

The Adventist WOMAN

THE ADVENTIST WOMAN
La Sierra University
Campus Box 337
Riverside, CA 92515-8247

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Volume 18, No. 4

Publication of the Association of Adventist Women

October/November/December 2000

PUC Women Faculty Organize Quality AAW Conference

For the first time, faculty and staff of Pacific Union College organized a conference of the Association of Adventist Women. The group held the event in Sacramento, California, to increase the accessibility to air travelers. Malcolm Maxwell, president of the college, greeted those at the conference and welcomed them to Northern California. Nancy Lecourt, a member of the English department faculty, chaired the conference planning committee. More than 115 individuals from across the United States and Canada registered for the October 12-15 program.

For the first time, the AAW conference opened on Thursday night not with a speech or a reception, but with a play—"A Jury of Her Peers," written by Susan Glaspell and performed by the Dramatic Arts Society of Pacific Union College.

For the first time, three women serving as academic vice presidents participated in the AAW program. Lisa Beardsley, of Loma Linda University, gave the open-

ing address focusing on three women who had inspired her spiritually. She entitled her speech, "Prototypes of Spiritual Women: a Buddhist, a Black, and a Cinderella." Ileana Douglas, of Pacific Union College, presented a plenary session entitled "In His Secret Garden." Ella Simmons, of La Sierra University, opened the "Women and the Word" pre-session with a devotional called, "Rebuilding Toppled Walls."

For the first time, the editor of *Spectrum*, the magazine published by the Association of Adventist Forums, attended an AAW Conference. Not only did Bonnie Dwyer attend, but she also led a team of talented, hospitable women living near Sacramento, who did an outstanding job of coordinating activities at the Holiday Inn and the Carmichael Church.

For the first time, AAW called for papers to be presented during the conference. In response, Ginger Hanks Harwood of La Sierra and Beverly Beem of Walla Walla College presented "Ordination and Adventist Rhetoric: An Analysis of the Utrecht Presentations." Terrie Aamodt of Walla Walla College presented, "Charismatic Aspects of Ellen White's Ministry," while Kit Watts, of the La Sierra University Women's Resource Center presented "Ellen White: Her Expanding View of Women and their Roles in the Church."

For the first time, a panel of four college women, all from Pacific Union College, interacted with AAW members in a delightful Sabbath afternoon discussion called, "What we Want Our Older Sisters in the Church to Know."

For the third time, the Women's Resource Center of La Sierra University offered an all-day pre-session to the AAW Conference.

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Nancy Lecourt, AAW Conference 2000 coordinator, stands by the candles that captured the conference theme, "One Light, Many Reflections: Women Passing the Flame."



During "Women and the Word" in Sacramento last October, Ella Simmons draws lessons from the women who helped Nehemiah rebuild Jerusalem's walls.

"Optimist-realist" Simmons Joins LSU As Provost/VPA

by Penny Shell

Dr. Ella Louise Smith Simmons became provost/vice president for academic affairs at La Sierra University (LSU) on August 1, 2000. The position had been open since December.

When Simmons decided to accept LSU's offer, she relied on divine guidance and human instinct. Sensing the position was in line with her call to academic administration, she also felt wel-

comed, affirmed, challenged, and truly "invited" to LSU.

Part of what attracted Simmons was the fact that LSU has established the denomination's first Women's Resource Center.

"It is not coincidental that we find ourselves receiving and responding positively to a call for which our lives have prepared us," Simmons commented. Academically she had prepared with a

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"Women & the Word" Draws 100 Plus to Sacramento

More than 105 pastors, chaplains, Bible teachers, church leaders and others interested in Scripture and its impact on women convened on October 12 in Sacramento for the "Women and the Word" seminar. Meeting at the Carmichael Seventh-day Adventist Church, the group was greeted by David Osborne, senior pastor, and director of the North American Division Ministerial Department. He was joined by Duane Schoonard, associate director in the same department.

Northern California Conference President Darold J. Retzer, with Carol Ann Retzer, director of women's ministries, and Ralph Robertson, ministerial director, were part of a NCC delegation of 17 individuals who attended.

For the third year in a row, the cutting-edge seminar was coordinated by the La Sierra University Women's Resource Center. The 2001 seminar will be held near

Washington D.C. in early October.

The event has many purposes, according to Kit Watts, the

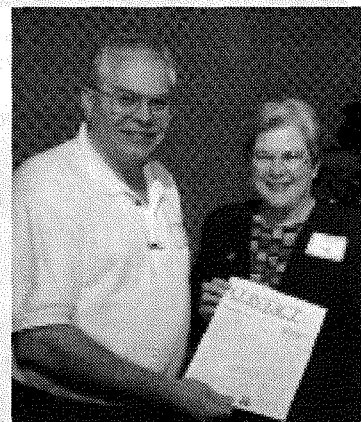
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Northern California Conference President Darold J. Retzer, women's ministries director Carol Ann Retzer, and ministerial director Ralph Robertson are among the Northern California Conference officers attending "Women and the Word."



Malcolm Maxwell, Pacific Union College president, welcomes AAW to their first conference in Northern California and applauds the organization for pioneering gender equality.



Holding up the newest copy of *Contact*, a newsletter for women in ministry edited by Kit Watts, James Cress, director of GC ministerial, offers his support for "Women and the Word." Watts coordinated "Women and the Word."



Adding her welcome to "Women and the Word," Ardis Stenbakken, director of women's ministries, General Conference, describes projects women undertake around the world.

AAW and "Women and The Word" Head to DC for October 4-7, 2001

Mark your 2001 calendars now so that you won't miss the October 4-7 conference of the Association of Adventist Women, preceded by the "Women and the Word" seminar produced by the La Sierra University Women's Resource Center. The specific location, which will be in the Washington, D.C. area, will be announced later. Penny Estes Wheeler and Heide Ford, editors of *Women of Spirit* magazine, will co-direct the 2001 AAW conference.



David Osborne, director of the NAD ministerial department and senior pastor of the Carmichael SDA church, welcomes "Women and the Word" to Sacramento.



Dúane Schoonard, Collegedale Tennessee pastor and the first woman associate director of NAD ministerial department, describes her new role.



"You are the only one who can decide which leadership style is appropriate," cautions Hyveth Williams, senior pastor of the Loma Linda Hill Church.

Play Provides Dramatic Opening for Conference



Neighbors of a woman accused of killing her husband pick up clues of abuse in AAW play, "A Jury of Her Peers."

by Nancy Hoyt Lecourt

A dreary, isolated farmhouse kitchen in the mid-West, circa 1915, is the setting for Susan Glaspell's drama, "A Jury of Her Peers," also known as "Trifles." Members of Pacific Union College's Dramatic Arts Society presented this short, one-act play as the dramatic opening to this year's Association of Adventist Women's October Conference in Sacramento.

