WOMEN AND THE WORD
Rebecca Clark, Trelawney Grenfell, Megan Stove, contributors

The Anna Howard Shaw Center sponsored the eighteenth annual Women and the Word preaching event March 13-14, 2002. The theme was "The Dance of Margins and Centers, Moving Toward Wholeness in God."

Presenters at the event were Eunjoo Mary Kim, Assistant Professor of Homiletics at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado; Joretta L. Marshall, Academic Dean and Professor of Pastoral Theology and Care at Eden Theological Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri; and N. Lynne Westfield, Assistant Professor of Religious Education at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey.

The conference convened on Wednesday afternoon in Boston University's spacious Photonics Center. After the opening prayers and welcomes, the three presenters discussed their different theological frameworks, which provided helpful context during the conference. Homiletician Eunjoo Kim, who is currently writing a book on the topic of margins and centers, explained the traditional view of a circle with one center as inadequate to describe the experience of people from various minorities and marginalities. Instead, she proposed a theological model in which we envision many intertwining and overlapping circles, radiating influence and sharing new centers and margins.

Joretta Marshall described herself as a pastoral theologian, interested in the experience of people in church leadership and congregations. Her work on forgiveness is influenced by liberation theology, feminist theology, and GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender) theology. Joretta asked the participants to envision different scenarios involving parishioners and discuss how the words and actions in a pastor's office would influence the church as a whole.

Lynne Westfield discussed her experience as a Womanist practical theologian and educator, coming from a tradition of strong, resilient women. Working in a classroom setting with conservative continued on page 2

FROM THE DIRECTOR
Margaret S. Wiborg

A few weeks ago, a young woman from the College of Communication came to interview me for the alumnae/ni publication because I am retiring. I have been thinking a lot about one of the questions she asked me. Was there a particular something that I recall over the last eighteen years that was especially significant? Eighteen years? One thing? I bombarded her with memories of significant events at the Shaw Center during my time here.

One of my first special memories is of the first full women's retreat in 1984. We were at a camp and the meeting area was only partially enclosed. On that rainy fall morning, we took turns sitting near the fireplace and spun a web of yarn while weaving memories of the women who had been most significant in our lives. The community of which I was to be a part for the next eighteen years began our life together.

I remember the final plenary session of the first Women and the Word event March 14–15, 1985. Held because clergy- continued on page 5

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students, Lynne had asked her students to share their biographies, but they wanted to hear from her first. She struggled with how vulnerable and honest she should be in a classroom and decided to share her biography against the advice of her colleagues. Lynne described her feeling that communities must be honest and not sterile, and related this to her work with other small faith communities she studies.

After dinner, the conference continued with a presentation by Eunjoo Kim, who further described her re-imagining of margins and centers. She compared the experience of Asian women preachers to that of Jesus’ early followers at Pentecost. In Eunjoo’s study of Asian women preachers in Korea and Japan, she found that they live and work in a more patriarchal society than women in other parts of the world. Because the prospect of ministry is so difficult for these marginalized women, Eunjoo found that Asian women only enter ministry if they feel very strongly called and empowered by the Holy Spirit. In the same way, the early followers of Jesus were marginalized by the Roman culture, and would not have been able to preach the Gospel had they not been empowered by the Spirit. Eunjoo therefore presented the Holy Spirit as the transforming force that moves people to create a new margin, “a tangent line where a new world begins.” In this way, the power of God’s spirit drives the dance of margins and centers.

Thursday morning began with prayer and a powerful presentation by Joretta Marshall on forgiveness. Joretta defined forgiveness as “a subversive and relational process that occurs as persons, families, or communities move away from the overwhelming power of a hurt in their lives toward reconciliation and liberation.” She went on to emphasize the importance of this process, reiterating that the goal of forgiveness is not forgiveness in itself, but to work through the process until one is freed to participate in ongoing activities of liberation and justice. The process of forgiveness requires that someone name the injustice and the parties involved admit their responsibility in that injustice. Then, with an honest desire to change, those involved move toward a new relationship that embraces differences. This dance of reaction, responsibility, and gradual reconciliation is a process that cannot be rushed.

