

the Adventist Woman

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In keynote address

Stafford calls for an Adventist Woman's Hall of Fame

by Kit Watts

In an address that rose to a masterful crescendo, Dr. Otilie Stafford called on the Association of Adventist Women to lead the way in establishing a Hall of Fame that would permanently commemorate the vision, courage and sacrifices of Adventist women.

"We need a place where the women of the early Adventist Church can be seen, their words heard, and their presence preserved." As her proposal gripped the imagination of more than 50 women and men gathered on October 9 for the opening night of the 15th annual AAW conference, the crowd burst into applause.

Stafford, long-time professor of English at Atlantic Union College, used Ellen White's encouraging, prophetic words as a refrain throughout her speech: "Address the crowds, my sisters..." "Address the crowds, my sisters, whenever you can."

These words still need to be proclaimed among us, Stafford pointed out. As an example, she recalled sitting for two days as a delegate in this year's Atlantic Union constituency session. "I watched long lines of men fill up the platform. There was not a woman up there—for two days!"

"My mother's generation did better than that," Stafford said. "My memory is of women bustling around, on the platform, speaking often. We had Louise Kleuser, Nada Davis, Miriam Tymeson, and many others, my mother among them."

As a prelude to her proposal for an Adventist Woman's Hall of Fame, Stafford noted that 150 years ago in a church in Gardner, Massachusetts, Lucy Stone had voiced in public the radical notion that women deserved the same fundamental rights promised to men in the Declaration of Independence.

A few months later in 1848, Stone was one of five women who shared their convictions as they had tea together in upstate New York. This handful of women bravely decided to convene the world's first Women's Rights Convention six days later on July 19 and 20 in Seneca Falls, New York. They feared no one would come. Instead, more than 300 people converged on town, coming by wagon and on foot.

Although the struggle they launched proved long and arduous, American women eventually gained many of the rights Lucy Stone, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and others envisioned in 1848—including, in 1920, the right to vote.

Today a small but evocative national historic park and a women's hall of fame have been established in Seneca Falls. The site includes an attractive display of statues, photos, letters, and names engraved in stone. Said Stafford, "I saw people touching those names engraved in the wall. It is a place that engages memory and stirs emotions."

Stafford shared her own feelings about visiting Seneca Falls: "I am overwhelmed by the

(See HALL OF FAME, p. 6)



GOLDEN MOMENT. More than 50 women and men enjoyed unseasonably warm and colorful weather on Sabbath, October 11, at the birthplace of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Washington, New Hampshire. On this site in early 1844, Rachel Oakes pressed Frederick Wheeler, pastor of the church, to keep the ten commandments, including the fourth. By invitation of the current congregation, AAW led a two-hour Sabbath morning worship commemorating the key contributions women made to establishing and building up the Adventist Church.

15th AAW Conference

'AAW on Wheels' provides unique experiences

Some will remember the 1997 conference as "AAW on wheels." Between 50 and 60 women and men gathered October 9-12 in the color-perfect, temperature-perfect New England fall to tour early Adventist history sites with particular emphasis on women. The bus tour concept was the brainchild of Alyce Pudewell, AAW president. From the Holiday Inn in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, located about 30 miles from Atlantic Union College, AAW conferees toured sites in Maine and New Hampshire. (A full-length account begins on page 2.)

In addition to the once-in-a-lifetime combination of warm weather, stunning fall foliage, and travel into history, four experiences stand out.

First, on Thursday night, Dr. Otilie Stafford delivered what may well be recognized as the most challenging, memorable keynote address ever presented in the organization's 15-year history. As professor of English, a long-time faculty member at Atlantic Union College, and

a Woman of the Year in 1996, Stafford challenged AAW—and anyone else who could be persuaded to help—to inaugurate a Woman's Hall of Fame. "We need a place where women of the early Adventist Church can be seen, their words heard, and their presence preserved," she said. (See separate story on page 1.)

New sites

Second, on Friday, the group toured a home in Poland, Maine, where Ellen Harmon White's older sister, Mary Foss, lived for most of her life. The home is new to the circuit for SDA history tours, and the AAW visit was enhanced by the relationship that Ulla Hansen, who served as local tour guide for the day, has been developing with the home's current owners. "Whenever Ellen came back to Maine after they had moved on to New York and Michigan, they came back here for visits," Hansen explained. Poland was the first site outside of Portland, Maine, where Ellen Harmon spoke publicly

about her first vision.

Third, on Sabbath, AAW was invited to conduct worship services at the Washington, New Hampshire, church. The tour coordinator, Kit Watts, was elated. "During many history tours to this area, worship services seldom pay attention to women of the past—or present. Here we actually led out in the entire program. We had time to reflect on Ellen White, Annie Smith, the Farnsworth wives and daughters. And of course, Rachel Oakes—the woman who challenged the local Sunday-keepers to keep the seventh day. Considering our beliefs, that is a contribution that should not be passed over as a footnote!"

The Great Eight

On Saturday night the 1997 Women of the Year banquet was unusual because, for the first time, AAW honored eight women. Two women traveled from Thailand especially for the occasion.

NAD discusses women in ministry;

Timetable for action is uncertain

Discussing women in ministry provided delegates one of the few lively moments in the annual year-end meetings for the North American Division. Lay delegates took to the microphones to urge immediate, positive action to improve the status and work environment for women in ministry. (This year the annual business meeting for the division met October 7-12 in Silver Spring, Maryland.)

The proposals from the NAD President's Commission on Women in Ministry were either "received" or "accepted," depending on whom you talk to.

In Adventist parlance the difference is important. If the proposals were "received," then no action is required. But if the report was "accepted," then some action could be expected in the near future.

What was actually voted is still seen dif-

ferently by different people. Some delegates thought they won a vote to have the proposal "accepted." However, Kermit Netteburg, NAD communication director, says NAD officials think the report was "received."

Received or recommended?

Action will reveal the answer. Will NAD make positive efforts to recruit, encourage, and communicate with women in ministry? Will any of the changes proposed begin to be implemented in 1997-1998? It may be months before action—or non-action—can be documented!

The commission was appointed to fulfill a promise made by Alfred C. McClure at the 1995 GC session in Utrecht just after world delegates voted against ordaining women. McClure said NAD would respect the vote of

the world church but that it would not abandon women in ministry.

Eight months later, NAD named the commission. In 1996 and 1997 the group met on three occasions.

