempt to honor all requests made by presenters, but at times, decisions may have to be made by the conference planners regarding rooms, session assigned, etc. We appreciate your flexibility in this matter.

To submit a workshop proposal, please complete and return the enclosed form postmarked no later than April 25, 2009. All who send in proposals will receive notice of acceptance/non-acceptance in June.

Presenters and co-presenters will be provided complimentary conference registration only. Information regarding a co-presenter must be completed on this form for the co-presenter to receive complimentary registration.

Child care will be available for children up to 10 years of age at the Minnesota State Mankato professional child care center, Children’s House. We will include a child care registration form in presenter information as well as in the program. The costs are $45.00 for one day and $60.00 for both days.
This Form Must Be Completed In Full
Postmark Deadline: April 25, 2009

Print clearly or type.

Presenter ___________________________ Co-Presenter ___________________________
E-mail ___________________________ E-mail ___________________________
Phone (Day) (__________) ___________________________ Phone (Day) (__________) ___________________________
Home Address ___________________________ Home Address ___________________________

The following information you provide will be used for the conference program as well as for our planning and organizing. Your workshop descriptions may be edited for the program for the sake of conciseness. The following requested information should be filled out and turned in on the form as it appears below; type “overflow” information on additional sheets as needed. The information requested here is not a substitute for the workshop description (see criterion #6 below); please prepare a separate proposal form for each workshop. Hand-written proposals will not be accepted. Please do not send additional information that has not been requested. You may e-mail your information to: veldhc@mnsu.edu If you have presented a workshop in the past, you MUST still complete this form in full; incomplete forms may not give us enough information to accept your workshop or offer you the accommodations you’re expecting.

1. Title of Workshop __________________________________________

2. Type of Workshop:
   □ formal paper
   □ experiential
   □ story-telling
   □ children as intended Audience
   □ discussion-based
   □ panel of experts
   □ child-friendly
   □ singing/chanting
   □ powerpoint/computer-based
   □ ritual/worship
   □ movement/dance activity
   □ instrumental/drumming
   □ round table
   □ other (explain): __________

   Comments on Type of Workshop (optional—be brief): __________

3. Description of Intended Audience: Explain in 20 words or less if your workshop is aimed at people with no background or at those with some prior knowledge or experience in your topic. Please also mention whether your workshop is targeted at children or is child-friendly. Please understand that we do not exclude men from any part of this conference.

4. Abstract of Workshop Topic: (Do not exceed 4-5 sentences)

5. Autobiographical Information: (Do not exceed 1-2 sentences from both Presenter and Co-Presenter)

6. Full Description of Workshop (TYPE ON SEPARATE PAGE!): Please describe your workshop, explaining its purposes, activities and organization. Make sure your name, address, e-mail address, and phone number are on each page. No proposal will be considered without a complete description, including time breakdown and detailed outline of information, activities and projects.

7. Workshop Session Preferences:
   □ Session I (Saturday, 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
   □ Session III (Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)
   □ Session II (Saturday, 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.)
   □ Session IV (Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

   Would you consider presenting your workshop more than once at the conference?  □ Yes  □ No
   (Please check all sessions that you would like to present).
8. Room Requirements: Please consider the following; if something does not pertain to you, please write “N/A.”
   a. If you have used a room in the past that you would prefer, please list the exact room number and location here; please briefly explain why this room was desirable:

   b. If you have used a room in the past that you would not like to use again, please list the exact room number and location here; please briefly explain why this room was undesirable:

   c. Please prioritize the following rooms in order of most desirable (1) to least desirable (11). If a certain type of room will not work for you, please write that next to it and, if you think useful, explain briefly why it will not work.

      _____ Classroom with moveable chairs
      _____ Classroom with moveable tables
      _____ Classroom with stationary chairs
      _____ Classroom with stationary tables
      _____ Auditorium with stationary chairs
      _____ Auditorium with moveable chairs
      _____ Dance studio
      _____ Conference room with round table
      _____ Conference room with moveable chairs
      _____ Carpeted, bare space
      _____ Tiled floor, bare space

   d. Preferable room size (be specific if you have square footage requirements):

   e. How many people do you imagine you would like to accommodate?:

   f. How would you like your room set up? (Please specify, for example, how you would like the chairs/tables set up):

   g. Disability requirements and accommodations: do you need to be placed in a certain space/area on campus based on a disability that you, your co-presenter, or your intended audience may have? (Please specify, for example, whether there is a certain floor you need to be on; if you need to be near to an elevator; if you need to stay near to the Registration table/Opening Ceremony/Keynote area, etc).

9. Room Details: Please check the following if they apply to your workshop:

      _____ My workshop will need a quiet space
      _____ My workshop will need a loud space
      _____ My workshop will need a moderately audible space
      _____ My workshop features instrumental/singing/chanting/playing music
      _____ I request to be situated near quiet workshops
      _____ I request to be situated near loud workshops
      _____ I request to be situated near moderately audible workshops
      _____ I don’t care whether I am near other quiet, moderate, or loud workshops

10. AV/Multimedia Needs:
    Laptops, CD/tape players, and traditional slide projectors will need to be provided by the presenter. In all of the University rooms that we will be providing for the Women and Spirituality Conference, the following multimedia is available: DVD players, VCR, LCD projector and screen, wireless internet, laptop hookups for PCs, and document cameras (a.k.a. document reader or ELMO). Supplies provided by the Conference are limited to non-disposable items. Any handouts, bibliographies, flip charts, easels, artwork supplies such as dry erase markers, pens, pencils, markers, paper, etc., are the responsibility of the presenter. Please do not ask participants to help with supply expenses!

