

The Adventist WOMAN

THE ADVENTIST WOMAN
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“Women & the Word” Promises Top Notch Speakers October 4

Does God like women? Does the Bible have any good news for them?

Top Adventist women preachers, theologians, and a dramatist will explore these questions during the fourth annual Women and the Word seminar, a pre-session to the AAW conference.

Coordinated by the Women's Resource Center at La Sierra University, the seminar will begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, October 4, at the Ramada BWI Hotel, near the Baltimore/Washington International Airport. (See page 4 for registration form.)

Rosa Banks, one of the denomination's most powerful preachers and the director of the NAD Office of Human Relations, will kick-off the seminar in an opening sermon.

By popular demand, Madelyn Jones Haldeman and Ginger Hanks Harwood are returning to Women and the Word to present a lively exegesis of 1 Corinthians, including texts that are often used to suppress women in leadership. Haldeman is a retired New Testament theologian, and Harwood teaches religion and ethics at La Sierra University.

Mennonite scholar Reta Finger who teaches at Messiah College in Pennsylvania, will discuss the house churches in early Christianity—and the role that women played in their success. Finger will draw on research from her doctoral dissertation. Formerly, she edited *Daughters of Sarah*, a journal published in Chicago for Christian feminists.

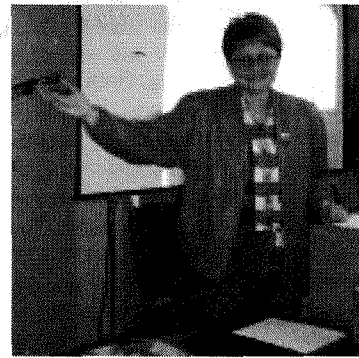
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Pastor Alicia Patterson will dramatize the story of Joanna, disciple of Jesus, at “Women and the Word.” Here she portrays Mary Magdalene for a Loma Linda University Church Sabbath school last March. At that time she was an associate pastor in Vienna, Virginia. She, her pastor husband Geoff and their two boys have recently moved to Maryland.

Women of Spirit Editors Plan AAW Conference

by Heide Ford



In her seminar, “Writing From the Heart,” at the NAD clergy-women's retreat at Pine Spring Ranch, *Women of Spirit* associate editor Heide Ford sought and taught writers. Ford and *Women of Spirit* editor Penny Estes Wheeler are coordinating October's AAW conference in Baltimore.

You are enthusiastically invited to the 19th annual Association of Adventist Women (AAW) Conference hosted in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C., area October 4-7, 2001. “Consecrating and Celebrating Women's Gifts” is the event theme. (See registration form, page 4.)

Conference planners Penny Estes Wheeler and Heide Ford, editors of *Women of Spirit*, are developing a list of dynamic plenary speakers and seminar presenters. The conference will be held at the Ramada Inn-BWI with Sabbath services at Sligo Church in Takoma Park, Maryland.

Cynthia Prime will be a featured speaker. An energetic advocate of women's issues, Prime has had varied experience including

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Historic Retreat Attracts 120 Women Clergy

by Kit Watts

A mostly unheralded and unnoticed, but historic Adventist event took place April 1-4 in Southern California when 120 Adventist women clergy convened under the sponsorship of the North American Division (NAD). Duane Schoonard, appointed last year as an associate director of the NAD ministerial association, coordinated the event. Debra Brill, NAD vice

president for ministries, was instrumental in finding funding for the retreat. “It wasn't easy, but by God's providence we are here,” Brill said at the opening meeting.

The gathering of women in ministry was the first in 10 years, and attendance was four times

larger than at any previous meeting. In the late 1980s NAD President Charles Bradford brought about 35 women together in Takoma Park, Maryland.

Of the nine unions represented at this year's event, the Pacific Union had the most attendees. The Southeastern California Conference alone sponsored 20. But women streamed in from every corner of the U.S. and Canada. They included theology students, pastors, chaplains, Bible teachers,

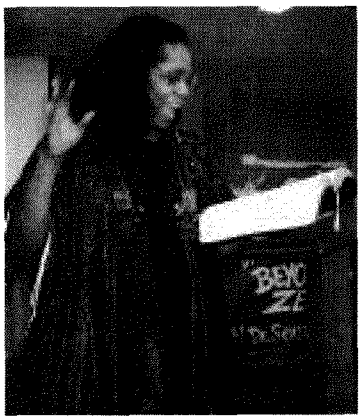
evangelists, and Bible workers.