The play takes place the day after a man has been found dead, strangled by a rope, in a rural farmhouse. His wife, Minnie, is being held in the town jail on suspicion of murder, and as the play opens the sheriff, district attorney, and the neighbor who discovered the death are returning to the house looking for clues to this seemingly inexplicable killing. The sheriff and D.A. are accompanied by their wives, who are to take Minnie's things to her in jail.

Ignored by the men, the women, left alone in the kitchen, begin to notice a series of small, seemingly trivial items that paint a picture of a lonely, neglected, perhaps even abused woman. Uneven stitching, unbaked bread, a broken birdcage, and finally a dead canary seem to add up to a

motive for this death, and the sheriff's wife comes to realize that her neglect of Minnie, her failure to visit her over the last twenty years, makes her partly to blame for the tragedy. "Oh, I wish I'd come over here once in a while! That was a crime! Who's going to punish that?" she cries.

Attendees at the conference appreciated the play, both because it represented an unusual programming format and because it touched on issues they considered vital to Adventist women: loneliness, neglect, abuse, and the importance of love and support.

Ron Stretter, assistant professor of English at PUC and sponsor of the Dramatic Arts Society, directed the play.



Karen Coy Darnell, recent graduate of the MARS program at La Sierra University, presents her unique study on "Hager the Runaway."

"Women and the Word" Seminar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

center's director. "First, it's a place where Adventist women theologians and pastors can share new insights into Scripture. Second, it's a time when men who are church leaders or local pastors, can listen to women's point of view and dialog with them. Third, it's an opportunity for experienced women clergy to be role models and mentors for women now studying theology and considering a career in ministry."

James Cress, executive secretary of the GC Ministerial Association, spoke briefly to the group. "Getting talented women around the world into ministerial jobs that are recognized and that are paid, is something I will continue to emphasize," he said. "The church will benefit as we develop more opportunities for women to use the talents God has given them."

Cress also made a commitment that caused the attendees to break into applause. He said he would find funding to help as many as 10 women theology students to attend next year's Women and the Word seminar.

Ella Simmons, new provost and vice president for academic administration at La Sierra University, opened the day with a devotional. She pointed out that Nehemiah pays tribute to Shallum (in Neh. 3:12) who helped rebuild the walls of Jerusalem not with his sons, but with his daughters.

One highlight of the day was a two-hour introduction to the art of exegesis. Engaging in a lively give-and-take, Madelynn Jones Haldeman and Ginger Hanks Harwood led a thorough review of Ephesians—and a better understanding of the "submit" passage that too often is used to restrict women's participation in the church. Harwood is assistant professor of religious studies at La Sierra University, and Haldeman, a New Testament scholar, is now retired.

Hyveth Williams, senior pastor of the Campus Hill Church, discussed leadership styles for women. Karen Coy Darnell, teacher of English and Bible at Loma Linda Academy, presented new insights about Hagar, the runaway slave and mother of Abraham's first born, Ishmael.

The day concluded by telling the stories of five courageous Adventist women of the 20th century, including Ellen White, Dr. Kate Lindsay, Dr. Jane Brown Corbet, Madelynn Haldeman, and Hyveth Williams. (The full script of "Toppling Walls" has 11 stories and is available with annotations and staging information for \$7 in the U.S. and \$10 overseas by contacting the Women's Resource Center.)

"The hospitality of the Carmichael Church for this event was outstanding," commented Penny Shell, associate director of the Women's Resource Center. "And I was very moved when 10-year old Alise Mack spoke as a 'child of the future,' concluding the script for 'Toppling Walls.' Just hearing her simple words gave me such hope—that one day the church will bar no one from lead-

ership due to his or her gender."

About one dozen women pastors and chaplains attended. Five were sponsored by the Southeastern California Conference.

The following audiotapes from the Sacramento "Women & the Word" seminar are available: Ella Simmons, devotional: "Rebuilding Toppled Walls," \$5. Madelynn Jones Haldeman and Ginger Hanks Harwood: "The Art of Exegesis: How to Interpret Scripture with Insight and Integrity," \$8 for two tapes. Karen Coy Darnell: "Hagar the Runaway—Victim or Victor?" \$5. Hyveth Williams: "Cutting Her Own Swath: Leadership Styles for Women," \$5. [Mail orders to: Women's Resource Center, La Sierra University, 4700 Pierce Street, Riverside, CA 92515. Make checks to: La Sierra University. Call (909) 785-2470 or e-mail: pshell@lasierra.edu].



Using the book of Ephesians, Drs. Madelynn Jones Haldeman and Dr. Ginger Hanks Harwood demonstrate good exegesis.



Gillian Geraty joins more than 105 others attending "Women and the Word" for the meal prepared by Carmichael church members.



Carmichael church members served the hot, tasty mid-day meal for "Women and the Word" in a pleasant adjoining room.

Bauer Illustrates Head, Hand, and Heart of Salvation

by Ella Rydzewski

Aileen Bauer, AAW conference Sunday morning devotional speaker, referred to herself as wife, mother, and apostle. In her well crafted sermon Bauer used Luke 10:25 ff to present a ques-

tion, a story, and an experience.

Put together, these elements represent the head—what to do for eternal life; the hand—the story of the Good Samaritan; and the heart—Mary's choice for intimacy in the experience of Mary and Martha.

Bauer recalled her own experience as a new stepmother of three children ages 4, 8, 13. The counsel to her was "just love them." But how? It was not easy. Doing all the duties didn't bring love. Love came only by falling in love, as hearts gradually opened.

Only in the third story of Luke 10 is the vital link—time spent at the feet of Jesus. Prayer is the key that opens the heart of God, the only place we will ever be at home. A place to be a child again. A place to be who we are, yet fully loved. In the head, hand, and heart of salvation, love—sitting at his feet—is the dynamic of all our actions.

Presenting the AAW Sunday morning devotional, Aileen Bauer shares her own story as an illustration of salvation's "heart."



Rose Urges Liberty in Belief, Practice for God's People

by Ella Rydzewski

Carolina Rose, Sabbath afternoon AAW conference speaker, came from a Catholic Mexican family and grew up in poverty. Because her father worked as a ditch digger at Stanford University, she received tuition to attend Stanford and became a lawyer.

Carolina joined the Adventist faith as a result of finding the book *Desire of Ages* in a flea market. She found there a God "who is crazy about us," but regretted that so many seemed "trapped in a small room of fear and uncertainty."