After a worship service in Marsh Chapel on Thursday afternoon, the participants broke into three groups and each section heard two different sermons on the same text, the Syro-Phoenician woman from Mark 7:25. One student attendee summed up the Preaching workshops by saying, “It was amazing to hear how two people could use the same text and preach completely different sermons.” The sermons all varied in style and content. Catholic laywoman and preacher Greer Gordon delivered a standard three-point sermon, whereas Episcopalian minister Rev. Jane Gould retold the story as if she were the Syro-Phoenician woman. In another section, United Methodist pastor Rev. Yoo-Yun Cho-Chang recalled from her childhood in Korea that the women had to wait to eat until the men were finished, and Catholic chaplain Jacqueline Landry related her experience at a mission where she was honored to get down on her knees and consume the crumbs of the fallen host. In the third section, Rev. Dr. Aida Izararry-Fernández (District Superintendent, Boston Metro North, UMC) used Denzel Washington’s performance in The Hurricane as a starting place to preach about justice, while United Church of Christ minister Rev. Martha Simmons led her listeners through the process of writing a sermon, providing insights and tips for preachers. Hearing these different sermons validated for preachers, future preachers, and laity the freedom and value of preaching in many different styles to convey the message. For many students as well, the experience highlighted the lessons learned in class in an exciting and tangible way.

The conference wound to a close with Lynne Westfield’s presentation on resilience through hospitality, which drove home the importance of small communities of faith. Lynne described “Dear Sisters,” a literary club she started for her research, which still meets regularly. Her often-humorous depiction of the group made it very clear how important this community was to the women involved, and how they gained an opportunity to strengthen themselves when they opened their homes and their hearts to each other in friendship. While the
group's discussion often strayed from topic to topic, it was clear that the main focus was to have a place for women to gather in their own space and let out their true personalities. Lynne stressed that such hospitality was essential to these women, one of the five practices of resilience she found among the women she studied. The discussion among the conference participants then turned to the church and the lack of true faith communities in many contemporary congregations. Many mourned the loss of such groups, while some imagined ways to build faith communities or lifted up examples of tight-knit communities in their churches.

The conference concluded with a service of Word and Table, and the women reluctantly left the event, grateful for the experiences they had shared there. The resources, books, vestments, artwork, preachers, presenters, and attendees at this year's Women and the Word all combined to make it a truly memorable event.

Also present at the Women and the Word event were one hundred stoles from the Shower of Stoles Project. These were a selection from the many hundreds of stoles given by or in honor and memory of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people in the ecumenical community of North America. Of note were four stoles that were given by or in honor and memory of graduates of Boston University School of Theology. All of the individuals represented in the Shower of Stoles Project have been or are now active leaders in their faith communities, barred from serving in these faith communities because of their sexual orientation. The stoles, which have been collected since 1995, serve as a witness to these faithful people from more than a dozen denominations who have been forced to choose between serving in silence or losing their livelihood and giving up their calling. For more information on this moving display, please visit the Shower of Stoles website at www.showerofstoles.com.

With such a successful conference completed, the Women and the Word planning committee is already looking ahead to next year's event. The nineteenth annual Women and the Word Conference will take place Wednesday, March 26, through Friday, March 28, 2003. Leadership will include The Reverend Dr. Barbara Kay Lundblad, Associate Professor of Preaching at Union Theological Seminary, and Dr. Janet R. Walton, Professor of Worship, also at Union Theological Seminary. Already, Women and the Word 2003 has the promise of a great event!

If you missed the conference, or if you would like a way to remember the words spoken there, please fill out and return the order form on page 7 of this newsletter.
CLERGYWOMEN’S CONSULTATION
Laurel Scott, Henrietta Leholohonolo Montjane, and Nizzi Santos Digan, contributors

The 2002 International United Methodist Clergywomen’s Consultation, sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, was held January 7-11, 2002, in San Diego, California. The theme woven through the worship services and sessions was “Creating a Women’s Sabbath.” Throughout the week, participants attended workshops focusing on writing, painting, music, movement, relaxation, and more.

The Anna Howard Shaw Center sponsored five Boston University School of Theology women at the Consultation. Three of these women, Nizzi Santos Digan, Laurel Scott, and Henrietta Leholohonolo Montjane, spoke afterward about the rich experiences they had at the event.