The commission was asked to find ways—other than ordination—to encourage and support women in ministry. Very briefly, the recommendations included the following:

1. Appoint a woman with ministerial background to the NAD ministerial association.

2. Ask the NAD ministerial association to address the needs among women in ministry. Some of the needs identified were: setting up a professional association for women pastors, establishing a newsletter among women in ministry, developing a database (See WOMEN IN MINISTRY, p. 6)

AAW tour falls in step

by Christy K. Robinson

In some places, they started before dawn. Women left their cozy homes and struck out into the dark autumn morning, boarded planes, and watched the sun rise over the earth's rim from 30,000 feet in the air. Others carpooled from neighboring states, driving through colorful forests blazing with red and orange maple, yellow ash, and dark green fir. These were much different modes of transportation than those used by their foremothers, who used horse-drawn wagons, steam engines, and even their own feet to travel.

The modern woman's destination: the annual conference of the Association of Adventist Women, held this year in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, October 9-12.

New England was the birthplace of the Millerite Advent movement in the 1830s and 1840s. Converging on New England from California, Oregon, Michigan, Ohio, Maryland and elsewhere, a group of about 50 Adventist women signed up for a conference of tours. Kit Watts, tour organizer, has been a member of AAW since it was founded in 1982, and has written articles and book chapters focusing on Adventist women pioneers.

Sites on the itinerary included homes, schools, and churches which produced the hardworking Adventist pioneers who started what today is a multi-million member church with countless schools and health institutions around the world. Particular attention and honor were paid to the female founders of our church.

Many conference attendees brought winter coats in their baggage, expecting an autumn chill, but the weather all through the bright and clear weekend was shirt sleeves-warm. A coach picked up several groups of women, some accompanied by their husbands, at Boston's Logan Airport and delivered them to the Holiday Inn in Tewksbury, an hour north of Boston.

When Laura Carlson Sundin, one of the 1997 Women of the Year, boarded the bus, she was so involved in greeting her friends that she completely missed seeing her two sisters in the front seat. They had flown to the conference from the West Coast to surprise her and be with her on this special occasion. They finally caught her attention by saying that they were not upholstery to be ignored. Laura gasped amid a flurry of laughter, hugs, and teasing.



TORCH BEARERS. As the 15th AAW conference opened on Thursday night, October 9, each Woman of the Year was presented a medallion to wear. Helen Sprengel (left) and Gertrude Green were honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards. Sprengel gave 16 years of service in Thailand as a nurse, administrator, and educator. She has raised more than \$3 million for Mission College. Green, 90, spent 10 years in China as a pioneer nurse. When China closed, she moved on, giving another 42 years of mission service in Bangkok, Thailand.



ARRIVING TO WAIT. Virginia Clark of Berrien Springs, Michigan, and her sister Connie Johnson of Cottage Grove, Oregon, cheerfully wait for the AAW tour bus to pick them up at Boston's Logan Airport on Thursday afternoon, October 9.



OPENING NIGHT. Carol Appleton of Colton, California, welcomed AAW members to the 15th annual conference, headquartered at the Holiday Inn in Tewksbury, Massachusetts.



WHAT HEAVENLY MUSIC. Keyboard artist Christy Robinson, who also doubled as the official photographer and reporter for the *Adventist Woman*, performed a medley of sacred music during the Agape Feast on Friday evening, October 10.

December 31

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Thursday, October 9: "The Uses of Memory"

Dr. Otilie Stafford, professor of English at Atlantic Union College, spoke stirringly the first evening on "The Uses of Memory." She described the obstacles and challenges faced by women of the nineteenth century, a time when several new denominations sprang up in America, among them, the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Stafford called upon her listeners to refresh their memories and to gain insight into the history of the Advent movement by looking at the lives of its female pioneers.

She also described how she had traced the footsteps of Lucy Stone, a Quaker woman who 150 years ago daringly spoke out on equality and women's rights. Stafford also urged that AAW establish an Adventist Woman's Hall of Fame to show the church's gratitude, indebtedness, and obligation to carry on the pioneer missionary work of its female founders.

"God and we," she said, "working together, can change things."

with pioneer women

Friday, October 10: Maine Sites

Friday morning, "a great while before day" (especially for those who had come from the West Coast), we had breakfast and boarded the coach. Soon we were rolling through the foggy countryside of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine, surrounded at every turn by thousands of gorgeous trees, at their peak during that particular weekend. We passed placid rivers, small towns, and rolling hills covered by farms or forests. After more than two hours of glorious countryside, we reached Gorham, Maine.

Gorham. While we were waiting for our local guide to arrive, we stopped in Gorham itself. It is a village with an ancient cemetery, two beautiful old churches on the main street, and storefront businesses typical of small towns. One modern hardware store's name was the same as some names on the 200-year-old tombstones, testifying to the stability of local families.

Our first official stop was at a graveyard just outside of town where Ellen's brother, Robert Harmon, is buried. The exact site of Ellen's birthplace is still disputed. (The historic marker erected in her honor a few years ago has proved to be at the wrong place. It's just that nobody knows the right place, so it stays.)

Kit Watts had arranged for Ulla Hansen to meet us in Gorham and narrate our tour for the rest of the day. A health educator, Hansen and her physician husband run a health institute in Poland, Maine. She has also taken an interest in early Adventist history and has worked with historians from the White Estate in researching deeds and sites of various homes, farms, churches, and schools associated with such Adventist pioneers as the Harmons, Whites, and Fosses.

Portland. Leaving the Gorham township, our bus moved east to Portland and stopped briefly at the Chestnut Street Methodist Church where Ellen Harmon's family attended in the 1830s, and later were disfellowshipped for their involvement in the Millerite movement. A few blocks away we stretched our legs while looking at the Brackett Street School. Ellen was attending this school when, somewhere nearby, a child threw a rock that broke her nose, disfigured her face, and nearly caused her death.

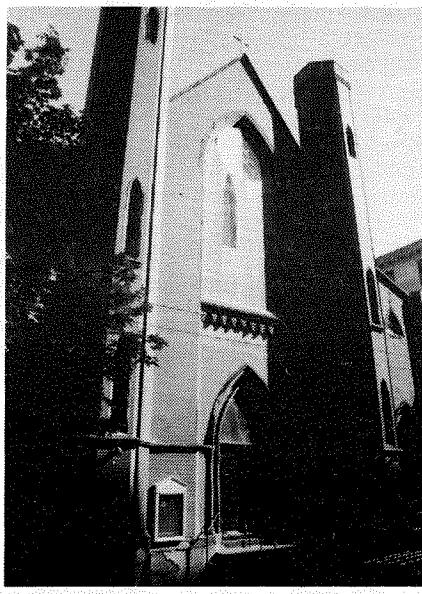
By noon we arrived on the peninsula where the Portland Head Light is located. Commissioned by George Washington, the famous lighthouse is not far from the neighborhood where Ellen grew up and would have been a landmark she knew and probably visited. We enjoyed a vegetarian boxed lunch on the grounds in the warm sun and light breezes of a picture-postcard day.