Through prayer and study she perceived a misunderstanding of justification. "We need to believe in cross power," she said. Salvation is free, but many don't know it. The Holy Spirit speaks through time, place, and culture. Those are God's people who cherish God's principles, and through words and acts give evidence of the Holy Spirit.

She warned against other errors as well, such as the joint declaration of the power of sin and a "weak cross." She also spoke of the Christian nation movement, calling attention to the resurgence of a new Calvinism that says the state and church must work together. This leads to forced sanc-

tification and a wholesale repudiation of religious liberty.

She finds hope in a church that is more gospel-oriented—knowing who Jesus is—rather than conforming to a checklist of practices. She emphasized the importance of hearts filled with the power of love and with no insecurity about salvation.



Carolina Rose expands the concept of freedom for Sabbath afternoon AAW audience.



For the AAW opening plenary session, Lisa Beardsley draws spiritual lessons from "A Buddhist, a Black, and Cinderella."

Beardsley Shares Three Pictures of Spiritual Life

by Jean Sheldon

The AAW opening plenary session, Friday morning, October 13, began with a warm welcome by Malcolm Maxwell, president of Pacific Union College, in which he applauded the Association of Adventist Women for their work and interest in issues of women equality.

Lisa Beardsley, Ph.D., executive vice president of Loma Linda University, then led the audience on a spiritual journey. In her talk, "Prototypes of Spiritual Women: a Buddhist, a Black, and a

Cinderella," she told the stories of three women who encapsulate those who reach out for spiritual wholeness: her Japanese Buddhist grandmother who lived a life of prayer and faith in God in the Buddhist tradition after her young son's (Lisa's father) recovery from a serious illness, a Black woman whom she ministered to as a chaplain, and who ministered to her, and Cinderella.

The Buddhist grandmother typifies those who, needing wholeness, reach out to the gods closest to them for that healing. She is our past—trying to please god by what we do and how we do it.

The story of the Black woman who had been so hurt by severe abuse and poverty showed the true worth of an individual and how God's love can restore one's dignity no matter the depths of suffering. The Black woman is the painful present and God as Emmanuel who is with us in it.

Cinderella's story is the prototype of all who feel ugly and less valued and long for transformation in order to feel whole and loved. For Christians, transformation and love comes from the fairy godmother, the Holy Spirit, who transforms one for presentation to the Prince, Jesus Christ. Cinderella is the future for those actively doing things God's way.

These three prototypes illustrate how people of God pass on the flame of faith, develop a personal commitment and history of faith, are born again as free people, fan the flames of love, invite God-Emmanuel into the pain, are transformed by the Spirit, and are part of the Bride of Christ.



Among the youngest attendees at the AAW conference were Shelby and Megan, nieces of Lisa Beardsley, vice president of LLU.

Douglas Finds Peace in Prayer's Secret Garden

by Ella Rydzewski

Ilena Douglas, Pacific Union College vice-president of academic affairs, described her time with God in AAW's Friday afternoon plenary.

This energetic career woman, wife, mother, and grandmother grew up in Puerto Rico. As a 15-year-old she visited New York where she met the manager, a young Jewish man, in a department store. "That is the man I am going to marry," she said, and 12 years later she did. Now married for 28 years, her husband Marvin supports her career, telling her that his mission in life is to help her accomplish hers.

Douglas says no matter how long it takes, God answers prayers; Marvin only recently began taking Bible studies.

A turning point in Douglas' life was finding her secret garden

which she visualized—trees, flowers, ferns, waterfalls, aromas, birds, animals—an enchanted place of eternal spring. Here is found an opportunity to open hearts to God, to find peace and cleansing (1 Peter 2:4). God invites all, "Come into my secret garden—come into my life."

Diagnosed with cancer in 1989, she and her family moved to Boston for her medical care. During time alone, she found her secret garden. There, Douglas said, she learned "there is life after cancer; after disappointment, after the 1995 General Conference, after 'no ordination.'" God has a plan. Be quiet and listen. God is at work.

She told God, "I want to work for you" and took a job at Atlantic Union College—at lower pay but with much happiness. Then she was called to Pacific Union College as vice president for academic administration.



AAW's Friday afternoon plenary speaker Ilena Douglas shares the strength gained from her "Secret Garden."

But what about issues like equality? Will God ever work there? "Society conditioned the brain," she said, "but we can't give up—one day it will happen."

Douglas, who has found courage and optimism in her secret garden, has offered it as a spiritual resource to others.

Reports and Inspiration Shine During Sabbath Morning AAW Meetings, Portraying the Theme of Light

by Evaline West

The Association of Adventist Women's October conference theme of "Lights" was set immediately in the Sabbath school song service led by Bev Sedlacek, a counselor at Into His Rest Minis-



Carol Moses makes a pitch for gender equality in Maranatha projects during AAW Sabbath school reports.

try, and pianist, Ginger Ketting, associate professor of education at Pacific Union College.

Sabbath school

Staccato reports from The Women's Resource Center, Maranatha, T.E.A.M. and Women of Spirit followed. Kit Watts, director, and Penny Shell, associate director, from the Women's Resource Center, told of the availability of cassette tapes, the new Women In Prison Ministry Handbook, "Toppling Walls," a program script with sketches of amazing Adventist women of the twentieth century, and a new web page—www.adventistwomenscenter.org. Carol Moses of Maranatha Vol-

unteers International delivered her message of gender and age inclusiveness in building churches, relationships, and character by sharing one's giftedness. Her work attire, including hard hat and building tools, accentuated her message.

Literature distribution and seminary scholarships sponsored by Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry (TEAM) were reported by Pat Habada, chair of the TEAM board. The scholarship program began after "The Great Disappointment" of the 1990 General Conference session when TEAM gave 11 young women studying at the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University small schol-



Penny Wheeler and Heide Ford, who will co-chair the AAW conference 2001, give a life sketch of *Women of Spirit*, the first denominationally published magazine for women.



Bonnie Dwyer and Bev Sedlacek (right) conduct an interactive Sabbath school class for AAW members. Referring to themselves as ebony and ivory, they said, "We need each other."



Jean Sheldon takes an imaginative look at Mary Magdalene's story in her Sabbath sermon, "The Legacy of Eve."

arships as a token of encouragement. Since then the program has grown to the point that more than \$100,000 has been distributed to women around the world. After Habada personalized the scholarship recipients and costs, there was a spontaneous scholarship offering given in the amount of \$1,860.00 (\$2,060 including pledges).

Penny Estes Wheeler and Heide Ford, editor and associate editor of *Women of Spirit*, traced the history of the magazine, called for articles, and encouraged gift subscriptions at the discounted price of \$12 each for groups of three.

