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Volume 10, No. 4-5

Publication of the Association of Adventist Women

August/September/October 1991

In Inter-American Division

AAW members donate \$1,300 to work for Huichol Indians

AAW members donated their entire Sabbath morning offering of \$1,300 to benefit the Huichol Indians in the Inter-American Division. The donation will help replace a mission plane owned by Amistad Foundation that crashed in February killing all aboard.

For 10 years Amistad has sponsored an SDA mission project for the Huichol Indians and impoverished Mexican farmers of the Sierra Madre mountains.

AAW member Karen Kotoske founded and directs the nonprofit organization. "The backbone of our work is a flying clinic, development projects (water, agriculture, etc.), and evangelism," Kotoske says.

Much of Amistad's work directly benefits women and children. For example, an

Amistad pilot noticed a mirror flashing from an airstrip that was not on the day's medical route. Sensing an emergency, he touched down. A woman had delivered a baby in the night and then experienced uncontrolled bleeding. Although the doctor could not get a diastolic blood pressure reading, they immediately flew her to the closest government clinic. Kotoske reports, "Miraculously, she lived. Two weeks later she walked back to her village."

To buy a new plane Kotoske says \$30,000 must be raised [in addition to the insurance received on the downed plane]. The AAW gift brought the fund to \$22,000. For more information write: Amistad, 1657 Edgewood Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94303.



On July 5 AAW presented their annual 1991 Woman of the Year Awards to (left to right): Lonna Tachenko Milburn for Outstanding Achievement; Hazel Burns for Church Life; Mary Elizabeth Henderson for Home/Family; and Lilya Wagner for Work/Professional Life. A complete report appears on page 4.



AAW member Karen Kotoske displayed handiwork by Huichol Indian women as she described the medical and evangelistic work done among this group in the Inter-American Division by the Amistad Foundation.

Groups and individuals urged to join

Adventist Women's Coalition to focus on affirmative action

With the leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church concentrated largely in the hands of ordained men, women have discovered that issues of concern to them—and their points of view on any issue—seldom get a hearing in decision-making groups.

On July 4 women meeting in Santa Clara, California, resolved to amplify women's voices in the church by banding together in the Adventist Women's Coalition (AWC).

Although some organizational details are yet to be worked out, the coalition is already at work. AWC's sole purpose is build up the church by improving the chances that women's gifts will be respected and used. How can this be done? Persuasion is the key. AWC will call for elected church officials to hire qualified women in leadership positions that do not require ordination.

For example, AWC chair Helen Thompson wrote to union and conference presidents this spring urging them to use their influence to increase the number of women on executive committees and boards. AWC was also instrumental in saving Barbara Manspeaker's job from being cut from the Church Ministries Department at the Columbia Union Conference, Maryland. (Manspeaker specializes in children's ministries.)

At the July 4 meeting, Dr. Elisabeth Wear, a member of the education faculty at Columbia Union College, acted as AWC chair in Thompson's absence. Displaying both determination and even-handed leadership, Wear guided the Santa Clara group as they discussed the proposed articles of incorporation and bylaws for AWC. These were adopted subject to legal counsel in the State of Washington where AWC will be headquartered.

Begins with dazzling fireworks

Ninth conference spiritual, monitors church politics closely

From Connecticut and Texas, Florida and Ohio, Maryland and Michigan, from France, Switzerland, and Canada more than 140 women and men registered for the ninth annual AAW conference. Held July 4-8 in the Santa Clara, California, Marriott Hotel, the conference began on Thursday night with a bang. The 45-minute-long fireworks at nearby Great America theme park provided the most dazzling beginning for any AAW conference ever.

Herb Broeckel, president of the Central California Conference, welcomed AAW members to the bay area.

"Women make up the majority of our members here," Broeckel said, "yet not all of them are given opportunities and challenges. I believe God has endowed each person with gifts. I believe in the priesthood of all believers. I believe it is Christ's plan to involve us all in ministry."

Panoply of events

Focusing on the broad theme of "Women in Ministry," the conference featured speakers from all walks of life, among them homemakers, teachers,

The coalition is designed, first of all, to bring Adventist women's groups together. Each group will negotiate a fee to support AWC's ministry of affirmative action. It will also send up to two voting representatives to annual board meetings.

But individual women may also join. By being on AWC's direct mailing list these individuals can participate firsthand in writing letters and calling church leaders. The membership fee recommended for individuals is \$35. (Those with low incomes may negotiate individually.) Indi-

See AWC ORGANIZES, p. 7



Herb Broeckel, president of the Central California Conference, greeted conference attendees on July 4.

nurses, physicians, pastors, chaplains, counselors, students, and writers.

