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UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

CONFERENCE ON CHRISTIANITY
AND LITERATURE

The Mideast Conference on
Christianity and Literature

The Deeds of Love in the Service of Peace

Friday, October 28th

Saturday, October 29th



Sponsored by The Department of English
University of Dayton



<http://www.udayton.edu/artssciences/english>

Plenary Speaker: Nancy Mairs



Dr. Nancy Mairs, received the A.B. *cum laude* from Wheaton College (Norton, Massachusetts), which made her a Doctor of Humane Letters thirty years later. She earned the M.F.A. in creative writing (poetry) in 1975 and the Ph.D. in English literature (with a minor in English education) in 1984 from the University of Arizona. She has taught writing and literature at Salpointe Catholic High School, the University of Arizona, and the University of California at Los Angeles.

A poet and an essayist, she was awarded the 1984 Western States Book Award in poetry for *In All the Rooms of the Yellow House* (Confluence Press, 1984) and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in 1991. Her first work of nonfiction, a collection of essays entitled *Plaintext: Deciphering a Woman's Life*, was published by the University of Arizona Press in 1986. Since then, she has written a memoir, *Remembering the Bone House*, a spiritual autobiography, *Ordinary Time: Cycles in Marriage, Faith, and Renewal*, and three more books of essays, *Carnal Acts*, *Voice Lessons: On Becoming a (Woman) Writer*, and *Waist-High in the World: A Life Among the Non-Disabled*. A fourth book of essays, *A Troubled Guest: Life and Death Stories*, was supported by a fellowship from the Project on Death in America of the Soros Foundation's Open Society Institute. Most recently, she published *A Dynamic God: Living an Unconventional Catholic Faith*. The Arizona Humanities Council gave her their 2008 Arizona Literary Treasure Award.

She and her husband, George, a retired high-school English teacher, continue to live in Tucson, though they make public appearances throughout the country. A Research Associate with the Southwest Institute for Research on Women, she has also served on the boards of the Arizona Center for Disability Law, Kore Press, the Coalition of Arizonans To Abolish the Death Penalty, the Arizona chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and ARTability.

Liturgical Presentation: Dayton Contemporary Dance Company

Rooted in the African American experience, DCDC's mission is to deliver contemporary dance of the highest quality to the broadest possible audience. DCDC reaches this audience with local performances, through national and international touring, and through the company's educational programs in the Miami Valley.



Founded in 1968 by Dayton, Ohio native, Jeraldyn Blunden, DCDC is the oldest modern dance company in Ohio and one of the largest companies of its kind between Chicago and New York City. DCDC has won national and international acclaim and is renowned for powerful, artistic performances, a diverse repertoire of works by world-class choreographers, and excellence in educational programming.

Plenary Speaker: Richard Kearney



Dr. Richard Kearney holds the Charles B. Seelig Chair of Philosophy at Boston College and serves as a Visiting Professor at University College Dublin, the University of Paris (Sorbonne) and the University of Nice. He is the author of over 20 books on European philosophy and literature (including two novels and a volume of poetry) and has edited or co-edited 14 more. He was formerly a member of the Arts Council of Ireland, the Higher Education Authority of Ireland and chairman of the Irish School of Film at University College Dublin. As a public intellectual in Ireland, he was involved in drafting a number of proposals for a Northern Irish peace agreement (1983, 1993, 1995). He has presented five series on culture and philosophy for Irish and/or British television and broadcast extensively on the European media.

Recent publications include a trilogy entitled 'Philosophy at the Limit'. The three volumes are *On Stories* (Routledge, 2002), *The God Who May Be* (Indiana UP, 2001) and *Strangers, Gods, and Monsters* (Routledge, 2003). Since then, Richard Kearney has published *Debates in Continental Philosophy* (Fordham, 2004), *The Owl of Minerva* (Ashgate, 2005), *Navigations* (Syracuse University Press, 2007) and *Anatheism* (Columbia, 2009).

About the Conference Theme

The Deeds of Love in the Service of Peace

For the Fall 2011 Mideast Regional meeting of the Conference on Christianity and Literature we invited participants to submit papers that address the relation of love and peace in literature, and we welcomed proposals engaging a variety of perspectives, periods, critical approaches, and religious traditions.

In Christian tradition love is not an attitude, a relation, a feeling, or a condition sufficient unto itself. Love requires action and deeds. Sometimes, great deeds, and other times, small ones, hidden from view, invisible but effective no less. No one can live a human life without love; it brings no shortage of joy and causes us no shortage of sufferings. Where there are humans, there is love. St. Paul places love at the highest of all forces of human action and agency. Love is the source of Jesus' self-emptying on the cross. Christian tradition also promises a messiah who will bring peace, whose kingdom is the most peaceable. While this implies a kingdom ordered by love, Jesus is still the Prince of Peace and not the Prince of Love – at least in the prophet Isaiah.