In a thought-provoking presentation Bev Sedlacek, a nurse and psychiatric counselor, and Bonnie Dwyer, the editor of *Spectrum* magazine, who for reasons of color referred to themselves as the ebony and the ivory, forthrightly discussed "Why We Need Each Other." "We need each other," they said, "because God told us to love one another; to get out of a rut, get another view, and try another way; for companionship; for pleasure; and to answer the call to witness."

Church service

Karen Cress, assistant pastor of the Auburn, California, church gave the invocation for the church service followed by Alyce Pudewell, past president of AAW, who briefly traced the history and purpose of AAW prior to giving the offering call.

"The Dance of Light," a liturgy based on John 1:1-5 was written by Ginger Hanks-Harwood, assistant professor of religion at La Sierra University. The readers were English professors Marilyn Glaim, Ramona Evans, Beverly Beem and Terrie Aamodt from Pacific Union and Walla Walla Colleges.

El Dorado Adventist Academy students Jennifer Kress, vocal soloist, and Arlene Overbeck, accompanist, presented "All I Know is that You Love Me" and "You Set Me Free."

The Legacy of Eve

Jessica Shine, a senior theology student and second term religious vice-president of Pacific Union College's student association, introduced the speaker for the church service, Jean Sheldon, associate professor of religion at Pacific Union College. Jean summarized her thought-provoking "The Legacy of Eve" as follows:

We all know the legacy of Eve—how she is the cause of all our problems, how women suffer as a result of the curse. A closer look at the story reveals how misguided we are regarding Eve's real legacy. In the first place, neither she nor Adam was cursed by God; only the ground and the serpent received the curse. From a different perspective, Eve succumbed to the serpent's tactics and believed his lies that God was an abusive parent. Deceived, she stepped into the cycle of abuse, with its results of vulnerability (nakedness), fear, and blaming others.

There's another legacy of Eve found in Genesis 3:15. There, God takes this person who is blamed for our problems and makes her the agent through which He brings salvation to the world. One of her daughters would bear the Savior who would break that cycle of abuse for all of us. Jesus came to reveal that God is not an abusive parent. Using creative imagination, Sheldon demonstrated how this is clearly revealed in what easily could have been the life of Mary Magdalene.

Picturing Mary as a child abused sexually by an adoptive uncle, Sheldon suggested that she seemed destined to be a trashed victim of sin. She saw herself as powerless, worthless, and hopelessly evil until 1) Jesus came into her life, and 2) set her free to see God as He really is and herself as He saw her—of complete value. Slowly, but surely, Jesus lifted her out of the cycle of abuse until He sent her to be an apostle to the apostles. She—not the disciples huddled in the upper room—but she was Jesus' closest disciple. All she needed to be able to recognize her risen Lord was to hear Him say her name.

Sacramento Overview

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"Women and the Word." Held at the Carmichael Adventist Church in Sacramento, it attracted approximately one dozen women pastors, chaplains, and Bible teachers. James Cress, director of the GC Ministerial Association, David Osborne, director of the NAD ministerial department, Darold Retzer, president of the Northern California Conference, and Ralph Robertson, ministerial director, were among the male church leaders who participated.



Pastor Chris Oberg, La Sierra University Church, and Yami Bazan, associate youth director for the Southeastern California Conference, enjoy the conference.

(See story on page 1.)

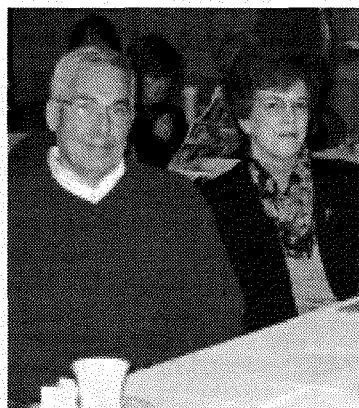
And for the sixteenth time, the Association of Adventist women presented awards to outstanding women who have made a difference in the church. Six of the seven awardees were present: Elaine Drury, a homemaker and local church leader from Idaho; Effie Jean Ketting, a missionary physician now retired in Washington State; Rebekah Wang-Cheng, a teaching physician from Medical College of Wisconsin; Karen Flowers, associate director of the GC Family Ministries Depart-

ment; Penny Wheeler, editor of *Women of Spirit*; and Miriam Wood, author of 16 books and former columnist at the *Adventist Review*. Dorothy Ellen Valcarcel, a businesswoman from Arizona, was unable to attend.

The hard-working 2000 AAW Conference Planning Committee from PUC and the Sacramento area included: Marit Balk, Philipa Barnes, Debbi Christensen, Rosemary Collins, Heather Denton, Ileana Douglas, Bonnie Dwyer, Sharon Fujimoto-Johnson, Nancy Lecourt, Judy Osborne, Lisa Bissell Paulson, Nancy Sayers, Jean Sheldon, and Shelley Stokstad.



Penny Shell (right) welcomes Chris Williams who flew in from Alaska to participate in "Woman and the Word" and the AAW conference.



LLU faculty members Drs. Donald and Penny Miller, active AAW supporters, also co-direct the LSU Women's Resource Center Board of Advisors.



Karen Cress (left), a pastor in Placerville, introduces her daughter, Jennifer, who plans to study theology and music and follow her mom into ministry.

Balk Highlights "Being Called by Name" at Candle-lit Agape Feast

by Kathleen Geraty, Activities Director, Linda Valley Villa

In a room softly lit by recessed lighting, gentle arches of light softened the walls. Numerous tea-light candles twinkled from a delicate folding screen in the shape of a stained-glass window. It was the Friday night Agape Feast during last October's conference of the Association of Adventist Women. Greenery and bright yellow mums brought autumn freshness inside to the meeting.

A women's trio from Angwin-



Present and former chaplains attending AAW are (from left) Ginger Hanks Harwood, Marit Balk, Judy Crabb, Penny Shell, Lisa Beardsley, and Shari Chamberlain.

Jean Buller, chair, Pacific Union College (PUC) department of education; Rosemary Collins, adjunct instructor, PUC communications department; and Jennifer Wareham Best, chair, PUC department of communications—set the stage and also closed the meditative evening. Marit Balk, associate pastor, Pacific Union College campus church, said the evening was more like the "first" supper after the resurrection than "the last supper." She pictured Mary at the garden who recognized Jesus only when

he called her name. Balk emphasized how good it feels to each of us to be called by name.

Small groups shared times when they had heard Jesus, God, calling their name. They also shared sparkling dark grape juice, broke up heart-shaped crackers like communion bread, and passed brightly decorated containers of golden raisins, dried apricots and fresh almonds. The groups savored food, feelings, thoughts of resurrection, and their own quiet contemplation.