In addition, 10 women in ministry flew in from Australia, thanks to private funding from committed lay people. The General Conference (GC) Ministerial Association also sponsored a woman theology student from each college in North America.

Highlights of the retreat included a daily in-depth study of the Gospel of Matthew by Madelyn Jones Haldeman, retired associate professor of New

Testament Studies at La Sierra University. Wanda Davis inspired the group with humor and insight during devotional messages. Davis is director of pastoral care for Florida Hospital in East Orlando. Elizabeth E. Platt combined Bible study, archaeology, and professional issues in her workshop based on Acts and Luke. She is professor of Old Testament at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Iowa.

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Chaplain Wanda Grimes Davis focused on God's power as the source of women's success in ministry in her two plenary sessions at the NAD clergy-women's retreat. Her fresh view of Scripture, her recounting of personal experiences, and her humor delighted the crowd.



NAD vice-president Debra Brill welcomed pastors, chaplains, theology students, conference officers and others to the historic NAD clergywomen's retreat. Sharing details of politics and planning that threatened the existence of the retreat, Brill points to God as the One who providentially assured the gathering's success.

Equal Credentials Affirmed By SECC Constituents

Following a short, suspenseful debate, delegates to the Southeastern California Conference (SECC) constituency session on October 22, 2000, voted to affirm the executive committee's decision to provide equal credentials to men and women in ministry. The constituents' will was revealed in a hand vote at 6 p.m., the last item on the agenda. Observers in the balcony estimated that one-third of the delegates voted against the credential, while two-thirds favored it. (At 5 p.m., a count had verified that enough delegates

were present for a quorum.)

Adeny Schmidt, conference committee member and La Sierra University professor, introduced the motion affirming equal credentials. Penny Miller, conference committee member and a Loma Linda University professor, made one of the supporting speeches.

Beginning in late 1998, the SECC executive committee sought input from the Gender Inclusiveness Commission on ways to improve equality in ministry in the conference. The study culmi-

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Lynn Mallery, Southeastern California Conference (SECC) president, here with his wife, Janet, took time to greet and visit women clergy during the NAD clergywomen's retreat at Pine Springs Ranch in California last April. SECC sent the largest group of women from any conference to the Ranch, which belongs to the SECC.

Women Clergy Retreat to Pine Springs Ranch

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Seminar presenters included Hyveth Williams, senior pastor of the Campus Hill Church in Loma Linda; Jean Sheldon, assistant professor of religion at Pacific Union College; and Heide Ford, associate editor of *Women of Spirit* magazine.



Australians Carole Ferch Johnson (left), former women's ministries director for the then South Pacific Division and former chaplain, now retired, and Beth McMurtry, pastor of the Gunnedah and Manilla/Barraba churches, wait in the registration line at the NAD clergy women's retreat at Pine Springs Ranch in California last April. They are two of the 10 women in ministry from Australia who attended the gathering.



Duane Schoonard, associate director of the NAD Ministerial Association, who coordinated the historic NAD gathering of women clergy at Pine Springs Ranch in California last April, welcomed more than 120 pastors, chaplains, students, conference officers, theology teachers, and others who attended the event.

On the final morning of the retreat, Schoonard presented proclamations of thanks to several women who, during the past 30 years, have encouraged women to enter ministry and have supported them through scholarships, networking opportunities or by advocating fair church policies.



Madelynn Jones Haldeman, retired from La Sierra University School of Religion, shared Matthew's theme of "horizontal making" in her daily classes at the Pine Springs Ranch retreat.

