

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER NEWSLETTER

Boston University School of Theology Summer 1987 Vol. 3, No. 4



A TRAINING EVENT: WOMEN'S HISTORY-- EVERYBODY'S HISTORY

Most of the history preserved by the church has been that centering around the major events and stories of male church leaders. Today we realize that everyone plays a role in making history and that to understand our society and our church we need a more complete picture. Frequently, the stories, lives, and work of women in our church are unknown. We need to recognize the importance of the "anonymous ones" who have given their time and energy to bring us this far by faith. In many cases, these stories have never been recorded; some have been lost. Yet as we begin to develop the tools and training, many of the stories are waiting for us to claim them.

The Shaw Center, in cooperation with United Methodist Women, the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and the Commission on Archives and History, is ready to promote recovery of this important part of our story. On November 7, 1987, a signal jurisdiction-wide training event, "Women's History/ Everybody's History," will be held at Boston University "to provide resources and develop skills to unearth, preserve, and proclaim the histories of women in mission and ministry."

The opening keynote address at 10 a. m. will be given by Susan M. Eltscher, new Director of Women's and Ethnic History for the General Commission on Archives and History. There will be four workshops

repeated morning and afternoon: "Doing Oral History" with Hilah Thomas, Coordinator of the Oral History Project for the Women's Division; "Retrieving History in the Local Church" led by T. C. Whitehouse and Donald A.K. Williams of the Southern New England Conference Commission on Archives and History; "Finding the Lost Threads" with Patricia A. Jewett, '86, author of *The History of Maine Methodism Through the Women's Sphere*; and "Using Media for Oral History," conducted by Lee Carpenter, Audiovisual Librarian, Harry L. Johnson of Polaroid Corporation, and John W. Ward, Associate Professor of Communications and Preaching at Boston University School of Theology.

There is a registration fee that includes lunch: \$25 before October 16, 1987, and \$30 thereafter. Limited scholarship aid is available. This event will be the beginning of a project to recover women's history in local churches and the area. For the project to be most effective, it will need participation from many churches and individuals. If you have a story to tell or would like to know more about how to serve as collector, recorder, and educator in the area of women's history, please consider this event. For more information, contact the Shaw Center.

A TRIP TO ANNA'S CHURCH ON THE CAPE

After Anna Howard Shaw was ordained by the Methodist Protestant Church in Tarrytown, New York, in October 1880, she returned to her Wesleyan Methodist Church on Cape Cod to find the congregation had taken a love offering in her absence to purchase the fine shining pitcher, plate and two goblets manufactured by Reed and Barton so "the gal" could serve communion at last.

This simple silver service is on display at the East Dennis Community Church. Carmen Ward, Margaret Wiborg, Jerry Cook, Ellen Chahey, and I saw it and heard about the history of the church on a visit in mid-July. Our host and tour guide was the Reverend Ed Whitman, pastor of the Community Church.

Carmen found the church easily, because she and John had served the church and stayed in its parsonage several summers ago. It is situated in a gracious place where the houses are old, the streets are quiet, and the pace seems slow. I had the impression that there the flowers are well smelled.

Ed Whitman took us back in time to the early nineteenth century with his story of the original church society. The first red-roofed meeting house was built by a society opposed to slavery, the very trade in which many of the Cape sea captains had a vested interest. Still close by, the red-top meeting house is now a private residence.

The second church was built in the 1850s by members who continued to be Abolitionists but who were also inspired by the Second Great Religious Awakening of the 1830s. They built a sturdy white church with a steeple featuring four clock faces around its base. Light shone through generous clear windows and slender stained glass windows into an interior filled with wide, boxy pews. The spacious

sanctuary was dominated by a central pulpit from which Anna preached every Sunday for seven years.

The current building is the third structure. As I stood on the thick blue carpet and looked at the side pulpit, the ornate chandelier and the new hymnals in the third church, it was hard to imagine the spirited little pastor leading her congregation of sea-going folk in a simpler setting. Ed Whitman provided pictures of the second church inside and out, and that helped considerably. One of the pictures shows the third church right next to the second church after which it was modeled; the two exteriors are amazingly alike.

The story of the building of the third church in the 1950s is fascinating. Money had been given for a stone church, but there was a desire to duplicate the second church and maintain the New England character of the white church with its steeple whistling up in the sky. So the wood envelops a cinder-block structure to create a church that is new and old, modern and traditional, ageless. Pastor Whitman reports new stirrings of the spirit in this church which replicates the church born of the Second Great Awakening.

Anna's communion set is not for display only. It is used for communion at the Community Church on the first Sunday of every month. If you would like to take communion from the silver cup and plate that Anna used more than one hundred years ago, get in touch with me in Wellesley at 431-1308. We'll travel a short distance in space to worship with a sense of the past, present and future of women in ministry.

Lee Carpenter

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CONTENTS

A Trip to Anna's Church on the Cape.	2
Women's Sense of Self	3-4
New Mothers Among BUSTh Faculty	5
Shaw Scholars.	5
General Conference.	5
Recognition Gifts	6
Shaw Library.	6

WOMEN'S SENSE OF SELF

THE 1987 ANNA HOWARD SHAW
WOMEN'S STUDY SERIES



October Session . . .

**At the Wakefield United Methodist Church
Wakefield, MA:**

**Monday, October 5, 1987, Elizabeth Bettenhausen
Associate Professor, Ethics and Theology**

**Monday, October 19, 1987, Imani-Sheila Newsome
Oxnam-Liebman Scholar, Social Ethics, 1987-88**

November Session . . .