A Glorious Experience
Laurel Scott says that she came home from the 2002 United Methodist Clergywomen’s Consultation as a changed person. Having only recently completed three years in seminary and being in a new appointment for only five months, she needed the jolt that the preachers gave in their sermons on Sabbath-keeping. She returned to Boston determined to keep Sabbath and instilled her Sabbath that very week. Laurel found that the benefits were immediately apparent. The days following her Sabbath are far more productive, and she consistently looks forward to her next Sabbath.

Dr. Lydia Jackson-Waters’s story of health-related problems that resulted from too many demands made Laurel sit up and listen. She decided then and there that she did not want to suffer negative effects on her health resulting from a schedule that leaves no room for rest, refreshment, and renewal. Being the best pastor she can be means, as Bishop Linda Lee said, setting the right example for the congregation she serves—taking Sabbath so that God can renew, refresh, and equip her, and keeping the Sabbath holy to the Lord so that she can be kept whole to answer her calling. Laurel finds that she is not alone in this, because—as The Reverend Minerva Carcano reminded her—God is always there waiting to give us all new strength, new courage, and new energy.

Additionally, Laurel came home with a determination to live into the authenticity of her Christian and Wesleyan heritage. One example she cited is praying in public. In deference to the culture, we often decline even to say a short grace while eating in a restaurant, or to pray at times other than those designated in the order of worship. Laurel believes it is important for congregations to see pastors praying and for pastors to encourage those with whom they minister to pray not just the prayers that are written, but also to pray from the heart—to cry out to God, since the heart-prayers are those that are heard and answered.

Seeing the Worldwide Church
When Henrietta Leholohonolo Montjane returned from the conference, she described herself as “drunk in the spirit,” celebrating her experience with the approximately 1,200 United Methodist clergywomen from all over the world. Henrietta said the best part of the Consultation was the cultural diversity of the participants and presenters, which was carried through to many of the workshops and worship services. Attendees participated in worship services that reflected African, African American, Native American, Korean, and Taizé traditions.

Henrietta now applies the Sabbath to her vocation. She believes that instituting Sabbath is an important issue, especially for women clergy, because we tend to feel guilty when we aren’t working. We focus so much on taking care of others that we often neglect our own needs for spiritual rest and renewal. Despite the new insights she gained from the planned events, Henrietta insisted that the true highlight of her experience at the Consultation was spending time together with other United Methodist clergywomen. She enjoyed bonding with roommate Nizzi Santos Digan, and was also thrilled to spend time with Boston University alumnae and seminarians from other schools. The gathering enforced a global understanding of the United Methodist Church, and Henrietta was honored to meet some other African clergywomen.

Since the Consultation, Henrietta has applied the Sabbath in her life, and has gained confidence in her preaching and in her role as a student and pastor. She said that the conference demonstrated how her ministry fits into the larger picture of the worldwide United Methodist Church, and has given her new insight as to how she might move forward in her vocation.

Empowered to Spread the Good News
Nizzi Santos Digan was inspired by the various ways that the bishops and ordained pastors each incorporated their traditions and experiences into their heart-felt preaching. She reiterated how important it was that each day of the Consultation started and ended with worship in various styles. Nizzi especially enjoyed the baptism renewal service and the following demonstration staged by anonymous homosexual clergywomen who covered themselves in black from head to toe and held signs to claim their baptismal rights. Nizzi found this statement an important reminder of the constant changes and dialogues within the United Methodist Church, and a vision of hope for continued discussions.

Nizzi greatly appreciated the opportunities at the conference for free time, which reinforced the commitment to taking time for one’s self. These moments also allowed for informal fellowship, and she was thrilled to join the Boston University luncheon and to meet with the other clergywomen from the New
From the Director
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women said they never had opportunity to hear other women preach, the event provided numerous opportunities in those two days, and the women began to name the unique gifts of women's preaching. Recurring themes included spiritual journey, recognition of struggle, comfort and giving comfort, sensual/sexual imaging, vulnerability, connectedness, choice-making, mothering, God's presence and God's salvation. Women spoke out of their personal experience. Their theology was relational, incarnational, and spoke of the Divine within and around, not just the Divine above and apart. They used stories, stones, nurturing images, and they laughed with one another. Their styles included gestures that flowed and fit the message, visual and concrete imagery, song, dance, and storytelling. Because of fewer role models, the attendees spoke of their style coming from the place of divine love within. This one-time event became an annual one. What a celebration to know women named their uniqueness and their gifts!

