

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER NEWSLETTER

Boston University School of Theology Winter 1987 Vol. 3 No. 2



\$24K GRANT FOR WOMEN'S PREACHING EVENT

The Women and the Word Preaching Seminar sponsored by the Ann Howard Shaw Center has received a two-year grant of \$24,000 from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation in Jacksonville, Florida. The grant comes at a time when women are becoming increasingly aware of the unique gifts and insights they bring to the preaching ministry. This, in addition to the fact that nearly half of the graduate student body at Boston University School of Theology (BUSTh) consists of women preparing for some form of ordained Christian ministry, demands that women be effective and competent in the area of preaching. The Shaw Center, now in its eighth year, has assumed a vital nurturing role in women's development in this and other areas of the ministry. Perhaps most important, the School of Theology and its faculty has made a firm commitment to recruiting the finest women scholars available for all

types of professorships.

Although preaching plays a crucial role in the ordained ministry, historically the role of preacher has been predominantly a male role, with few female models of effective preaching for women in training to draw upon for guidance and role modeling. BUSTh, however, is eager to face this challenge of professional status-building in the development of effective models for women's preaching.

This year's preaching seminar is to be held March 19-20. The theme for the seminar is "Women and the Word: Touching the Garment." The event focuses on the pastoral approach to preaching and promises to address both the challenges and the gifts women bring to preaching. (More information can be found in this issue's insert.)

Shaw Endowment Update:

"Sisters Are Doin' It for Themselves"

It's the beginning of a New Year. Some of us are all too aware of that fact as we enter "the close of the twentieth century." It's almost frightening. Especially frightening is the sometimes mercilessly slow pace of progress. The Shaw Center's Endowment Campaign, however, is evidence of a change in trends. In the words of a popular song, "Sisters are doin' it for themselves."

Women of all cultural, social, and financial situations have heeded Shaw's call for support. The Shaw Center's Annual Phonathon, the first of several fundraising events planned for this academic year, solicited an impressive \$12,600 in pledges. The Shaw Board pledges brought in another \$13,000. For the 1986 tax year, the in-hand funds exceed \$10,000.

These funds have propelled the Shaw Center into an unprecedented position of self-sufficiency. A \$10,000-plus fund produces interest available for use at Shaw's discretion; thus the Center is not subject to Boston University's budgetary concerns.

Shaw has recognized the economic reality of its need for expansive and continued development as a means of best serving all women. It is now time for us women to care and provide for ourselves, and one way many women have chosen is through economic support. It is in this way that we can build for the future security of the Shaw Center. Our thanks to Shaw Board members and all other contributors.

Dorothy Rogers

Women's Ways of Knowing

Reviewed by Peg Huff

Since late August I have been recommending to friends and students that if they can read only one book in the near future, they make it *Women's Ways of Knowing*. Belenky and her colleagues have contributed valuable insights not just about the differences between the ways women and men come to "know" the external (and internal) world, but also about the differences in ways of knowing among women. Their study has implications for parenting, educating, counseling, and ministering to the parish.

Various feminist scholars have investigated the academic and cultural acceptance of masculine experience and interpretation as human experience and interpretation; Belenky et al. investigated specifically the epistemologies used by women. They compared what they discovered to the work William Perry published in 1970, which explored the way Harvard students (almost exclusively male at the time) changed their epistemological stance from their freshman year to their graduation.

Belenky and her colleagues discovered five different ways of knowing used by women in their study, which drew two-thirds of its sample from six different academic institutions and the remaining one-third from clients of family agencies. The first way of knowing to emerge from the interviews involves women's sense of having a voice. Belenky et al. found that some women have been so restricted by their environment that they have no voice or sense of self.

A second way of knowing is through received knowledge. In this model, women learn by listening and thinking that words have the power to convey knowledge. Ambiguity and ambivalence are impossible for them. They are concerned for the well-being of others, but not for their own well-being.

A third way of knowing used by women is categorized as "subjective," that is, the woman listens to her own inner voice to the exclusion of external voices. For such a woman, her inner voice carries sole authority.

The fourth group of women identified by Belenky et al. concentrate on procedural knowledge, that is, knowledge which could be acquired by following conscious analytical methods. Two distinct styles are discernible within procedural knowledge--separate knowers and connected knowers. A separate knower adopts a "doubting" perspective, uses propositional knowledge, and gives authority to external experts. A connected knower adopts a "believing" perspective, utilizes experiential logic, and grants authority to others.

The final type of knower identified by Belenky et al. is the type who integrates personal intuitive knowledge and external rational knowledge. They realize the importance of the context and frame of reference for any answer to any question. The openness demanded in this position means that only intermediate, approximate truths will be found. Women who use this way of knowing are constructivist, that is, connected knowers who are able to include use of the self as a means of understanding. These women "aspire to work that contributes to the empowerment and improvement in the quality of life for others" (page 152).

