

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER NEWSLETTER

Boston University School of Theology

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ANNA HOWARD SHAW

When I walk into the Anna Howard Shaw Center, I cannot help but think of the great contrast between BUSTH now and the days when Anna Howard Shaw was a student here. In her autobiography The Story of a Pioneer, she wrote that before she had been a member of her entering class (42 men and herself) an hour, she realized "women theologians paid heavily for the privilege of being women." Since there were no dormitory or eating facilities for women, she lived in an attic room on Tremont Street, her diet consisting primarily of milk and crackers. She attended classes on the third floor and was frequently too weak to climb the stairs without sitting to rest. Later, an unknown benefactor through the Women's Foreign Missionary Society paid her \$3.50 a week to rest, study, and care for her health.

Anna Howard Shaw's first pastorate was the Methodist Church in Hingham, MA, where she served a year. Then followed a seven year yoked pastorate in Dennis and East Dennis on Cape Cod. She sought ordination in the Methodist Episcopal Church and was rejected; in 1880, after lengthy conversation, she was ordained in the Methodist Protestant Church. She returned to the Cape to find a lovely communion set, an ordination gift from her parishioners.

Only five feet tall, blest with "superabundant vitality" and an "iron constitution", Anna Howard Shaw understood her call as necessitating a ministry to body as well as soul. She entered Boston University School of Medicine and received her M.D. in 1885. Encouraged and enabled by women colleagues fighting the great battles for suffrage, temperance, and social purity, she recognized that her call was to an even wider ministry. "Deep in my heart", she wrote, "I realized the needs of the outside world, and heard its prayer for workers." She resigned from her parish and began to utilize her considerable speaking skills for women's



suffrage in the Boston area. Later, encouraged by her friend Susan B. Anthony to lecture for the National American Woman Suffrage Association, she criss-crossed the country as valiantly as any circuit rider. She served as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association from 1904-15. Her later years were spent organizing and mobilizing on behalf of the US during the 'Great War' and working on behalf of the League of Nations for peace.

In a sermon in 1893, she said "unless womanhood is developed, one-half of divinity itself is kept from the knowledge of the peoples of the world." She worked throughout her life to bring women and men nearer to a full understanding and appreciation of humanity.

ANNA'S NEW LOGO

The Anna Howard Shaw Center has a new logo!! It has been designed by second year Master of Theological Studies student and former graphic artist, Missy Wick. If you compare the logo to Anna Howard Shaw's graduation photo, you will see that both portray woman who are rejoicing, whole, and free. We could think of no better logo to symbolize that which the Anna Howard Shaw Center is all about--women helping women to rejoice, seek wholeness and become free!



ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER RESOURCES

Do you need resources in women relating to ministry, clerywomen, lay ministry, counseling, women of color? Come into the Shaw Center and browse!

Do you have articles, magazines or term papers that speak to and for women in ministry? Would you like to share them with others?

What would you like to see in the Anna Howard Shaw Center?

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Some months ago, a Development Committee was formed to raise \$500,000 for the support of Women in Ministry here at the School of Theology. Priscilla Barnard, chairperson of the Committee, reports that they are now putting the legal touches on a \$300,000 deferred gift to be used for the salary of a woman professor and a \$50,000 endowed scholarship for women. Both gifts signify the birth of a new era for women at STH.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WOMEN AND THE WORD: Experiencing the Uniqueness of Women's Preaching
(This two day workshop, March 14-15, will be sponsored by the Anna Howard Shaw Center.)

Women rarely have the opportunity to hear other women preach. **Women and the Word** was born out of the desire of clergywomen to hear one another preach and to discuss those things distinctively feminine in the style, subject matter and focus of their preaching. **Women and the Word** seeks to identify the uniqueness of women's preaching, to provide support and training, and to affirm women's styles of preaching.

The seminar will include focused workshops on specific aspects of preaching, spirit and style, presentations by selected preachers, worship services, and celebrations.

Topics for the seminar will include: discovering the center of women's preaching, exploring the personality of women's preaching, examining the environment of women's preaching, and reflecting on the theology of women's preaching.

Reverend Rebecca Wilson Dolch of Western New York UMC Conference will offer her rich experience and gifted expertise as resource leader for **Women and the Word**. Further information or registration information can be obtained by writing or calling the Shaw Center (617-353-3075) or Margaret Wiborg (617-353-3059).

MEET MARGARET WIBORG

The women at Boston University School of Theology are privileged to have a wonderful role model in Anna Howard Shaw. This fall, another positive role model entered our lives in the form of the AHSC's new director, Margaret Wiborg. Margaret comes to the School of Theology with a long history of work in Christian Education, the civil rights movement, church work, and women's groups.