AAW ON WHEELS. Ginny Lonser of Paradise, California, leads the exit from the tour bus to visit the brick building across the street. In the 1830s it was known as the Brackett Street School. Ellen Harmon attended here until the third grade. Somewhere in this neighborhood she was struck in the face by a stone thrown by an angry classmate and fell deathly ill.



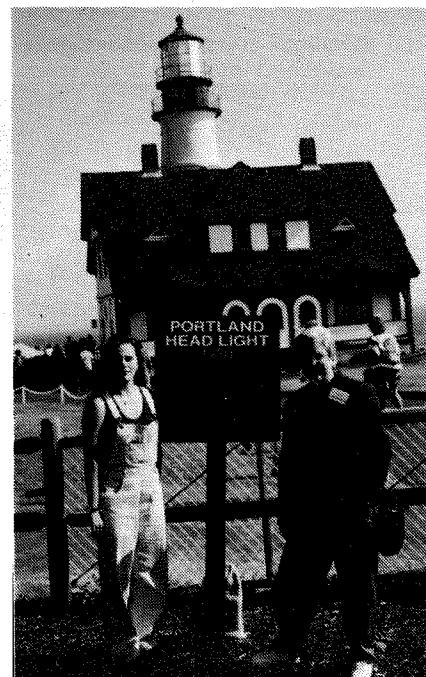
GORHAM GRAVE. Robert Harmon once worried that his younger sister, Ellen, would disgrace the family by preaching in public. Eventually he came to accept her calling. He died in Gorham, Maine, at age 26 in 1853.



SEPARATION SITE. In Portland, Maine, the Harmons attended the Chestnut Street Methodist Church until they were disfellowshipped due to their growing enthusiasm for William Miller's teaching about Jesus' soon return.



BURYING GROUND. As golden leaves fell and a morning fog rolled away, the AAW tour made its first official stop here on Friday morning, October 10. Robert Harmon's grave is located in this cemetery on the edge of town and is thought to be close to the home where Ellen and her twin sister, Elizabeth, were born in 1827.



LANDMARK. Portland Headlight, commissioned by George Washington, was within 10 miles of the Harmon home. Maritza Duran (left) and Kit Watts grab the sunny day photo opportunity.

From Portland, we drove about 30 miles west toward Poland, Maine. On the way we stopped at one of the few surviving Shaker villages, this one at Sabbath-day Lake. A woman, Mother Ann Lee, led the first Shakers from old England to New England in the 1790s. Eventually more than 20 communities were established in America. Seeing the village with its beautiful farm, and well-kept fields, and the sturdy buildings dating back 200 years, helped us better imagine the lively music of these dedicated but unusual nineteenth century worshippers.

Poland. Ulla Hansen guided us to four sites connected to early Advent believers in Poland. One of these was the former home of Mary and Samuel Foss. Mary was one of Ellen's older sisters and she and Samuel were believers. In fact, Samuel persuaded Ellen to come here in January of 1845 (they came by horse-drawn sleigh) to talk about the vision she had experienced the month before.

Warm, colorful full weather



FAMILY TIES. While Ellen Harmon White traveled the world, her sister, Mary Foss, lived in this home in Poland, Maine. Mary's husband, Samuel, urged Ellen to visit in February, 1845, and brought her 30 miles by horse and sleigh. For the first time, Ellen shared her first vision with a group outside of Portland. Pictured here are Ulla Hansen (right) and Selma Chaij Hansen, who runs a health institute in Poland, served as the AAW's local tour guide on October 10.

Samuel has a brother whose name is known to most Seventh-day Adventists—Hazen Foss. Even after Ellen and James moved on to New York and Michigan, Ellen visited Mary repeatedly in this home and is believed to have experienced visions there. The farmhouse is undergoing extensive renovations but the owners allowed the AAW tourists to walk through the front room. While not Adventists themselves, they display photos of James and Ellen on the mantle and plan to preserve some of the home's nineteenth century look and feel. They keep turkeys, pets, and other farm animals on the property, which is set near an apple orchard and hayfields.

In Poland we also visited a country church with its old pump organ and hand-built pews that stands adjacent to a burying ground that we found resplendent with autumn foliage. It is believed that James White preached here in the early 1840s before the Great Disappointment.

Agape Feast. We made good time on our return to Tewkbury for the evening meal. Supper consisted of a hot vegetable soup and a variety of cut fruits, breads, and fruit juice. Christy Robinson played sacred classical and contemporary music on an electronic

keyboard during the dinner. Adly Campos, another of the 1997 Women of the Year, led the group in communion as well as inspired them through her sermon to undertake greater service to God. Campos is a well-known lay evangelist and singer in the Hispanic community. It seemed difficult for her to contain herself from breaking into song. Many were sorry that she did not!

At the end of the day, one AAW member said, "Today's activities expanded my understanding of how Ellen Harmon White and other women were called by God. In order to lay the foundation of our church they had to put aside conventional attitudes about women and not let the mores of the time hold them back." She added, "I will take back to my own ministry a renewed appreciation of how Ellen White was human, not bigger than life."

Another woman commented, "Mrs. White and other church founders have become much more real and vivid to me as a result of today's activities. Being able to learn and experience more about their lives has given me a greater appreciation for and understanding of the foundation of our church."

Sabbath, October 11: New Hampshire

AAW tour members boarded the bus in their travel clothes for a trip through beautiful New Hampshire, to the Washington township. Here Adventist believers learned to worship on the true Sabbath, thanks to the teaching of Rachel Oakes, a Seventh-day Baptist.

The church in the wildwood. The church is open for services April through October and is in a forest a few miles from town. According to our local guide for the day, David Knott, who teaches English literature at Atlantic Union College, the church once stood in the middle of cleared agricultural fields. The giant oaks and maples so pleasantly surrounding the tiny cemetery beside the church may come as some surprise to Advent believers rising on Resurrection Day.

