

SHAKER MUSEUM | MOUNT LEBANON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feminine Mystic Conference to Explore Women's Religious Authority

GREAT BARRINGTON, MA - Bard College at Simon's Rock and Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon will host "The Feminine Mystic: American Prophetesses and the Politics of Religious Experience," Friday, June 9 to Sunday, June 11, 2017.

Marking the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in New York State in

1917, The Feminine Mystic Conference is an interdisciplinary conference exploring the significance of women's religious authority in American political and cultural contexts from the early republic through the long nineteenth century.

View the complete schedule: <https://simons-rock.edu/academics/beyond-the-classroom/speakers-events/feminine-mystic-schedule.php>.

The conference begins Friday evening in the Kellogg Music Center with a keynote speech by poet, writer, and feminist icon Eileen Myles. "We are delighted and proud to welcome Eileen



Arthur Boyd Houghton, "Shakers at Meeting. The Religious Dance." *The Graphic*. May 14, 1870.

Myles, a leading voice in contemporary poetry, to initiate our discussion of the prophetic and political traditions in which women's authority has shaped American history," said Ian Bickford, Provost and Vice President of Bard College at Simon's Rock. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend this free event.

"Ann Lee, the founder of the Shakers, created a communal society in which men and women together held positions of authority," said Lacy Schutz, Executive Director of the Shaker Museum. "In a time when women were disenfranchised from the political process, they often, like Ann Lee, found their voice and power in the religious realm. I'm excited to explore this topic in more depth."

Saturday consists of a series of paper presentations and roundtable discussions between the presenters and participants. On Sunday, conference participants will travel to Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon in New Lebanon, NY for a tour of the site and current exhibition, *Break Every Yoke: Shakers, gender equality, and women's suffrage*.

Registration is still open for the conference. Attendees are welcome to sign up for the entire conference or a single day. Download the registration form https://simons-rock.edu/_documents/Feminine-Mystic-Registration-Form-2017.pdf.

Full conference registrations includes all meals, Saturday night tickets to "Close Encounters with Music: Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman" at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, and transportation to the Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon.

ABOUT THE SHAKER MUSEUM

Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon stewards the historic site in New Lebanon, New York, which is open from June to October and offers tours, exhibitions, and public programs. The

museum also has a campus in Old Chatham, New York, open year round by appointment, where the administrative offices, collections, library, and archives are housed. The museum's collection of over 56,000 Shaker items is the most comprehensive collection of its kind in the world. Please visit www.shakerml.org for more information.

ABOUT SIMON'S ROCK

Bard College at Simon's Rock, the Early College is the only college in the country specifically designed for bright, highly motivated students ready to enter college after the 10th or 11th grade. Simon's Rock offers a challenging program in the liberal arts and sciences, taught exclusively in small seminars by a supportive, highly trained faculty, who are leading scholars in their fields. The College grants degrees in more than 35 majors. *The Princeton Review's Best 380 Colleges* rates academics at Simon's Rock higher than Harvard and Princeton.

Bard Academy at Simon's Rock is the nation's first two-year boarding and day program designed to prepare 9th and 10th graders to start college early. A student entering Bard Academy as a high school freshman will earn an Associate of Arts degree from Bard College at Simon's Rock after only four years and a Bachelor of Arts degree after only six years. The Academy curriculum is designed and taught by students' future college professors who are leading scholars in their fields.