



THE

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER

NEWSLETTER

Boston University School of Theology

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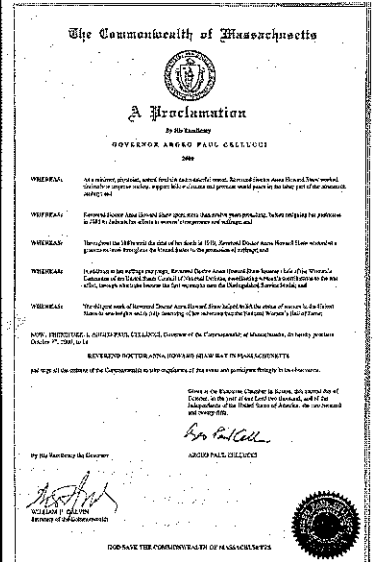
Fall 2000

Anna Inducted Into Women's Hall of Fame

I have been to the mountaintop! Those were my sentiments after a trip the first weekend in October to attend the induction of Anna Howard Shaw into the National Women's Hall of Fame at Seneca Falls, New York. On Friday night, activities began with a reception at the Women's Rights National Historic Park, followed by a candlelight procession to the National Women's Hall of Fame. Led by a contingent of girl scouts, we processed behind the inductees to the music of a bag piper. This gray-haired woman had begun to play in the skeletal remains of Wesleyan Chapel where the Declaration of Sentiments, the cornerstone of the women's rights movement, was first read. When we



At left, the invitation to "Come and Stand Among Great Women" was formally issued to Anna Howard Shaw and eighteen other women as they were inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame this October. At right is a copy of the proclamation from Massachusetts Governor A. Paul Cellucci proclaiming October 7, 2000 as Anna Howard Shaw Day in Massachusetts. The actual proclamation document was given to Shaw Center Director Margaret Wiborg by Eleanor Fullerton Sherry.



From The Director

Margaret Wiborg

reached the Hall, each inductee's name was read, a candle was lighted, and the plaque to be hung in the Hall was unveiled. I had opportunity to visit with Bishop Leontine Kelly who sends her greetings to the Shaw Center.

I wish you could all have been at the inspiring induction service on Saturday. When they checked my purse through security, my question about whether or not Janet Reno had come was answered, and one thrill for me was to have personal conversation with her between the luncheon and the induction service.

As each woman was inducted, she or
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By Amy Shaw Freeman

It's 1902. Imagine Anna Howard Shaw as she sits by her window looking out onto the street below. She is daydreaming about a different kind of world. A world where her female descendants can experience freedom and independence. A world she helped create.

It's the year 2000. I wonder if she can see me. She must be able to. I wonder if it pleases her to know that her work has made it possible for me, her descendant, to be able to live a passionate life where I am true to myself. If it were not for her and her peers, I would not live in a city where I have no relatives, be unmarried at 26, be a Web Developer in the Technology field, travel alone; and there would be no resources for women such as the domestic violence shelter at which I volunteer.

Being named after her carries a responsibility to be more than just an

average human being. Aunt Anna was a strong and remarkable woman. She was President of the National American Suffrage Association for ten years. She completed two degrees, in theology and medicine, before 1900. Few men or women today have accomplished this. In 1880, she was ordained by the Methodist Protestant Church. She toured tirelessly with Susan B. Anthony. She also accompanied President Taft on speaking tours, promoting the League of Nations in the years leading up to her death in 1919.

On October 7, 2000, Anna Howard Shaw was acknowledged for lifetime accomplishments and inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame. I watched as my cousin, Eleanor Fullerton Sherry, walked toward the stage in the procession. Eleanor and Susan Graham, Aunt Anna's advocates in Big Rapids, Michigan, approached the podium to receive the Women's Hall of Fame Medal. Eleanor shared Aunt Anna's story. Susan Graham spoke of Aunt Anna's work

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Women and the Word 2001

Incarnating Resurrection: Living Life More Abundantly

The 2001 Women and the Word Conference is an invitation to explore how to incarnate resurrection in our dusty, fragmented spiritual selves. Participants will explore how the poetry of multiple ancestries, narratives of psychospiritual healing and the integrating dynamic of dance can enable them to embrace personal and social multiplicity. Together, they will step forward in faith to be more nearly who they are becoming in the being of God.

