

Triennial Rural Women's Studies Conference

Hosted by the Rural Women's Studies Association
Bloomington, Indiana

Theme: Health, Healing, and Rural Life in Global Communities

Evening Program:



Friday, September 25, 2009

7:00 pm Dance Tribute to Rural Women

Location: IMU, Frangipani Room

Iris Rosa and Sancocho Dance Company

Sancocho: Music and Dance Collage performs religious and secular dances such as Bailes Orishas (Orisha dances) Rumba, Palo, Makuta, Chancletas, Conga Comparsa, Bomba and Plena. The performance will showcase selected multi cultural dances of the diaspora that relate to women's roles and functions in rural culture. The Orisha dances will demonstrate the organic relationship of spirituality and the environment. Included in the section is Elegua who separates the underbrush and tall grass to open a road so that Ogun could cut the brush and other obstacles with his machete. Oshun, the Orisha of freshwaters, provides nourishment for the land and continuation of community.

Yemaya, the Orisha of the ocean's depth from which we all emerged, provides food and nourishment. The rumba, a secular dance, was created by African descent people who moved from the country into the city and brought with them the expression of their lived rural experiences. After a hard day of work in the cotton or sugarcane fields, people gathered to the sounds of stomps, handclapping, and drum accompaniment, they expressed their spirituality, community bond, and individual communication through various body movements and rhythms. All dances are accompanied by various hand drums and instruments such as batas, congas, bombos, shekeres, and bariles (barrel drums).



Saturday, September 26, 2009

7:00 pm Documentary Film Showing and Discussion

Location: IMU, Frangipani Room

Film: *Voices of American Farm Women*

Cynthia Vagnetti, Michigan State University



The film, *Voices of Wisconsin Women*

represents the last component of a multi-state and multi-year project that utilized new media audio and visual technologies to document 30 Upper Midwest Farm women involved in advancing the local food and farming movement. They are representative of the global efforts by leading women committed to biodiversity conservation while creating sustainable rural livelihoods that are socially just. Community-based organizations collaborating in the larger project, *Voices of American Farm Women* with Women, Food and Agriculture Network, Land Stewardship Project, MOSES, and Michigan Farmers' Union. A traveling black and white photography exhibition was produced by EXHIBITS USA and traveled from 2004-2009.