Among those honored at the retreat were Betty Howard and Nancy Marter, presidents and visionaries for the Association of Adventist Women; Karen Flowers, associate director of GC Family Ministries and author of a groundbreaking study on Adventist women leaders worldwide; Elizabeth Sterndale, the first director of women's ministries for NAD; Patricia Habada, chair of TEAM, a group that has provided scholarships to scores of women theology students, and co-editor of *The Welcome Table*; Madelynn Jones Haldeman, notable Bible scholar and the first to conceive of establishing the Women's Resource Center at La Sierra University; Carole Ferch Johnson, former



Jean Sheldon, assistant professor of religion at Pacific Union College, explored biblical perspectives in her seminar, "Breaking the Cycle of Abuse" at the NAD clergywomen's retreat. Audray Johnson, director of family ministries and women's ministries at the Southeastern California Conference, who has fostered extensive research on abuse issues in the Adventist church, said Sheldon's presentation was excellent.

women's ministries director and chaplain in the South Pacific Division; Kit Watts, who first joined the Sligo Church pastoral staff in 1973 and was a long-time editor of the *Adventist Woman*; and Penny Shell, first woman president of the Seventh-day Adventist Healthcare Chaplains Association (SDAHCA), and the first to collect names of Adventist women clergy and prepare a newsletter for them.



Hyveth Williams, senior pastor of the Campus Hill Adventist Church in Loma Linda, presented a seminar on leadership styles at the clergy women's retreat. Karen Moulder, Australian theology graduate student, summed up Hyveth's presentation this way: "Learning the difference between leadership and management made one realize what should be applied as principles and what as standards (which can change with cultural norms). Also, although becoming an outstanding leader is a matter of preparation and organization, style is influenced by one's personality. Finally, it is your concept of authority that affects you personally and informs how you function. Power only dominates and is ineffective. To be an authentic servant leader like Jesus is to have authority that comes from God, authority that produces sensitivity, relevance, good relationships, and appropriate responses."

Clergy Retreat Planning Behind the Scenes

Worship Planning Team Values Opportunities

by Lynn Ripley, Associate Pastor, Northwest Houston Adventist Church

Answering machine messages can have unique ways of bringing new opportunities into our lives. The message that Duane Schoonard, associate director of the North American Division (NAD) Ministerial Association, left on my machine asked if I would join the planning team for the NAD clergy women's conference April 1-4, 2001, at Pine Springs Ranch in southern California.

My work was connected with the worship team, a part of the planning team. The worship team members came from around the North American Division. Alex Alonso, Denise Badger, Patty Hofer, and Gale Murphy work in Florida. Chris Oberg and Hyveth Williams serve in California. Heather Ripley is at the Adventist theological seminary in Michigan, and Clarissa Worley ministers in Oregon. We met via numerous conference calls as well as face to face at a meeting in Florida.

The worship team planned six separate worship experiences on the theme "Celebrating the Call to Greatness," based on John 15:16. Our desire was to celebrate God's goodness, since this historic gathering was the fruit of God's call to each woman who has dared to follow the Lord into uncertain, but thrilling gospel ministry.

The worship services were

crafted from music, prayer, the spoken Word, and various creative components such as pertinent video clips and ageless lessons from children's books. We felt honored and affirmed when one participant, who frequently attends retreats and conferences said, "I truly worshiped during this gathering. It was a wonderful blend of praise and teaching!"

We each want to express our sincere appreciation to Duane for allowing us to learn and grow as we sought to serve our sisters in ministry.



Pastor Lynn Ripley from Houston, Texas (right, first row), sits by her daughter, Heather, a student at Andrews University theological seminary, during a worship service at the clergy women's retreat. Both Ripleys were part of the worship planning team, which Lynn Ripley coordinated.



Women clergy from the Southeastern California Conference were the largest single conference group attending the April clergywomen's retreat at Pine Springs Ranch in California.

Equal Credentials Affirmed By SECC

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nated on March 16, 2000, when the committee adopted a new "ordination-commission" credential without a dissenting vote. The credential is recognized only within the conference territory.

On October 22, however, one delegate complained when he did not see the credential listed on the constituency agenda. When asked

why it was not there, SECC President Lynn Mallory said that the issue had come up at only one of the four pre-sessions during the spring. (SECC holds regional meetings well in advance of the constituency session to seek delegates' input on the agenda.) "There did not seem to be widespread concern about this," Mallory commented.

