

2010 Religions in Conversation Conference Schedule

8:30 a.m. – Registration – Garrison Theatre Foyer

Session I

9:00-9:50 a.m. – Opening Remarks and Keynote Event

Boone Recital Hall

Welcome – Dean Anselm Min

Opening Remarks – Elisa Pulido, Conference Chair

“A Conversation with B. H. Fairchild”

Moderator, Patrick N. Horn

B.H. Fairchild is the author of six books of poetry: He has been the recipient of the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the Bobbitt Award from the Library of Congress,

Session II

10:00-11:20 a.m. – The Devolution of the Muses: from Heaven to Earth

Albrecht Auditorium

Moderator, Richard Bushman

“Eliza R. Snow: Ancient Traditions and New Visions in Early Mormonism”

Karen Lynn Davidson, Emeritus Professor, Brigham Young University

“In Praise of Darwin: George Romanes and the Theistic Struggles of the 19th Century”

David Pleins – Professor of Religious Studies, Santa Clara University

"Numinous Epistemology as Natural Theology in the Poetics of Wallace Stevens"

Robert E. Doud – Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Pasadena City College

10:00-11:20 a.m. – Locating the Sacred through Language

Board Room, Harper Hall

Moderator, Fay Ellwood

“Negative Plenitude: Phantom Poems and the Fugitive Sacred”

Jennifer Rapp, Robert Aird Chair in Humanities, Deep Springs College

“Relentless Spirituality: A Jesuit Metaphysical Poetics of Mark Jarman”

Brian F. McCabe – Ph.D. Student, Claremont Graduate University

“Moving Words: Poetry and Speech-Act Theory in Contemporary Theologies”

Michael W. McGowan – PhD Candidate, The School of Religion, Claremont Graduate University

10:00-11:20 a.m. – Poetry Readings

Boone Recital Hall

Moderator, Karen Jo Torjesen

B. H. Fairchild, nationally acclaimed poet and the conference’s keynote speaker will read from his own work in this session.

Perundevi Srinivasan is a visiting Assistant Professor in Religious Studies at Claremont McKenna College.

Manijeh Deboo will read a Persian (Zoroastrian) Monojât both in Persian and in her own English translation.

Mark Moussa a lecturer in Coptic Studies will read selections from the Midnight Office of the Coptic Holy Psalmody

Session III

11:30-12:30 p.m. – “Questions for the Gods: What Do You Know About Us?”

Albrecht Auditorium

Moderator, Karen Jo Torjesen

Patrick Horn will read and answer questions about a recently discovered, posthumous paper written by Claremont philosopher D.Z. Phillips (1934-2006). Phillips wrote his paper in response to Alan Shapiro's *The Dead Alive and Busy* (University of Chicago: 2000), for which he was awarded the 2001 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award.

11:30-12:30 p.m. –Feminist Theology: New Readings through Midrash

Board Room, Harper Hall

Moderator, Rosemary Reuther

“Poetry, the Soul, and Religious Conversation”

John Erickson, MA. Student, Applied Women’s Studies/Women’s Studies in Religion, Claremont Graduate University

Midrash Readings:

Kate Sargent – “A Feminist Midrash: Eostre Myth, Nature Remembers”

Nicholaus Pumphrey – “A Feminist Midrash: The Wife from Sodom”

Rebecca Williams – “The Betrayal of Gomer”

Martha Cecilia Cox – “A Veil that Falls”

11:30-12:30 p.m. – Poetry Readings

Boone Recital Hall

Moderator, LaChelle Schilling

Stephanie Brown is the author of two volumes of poetry, and has been included in several anthologies, including four editions of *The Best American Poetry*.

Lance Larsen, Associate Chair of the English Department at Brigham Young University, is the author of two poetry collections.

Dima Hilal's work has appeared in various publications and is anthologized in *Scheherezade's Legacy: Arab and Arab American Women on Writing* (Praeger, 2004).

12:30-2:00 p.m. – Lunch Break

Session IV

2:00-3:30 p.m. – Performances of Liturgical Verse

Boone Recital Hall

'KSHANAOTHRA AHURE MAZDAO'

--Mobed, Behram Deboo

'Payoji Maine Ram'

--Atman Brahmachari and Devendra Chauhan

Musical instruments: Harmonium and Tabla

Psalm 19:15

--Cantor Paul Buch

Ghen Oshoat

--Coptic Choir

directed by Mariam Youssef

Catholic Song?

--Martha Cecilia Cox

Surah 55 from the Quran, first forty verses

--Asim Buyuksoy

‘Joseph Smith’s First Prayer’

--Men’s Ensemble from the Anaheim Mormon Chorale
accompanied by JoLane Laycock Jolley

Protestant Song ?

--Letitia Ugweke

Session V

3:30-4:45 p.m. – Ecstatic Poetry: Revelation or Madness?

Albrecht Auditorium

Moderator, Cheryl Walker

“Thou Art the Unanswered Question’: Ralph Waldo Emerson’s Poetry of Prophetic Ecstasy”

Malcolm Young, Rector, Christ Episcopal Church, Los Altos, California

“To Know Your Self is to Know Your Sustainer: The Revelatory Nature of Islamic Poetry”

Ayat Agah, PhD student, Women’s Studies in Religion/Islamic Studies, Claremont Graduate University

“The Songs of Madness”

Deepak Shimkhada, Adjunct Professor, Claremont Graduate University/Visiting Professor California State University in Northridge.

3:30-4:45 p.m. –Ancient Verses with Contemporary Religious Resonances

Board Room, Harper Hall

Moderator, Elisa Pulido

“The Lighthouse: Kabir’s Secular Path to Salvation”

Anand Rao Lingayat, Publisher, *Gunjan* magazine

"Poetry in the Coptic Orthodox Worship Tradition: The Coptic Book of the *Holy Psalmodia*"

Presenter – Hany Takla, Director, St. Shenouda Center for Coptic Studies

“The Poetics of Zarathustra’s Gathas”

Warren Soward, PhD student, University of California, Irvine

3:30-4:45 p.m. – Poetry Readings

Boone Recital Hall
Moderator, Shayda Kafai

Ralph Angel is the author of four books of poetry, a winner of the James Laughlin Poetry Award, and the Edith R. White Distinguished Professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Redlands,

Chris Davidson directs Biola University's composition program and writing center. His poems have been published in numerous journals.

Sholeh Wolpé is the author of three books of poetry. She is the associate editor of *Tablet and Pen: Literary Landscape from Modern Middle East* and the poetry editor of the *Levantine Review*.

5:00 p.m. – Reception