

# ROBERT BLY'S – 33rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT MOTHER AND THE NEW FATHER

**June 2 - June 10, 2007**

**LEARN THE ARTS AND DOUBLE THE MADNESS:**  
Replenishing Our Richness Through the Arts

This year we place a renewed intensity on a subject that has often interested us—the Sufi road. Sufi culture has always had two sides: the wandering lovers and the harshness of the scholarly mullahs. This double-sided life eventually flowered into the poems of Hafez and Rumi. This year we have the good fortune to host the finest scholar of Sufism in the West, Carl Ernst, to guide us through the abundance of the Sufi tradition. His publications include *Sufi Martyrs of Love* and a new book *Following Mohammed: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World*. Sufis offer practical ways of experiencing the power of the nafs, or the greedy soul. Sufis regard the nafs as a donkey who repeats its journey over and over. Rumi says: "For years you have been the donkey's slave." A helpful book is *The Psychology of Sufism* by Dr. Nurbakhsh.

In our sessions, Caroline Casey will open each morning with her take on the current political and celestial weather. Poet Tony Hoagland will read his poems that comment on D. H. Lawrence and other figures, and the brilliant young Russian émigré poet Ilya Kaminsky will join us. Li Young Lee will share his poetry with us again. We will have music by the Frantzich Brothers, dawn music singing with Doug Von Koss, and Halima and Abraham Sussman will lead the community in traditional Sufi dancing. Gioia Timpanelli, the Reviver of Story, will give us stories in the morning. David Whetstone will play sitar and Marcus Wise tabla. Robert Bly and Coleman Barks will provide a Hafez poem and a Rumi poem each morning. We are also pleased to announce that Janet Fredericks and Tom Verner will be presenting several Art and Dream workshops over the span of the conference. Janet and Tom have been working hard to develop this workshop for this year's conference and we think it will be a valuable addition to the many conference events.

The aim of Conference of the Great Mother and the New Father is to create an environment in which men, women and children are able, for a time, to slip out of our commercialized or corporate culture. The conference wants to encourage a culture made from diverse ethnic backgrounds, and mythological and ritual traditions. It takes a certain wildness for each person to break into new forms of creative expression.

The conference's aim is to pay attention to the soul of the world, so it has encouraged ecstatic music, making art with our own hands, reciting one's own poetry, creating dances, and honoring translation, particularly of Middle Eastern, Indian, and European languages. Each year we learn more of the subtle music of Islam, the complex poetry of Rumi and Hafez, the voices of tabla and sitar, the fragrance of fairy tales, and the harsh reverberations of our national political life.

with **Carl Ernst**  
**Gioia Timpanelli**  
**Caroline Casey**  
**Coleman Barks**  
**Li Young Lee**  
**Robert Bly**

and other poets,  
musicians, and teachers

## THE CONFERENCE

The Conference on the GREAT MOTHER and the NEW FATHER was begun by Robert Bly and has met annually since 1975 to consider a wide variety of mythological, poetic and fairytale traditions. The aim is to create an environment in which participants are able to move toward an understanding between men and women, young and old, and people of diverse cultures, ethnic backgrounds, mythological and ritual traditions. Expect to find interesting opportunities for creative expression in conversation, movement, writing, music and the visual arts.

## THE CONFERENCE SITE

This year in 2007, the 33rd Annual Conference will be held once again at Camp Kieve. The Camp has many cabins which sit on 200 wooded acres and three miles of shoreline on a peninsula at the mid-point of the length of Damariscotta Lake, in Nobleboro, Maine, 60 miles northeast of Portland. The accommodations are simple with a communal orientation, and feature some recently completed group lodgings. The surrounding natural environment is beautiful and the water pristine.

For registration forms- please see the web site! Thanks

**June 2 - June 10, 2007**  
Camp Kieve, Nobleboro, Maine.

**Cost:** \$885 (\$850 by check)  
includes lodging and meals  
\$510 (\$475 by check) for children and teens

**Registration Deposit: \$100**  
Full refunds on deposit available until April  
15. Full balance due by May 2.

### For more information contact:

Great Mother Conference  
c/o Janice Applegate  
1819 Bruce Drive  
St. Simons Island, GA 31522  
call: 912-638-5543  
email: register@greatmotherconference.com  
http://www.GreatMotherConference.com



A CONFERENCE ON  
"LEARN THE ARTS AND DOUBLE THE MADNESS"  
WWW.GREATMOTHERCONFERENCE.COM

**June 2 - June 10, 2007**  
Camp Kieve, Nobleboro, Maine