The closest vote of the Octo-

ber 22 session came at 10:45 a.m. when delegates voted 325 to 319 in favor of adding the credential as an agenda item. A subsequent motion then made it the last item of business for the day.

Among those attending the constituency meeting were North American Division (NAD) President Don Schneider, NAD Secretary Harold Baptiste, and Pacific Union President Tom Mostert.



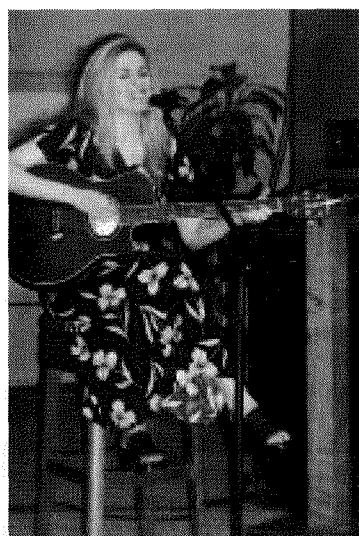
Clergywomen gathered informally with Madelynn Jones Haldeman (retired from La Sierra University School of Religion) to discuss Haldeman's presentation on the book of Matthew and other issues during the NAD clergywomen's retreat.



Pianist and composer Gayle Murphy of Forest Lake Academy led singing and provided entertainment at the clergy retreat. She had composed many of the songs used in her presentations.



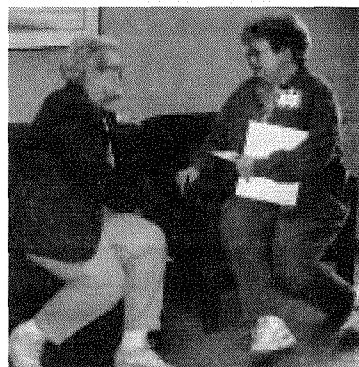
Patti Cabrera, who brought her music ministry to the NAD clergywomen's retreat last April, had been studying for a pulpit ministry when she felt called to sing for God.



Sole pastor for the Oregon City Adventist church, Clarissa Worley used her musical talents to begin many of the worship sessions at the Pine Springs gathering.



Hispanic pastors Carmen Ibanez from Southeastern California and Eva Nora Rios from Texas enjoy the fresh mountain air and sunshine during the clergywomen's retreat. Ibanez, left, who studied at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological seminary, was the first Adventist Hispanic woman to get her M.Div. there.



Conference time at the clergywomen's retreat was enriched by informal visits. Here Pat Habada of the General Conference Sabbath School Department visits with DeLora Hagen, who is a chaplain in the Chicago area.

Adventist Women Taking the Road Less Traveled . . . Politics

By Amber Porter

Imagine waking up, looking at your schedule, and realizing that you have no free time to even breathe. You have to meet with non-profit organizations, present honorary certificates, and attend luncheons—the list just goes on and on. There is more needed from you than time will ever permit. At the end of the day, you rush home, only to change into a fancier outfit to attend another formal event. Suddenly it hits you that you haven't had one free moment all week.

You send up a prayer of thanksgiving. Sabbath will begin tomorrow night, and you will be able to breathe. This is what former Governor John Waihee's wife Lynne experienced every week while her husband was in office: "You always have a sacred day and know that there will be rest from your activities. It keeps you grounded and makes a big difference. God definitely knew what he was talking about when he made the Sabbath."

