

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER NEWSLETTER



Boston University School of Theology

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Reflections on Jurisdictional Conference 1988

While at General Conference earlier this year, I was told by people who had been to Jurisdictional Conference that it would not be as interesting or as stimulating as General Conference. Reflecting on my experience at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in July, I beg to differ!

On July 14, my birthday, the conference voted unanimously "that the Anna Howard Shaw Center at Boston University be designated the women's center to serve the Northeastern Jurisdiction." What new opportunities to resource the area are now open to us!

On the same day Bishop Susan Murch Morrison, BUSTh '72 was consecrated the first woman bishop elected in this jurisdiction and the fourth in United Methodism. The election of Sharon Brown Christopher in the North Central Jurisdiction followed immediately, bringing the total number of women bishops ever elected to five, three of whom are active.

Years from now, historians should still be able to sense the excitement of Susan Morrison's election simply by reading the balloting sheet. According to my sheet, Susan received one vote on the third ballot, one on the fifth, then two, 16, 24, 46, 87, 115, 161, 193, 193, 191, 231, and

was elected on ballot 18. I remember the comment of a member of my delegation when Susan received 16 votes, "Hmm, what's going on here?"

I was deeply moved when Cliff Ives, another BUSTh graduate who was the candidate from the Boston area, withdrew his candidacy to ensure the election of either our first Korean or our first woman bishop. I am sure that I was not alone in the thrill of the dawning realization that Susan was going to be elected and that I was a participant in this historic happening.

Diedre Kriewald, the woman who was willing to run and enable our area to consider seriously the possibility of electing a woman, was willing to withdraw as Susan's candidacy began to gain momentum. That kind of interdependence was reinforced when Diedre was one of the two presenters of Bishop-Elect Morrison at her consecration.

Remembering the fact that 100 years ago the five women elected to General Conference were refused seating because of disagreement over what "laymen" actually meant, I found being present at a more positive occasion for women making history to be stimulating indeed!

Margaret Wiborg

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS: 5th Annual Women's Retreat

On September 16 and 17, a group of forty-two women made up of faculty, students, staff, spouses, and alumnae gathered at the Rolling Ridge Conference Center for the fifth annual Anna Howard Shaw Center Women's Retreat.

One of the original Shaw Center retreaters, Deb Snyder, said, "The 1988 retreat was my fifth retreat with the Shaw Center. In 1984 my husband was a student at STH...to be invited as his spouse made me feel welcomed into the community. The Shaw Center was a support resource for me as I made the decision to return to school to finish my master's degree. In 1985, I attended the retreat as a student. In 1986, I attended as a staff person. Last year I was part of the planning committee for the retreat. With my fifth year the Shaw women have seen me into yet a new role, that of teaching assistant. Through all the changes and transitions in my own life, the continuity of the Shaw Center has been there for me, as deep as comfortable, and as often as needed. Thank you, Shaw women!"

Rosalie Carlson, Dean Neville's secretary, attended the retreat for the first time this year. She says, "Being my first time away from home ever by myself, I was apprehensive and a bit timid at first, but this was short-lived, as I soon felt the warmth and friendship of all I came in contact with. I arrived at home exhausted, but after a short nap felt revived and thankful that I could feel the love that was generated and shared by us all. I look forward to going next time."

Shirin McArthur, a first year M.Div. student from New Mexico says, "I enjoyed getting to know the women at BUSTh, putting names with faces, sharing cooking and talking. I was glad there were some women there who are not part of our student body in the particular sense. I was really looking forward to the retreat as an opportunity to get away from Boston, into the countryside, and it was just as great as I hoped it would be."

Yoo Cha Yi, a second-year M. Div. student from Korea said, "It was my first time to participate in the women's retreat. During the retreat I had an ambivalent feeling; I could perceive the sincere, simple and supportive atmosphere which I have hardly found in other meetings. At the same time, because of my limited English, I had not felt clear about what was told in presentation and during the time of sharing. Nevertheless, it was a valuable time for me that I could reflect myself as a woman, and as a Korean stubborn woman, and I will be at the next women's retreat."