At the invitation of the local members and pastor, AAW led the worship service

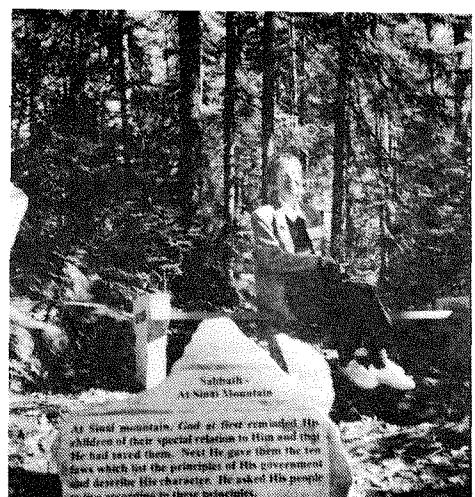
in the old church, painted various shades of gray inside, with hand-built pews, a working pump organ, and a bouquet of fresh cosmos. Alyce Pudewell, AAW president, led the worshipers in singing the many verses of early Advent hymns, accompanied by Christy Robinson. (Playing a pump organ proved to be a workout that Christy could feel for days to come.)

First on the program was Dr. Helen Sprengel, another of the 1997 Women of the Year, telling of her experiences in helping to build Thailand's Mission College and the many miracles that made it possible to complete.

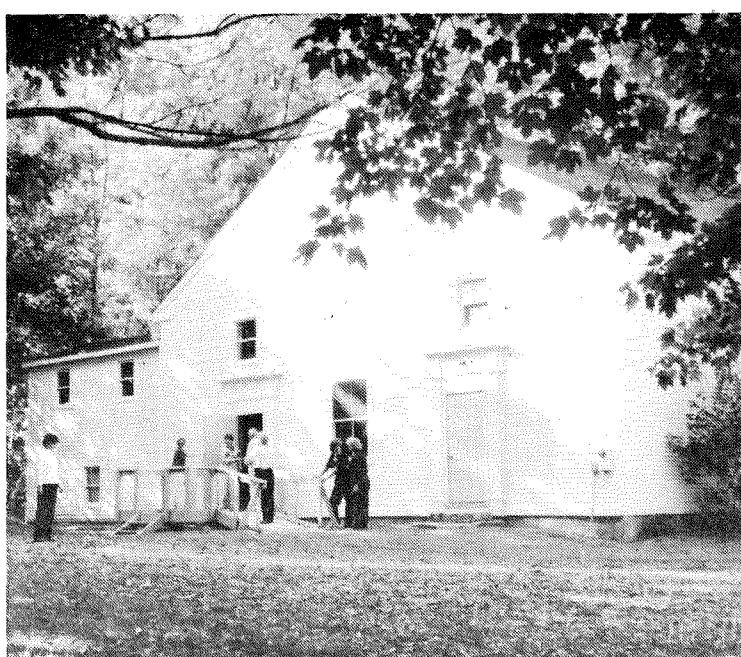
Next, Dr. Ginger Harwood, a member of the faculty in the School of Religion at La Sierra University, introduced our worship experience. Dr. Penny Shell, director of pastoral care for Shady Grove and Washington Adventist Hospitals in Maryland, read Scripture and offered prayer. David Knott told more stories of pioneer women. Harwood then presented a liturgy



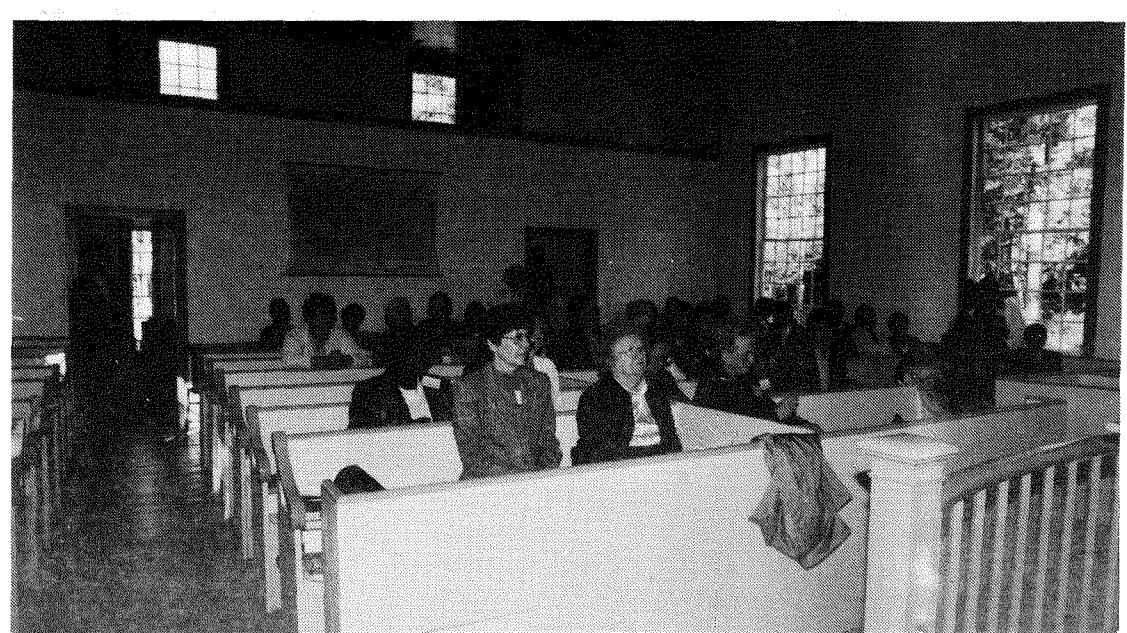
BIRTHPLACE. Bernie Beck (left) of Merlin, Oregon, and Mable Dunbar, of Berrien Springs, Michigan, pause beside the sign marking Washington, New Hampshire, as the birthplace of Sabbath-keeping Adventists.



SABBATH TRAIL. Penny Shell, of Silver Spring, Maryland, takes in the one-mile trail being constructed by the youth of the Washington, New Hampshire, church, to commemorate the history of the Sabbath.



POLAND PREACHING. Before the Great Disappointment, James White is believed to have preached in this small community church in Poland, Maine, to those interested in William Miller's teachings.



TRUE SIMPLICITY. Hand-hewn pews, wooden plank floors, and clear pane-glass provide a simple shelter to worshippers in the New Hampshire woods. A small congregation maintains the church building as service to visiting Adventists from around the world.

enhances SDA heritage tour



CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD. According to David Knott, who served as local tour guide on Sabbath, October 11, agricultural fields originally surrounded the church in Washington, New Hampshire. After an inspiring morning worship service, AAW tour members enjoyed a picnic lunch on the grounds.