Making a Difference

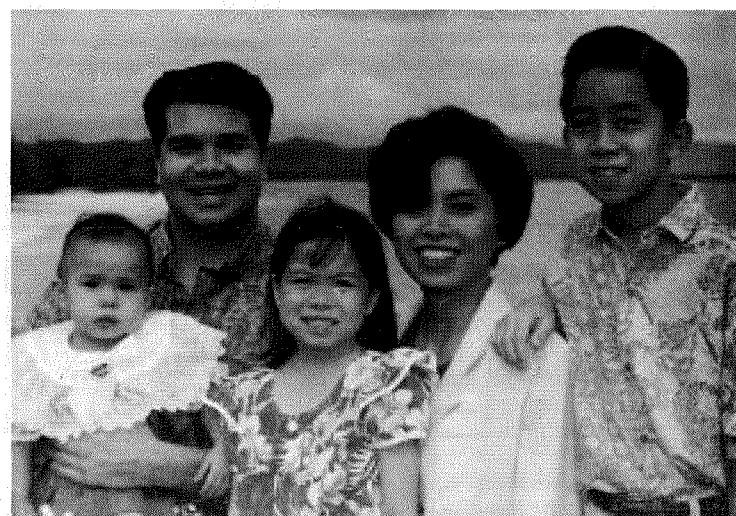
Lynne Waihee understood needing to take a break each week. As the wife of the governor of the State of Hawaii, her schedule was always full; however, Lynne saw her job as an opportunity to make a difference in the community. "There were times when incidents would occur and I would realize that there was a purpose and a reason for my being there."

One example is a time Lynne went to a transitional housing site to read to homeless children. Very few children showed up, and she could have been disappointed, but instead she found an opportunity for God to use her to change the children's lives. She found that the children desperately needed a play area. As the months passed, the children's needs remained in her mind. One day she was asked to be an honorary chairperson for a golf tournament. With this position came approximately \$15,000 to donate to her favorite organi-



"Being an Adventist helped keep me focused on community service," Lynne Waihee said in a 1996 interview in the *Women of Spirit* magazine.

zation. Lynne immediately thought of the homeless shelter, and with the help of a friend of her husband, who donated all of his time, Lynne was able to build the children an area where they could play—a bright spot in their lives while everything else around them was unstable.



Noemi Pendleton, the youngest female on the Hawaii State Board of Education (then 28), is the only Adventist in history to be elected to that post. The Pendleton family includes Danielle (2 now), David, Raquelle (7), Noemi, and Roland (11).

Noemi Pendleton

Noemi Pendleton, a former Hawaii Board of Education member and wife of State Representative David Pendleton, entered politics for exactly that reason—to make a difference, and to follow God. Between her full-time job and raising two little children—with one still in diapers—Noemi made the time to go to public schools to council high school students about career choices. She often counseled teenage mothers and troubled kids who thought they had no future. Afterwards, these students wrote her emotional thank-you letters. These letters were so moving that she would sit on the couch and read them to her husband.

Up and Running

He saw how much the letters affected her and suggested that she run for office so that she could help these students even more. At first she thought he was crazy. Running for a statewide office is

a huge undertaking. She prayed about it and talked to friends and family. "I realized that this position would enable me to truly make a difference in the lives of Hawaii's children and that with God all things were possible—even running for office."

Noemi continually let God lead in her life. While she would wave signs for election, rain would sometimes pour down, but rain or shine she would continue to sing to herself the soul version of "This Little Light of Mine," which kept her going. After being elected, Noemi was able to do things like pass out high school diplomas to adults who once had dropped out of school, and struggled to go back years later. She was "touched by how much they had overcome to complete this important step in their lives. It left a lasting impression on me and I felt honored to be able to give them their diplomas after all of the hard work and determination they had put into earning them." She felt that in this

way she served both God and the community.

Going into politics is a big decision, and Noemi believes that anyone should "pray first, and see if it is best for their situation." In politics, the schedule can be difficult, and it is not a field into which Adventist women traditionally go. However, as Lynne stated, "being in office allowed me to become involved in projects that had a farther reach than another job would have made possible."

To these women it was worth it.

Amber Porter is a sophomore at Columbia Union college pursuing a double major in business with an emphasis in pre-law and in political science. She was an intern for Representative David A. Pendleton in the State of Hawaii when she wrote this story. She was impressed with how Noemi balances the Sabbath, and also intrigued with Lynne. She was excited to interview both of these women because "they give so much and yet remain strong in the Lord."

