



# WOMEN & SPIRITUALITY

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Web page <http://sbs.mnsu.edu/women/>  
Then click on women and spirit proposals

## Announcing the 29th Annual Women and Spirituality Conference:



### Keynote Speaker Dr. Akasha Hull

Saturday and Sunday, October 23 & 24, 2010  
Minnesota State University, Mankato

Greetings from the 2010 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 26, 2010! **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!

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

#### Saturday, October 23, 2010

9:00 - 10:30 Registration / Exhibit Browsing  
10:30 - 11:00 Opening Celebration,  
Announcements & Welcome  
11:00 - 12:00 Keynote Address  
12:00 - 12:30 Book Signing  
12:30 - 1:30 Lunch (on your own) / Exhibit Browsing  
1:30 - 3:00 Session I  
4:00 - 5:30 Session II  
6:00 Dinner (advance reservations required)  
7:30 Saturday Evening Entertainment

#### Sunday, October 24, 2010

9:00 - 10:30 Session III  
11:30 - 1:00 Session IV  
1:15 - 2:00 Closing Celebration

**WE NOW OFFER CEU'S**



MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

# Call For Workshop Proposals



The keynote speaker this year is **Dr. Akasha Hull** (whose chosen first name means "light/luminous" in Sanskrit). She graduated cum laude from Southern University, Baton Rouge. She went on to earn her Master's and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue U in Indiana. An activist scholar, lecturer, writer, poet, and consultant whose work helped to transform the academic and social landscape, Dr. Hull has been a professor of women's studies and literature at the University of California, Santa Cruz, the University of Delaware, and the University of the West Indies-Mona in Kingston, Jamaica. Her publications include four books, one monograph, three edited collections, over twenty articles in professional journals, chapters in a dozen volumes, fifteen book reviews, poems in more than thirty magazines and anthologies, and two short stories.

*All the Women Are White, All the Blacks Are Men, But Some of Us Are Brave: Black Women's Studies* (co-edited), a landmark classic that defined the field, garnered the National Institute's Women of Color Award for rescuing black women from the invisible crack between black studies and women's studies. *Give Us Each Day: The Diary of Alice Dunbar-Nelson* was enthusiastically reviewed in *The New York Times*. Only the second published diary by an African American woman, it opened up the life and times of this fascinating poet-journalist formerly eclipsed by her more famous husband, Paul Laurence Dunbar. *Color, Sex, and Poetry: Three Women Writers of the Harlem Renaissance* highlighted the rich contributions of women to that pivotal era, its painstaking archival research revealing for the first time unsuspected homoerotic connections among the women and lesbian themes in their writings.

Akasha Hull's poetry was first published in *Women: A Journal of Liberation* in the 1970s and, since then, has been featured in such collections as *Flatfooted Truths*, *Life Prayers*, *Sisterfire*, *In Search of Color Everywhere*, *Daughters of Africa*, *Erotique Noire*, *Callaloo*, and *Shout Out: Women of Color Respond to Violence*. *Healing Heart: Poems* (Kitchen Table Press) was called "the voice of a free, fierce, sensual and vivid woman of color" by Ntozake Shange and "a total delight" by esteemed critic Stephen E. Henderson. Her latest book is *Soul Talk: The New Spirituality of African-American Women* (Inner Traditions, 2001). Observing the burgeoning of metaphysical and "New Age" modalities after 1980, Hull posited that politics, spirituality, and creativity were being united into a revolutionary new paradigm. *Soul Talk* was signally endorsed by Toni Morrison and E. Ethelbert Miller and praised in *Publishers Weekly* as "powerful, practical and nourishing gumbo...of the heart and spirit."