Catlin Says Mentoring Provides Safe Space

by Juli Ling Miller

A bright yellow checkered taxi sat on the table before the presenter, Gail Catlin, who wore matching checkered cab socks. Catlin is president of LeaderSpirit and an instructor in the Masters of Organizational Leadership program, Chapman University.

Catlin told about the taxi driver who uttered ever so solemnly, "I think I know where you need to be" when she confessed 5 or 10 minutes into the ride that she had forgotten to tell him where to take her.

Ahhhhh...a sense of a person's need to be in the right place! Mentoring provides someone that

kind of safe and nurturing personal space to learn and to grow.

In the workshop on Friday, Oct. 13, Catlin reviewed reasons to study the mentoring process, such as to achieve human potential, to develop succession and leadership, to leave a legacy, to co-create new knowledge, to support people in untraditional and/or unknown areas, and to give back to the community.

The workshop described what mentoring is and distinguished it from teaching, suggested mentoring behaviors to adopt and avoid, showed why mentoring works from numerous perspectives (developmental, psychological, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual), and shared some men-

toring stories.

Mentoring is a personal relationship, which is about the mentee, not the mentor. It moves the mentee to a higher level with new skills and capacities as a knower and learner, with a new mental and moral fitness. The mentee finds a true "voice" in the world. The practice of the mentee's carrying out a task and then reflecting on what happened or didn't happen in the presence of the mentor builds critical thinking and emotional capacities that empower all aspects of their life.

Everyone was given a yellow workbook with mentoring resource materials and a small yellow taxi to keep as a reminder. Honk if you're a mentor!

Beem Suggests Listening to God During the Everyday Routine

by Jean Sequeira, Editorial Secretary, Adventist Review

Bev Beem, Walla Walla College English department chair, contacted a spiritual director because, she said, "I lead a very dull life, but I wanted to climb the mountain top."

She explained spiritual direction as a seeker engaging in an ongoing relationship with another Christian, focusing on God's interaction in the seeker's life, with a holy, protected, safe, confidential, and compassionate openness between them. Not a counseling

session, spiritual direction asks "What issues are you dealing with?" and "Where is God in all of this?"

Why do people seek spiritual direction? To focus on the seeker's spiritual growth. How? By consciously relating to God's presence and leading in their lives.

Journaling develops awareness of God in everyday life. David's psalms came from a heart poured out in anger, despair, longing and joy, telling his spiritual journey. Beem's spiritual director led her to seek God's voice in the busyness of every day, to question how

things affected her soul, to ask how she can be a picture of Christ in various circumstances and project God's image through other experiences. Beem shared two insightful articles on spiritual growth which she wrote for *Spectrum* magazine.

I came away from the seminar thinking how blessed are students at Walla Walla College to have a teacher who cares enough about her own spiritual development that she pays a spiritual director to help her along that road. I imagine that some of them will be "climbing the mountain-top," too!

La Sierra Student Values Diversity, Discussion of Issues

by Eva Pascal, La Sierra University senior

Thanks to the Women's Resource Center's sponsorship, I participated in the Women and the Word seminar and the Association of Adventist Women conferences in Sacramento last October. It was a great experience to get to know some wonderful Adventist women. It was certainly exhausting at times to sit through so many presentations; yet it was uplifting to engage in the issues of women and the church.

I came out of the conference hopeful, and not with my usual defensive skepticism about women and the church; I had to admire the patience and persistence of the many women and men there. It was encouraging to see women from different backgrounds who presented a variety of worship styles, theological perspectives, and visions for the direction of the church. In diversity the conferences created a spirit of community with other Adventist women seeking sexual justice. In diversity a coalition emerged from the common cause of equity in the church, a coalition that did not require uniformity in approach, reasoning or belief, and as such welcomed different perspectives.

The spirit of integration provided the space necessary for women to express themselves—to have a voice and to be heard safely by others in the community. Such a setting moves the church toward fully recognizing women as responsive and participatory members of the church body.

From many of the presenters I sensed a profound concern for the direction of the church, and the desire to take the word of God seriously in letter and spirit—the word in letter through the Bible, and in spirit in answering to the prophetic call for justice in the church treatment of women.

Some presentations stood out for me. I enjoyed Karen Darnell's struggle to make sense of the story of Hagar in the Bible, which can prove a difficult task. Madelynn Haldemann and Ginger Harwood helped direct biblical interpretation through the exegetical process, while pointing out the radical teachings of early Christianity. Kit Watts and Terrie Aamodt discussed Ellen White and how her emphasis changed over her lifetime. They opened viable scholarly possibilities for the enrichment and advancement of our Adventist tradition. I also appreciated the presentation evaluating the debate of women's ordination in Utrecht at the 1995 General Conference, and giving practical advice for Adventist women now.

College women also played a part in the conferences. Sisters Kari and Maritza McKinzie from Loma Linda University gave crea-

tive performances for worship on Sabbath afternoon. Four Pacific Union College students participated in a panel on what they wanted their older sisters to know. They expressed discomfort with judging by appearance, and pressure toward marriage. They spoke of their need for women mentors (hint, hint sisters!).

Although there were a few young women at the conference, there simply were not enough to keep the struggle of women and the church going in the future. The generation gap is a problem in Adventism generally, but at AAW, it is possible to bring young and old women in affirming conversation. Young women need to be in contact with awesome women and women's stories.

Another thing that concerned me during the AAW conference was the consistent use of male language for God—God as "Father." This is not the only metaphor for God, and it seems that using "Father" exclusively reinforces and ossifies a conception of God as patriarch. Using female and other metaphors would enrich our un-



Eva Pascal, left, sponsored to Women and the Word by LSU Women's Resource Center, chats over lunch with Hepsibah Singh, vice president for finance of the Review & Herald Publishing Association.

derstanding and appreciation of God's complexity.

I was concerned about the evasive use of the term "feminism" by many of the presenters. Some wanted to disassociate that work of equity from the church. I believe, however, that without feminism's work for equality, no women would have the opportunity to do what we're doing today.

It's important to acknowledge and appreciate those women that came before us as well as those with us now. They passed the flaming torch to us. So that now with that flame, we must march forward towards God's love and justice.

Women-of-the-Year Awards Banquet Fetes Seven

by Heide Ford

Floating candles flickered in spacious glass bowls creating a warm glow that mingled with our joy and excitement at the 2000 Women of the Year Awards Banquet. Each table on the raised terrace at Holiday Inn, Sacramento, was graced with this sensual reminder of the conference theme—One Light, Many Reflections: Women Passing the Flame.

The 2000 Women of the Year Awards Banquet celebrated the bright, steady flame of seven outstanding women—two for lifetime achievement, the others for significant impact in their family, church, community, and professional life. Though overwhelmed with the honor, they were not laying aside their torch, but merely pausing before kindling other flames.