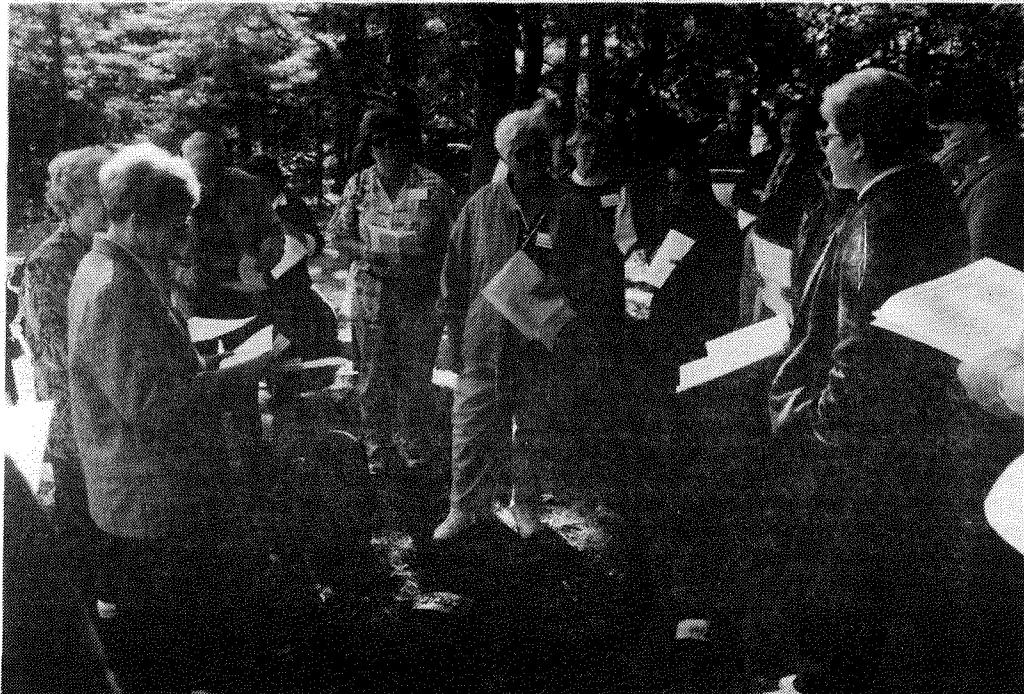
that she had created for six readers. Powerfully, it wove together Bible texts with the stories of Adventist women.

The service concluded when Dr. Selma Chaij, a counseling psychologist from Maryland, read sections of Ellen White's first vision in dramatic form. She then invited people in the congregation to speak aloud the names of women who had great spiritual significance in their lives. Many responded with brief, emotional tributes.

During the box-lunch picnic, Christy Robinson proposed a group photo and stood by a pile of at least 20 cameras, methodically snapping a picture on each one. As a finale she persuaded one of the men in the crowd to shake an autumn tree just above the group and produce a shower of golden leaves—as well as a round of happy laughter.

Before the bus departed, several explored the "Sabbath trail," which enters the woods near the church. The local young people are collecting money (including the Sabbath offering donated by AAW members), building a trail, and erecting stone monuments along it. The stones bear important Bible texts and historical inscriptions honoring the Sabbath.

Not far from the church we saw the old brick farmhouse once owned by Cyrus Farnsworth. (Cyrus and his brother William were among the first to commit themselves to keeping the seventh-day Sabbath after



REMEMBERING ANNIE. Singing the hymns she had composed and listening to the poems she had written, AAW tour members surround Annie Smith's grave near her childhood home in Wilton, New Hampshire. Annie died in 1855 at the age of 27 but her music still influences the church today.



WOMEN AND THE WORD. Ginger Hanks-Harwood, of the School of Religion at La Sierra University, organized a memorable two-hour worship event in the Washington, New Hampshire, church. Her powerful liturgy recalled the dreams and sacrifices of pioneer Adventist women. From left to right, the readers are: Mable Dunbar, Margaret Turner, Dr. Harwood, Angie Kwik, Maritza Duran, and Helen Chan Young.

Rachel Oakes persuaded Pastor Frederick Wheeler to keep all of the Ten Commandments.)

Across the pasture is Millen Pond, a sparkling lake that we saw surrounded by autumnal glory. But, in December, 1869, after a series of revival meetings led by Ellen and James White, the pond was frozen. Despite this, several Farnsworth children and their friends decided they wanted to be baptized immediately and not wait until spring. And so a memorable Christmas baptism was held after church members chopped a hole through the deep ice.

Annie Smith's grave. A half-hour's drive brought us to Wilton, New Hampshire. Two beautiful homes still stand where Uriah and Annie Smith lived with their parents and siblings. A bit farther on is a hillside cemetery where Annie is buried. We sang several of the hymns she had written and celebrated her life under the oak trees and pines and around the acorn-strewn headstones.

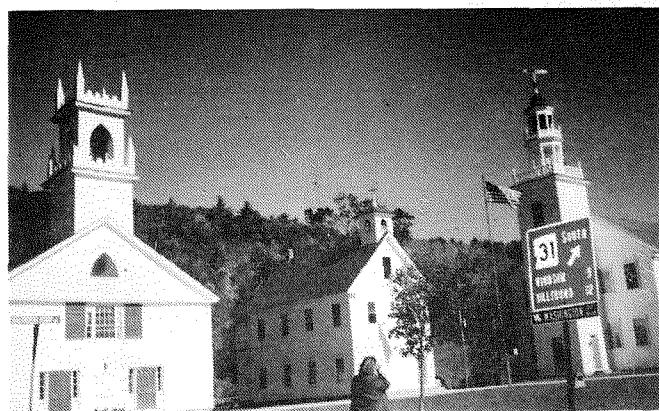
A tour-hour ride through more colorful forests and the group was preparing for the long-anticipated Woman of the Year Banquet, held in the candlelit dining room of Atlantic Union College (AUC). Following a supper and a too-short harp concert, awards were presented and each of the eight honorees responded.