An attractive program, designed by artist Annie Pouban from France, outlined the four days. There was something for every mood, every taste—concerts, sermons, personal stories of outstanding Adventist women ("Pathbreaker Vignettes"), films, display booths, workshops, mission features, free-flow discussion, and the 1991 Women of the Year awards. (See page 4). If this wasn't enough (or if it was too much!) you could take a relaxing swim in the hotel pool.

The two business sessions were not well advertised nor was the agenda long. But members adopted a series of resolutions that showed they were monitoring church politics closely. (See page 7). They also set goals for themselves and made recommendations for next year's conference. It will be held in Takoma Park, Maryland, in October 1992.

A day-by-day report of the conference begins on page 3.

AAW president addresses state of women in the Adventist Church

Peggy Harris offered this pastoral evaluation of the church and made this call to commitment as her president's address to the ninth AAW conference on Friday, July 5, 1991.

Over the past 10 years the Association of Adventist Women (AAW) has come of age. When we look at the road we have traveled and the progress that has been made within our church, we can sense that although not all the battles have been won, along the way there have been many accomplishments. Our name and credibility have become widely known. Our endeavors to sensitize church leaders to seek more equitable gender representation on committees and in leadership posts have received positive responses.

But what about the future? Now that we have seen some progress here in the North American Division do we now sit back and relax? Or do we also have a responsibility to respond to the needs of women and men in the world field? Many ethnic groups are struggling to gain a voice in the church. Are we willing to listen to them and help?



Peggy Harris

Equality—only for women in NAD?

Some overseas leaders feel that only here in North America does the church have to deal with equality and justice because our national laws require it. They say that in other areas of the world, equity and justice are not issues with the church—because no laws demand it.

Yet, we hear more and more cries for help from lay people and church workers in the world field as they see the incongruity of a church professing to follow the Word of God while at the same time denying individuals their fundamental rights because the laws of their countries do not demand this.

Specifically, these issues are: equal pay, gender inclusiveness, sexual harassment of students and employees, lay representation on committees, and individual recourse when there is a problem in these various areas.

The church and abuse issues

I believe our church must also deal honestly and sensitively with our youth and adults (females being the most frequent targets) who experience date rape, sexual harassment, abuse from parents, sexual exploitation of the counseling relationship by pastors, as well as institutional abuse at school or at work.

When such complaints are made they must be documented and dealt with appropriately and promptly. This will help to prevent further harassment and resulting lawsuits, not only against individuals but also against our institutions. Appropriate counseling must be available for the individuals who have been emotionally and/or physically harmed.

AAW takes the stand that it is not acceptable to allow persons who [initiate and] repeat these kinds of crimes to be moved on to another school or leadership position where they can continue their abuse of others.

Support systems needed

■ **For pastors.** Adventist leadership is experiencing a growing lack of credibility. Many perceive that church leaders are mainly concerned with self-interest and being organization-centered. Many of our new pastors are recent converts to Adventism. They need a strong support system from conference leaders and their local congregations in order to be effective. And all pastors and their families, whether new or veterans, need the support and encouragement that lay people can give them.

■ **Church leaders.** Church leaders everywhere need to hear of our strong support for the positive steps they take in local, union, division, and world headquarters.

■ **For women.** When women take a stand to correct problems within our church, we have to realize that we may be insulted and mistreated. During a recent conference meeting in which the ordination of women pastors was discussed, an angry woman church member followed a woman pastor into the rest room, dug her fingernails into her arms, spat in her face and said, "Who do you think you are?" In another discussion on the same

subject, a male conference director suggestively told a woman present that he certainly would be there to "lay hands on a woman."

Unfortunately, workers who report improprieties within some conferences are threatened with the loss of their jobs or are relegated to minor pastorates. Women church workers have, at times, had to endure sexual harassment while their husbands' hands were tied because of the threat of the loss of their jobs. AAW should be alert for church workers and members who are going through such experiences and provide them with emotional support.

Male headship theology

I believe women in the church have been set up for sexual harassment and abuse by the oppressive practice of male headship in the church. If the church had practiced equality of both race and gender, as we were instructed to do and began to do in the late 1800s, we would now be ahead of the world in treating our people justly.

How the church can gain credibility

By addressing these issues fairly, the church will profit. It can then regain the confidence of its constituents. Members who have lost confidence and are putting their money elsewhere would then have good reason to put it back into the church organization.

Members would be able to openly share their insights in conference and union planning processes. The church would gain a wealth of input from its lay members. Church leaders would then truly be in partnership with the members and not be left dangling and struggling by themselves.

