

“I Am Spending Much of My Time Marching in Protests”

Profile of Gayle E. Woloschak

Note: Dr. Woloschak is an expert in science, bioethics, and religion. She has authored over 200 scientific papers on molecular biology, radiation biology, and nano-biotechnology. Her science-religion interests include biological evolution, stem cell research, and ecology. She participated in the work of the Press Office at the Pan-Orthodox Council on Crete last summer. Dr. Woloschak sits on the advisory board of *The Wheel*.

Reading: Right now I’m reading a collection of stories by Terry Pratchett written before his death, *The Witch’s Vacuum Cleaner and Other Stories*. Pratchett’s Discworld series was among my favorites, and I am still mourning his loss. I’m also reading Mary Beard’s *SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome*; that is truly an easy read for a book covering one thousand years of history. Last week I finished *The Queen of the Night* by Alexander Chee, a historical novel set in the late 1800s that discusses the plight of women in that age (and perhaps in ours as well, in some ways).

Watching: I enjoy theater immensely. Most recently I saw a fabulous play at the Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago, *The Christians* by Lucas Hnath. This remarkable play deals with the

difficulties that a Pentecostal community encounters when one of the pastors announces that hell does not exist. The prejudices of the parish come into play when some members can’t believe that their “sinful” family members and colleagues will not be punished eternally. I also saw *Les Troyens* last month at the Lyric Opera in Chicago, the first time I’ve seen this incredible Berlioz masterpiece.

Listening: My current “faves” playlist is a mix of all kinds of music: Japanese pop (Utada’s new “Simple & Clean” remixes), sacred music (several hymns by Serbia’s Divna Ljubojević), opera (especially *Les Troyens*’s “Chanson D’Hylas” with the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal), Ukrainian folk-pop (Ruslana’s “Artek-Bukovel i ya”), and others. I also have a “sleep on the plane” playlist which is totally Monteverdi.

What I Am Doing in My Spare Time: My life is busy, I need to create spare time . . . but I have a dream to visit every national park in the U.S. So far I have only managed to see half of them. I love theater, opera, music, movies (especially the International Film Festival, when I try to see fifty movies in two weeks). These days though, I am spending much of my time marching in protests—the Women’s March, marches for immigrants, and the March for Science. *