15th conference marked by

Dr. Lawrence T. Geraty, former AUC president and current president of La Sierra University, made a few remarks before offering the benediction. Having just come from

Washington, D.C., he reported briefly that at the North American Division's year-end meetings several recommendations were presented and adopted—from the President's

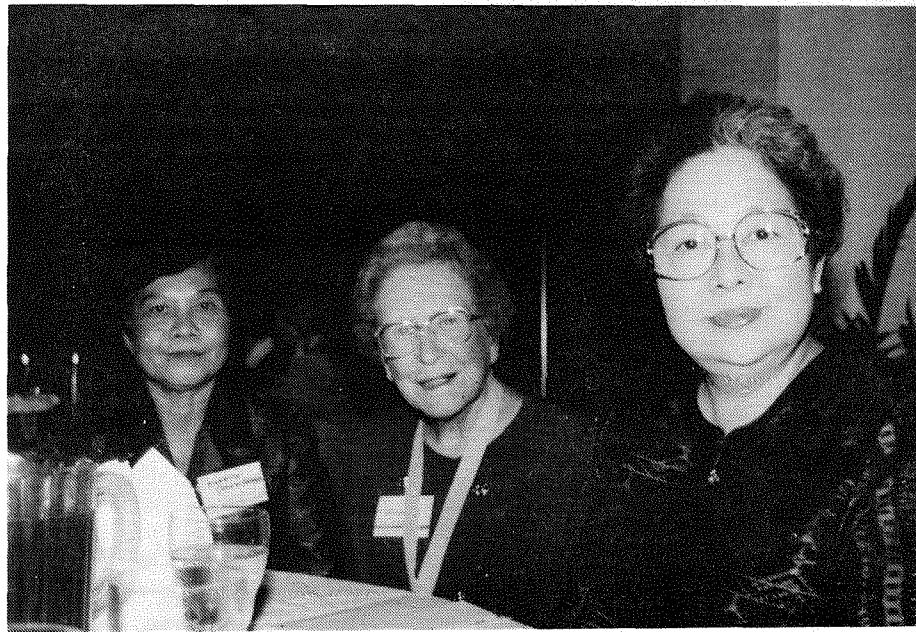
Commission on Women. "While the world church is not ready to ordain women, many things can be done to improve the policies and environment in which our women pastors and chaplains serve. These recommendations move us in that direction," Geraty stated.



THE PERFECT VILLAGE. Arrayed against glowing reds and golds, three white buildings stand on the village green in Washington, New Hampshire.



PRESIDENTIAL BLESSING. Dr. Lawrence Geraty, president of La Sierra University, made brief remarks at the Women of the Year banquet.



FOR GOD AND THAILAND. Gertrude Green (center) enjoys the companionship of Kwanchai Chalermchantra, R.N., Nurse Midwife, (left), and Siriporn Tantipoonwinai, Ph.D., R.N., both of whom flew to the United States to honor Green's 42 years of service in Thailand. Chalermchantra, now retired, worked for many years as Green's assistant at the Bangkok Hospital Midwifery Department. Tantipoonwinai is the president of Thailand's Mission College.



NODDING OFF. Helen Chan-Young's son held the distinction of being the youngest AAW tour member. Helen's mother, Elsie Chan of Loma Linda, California, was one of the 1997 Women of the Year.

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

from page 1

of churches in NAD that are likely to want women pastors, and disseminating educational materials in multiple media designed to raise church members' awareness of

Clip 'n' Do



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women in pastoral ministry and the role of women in the church.

3. Recommend that unions and local conferences conduct commissioning services for women who are eligible [not ordinations].

4. Recommend that Church Manual language be changed to allow commissioned ministers to perform many of the activities now reserved for ordained ministers.

5. Recommend that the NAD working policy language be changed to be more gender inclusive and [like the Church Manual] allow commissioned ministers to perform many of the activities now reserved for ordained ministers.

6. Recommend that the SDA Yearbook include licensed ministers and licensed commissioned ministers.

7. Encourage conferences to hire women as pastors.

8. Develop a database of women who could be candidates for appointment on union and conference level staffs.

9. Encourage conferences to give visibility to women by including more of them as camp meeting speakers, etc.

10. Recommend that the NAD edition of the *Adventist Review* and other journals profile women in ministry several times a year.

11. Develop a resource center for women in ministry.

12. Increase the number of women serving on boards, committees, and staffs of the division, union, and conference offices.

13. Educate Adventist church members on biblical hermeneutics.

HALL OF FAME

from page 1

numbers of women who have left us richer, with more liberty and more hope than we would have had without them.

"As I stood in those buildings I was awed by the fact that—in an age when they could not vote, could not own property, had no rights over their children, could not enter any college or university, and were ridiculed if they dared to speak out—these women had the courage to take an action that changed their world and is continuing to change ours!"

In conclusion, Stafford articulated her vision for the future. "Let us have an Adventist Woman's Hall of Fame," she said. "Let us remember the generations of women who have accomplished changes from which we benefit. Let us feel the gratitude that we all owe to those who have prepared the way for us. Let us acknowledge our indebtedness and our obligation. Let us think of those who are yet to become a part of this company of women."

"I hope my granddaughters will not feel that the church considers them to be marginal and irrelevant," Stafford added. "I hope that their energy and intellect and vision of the future will engage them fully so that they may live lives of seriousness and unselfishness. To achieve such justice in the church we must dedicate our talent, our vitality, and our belief that we with God's help will change things."



ENGRAVED MEMORY. Alyce Pudewell, AAW president, congratulated each Woman of the Year during the Saturday night banquet. Elsie Chan was recognized for her unstinting support of Adventist youth.