The accountability factor may frighten some of our church leaders. However, this can have the advantage of spurring them on to heights they were not aware they could achieve. Our church desperately needs this unity of spirit and action in order to accomplish the great task with which we have been commissioned.

What kind of message are we giving our church members and the world when we are willing to relegate intelligent people to limited opportunities and unfair practices? Our church is not only in danger of losing the younger generation in North America but also those in the world field.

Essence of the gospel

God created men and women not to be in competition with one another but to complement each other. Together, women and men can enhance God's image in the world and give a fuller picture of God's love and care. It is our privilege and responsibility to continue to work toward the equality of all humankind. This is the true essence of the gospel of Jesus.

Some Christian women who have become discouraged with ever gaining equality and recognition in the Christian religion are accepting New Age theology. Ken Wade's book, *Secrets of the New Age*, tells how many people have been attracted to this movement because they either have been cruelly treated or mistreated by fellow Christians. Our crucifixions today are not done crudely on a cross. We are far more sophisticated. We crucify today by words and institutional abuse of our members.

Women's reality

I recently read the biographical book *Eleni* written by her son, Nicholas Gage. He tells how his mother, Eleni Gatzoyannis, struggled to save her children during World War II and the fierce civil war that followed in Greece. Eleni's husband had gone to America to prepare a new life for his family but was cut off by the wars.

I did not finish the book, as I was too overcome by the tragic details of Eleni's life. But I did watch a video that poignantly captures the essence of the book. Alone, Eleni and her mother struggled to keep the family alive. Eleni's struggle finally ended when she was tortured and shot by guerrillas after arranging for her children's successful escape.

There are two touching scenes that capture the emotion of this young woman's lonely battle for survival. In the first, Eleni attempts to save her teenage daughter, Olga, from being conscripted into labor for the communist guerrillas by using a red hot poker to burn Olga's leg so she could not walk. Eleni says to her mother, "Where are our men? Have I been told lies all my life?" Her mother replied, "Eleni, you're a woman. You're forgetting your place." Eleni responded, "This isn't my place to torture my own child. Is it my place to stay behind? Always to stay behind when our men run off and return for what?"

Later, after seeing a woman friend shot to death for speaking up for all the women trying to save the village children, Eleni and her mother had the following conversation.

"In the shade of somebody else's authority"

"We can only hope and pray," her mother sorrows. "We must do more than hope," says Eleni.

"If we do as we are told—," her mother starts to say.

Eleni interrupts, "No! Mother, you brought me up the best way you knew how."

"The way I was raised," responds her mother.

"Yes," Eleni says, "to obey and know my place and never to complain and in all that sunshine of my life I have lived in the shade of somebody else's authority. There were flowers in my heart, Mama, but some flowers never blossom in the shade. It was the price I paid to be like everyone else."

"I didn't complain and I'm not complaining now, but I am saying *no more!* They took our food, they took my home, they took my dignity and I gave it. I gave it at every turn but I will not give them my children!"

For our children and our church

Today there is a war raging across this world that involves the entire universe in the battle between good and evil. It is time for each one of us not to be just like everyone else. Many of our children have slipped away from our church. What about our grandchildren? Will you resolve with me that we will not give them up?

It is time for us to take the necessary steps to regain the confidence and faith of your youth as has been pointed out by the recent Valuegenesis reports. It is time to restore the confidence of adults in the church by positive action. It is time to hasten our Lord's return!

Call to commitment

Praise God, I do see changes taking place within the church. These changes must continue if we are to accomplish the Global Mission of our church. There are men and women among us who are speaking out with courage. Will you join me in a commitment to dialogue with church leaders and to encourage the creation of policies that will restore the confidence of members in our church? Yes, we are our sister's and brother's keeper. It is time to speak and to act boldly as we are prompted by the Holy Spirit.

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The Association of Adventist Women is a national organization that sponsors local chapters. Its newsletter, *The Adventist Woman*, is published six times per year.

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OCTOBER 18

Copy deadline for the next issue of *The Adventist Woman* is October 18.

Mail copy at least 5 days in advance of the deadline. The editor schedules the Friday and Sunday afterward to put material together.

Send to Beverly K. Habada, Editor, *The Adventist Woman*, Box 3884, Langley Park, MD 20787.

