

# SEX AND THE CITY of Politics

The Washington Association  
of  
Professional Anthropology  
April 8th 2008 Presentation

Dr. Katherine Frank  
Dr. Judith Hanna  
& Michelle Carnes

A Panel Presentation on issues of  
Sex, Sexuality, Gender & Power

Tuesday April 8th 7pm - 9pm  
Charles Sumner School  
Corner of 17th & M Streets, NW, DC  
[www.wapadc.org](http://www.wapadc.org)

**WAPA**  
**April Meeting**  
**Tuesday April 8<sup>th</sup> ~ 7pm to 9pm**  
**The Sumner School at 17<sup>th</sup> & L Street, NW DC**

**"Sex and the City of Politics"**

A Panel presentation and discussion by three leading women scholars on issues of sex, sexuality, gender and politics from the underbelly of the District to the top of Capital Hill.

**Judith Lynne Hanna, Ph.D.**

Senior Research Scholar  
University of Maryland

**Strippers, Religion, and Politics: Fantasy Onstage and Off**

The Christian Right's propulsion of George W. Bush into the White House has led to the movement's increased efforts to impose a Bible-based morality on the nation. Modesty and patriarchy are key Christian Right tenets challenged by exotic dancers. A politically active segment of the Christian Right burrows into government and trains lawyers to work in communities to eliminate exotic dance. Protected by the First Amendment, exotic dance cannot be banned, but it can be de facto regulated to death. The Christian Right's disinformation factory perpetuates myths about the negative effects of exotic dance and thereby gains public support for its fight against the industry. Key questions are: What is exotic dance? How do governments battle against it? What are the implications of the fight?

Judith Lynne Hanna (Ph.D. Anthropology, Columbia University) is a Senior Research Scholar in the Dance Department and an Affiliate in the Anthropology Department at the University of Maryland. Dr. Hanna has conducted research on how dance communicates in villages and cities in Africa, theaters, school playgrounds and classrooms, and adult entertainment exotic dance clubs in the U.S. Since 1995, Dr. Hanna has served as an expert court witness across the country in more than 100 First Amendment and other cases related to exotic dance. Her testimony is quoted in numerous court decisions and her research appears in, e.g., *Wrapping Nudity in a Cloak of Law*, *New York Times*, *Adult Entertainment Exotic Dance: A Guide for Planners and Policy Makers*, *Journal of Planning Literature*, and a book draft under publication review, *Naked Truth: A Christian Right, Strip Clubs and Democracy*.

Her landmark books are: *To Dance Is Human: A Theory of Nonverbal Communication* (University of Chicago Press), *Dance, Sex, and Gender: Signs of Identity, Dominance, Defiance and Desire* (University of Chicago Press), *The Performer-Audience Connection* (University of Texas Press), *Disruptive School Behavior* (Holmes and Meier Press), *Partnering Dance and Education* (Human Kinetics), and just published, *Dancing for Health: Conquering and Preventing Stress* (AltaMira Press).

She has written more than 300 scholarly and popular articles in, e.g., *City and Society*, *Creativity in Performance*, *Current Anthropology*, *Dance, Gender and Culture*, *First Amendment Lawyers Association Proceedings*, *Journal of Arts Management*, *Law & Society*, *Minnesota Law and Politics*, *Washington Post*, and *Exotic Dancer Bulletin*.

Dr. Hanna has lectured at more than 50 colleges and universities, addressed more than 30 association meetings, special conferences and seminars; published her work in 14 countries (Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Jamaica, Netherlands, Poland, Santo Domingo, Sweden, and United Kingdom); and appeared on radio and television in Canada, Ireland, Netherlands, Nigeria, Sweden, Cuba, and the U.S.

For more information visit her web site at [www.judithhanna.com/](http://www.judithhanna.com/)

## **Katherine Frank, Ph.D.**

Faculty Associate: Professor of Anthropology

Adjunct Faculty, College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, ME

Honorary Research Fellow, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Community-Academic Consortium for Research on Alternative Sexualities (CARAS)

[www.caras.ws](http://www.caras.ws)

### **"Consuming and Defending Adult Entertainment"**

Dovetailing off the concerns raised in Hanna's presentation, Frank will explore the demand side of strip clubs, and of the sex industry more generally, as well as representations of that demand in the media. What are the clients of the sex industry looking for? In light of their desires, is adult entertainment worth defending? If so, why and how? And how do the concerns and desires of individuals involved in the production and consumption of commercial sex link to those of individuals with other "alternative" sexual practices and desires?

Katherine Frank is a cultural anthropologist, fiction writer, and former exotic dancer currently studying the meaning and negotiation of sexual exclusivity in contemporary relationships. In addition to her work on monogamy, she has also written on the sex industry, pornography, feminism, eating disorders, swinging, polyamory, and reality television. She is the author of G-Strings and Sympathy: Strip Club Regulars and Male Desire (2002), a co-editor of Flesh for Fantasy: Producing and Consuming Exotic Dance (2006), and has published in *The Archives of Sexual Behavior*, *The Journal of Sex Research*, *Sexualities*, *Qualitative Inquiry*, and *Deviant Behavior*, among other journals. In addition to speaking at academic conferences and on college campuses, Frank has served as an expert witness and a consultant on legal cases involving strip clubs and sex workers and is a contributing expert for the Love and Health Information Channel at [www.ifriends.com](http://www.ifriends.com). She is also on the Board of Directors for CARAS, a non-profit organization that facilitates dialogue between activists and alt-sex communities with academic researchers. For more information, visit her website: [www.katefrank.com](http://www.katefrank.com).

## **Michelle Carnes, ABD**

**Doctoral Student, American University**

### **"All Ladies Welcome: Black Same-Sex Desiring Women's Erotic Parties"**

Using an ad placed in a magazine for lesbians for a traditional strip club that declares "All Ladies Welcome" as our departure point, this presentation explores attempts of traditional strip clubs to "welcome" same-sex desiring women into the space as equal, paying customers. Continuing our discussion of the desires of strip club customers and how they fulfill them, we'll hear from Black same-sex desiring women who started their own erotic parties when their expectations were not met in traditional strip clubs. Drawing on ethnographic data and interviews, I'll further discuss the beginnings of Black same-sex desiring women's erotic parties, how the parties are able to successfully fulfill the women's expectations and what the parties mean to those who attend.

Michelle Carnes is a doctoral student in Anthropology at American University and former stripper completing her dissertation, an ethnography of Black same-sex desiring erotic parties in the Washington DC area. For three years, Michelle tipped her way through Black same-sex desiring women's erotic parties at three sites in Washington (U Street, Navy Yard and New York Avenue), conducting interviews and participant-observation. After two years in the field, she performed at an erotic party at the request of the promoter. Michelle defends her dissertation in May of 2008, which she will publish as a book titled, Do It For Your Sistas. Michelle is a Point Foundation Scholar and an Ana Luisa Estrada Vollmer Foundation Scholar and wishes to acknowledge their generosity and commitment to this research.