

S
P
R
I
N
G

N
E
W
S
L
E
T
T
E
R

2
0
1
8

Boston University School of Theology

ANNA HOWARD

SHAW CENTER

Volume 34 • Issue 2 • Spring 2018

Celebrating 40 Years!



In This Issue

Women in the World Conference 2018

P. 3-4

Dr. Rebecca Copeland and Hazel Johnson

Anna Howard Shaw: A Look Back over 40 Years

P.5-7

Dr. Choi Hee An

The Early Years

P.8-9

Rev. Kathryn J. Johnson, M.Div. 1982

Established Leadership and Program Development

P.10

Blast from the Past

P.11

Women in the World Conference 2018

Lecture Notes from Keynote Speaker, Dr. Rebecca Copeland

Rising sea levels, failing water sources, and increasingly severe weather events are creating climate refugees. Those most vulnerable to climate change have contributed the least to its root causes—the carbon emissions of Micronesia were 1 ton per person in 2010 while that of the U.S. were 17.6. Anthropogenic (or human-caused) climate change poses significant ethical issues for faith communities that prioritize justice or love of neighbor as part of their religious life. It clearly calls for a faith response, which raises the question of why the faithful are not responding more adequately or with more urgency. We can try to answer that question by examining three myths used to support implicative climate change denial, the idea that we do not need to change our behavior in response to climate change.

Myth: Science Will Save Us

The task of science is to provide a description of the material world. In the case of climate change, science has provided a detailed explanation of what it is, why it is happening, and what is likely to come in the future, and supported that explanation with overwhelming data. However, once science has told us what is causing the problem we face, it is up to us to put that knowledge to use. Science has told us that carbon emissions cause climate change. It is up to us to curb those emissions.

Myth: Climate Change Isn't my Responsibility

This myth brings up issues of collective responsibility. While it is true that my carbon emissions alone could not cause the effects we are seeing, so long as any combination of nations is emitting more carbon than the atmosphere can handle, then every ounce any individual contributes is changing the climate. But more important than whether we can be blamed for the catastrophe of climate change is the fact that climate change is a global phenomenon from which no one can expect to be miraculously saved. Since we have to stay here whether we can be blamed for the consequences or not, we might as well take responsibility for improving global conditions.

Myth: There is Nothing I Can Do About It

While we as individuals can no more stop climate change all along than we could cause it by ourselves, this does not mean that we are absolutely impotent in the face of it. We can educate ourselves and then our communities. We can learn our own carbon footprints, and then begin reducing those cumulatively over time. We can reduce waste and work against the culture of consumption in which we find ourselves. We can learn to fix things when they break. We can recover a sense of community by replacing material luxuries with the luxuries of interpersonal relationships. We can advocate for urgent climate action.

The situation is only hopeless if we continue doing what we know to be wrong. We live in a powerful and creative world, and if we ever stopped attacking it with our emissions we do not know what miracles we might witness. But to get there, we need more prophets willing to speak out about the injustice of climate change and calling for repentance and change. We need to decide we are unwilling to let our sisters and brothers around the world die so that we can maintain lifestyles of rampant consumption. We need to love them like ourselves. Then we might hear with joy, rather than trembling, those words from Jesus, that “just as you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40, cf. 25:45).



Women in the World Conference 2018



As the pianist played the prelude to community worship on April 11, 2018, the Anna Howard Shaw Center's 40th year celebration, conference and banquet commenced. Various women leaders lead the service and invited all participants to remember the wonderful women in their lives and the ways they live out the legacy and work of Anna Howard Shaw. Alicia Velez Stewart (M.Div. '18) and Maddie Henderson (M.Div. '19) led the congregation with song and worship. Congregants sang with joy as they witnessed the beauty of the words matched with the beauty of the quilt laid across the altar. Dean Mary Elizabeth Moore gave such a powerful message in her sermon and sent participants out to listen deeply to the ways God is working through the women with whom we come in contact.

One of those powerful women was Dr. Rebecca Copeland, who gave the keynote address for the conference (see her notes on previous page). As the day went on, participants enjoyed workshops around ecofeminism, ecological devastation after hurricane Maria and Ecology and Racism. The day ended celebrating [40 years](#) of the Anna Howard Shaw Center and the amazing work of Dean Mary Elizabeth Moore, who received the Anna Howard Shaw Award.

