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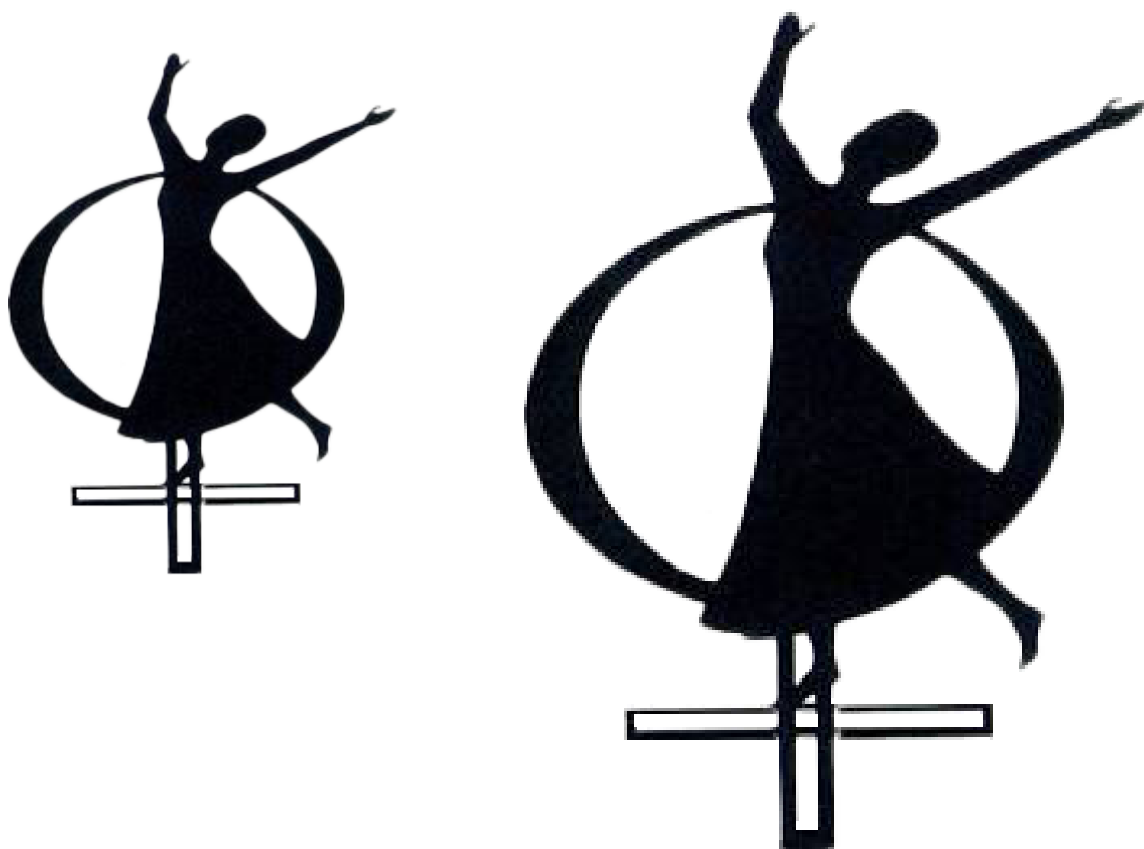
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Boston University School of Theology

