

The Black Madonna— The Divine Mystery veiled in Blackness

A 5-day course
with Cosmic and Sacred Dance
given by

Karen Rivers, PhD

with pianist, *Marcia Burchard*

July 23 - 27, 2018

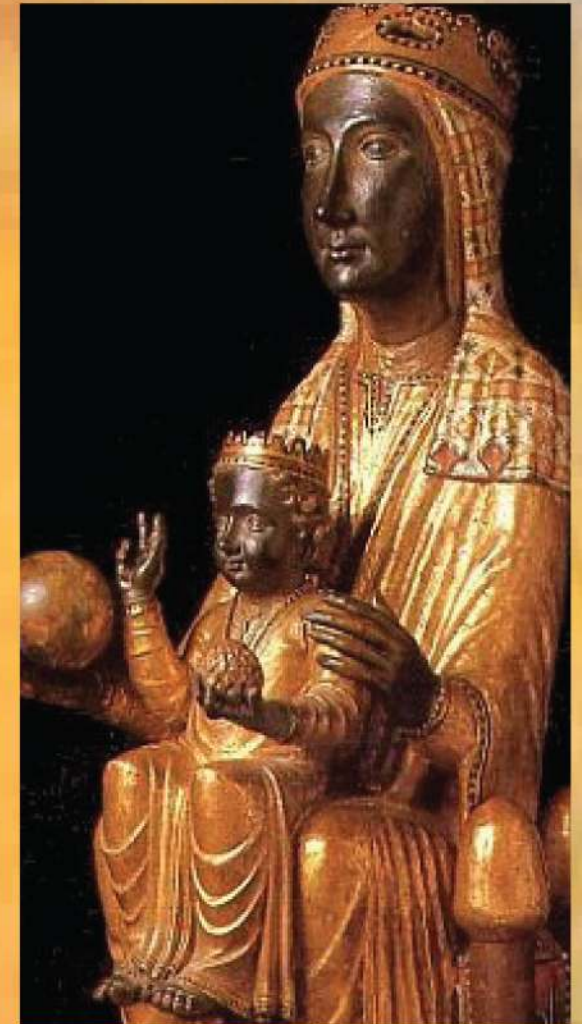
Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
4907 Garrett Road, Durham, NC 27707

Throughout Europe and Mexico, images of the Black Madonna are enshrined in countless pilgrim churches, in remote monasteries, in tiny chapels and vast cathedrals, in dark crypts and on high altars. She has been visited by millions for hundreds of years. Some claim she is the symbolic remains of a prehistoric worship of the Earth Mother; also known as the Queen of Nature, the agent of all fertile transformation in the outside world and in the psyche. Jung called her Isis; in the Catholic tradition, among her many titles, she is referred to as the Sorrowful Mother, Mater Dolorosa, the Madonna of Solitude and Sorrow, who can receive and contain even our most unbearable pain. She personifies the Holy Grail and the Ark of the Covenant in a quest for lost feminine wisdom and the search for soul.

In Austria in the 1950's, artist and Benedictine sister, Meinrad Craighead, wrote of the Black Virgin: "On her face is an expression of utter solitude so intense that the child on her knees or in the embrace of her left arm seems strangely appended. Her eyes are opaque, blank, veiled in the deepest interiority. She sits deeply, a curtained container, a tabernacle, the eternal bloody cave of birth, disintegration, and rebirth."

Known to the Native American Hopi Indians as Crow Mother, she is black as the night sky and the richest soil, dark as the miracle of deeply watered earth in the arid Southwest. She is the mother who fertilizes all life. She is the Keeper of the Balance.

With current thoughts of black holes at the center of our galaxy, science intimates what also lives behing the re-emergence of the wisdom of the Black Madonna: Black is holy. It embraces the mysteries of the night sky.



Virgin of Montserrat

The Madonna, luminous in her ebony blush, holy babe in arms, hangs like Venus in the summer sky above the horizon of the altar.

— from *Beautiful Black Madonna of Czestochowa*, by - Jamie Naylor.



CHOREOCOSMOS, the school of Cosmic and Sacred Dance, was founded by Robert Powell, PhD, and co-founder of the Sophia Foundation, with the intention of aligning one's self harmoniously with the spiritual-cosmic world and to celebrate the relationship of the human being with the cosmos and the earth. For biographical information about Robert Powell and books he has authored see www.sophiafoundation.org.

Karen Rivers, Ph.D offers courses in Human Consciousness and the deepening of one's spiritual life. She is author of *Love and the Evolution of Consciousness: a Study on the Transformation of the Human Soul, Double, and Spirit*. She serves on the faculty of Wisdom School of Graduate Studies as the Director of the New Chartres Academy dedicated to re-establishing the inherent harmony of each human being with the cosmos, with the Earth, and with the deepest core of one's being. Karen co-founded, with Robert Powell, the Sophia Foundation, founded Chrysalis Productions, a community theater company for adults and children, and founded the Rosamira Circle, dedicated to the unity of all religions.

Marcia Burchard, concert pianist and composer, will accompany sacred dance, singing, and the Sophia Grail Celebrations. Marcia composes and arranges sacred music and has accompanied Choreocosmos since 1997. She received a grant to compose and present the opera Innana about the Sumerian goddess. She has composed music for Parzival and the Mystery of Love, for Chrysalis Productions.

DAILY PROGRAM

MONDAY, JULY 23, TO FRIDAY, JULY 27, 2018
THE PROGRAM WILL END FRIDAY AT 5:30 P.M.

9:30 – 10:45 AM COSMIC & SACRED DANCE

10:45 – 11:15 AM BREAK

11:15 – 12:30 PM STUDY/CONVERSATION

12:30 – 1:45 PM LUNCH

1:45 – 4:00 PM SINGING/SACRED DRAMA

4:15 – 5:30 PM COSMIC & SACRED DANCE

THERE WILL BE A SOPHIA GRAIL CIRCLE
TUES. & THURS. EVENINGS, 7:00 – 9:00 PM.

Tuesday evening: Sophia Revealed

Thursday evening: Black Madonna

Friday morning: Black Madonna w/dances

REGISTRATION

Course Fee: \$495 early registration received by April 1, 2018. After this date \$545. Some accommodations with a local participant may be arranged.

Community Meals: Cost: \$145. Please indicate if you would like to participate in community meals: five lunches, two dinners -Tues. & Thurs. and snacks catered by Steven Lambeth.

To register send payment to Sophia Foundation
4500 19th Street, #369, Boulder, CO 80304
or on the Sophia Foundation website www.sophiafoundation.org

Information: Karen Rivers 919-942-2465 or
karen@karenrivers.info

Final registrations are due July 1, 2018.