

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER NEWSLETTER

Boston University School of Theology
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REV. MARIE FORTUNE VISITS BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Reverend Marie Fortune, minister, author, national advocate and director of the Center for Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence in Seattle, Washington circulated among BUSTh students and faculty on October 3 and 4 as Area D's guest and resource person for BUSTh students as part of the sesquicentennial celebration.

Fortune, a keynote speaker at the October 5-8 conference "Shall You Betray Me With A Kiss: Ethical and Religious Response to Sexual Abuse" at Boston University, shared insights with and encouraged BUSTh affiliates to be aware of the gravity of the issues of sexual abuse and violence in our society as a whole, and of their implications in the ministry of each individual. Specific topics addressed in her presentations were: dealing with offenders, how a pastor's actions affect the victim, forgiveness, boundary setting, and relevant theological issues.

Sharing incidents that she has encountered in her position at the Center for Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, she poignantly communicated the need for a more universal awareness of these issues as well as a commitment to inaugurating systems to promote justice for victims and survivors of abuse.

In her remarks on justice, she articulated that "the agenda of justice-making is a pastoral issue and the means to healing...speaking out about the issues is a prophetic act."

According to Fortune, "Justice involves truth-telling...the protection of the vulnerable...and the ministry of compassion." Rev. Fortune also emphasized that "the best revenge [for survivors] is a healthy life."

Fortune has authored several books on this subject, including Is Nothing Sacred?, Sexual Violence: The Unmentionable Sin, and Keeping the Faith: Questions and Answers for the Abused Woman. Her presence and presentations were truly a gift to the BUSTh community.

WOMEN AND POWER IN THE EARLY CHURCH

The 1989 Anna Howard Shaw Center Women's Studies Event entitled "Women in Power in the Early Church" was held Saturday, October 14 at the School of Theology. Dr. Emily Albu Hanawalt, Associate Director of Religious Studies at Boston University led the session with a slide lecture and lively discussion.

After establishing the context with an overview of women and their position in religion in the ancient world and the early Christian church, Dr. Hanawalt focused on the Third Ecumenical Council in 431 A.D. It was at this council of Ephesus that the status of Mary, the Mother of God, was determined. In addition to the philosophical and Christological perspectives, Dr. Hanawalt intrigued the participants with the social and political considerations of the day, and the degree of women's involvement.

THANK YOU SHAW CENTER DONORS

Listed below are all the individuals and groups who contributed to the work of the Shaw Center between July 1988 and June 1989. These gifts in many different sizes are what have made the various activities of the Center possible: the All Women's Retreat, oral history interviews and transcriptions, Women and the Word, coffee and crackers, new books, a new computer (!), this newsletter, the Anna Howard Shaw window, the dinner for graduating women, and many others. The Shaw Center is very grateful.

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BUSTh WOMEN PARTICIPATE IN SIXTH ANNUAL RETREAT

The Gospels, on several occasions, recount that Jesus took time away from life in the fast lane in order to renew mind and spirit. It was in this same spirit that the annual fall retreat sponsored by the Anna Howard Shaw Center, "Playing Along The Way," provided respite for many of the women affiliated with BUSTh. The sixth annual retreat, on September 8 and 9, kicked off the academic year for students, faculty, and friends. It provided an opportunity for women to relax, reflect, and share fellowship in the pastoral environment of Rolling Ridge Retreat Center in Andover, Massachusetts.

Third-year M.Div. student and veteran retreator, Barbara Livingston, noted that the retreat facilitated 'unpressured time to reconnect with friends and meet new friends.'

"Overall, I think it [the retreat] helps to establish a sense of community among the women at BUSTh," she concluded. Ms. Livingston also served an integral role in planning and implementing this year's retreat. She expressed that this was an experience in itself, as it enabled her to integrate information garnered both at BUSTh and in her life experiences thus far. From this perspective, she was blessed two-fold by this event.

First-year M.Div. student, Judy Guion-Utsler, was appreciative of the fact that her special situation, the need for child care, was

accommodated. Special arrangements were made for child care at the conference site so that she could bring her daughter. "I would not have been able to attend if my 18 month old daughter didn't have child care," she indicated.

The highlight of the retreat for many of the women was the program on Saturday Morning, which centered on how women can care for themselves. A feminist reading and dramatization of the Shel Silverstein book, The Giving Tree was presented by third year M. Div. students Kristy Klein and Char Caver. At the conclusion all participants were invited to discuss the ways in which women give of themselves to others, frequently at the expense of the self.

As well as the collective sharing of creative ways for women to care for themselves, one of the innovative activities was the task for each woman to write a "love letter" to herself. These letters were collected and were mailed to each participant at a later time in the semester. In this way, the spirit of the retreat was renewed and revived in each one's heart in the midst of the "storms" of midterms and life crises, and proved an apt remainder to "Play Along the Way."

Many thanks to Christine Wagner, chair, and the entire planning committee for an excellent experience.

ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN

Registrar and board member Mary Lou Greenwood Boice has agreed to serve as interim chair of the 1989 Annual Giving Fund for the Shaw Center. You will receive a letter before the holidays giving you the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing program or endowment fund. Because the Shaw Center is expected to raise its own budget, your

support can make a difference in the quality of our ministry. One recent graduate has just asked for information about the center's work so that he can suggest that his new church consider us in the U. S. missions giving! When your letter arrives, please be creative and generous in supporting our work. Thank you.