To me, the presense of so many wonderful women collected in one room so early in the year was a sign of hope and renewal. As we gathered to hear Anna's story, to welcome new women and celebrate the old, to sing passionately, to share stories and laughter and pain, we affirmed what we all hoped would be true: Shaw Center and the women's community at BUSTh is alive and strong.

Kristy Klein

KNOWN IN THE BAKING OF BREAD

by Barb Lemmel

Slap slap push, slap slap push, slap slap push--
her hands blur as she kneads
her body rocking gently but firmly forward and back
forward and back.

The dough's gentle warmth tells of late morning sun
as she sprinkles another handful of flour on the board and resumes kneading.
With an artist's confidence she knows when enough flour has been added--
a little more for wheat bread, a little less for rye and corn--
and shapes the smooth, round loaves for baking.
Covering the satiny surfaces with a cloth,
she sets them again in the sunny window to rise.
The miracle of yeast once more turns the chaos of flour and water into a
living, growing thing.
Soon the aroma of bread will waft through her home.

A passing teacher catches sight of the rising loaves.
"The way of God is like this,"
he tells his followers, gesturing toward the window.
"A woman takes some yeast and mixes it with a bushel of flour until
the whole batch of bread rises."

Click, click, click--
Her fingers blur over the typewriter keys,
adding the finishing touches to this week's sermon.
The Word is kneaded into liturgy and song,
spoken word and silent prayer
as her life moves with the rhythm of Advent and Epiphany, Lent and Pentecost.
She has worked to get to know the people she serves,
their likenesses and differences, the way each is a child of God.
With the patience and persistence of an artist,
she challenges and stretches their faith-living,
while she strives to warm them with communion and companionship,
listening and sharing.
She seeks to guide them as they shape their lives,
reminding them always that they dwell within the warmth
of God's love and purpose.
In time, the Word brings these people together from their individual lives,
into believing, hoping, loving, doing.
Together, she and they are caught up in grace,
embodying Christ in the world.

Barb is a STH student who will be serving two congregations in Vermont in January.

Newsome Appointed Associate Dean

Imani-Sheila Newsome, a 1988 graduate of BUSTh, was appointed to the position of Associate Dean of Marsh Chapel this summer. Imani-Sheila was ordained an elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in April and is the first Afro-American woman to hold the office of Associate Dean of Marsh Chapel.

Before her entrance into ordained ministry, Imani-Sheila was assistant professor of early childhood education and special education at Simmons College. When she was a student at BUSTh, she was an intern at Marsh Chapel. She has worked for the office of the Dean of Students and served on university committees prior to this appointment.

On October 9 in Marsh Chapel, the

Reverend Newsome was officially installed. The Reverend Katie Cannon, Associate Professor of Christian Ethics at Episcopal Divinity School, preached the installation sermon entitled, Keeping the Covenant Alive. New Temple choir from St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church, where Imani-Sheila served as associate pastor for five years, supported her appointment with the gift of music. The Inner Strength Gospel Choir of Boston University sang South African freedom songs at the service.

Many of the members of Imani-Sheila's family from New Jersey came up for the service, as did a good number of the Boston University community and members of other communities who have been touched by Imani-Sheila's ministry. Congratulations, Imani-Sheila.

1988 Study Series for Women

The theme of this year's Anna Howard Shaw's Study Series for Women was Our Bodies, Our Spirits, Affirming and Taking Responsibility for Our Whole Selves. The first two sessions were held at Carter Memorial UMC in Needham, Massachusetts.

Kathe Darr, Assistant Professor of Old Testament spoke on Sarah and Hagar on October 17. Imani-Sheila Newsome, Associate Dean of Marsh Chapel spoke on the healing images in Toni Morrison's novel Beloved, in a presentation entitled Healing in Our Own Hands on October 24. The last two sessions were held at BUSTh. Carol Bohn, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Counselling at STH

and Laura Delaplain, Director on the Norma Kent Pastoral Counseling Center in Abington and Pastor of Hingham and Hull UMC, spoke about domestic violence on November 7. Linda Clark, Assistant Professor of Sacred Music at STH, led a session on embodied spirituality on November 14.

