

ROBERT BLY'S – 31st ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT MOTHER AND THE NEW FATHER

GREAT MOTHER CONFERENCE May 28 to June 5, 2005

We are doing this conference at a moment when the nation needs a lot of help, and each of us needs some genuine spirit. The pointless war, the enormous deficits, the disintegration of our cultural life, all make clear that we are in trouble. Recognizing that does not mean that we fall into despair. We call on the courage to remember what is great in Western culture. Lately we have allowed ourselves to break the moral code, the law of the planet, what Thomas Jefferson called "a decent respect for the opinions of mankind." The writer Paul Levy suggests that the administration is passing on a sort of microbe, whose characteristic is an oversimplification of the question of good and evil.

What is required is for us to move toward the heart. We do this by honoring the wildness of nature, by playing and hearing ecstatic music, by making art with our hands, by dancing on the feet of poetry, and by adding our voices to the world of sound. We do that by paying attention to the intelligence of the heart.

Joseph Chilton Pearce, over the years, has become a warrior for the intelligence of the heart. He reminds us that the heart has its own electromagnetic field that arches out and curves back and by this means intersects with other hearts. The earth itself has an electromagnetic field. Our heart with its field maintains a conversation with our brain and with the universe itself. Poetry puts us into a field of this kind, as does great music, art, and dancing. The heart has an intelligence that brings us closer to the wildness of the universe in a way that the intellect alone cannot.

The Great Mother Conference has met for over 30 years, and each spring we welcome a good number of new participants who bring their poems, music, and art. We will have the opportunity to share in workshops and in small groups, and to learn from the children and young people whose courage always shines in these gatherings.

Gioia Timpanelli will do a full evening of stories. The astute political writer Michael Ventura will be here for conversations about the world. Caroline Casey, the visionary activist, will bring her brilliant goofiness to our daily situation. Ruth Bly will talk about The Biology of Transcendence as it relates to the conference. Coleman Barks will read his poems and translations of Rumi, and Robert Bly will read new poems as well as translations of Mirabai and Hafez. Raneé Ramaswamy will bring her South Indian dance company for an evening of dance.

We always have a rich group of younger and older poets which this year will include Li Young Lee, Louis Jenkins, Freya Manfred, Thomas R. Smith, Timothy Young and Jay Leeming. Among the musicians we'll have Reza Derakshani as well as David Whetstone and Marcus Wise on sitar and tablas, as well as several other singers and guitarists. Doug Von Koss will be with us, also George Kokis and Daniel Deardorff.

with
Joseph Chilton Pearce
Gioia Timpanelli
Caroline Casey
Michael Ventura
Coleman Barks
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

The Conference will be held at Camp Nebagamon in Lake Nebagamon, Wisconsin. The camp is located in northwestern Wisconsin, not far from the shore of Lake Superior in the heart of Wisconsin's Northwoods. Located on 75 acres on the site of former logging camp, and 20 miles from Duluth, MN and Superior, WI. The accommodations are simple with a communal orientation, the environment beautiful, and the water refreshing. For out-of-town guests a bus will be available for a fee to transport you to and from Camp Nebagamon and the Mpls/St. Paul airport.

May 28 through June 5, 2005
Camp Nebagamon in Lake Nebagamon, Wisconsin

Cost: \$780 includes lodging and meals
(\$750 if paid by check)
(\$375 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:

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INTELLIGENCE OF THE HEART
WWW.GREATMOTHERCONFERENCE.COM

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