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER

Volume 40 Issue 2 Spring 2023

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP



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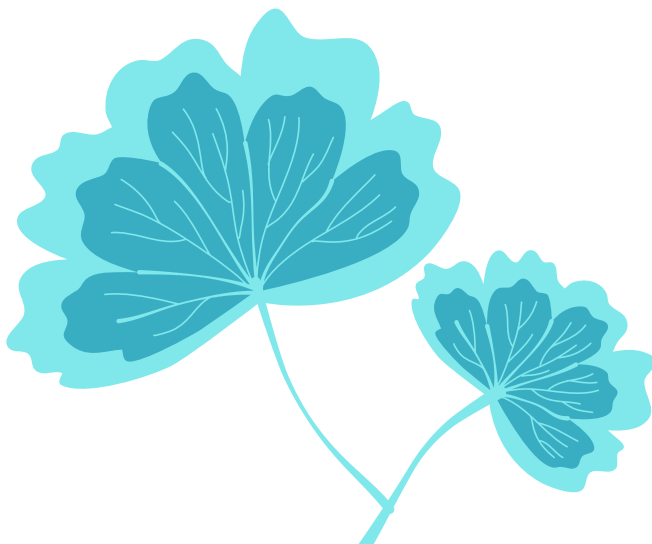
The theme of our newsletter this year is "Women in Leadership." As I contemplated this theme, I felt inspired to reflect on a formative experience that led me to work at the Anna Howard Shaw Center. This moment stands out to me as a powerful example of someone recognizing and calling out my leadership abilities.

In the fall of 2021, I was invited to give a lecture at the Anna Howard Shaw Center. I remember feeling very nervous about this and pondering what I would speak about. I was learning to play the guitar at the time, a skill that had been on my Covid-19 to-do list. I decided to talk about my love of music. In this lecture, I shared my experience with music and how it helped shape me into who I am today. I sang and made a joyful noise with my guitar, feeling a sense of vulnerability and comfort with myself and the audience. After my talk, Dr. Choi, the Director of the Center, invited me to her office to discuss potential employment opportunities. Though I tried to play it cool, I was secretly thrilled at the prospect of such a meaningful and impactful job.

During the year and a half I have worked at the Center as a graduate assistant, my practice of leadership has changed from a supporting role to a more prominent, front-and-center role. In leading the Thursday Lunch Lectures, Multicultural Expo, etc., I have had to push myself past my comfort level to speak in front of people regularly, facilitate group conversations, and carry out other responsibilities. As an introvert, I love to be in the background. However, through these roles, I have discovered new abilities, found my voice, and can speak confidently about things that matter to me, especially issues involving women.

These weekly public speaking experiences have enabled me to be more articulate and speak boldly in class and any professional setting. I have noticed an improvement in my networking skills, and this experience has also provided me with the necessary practice to preach confidently. As someone who anticipates pastoral ministry work in the future, I worried about how effective I would be in that role. I am grateful that Dr. Choi recognized and called out my leadership abilities and mentored me in this position.

As I reflect further on other leadership roles, I am currently involved in; I realize that they all have similar stories. I had mentors who recognized and fostered leadership abilities in me. Overall, my experience at the Shaw Center has taught me that introverts can be leaders too. We can be bold, speak truth to power, and lead with humility.



Ebiye Seimode, She/her
MDIV, STH



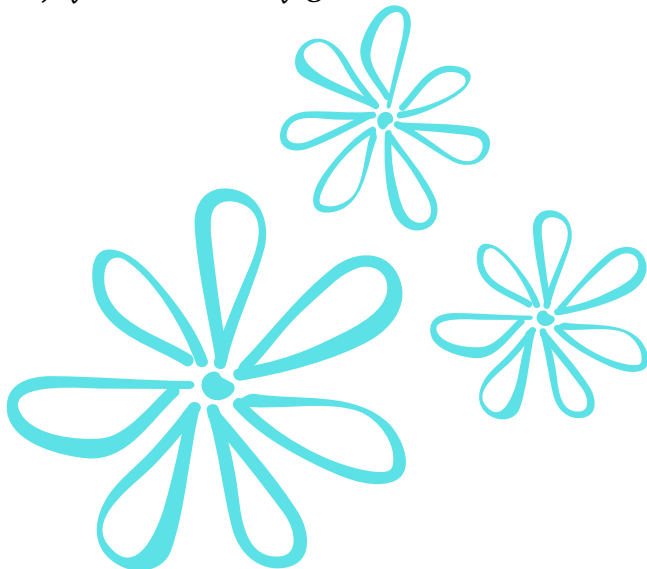
SHAW CENTER EXPERIENCE - NATALY ROMERO

Since I was a teenager, I have always been interested in learning about women and their history. In my high school history class, I had to make a presentation about one specific topic within the History of Peru. Because I was very eager to know more about the role of women in Peruvian history, I decided to work on this topic. I was delighted when I learned that women were instrumental in winning some battles. Learning and experiencing sexism in Peru society, I was more and more interested in this topic. Despite completing my Bachelor's degree in Bible and Theology many years ago, my interest in exploring women's roles has endured. I remain curious about the roles of women in the Bible, and this curiosity still motivates me as I pursue my MDiv program at BU School of Theology.