Editors Plan Meetings

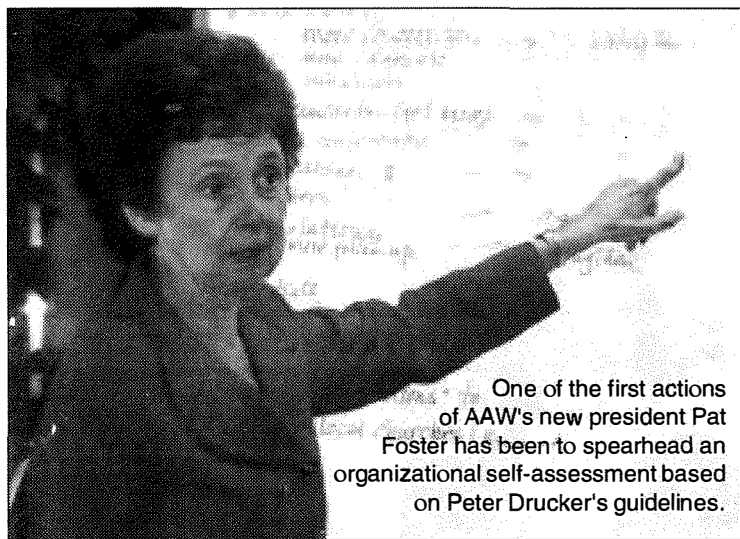
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talk-show host, executive career consultant, and past director of women's ministries for the Lake Union. Currently she is a senior vice-president for Parfums Llewelyn which she and her husband founded. Prime also chairs the board of Women in Renewal.

Popular seminar presenters Madelynn Haldeman and Ginger Harwood will not only be involved with the "Women and the Word" pre-session, but will also be teaming up for a second lively exegesis of a New Testament passage at AAW.

New this year is a Young Adult Track. A small survey is being conducted to find out specific seminar topics young women are interested in. (The regular seminars and the Young Adult Track are open to all attendees.) Young adults will be involved in presenting seminars and Heather Ripley, a 20-something seminary student, will be a plenary speaker.

Brochures will be available soon and will be mailed to all subscribers of *The Adventist Woman*. E-mail Heide Ford at hford@rhpa.org for additional brochures to share with your friends and church.



One of the first actions of AAW's new president Pat Foster has been to spearhead an organizational self-assessment based on Peter Drucker's guidelines.

New AAW President Foster Brings Distinguished Credentials

by Georgia Hodgkins

Dr. Patricia J. Foster, the new president of the Association of Adventist Women, has been a professional educator for more than 35 years. Her educational background includes a B.S. in Nursing from Loma Linda University, a Master's degree from Vanderbilt University, and a Ph.D. in Higher

Education from the Claremont Graduate University. Before teaching at Loma Linda University, she taught at Vanderbilt University. The major part of her career has been at Loma Linda University, where she held teaching and administrative positions in the School of Nursing, the last of which was Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Foster's research and publications have focused primarily on critical thinking and student outcomes assessment in professional students. She has presented papers at national research conferences and has given lectures and workshops in critical thinking in professional education. For two years she chaired the LLU faculty committee on critical thinking.

In the past few years, Foster has taught part time in the La Sierra University School of Education, and coordinated their Distinguished Educator Lecture Series.

She is a member of a number of professional societies including the American Education Research Association, the Association for the Study of Higher Education, the American Nurses Association, and the Association of University Women. She also belongs to the Sigma Theta Tau and Pi Lambda Theta National Honor Societies. Twenty-five years ago she helped establish the Gamma Alpha chapter of Sigma Theta Tau at Loma Linda. She was later president of the chapter.

Over many years, Foster has been involved in many church and community programs. She was one of the first women ordained as an elder at the LLU University Church of Seventh-day Adventists (1973). She has served in many capacities in the church including being superintendent of the Sanctuary Sabbath School for five years. Before becoming AAW president, she coordinated the AAW Woman of the Year Committee in 1999 and 2000. She was president of the National Auxiliary to the LLU School of Medicine Alumni Association.

Foster's husband, Glenn, is a cardiologist, retired from the position of Chief of Medical Service at the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center at Loma Linda. He remains a Professor of Medicine in the Cardiology Division of the Medicine Department at the LLU School of Medicine. The Drs. Foster have six children and ten grandchildren.

