

## Winter 2020 at OPUS

Dear ,

Greetings!

'Tis the season of caps. Winter came early this year, and it's such a surprise for us to be preparing the last newsletter of 2019, capping off this decade, while wearing our bulky sweaters and neck scarves, and knit caps for some. It's such a rare early treat for us to be able to take in the beauty of snow-dusted mountain tops (dare I say snow-capped?) in southern and central California.

The end of the year is moving fast, so one last reminder for dissertation students from any institution: the Christine Downing Dissertation Fellowship deadline for submitting applications is January 6 at 5:00 p.m. Notifications will be mid March, for a research period of one year.

Our next Mythological RoundTable will be Sunday, January 19, 2020, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. (Note the change from our usual evening hours for this gathering.) Presenter Jaffa Frank, PhD will join group leader Devon Deimler with *Loving Medusa, Redeeming Athene: A Mythopoesis of Female Blood, Embodiment, and Sovereignty*, to be followed by discussion with the audience.

The turning of the new year also means we will have a new winter/spring exhibit for you. *Guiding Spirits: The Radical Witches and Women of OPUS* opens January 21, 2020 and will run through June. For registered attendees of Pacifica Graduate Institute Alumni Association's Coming Home event, there will be an opportunity for a sneak peek. Check your program for the "OPUS Archive and Gallery Tour" during the lunch hour on Saturday, January 18.

To all of you, our friends out there, stay warm and stay dry, and harness the peace and joy of the holiday spirit as we transition now into a new decade.

Best wishes,

Jennifer Maxon, Director / Archivist

**The Joseph Campbell Mythological RoundTable® Group**  
of OPUS at Pacifica Graduate Institute

THE JOSEPH CAMPBELL FOUNDATION  
MYTHOLOGICAL ROUNDTABLE® GROUP  
of OPUS at PACIFICA GRADUATE INSTITUTE

**LOVING MEDUSA,  
REDEEMING ATHENE:**  
A Mythopoesis of Female Blood,  
Embodiment, and Sovereignty



**Jaffa Frank, PhD**

**SUNDAY JANUARY 19, 2020**  
**2:00-4:00pm**

801 Ladera Lane Santa Barbara  
Barrett Center

**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



info: 805 969 5750 or [d.deimler@opusarchives.org](mailto:d.deimler@opusarchives.org)

## **"Loving Medusa, Redeeming Athene: A Mythopoesis of Female Blood, Embodiment, and Sovereignty"**

with Jaffa Frank, PhD

Archetypal psychologist James Hillman urges us to “restore the disease its God and give the God its due.” But what does it mean to be a human woman in embodied relationship with the archetypal divine, especially when facing illness, pain, loss, or death? In this presentation, Jaffa Frank, PhD transmutes her decades of suffering from endometriosis by engaging the mythic imagination, experiencing body, and narrating mind to craft a restorative tale of sovereignty. Confronting embodied misogyny and the demonization of menstruation, woman’s most indigenous process, Dr. Frank mythopoetically weaves together threads of endometriosis, Medusa, and Athene and reclaims humility, joy, and the life-affirming reciprocity of death and regeneration as gifts of the Gorgon. By personifying endometriosis as Medusan, pathology is rendered sacred and healing becomes a form of grace—a mystery that transforms the experience of hardship without denying the truth of suffering.

Dr. Jaffa Vernon Frank is an archetypal mythologist, licensed mental health counselor, writer, and a woman with over 40 years of experience living with endometriosis. She holds a PhD in Mythological Studies and Depth Psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute and an MA in Counseling with an emphasis in Grief, Loss, and Trauma Therapy from Southwestern College. Dr. Frank teaches courses in the psychology of altruism, archetypes, and the evolution of consciousness at Southwestern College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her book *Eyes of the Gorgon: Endometriosis, Mythic Embodiment, and Freedom* is available on Amazon. Learn more about Dr. Frank at [jaffavfrankphd.weebly.com](http://jaffavfrankphd.weebly.com)

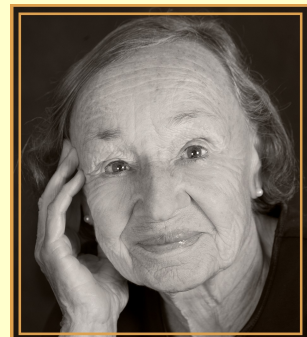
This event is FREE and open to the public. No reservations are needed.

For more information please visit the [Events](#) page of our website.

---

### **Christine Downing Dissertation Fellowship** **Submission Deadline Approaching for 2020**

\$5,000 is available to one student of any accredited graduate level institution working within the fields of depth psychology and mythology to help fund dissertation research in the Archives. All OPUS collections are available for fellowship research purposes.



The Fellowship carries the name of Professor Downing in acknowledgement of her contribution to the fields of depth psychology and mythology, her many years of teaching, and her gift to OPUS of her own archival materials.