As I search for the presence of women and their leadership roles throughout history, the opportunity to work at the Anna Howard Shaw Center was perfect for me. My experience working here has been unique for three main reasons. Firstly, as a student of history, I was excited to learn about the legacy of the Anna Howard Shaw Center and women's movement. Digitalizing Shaw Center's historical events, projects, and research materials about the women's movement, I learned the history of the Anna Howard Shaw Center and saw how the Shaw Center worked with various women and led and participated in women's movements. I feel excited to be a part of this legacy of female leadership. I also feel privileged to work and be part of a center that has valued women's contributions since its inception.

Secondly, I have learned about the value of hospitality, which is a principal value in the Shaw Center. When I organized the Thursday Lunch Lecture and other events, such as Women in the World and the Cultural Expo, I saw how the people who attended our meetings felt comfortable and grateful. Seeing their joy made me very happy. I realize that it is a value of hospitality. Practicing hospitality through the Shaw Center programs, I experienced the value of hospitality and learned how to serve my neighbor. Even though the budget of Shaw is limited, we have accomplished many things, and I can't imagine how much more we could do if we had more generous funding.

Finally, I feel blessed to work with wonderful people like Dr. Choi, the Director of the Center, and my beloved friend and colleague, Ebiye Seimode. Working with them, I experienced the joy of collaborative leadership. We support each other and find a way to fill in the things that we cannot do alone. They have both made my days here very enjoyable. I am very grateful to God for that!



Nataly Romero, She/her
MDIV, STH



CALLED TO ROCK THE BOAT- MADISON BOBOLTZ

The men get into the boat. The chosen ones, at least. The ones with names (though personally, I can only recall three of them). These men do not appear all that special, though it seems that the Teacher has brought them together for some shared purpose. Something good, perhaps.

But it doesn't involve me. Very few are ever chosen. Even fewer named.

The men thrust the boat into the sea and head onward. I look on forlornly as they make their getaway. Maybe I would go with them, if I could. If he had invited me.

I am halfway home when I sense the call. He dreams of me. Longs for me to follow. I know it. I feel it. Sounds arise from all around. Faint at first, but growing strong. Unsettling the atmosphere, causing the wind to shake and the sea to stir. The stomping of racing feet. The echoes of excited voices.

An ecstatic cry escapes my own body. I am chasing the crowd of mothers and daughters into the sea with fierce and joyous determination. We rock the boat. We beat against the wood. We swamp onto the deck. The wind and waves are made of women, and we are powerful.

The men on the boat are fearful of our hysterics. Angry and distressed! The Teacher sleeps through it all, perfectly safe. They awaken him, aghast at his indifference.

"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?!" The Teacher laughs at their dramatics, but then realizes that these chosen ones are indeed at great risk. But it is not we women who threaten the disciples. It is their own lack of faith—their own inability to recognize that we have acted in obedience.

The Teacher turns to us and says "Peace." You have fought so hard to be here. Now, "be still."

We rest our bodies and voices. Hang our wet clothes to dry in the warm sunlight. The disciples are astounded.

"Who is this then? That even the wind and sea obey him?"



Madison Boboltz, She/her
MDIV, STH

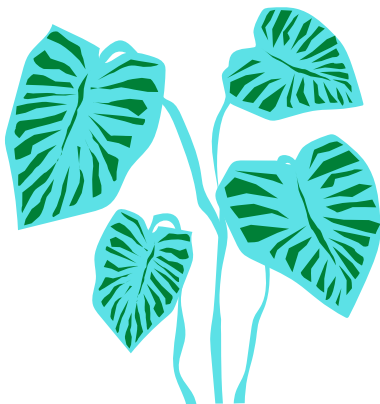


There are various types of leadership. In our society, however, it seems that a particular kind of leadership is respected and admired. A certain image of leaders is described in our media as “ideal” leaders. When I heard the word leadership, the image of a person standing in front of the group and pointing in a certain direction came to mind first. This image of a charismatic leader had been embedded in my mind for a long time, preventing me from considering myself a good enough leader.

