

Fall 2008

NO! The Rape Documentary followed by a discussion with filmmaker Aishah Shahidah Simmons

Tuesday, December 9 at 8:00 p.m. Amherst College, Merrill 4. Reception to follow.

Aishah Shahidah Simmons is an award-winning African-American feminist lesbian documentary filmmaker, international lecturer, published writer, and activist who uses the moving image, written and spoken word to advocate for left of center, radical progressive social change.

This event is sponsored by Amherst College English Department; Hampshire College Film, Photo & Video Program; Amherst College Peer Advocates of Sexual Respect; Everywoman's Center; Food for Thought Books; and Safe Passage.

"I have seen a lot of documentaries about sexual violence in my 15 years as a film programmer, and 'NO!' is by far the most well made, riveting, and poignant... The strength of 'NO!' in reaching its viewers is significant, it's scope and ability to compel are astounding- all women can relate to this film."

KJ Mohr, Film & Media Arts Programmer, National Museum of Women in the Arts

"If the Black community in the Americas and in the world would heal itself, it must complete the work [NO!] begins."

Alice Walker, Pulitzer Prize Winning Author, The Color Purple

Visit the "New & Improved" NO! Website

www.NOtheRapeDocumentary.org www.notherapedocumentary.org/

Write Your NO! & Breaking Silences Testimony

www.notherapedocumentary.org/add-your-testimonial

Event contact : Angela Bruns at **577-4229**

Tanya Kachwaha at **577-6351**

Band of Sisters: American Women at War in Iraq

**November 11, 2008 at 7:00
Student Union Cape Cod Lounge**

This Veterans Day, the UMass Veterans and Service Members Association (VASMA), in partnership with the UMass Military Community Resource Center (MCRC) and Everywoman's Center (EWC), presents an educational lecture by nationally published journalist Kirsten Holmstedt, author of the critically acclaimed book *Band of Sisters: American Women at War in Iraq*. Ms. Holmstedt will speak on her experiences meeting, researching, and interviewing female veterans of the Iraq War in the course of writing her book. A reception open to all female service members and veterans will be held with the author in the Cape Cod Lounge prior to the event at 6:00 pm. A question and answer discussion will follow the lecture. This event is free and open to the public, and wheelchair accessible. A book signing and t-shirt sale will follow the event.

Kirsten Holmstedt has received widespread praise for *Band of Sisters*, in which she methodically and convincingly constructs an irrefutable testimonial to the courage, sacrifices, and valor of today's female service members during a conflict in which they have taken on historically unprecedented roles, yet commonly remain misunderstood and politically controversial to those unfamiliar with their service and heroism overseas. Author Ralph Peters has called *Band of Sisters* "one of the few truly revealing books written about our military in the past decade – and one of the most fascinating to read."

The UMass Veterans and Service Members Association is a nonpartisan registered student group at UMass Amherst, open to all UMass military students, family members, dependents, and supporters.

The mission of UMass VASMA is to provide a social network for UMass veterans and service members while educating and raising awareness of issues pertaining to the military community. This event is also supported in part by the Military Community Resource Center, and the Everywoman's Center and The Student Affairs Cultural Enrichment Fund.
Event Contact: **Judy Gagnon 545-5792** or jgagnon@stuaf.umass.edu

Why We Fall in Love with a Poet: A Reading with Nikky Finney and Nancy K. Pearson

Sunday November 9, 2008 at 3:00pm
JJones Library Trustees Room, Amherst, Massachusetts

What moves us about the writing of certain poets? Is it when they name a truth or describe our lives or help us look at familiar situations in new ways? On Sunday, November 9th, Perugia Press, the Jones Library, and Everywoman's Center present a poetry reading with Nikky Finney, who fell in love with Nancy Pearson's poetry while judging manuscripts for the Perugia Press Prize last year. Finney will read her own work, as well as introduce Nancy whose *Two Minutes of Light* went on to win the 2008 Perugia Press Prize. After Pearson's reading from her award-winning book, there will be a discussion with Nikky Finney and Nancy Pearson about "why we fall in love with a poet". Refreshments and book signing will follow the reading. This event is free, open to the public and wheelchair accessible.

Born to a civil rights attorney and a teacher in the small fishing and farming community of Conway, South Carolina, Nikky Finney has been writing for as long as she has memory. Her poems are powerful and warm, like her southern roots, and provide glimpses into the human adventures of birth, death, family, violence, sexuality, and relationship, exploring the soul of human community. Her book of poetry, was awarded the Pen American Book award. She is the 2007-2009 Graze Hazard Conkling Writer-in-Residence at Smith College. Nancy K. Pearson, is originally from Chattanooga, Tennessee. In *Two Minutes of Light*, she writes about a descent into the madness of addiction, suicide attempts, and self-mutilation, and how the foil to these destructive ways is art itself — her gift for finding small beauty in unlikely places, and transforming it into poetry.

Event Contact: **Susan Kan** at info@perugiapress.com

Anat Cohen: Front and Center

Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at 11:00
Music Department, Fine Arts Center, Room 157

Israeli clarinet and sax sensation Anat Cohen plays a fiery and sophisticated blend of jazz, Brazilian choro, Argentine tango, classical music, a variety of Afro-Cuban styles and even a bit of klezmer. She has established herself as one of the primary voices of her generation on both tenor saxophone and clarinet since arriving in New York in 1999. In a music world historically dominated by men, Anat Cohen is considered to be "one of the brightest and most original young instrumentalists in jazz," (Washington Post).