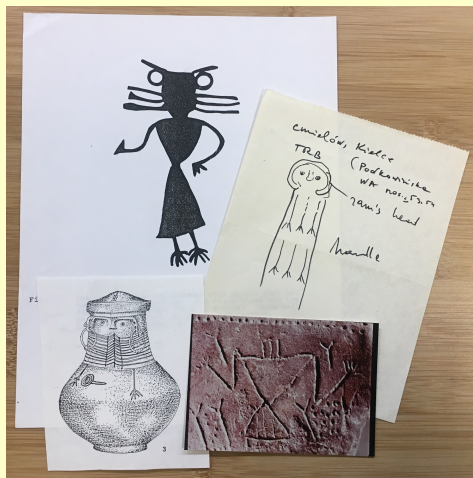
For more information and to download the guidelines and application, visit our website at [www.opusarchives.org/fellowship](http://www.opusarchives.org/fellowship)

**Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on January 6, 2020.**

---

## Collection Spotlight

### The Symbol Research of Marija Gimbutas



Among the many treasures in OPUS' collection of the Lithuanian-born archeomythologist, Marija Gimbutas, is a rich archive of image-based symbol research. Among these files are several archeological illustrations of goddess figurines sporting three-fingered "hands," reminiscent of bird's feet. These bird claws are a common asset of the witch motif in folklore (such as the Russian tale of Baba Yaga), though Gimbutas characteristically traces the symbol to its most ancient, multicultural manifestations. In her view, these claws can be readily associated with those belonging to birds of

prey, the vulture and owl--both creatures of death and regeneration--with the night-visionary owl being an especially intimate companion of goddesses. Several examples of these enigmatic bird-goddess images, including some pictured here, will be on display in our upcoming exhibit, *Guiding Spirits: The Radical Witches and Women of OPUS*.

---

**Exhibit On View**  
**Opening in January 2020**





*Guiding Spirits: The Radical Witches and Women of OPUS* presents an array of materials highlighting explorations of mythological witches and the occult underpinnings of depth psychology. On view are germane selections from OPUS' leading-edge women scholars, including Marija Gimbutas' archeological illustrations of bird goddesses and their canine consorts, and Christine Downing and Marion Woodman's manuscripts on the distrust and endurance of the female body and the magical powers of lunar crossroad goddesses, Hekate, Artemis, and Baba Yaga. Also on view will be OPUS' most extensive display to date of Judge W. H. Barnes' rare turn-of-the-20th-century Spiritualist book collection, featuring testimonial accounts and investigative exposés of séances, trance mediums, and spirit materializations—all phenomena influential upon the psychology of C. G. Jung and the Theosophical establishment of OPUS' neighboring township of Summerland, CA.

This exhibit serves to illuminate ways in which goddess worship, bodily healing, oracular arts, and the co-arising of Spiritualism with women's suffrage all provided invaluable and pivotal leadership roles for women, as well as validating our enduring human need for contact with the unseen. *Guiding Spirits* is designed to complement Pacifica Graduate Institute's June 2020 conference, *Magic from the Margins: Witches, Women, and Emerging Ecologies of Psyche*.

For more information on the exhibit and the OPUS collections, visit the [Exhibits](#) page of our website.

---

## **Year End Giving** Supporting OPUS this holiday season

OPUS Archives and Research Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization fully supported by donations. In addition to the financial support that is so important to the day-to-day operations of OPUS, other types of contributions can be made. Go to our [Donate page](#) to learn more about the various ways you can give



this holiday season. OPUS is thankful for your support now and throughout the year.

---

## **New Hours for Campbell and Gimbutas Libraries** **Beginning December 2019**

The Joseph Campbell and Marija Gimbutas Library hours are changing. Effective December 1st, the libraries are open to the public on Sundays from 2 - 4 pm as well as by appointment.

For more information on the Campbell and Gimbutas libraries as well as other materials from their collections, please see our Collections webpage.

---

### **Support OPUS All Year Long**

Your contribution to OPUS helps with our mission to preserve collections and make them accessible to researchers.



Donate online today via credit card by simply clicking the icon above and filling out the secure form. We also graciously accept donations via mail at:

OPUS Archives & Research Center  
P.O. Box 1078  
Carpinteria, CA 93014

### **OPUS Holding the Archival Collections of:**

Joseph Campbell  
Christine Downing  
Marija Gimbutas  
Adolf Guggenbühl-Craig  
James Hillman  
Tony Joseph  
Jill Mellick  
Katie Sanford  
Jane Hollister  
Wheelwright  
Joseph Wheelwright  
Marion Woodman

### **Rare Book Collections of:**

William Henry Barnes  
John Sanford



Visit our website at [www.opusarchives.org](http://www.opusarchives.org)

**The Administrative Office and Archives** are open

Monday - Thursday  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**The Joseph Campbell & Marija Gimbutas Libraries** are open

Sundays 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

*Both are also available by appointment*

**Winter Holiday Closures**

The OPUS Administrative Office and Archives will be closed

December 23 - January 1st

January 20th

February 17th

---

**OPUS Archives and Research Center**

on the grounds of Pacifica Graduate Institute

*a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization*

801 Ladera Lane | Santa Barbara, CA 93108 | (805) 969-5750

©2019 OPUS Archives and Research Center, Inc. All Rights Reserved