When I was in 9th grade, I was nominated for a class president position. As all of you are aware, a teenager’s vote is not based on whether you actually possess the characteristics of a good leader. Here, I need to acknowledge that I was very active, energetic, and even more weird than who I am now when I was younger. I think my classmates viewed my craziness in a good light and nominated me for class president. I was grateful for their positive thought about me. On the other hand, however, I got anxious because I could not find any quality of a good leader within me. I had no charisma to be able to capture people’s attention, and I did not like to stand out from the crowd. Due to my lack of “leadership,” I chose to decline the nomination.

Unfortunately, there was a problem with the voting process. Since the election was for two positions, president and vice president, it was impossible to start voting when there was only one nominee left. After my homeroom teacher and some classmates’ persuasion, I changed my mind to accept the nomination, and finally, the voting started! Waiting for the result, I firmly believed that I would be a vice president because I declined the nomination once. As soon as I checked the result, I burst into tears. I was elected as a class president!! Throughout the semester, I got scolded by several teachers that I should be more ChArIsmATic. I was discouraged and learned again that I am not leader material.

Currently, I am studying Mental Health Counseling. Before I jumped into this major, I thought counselors played the role of leaders in counseling rooms. It seems like they know the answer to the client’s problems and where to lead the clients. I was worried about what if I did not know the answer or the right direction. However, my takeaway from about a year of counseling study is that counselors support clients to be the leader of their own life. Counselors’ leadership is to step back from a somewhat charismatic position and let people sit in the driver’s seats. I may be a good enough leader if it is about walking with the clients and being a companion on their journey. If there is someone who does not think of themselves as leader material, I would like to say that there are various types of leadership, and we are already good enough leaders.



Sori Kang, She/her
STH ALUMNA

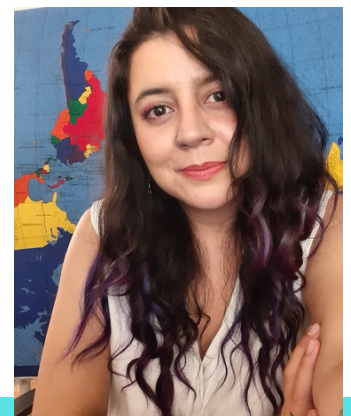
Since I have been in academia, I have been influenced by many women who have offered their perspectives and vision to the world from their experiences, background, and their way to see life. However, after being asked a few times about my vocation, I realized that one of the biggest influences in my life came from a woman pastor from a little church in Colombia. Around the beginning of the 2000s, we moved from the capital of the country to a smaller city. We lived in a small neighborhood at the margins of the city, surrounded by two rivers, with a mostly working-class population. As soon as we moved, I received an invitation from some neighbors to visit their church. Back then, I was a teenager who self-proclaimed as an atheist and who would question the church constantly. Even though I started attending the services of this small congregation, my skepticism and lack of submission wore out the people who wanted to make me a disciple. In an act of desperation, they brought me to the pastor of the congregation, who at the time was not recognized as such and complained of my lack of obedience, reverence, and faith. They asked the pastor to take care of me if she dared! And she dared!

Our pastor was a humble woman who spent many years of her life growing up and working on farms. She came from a large family and experienced the challenges that arise from unequal social and economic structures from an early age. Despite receiving a call from God at a young age, it was not until she was healed from two severe illnesses that she gained the confidence and conviction to follow and serve Jesus. She dedicated herself to fulfilling her ministry to the best of her abilities, and one of her initial steps was completing her high school studies. Despite being a mother of two, she persevered and finished later in adulthood.