The final section of *Women's Ways of Knowing* discusses the development of a particular way of knowing in particular women and the change from one way of knowing to another. It also suggests changes in educational methods which could provide women with congenial ways in which to learn. The discussion of familial structures certainly has implications for parenting, while the suggestions for education could change the focus of the educational system in the United States. In counseling and ministry, the different ways of knowing imply the need for different forms of therapeutic intervention.

Women's Ways of Knowing: The Development of Self, Voice, and Mind by Mary Field Belenky, Blythe McVicker Clinchy, Nancy Rule Goldberg, and Jill Mattuck Tarule. New York: Basic Books (1986).

Shaw Center News

Vol. 3 No. 2

Managing Editor: Margaret Wiborg
Editor: Glynis Hawkins
Copy Editor: Dorothy Rogers
Production Editor: Phyllis Izant
Contributors: Peg Huff,
Mary Lou Greenwood, JoAnn Carlotta

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Women and the Word Touching the Garment

March 19-20, 1987

Sponsored by the Anna Howard Shaw Center
Boston University School of Theology



Through proclaiming the word, we continue to touch the garment of Christ. The task of the preacher is to bring "the garment" into the reach of, or at least make it visible to, the believer (Mark 5:24-34). The Shaw Center's Third Annual Preaching Event for both women and men will focus on pastoral preaching and on affirming the unique gifts women bring to the proclamation of the word.

Meet the pastoral preachers:

The Reverend Ansley Coe Throckmorton is General Secretary of the Division of Education and Publication of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ. A well-known preacher and educator, she has served as a pastor in Maine, and as supervisor in the pastoral education program at Bangor Theological Seminary. Ms. Throckmorton is active at regional, national, and international levels in her denomination. Presently, she is vice president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. In 1981, the UCC honored her with its Antoinette Brown Award. Ms. Throckmorton received a B.A. degree from Wellesley, an M.Div. from Bangor Theological Seminary, and has studied at New York City's Union Theological Seminary, Andover-Newton Theological School, and Princeton Theological Seminary.

The Reverend Ruthenia Finely is in her fourth year as pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Brooklyn, New York. She is program chairperson of the New York Annual Conference Sessions Committee, is on the board of the UM City Society, and is Dean of the New York Conference School of Christian Mission. After graduation from Fordham, Ms. Finley received her M.Div. from Duke and is currently working toward her D.Min. at Drew.

The Reverend Vicki Woods is a UM pastor in the Maine Conference. She has taught a homiletics course at BUSTh and will be preaching at the UM Clergy Women's Convocation this year. Along with serving on the Conference and District Board of Ordained Ministry, Ms. Woods is Dean of the Pastor's Assembly for the Boston area. She received her B.S. from Ball State, an M.C.E.D. from Scarritt, and her M.Div. from BUSTh.

The Reverend Ruth Duck is a UCC clergyperson now working on a Doctor of Theology degree in worship and theology at BUSTh. She has served as pastor of churches in Massachusetts and Wisconsin, and as a teaching assistant at BUSTh. With Micheal Basch, Ms. Duck has coedited *Everflowing Streams: Songs for Worship*, and has edited *Bread for the Journey: Resources for Worship* and *Flames of the Spirit: Resources for Worship*. In 1983, Chicago Theological Seminary (her alma mater) awarded her an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in recognition of her work as pastor and writer.

Ms. Valerie Stiteler is reading for a Doctorate of Theology degree at the BUSTh. Ms. Stiteler is a minister awaiting call in the UCC. She belongs to the Mercersburg Society, the Massachusetts Conference Worship Committee of the UCC, and the Community of Hager. She also consults for the Healing Community and sits on the Executive Board of the Protestant Guild for the Blind. Ms. Stiteler anticipates publication of a liturgy in a book of worship resources to be published by Pilgrim Press.

This event is made possible by a grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation.

Women and the Word Touching the Garment

March 19-20, 1987

Sponsored by the Anna Howard Shaw Center
Boston University School of Theology



Thursday, March 19

- 9:00 a.m. Registration - first-floor foyer, School of Theology
10:00 a.m. Worship - Marsh Chapel, The Reverend Ansley Throckmorton
11:00 a.m. Presentation and feedback session
12:45 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch - Oxnam Lounge
2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Workshop I: Outsiders... The Neglected, by The Reverend Ruthenia Finley
4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Workshop II: Healing, by the Reverend Vicki Woods
6:00 - 7:15 p.m. Supper - Oxnam Lounge
7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Birthing the Sermon Workshop... How Do You Do It?