I remember the “Re-Imaging Redemption” event in 1990 with featured artist Barbara Gerlach, and fellow theologians Carter Heyward, Rita Nakashima Brock, Gail Paterson Corrington, Jacquelyn Grant, and Delores Williams and the ways in which “they sought to redress injustices by suggesting alternative ways of understanding the power that saves and heals us” (June C. Goudy, Christians Centuries, July 11-18, 1990).

I remember the energy around the table as women involved in the Clergywomen's Retention Study met to process what we were learning and how we would present these important stories. I remember reading the words of gratitude from women as they expressed their appreciation that the church was finally listening.

I remember the various celebrations at The Castle, especially on the occasion of Anna’s 150th birthday, when we honored a wonderful and wonderfully diverse group of women—all ages, many races—who have continued the work Anna began.

I remember the installation of the Shaw window, its important story of a woman determined to answer God's call, and how it has become a more important part of the School's story with significance for both women and men.

I remember when Dana Robert became our first tenured faculty woman, and then when Katie Darr's tenure doubled that number. I anticipate with hope that number doubling again next year. I remember lunches with faculty women and administrators when we laughed together, vented our frustrations, and mentored one another.

I remember so many women's stories shared in the confidentiality of my office.

Although they will both be deeply missed by the STM community and the Anna Howard Shaw Center, we wish Margot and Dick Wikberg a very happy retirement.

Stories of immense hurt, immense stamina, immense celebration; stories and lives that have so enriched my understanding and my concern for justice and my appreciation of resilient women. I remember so many students who have gone on to serve the church and the world. They enable me to embrace the future with more hope.

I remember the struggles of the Advisory Board as we realized our racism and began to figure ways we could address it and truly change our mission to a more inclusive one.

All of our lives get spent. When we decide how to spend them, how to give the gifts and uniqueness that God has given us to do what we consider a worthwhile task, we can move on with deep gratitude for all of that time—the parts that were more struggle than celebration, the parts that were great fun, and the parts that hopefully will make a difference. I cannot imagine anyone spending eighteen years at a seminary and not learning many things in and out of the classroom. Now I move on with appreciation, and with real curiosity and new energy for what will be next in my life and with genuine hope and support for what is ahead for the Anna Howard Shaw Center.

Clergywomen's Consultation continued from page 4

England Conference and speak informally with Bishop Susan Hassinger until late into the night.

Perhaps the most exciting event for Nizzi was the opportunity to meet six Filipino United Methodist clergywomen. Throughout her life in the Philippines and the past eight years in the Boston area, Nizzi never had the opportunity to meet a Filipino clergywoman. At the Consultation, she found herself with six other Filipino clergywomen, who invited her to attend and support the first Filipino clergywomen's conference in October 2003.

Upon returning from the Consultation, Nizzi had several occasions to preach, and found that her experiences in San Diego made the task easier, empowering her to share her message and her culture in her own unique way. She sees that her challenge now is to go on and spread the "good news" of how God touched her at the Consultation, and encourage other women to attend the next Consultation and experience this incredible event.
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR LEISURE TIME

From the leadership at Women and the Word 2002:


Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom, bell hooks (Routledge, Chapman, and Hall, 1994).


To Know as We are Known, Parker Palmer (HarperCollins, 1993).

Jensine Andresen recommends “A remarkable book”:

- Wholeness and the Implicate Order, David Bohm (Routledge, 1996).

From Dana Robert: “Some of the papers included in the book are from a seminar series I had here at BUSTH.”

From Debbie Luchebill:
- The Miss of Avalon, Marion Zimmer Bradley (Del Ray, 1982), fiction.

From Carrie Doehring:
- In the Bedroom directed by Todd Field; written by Rob Festinger and Mr. Field, based on a story by Andre Dubus. Film released by Miramax.
- “In the Bedroom powerfully portrays the grief two parents share when their twenty-one-year-old son is shot because he intervenes between his girlfriend and her estranged and violent husband. The film portrays the challenge of offering any sort of consolation or hope to parents experiencing outrage toward their son’s murderer and a legal system that can be manipulated because of the murderer’s wealth and social position.”