After a few years of serving in other churches, she came to the church where I converted. One day she received the keys to the building since the appointed pastor had left the church and the general pastor did not have someone else to take care of the church. She was supposed to have a temporary position of opening and closing the door. However, she organized the services, preached, and programmed the weekly fasts, biblical studies, and prayer sessions. With no salary or recognition, she did all the work of a pastor. Our church grew, and her work as a pastor started to be recognized after a few years. In order to be ordained, she was required to earn a bachelor's degree. She pursued her studies in pedagogy and theology while still serving our church.

Edelmira Cardozo, the woman who dared to be my pastor and guided me with love, taught me the immense value of serving others with the compassion and the company of the Holy Spirit. She served as pastor for a few years more until she died of cancer. Her teachings, work, persistence, strength, tenacity, dedication, and how she showed the love and presence of the Spirit in her life is a legacy in my life that inspires me daily.

Gracias, pastora Edelmira Cardozo.



Ana María Rodríguez, She/her
STH ALUMNA



THURSDAY LECTURE SERIES

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ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER THURSDAY LUNCH LECTURES

SPRING 2023 SEMESTER CHECK-IN

GUEST SPEAKERS: AHSC STAFF



THURSDAY JANUARY 26
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
SHAW CENTER (320)



RSVP BEFORE TUESDAY
5:00 PM TO SAVE A SPOT

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER THURSDAY LUNCH LECTURES

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK LEADERS

GUEST SPEAKER:

ANINE DE GROOT
3RD YEAR MDIV



THURSDAY FEBRUARY 2
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
STH (325)



RSVP BEFORE TUESDAY
5:00 PM TO SAVE A SPOT

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER THURSDAY LUNCH LECTURES

SPIRITUALITY AND MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS IN AFRICAN COMMUNITIES

GUEST SPEAKER:

FELIX JIBRIN
3RD YEAR MDIV



THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
STH (325)



RSVP BEFORE TUESDAY
5:00 PM TO SAVE A SPOT

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER THURSDAY LUNCH LECTURES

LEADING IN A GOOD WAY: LEARNING HOW TO LEAD FROM PEACEMAKING CIRCLES

GUEST SPEAKER:

DR. JAMES MCCARTY
ASST. CLIN PROF OF
RELIGION & CONFLICT
TRANSFORMATION



THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
STH (325)



RSVP BEFORE TUESDAY
5:00 PM TO SAVE A SPOT

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER THURSDAY LUNCH LECTURES

THE CHALLENGES OF EMPOWERMENT AND COLLABORATION FOR A CLASSIC TYPE-A

GUEST SPEAKER:

DR. BECKY COPELAND
ASST. PROFESSOR OF
THEOLOGY



THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
STH (325)



RSVP BEFORE TUESDAY
5:00 PM TO SAVE A SPOT

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER THURSDAY LUNCH LECTURES

I SAID I WAS AN EXAMPLE...I DIDN'T SAY WHAT KIND. LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE

GUEST SPEAKER:

TERRA FREDERICK
STM STUDENT



THURSDAY MARCH 2
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
STH (325)



RSVP BEFORE TUESDAY
5:00 PM TO SAVE A SPOT

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER THURSDAY LUNCH LECTURES

ACKNOWLEDGING THE FOOTPRINTS

GUEST SPEAKER:

AMBER JOGIE
2ND YEAR MDIV



THURSDAY MARCH 23
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
STH (325)



RSVP BEFORE TUESDAY
5:00 PM TO SAVE A SPOT

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER THURSDAY LUNCH LECTURES

PRISON REFORM: WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN TO DO?