The resurrection story is a promise *that in God all things are possible*. It invites us not just to have life, but to have life abundantly. The resurrection story is also a challenge.

How will we marshal the stamina, courage and joy to live abundant lives, incarnating resurrection? How will we survive the risks of doing what we have the capacity to so through God incarnate in Jesus Christ?

The doctrine of resurrection promises the renewal of whole selves, not just partial ones. However, overwhelmed by diversity and trying to order the chaos, we assume and impose labels that never do and probably never can, quite fit who we are. Underneath our endless, sometimes draining conversations about multicultural identity, lies human yearning for spiritual unity and wholeness in community.

Schedule of Events — Highlights

Wednesday March 21

(afternoon)

Pre-Conference Session: Feminist Process Theology with Kathi Breazeale

Thursday March 22

"Can These Dry Bones Live?": From Survival to Abundant Life — Karen Baker-Fletcher

Worship in Marsh Chapel — Kathleen Greider preaching

Workshops

Roots Reaching for Water: Amid Limits and Suffering — Kathleen Greider

Storytelling and Music — Linda Bandelier, former Lost and Found Storyteller, Minister of Storytelling, Methodist Church of Scotland.

Friday March 23

Water for These Bones — Abundant Living Through the Ministry of Dance — Kathi Breazeale

Conversation with the Leadership team.

Closing worship

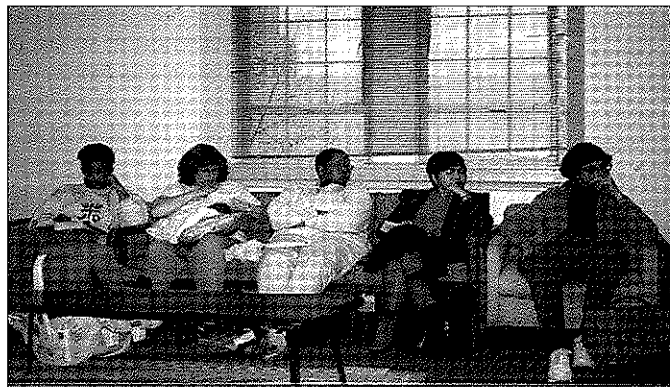
All sessions are wheelchair accessible. Please notify the Shaw Center by February 23, 2001 if assistance is needed.

About our Speakers

The Reverend Karen Baker-Fletcher, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Theology and Culture at the Claremont School of Theology in California. Her interests include feminist, womanist, black, and multi-cultural theologies with special interest in the relationship between theology and culture. She is author of *Singing Something: Womanist Reflections on Anna Julia Cooper and Sisters of the Dust*, *Sisters of Spirit: Womanist Wordings on God and Creation*. Together with Garth Baker-Fletcher, she authored *My Sister, My Brother*, and acclaimed womanist Xodus systematic theology. She received her M.Div from Harvard Divinity School and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University.

Kathlyn A. Breazeale is currently Visiting Instructor in Religion and Peace Studies at Prescott College in Prescott, Arizona. She received her Ph.D. in Philosophy of Religion and Theology from the Claremont Graduate School where she focused on feminist and process theologies. As a theologian/dancer, she has developed and taught courses on women, religion and dance, exploring dance as a means of personal and social transformation, and as a form of resistance and em-