Originally from Cary, North Carolina, she did completed undergraduate studies in Religion at Duke University in 1962. College vacation work as the Director of Christian Education at an East Harlem church enforced the direction of earlier calls to ministry. After a second summer in East Harlem, she attended Union Seminary and earned a Master's degree in Religious Education (1965). While at Union, she lived and worked at Five Points Mission, Church of the People, on the Lower East Side. Her work involved after-school and youth programs with a diverse ethnic makeup. She also worked in the church's summer camp at Cornwall-on-the-Hudson.

Following participation in a World Council of Churches summer workcamp in Lausanne, Switzerland, Margaret and her husband, Dick, moved to New Haven, CT, where Dick was appointed to two churches: a dying white church in a black community and a predominately black church in a housing project; the two eventually merged. Margaret was part of the corporate ministry of the Wider City Parish in New Haven where her major responsibility was to direct the progressive pre-school program. At the same time, she helped to develop a comprehensive Christian Education program at Summerfield Church.

One of the most edifying experiences for her at this time was a Women's Forum at the Summerfield Church. This group drew women from the church and the community and is still active in New Haven today. The support provided here enabled single mothers to pursue college educations and women from different socio-economic groups to develop trust and sisterhood.

In 1979, the Wiborgs with their two sons Christopher (now 17) and David (now 14), moved to Boston where Dick was appointed SNE United Methodist Conference Council Director. Margaret taught at a private pre-school in Brookline and took courses at BUSTH.

Her appointment as Director of the AHSC in September, 1984, is only one of the responsibilities Margaret holds. She is also teaching a course entitled "Women in Parish Ministry", participating in the development program for women, serving as advisor for candidates in Diaconal Ministry, supervising two field education students, and working with the Sexism and Mutual Ministries Committees. In addition, she is active in the Harvard Epworth United Methodist Church in Cambridge, the SNE Clergy Wives Advisory Board, COSROW, and the Area Committee on the Episcopacy.

With Margaret's wise and loving leadership, the Anna Howard Shaw Center is enjoying the celebration of rejuvenation. Resources in the Center are increasing, as is student, lay, and clergywomen involvement. The development for the Center as a network of communication and support between these women is a high priority in Margaret's work. Margaret, like Anna Howard Shaw, is a small woman, filled with great energy and ability. We are now blessed by the presence and contribution of them both.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

Good News!! The Wesley Fellows Program of the United Methodist Church is offering funding for post-Master of Divinity study. Wesley Fellows receive \$8,000. per year for each of three years. Preference is given to persons with several years of parish work; ethnic minority and women candidates are especially welcome. If you have been considering a return to academic life and meet the above requirements, you are invited to contact Earl Beane, Director of Admissions, at the School of Theology, for further information regarding this program.

Women's Reality An Emerging Female System in the White Male Society. Anne Wilson Schaef. Winston Press, 1981. Book review by Peggy Huff

When I was asked to review Anne Wilson Schaef's Women's Reality, I readily agreed. It seemed only fair; I had been recommending the book ever since I read it last summer. An unexpected benefit from this use of my Christmas break were the additional insights I gained from this, my third, reading of the book. Therefore, I will henceforth not only recommend Women's Reality, I will urge that it be read and re-read!

Schaef begins by describing what led her to write this book, that is, a realization of the limitations of traditional psychology in understanding and helping women. Her search for better understanding led her to the recognition of what she calls the White Male System as the system in which we all live, and the concurrent existence of alternative systems, among them being both the reactive female system and the Female System. She maintains that understanding women requires one to understand all three systems, as well as the particular woman in her individual relationship to the systems. She takes interpersonal psychology a necessary step forward by clearly explicating these systems, particularly as they influence us in our culture. Comprehending these systems as systems facilitates the possibility for change, both for an individual and for the systems themselves.

Schaef describes first the White Male System, then the reactive female system. The reactive system is the system women have used for coping with the White Male System. She then discusses "Stoppers," ways the White Male System has for preventing women from moving into either the White Male System or the Female System.

The fifth chapter is a comparison of the Female System and the White Male System. While the comparison is primarily between these two systems, examples from other systems (Black, Chicano, Native American) indicate her awareness of the value in more than the three alternatives. In fact, in the discussion of dualism in the next chapter she explicitly states that

she chose the dualistic approach because she felt that it was efficient and worked, not because it was inevitable (p.149). This sixth chapter praises paradox, denies the inevitability of dualism, and discusses levels of truth.

The final chapter, "An Introduction To Female System Theology," is perhaps the most provocative, in that while the other chapters describe what we have observed and/or experienced, this chapter invites thought in the area of theology. Her observations are those of a psychologist who realizes the role theology plays in our culture, who has read liberation and feminist theologians. She asks questions for these theologians to explore, as we recognize White Male System Theology for what it is.

Schaef writes in a very accessible style, using illustrations from both her private practice and her consultant work. Her conversational style makes it easy to understand the ideas she presents. Her presentation is fair and even-handed, affirming the value of aspects of the White Male System for certain situations even as she presents the alternative of the Female System as preferable for others. The plea is for openness, process, and creativity, rather than closure, stasis, and sameness. Her position is that no one system is always best, and that all systems--White Male, Female, Black, Chicano, Native American, and others-- can benefit from one another.