CONCURRENT SESSION 4A – CREATIVE PIECES

Saturday, 4:15-5:45 PM Jesse Philips Humanities Building, Room 109

Moderator: John McCombe, University of Dayton

Suzanne Wielgos – College of DuPage

“Sanctus, Vulgaris, Sanctus: Rhetoric and Image in the Art of Corita Kent”

Robert Conard – University of Dayton

Excerpts from “Mr. Null”

Patricia Schnapp – Siena Heights University

“Poor, Banished Children of Eve”

CONCURRENT SESSION 4B – SOUTHERN LIT

Saturday, 4:15-5:45 PM Jesse Philips Humanities Building, Room 118

Moderator: Mandy Wright Cron, University of Dayton

Sherry Truffin – Campbell University

“Love and Violence, Love and Peace: Competing Visions in Flannery O’Connor’s *The Violent Bear It Away* and Toni Morrison’s *Song of Solomon*”

Molly Sexton – University of Dayton

“Using Literature to Teach Peace between Christianity and Islam”

Olivia McQuire – Case Western Reserve

“‘The Sacramentality of Things’: Thing Theory and Flannery O’Connor”

About the CCL

The Conference on Christianity and Literature is an interdisciplinary society dedicated to exploring the relationships between Christianity and literature. Organized formally in 1956, CCL is dedicated to both scholarly excellence and collegial exchange and includes hundreds of members from a variety of academic institutions and religious traditions from the United States, Canada, and more than a dozen other countries.

CCL publishes a quarterly journal, *Christianity and Literature*, sponsors regional conferences, recognizes literary achievement in annual awards, and offers travel grants to scholars.



PROGRAM

Friday, October 28

- 3:30-4:45 PM Conference Registration and Opening Reception
Jesse Philips Humanities Building Room 257
- 5:00 PM **Death Watch!**
Plenary Address: Dr. Nancy Mairs
Sears Recital Hall, Jesse Philips Humanities Bldg.
- 6:30 PM Dinner, West Ballroom
Kennedy Union, 2nd Floor
- 8:00-9:30 PM Concurrent Session One, Jesse Philips Humanities Bldg.

Saturday, October 29

- 9:00- 9:30 AM Ecumenical Taize Prayer Service
Marianist Hall Chapel
- 9:30 - 10:00 AM Coffee Break
Jesse Philips Humanities Bldg.
- 10:00-11:30 Concurrent Session Two, Jesse Philips Humanities Bldg.
- 11:45-1:15 **Anatheism: Sacramental Imagination in Modernist Fiction**
Richard Kearney Plenary Address & Lunch
Barrett Dining Room, Kennedy Union, 1st floor
- 1:30-3:00 PM Concurrent Session Three, Jesse Philips Humanities Bldg.
- 3:00-3:15 PM Coffee Break
- 3:30-4:00 PM DCDC Liturgical Dance
Sears Recital Hall, Jesse Philips Humanities Bldg.
- 4:15 - 5:45 PM Concurrent Session Four, Jesse Philips Humanities Bldg.

CONCURRENT SESSION 1A – WOMEN WRITERS

Friday, 8:00-9:00 PM Jesse Philips Humanities Building, Room 110

Moderator: Maura Taaffe, University of Dayton

Katherine Beutel – Lourdes University

“Love and Service in Erdrich’s *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse*”

Kirsten Lillegard – Divine Word College

“Potent Seeds: Development of Christian Women’s Souls as Described by Edith Stein and Illustrated by Sigrid Undset”

Martin Brick – Ohio Dominican

“Woolf, the Great War, and the Christian Epic Tradition”

CONCURRENT SESSION 1B – MODERNISM I

Friday, 8:00-9:00 PM Jesse Philips Humanities Building, Room 118

Moderator: Sarah DelMar, University of Dayton

Andrew Russell – St. Louis University

“A Tale of Two Brethren: Edmund Gosse and Garrison Keillor’s Portrayal of the Plymouth Brethren”

Grace Pregent – University of Dayton

“Self Knowledge through Narrative Analysis in *Brideshead Revisited*”

Andrew Slade – University of Dayton

“Hope without Reprieve”

CONCURRENT SESSION 2A – INFLUENCES

Saturday, 10:00-11:30 AM Jesse Philips Humanities Building, Room 109

Moderator: Justice Hagan, University of Dayton

James Rovira – Tiffin University

“Knowing Love and Peace by their Opposites: The Demonic in Blake and Kierkegaard”

Sarah Delmar – University of Dayton

“Reading Milton in Coleridge”

Eliza Waggoner – University of Dayton

“The Rhetoric of Influence: Biblical References in Puritan Texts”

CONCURRENT SESSION 2B -- MARILYNNE ROBINSON

Saturday, 10:00-11:30 AM Jesse Philips Humanities Building, Room 118

Moderator: Patrick Thomas, University of Dayton

Ray Horton – Case Western Reserve

“The Event of Love: Marilynne Robinson’s Ontology of Religious Devotion”

Donald Deardorff – Cedarville University

“The Mysterious Nature of Grace in Marilynne Robinson’s *Gilead*”

CONCURRENT SESSION 3A -- COLONIALISM/POST COLONIALISM

Saturday, 1:30 - 3:00 PM Jesse Philips Humanities Building, Room 109

Moderator: Eliza Waggoner, University of Dayton

John Acker – The Ohio State University

“‘Not in Hard Statutes’: Scripture and the Paratext in Stowe’s *Footsteps of the Master*”

Chimi Woo – Cedarville University

“Christianity, Nationalism, and Love in Ngugi wa Thiongo’s *A Grain of Wheat*”

Beth VanRheenen – Rochester College

“Bartolome de las Casas: Love in Action in the New World”

CONCURRENT SESSION 3B -- MODERNISM II

Saturday, 1:30-3:00 PM Jesse Philips Humanities Building, Room 118

Moderator: Leah DeAloia, University of Dayton

Michael Williams – Spring Hill College

“James Joyce and T.S. Eliot: The Search for Love in the Unreal City”

Daniel McVeigh – Sienna Heights University

“Literature and the ‘I’: What Difference does Christianity Make?”

Rich Gray – Montreat College

“Searching for Peace; Finding Love: Walker Percy’s *The Second Coming*”