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From The Director

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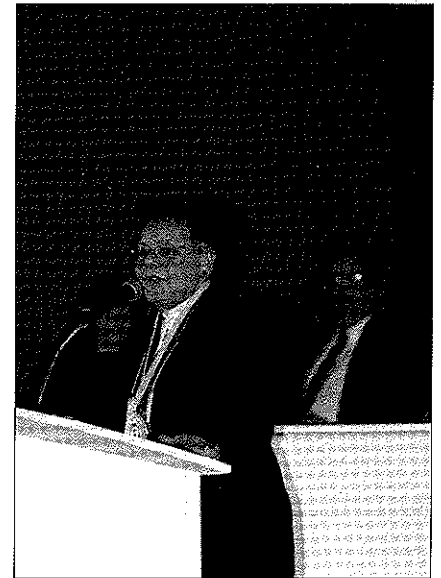
her representative had time to reflect on her life and how she had arrived at this time and place. Eleanor Fullerton Sherry, Anna Howard Shaw's great, great niece accepted the award on her behalf. The lives and stories of the inductees were inspiring. Bishop Kelly told of answering the front door one morning as a child and seeing a very tall woman, all dressed in black, who greeted her with "What do you plan to be?" Mary McLeod Bethune had presented a question for this future bishop to ponder. Oceanographer, Sylvia Earle, who has led over fifty underwater expeditions for over 6000 hours, and walked at a depth lower than any other person, quipped "You think you know what it's like to work under pressure!" Janet Reno presented her hopes for our country, unperturbed by her hands shaking with Parkinson's tremors, and she received a prolonged standing ovation. Humor, tenacity, integrity, and appreciation of mentors were constant themes, as these diverse women's stories were presented and they received their awards. They were chosen based on the following criteria:

"The value of their contributions to the society, to significant groups within that society, or to the progress and freedom of women;

Their significant contribution to the arts, athletics, business, government, humanities, philanthropy, science and education;

The enduring value of their achievements."

It is important to celebrate our sisters' achievements and to hear their stories. It is important for us to have a better understanding of how many women have lived their lives with determination and courage in ways that have made our lives better. It is important to respond with gratitude, and to keep at the work before us.



Eleanor Fullerton Sherry, the great, great niece of Anna Howard Shaw, was present to accept the honor bestowed on her great great-aunt; and Bishop Leontine Kelly the first African-American woman to be elected to the episcopacy in any denomination was also inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame this October.

Induction

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and invited the audience to visit her statue in Big Rapids Michigan.

There were eighteen other inductees: Faye Glenn Abdellah, Sophia Smith, Emma Smith DeVoe, Ida Tarbel, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Frances Kathleen Oldham Kelsey, Sylvia A. Earle, Mary Edwards Walker, Mary Barrett Dyer, Annie Dodge Wauneka, Crystal Eastman, Janet Reno, Jeanne Holm, Eudora Welty, Kate Mullany, Frances Willard, Wilma Vaught, and Leontine Kelly. What amazing women! What remarkable accomplishments! I found myself pondering what makes these women more capable of extraordinary accomplishments. I believe that once you find your passion, there are no more questions. As Aunt Anna said, "Nothing bigger can come to a human being than to love a great cause more than life itself."

It's the year 2010. Imagine a world where everyone acknowledges a responsibility to improve our world and make the conditions for every generation that much better.

What can we do to get started today?

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powerment for oppressed people. She is a former member of The Celebrants, a liturgical dance company in Denver Colorado.

The Reverend Kathleen J. Greider, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Claremont School of Theology in Claremont California. Her research and teaching interests include pastoral theology, depth psychology, interculturality, and the interplay of social and personal change. She is the author of *Reckoning with Aggression: Theology, Violence and Vitality* and several published essays. During the academic year 1998 — 99, Greider was named one of seven Henry Luce III Fellows in Theology for her research project entitled: "Meaning and Ministry in Narratives of Mental Illness: Persons with Emotional Disabilities Discuss Soul-Sickness, the Sacred, and Healing," Ordained in the United Methodist Church, she has clinical experience in general hospital and in-patient psychiatric settings pastoral counseling and psychotherapy, spiritual direction, and parish ministry. She is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School and Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