Friday, March 20

- 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. Workshop III: Wholeness in Worship,
by the Reverend Ruth Duck and Valerie Stiteler
11:45 a.m. Plenary (with preachers as panelists)
1:00 - 1:45 p.m. Lunch - Oxnam Lounge
2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Communion service - The Reverend Throckmorton preaching

WOMEN AND THE WORD
March 19-20, 1987
Boston University School of Theology
617/353-3075

Registration Deadline: March 4, 1987

Please type or print.

NAME: _____ PHONE: () _____ DENOMINATION: _____
ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PLEASE INDICATE YES OR NO:

Overnight Housing _____ \$22
Lunches and Dinner _____ \$16
Student Registration _____ \$ 5
Registration (all others) _____ \$10
(If postmarked after March 4, add \$15.)
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

_____ Yes, I would like to participate in the
small-group discussion for women of color.

CHILD CARE: Available on a limited, off-site
basis. Reservations with names and ages must
be received by March 4. (Attach separate
sheet.)

Detach and return with check or money order to: ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER, Boston University
School of Theology, Box 150, 745 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA, 02215.

Boston University

School of Theology
745 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Admissions Office
617/353-3036



Intercession 1987: Courses Taught By Women Faculty Members

<u>Professor</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Day/Time</u>
Jennifer Rike	Christian Doctrine of Love	MTWThF 9-1 p.m.
Dana Robert	Christian Modern Totalitarianism	MTWThF 9-1 p.m.

Spring 1987: Courses Taught By Women Faculty Members

<u>Professor</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Day/Time</u>
Elizabeth Bettenhausen	Church and Human Rights	M 2-5 p.m.
with Linda Clark	Christianity and the State	TTh 2-3:30 p.m.
	Theology and the Arts	W 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Carole Bohn	Pastoral Psychology of Women	W 3-6 p.m.
Linda Clark	Seminary Singers	TTh 1-2 p.m.
with E. Bettenhausen	Theology and the Arts	W 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Kathe Darr	Biblical Hebrew II	TWTh 3:30-4:30 p.m.
	Prophets	TWTh 9-10 a.m.
Shirley Lund	Jesus and the Gospels	M 2-5 p.m.
Jennifer Rike	Systematic Theology	TTh 2-3:30 p.m.
	Language and Belief	F 9-noon
Dana Robert	Debate over Modern Missions	TTh 2-3:30 p.m.
Theresa Scherf	Supervised Ministry and ITP	Arranged
Demaris Wehr	Advanced Psych of Religion	Th 3-6 p.m.
	Psychology of Mysticism	TTh 11-12:15 p.m.
Margaret Wiborg	Women in Parish Ministry	Th 2-3:30 p.m.

You are welcome to visit the School of Theology and sit in on these or other classes at any time, except during Spring Recess (March 7 through 15), holidays (February 16 and April 20), and reading and exam weeks (April 30 through May 12).

In addition to visitors, the School of Theology welcomes Special Students each semester. These include persons interested in religious study but not a theological degree, and 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. The cost for registration as a Special Student is \$480 per semester (4 credits) or \$120 per credit. For further information please contact The Reverend Earl R. Beane, Director of Admissions, at the above address and telephone number.

Women sixty 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. For further information contact Rebecca Alssid (Director of Continuing Education, 118 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215) at 353-4128.

CALENDAR

JANUARY

14: The Shaw Center sponsored an Open House welcoming new students to the Boston University School of Theology.

27: Ellen Casey and Mary Elizabeth Gannon will conduct a Shaw-sponsored Time Management Workshop. This workshop will be held in the Shaw Center, Room 320, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

11: The Shaw Center will be celebrating Anna Howard Shaw's birthday at the Castle from 5 to 7:00 p.m. Please come and help us commemorate this special occasion.

MARCH

19-20: The Third Annual Women and the Word Preaching Seminar will be held at the Boston University School of Theology. Registration begins at 9 a.m. in the foyer on the first floor. Continuing education credits can be arranged. More information is available on the insert, at the Shaw Center in Room 320, or by phone (353-3075).

APRIL

3-5: The 1987 Women's Inter-Seminary Conference will be held at the Princeton Theological Seminary. Registration begins at 3 p.m. Transportation and registration information are available at the Shaw Center.

**Boston University
School of Theology
745 Commonwealth Ave.
Boston, MA 02215**

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Ms. Carmen Ward
26 Kingsbury St.
Wellesley MA 02181

PUBLICATIONS

"The Origin of the Student Volunteer Watchword" by Dr. Dana Robert was published in the *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, October 1986.

"Grandmothers and the Millennium of Christianity in Russia" by Dr. Dana Robert will be published in an upcoming issue of *The Christian Century*. (This is an exceptionally moving article, and is recommended

reading for anyone interested in glimpsing contemporary Russian attitudes toward the church.)

Image Breaking/Image Building by Linda Clark, and *Bread for the Journey* and *Everflowing Streams* by Ruth Duck, were recommended reading in an article entitled "New Rites, New Rituals," which appeared in the December issue of *Ms.*