pensiveness, beauty, celebration



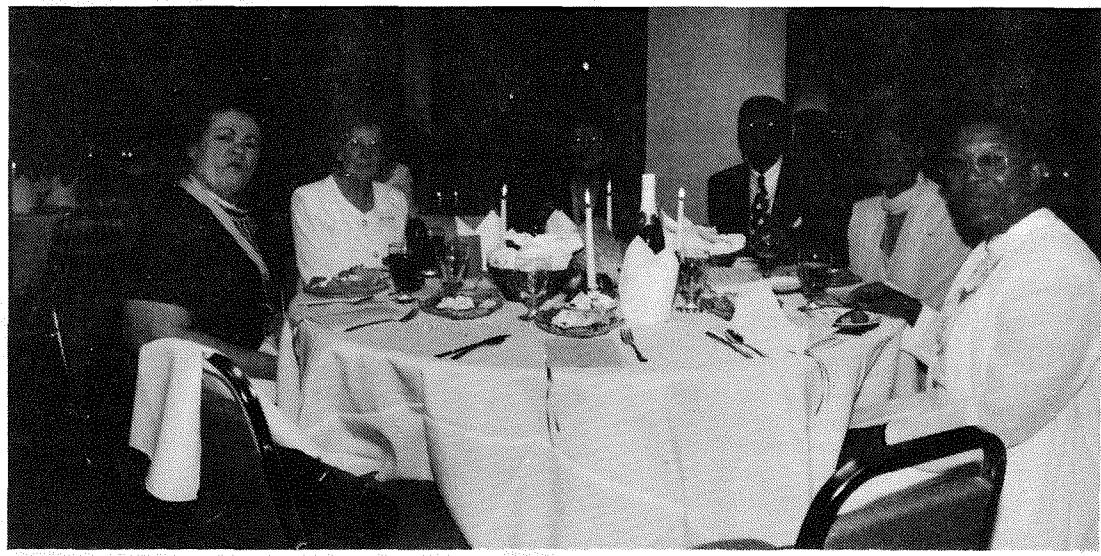
SINGING STRINGS. Held at the new dining commons at Atlantic Union College, the Woman of the Year banquet included candlelight and harp music.



WHERE PIONEERS REST. Beside the Washington, New Hampshire Church, Kit Watts pauses by the grave of Delight Oakes Farnsworth (daughter of Rachel Oakes).



FOUNDERS HALL. The AAW tour concluded Sunday, October 12, as Ann Parrish told stories of early Adventists who built South Lancaster Academy, the forerunner of Atlantic Union College.



FINE FEAST. Three Women of the Year feast with friends and family. (Left to right): Shirley Ann Munroe with Jeanne Jordan from Roswell, New Mexico; Peg Hempe from Loma Linda, California; and Mable Dunbar of Berrien Springs, Michigan, with her husband Harold, and her mother, Ellen.

Sunday, October 12: AUC and Boston

On the frosty Sunday morning, most AAW attendees took the tour coach back to Atlantic Union College, to see the campus, its surroundings, and its beautifully restored "Founders Hall" by daylight, and squeeze off a few more shots of white New England churches next to flaming maples against a cobalt sky. We also took up some AAW business, including a formal resolution to follow up on Dr. Stafford's vision expressed on Thursday night—the opening of an Adventist Woman's Hall of Fame. (Some speculated it might well be located at one of the three campuses where women's studies are currently being offered—Atlantic Union College, Andrews University, or La Sierra University.)

Soon we hurried on to Boston's Logan Airport where we were dropped off at 11 a.m., regardless of our departing flight times. Not a problem, though, for most. Some shared taxis into Boston for shopping or sightseeing before flying home.

The woman martyr of Boston Common. I was one who found a way into the city and

walked all over the Boston Common and Public Garden areas. I was hunting for the statue of my great-great-great-great-great-great-grandmother, Mary Barrett Dyer. A Quaker woman, she was hanged on the Common in 1660 for her religious beliefs.

Mission accomplished. (It struck me that this plain but outspoken woman might have been upset if she knew that a graven image had been erected in her memory!)

With that many generations between us, there are 1,023 other direct ancestors contributing to my gene pool, but maybe there's a bit of her DNA left in me. I'd like to think I got something from her courage, her sense of honor and justice and principle, from her faith, and her nobility as a daughter of God.

And so, other daughters of God, and daughters of the faith, walk on, in the steps of pioneer women!

—Christy K. Robinson

1997 AAW resolutions:

In a brief business session conducted while the tour bus rolled down the highway, the 15th AAW Conference attendees on October 12 voted the following recommendations and commendations:

Commendations

1. Voted to commend the GC Office of Women's Ministries for its photo display of Adventist women from 1844-1994, which has been placed in the halls of the General Conference office in Silver Spring, Maryland.
2. Voted to commend Alfred McClure, president of the North American Division, for appointing the President's Commission on Women in Ministry, which brought its report to the 1997 year-end meetings for adoption and implementation.
3. Voted to commend Dr. Ottie Stafford, her committee, and Atlantic Union College for hosting the 1997 banquet for the Adventist Women of the Year and providing a beautiful and elegant dinner, decorations, and facilities.
4. Voted to commend the La Sierra University Women's Resource Center (WRC) for coordinating the history tours and providing handouts on the contributions of early SDA women. Commendation was also made for members of the WRC Transition Committee, who sponsored two LSU women students to attend this year's AAW Conference.

Recommendations

1. That one of the Adventist colleges or universities that offer a program in women's studies or gender studies (Andrews University, Atlantic Union College, or La Sierra University) develop an Adventist Woman's Hall of Fame.
2. That the Institute of World Missions at Andrews University develop a display or memorial that includes recorded stories of women missionaries and wives of missionaries who worked either for pay or as volunteers.

Two university women give AAW a try

I'm opening my eyes to the past as I step into the future

by Angie Kwik

It happened so fast that I am not sure it actually happened. But one thing is for sure—it will never happen again. "It" refers to a myriad of things—vivid fall colors, bus trips, women, a women's conference—and as I reflect, it brings me warm feelings. As one of two younger attendees at the 15th annual AAW Conference in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, I knew that if anyone needed to get "In Step With Pioneer Women," it would be me. Words can not do justice to the experiences I treasure from the trip, but here are a few written snapshots of what stands out in my mind.

The keynote address

Settling into our first meeting of the conference, I found it a treat to listen to Dr. Otilie Stafford. As she began her address, I expected great and inspiring words of revelation. Much to my delight, I was not disappointed. Her firm, passionate voice challenged us to recognize, remember, and ruminate on the efforts of our foremothers to earn for us the social and religious luxuries we often take for granted.

Where Adventists became Sabbath-keepers

It was an honor for Maritza Duran and me, schoolmates from La Sierra University, to be asked to participate in the Sabbath worship services in Washington, New Hampshire. (Dr. Ginger Harwood, who teaches in the La Sierra University School of Religion, prepared a liturgy that celebrated the contributions of pioneer Adventist women. Maritza and I were two of the six readers for this liturgy.) And what a special moment it was to sit in that old wooden church with its stiff wooden pews and think of how our Sabbath-keeping roots were in that very place.

Meeting the 1997 Women of the Year

Saturday night, AAW held its banquet for the 1997 Women of the Year. I was very excited to be with the three women from my own home community in Southern California who were honored for their work in the church (Elsie Chan, Laura Sundeen, and Helen Sprengel). I can affirm that each of them truly deserved the recognition they received.

