

Affirming LGBTQ Identities

IWL Social Action Project

Amy Clark

December 1, 2016





Institute for Women's Leadership

The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to *practice* leadership *through* action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women's Leadership's website at <http://iwl.rutgers.edu>.

Project: Our Spirits, Ourselves

- Reformulated halfway through the semester
 - Original plan: Create promotional materials for an oral history workshop with the Queer Newark Oral History Project
 - Timelines did not match up
- SAP Event: Zine-making workshop and discussion on religion and LGBTQ identity
 - Held at Center for Social Justice Education and LGBT Communities
 - Thursday, November 17, 2016
 - Coordinated with Douglass Community and Speak Out

Partnerships





OUR SPIRITS, OURSELVES

a conversation and craft night
on religion, spirituality,
and LGBTQ identities

November 17, 2016 | 8 PM
Center for Social Justice Education



OUR SPIRITS, OURSELVES

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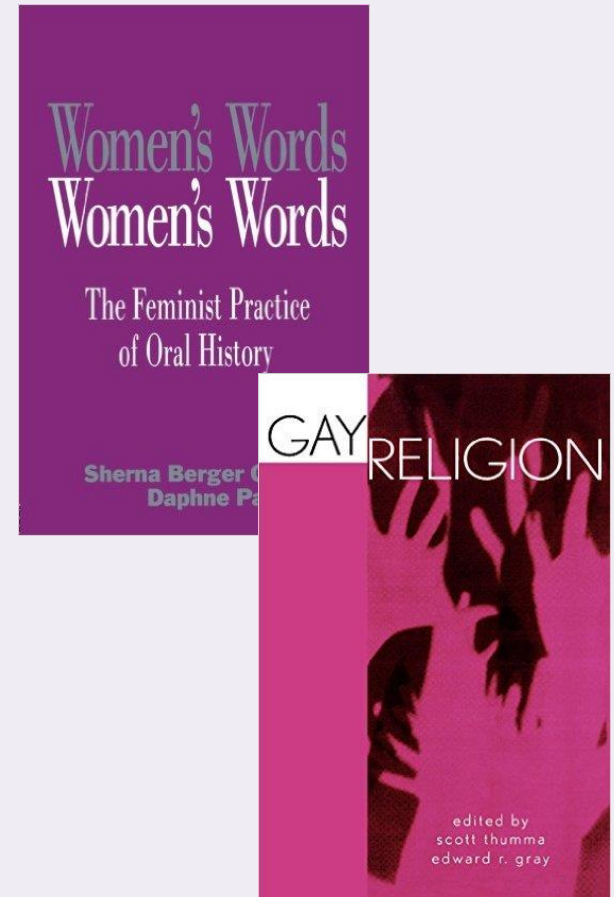
*Presented by Amy Clark
in collaboration with Douglass Qumunity*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016
8 PM

*Center for Social Justice Education
17 Bartlett Street*

Intellectual and Conceptual Foundations

- Rooted in oral history and the idea that marginalized people are the best authorities on their own lives and experiences
- LGBTQ people's negotiated readings of religious teachings and various relationships to spirituality, church, and/or organized religion



Intellectual and Conceptual Foundations

- Traumatic loss of history for LGBTQ people and the silences around sexuality → importance of affective power in lesbian/gay archives
- Role of ephemera in lesbian historical archives
 - Ephemera: things that exist only for a short amount of time
 - Affects associated with nostalgia, personal memory, fantasy, trauma
- Zine-making as a feminist pedagogical practice
 - Zines: DIY booklets that are created/distributed informally
 - Validation of personal experience



If your nerve deny you,
go above your nerve.
Emily Dickinson



Every lesbian is worthy of inclusion
in history. If you have the courage to
touch another woman, then you are a
very famous person.
-Joan Nestle



Dyke
AFFIRMATIONS!
•••

Bisexual and Proud



Govt does not care



Black Lives Matter



We are everywhere

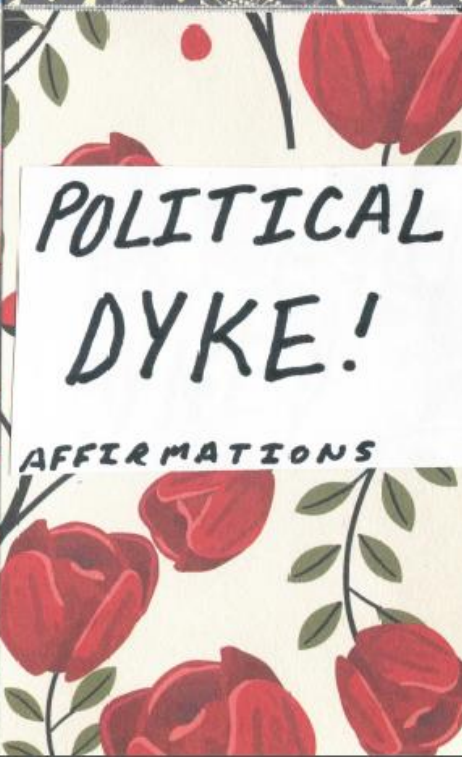
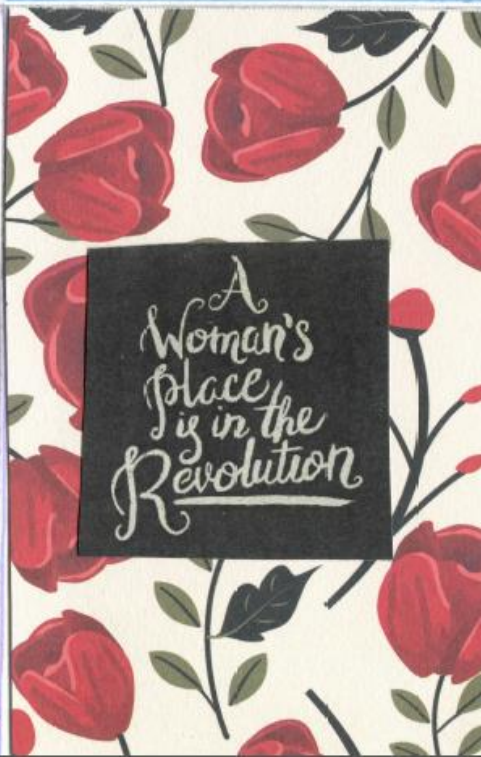
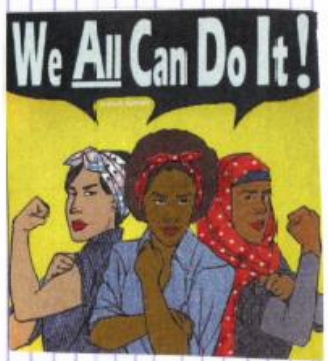


Revolution is not a
one time event
- AUDRE LORDE

You
silence
will not
protect
you
- AUDRE LORDE



BLACK LIVES MATTER



Insights

- Importance of self care in activist work
- Importance of community affirmation of LGBTQ identities and of chosen family
- Usage of physical mementos and affirmations
- Religion as an aspect of cultural identity



Feminist Leadership

- Necessity for knowing when to step up and when to let people guide themselves (vertical vs. horizontal leadership)
- Communication and co-leadership



Impact

- Participants took a break from post-election depression and pre-Thanksgiving anxiety
- Connected work of the Lesbian Herstory Archives in New York City and other elements of LGBTQ history to experiences with younger lesbian, bisexual, and queer women



**Caring for myself is not self-indulgence,
it is self-preservation, and that is an act
of political warfare.**

Audre Lorde, A Burst of Light



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