As a part of her residency at the University of Massachusetts Amherst from November 5-7, 2008, the Fine Arts Center and Everywoman's Center will be hosting a gathering, *A Conversation with Anat Cohen: Front and Center* on Wednesday, November 5th from 11:00-12:00 in room 157 of the music department. Designed to provide an opportunity for women in the arts and music world to have a conversation with a woman fronting an internationally successful ensemble, everyone is welcome to attend. Everyone welcome! Come and be a part of breaking the glass ceiling!

Brunch/lunch will be provided and space is limited, so please RSVP by November 1st to Sandy Mandel at **545-5827** or smandel@admin.umass.edu

Event Contact : Halina Kusleika @**545-4157**

Candlelight Vigil

Oct. 21st at 6:30pm
CAPE COD LOUNGE, UMass.

In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Everywoman's Center and the Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority will host a CANDLELIGHT VIGIL
OCTOBER 21ST at 6:30PM

in the CAPE COD LOUNGE, UMass.

Please come to support survivors of relationship violence on campus and in our local community.
For information contact Tanya Kachwaha @**413-577-6351**

Motherwoman Presents: A Family Election Event! (and Onsie Party!)

October 18, 2008 from 8:30-12:00

Media Education Foundaton; Masonic Street, Northampton

Event Schedule

8:30-9am: schmooze, food provided by Woodstar Café.

9-10am: A showing of the powerful, engaging film "The Motherhood Manifesto" about the political economy of parenthood in America.

10-11am: The film screening will be followed by discussion. Representatives from the Obama and McCain campaigns have been invited to be there to answer your questions about laws and policies that would help parents, families and children.

11-12noon: Decorate baby "onesies" with messages about our hopes and dreams for our children and families, and the need for a family friendly America

These onesies will be displayed at the event on a clothesline and locally as part of the national MomsRising.org Onesie Project which is designed to increase public awareness of the need for a more family friendly America. MotherWoman is a mother's support and family advocacy organization. Our mission is to support and empower mothers to create positive personal and social change for ourselves, our families, our communities and the world. MomsRising of the Pioneer Valley is our political arm which is affiliated with the national MomsRising.org movement. .
For more information contact Chrystal Romero @**253-8990**

Women and the Vote: Use It or Lose It!**

October 2, 2008 at 4:00

Campus Center Room 917 University of Massachusetts

On August 26, 1920 the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified by one vote and after more then 70 years of struggle, women in the United States were finally allowed to vote. How do we honor the women who fought for our right to participate in this democratic process? How will the up-coming Presidential election affect the lives of women? How will it impact your life? Are you registered to vote?

On October 2, 2008, Professor Joyce Averch Berkman, Professor of History and Women's Studies, (UMass Amherst), will provide a brief overview of the long fight for women's suffrage and the importance of women's participation in this years election. We will view selections from the award winning film, One Woman, One Vote, which documented this struggle, including why the entrenched opposition feared that the women's vote would ignite a social revolution. Carol Rothery from the League of Women Voters will describe their current work to preserve and promote this right and also conduct voter registration. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this compelling election!

Come and register to vote!

(**Your Political Power!)

For more information contact: Everywoman's Center @ **545-0883**

Cancelled: Women in Action: Nicaraguan Dance Ensemble

October 10, 2008 at 7:00 pm

Due to the death of a close family member and friend of the group, the Nicaraguan Women's Folkloric Dance group cannot complete its US tour and has returned to Nicaragua. Thus, their performance is cancelled that was scheduled for FRIDAY, OCT. 10 at the Newman Center at UMass.

An alternative event for those who want to know more about the group, and their work, will take place instead at 7pm FRIDAY, OCT. 10 at the home of Millie Thayer and Rosa Oviedo in Leverett. This will be an open community fundraising dinner benefit for the Nicaraguan Women in Action group and Feminist Aid to Central America. Rebecca Rideout, who was involved in making a film about the projects of the Women in Action group in Managua, Nicaragua, will be there to show the DVD and lead a discussion afterwards. Sliding scale donations will be requested.

Millie Thayer and Rosa Oviedo's home is in Leverett and they can be contacted at **549-6066**. For more information, call Ann Ferguson **413-367-2310**

Women and Self-Defense

**September 16 and September 18 from 4:00-5:30
Newman Center on the UMass Amherst campus**

On September 16 and September 18, 2008 Everywoman Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst will host Janet Aalfs, head instructor and director of the Valley Women's Martial Arts, (VWMA), who will facilitate a two part Women and Self-Defense workshop from 4:00-5:30. Valley Women's Martial Arts, a not-for-profit school founded in 1977, provides introductory and ongoing instruction for women and girls, and community programs for women, children and men at locations throughout the area in an encouraging and friendly environment for participants of all ages. The workshop will combine external and internal martial arts practice, assertiveness training, and discussion of the issues involved in learning effective methods for self-protection and violence prevention. It will be held in the Newman Center, is free and open to the public. Pre-registration and attendance at both sessions is required and space is limited. To register please contact: Sandy Mandel at smandel@admin.umass.edu or **545-5827** and leave your name, phone number and email.

Community Youth Outreach Event

**October 16, 2008 from 11:30am to 4:30pm
Amherst town center between Barts Ice Cream and Raos Coffee Shop**

EWC's Community Education Program and Teen Specialized services are hosting our annual community youth awareness event at Boltwood walk (between Barts and Raos) in Amherst on October 16th. Come and view the Pioneer Valley Youth Clothesline Project, a collection of T-shirts created by teens in the Pioneer Valley that illustrate the effects that violence has had on their lives. Come and check out some local resources for youth, share some snacks, and have some fun. This event will be cancelled in the event of rain
For more information contact Tanya Kachwaha **577-6351** ; Nina Brand **577-0752**