



UCSB HISTORY ASSOCIATES

Did a Woman Rule the Vatican? *The Scandalous History of Pope Joan*



A longstanding story has it that a woman disguised as a man became pope in 854. Accounts of her demise vary, but involve her falling off her horse during a papal procession and either dying in childbirth on the spot or being dragged off by an enraged Roman mob. The story probably dates from around 1150, when papal processions started avoiding the traditional site of her fall. In this first lecture of the new academic year, History Prof. Carol Lansing will explain the joke in these stories, exploring changes in papal ceremonial and anti-papal satire to understand Pope Joan in the context of attitudes about gender and the clergy. A wine-and-cheese reception will follow.

About our Speaker

Carol Lansing is a professor of medieval European history at UCSB. A specialist in the society, politics and culture of medieval Italy, she is the author of Power and Purity: Cathar Heresy in Medieval Italy and, most recently, Passion and Order: Restraint of Grief in the Medieval Italian Communes. She is co-editor of A Companion to the Medieval World and the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including a Guggenheim fellowship and the Howard R. Marraro Prize of the Catholic Historical Association.



**Trinity Episcopal Church,
Guild Hall
1500 State Street
Sunday, October 18
4 p.m.**

To learn more about the UCSB History Associates, go to www.history.ucsb.edu and click on "History Associates" under Quick Links in lower left column.

"The History of Pope Joan" Oct. 18, 2015, 4p.m., The Guild Hall of Trinity Episcopal Church

Please reserve _____ space(s) @ \$10 members and guests; \$12 non-members

Name _____ Guest(s) _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please detach at dotted line and mail check made out to UCSB History Associates to:
UCSB History Associates, Department of History, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9410

Or phone (805) 893-4388