The Sixth Annual
"Women and the Word"
Two-day Conference
March 22-23, 1990

Honoring Difference:

Women's Cross-Cultural Realities and Preaching

An event to provide men and women an opportunity to *name* and *experience* the myriad cross-cultural realities and differences present in women's preaching.

Leadership Team

The Rev. Dr. Christine Smith
Assistant Professor of Homiletics at Princeton Theological Seminary

The Rev. Joan Martin
Co-director, Church and World Institute, Protestant Campus Ministry, Temple University

The Rev. Hea Sun Kim and Ms. S. Unzu Lee
Co-pastors of a Korean-American congregation in Cambridge, Massachusetts

This conference is limited to 250 participants.
Registration deadline: March 1, 1990

Registration Fee (non-refundable) - \$30 (if postmarked before deadline)

For information on schedule, cost of meals, housing, off-site child care, special rates for students, scholarship aid or CEU credit, write or phone:

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BOOK REVIEW

By Susan Rosen Grant

Christianity, Patriarchy and Abuse: A Feminist Critique

Edited by Carol Bohn and Joanne Brown. Pilgrim Press

Early on, Feminists made us aware of the pervasiveness of violence against women. Now this provocative collection of essays from leading Christian Feminists, edited by STH pastoral psychologist Carole Bohn and church historian Joanne Brown (St. Andrew's College, Saskatchewan) deepened the discussion, exposing the Christian roots of family violence and sexual abuse.

Why are so many abused women faithful Christians? They've been well trained. Joanne Brown, Rebecca Parker, Rosemary Reuther, Rita Brock, Sheila Redmond, Mary Hunt, Elizabeth Bettenhausen, and Karen Bloomquist demonstrate that Christian theology, ethics, and tradition have reinforced and sacralized women's subordination and suffering. More psychologically oriented, Carole Bohn, Demaris Wehr, Polly Young-Eisendrath, and Marie Fortune show how abuse is rationalized/theologized in individual experience. Beverly Harrison and Carter Heyward close by considering how the Christian valuing of pain over pleasure distorts our sexuality.

These essayists play for high stakes. For example, Brown and Parker's leadoff contribution, "For God So Loved the World?," a rigorous critique of the central Christian belief that the death of Jesus was a necessary sacrifice. Labeling atonement theology "divine child abuse," they ask, "Is there any wonder that there is so much abuse in our society when the predominant image/theology of the culture [depicts]...God the father demanding...the suffering and death of his own son?" With responsible passion, the authors search old and new Christologies for a more ethical theology of the cross.

Redmond's "Christian 'Virtues' and Recovery from Child Sexual Abuse," presents a different challenge. She argues that the values taught Christian children--forgiveness, turning the other cheek, the need for redemption, obedience to adults--make it hard for young victims to understand that crimes have been committed against them, let alone to resolve feelings of guilt. That devout children are left so vulnerable while their violators are often protected by the church leads Redmond to comment with asperity, "there really is 'something rotten'...within the Christian ethos."

Powerful and pointed, this timely book will generate warmth under various collars, clerical and otherwise, when it appears in the fall. It will also energize readers to make the church a safer place for women and children.

NEW STAFF FOR SHAW CENTER

There are some new faces associated with the Shaw Center this fall, as the academic year ushered in a new crew of graduate assistants.

First year M. Div. students, Judy Guion-Utsler and Katherine Fuqua are assuming the colossal tasks of coordinating conferences, mailings, and assisting with the daily operational functions of the Shaw Center.

First year MTS student, Doreen Treacy, is on board to take the responsibilities of coordinating the newsletters and helping automate operations (now that the Shaw Center has a computer!)

Christine Wagner, veteran Shaw Center Associate, assisted in orienting all of the new Shaw Center associates (a major undertaking!). As Resource Coordinator, she is focusing on expanding and systematizing the Shaw Center Library.

RE-IMAGING REDEMPTION SYMPOSIUM

The Anna Howard Shaw Center sponsored a symposium on Feminist and Womanist Theologies on November 3 and 4. In conjunction with the seminar, an exhibit by artist and UCC Pastor Barbara Gerlach entitled "Telling the Truth" was displayed at the George Sherman Union Gallery November 2 - 4.

The format of the seminar included presentations by six creative women who shared current insights on an area of their own interest and specialty, responses by

participants, affinity group meetings during Saturday lunchtime, a panel discussion, and closing ritual.

This event was made possible by a grant from The Board of Higher Education of The United Methodist Church.

Unfortunately, the seminar had not yet taken place at the time this newsletter went to press. Watch for a reaction to this dynamic event in future publications!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 14, 1990 - Anna Howard Shaw Birthday Party Celebration at the Castle on Bay State Road.

MARCH 22-23, 1990 - Women and the Word 1990 "Honoring Difference: Women's Cross Cultural Realities and Preaching". Leadership includes Rev. Dr. Chris Smith, homelitics professor at Princeton; Rev. Joan Martin of Temple University; Rev. Hea Sun Kim and S. Unzu Lee co-pastors of a Korean-American congregation in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

FEBRUARY 1990 - Feminism and Militarism sponsored by the Interfaith Peace Network of Greater Boston. Questions regarding the specifics of the conference can be addressed to the IPN (617) 625-4823.

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