Affirming LGBTQ Identities

IWL Social Action Project
Amy Clark
December 1, 2016
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](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 Qummunity 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

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

Presented by Amy Clark
in collaboration with Douglass Qummunity

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
You
you
protest
must not
accept
on
A Woman's Place is in the Revolution

We All Can Do It!

Stonewall
Smash Lesbian & Gay Oppression

Fight Back!

Lesbian Full Grown

I was once a Tomboy

Government

Does Not Help

We, the People

Each Other

The Lesbian Avengers

We Recruit

Black Lives Matter

Political Dyke!
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
References