Anna Howard Shaw Center: Our Foundation, Our Purpose

Anna Howard Shaw

The Center is named for Reverend Dr. Anna Howard Shaw. In 1878, Shaw became the second woman to graduate from Boston University School of Theology, but she was refused ordination by the New England Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. She was one of the first women to be ordained in any branch of Methodism by the New York Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church in 1880.

While serving Wesleyan Methodist Church in East Dennis, Massachusetts, Shaw earned a medical degree from Boston University. At age thirty-nine, she broadened her activity from pastoral and healing ministries to also become the “master orator” for social justice concerns, organizing and lecturing throughout the world for the causes of temperance, woman’s suffrage, and peace. In 2000, Anna was inducted into the National Woman’s Hall of Fame.



The Anna Howard Shaw Center

The Anna Howard Shaw Center at Boston University School of Theology promotes structures and practices that empower women and honor diversity.

The Primary goals of the Shaw center are:

Research - to facilitate and initiate research on the historical roles of women in the church and on women’s past and present contributions to religious/theological studies and to the Christian ministry.

Education - to provide educational opportunities on issues and practices relating to women in ministry, mission, and religious/theological studies.

Support - to support and encourage both women and men striving for equality of opportunity in ministry, mission, and religious/theological studies.

Advocacy - to advocate for full inclusion of women in ministry, mission, and religious studies based on ethical and theological principles as they interact with analyses of personal collective experiences.

Anna Howard Shaw Center: Research Studies

Research

Women in the Immigrant Church. A two-year study resulting in the article “Loving Radically Immigrant Churches Teach Borderless Hospitality” by Dr. Choi Hee An in *Progressive Christian* (2008)

Mosaic Voices of Women. A one-year study resulting in the book *Engaging the Bible - Critical Readings from Contemporary Women* by Choi Hee An and Katheryn Pfisterer Darr (2006).

“Salaries for United Methodist Clergy in the U.S. Context” (2010)

Clergwomen’s Retention Study I and II

The Shaw Center under the leadership of Beth Collier, Shaw Scholar, and Margaret Wiborg, the former Director, completed a national study of United Methodist clergwomen. Findings will help the church assess how women see their role as ministers and what informs their decision to remain in the parish or seek other forms of ministry. A second study was conducted by Choi Hee An and Jacqueline Blue, Shaw Scholar, from 2010-2012 to re-examine the state of clergwomen in the United Methodist Church in the early 21st Century.

Female Clergy Support Group Project (2011-2016)-“Journeying with Clergy Women: Exploring Self-Care in Community,” Co-authored by with Susan Hassinger, and Carole Bohn. *Wellsprings, GBHEM*, 2016

Korean Immigrant Church Project (2011-2015)- *A Post-Colonial Self: Korean Immigrant Church and Theology*, New York: State University of New York Press, 2015, (paperback edition, 2016); “Faith-Based Community Support for Korean American Older Adults,” co-authors by with Eun-Kyoung Othelia Lee, in *Social Work and Christianity: An International Journal*, Volume 40, Number 4, 2013; “Challenges of Korean Immigrant Leadership in the Church (in Press),” *International Journal of Practical Theology* 2019.

Women and Leadership Project (2015- 2018)- “Not everyone is a leader, but everyone can be a leader together,” *Focus*, Boston University School of Theology, 2018; “Relational Spirituality, Mature Alterity, and Spiritual Service among Ministry Leaders (work in progress),” Co-authored by with Steven Sandage,



2018 Graduating Women’s Dinner Attendees

Anna Howard Shaw Center: Programs and Events

Anna Howard Shaw Award

Established in 1990, the Anna Howard Shaw Award is given in recognition of Pioneering Women who embody those values expressed in the life of Anna Howard Shaw: courage born of Christian faith, dedication to increased opportunities for women, devotion to social justice, persistence in difficult circumstances, service for the common good, and a vision of a better world.

