

What if women understood that their day-to-day lives were the basis from which the church's theological statements were framed? Would salvation, justification, and forgiveness look different?

What if the form of worship assumed loose ends, nothing tied down too neatly or completely? If worship were shaped from what it means to survive, what would worship look like and sound like?

What if the sermon used no 50-cent words and no inside jargon? What if metaphors and images were borrowed from patching a child's jeans or cooking supper or tending a sick friend?

What if communion was based on baking, stirring, canning, feeding, and setting another place at the table? Would we worry less about who is presiding and more about who is welcome?

What if baptism remembered the womb and the breaking of the water, the salty tears of joy and sadness alongside the great flood and the river Jordan?

What if women knew their whole bodies were welcome—harassed, violated, stretched, tired, thin, fat, toned, or out of shape? What songs would we sing and what movements would we make?

How do we understand the presence of God in our lives as women and how is that different from the God who is projected in the liturgies and sermons handed down to us? This question will guide our listening and our talking and our moving in this time together.



WOMEN and the WORD 2003

LOOSE ENDS:

THE RAGGED WISDOM OF WOMEN'S LIVES

9:00-10:00 a.m. —Friday, March 26-27, 2003

Boston University, Religious Center, 600 North Street

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

9-9:15 a.m.

Opening Prayer

9:30-10:45 a.m.

Loose Ends: The Ragged Wisdom of Women's Lives

—Lundblad, Walton, Guttu,

—Chacon-Lopez, and Worden

11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Worship in Marsh Chapel. *What if...*

—Rev. Dr. Barbara Lundblad, preaching

12-1 p.m.

Lunch

2-3:30 p.m.

Tangled Tapestries: Personal and Public Intertwined

—Lundblad, Walton, Guttu,

—Chacon-Lopez, and Worden

4-5:30 p.m.

Workshops

6 p.m.

Dinner and Discussion

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

9-9:15 a.m.

Opening Prayer

9:30-10:30 a.m.

Laying the Loose Ends on the Table

—Lundblad and Walton

11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Gathering the Loose Ends Together

—Lundblad, Walton, and Dr. Linda Clark

12-1 p.m.

Lunch

1 p.m.

Closing Worship: Honoring the Loose Ends



Rooms are wheelchair accessible. If you will need additional assistance, please contact the Anna Howard Shaw Center by February 28.



The Reverend Dr. Barbara K. Lundblad has served for seventeen years as a pastor of a Lutheran parish in New York City. She now teaches Preaching at Union Theological Seminary in New York, encouraging students to see the sermon as a meeting place between the scripture text and the community text. Her deep hope is that preachers will see the sermon as an organic part of worship. Her most recent book is *Transforming the Stone: Preaching Through Resistance to Change*.



Dr. Janet R. Walton is a teacher, musician, social justice advocate, and member of a religious community of women. She is a Professor of Worship at Union Theological Seminary. Janet teaches, lectures, and writes about methods of worship that evoke every person's story. She calls upon artists and activists to collaborate in this work. Her most recent book is *Feminist Liturgy: A Matter of Justice*.



Members of the panel discussion group (clockwise): Eileen Tobin (who will be unable to attend the conference), Yanira Chacon-Lopez, Ginger Worden, Janet Walton, Barbara Lundblad, and Alison Guttu.

Panel member **Yanira Chacon-Lopez** came to the U.S. in the 1980s from El Salvador, where she was an active member of the

Christian-based communities of the Catholic Church. A mother of four children, Yanira works as the Latino Outreach Coordinator at the Intercommunity Center for Justice and Peace in New York City, advocating for changes in immigration laws and giving workshops to Spanish-speaking women so that they can improve their self-esteem and assume leadership roles.

Panel member **Ginger Worden** is a former lawyer, present wife, mother, student of theology, and volunteer. Ginger co-founded a not-for-profit organization composed of housed people and homeless street dwellers seeking community across economic values. She chaired the boards of Randolph-Macon Woman's College and Kent Place School for girls and was a founding board member of Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound, a whole school reform movement involving 125 schools.

Panel member **Alison Guttu** works at the Public Interest Law Center at New York University. Her non-paid work includes volunteering at the Street Harassment Project, a grass-roots feminist group dedicated to ending harassment against women in public spaces. Alison also serves on the Commission for Gay and Lesbian Concerns in the Metro New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. When she has free time, she enjoys swimming.

DIRECTIONS:

Boston University School of Theology, 745 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, is accessible via I-90 (Massachusetts Turnpike), Allston-Cambridge Exit, to Storrow Drive, and take exit to Kenmore Square. By public transportation, use the MBTA Green line, B train, B.U. Central stop. By foot, the School of Theology is a ten-minute walk from Kenmore Square. The Photonics Center is on St. Mary's Street off Commonwealth, directly across from Marsh Chapel. Photonics is the second building on the left. For more information, contact the Shaw Center at 617-353-3075 or shawctr@bu.edu.

HOUSING:

Special rates are available for Women and the Word participants at selected local hotels. For information on housing in the Boston area, please contact the Shaw Center at 617-353-3075 or shawctr@bu.edu by February 1, 2003.