GUEST SPEAKER:

CHARLIE BUTTREY
M.T.S STUDENT



THURSDAY MARCH 30
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
STH (325)



RSVP BEFORE TUESDAY
5:00 PM TO SAVE A SPOT

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER THURSDAY LUNCH LECTURES

RESCUING OURSELVES FROM PRESTIGE & LOGIC

GUEST SPEAKER:

NATALIE READNOUR
3RD YEAR MDIV



THURSDAY APRIL 6
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
STH (325)



RSVP BEFORE TUESDAY
5:00 PM TO SAVE A SPOT

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER THURSDAY LUNCH LECTURES

WALKING TOGETHER IN WONDER

GUEST SPEAKER:

EUNJI LEE
1ST YEAR MDIV



THURSDAY APRIL 13
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
STH (325)



RSVP BEFORE TUESDAY
5:00 PM TO SAVE A SPOT

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER THURSDAY LUNCH LECTURES

IN PRAISE OF THE MID-DEGREE ASSESSMENT: REMEMBERING OUR CALLS

GUEST SPEAKER:

ADAM MCALLISTER
2ND YEAR MDIV



THURSDAY APRIL 20
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
STH (325)



RSVP BEFORE TUESDAY
5:00 PM TO SAVE A SPOT

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER THURSDAY LUNCH LECTURES

DISCOVERING A GENTLER FAITH: DAILY LESSONS FROM WRITING AND DOGS

GUEST SPEAKER:

DR. SHELLY RAMBO
ASSOCIATE PROF OF
THEOLOGY



THURSDAY APRIL 27
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
STH (325)



RSVP BEFORE TUESDAY
5:00 PM TO SAVE A SPOT

Thank you to all the
speakers and
participants who
attended these
lectures!!

THURSDAY LECTURE PHOTOS

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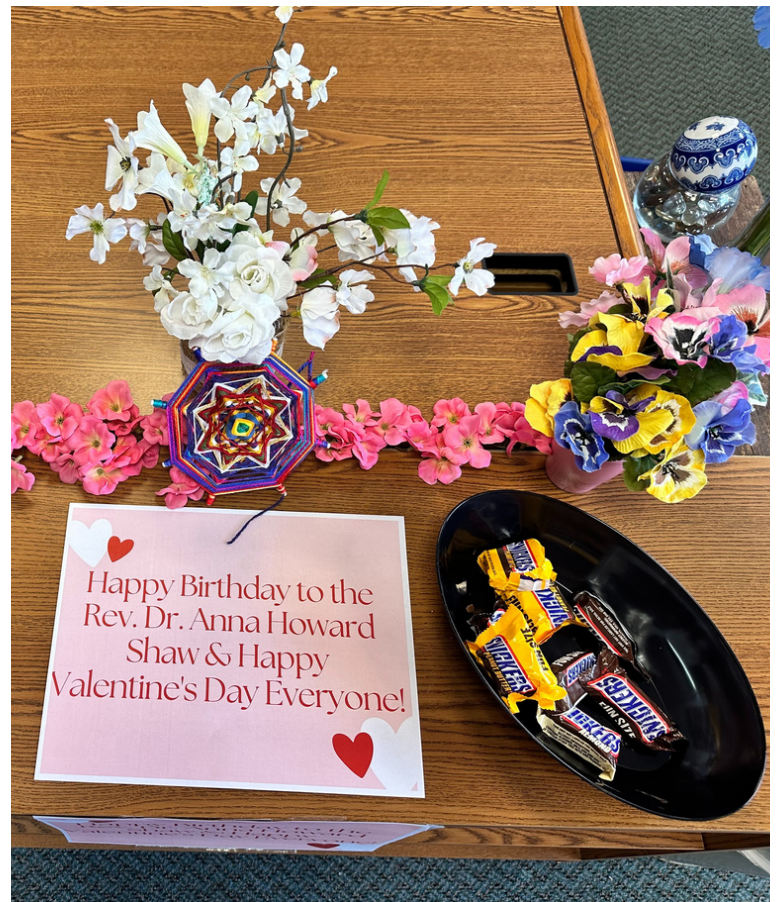
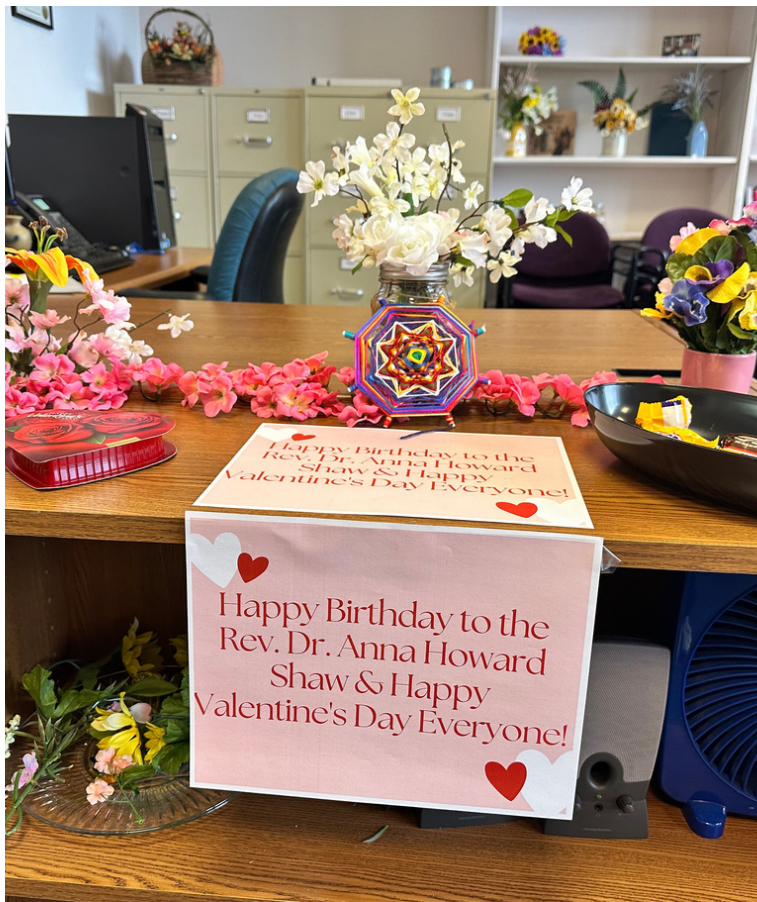
THURSDAY LECTURE PHOTOS





