

# Remembering Freire, Reinventing Freire

A half-day conference and dialogue on the 10th anniversary of the death  
of Paulo Freire

May 2, 2007, 1.30-7.00 pm (followed by reception)

OISE/University of Toronto

252 Bloor ST. West, Toronto

7th floor, Peace Lounge

## **Organizers and sponsors:**

Ontario Region of the Canadian Association for the Studies of Adult Education  
(CASAE/ACÉÉA)

Program of Adult Education and Community Development (OISE/UT)

School of Liberal Arts and Sciences (George Brown College)

CUPE Literacy Program

Community Worker Program (George Brown College)

Comparative, International & Development Education Program (OISE/UT)

Transformative Learning Centre (OISE/UT)

## Preliminary Program

**1.30 Welcoming words by conference organizers** (Jennifer Hompoth, Bill Fallis and Daniel Schugurensky)

**1.40 Embracing contradictions: Paulo's disruptive dialogue** (Deborah Barndt and Bev Burke)

**Deborah Barndt** is a Professor in Environmental Studies, York University. While Freire was at OISE in 1976, Deborah was doing doctoral research on Freirean-based literacy programs in Peru, and then returned to work with the Participatory Research

Group of the ICAE. She will share and evoke stories of Paulo's disruptive dialogues...starting with her own encounters in Michigan, Massachusetts, Peru and Nicaragua in the 1970s and 1980s.

**Bev Burke** is a popular educator who was inspired by the creative educators she met in Central America in the late 1970's and early 1980s. Since then, she has tried to apply her learning in the solidarity/global education movement and more recently, within the labour movement. Bev was a student at OISE in 1983-84. She is co-author of *Educating for a Change* and other books on popular education.

## **2.10 Freire's visit to OISE/UT in 1976**

### **Film: Becoming a Christian (Paulo Freire, Roby Kidd and Alan Thomas in dialogue)**

This is a conversation between Paulo Freire, Roby Kidd and Alan Thomas that took place in 1976, during Freire's 6-week visit to OISE to teach a summer course. In this film, part of a series of three films documenting these dialogues, Freire discusses his own faith and philosophy of religion. The other two films are *Letters in the Earth* (in which Freire discusses his relationship with his parents and their influence upon his attitudes toward adult education) and *"Pencils and Guns"* (in which Freire gives his views on the role of education in developing countries and especially his literacy work with the government of Guinea Bissau).

## **2.40 Open dialogue with Alan Thomas, emeritus professor, OISE/UT, and Jean Connon, labour educator**

**Alan Thomas** was director of the Canadian Association for Adult Education (CAAE) from 1961 to 1970. He is an emeritus professor in the department of adult education and community development and has been active in CASAE since its beginnings. Alan Thomas is a living legend of adult education in Canada.

**Jean Connon** has contributed to the process of integrating literacy and clear language into the labour movement. She is the author of *Seeds for Change*, a Freirean-inspired curriculum guide for worker-centred literacy and activity-based learning.

## **3.10 "Taking Freire to heart: Debates in OISE in the aftermath of his visit (Greg Conchelos)**

**Greg Conchelos** was a student in the Adult Education Department of OISE during the 70's and 80's; he completed his PHD thesis on Participatory Research Development

using a Political Economic Framework.

### **3.30 Open dialogue with Greg Conchelos**

#### **3.45 Film: "Starting from Nina: The politics of learning" (1977), co-directed by Rosemary Donegan, Anita Shilton and D'Arcy Martin (Development Education Centre)**

This film was produced and circulated in 1977 by the Development Education Centre, incorporating interview footage from Paulo Freire's visit to OISE/UT and Toronto in 1976. It explores real-life situations in which people consciously try to apply Freire's insights in the social and political context of Toronto in the mid-1970's. These include a primary school classroom, two courses in English for Portuguese immigrants (one union-based and one community-based), and a workshop with clerical workers in an international development organization.

### **4.15 BREAK**

#### **4.30 Open dialogue with Rosemary Donegan, Anita Shilton and D'Arcy Martin, "Starting from Nina" film co-directors**

**Rosemary Donegan**, Assistant Dean, Liberal Studies and Chair, Chair, Criticism & Curatorial Studies, Ontario College of Art & Design

**D'Arcy Martin**, Labour educator and coordinator of the Centre for the Study of Education and Work (OISE/UT)

**Anita Shilton**, Dean, The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education, Ryerson University

#### **5.00 Reinventing Freire in different contexts: Challenges for the 21st century (Pramila Aggarwal, Judith Marshall, Christine McKenzie and Ferne Cristall)**

**Pramila Aggarwal** began her career as an educator and an activist in India. She came to the Department of Sociology of Education and Equity Studies, OISE/UT in the 1980s. Soon after her arrival in Toronto, she began working as a workers' rights activist with a focus on immigrant women. For over 25 years, she has worked locally, nationally and internationally on issues of participation, citizenship, worker's rights, human rights and community development. She teaches in the Community Worker

Program at George Brown College in Toronto.

**Judith Marshall** is the Education and Africa Programme coordinator for the Steelworkers Humanity Fund. She worked for many years in national literacy programmes in Mozambique. Her PhD thesis was an ethnographic study measuring the~experiences of worker-learners~in one workplace in the context of Mozambique's then larger project of social emancipation. She also accompanied Mozambican literacy instructors on a four-month study visit to Nicaragua and Brazil in 1985 in quest of new approaches to literacy and popular education.

**Christine McKenzie** is a doctoral student in the department of Adult Education and Community Development at OISE/UT, and a popular educator who has been developing and facilitating educational processes with diverse communities in Canada and Central America over the past 10 years.

**Ferne Cristall** was part of the team of the Development Education Centre that facilitated workshops with the film *Starting From Nina* in Toronto during the late seventies. Now she uses Freirean approaches in her work at a high school in Peterborough, Ontario, where she teaches English as a Second Language and World Issues.

#### **6.00 Open dialogue and plans for the future** (facilitator: Chris Cavanagh)

**Chris Cavanagh** is a popular educator, storyteller and graphic artist who has worked in human rights and social justice education since 1979, particularly in popular arts production, coalition building, anti-racism, international solidarity and democratic organisational change. Chris was a member of the Doris Marshall Institute for Education and Action between 1991 and 1998 and is a co-founder of the Catalyst Centre. Since 2001, he teaches an annual course in popular education and social change at York University. His Blog, *Comeuppance*, shares information about popular education and storytelling.

#### **7.00 Reception, poetry, mingling, music**

Poem, *Surf On Paulino*, by Budd L. Hall

**Budd Hall** first met Paulo Freire when he was asked to be responsible for Paulo's first visit to Tanzania in 1970. Budd had earlier introduced Paulo's work to the Tanzanian adult education community and had the honour of introducing Paulo to Tanzania's then President Julius Nyerere. Budd spoke on panels with Paulo in several places in the United States and Canada as well as at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Paulo served as the Honourary President of the International Council for Adult

Education during Budd's term as Secretary-General. Budd is currently the Director of the Office of Community-Based Research at the University of Victoria.

There is no registration fee for this conference, but registration in advance is required.

Space is limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information and to register, please send a message to [freireconference2007@gmail.com](mailto:freireconference2007@gmail.com)