A mood of solemnity de-

scended as we listened to accomplished pianist, Anthea Hii. She chose first to honor God, "the Father of the Year," with her original arrangements of traditional hymns followed by selections from Chopin. Our souls filled, we feasted on a sumptuous buffet.

With the happy splashes of the terrace fountains as a backdrop, the Women of the Year Awards were presented. Patricia Foster, Women of the Year Committee Chair, officiated with the assistance of Georgia Hodgkin, AAW President.

As each honoree was called forward, a golden medallion was placed around her neck while Pat shared her outstanding contributions and then read the inscription on her plaque.

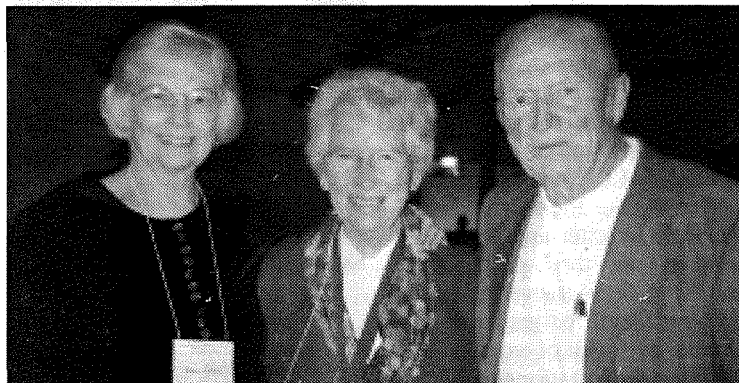
Since a previous issue of *The Adventist Woman* highlighted the achievements of each of these



Women of the Year recipients (from left) Elaine Estes Drury, Effie Jean Ketting, Miriam Wood, Penny Estes Wheeler, Karen Flowers, and Rebekah Wang-Cheng; (not present: Dorothy Valcarcel).



Pat Foster, organizer of the Women of the Year program for 2000, enjoys Effie Jean Ketting's story of a bogus divorce that made a point about eligibility for furlough pay. Ketting, who has delivered more than 16,000 babies, received the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Dr. Edna Maye Loveless, chair of the LSU English Department, celebrates the Women of the Year award given to Elaine Drury, a former parishioner. Elaine and husband Omer live in Troy, Idaho.

Women of the Year, I'd like to share some of the fun we enjoyed as each honoree accepted her award and spoke from her heart.

Teacher and well known Adventist writer, Miriam Wood received a Lifetime Achievement Award. In her unique and witty way, she gave us a quick journey through her life.

She concluded with the thought—regard your life as filled with Christmas ornaments, each containing wonderful things—her prized ornaments being her husband and children who were there to enjoy this special moment.

Missionary physician, Effie Jean Ketting received a Lifetime Achievement Award.

About to share some words of wisdom, she was shortstopped by popular request to tell about the bogus divorce she and her husband orchestrated years ago while in the mission field. As a result the brethren changed a policy so working missionary wives would be paid during furlough along with their husbands.

Whitewater rafting matron, Elaine Estes Drury received the Family Life Award. There were many "river rats" at the banquet

who'd been on Drury raft trips over the years. Elaine said that God had "blessed us and then some." She accepted her award for all the ladies in small churches and towns who are blooming where they are planted "and then some."

Co-director of GC Family Ministries, Karen M. Flowers received the Church Life Award. Karen thanked AAW for creating an oasis of warmth, support, and affirmation. Sharing her honor with four significant women in her life, Karen told of her spunky great-grandmother, a stow-away; her other great-grandmother—a blind and very perceptive woman; her mother—her model, mentor, and friend; and Jean Sequeira, her friend and "pastor."

Businesswoman and fundraiser, Dorothy Ellen Valcarcel received the Community Life Award in absentia. Nearly killed in a car accident three years ago, she has undergone multiple surgeries. Active again, she unfortunately needed further surgery preventing her from attending.

Freddie Harris, Drug Alternative Program co-director, accepted the award and told of the significant commitment the Valcarcels

have made to their ministry.

Physician, teacher, speaker, and columnist, Rebekah Wang-Cheng received the Outstanding Achievement Award. This honor was particularly significant to Becky as she looked back to several points in her journey where she felt life was over, that she was a failure. "God can use us in our brokenness," she said. Becky paid tribute to her mother and friends present for their support.

Writer and editor, Penny Estes Wheeler received the Professional Life Award. She spoke of the difficulty and necessity of becoming a full-time career woman, but then of the joys and milestones along the way culminating with launching *Women of Spirit* magazine. Honored by this award, she was also yearning to be with her daughter who at that moment was giving birth to Penny's first grandchild.

Stellar women, bright flames. Many reflections of the One Great Light. May their example and passion renew our flame.

Heide Ford, associate editor of *Women of Spirit*, holds a B.S. in nursing and a M.A. in counseling.

Simmons Becomes Provost/VPAA at La Sierra

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Doctor of Education degree from the University of Louisville. Experiencing, she prepared by serving as vice president for academic affairs and professor of education at Oakwood College from 1997 to the present, holding similar positions at the University of Louisville from 1994-1997, and carrying academic and administrative responsibilities from Head Start programs through doctoral programs since 1975.

Simmons was aware of various problems LSU faced when she accepted the position, but her

positive view sees LSU as a progressive Seventh-day Adventist institution of higher education that resonates closely with her own spirit. Looking to the university's future, she sees herself as "an optimist grounded in reality."

"If we face the fact that there are needs, then understand those needs and unite in a harmonious fashion—harmony, not uniformity—around a strategic plan to seek solutions, we can create means where there are none now," she said.

Dr. Lawrence Geraty, LSU president, said he is grateful to work alongside a proven leader

like Dr. Ella Simmons.

"She brings just the right academic background—training and experience and personal qualities—to our new position," Geraty said. "Her gifts complement mine and together we will try to take LSU to the next platform of academic excellence. LSU joins a number of elite universities this year that have chosen a woman for the task of provost."

Simmons' interest in education is life-long: "Involvement in education was something modeled by my grandfather—a principal—and encouraged from many parts of my family and by teachers and

colleagues," she explained.

"However, for about twelve years, I was fascinated by two career possibilities—education, yes, but also physics," she recalled. "I was good at math and science—I thought physics experiments were a party!"

"But at one point in my education, someone in our educational system convinced me that 'little black girls from Louisville, Kentucky, don't grow up to be research scientists.' By the time I learned this was not true, I had made my choice for education. I believe education might have been my choice anyway, but it is

painful to realize now that someone had removed my options.

"I am not bitter about that unfortunate message and its influence on my life. It was a learning experience that has made me a radical believer and proponent of the fact that there are 'no limits.'"

