

Mount Mary College Presents
Writers Writing About
**Self-Image and
Empowerment**

A PANEL DISCUSSION FEATURING

Kelly Parks Snider • Amanda Angel • Philip Chard
Wednesday, October 20, 2010 • 6:30 p.m.

HELFAER HALL, MOUNT MARY COLLEGE

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, *RESERVATIONS REQUIRED* *

This event features three guests drawn to writing with a personal message to heal and educate.

Kelly Parks Snider works with schools to educate adolescents about the power of the media to manipulate self-image, and will begin her presentation with video clips of her work.

Amanda Angel will talk about empowering families to open adoptions for the sake of children.

Philip Chard will discuss the healing that comes from re-connecting to our environment.

The discussion will have special appeal for counselors, teachers and parents.



Kelly Parks Snider

Kelly Parks Snider, a visual artist, writer and activist explores contemporary social issues through the arts. Her objective is to educate communities and stimulate dialogue about targeted issues, shaking up the status quo and creating an exploration of the questions that shape and inspire all of us. PROJECT GIRL (www.projectgirl.org) is an arts-based program helping adolescent girls increase their awareness about the influences and impacts of commercial media as it defines beauty and success. The PROJECT GIRL exhibition was the culmination of a seven-year exploration of the effects of contemporary media on young teens' lives. Other projects of Snider's include *Rural Women: Voice and Spirit*, a multi-media art exhibition focusing on the lives and issues of contemporary Wisconsin farm women. The exhibit continues to be shown nationally. More information can be found at www.kellyparkssnider.com.



Amanda Angel

Amanda Angel, a teacher and writer, raises questions about adoption, always a touchy subject. The topic of "birth parents" is even touchier. They are the forgotten, swept-under-the-rug part of adoption. Ann and Amanda Angel, a mother-daughter pair from Milwaukee hope to change all that with the publication of *Silent Embrace, Perspectives on Birth and Adoption*. Amanda has walked through the difficult journey of whether, how and when adoptees should contact their birth parents. She has explored issues of abandonment that often accompany closed adoptions. She is familiar with both sides of the issue, having placed her own child for adoption almost ten years ago. In co-editing this collection of unsentimental stories that look at adoption relationships honestly and unflinchingly, she also shares her story of coming to the decision to create an open adoption and how she maintains a loving and supportive relationship with her birth daughter's parents and with her birth daughter in "Closing in for the Picture."



Philip Chard

Philip Chard is President & CEO of Empathia, Inc., a global EAP, work/life and behavioral solutions firm serving over 300 companies representing 1.9 million individuals. He writes an award-winning weekly column in *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* titled "Out Of My Mind," and is author of *The Healing Earth*, which won the 1995 Midwest Publishers Award, *Nature's Ways*, which examines the spiritual aspects of nature interaction, and *Beast Management*, which provides creative approaches to workplace conflict resolution. Philip is a contributing writer to *Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul*, has been a guest expert on ABC Television's 20/20, and has presented at the Brookings Institution. He holds a master's degree in counseling psychology and taught behavioral sciences at Michigan State University for 7 years, where he received an Outstanding Faculty Award.



Copies of books authored and edited by our panelists will be available for purchase at the event.



* **Space is limited.** Call the English Department at **414-258-4810, Ext. 395** or e-mail **monholla@mtmary.edu**.

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