

Fifteenth Annual Women's History Conference: Activism & Scholarship

Posted on September 10, 2012 by Rosemary Feurer

Keynote by women's historian Alice Kessler Harris, distinguished professor at Columbia University. Also featuring a round table discussion about the life and work of Amy Swerdlow moderated by Blanch Weisen Cooke. **March 1-2, 2013.**

Amy Swerdlow (1923-2012), graduate and former director of the women's history graduate program at Sarah Lawrence College was a scholar, activist, teacher, mentor and mother. She was a founding member and a significant force in Women Strike for Peace, a grassroots movement that greatly influenced the end of above ground nuclear weapons testing, especially emphasizing the effect this had on children's health. The organization went on to protest the Vietnam War. Amy Swerdlow sat on the national board of the antiwar group known as Clergy and Laity Concerned, chaired the steering committees of two antiwar coalitions of women's groups, the Jeannette Rankin Brigade and the Women's Emergency Coalition, and was a member of the New York State coordinating council of the National Women's Political Caucus. Amy Swerdlow was the quintessential activist scholar.

The Fifteenth Annual Women's History Conference at Sarah Lawrence College honors Amy Swerdlow's life and her work as a committed and indomitable activist/scholar by making issues of peace and justice its central theme.

We still face unending war, economic injustice, potential environmental catastrophe, militarism, institutionalized racism, hunger, homophobia and sexism among other issues. By taking a multi-disciplinary approach, we will explore issues of global peace and justice from a variety of perspectives. We seek to understand the ways in which activists have organized around these issues now and in the past and ask the following questions: What are the issues activists have faced in the past and how might we learn from previous movements? How do current issues intersect and interact and how can activists combine forces to confront these problems and work for social change? With Amy Swerdlow's spirit as our legacy, can we find the energy and focus to move forward together?

We invite scholars, artists, writers, and activists to submit proposals for papers, readings,

workshops, and performances.

Specific topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Women Strike For Peace
- Women's Peace Movements (Globally and Historically)
- Global LGBT Rights Movements
- Occupy Wall Street
- Labor Movements
- Immigration Rights
- Activism Among the Religious Left

Requirements: Proposals should be no more than two pages maximum. Please include a short description of each presentation and a one-page c.v. for each presenter. Proposals for panels are especially welcome, but we will also consider individual papers. Email submissions are preferred.

Deadline: Monday, December 3, 2012

Send proposals to: tjames@sarahlawrence.edu

Author



[Rosemary Feurer](#)

Rosemary Feurer is Professor of History at Northern Illinois University. She is the author of *Radical Unionism in the Midwest, 1900-1950*, among other books and essays. She is working on *The Illinois Mine Wars, 1860-1940* and a new biography of Mary Harris "Mother" Jones.