The Tentmaker, Michelle Blake. (G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1999), murder mystery. “This murder mystery features Lily Connor, an Episcopal priest, graduate of Episcopal Divinity School, Boston, and newly appointed interim priest at a church that bears strong geographical similarities to the Church of the Advent on Beacon Hill. She’s determined to find out why this congregation is so secretive about their former priest’s death. Connor finds herself immersed in a multi-layered web of violence and addiction, and her strategies for seeking justice include religious rites and good old pastoral care.”

THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS FROM THE STH WOMEN

Dr. Dana Robert delivered several lectures early this year. On January 23, 2002, she was honored to give the Scherer Lecture at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, and to preach in the ecumenical service of Christian unity for Lutheran and McCormick Seminaries. On January 24, she gave the Van Dyke Mission Lectures at Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She continued her travels into February, attending a meeting at the World Council of Churches in Geneva to plan research on women and mission for the WCC.


CORRECTION
In the Fall issue of The Anna Howard Shaw Center Newsletter, I mentioned the recent publication How We Seek God Together: Exploring Worship Style. It has come to my attention that I misspelled the name of Mark Stamm, who co-authored the book with Linda Clark and Joanne Swenson. I would like to extend an apology to Dr. Stamm for this error.
Rebecca Clark, Editor

A NEW DISCOVERY

Margaret Wiborg was thrilled to discover a children’s book about Anna Howard Shaw: A Voice from the Wilderness: The Story of Anna Howard Shaw; written and illustrated by Don Brown (Houghton Mifflin Co., 2001). The book focuses on Anna’s early life with her family, and highlights her efforts in the suffrage movement. Although by no means a definitive study on the life of Anna Howard Shaw, A Voice from the Wilderness lifts up a young woman as a hero, and is an excellent place to start when teaching children about Anna and other important women in history.

The book also references the website http://sailor.gutenberg.org, which contains the full text of Anna Howard Shaw’s autobiography, The Story of a Pioneer.
**Prophesy Daughters!**

Now you can proudly wear your connection with the Anna Howard Shaw Center and all the ideals for which Anna stood, on your sleeve! Purchase an Anna Howard Shaw Center short-sleeved t-shirt ($10), long-sleeved t-shirt ($15), or sweatshirt ($30). The t-shirts are white with teal writing, and the sweatshirt is gray with teal writing. If you wish to receive your items by mail, please add $4 to the total for up to three items. The front of the shirts carry the Shaw Center logo on the left, near the heart, and on the back is written in English, Spanish, and Korean, the verse from Acts 2:17 “Your daughters shall prophesy.”

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**WOMEN AND THE WORD AUDIO TAPES**

Discover or rediscover the lectures, discussions, and sermons from the 2002 Women and the Word Conference: “The Dance of Margins and Centers.” One $20 set of tapes includes the four plenary sessions and the two sermons. Order yours today!

Please send me a copy of the W&W tapes!

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Here's how you can help carry on Anna's work...

The Anna Howard Shaw Center at Boston University School of Theology seeks to support women in ministry through the center's research, education, support, and advocacy. If you would like to learn more about the Anna Howard Shaw Center, please fill out this form and return it to the address below. Thank you for supporting women in ministry!

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ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER NEWSLETTER
Volume 19, Number 1

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Congratulations to the Women Graduates of 2002

MASTER OF DIVINITY (M.DIV.)
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Su Hyong Cho
Susan Cunningham
Nizzi Santos Digan
Mary Margaret Earl

Marie Elizabeth Ogle
Laurel E. Scott
Hattie H. Stoltzfus
Leslie J. Walsman
Rolanda La'Shon Ward

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (M.T.S.)
Sarah Anne DeKoven
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Jenna V. Gentleman
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COMBINED DEGREE
Alice M. Hayes (M.CS/Master of Social Work)
Lisa Maria Zambarano Morrison (M.Div/Master of Social Work)

MASTER OF SACRED MUSIC (M.S.M.)
Sally D. Micks

MASTER OF SACRED THEOLOGY (S.T.M.)
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