How does she get through the rough times in her life? "I have a wonderful Lord and a wonderful Nord." Nord Simmons, her husband, was home unpacking boxes at the very time of the interview. Based on her husband's support, her sons' thoughtfulness, and her delight in her grandchild, 12-year old Jannette Elizabeth Simmons, she declares, "Even if the whole world turned against me today, I would still have love and strength."

AAW Resolutions

Voted in business sessions in Sacramento, California, October 13 and 15, 2000.

Commendations

1. Voted: To commend the Alberta Conference for electing Carolyn Osmond as treasurer.

2. Voted: To commend Norman Yergen, secretary of the Alberta Conference, for recruiting and employing more women pastors.

3. Voted: To commend the GC Ministerial Association for establishing CONTACT, a newsletter for women in ministry, and distributing it around the world. Also, for including in their exhibit booth at the Toronto GC Session, a space especially for women clergy.

4. Voted: To commend Pat Habada, Bernie Beck, Bille Burdick, and Penny and Don Miller for coordinating and staffing a booth at the GC Session to distribute materials about AAW, TEAM, and the Women's Resource Center.

5. Voted: To commend the Southeastern California Conference and the Arizona Conference for developing and adopting equal ministerial credentials for women and men who are employed as ministers in their territories.

6. Voted: To commend Pardon Mwansa, president of the Eastern Africa Division, for courageously supporting women's right to preach in the pulpit.

7. Voted: To commend the Ellen G. White Estate for producing contemporary English editions of two books—the devotional book entitled *Christ Triumphant and True Education* (a revision of the book *Education*), and incorporating inclusive language into both.

8. Voted: To commend the editors of the *Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly* for establishing a trend of recognizing both men and women readers by using inclusive language in both the titles and text of this publication.

9. Voted: To commend the African-In-

dian Ocean Division for plans to inspire and train thousands of Adventist lay women to conduct evangelistic meetings in the coming months.

10. Voted: To commend the Loma Linda University Church and then senior pastor William Loveless for guiding Jennifer Scott in her ministerial development and the compilation of a portfolio demonstrating her gifts for ministry and her fitness for ordination. We further commend the congregation for supporting her ordination in April 2000.

11. Voted: To commend Pat Habada and members of the TEAM board for organizing the October 11 summit of individuals who lead ministries supporting Adventist women in the General Conference, North American Division, and self-supporting entities.

12. Voted: To commend Nancy LeCourt and the members of her planning committee for producing an outstanding AAW Conference in Sacramento, California.

Resolutions

Recommendations to the Association of Adventist Women:

1. Voted: To prevent the yearly reinvention of the wheel, it is recommended the AAW Board create a standing planning committee composed of two or three members of the previous year's planning committee, the next year's planning committee, and the officers of AAW which could synchronize planning, use of monies, and other efforts which will increase efficiency and promotion. This committee could interact by e-mail. In years when the Women's Resource Center plans a "Women & the Word" pre-session, the director and associate director would be invited members of the committee.

2. Voted: That AAW use every avenue, including cyberspace, to promote the annual conference and share other important information with Adventist women.

3. Voted: That AAW hire a part-time executive secretary to care for AAW business, coordinate communication, and assist with public relations for the association. (Note: Several individuals at the business session made pledges of monthly support to implement this recommendation. Additional donations are needed).

4. Voted: That AAW actively seek young women as members of the association. This outreach could include, but not be limited to:

(a) Presenting awards or otherwise recognizing outstanding young women students. To facilitate this, a sponsor or AAW representative could be chosen for each Adventist campus who would pro-

mote awareness of the association's activities and goals.

(b) Inviting one or more students to speak or present a paper at the AAW conference focusing on their current research or activities involving church life, theology, and women's issues. This will demonstrate to young women that they are important in the AAW community, will give students a voice, and will foster communication between young and old.

5. Voted: That AAW support and encourage research, study, and publications focusing on the ministry of Ellen G. White in the context of her times, especially including a better understanding of her contributions to the church as a woman.

6. Voted: That AAW explore the possibility of sponsoring a booth at the ASI Conference in August, 2001, in Sacramento, California and seek a benefactor to assist in funding this project.

7. Voted: To convene the next AAW Conference in the Washington, D.C., area on the first weekend of October, 2001.

8. Voted: To convene an AAW Conference in Portland, Oregon, or Seattle, Washington, in October 2002.

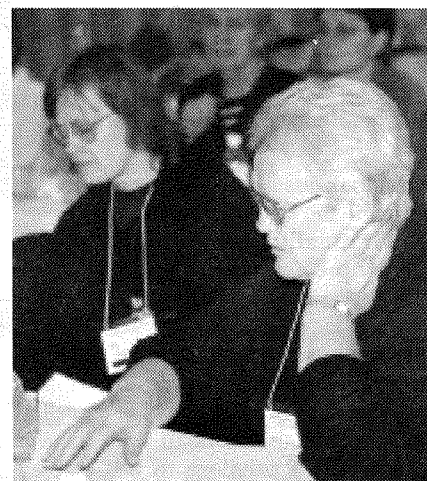
9. Voted: To explore the possibility of holding the 2003 AAW conference in the Dallas/Fort Worth area of Texas.

10. Voted: To acknowledge the following words of greeting to the 2000 AAW Conference from Audrey Smisor, 97, and Vivian Cashatt, 92, of Grants Pass, Oregon. Their statement was presented by Bernie Beck: "Our roots go deep into Adventist soil in Michigan and California. Early in the last century, our Mother, Matie Clark Nichols, ran the Pacific Press Boarding House in Mountain View. We helped her, from earliest memory, and later worked at the press to put ourselves through school. Both of us are educated nurses, now retired, and living happily and independently. We strongly support equality for women and men in the home, the work place, and the church." The business session also voted to grant them honorary life memberships in the Association of Adventist Women.

Recommendations to the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists:

1. Voted: To recommend that the officers of the General Conference develop plans that will lead to women's full participation in decision-making bodies of the church, so that the proportion of women leaders more nearly reflects their proportion among church members.

2. Voted: To recommend that the GC Director of Women's Ministries, in cooperation with other men and women leaders at the General Conference, find ways to communicate with women delegates before the 2005 General Conference session, provide information on important



Pat Habada, sitting by her daughter Bev, reminds AAW of certain resolutions voted in the past.

agenda items, and set a time for these delegates to meet and become acquainted when the session opens in St. Louis.

3. Voted: To recommend that the GC officers, GC Ministerial Association, GC Women's Ministries Department, and the editors of major Adventist publications, develop seminars and articles that help pastors and church members better understand the inclusive nature of the Gospel.