**At Boston University School of Theology
Boston, MA:**

**Monday, November 9, 1987, Jennifer Rihe
Assistant Professor, Theology**

**Monday, November 23, 1987, Demaris Wehr
Assistant Professor, Psychology of Religion,
1986-87, Author of recently released Jung and
Feminism, Beacon Press, 1987**

Each session begins at 7 p. m. with time for coffee and conversation. The presentations will begin at 7:30, with discussion following. Registration is a suggested \$20 donation to the Anna Howard Shaw Center for the entire series or a \$6.50 donation for individual nights. Our primary concern is to gather women for interaction. Whatever your financial situation, please come and donate what you can. Checks should be made payable to the Anna Howard Shaw Center, BUSTH. Pre-registration is encouraged.

Tear or cut here

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

*** CHURCH *** _____

AMOUNT OF DONATION ENCLOSED _____

DO YOU NEED MORE TRAVEL INFORMATION? _____

In order for our conversation to begin immediately, please express on the back of this form any issues or concerns related to the topic that you would like to see addressed at each session. Thank you.

The Anna Howard Shaw Center is sponsoring for the third year a Women's Study Series to stimulate an exchange of information and ideas between women in congregations and in the seminary. By coming together, we seek to address women's life issues and new developments in women's studies to enable one another to lead more creative lives as church women in the world today.

This year we will focus on "Women's Sense of Self," with sessions led by Boston University School of Theology women. An excellent book to read as background for these sessions is *Women's Ways of Knowing*, Belenky, et al., Basic Books, Inc., 1986. For seminary women, the issues and perspectives of women in the congregation are of primary importance as they strive to better understand their own roles in ministry. Likewise, women in the congregation can share the excitement of new educational developments, issues, and concerns of their sisters in seminary. Please come, and bring your friends!

Travel directions to Wakefield United Methodist Church:

From Route 128, take exit 41 (Main Street, Lynnfield, Wakefield).
At end of ramp (Vernon Street) turn toward Wakefield;
Go approximately 1/2 mile to intersection of Vernon and Lowell Street
(note Shell Station and LI'l Peach Market).
Continue across intersection on Vernon Street.
Wakefield United Methodist Church is 200 feet on the left (driveway is beyond building).
Maps are available.

Travel directions to Boston University School of Theology, 745 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston:

Take Route 90 (Mass Turnpike) to
Allston-Cambridge Exit to Storrow Drive and Kenmore Square.
In Kenmore Square, bear right at fork and pass Howard Johnson's.
BUSTh is on the same side of Commonwealth Avenue (two blocks down).
OR On public transportation:
Take Green Line outbound to *Boston University Central* stop (third stop above ground),
The School is across from CVS and Radio Shack.

Return registration forms to: Anna Howard Shaw Center
BU School of Theology
745 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215

ISSUES:

Congratulations!

We have new mothers among us at the School of Theology. Shaw congratulates Kathe Darr and husband John Darr on the birth of their son, Joshua Pfisterer Darr, on June 14, 1987. Joshua weighed 8 pounds, 15.5 ounces, and was 23 inches long at birth. We also congratulate Dana Robert and her husband Robert Massie for the birth of Samuel Robert Massie, August 5, 1987. Samuel's birthweight was 7 pounds, 8.5 ounces; his length 21 inches. Best of luck to both families!



SHAW SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Board of Higher Education, Division of Ordained Ministry, has made a \$2000 grant to the Anna Howard Shaw Center, providing the possibility for several clergywomen to spend one or two weeks at Boston University School of Theology for renewal and reflection. Open to clergywomen who have been in ministry ten years or more, recipients of the scholarships will have the opportunity to attend and participate in classes at BUSTh and also to experience the city itself. There will also be an opportunity to

interact with faculty and students who can benefit from their wisdom and experience. Although individual stipends will not fully cover all expenses, the Shaw Center is willing to work with local churches and other sources of continuing education money to supplement and affirm each clergywoman's participation. If this opportunity is of interest to you, please contact Margaret Wiborg for application forms and further information.

GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Shaw Center will have three representatives at General Conference in 1988. Margaret Wiborg, the director, and Joyce Robinson, Advisory Board member and United Methodist Women Conference President, were elected as lay delegates from Southern New England Conference. The Reverend Shirley Hoover, '77, Advisory Board member and Women and the Word planning committee member, is the single female clergy delegate elected from Southern New England.

According to Newscope (July 17, 1987), for the

first time in history, laywomen outnumber laymen in the lay delegation to General Conference. Almost one third of the U. S. delegates, clergy and lay, are women. Women compose 51% of the lay delegates (230), up from 48% (222) in 1984; and clergywomen make up 14% (62) of the clergy delegates, up from 9% (42) in 1984. Women have come a long way since the 1896 General Conference when the five elected female delegates were not seated.

Recognition Gifts

If you would like to give a gift of special recognition or appreciation to someone of importance in your life or ministry, please consider an Anna Howard Shaw Appreciation and Recognition Gift. Your gift provides to the honoree both a card and a listing in the Shaw

Center Newsletter.

Gifts may be made directly to the Anna Howard Shaw Center. Please send the name and address of the honoree with your gift.

**Boston University
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745 Commonwealth Ave.
Boston, MA 02215**

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Shaw's Library Grows

In the 1986-1987 academic year, Shaw's Resource Library has increased by nearly 25 percent in holdings of books alone. Many of these new accessions were gifts of Shaw friends; others, suggestions by visitors. This figure does not reflect the number of magazines, cassette tapes, and periodicals the Center offers for loan. These holdings have also grown in number and are equally important to Shaw's ability to serve its community.

In our pursuit of growth, we invite interested and able persons to make contributions along the way. Assistance can take the form of book donations, monetary gifts, or much-needed taping of resources currently available for use by blind or seeing-impaired patrons. We welcome your suggestions and input concerning library needs. Any help you can offer is greatly appreciated.