Presidential Communiqué

Making Connections—Looking Toward Fall

by Patricia J. Foster
AAW President

At the founding of AAW in 1982, the Mission Statement said that its purpose was "To encourage communications, support and wider understanding among Adventist women in diverse situations." This was reaffirmed at the latest iteration of the Mission Statement.

As we face the 21st century, an increasingly diverse community and church have become more fragmented. At the same time, interdependence between organizations and individuals is becoming even more important. In her book, *The Connective Edge*, Lipman-Blumen (1996) writes that we are living in the "connective era." Diversity highlights differences, while interdependence emphasizes community and collaboration.

Lipman-Blumen further states that as individuals and as members of organizations, we need to find ways to decrease our separation and distinction by "making connections." The future well-being of our society depends on it.

Just as neuronal connections help us learn, so making social connections enhances human relationships and attitudes.

• Making connections means creating a sense of community and collaboration while respecting the differences in others.

• Making connections means establishing partnerships and demonstrating a willingness to see another's point of view.

• Making connections means exploring new ideas ("where we're going"), while respecting the traditions of "where we came from."

Not only will the board of directors be looking at ways to communicate with other organizations



more effectively, but also the individual members of AAW can connect with one another and communicate with others in their work and social spheres. An excellent way is to attend the annual meeting at the Ramada Inn near the Baltimore-Washington International Airport in October 2001.

Integrity must be foremost in all the connections we make. Our most vital connection is the one we have with God. God says: "If you are willing, I will be with you always—to the end of the world."

As your president, I ask for your prayers and support as we face the challenges and opportunities of the coming year. Thank you for letting me share in the organization's future.

Lipman-Blumen, J. *The Connective Edge*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1966.

AAW-W&W Registration Form

Please indicate How Many? on the lines to the left.

<u>Assn. of Adventist Women Conf., Oct. 4 evening to Oct. 7 noon:</u>		
<i>(Indicate AAW on check memo line!)</i>		
_____ Regular Registration before Aug. 15	EACH	TOTAL
_____ Regular Registration after Aug. 15	\$65	_____
_____ Senior (60+) Registration	\$75	_____
_____ Student (include copy of ID)	\$50	_____
	Free	_____

<u>AAW Conference Meal Plans</u>		
_____ Complete Meal Package		
<i>(Continental breakfast-Fri., Sat., Sun.; Lunch-Fri., Sat.; Supper-Fri.; Banquet-Sat. evening)</i>		
_____ Women of the Year Banquet only	\$30	_____

<u>Women & the Word Pre-session, with lunch, Wed., Oct. 4, 8am-5pm:</u>		
<i>(Indicate W&W on check memo line!)</i>		
_____ Regular registration before Aug. 15	EACH	TOTAL
_____ Regular registration after Aug. 15	\$40	_____
_____ Student registration before Aug. 15	\$50	_____
_____ Student registration after Aug. 15	\$20	_____
	\$25	_____

Total (Should be the same amount as on your check) \$ _____
(If your check is for both the AAW Conference and Women and the Word, write "AAW & W&W" on check memo line.)

MAIL completed form with your check to AAW c/o Penny Wheeler, 55 W. Oak Ridge Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740. Indicated discounts apply to registrations received before August 15. **Sorry, NO CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED!**

name(s)

address

telephone

email

Hotel Reservations are NOT included: Call 1-800-RAMADA before September 19 to receive the convention rate of \$79 single/double per night. Additional persons, \$10 each. Specify the Association of Adventist Women Conference at Ramada Inn-BWI. Free airport shuttle provided.

"Women & the Word"

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To climax the day, Alicia Patterson will perform a monologue about one of Jesus' women disciples, Joanna. "Although Scripture does not tell us a lot about her, it leaves us some clues," Patterson says. Joanna's story has emerged as a by-product of Patterson's research for an M.A. thesis in New Testament studies that she is doing at Andrews University. She has also developed a monologue about Mary Magdalene that was well received during the GC World Ministers Council last summer in Toronto.

"Watch for more information about this seminar. We will announce several other special guests in the near future," say Kit Watts and Penny Shell, directors of the Women's Resource Center.

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