A leader born on Valentine's Day,
Anna Howard Shaw showed us the way,
To follow our calling and blaze a trail,
With conviction, courage, and an unwavering sail.

Rev. Dr. Anna Howard Shaw,
We wish you a happy birthday,
Your legacy of leadership and advocacy continues to stay,
Your message of hope and equality inspires us to this day,
We honor your memory and your pioneering way.



Diego Garrido, a first-year MDIV student, designed this little altar to celebrate Anna Howard Shaw's Birthday on February 14, 2023, and the Staff of the Center, Nataly Romero & Ebiye Seimode, gave candy to students who dropped by center. Photos Above!



Friends of the Anna Howard Shaw Center at Boston University School of Theology,

The Anna Howard Shaw Center is dedicated to celebrating and supporting the lives and ministries of women in the Church and the world. The Shaw Center is committed to promoting gender equality and providing a safe, supportive, and affirming community for all. We host a variety of events and activities, including a Thursday Lunch Lecture Series, Women in the World Conference, Women's Study Series, Celebrating Anna, and Multicultural events and more. We also offer a Spiritual Growth & Stress Support Group, which provides a confidential, safe, and comfortable space to support students through personal and academic adjustment and processes of vocational discernment.

Your generous donations will help us to continue to serve our students and faculty, support our mission, provide resources, create new programming, and continue to foster an environment that is supportive and empowering for all. Thank you for your consideration and generosity.

To those who constantly give to support the Center, our deepest thanks and gratitude for your partnership to continue to grow this center and make a difference in the lives of the people we serve.

Sincerely,

The Anna Howard Shaw Center Boston University School of Theology.



Thank you Donors!!

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ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER NEWSLETTER

Volume 40, Issue 2 Spring 2023

MANAGING EDITOR

Rev. Dr. Choi Hee An

EDITOR

Ebiye Seimode

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Anna Howard Shaw Center Newsletter
Volume 40, Issue 2