The women of the 19th and early 20th century didn't have a Women of the Year banquet. Very few of them received recognition for the contributions they made to our church. In a sense, retracing the steps of some of these pioneer women paid them the long overdue tribute they deserve.

It was important for me to recognize that the power of their mission and effort flowed from their attitude of quiet persistence. I think this was also true for the eight women AAW honored this year. Women who have made a difference in our church did not do it for the applause of humans or organization. Like the pioneer women, I believe we should be fueled to work for Christ by the driving of the Holy Spirit, inspiring us to do what is just and what is of ultimate glory to God.

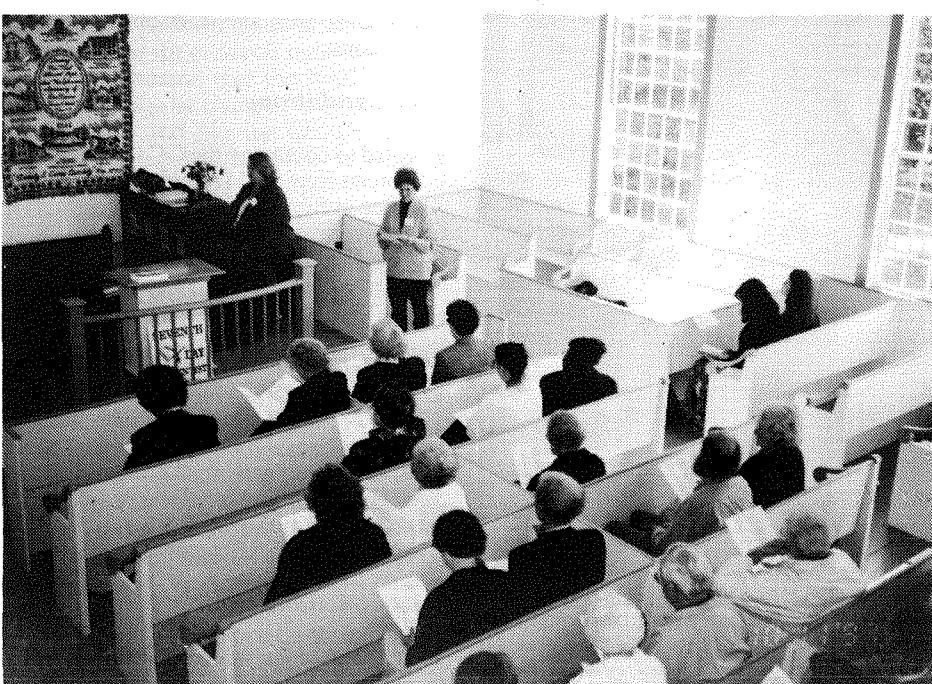
Angie Kwik is a junior psycho-biology major studying premed. Maritza Duran is a sophomore history major with a minor in gender studies. Both were sponsored to attend the AAW Conference by members of the Transition Committee for the La Sierra University Women's Resource Center.



ADVENTIST CONNECTION. Tour members Maritza Duran (left) and Angie Kwik pause beside an old mantle clock and photos of Ellen and James White in the front room of the home once owned by Ellen's older sister, Mary, and her husband Samuel Foss. Ellen visited this home in Poland whenever she returned to Maine to visit her family. Today's owners have begun renovating the house to resemble its nineteenth century appearance.



THE GREAT EIGHT. AAW honored eight women for their lives of sacrifice and service at a banquet held Saturday night, October 11, at the new dining commons at Atlantic Union College. From left to right they are: Elsie Chan, Laura Sundeen, Margaret Hempe, Helen Sprengel, Gertrude Green, Shirley Ann Munroe, Adly Campos, and Mable Dunbar.



ADVENT HYMNSING. Alyce Pudewell (standing) led the AAW tour group and local congregation in singing early Advent hymns while Christy Robinson brought forth great harmonies from the pump organ in the old church in Washington, New Hampshire. Several of the hymns were composed by Annie Smith, who lived just a few miles from here in Wilton. La Sierra University students Angie Kwik and Maritza Duran are seated in the pew next to the window (upper right).

Women from yesterday and today spoke to me about tomorrow

by Martza Duran

This trip was very meaningful to me. I learned a lot about my Adventist heritage. I learned that Adventist women have always taken an active role in my church—that they have been great leaders. And I also learned more about their deep love for Christ and their commitment to help others.

Dr. Stafford's challenge

Dr. Otilie Stafford, keynote speaker, told us about many outstanding women in American history and Adventist history including Abigail Adams, Lucy Stone, Lucretia Mott, and Ellen Harmon White. Her message was a blessing because she challenged young women to remember the struggles of women in the past. More importantly, she challenged us not only to take action on women's issues but also in God's work.

Adly Campos' message

As part of the agape feast on Friday evening, October 10, Adly Campos spoke. She is a lay evangelist and one of the 1997 Women of the Year. Her message was simple but full of meaning. She urged us to "unite in service by love." This fitted in with Dr. Stafford's message the



PREACH THE WORD. Adly Campos, pictured here with her husband, Jose, spoke for the Friday evening agape supper. As one of the Women of the Year, she was honored for leading more than 3,000 to Christ as an evangelist.

night before. Stafford had given the challenge and Campos was giving us a means by which to do it. My job is to ask God to send the Holy Spirit and guide me in His work!

Hopeful in New Hampshire

Our worship service in Washington, New Hampshire, on October 11 is one of the best I've ever had. I learned a lot about Adventist women through the liturgy, which included references to Rachel Oakes Preston, Rebekkah Smith, and Annie Smith. I learned how Rachel Oakes had confronted Frederick Wheeler, pastor of the church where we were sitting, to keep the Sabbath. At another point in the worship service, Dr. Selma Chaij invited us to speak aloud the name of a woman who had made the greatest impact on our lives. For me that is my mom, who has a deep love for Christ and has taught me always to go the extra mile to help people.

From Washington we drove to Wilton, New Hampshire, and the grave of Annie Smith. Annie Smith had written songs of hope for the Adventist believers. Dr. Ginger Harwood invited us to speak aloud of the hopes we have for Adventist women today. It was exciting to realize that the unifying hope is the soon coming of Christ.

This trip renewed my commitment to Christ and His work. And I realized I have a great challenge ahead of me as a young Adventist woman. We need to remember our past struggles and challenge others to do the same so that we can better appreciate our present privileges. By understanding the past, young women in the present will be able to look at the future positively and take up the challenge of God's work!