Past Recipients include:

- C Faith Richardson “A Faith Event” (1990)
- Susan Morrison “Celebrating Ssan” (1994)
- Jeanne Audrey Powers “Honoring Jeanne Audrey” (1995)
- Margaret Suber Wiborg “Re-Calling with Margaret” (1998)
- Yolanda Pupo-Ortiz “Fiesta y Encuentro con Yolanda” (2001)
- Katheryn Pfisterer Darr “Far More Precious than Jewels” (2009)
- Aida Irizarry-Fernandez (2012)
- Susan W. Hassinger (2014)
- Mary Elizabeth Moore (2018)

Thursday Lunch Talks

The Shaw Center hosts a lunch each Thursday where various students, professors, alumni, and faculty present on issues and topics pertaining to women today. These presentations, ranging from personal stories to academic research, lead to further dialogue and personal reflection.



Women in the World

Since 1985, the Shaw Center has hosted an annual spring conference to explore experiences of women’s ministries in the church and society. The conference provides opportunities for women to hear women preach, share testimonies in ministerial and multicultural leadership, and develop networks of support with one another.

Spiritual Growth and Stress Support Group (2008)

Stories of Ethnic Minority Women’s Leadership (2017)

Multicultural Expo (2015 and ongoing)

- This annual event showcases the diversity within BU School of Theology and gives students and faculty an opportunity to learn something new and share their cultures with each other.

The Early Years

As remembered by Rev. Kathryn J. Johnson, M.Div. 1982

The Anna Howard Shaw Center was the site of a number of exciting programs and events during this three-year period, many of them student initiated and led. These included an April 1981 Conference on “Worship and Inclusive Language,” featuring Jeanne Audrey Powers describing her work on a Task Force on Biblical Translations which recommended the development of an inclusive language Lectionary. Authors Sharon and Ron Neufer Emswiler led workshops on the importance and power of language; designing inclusive language liturgies; and how to deal with resistance to inclusive or non-sexist language.

In 1982 the AHSC celebrated Bishop Marjorie Matthews, first woman bishop in the United Methodist Church. Bishop Matthews preached at Marsh Chapel, was hosted at a reception in the Shaw Center and was honored at a luncheon. Clergy colleagues from around the annual conference, former students and faculty (including former BUSTh Dean Walter Mulder), came to join in the celebration.

These were years of intense controversy at BUSTh over affirmative action practices and employment discrimination, including the dismissal of key women administrators and faculty. The Shaw Center provided a place of respite for women faculty and students. Increasingly the AHSC also provided a place for students to organize in resistance to what they believed

were ongoing grave injustices. I don’t think it is an exaggeration to say that without the Shaw Center it is likely that many students would have chosen to transfer to other schools.

Student leaders of the AHSC during these years included work-study students Beth Carey, Corinne Colman, Marianne Hachten and myself, Kathryn Johnson. Faculty advisors included Clarissa Atkinson (1979) and Delores Williams (1980) along with Lynn Rhodes, Elizabeth Bettenhausen, Joanne Carlson Brown, and Linda Clark. Nancy Richardson, BUSTh Dean of Student Affairs provided key support to the AHSC until she was fired by Dean Richard Nesmith in June 1981.

Nancy Richardson also served as an inspiration to any and all of the intersectional work that took place at the AHSC, although we didn’t call it that at the time. Passionate about antiracism work as well as feminist theology and urban ministry, Nancy had been mentored by Dorothy Height and Valeri Russell. Admired by so many at BUSTh, Nancy’s dismissal generated joint work and protests among women students (AHSC), black students, student government, and LGBT advocates. Protests, many of them birthed at the Shaw Center, included daily two-hour vigils in front of the dean’s office for an entire school year and the wearing of armbands and pink triangles at graduation.

1982: Celebrating First Woman Bishop, Marjorie Matthews



Bishop Marjorie Matthews with former BUSTH Dean, Walter Muelder in Marsh Chapel



Bishop Marjorie Matthews in Shaw Center (check out that Retro orange and green rug!)



Lynn Jocelyn (UM clergy), Kathryn Johnson and Bishop Marjorie Matthews in Shaw

There was also The Women's Study series with faculty women presenters with half the sessions in local churches and half at BUSTH developed for laywomen, clergy and students. There was the Women, Work, and Wholeness Series, and Reimaging Redemption: a Symposium on Feminist and Womanist Theologies in 1990. Many women theologians came as participants.

In the area of history, we sponsored the writing and publishing of "From Ivied Walls: History of the Edith Buell Club at Boston University." We held oral history workshops locally and nationally and taped a number of oral histories that are in the BUSTH library. We held a gathering of UM Clergy Women's History event in Boston with interviews of early women in ministry, transcribed by the Board of Ordained Ministry. With alum Pat Thompson, we developed an interview format for gathering clergywomen's history for use nationally by annual conferences.