Throughout her career, Akasha Hull has keynoted university and community conferences nationwide; given lectures and readings; been interviewed on National Public Radio about the poets of the Harlem Renaissance; participated in grassroots and professional feminist organizing; and presented workshops on multiculturalism, spirituality, creativity, and self-empowerment. She has received prestigious fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Fulbright, Rockefeller, Mellon and Ford Foundations, the American Association of University Women, and the National Humanities Center. In 1992, Purdue U awarded her an Honorary Doctor of Letters "for pioneering work in the field of black feminist studies that has empowered others to hear and appreciate diverse voices."

Over the course of her life, Akasha has studied and/or practiced Southern Baptist Christianity, Rastafarianism, Santeria, metaphysics, meditation, the Alice Bailey teachings, and Buddhism. She has traveled in Brazil, Mexico, Canada, Japan, the Caribbean, England, Ghana, Hawaii, and Costa Rica. She placed as a semifinalist (top 20 of 300) in the Ursula K. LeGuin Imaginative Fiction Contest of *Rosebud Magazine* for "'Touch Me,' They Said, They Wanted." A short story, "Plum Jelly in Hot Shiny Jars," appeared in the 2003 Beacon Press anthology, *Age Ain't Nothing but a Number: Black Women Explore Midlife*. Just recently, she completed her first novel, the story of a contemporary African American actress whose sexual-spiritual journey echoes the challenges and triumphs of women from many different backgrounds.

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 26, 2010**. All who send in proposals will receive notice of acceptance/non-acceptance by the end of 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.

# This Form Must Be Completed In Full

## Postmark Deadline: April 26, 2010

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](mailto: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:**
- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> formal paper           | <input type="checkbox"/> discussion-based | <input type="checkbox"/> singing/chanting          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> experiential           | <input type="checkbox"/> panel of experts | <input type="checkbox"/> powerpoint/computer-based |
| <input type="checkbox"/> story-telling          | <input type="checkbox"/> child-friendly   | <input type="checkbox"/> ritual/worship            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> movement/dance         | <input type="checkbox"/> round table      | <input type="checkbox"/> instrumental/drumming     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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."
- If you have used a room in the past that you would prefer, please list the exact room number and location:
  - 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.
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Classroom with moveable chairs	<input type="checkbox"/> Dance studio
<input type="checkbox"/> Classroom with moveable tables	<input type="checkbox"/> Conference room with round table
<input type="checkbox"/> Classroom with stationary chairs	<input type="checkbox"/> Conference room with moveable chairs
<input type="checkbox"/> Classroom with stationary tables	<input type="checkbox"/> Carpeted, bare space
<input type="checkbox"/> Auditorium with stationary chairs	<input type="checkbox"/> Tiled floor, bare space
<input type="checkbox"/> Auditorium with moveable chairs	
  - Preferable room size (be specific if you have square footage requirements):
  - How many people do you imagine you would like to accommodate?:
  - How would you like your room set up? (Please specify, for example, how you would like the chairs/tables set up):
  - 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

**10. AV/Multimedia Needs:**

Laptops, CD/tape players, and traditional slide projectors will need to be provided by the presenter. In 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:

- Overhead Projector-the old fashioned kind; we have document readers in all of our Conference Rooms  
(you must supply your own cable for hook up to projector)
- 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  
Gender & 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](mailto:veldhc@mnsu.edu)

## Invitation to Exhibit

We are seeking exhibitors of arts, crafts and other appropriate displays for up to 85 spaces in the Shellberg Gym (if available). 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 26, 2010. 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 \$175.00 for two spaces. If you are not accepted, your check will be returned.
- Total space available for one table rental is approximately 8 feet x 8 feet. This will be strictly adhered to because of limited space. Spaces will be in the Shellberg Gym if it is available.
- The vendor space 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 23, 2010.
- 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
- 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.**

**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

*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.*



Minnesota State University, Mankato  
109 Morris Hall  
Mankato, MN 56001



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PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU WISH TO BE REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST. THIS WILL SAVE  
POSTAGE COSTS AND HELP KEEP COST OF REGISTRATION DOWN. THANK YOU.