



GENERATIONS OF INDIAN VALLEY PRESENTS

SPIRIT JOURNEYS...
EXPLORING THE MYSTIC
TRADITIONS OF THE
WORLD'S RELIGIONS

Margaret Fuller and Transcendentalism

"Humanity can be divided into three classes - men, women, and Margaret Fuller." Edgar Allan Poe

Margaret Fuller (1810-1850) was considered the most brilliant woman of her time. Only Poe matched her as an outstanding literary critic in 1840s America. She was a leading Transcendentalist with her colleagues Emerson, Thoreau, and A. Bronson Alcott. She became the first woman social and literary critic and foreign correspondent for Horace Greeley's New York Tribune from 1844 until her untimely death in 1850. Transcendentalism is said to have ended with her drowning in a shipwreck off Fire Island, New York.

Through her insightful and provocative reporting, Margaret exposed the horrible conditions in New York hospitals and prisons, vehemently opposed the extension of slavery into the territories of the United States, and revealed the poverty and classism created by the Industrial Revolution. Her work for women's rights, social justice, and equality is still relevant for us today.

Michael Barnett works as a theologian, educator, and writer. He earned his Master of Divinity Magna Cum Laude at Moravian Theological Seminary and his Master of Education at Gwynedd-Mercy College. For eight years Michael has spoken and taught on the Transcendentalists in Unitarian Universalist and liberal churches in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and New Mexico. This talk on Margaret Fuller grew from his History Seminar paper at GMC, which he presented during the SEPCHE (Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education) conference at Immaculata University in 2007.

Michael's sermon, "Welcome Home, Phoenix," was published in the July/August 2004 issue of The Universalist Herald. Michael has taught religious studies at GMC and teaches poetry writing, journaling, and writings of the Transcendentalists at Montgomery County Community College. As a teaching artist in writing with the Lehigh Valley Arts Council, Michael works with at-risk youth and public school students. His tanka poetry has just been published in the January 2010 issue of red lights.

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**MARGARET FULLER
AND
TRANSCENDENTALISM**

**FEBRUARY 26
7:00 PM**

**259 N. Second St.
Souderton, PA 18964**

Registration: \$10

Light Refreshments

Program Presenter:

Michael Barnett

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