In 1994 the Shaw Center began a four year study on why clergywomen leave local church ministry at a faster rate than their male colleagues with funding from the Board of Higher Education. Presentations were made of the results at the UM clergywomen's gathering, the Board of Higher Education, and to several annual conference Boards of Ordained Ministry hopefully leading to changes in the system.



Established Leadership and Program Development

Margaret Wiborg began officially as the first fulltime director in September of 1984. The first event was a retreat for students, spouses, women faculty and staff. They continued annually and sometimes twice a year throughout her tenure. Her responsibilities included program development and financial development.

An annual giving fund was established as well as an endowment fund for the Center. The Center also received grants from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation, Amanda Leonard, a UMC Board of Higher Education research grant, and MEF funds. She initiated and developed legislation to make the Shaw Center the official women's center for the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the Methodist Church, developing a funding proposal for jurisdictional funding each quadrennium.

The Advisory Board came into being complete with the development of bylaws. It was made up of laywomen, clergywomen and faculty women. The library was developed and the Shaw Scholar position was started. There were open houses, brown bag lunches, Valentine/Shaw Birthday Events, Graduating Women's dinners, and women faculty and administrator gatherings. We began the Shaw newsletter sent to alumnae and donors. In 1989 AHSC board member donated the Anna Howard Shaw window to the school with a service on the stairwell.

Program development began with the first Women and the Word event. Students were desirous of having interaction with clergywomen. When asked what would bring them into BU, they responded by saying they never heard other clergywomen preach. "Experiencing the Uniqueness of Women's Preaching" with Rev. Rebecca Dolch as the leader followed by several preaching workshops featuring other clergywomen preaching was meant as a onetime event but continued for years. The final session was naming the characteristics of women's preaching. Clergy women claimed their unique gifts. One of the questions in the feedback form was how many women preachers have you heard preach? At first the answer was none or one or two, by the fourth event, the question was irrelevant.



Shaw Center Activists- 1982

"The Matriarchy is Coming"

A Blast from the Past

The Anna Howard Shaw Center's First Newsletter- Winter 1985



Left to Right: Rev. Dr. Laurel E. Scott, Rev. Kristen White, Rev. Dr. HiRho Park, Dr. MT Davila leading a panel discussion at the 2011 Women in the World Conference.

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER NEWSLETTER

Boston University School of Theology Winter, 1985 Volume 1, Number 1



ANNA HOWARD SHAW

When I walk into the Anna Howard Shaw Center, I cannot help but think of the great contrast between BUSTH now and the days when Anna Howard Shaw was a student here. In her autobiography The Story of a Pioneer, she wrote that before she had been a member of her entering class (42 men and herself) an hour, she realized "women theologians paid heavily for the privilege of being women." Since there were no dormitory or eating facilities for women, she lived in an attic room on Tremont Street, her diet consisting primarily of milk and crackers. She attended classes on the third floor and was frequently too weak to climb the stairs without sitting to rest. Later, an unknown benefactor through the Women's Foreign Missionary Society paid her \$3.50 a week to rest, study, and care for her health.

Anna Howard Shaw's first pastorate was the Methodist Church in Hingham, MA, where she served a year. Then followed a seven year yoked pastorate in Dennis and East Dennis on Cape Cod. She sought ordination in the Methodist Episcopal Church and was rejected; in 1880, after lengthy conversation, she was ordained in the Methodist Protestant Church. She



Nancy Richardson, Rebecca Smith, Kathryn Johnson and Robin Somes at graduation 1982



ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER NEWSLETTER

Volume 34, Issue 2 Spring 2018

MANAGING EDITOR

Rev. Dr. Choi Hee An

STUDENT EDITORS:

Uchenna Joan Awa & Hazel Monae Johnson

**Boston University is an equal opportunity,
affirmative action institution.**

0609 974050

Please send donations to:
Boston University School of Theology
Anna Howard Shaw Center
745 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Or online at: www.bu.edu/shaw/donations/



Boston University School of Theology
Anna Howard Shaw Center

745 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215
617-353-3075

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BOSTON MA
PERMIT NO.1839