4. Voted: To ask the General Conference officers and department leaders resident at headquarters to find ways to develop and recommend policies that would implement Fundamental Belief #13 which seeks church unity and decries discrimination based upon race, culture, learning, nationality, class, and gender—and that would, in particular, result in equal pay for equal work for women employees in all countries, not just the United States.

5. Voted: To recommend that General Conference and Division officers and department leaders encourage Adventist congregations to recognize the benefits of formally setting women apart as deacons and elders and that they encourage each local church to improve its ministry to women members by having at least one woman elder.

6. Voted: To urge the General Conference president and officers by 2005 to
(a) elect at least one woman vice president,
(b) establish a GC Office of Human Relations, and
(c) permit divisions to authorize the ordination of qualified women to ministry.

7. Voted: To recommend that the Ellen G. White Estate continue to make Ellen White's writings more accessible to young Adventists and new Adventists by producing her work in modern and gender-inclusive language.

8. Voted: At the General Conference Session in 1881, delegates made a resolution to ordain women, and the item was referred to the GC executive committee for implementation. In view of the undue delay, we recommend that the GC Executive Committee implement this resolution with haste.



Gloria Santos, hospital administrator, confers with AAW president Georgia Hodgkins about the wording of new resolutions.

Presidential Communiqué Transitions

by Georgia Hodgkin, AAW President

The clock just keeps ticking and with it the evolution of our lives. Gradually, day by day, project by project, we move forward. The Association of Adventist Women likewise is subject to the clock as its projects improve lives, broaden perspectives, and provide the clarion call to include all members in the work of the Church. What a privilege to be part of this vital organization of thought leaders!

Nancy Lecourt and her committee from the Pacific Union College Faculty Women's Forum planned a program that made the 18th Annual AAW Meeting, discussed in these pages, most memorable. Bonnie Dwyer and her committee from the Sacramento area hosted an event that moved like clockwork. Pat Foster and her committee identified Women of the Year that inspire and give Adventist women direction to possibilities for even greater service to our Church, communities, and families. If you missed the weekend in Sacramento, do plan now to be in Washington, DC, the first weekend in October next fall. We listened, we learned, we built friendships, we did the business of AAW.

From the number and length of the resolutions, it is apparent that the work of AAW is not done. We



noted considerable progress as well as a number of areas for improvement. Perhaps the most notable is the long delay of the 1881 resolution of the General Conference "that females possessing the necessary qualifications to fill that position, may, with perfect propriety, be set apart by ordination to the work of the Christian ministry." (*Yearbook*, 1882) This was discussed "and referred to the General Conference (GC) Committee." We now recommend that the GC Committee complete its work, so that the resolution may be adopted and implemented.

The organization will continue to enlighten and support with renewed vigor. Patricia Foster, PhD, RN, formerly of Loma Linda University School of Nursing faculty, will transition into the Presidency of AAW January 1, 2001. I invite your continued participation in AAW through attendance, subscription to *The Adventist Woman*, and your thoughts and prayers.

Nothing stays the same. May AAW be a change agent for positive transitions.

Panel Advises Older Sisters What Young Women Want

by Lori Peckham

A panel discussion entitled "What We Want Our Older Sisters in the Church to Know" was a highlight of the AAW Conference. Moderated by Marilyn Glaim, a professor of English at Pacific Union College (PUC), the panel included PUC students and graduates: Julie Lee, an English-major graduate currently working in the college's public relations office; Julia Mullin, a sophomore theology/pre-med major; Hadassah Rodriguez, a sophomore math major; and Jessica Shine, a senior theology major and student association spiritual vice president.

The panelists shared with attendees (who ranged in age from their 20s to their 80s) that they really do want to spend time with their older siblings, mothers, grandmothers, and women in the church. They listed things they want from older women.

1. We want them to get to know us before they judge or criticize us. We especially hope they'll focus on who we **are** rather than how we look.
2. We want role models of marriage and family life. We see so many divorces and unhappy homes. We want to observe good marriages and good parenting—and to know it's OK to be single.
3. We want mentors to help us realize our talents and abilities.

After panelists commented on each point, Glaim encouraged audience comments and the attendees shared their perspectives. "We want to have a relationship with young people, too," said

Heide Ford. "But the shyness goes both ways. How do we come up to you and start a friendship?"

"Just say hi and ask us about our week," Rodriguez began. Then she gave an example of a woman at her church who passes out the bulletins and consistently takes an interest in her life.

More audience comments followed: "You can't be too picky in choosing a husband," pointed out Marit Balk. "It's for life!"

Hands were still raised when the session had to end and the panelists summarized.

Shine concluded, "The most important thing you can do is help

young women realize their full potential in their spiritual gifts. Part of discovering a person, is helping them see who they **can be.**"

Mullin said, "I'd encourage us to always read the Bible. Let's grow together in God."

Lee summarized, "One of the greatest things you can do for us is show us the different ways women can grow up."

Rodriguez wrapped up by saying, "I've had a great time this afternoon. This kind of fellowship is priceless. You have a lot to tell us, and we have a lot to tell you. We need to do more of this."

Everyone had to agree.



Marilyn Glaim (left) moderates panel of college women Jessica Shine, Hadassah Rodriguez, Julie Lee, and Julia Mullin, who share "What we want our older sisters in the church to know."

Where are they now?

Could you provide the addresses of any of these missing members? The location following their names is the last that we have for them. Send current addresses to Georgia Hodgkin, The Adventist Woman, La Sierra University, Campus Box 337, Riverside, CA 92515-8247.

Elizabeth Atterberry, Riverside, CA; Nancy L. Anderson, Chehalis, WA; Douglas Bishop, Poway, CA; David Bee, MD, Glendale, CA; Marion Barrett, Whitwall, TN; Donna Bates, Port Charlotte, FL; Michael Blaine, Glendale, CA; Mae Boyd, New York, NY; Kay Bussell Breyfogle, Corona Del Mar, CA; Stella Brown, Alameda, CA; Lucy Butcher, Crystal Beach, FL; Rebecca Carballal, Deltona, FL; Mary C. Camara, Orlando, FL; William Carty, Patton, CA; Yvette Chong, San Jose, CA; Karmyn Jones Clayton, Moreno Valley, CA; Michael Choy, Bonita, CA; Kathleen Clem, Corona, CA; Steve Charbonneau, Louisville, CO; Dilma Clements, Apopka, FL; Harwood Coffey, San Diego, CA; Rosalie Contreras, College Place, WA; Gail Davis, Yarmouth, ME; Jacqueline Drakeford, Plainfield, NJ; Peggy Fischer, Montgomery, AL; Jamie Fryson, Miami, FL; Gwen

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Volume 18:4	
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