



The Loft Literary Center, the nation's largest literary center, offering programs and services for writers and readers.



Curbstone Press, a non-profit literary arts organization that publishes creative literature that fosters intercultural understanding and promotes human rights.



Unity Church-Unitarian, engaging people in a free and inclusive religious community that encourages lives of integrity, service and joy.



Project MN/Leon, a partnership between citizens of the states of Leon, Nicaragua and Minnesota, seeking relationships that deepen understanding and facilitate mutual development.

Mission – The Center for Global Education at Augsburg College provides cross-cultural educational opportunities in order to foster critical analysis of local and global conditions so that personal and systemic change takes place leading to a more just and sustainable world.

Background – Founded in 1982, the Center is nationally recognized for its work in experiential, intercultural, and educational travel opportunities. More than 9,000 people have participated in our international travel seminars, which are well-known and respected for exposing travelers to a variety of points of view, especially the perspectives of those working for justice and human dignity. The Center also operates undergraduate semester programs in Mexico, Central America and Southern Africa, which have served over 1500 students from more than 250 colleges and universities.

The Center was the 2003 recipient of the National Society for Experiential Education Program of the Year Award.

Affiliation – Augsburg College, founded in 1869, is a private liberal arts and sciences college in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Princeton Review featured Augsburg in its 2005 book, "College with a Conscience: 81 Great Schools with Outstanding Community Involvement."



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International Travel Seminars



February 16-24, 2010

**POETRY & POLITICS:
 A Nicaraguan literary tour
 exploring the power
 of imagination and
 poetic tools for change**

Sponsored by:
 The Center for
 Global Education
 at Augsburg College
 with
 Unity Church-Unitarian,
 The Loft Literary Center,
 Project Minnesota León,
 and Curbstone Press

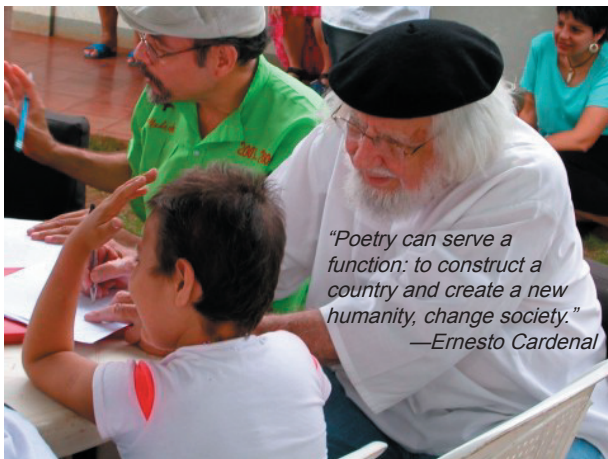
General Information

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

“Every Nicaraguan is a poet until proven otherwise,” the poet José Coronel Urtecho once said. Evidence of this claim is found throughout Nicaraguan history and in the nation’s much loved poet Rubén Darío (1867-1916), the “Prince of Spanish-American literature.”

In this nine-day literary tour we invite you to travel to a place where poetry is cherished. You will meet with Nicaraguan writers of all ages and learn how poetry and literature have historically provided a language of resistance, empowerment, and hope and a voice for social and political change in Nicaragua. Through speakers and field trips, you will learn about the role of poetry in the 1970s during the struggle against the Somoza dictatorship and during the Sandinista revolution in the 1980s. You will join visitors from around the world attending the Sixth Annual International Poetry Festival in the city of Granada.

Throughout the tour, we will meet face to face, as writers and readers, building relationships that might strengthen literary traditions in both Nicaragua and the United States, supporting their impact on social and political change. We will be asking as we go: What is the role of literature in U.S. culture and politics and how can it contribute to social transformation? What is the contemporary writer’s role in fostering global connections and understanding? And how can the U.S. literary community support Nicaragua’s writers and publishers? We will also explore difficult questions about how the nation’s literary traditions are challenged today as people and poetry struggle to survive in the second poorest nation in our hemisphere.



“Poetry can serve a function: to construct a country and create a new humanity, change society.”
—Ernesto Cardenal

Photo by Bria Knorr



Photo by Bria Knorr

“Poetry has the role of speaking many things you cannot say otherwise, saying things the world may not be ready to hear otherwise. . . .”

—Marta Leonor González
journalist, novelist and poet

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The style of this travel seminar is experiential and will include visits to sites of cultural and historical significance in Managua, León, and Granada as well as guided sessions for analysis, reflection, and writing. The week will begin with an overview of Nicaraguan poetry, literature, and politics, past and present. Each day will include interpreted conversations with Nicaraguan writers, journalists, editors, publishers, bookstore owners, educators, and cultural workers. The writers involved in the previous tour included Ernesto Cardenal, Sergio Ramírez, Claribel Alegría, Vidaluz Meneses, and many more. Examples of topics and activities are:

- International Poetry Festival events including readings, performances and cultural activities such as the symbolic burial of ignorance
- Testimonials from participants in the national literacy campaign and poetry workshops of the Sandinista Revolution
- Discussions of: the role of women poets in social and political change; how to integrate creative and political work; opportunities and challenges faced by young Nicaraguan writers today; efforts to publish and promote Nicaraguan children’s literature; and the historical role of poetry in León as an intellectual center and birthplace of Ruben Darío
- Visits to museums, libraries, bookstores, art galleries and art schools for youth

You do not need to speak Spanish to participate in this seminar. Translation will be provided throughout.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We utilize modest local hotels for lodging. You can generally expect to be housed two to a room with a private bathroom. While in León you will likely be housed two or more to a room, dormitory-style with bunk beds and shared bathrooms. In Managua, participants may be housed with resident families or in a modest hotel.

COST

The cost of this travel seminar is \$1,355. This includes pre- and post-trip resource materials, in-country programming, language interpretation, honoraria for local resource people, all meals and lodging, in-country transportation, and fees for activities included in the program. This price does not include airfare to Managua, Nicaragua. You will be responsible for making reservations that allow you to arrive on the evening of February 16. The program price does not include passport and visa application fees or entry and exit taxes. Your entry and exit taxes may be included in the cost of airfare.

APPLICATION AND PAYMENT

We welcome you to apply online! If you don’t have online access, please contact us for a hardcopy application packet. A \$250 deposit is required with your application. This deposit will be refunded only if the Center cancels the seminar. This deposit can be made by credit card or check, via either the online or hardcopy application forms. Your application and deposit must be received no later than November 24, 2009. In some cases, space may be available after this date; please contact the Center for more information. Final payment for the travel seminar will be due January 2, 2010.



“To write creates a conscience.”
—Vidaluz Meneses

Photo by Bria Knorr