

3-4-1998

03/04/1998 - EIU Workshop To Focus On Womens Folklore Story Telling.pdf

University Marketing and Communications

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1998

Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "03/04/1998 - EIU Workshop To Focus On Womens Folklore Story Telling.pdf" (1998).
1998. 420.

http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1998/420

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Press Releases at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1998 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

98-75

March 4, 1998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU WORKSHOP TO FOCUS ON WOMEN'S FOLKLORE, STORYTELLING

CHARLESTON -- "We Are the Stories We Tell," a workshop on women's folklore, will be hosted by Bonnie Irwin at 4:30 p.m. Monday, March 9, in the Martinsville Room of Eastern Illinois University's Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Irwin, an associate professor of English at Eastern, will begin the workshop with a brief introduction and discussion. She and the audience will then share stories.

Irwin defines folklore as "all of the things we learn from our parents and our culture, rather than going to school to learn." These may include handicrafts such as quilting, as well as gossip, storytelling and jokes.

"But since I came out of a literature department, I concentrate on storytelling. The kinds of stories women tell, particularly to each other," Irwin said.

The workshop will focus on the preservation and importance of these stories.

"One thing about storytelling is once a story is told it is gone. You can't look it up

-more-

anymore,” Irwin said. “And the stories we tell are part of what makes us who we are, part of how we identify ourselves.” Storytelling, she continued, is a way “to build our (women’s) history,” and helps keep our younger generations aware of the women’s movement.

Irwin is hoping for women and men of all ages and backgrounds to attend the workshop. Admission is free.

“We Are the Stories We Tell” is one of a series of events planned by Eastern’s Women’s Advocacy Council in celebration of Women’s History and Awareness Month. Irwin has been a member of the Council for four years and the historian for the past two years. As historian, she is putting together an oral history of Eastern women faculty.