MEN AND WOMEN IN DIALOGUE

An overnight retreat, sponsored by the BUSTH Office of Student and Community Life, entitled Men and Women in Dialogue, is scheduled for **February 22-23, 1985** at St. John's United Methodist Church in Watertown. This event will begin Friday at 5:30 p.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday. Carol Pierce and Richard Orange will lead the workshop and discussions.

This will be an important opportunity for members of the School of Theology community and their spouses or significant others to dialogue about problems and issues which may prevent effective working relationships between men and women.

We hope that discussions in the workshop will stimulate the development of ideas and skills which can be applied to similar situations in the communities in which we will participate when we leave STH.

Boston University

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Spring 1985: Courses Taught By Women Faculty Members

<u>Professor</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Day/Time</u>	<u>Room</u>
Elizabeth Bettenhausen	Power and Powerlessness	TTh 11-12:30 pm	JB Room
	The Church and Human Rights	W 3-6 pm	440
Elizabeth Bettenhausen/ Linda Clark	Theology and the Arts	W 9-noon	TBA
Linda Clark	History/Appreciation of Church Music	Th 3:30-5 pm	Mugar Lib.
	Seminary Singers	TTh 1-2 pm	Chapel
Kathe Darr	The Use of the Bible in Christian Teaching	TTh 2-3:30 pm	B22
	The Prophetic Tradition	TWTh 9-10 am	B22
	Hebrew II	TWThF 8-9 am	440
Carole Bohn	Pastoral Psychology of Women	Th 3:30-6:30 pm	B22
Dana Robert	The Debate over Modern Mission	TTh 2-3:30 pm	JB Room
	Christian Understanding of Modern Totalitarianism	TTh 3:30-5 pm	317
Margaret Wiborg	Women in Parish Ministry	Th 2-3:30 pm	CLA 411
Shirley Lund	New Testament Apocrypha	TTh 3:30-5 pm	440

You are welcome to visit the School of Theology and sit in on these or other classes at anytime, with the exception of Spring Recess (March 4-8) and reading and exam weeks (April 29 - May 14).

In addition to visitors, the School of Theology welcomes Special Students each semester. Special Students include persons interested in religious work but not a theological degree or persons interested in investigating the possibilities of a theological degree. All Special Students are enrolled in courses for credit unless they receive permission to audit courses and they must reapply each semester before registration day to renew their Special Student status. The cost for registration as a Special Student is \$432. per semester (4 credits) or \$108. per credit. For further information regarding Special Student admission and application materials please contact The Rev. Earl R. Beane, Director of Admissions, at the above address and telephone number.

Persons 60 years of age or older are eligible to audit School of Theology courses through the Evergreen Program at Boston University; cost per course is \$10.00. For further information regarding courses through the Evergreen Program, please contact Rebecca Alssid, (Director of Continuing Education, 118 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215) at 353-4128.

FACULTY NEWS

Kathe Pfisterer Darr, Assistant Professor of Old Testament, and **Bernhard W. Anderson**, Adjunct Professor of Old Testament, have just finished work on the fourth edition of **Bernhard's Understanding the Old Testament**. Kathe will be reading a paper on Isaiah 42:10-17 at the regional meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature on March 22 at Andover Newton Theological School...**Dana Robert**, Assistant Professor of Mission, attended the International Association for Mission Studies Conference in Harare, Zimbabwe, in January...A joint "Ph.D. Party" was held in the Anna Howard Shaw Center in November for **Kathe** who recently completed her doctoral work in Old Testament at Vanderbilt University and **Dana**, who finished her degree program in Church History and Missiology at Yale University. Congratulations to them both!!...**Elizabeth Bettenhausen**, Associate Professor of Social Ethics and Theology, recently delivered a paper entitled "Feminist Ethics and the Doctrine of Creation" at a meeting of the Institute for Ecumenical Research in Stasbourg, France. She also presented two lectures at a joint conference of Roman Catholic and Lutheran campus ministers in Florida and addressed the 200th anniversary of the Episcopal diocese of Boston. In addition, her article entitled "Personal and Political, Private and Public" was published in the October 29, 1984 edition of **Christianity and Crisis**...**Linda Clark**, Assistant Professor of Sacred Music, is working on a new book, tentatively entitled **The Sound of Discipleship**. Linda will be doing a workshop on Worship and Preaching with Jim Forbes in June at Auburn Seminary...**Carole Bohn**, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling, and **Margaret Wiborg**, Director of the Anna Howard Shaw Center will attend the National Conference on Family Violence and Theological Education, March 7-10, in sunny San Antonio...In addition to having preached in the Conkookook and Bowe, NH United Methodist churches, **Terry Scherf**, Director of Field Education, recently attended the Association of Theological Field Education Directors meeting and the United Methodist Field Education Directors meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia.

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