    Please check all that you will need:
    _____ TV (we will have a projector screen)
    _____ Overhead Projector (the old fashioned kind; we have document readers in all of our Conference rooms)
    _____ Podium
    _____ Microphone (specify type and quantity)
    _____ Carpet
    _____ Table(s)
    _____ Whiteboard/Blackboard
    _____ Other (Please explain): ______________________________________________________
No Use of Scents: Because of restrictions and codes enforced by the University, we cannot allow lighting of candles or sage or use of incense on University grounds. We try to make the conference accessible to all who wish to participate; therefore, we ask that you refrain from the use of perfumes, colognes and other scents at the conference.

If you have an interest in performing/facilitating the opening and closing ritual, please review the following:

Opening/Closing Ritual Proposal

Name: _____________________________________________________________
E-mail: ___________________________________________ Phone: ______________________________

Opening Ceremony: Saturday, 10:30-11:00 A.M.
Closing Ceremony: Sunday, 1:15-2:00 P.M.

Please keep your program within these timeframes and remember that it is important to us that you are punctual (since you are the opening "act," you will be the critical person/people that help us to get the Conference started on time!)

Please provide a detailed description of your opening/closing proposal on a separate piece of paper. Please include the following:

• The title of your opening/closing ritual
• The type/style of your opening/closing ritual (Consider whether it may be one of the following)
  • Ritual/worship-based
  • Interactive, participatory (audience involvement)
  • Lecture
  • Music-based
  • Discussion-based
  • Performance piece
  • Poetry/prose reading/story-telling
  • Other {explain}
• The purpose/goals of your Opening/Closing Ritual
• Equipment, seating, and AV/Multimedia you will need

All proposals should be typed. E-mailed/faxed proposals will be accepted. Please do not snail mail a faxed or e-mailed proposal.

Please note that we will give preference to presenters that are willing to do both the Opening and the Closing Ceremonies.

Thank you. The Program Committee will review your proposal(s) and contact you in June. Return to:

Women and Spirituality Conference
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Women's Studies, 109 Morris Hall
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-2077
Fax: 507-389-6377

OR

If you have questions or concerns, please send inquiries to: veldhc@mnsu.edu
Invitation to Exhibit

We are seeking exhibitors of arts and crafts. Up to 85 spaces will be available in the Shellberg Gym (in order to ensure the security of your items), and acceptance will be determined by the tradition of the conference and a need to maintain varied exhibitions, but remember APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED & ACCEPTED by decision of our organizing committee. The application must be postmarked no later than April 25, 2009, but applications are accepted on a first come-first served basis. All who submit applications by the deadline will receive notice of acceptance/non-acceptance in June/July.

It is not necessary to complete the exhibitor application form for the “Information Only” table. If you would like to place your materials on the general information table, send them along with a note specifying this. However, due to limited space, there is a maximum of 50 pieces per organization.

For those who would like to reserve a table, please note the following guidelines:

- All exhibitors must return an Exhibitor Application Form along with payment.

- A non-refundable exhibitor fee (if you cancel, this will NOT be returned) must accompany the application. The fee for vendors is $100.00 for one space or $175 for two spaces. If you are not accepted, your check will be returned.

- Total space available for one table rental is approximately 6 feet x 6 feet. This will be strictly adhered to because of limited space. Spaces will be in the Shellberg Gym.

- The Shellberg Gym will open for exhibitor set-up on Friday from 4:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. and beginning at 7:00 A.M. Saturday, October 31, 2009.

- Items will be secure when the gym is locked for the evening.

- If you are also presenting at the conference, please arrange coverage of your booth during your workshop.

- Exhibitors who wish to attend the Keynote Address and/or the conference must register and pay the required fee. Please send the completed registration form with your payment after conference registration opens.

- Due to regulations and University policies, exhibitors are not allowed to sell food of any kind at the conference.

- Please make child care arrangements for any child under ten.

(For office use only)

Date Rec’d_________________
Ch. # amt.:_________________
Accepted___________________
Returned___________________
Exhibitor Application

Name of Organization/ Business ____________________________________________________________

Contact Person(s) __________________________________________________________________________

Phone (Day) (_____)___________________________ (Night) (_____) ________________________________

E-mail address ____________________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________________________

• I am also submitting a proposal for a workshop: ☐ yes ☐ no

• Please reserve an exhibit space for our agency: ☐ Saturday & Sunday ($100)
  ☐ Please reserve 2 exhibit spaces ($175)

• I need: ☐ 1 table approx. 6’ x 2’ (includes two chairs) $100.00 OR
  ☐ 1 empty space (includes two chairs) $100.00
  ☐ 2 tables (includes two chairs) $175.00
  ☐ electricity (Note: these will be located differently this year)

• I would prefer to have my table next to (another exhibitor) ________________________________

• Detailed list of arts, crafts, etc…photos if possible (if you are a new applicant) ______________________________

(Your exhibitor application is not complete without the appropriate fee). Spaces are limited and will fill fast so send your application in as early as possible.

Notes:

Return to:
Women and Spirituality Conference
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Women’s Studies, 109 Morris Hall
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-2077 / Fax: 507-389-6377

For further information about exhibiting at the conference, please contact Rita McEvoy, Exhibitor Coordinator, at 507-389-1714 or rita.mcevoy@mnsu.edu

A member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System.
Minnesota State University, Mankato, is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity University.

Individuals with disabilities who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, should contact the Department of Women’s Studies at 507-389-2077 (V), 800-627-3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY) at least five days prior to the day of the event. This document is available in alternative format to individuals with disabilities by calling the above numbers.