This study series continues to be an exciting way to connect the Shaw Center and BUSTh students with lay and clergy women in the area, a connection which rounds out the Shaw Center's ministry as well as new insights to those involved. Thanks to all who participated. We look forward to next year's series.

ANNA HOWARD SHAW SCHOLAR

June Goudey, a Th.D. candidate at BUSTh has been named the recipient of the first Anna Howard Shaw Scholarship. This assistantship is available to a Ph.D. or Th.D. candidate in the Division of Theological and Religious Studies and the School of Theology who exemplifies the Reverend Dr. Shaw's concern for women. The \$5,000 assistantship enables the recipient to carry out responsibilities in the Center related to her academic and professional work.

June is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. After graduating cum laude from Andover Newton Theological School in 1979, June served congregations in Tempe, Arizona and Framingham, Massachusetts. Presently she is a second year doctor of theology student majoring in theology and liturgy. Prior to seminary, June was Chief Physical Therapist for six years at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, in the Department of Physical Medicine. Bringing a strong concern for feminist theology to her doctoral work, June is exploring a theology of the Eucharist. Her work at the Shaw Center this year will involve coordination of resources and the Women and the Word event, as well as a Feminist Symposium on Re-Imaging Redemption to be held in November of 1989. This summer, she worked for five weeks on the Isle of Iona on the West Coast of Scotland, doing pastoral work and public relations for Cornerstone Foundation and its ecumenical house of peace and renewal. June worked in the Shaw Center last year as a doctoral assistant. We are glad to have her back again!

UPCOMING EVENTS...

January 28-29: Anne Hutchinson Symposium: **Celebrating America's First Female Theologian.** Newport, Rhode Island. Presenters include Amy Schrager Lang, William McGloughlin, Pat Miller, Sharon Ringe, and Miriam Therese Winter. For information write to: UCC Coordination Center for Women, Newport Congregational Church UCC, 413 Thames Street, Newport, Rhode Island 02840.

March 9-12, 1989: Conference of the Association for Women in Psychology: **The Many Faces of Feminist Psychology.** For more information write to Kathryn Quina, Department of Psychology, University of Rhode Island,, Kingston, Rhode Island 02881 or call 401/277-3832.

March 30-31: The Fifth Annual Women and the Word Preaching Event, **Claiming the Future: Preaching Wholeness to Our Daughters and Sons.** sponsored by the Anna Howard Shaw Center, BUSTh. Leadership includes Virginia Ramey Mollenkott and Yolanda Pupo-Ortiz. For more information call 617/353-3075.

Nov. 3-4, 1989. Plan now to attend the Anna Howard Shaw Center's first symposium in Feminist Theology. Entitled **Re-Imaging Redemption**, the event will offer a platform for six North American scholars and artists to share their contemporary feminist and womanist views on redemption. Participants include Rita Nakashama Brock, Gail Corrington, Carter Heyward, Barbara Gerlach, Jacqueline Grant, and Dolores Williams. Contact June Goudey at 617/353-3075 for further information.

SHAW STAFF

The Shaw Center has a new administrative assistant this year. **Shirley Sims**, a second-year M.Div. student from California brings a wonderful background of organizational and administrative skills and creativity to the Shaw staff. Shirley also helps the Shaw Center's ecumenism, as she is a member of the Unitarian-Universalist Association. We now have two United Methodists, **Margaret Wiborg** and **Kristy Klein**; one UCC, **June Goudey**; and a UU! It looks like it will be a great year.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to **Sally Havens**, a United Methodist M.Div. student from Carter Memorial Church in Needham, Massachusetts, and **Sandra Smith**, a United Methodist student from East Greenwich, Rhode Island. Sally is this year's recipient of the Mary Lou Evans Scholarship. Sandra recieved this year's Martha Muelder Scholarship. Congratulations and welcome!

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Boston University's policies provide for equal opportunity and affirmative action in employment and admission to all programs of the University.

NEW RESOURCE

The Shaw Center is pleased to announce a new resource in our library-- the 1988 South of the Garden Catalog. filled with information about books concerning the intersection of women, religion and the South, published by The Resource Center for Women and Ministry in the South, Inc., an organization which seeks to connect people who are working for a feminist analysis of political structures and a spirituality that will heal and nurture.