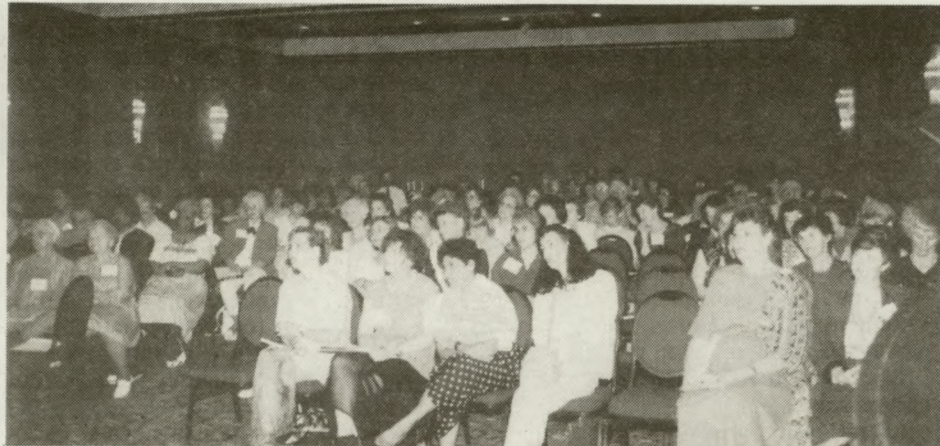
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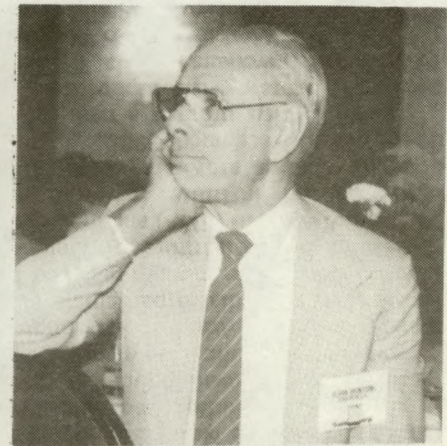
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Maryan Stirling offered a deeply spiritual Pathbreaker Vignette on Mary Magdalene.



The Santa Clara Marriott proved to be spacious and attractive meeting site. Here more than 150 crowded in to hear the keynote address by Pat Wick of Angwin California.



Elvin Benton was one of the official photographers for the AAW Conference

A Friday for Feasting

by Pat Horning Benton

Eating, listening, talking—we had a fast-paced Friday. But don't women's lives often revolve around these everyday activities? This day they were special...sacred...shared with friends old and new.

We started conversing early over Weimar whole-wheat bread and peanut butter in the hospitality suite, greeting friends seen all-too-infrequently, meeting new acquaintances from Mauritius and Mountain View. Soon we were urged to hurry in to the business meeting, chaired by Peggy Harris. (The president's address appears in its entirety on page 2.)

Beginning business

At the conclusion of Harris's address she asked those present to meet in groups of three or four to identify "the matters on your heart." Later these written suggestions were collated and given to the resolutions committee.

In addition to the secretary's and treasurer's reports and introducing AAW regional directors and chapter presidents attending the meeting, Harris breezed through news and ideas of interest.

□ **Sligo Church Gender Justice Committee.** The committee hopes its recommendations will not only impact the local congregation but also the Potomac Conference, Columbia Union, and (why not?) the whole church hierarchy!

□ **The newly established NAD Office of Women's Ministries held an NAD Women's Summit.** The meeting at GC headquarters in March drew together representatives of 17 women's organizations. Among other things, Harris said, the group voted support for women in ministry and the need to ordain them as gospel ministers.

□ **Special issue of *The Adventist Woman* proposed for camp meetings.** To gain visibility for AAW's work someone proposed a special issue of the *Adventist Woman* should be prepared for use at NAD camp meetings.

□ **Go bilingual.** Another proposal on the drawing board, Harris said, is to produce a publication for Spanish-speaking

Adventist women. All that's needed is a few thousand dollars.

Pathbreaker Vignette

Maryan Stirling presented the Pathbreaker Vignette of the day, retelling the familiar story of Mary Magdalene.

Maryan looks like a fragile grandmother in a shimmery blouse trimmed in Battenberg lace, but she speaks like a radicalized poet, weaving into familiar plot the exciting phrases and concepts:

□ "Women don't always have to be in the kitchen, cooking up a typhoon."

□ When Martha complained to Jesus, "It gripped her in the stomach like a familiar old pain."

□ "This story is about a kind of love that's never going to make any sense at all to Judas."

Reclaiming ourselves

Keynote speaker Pat Wick shared her personal journey of self-discovery as she urged each of us to reclaim our own hearts. She reminded us that a search for our own personal spirituality involves risk-taking and making hard decisions about where to spend our energies. She defined *wisdom* as knowledge plus experience and encouraged us to become wise women.

Celebration of friendship

Lunchtime was one of the highlights of the weekend for me and three friends. One of the bonuses of writing the Story of the Day (maybe the only bonus?) is being able to choose what to write about, and I want to share the experience of lunching with three of my comrades.

When we were young and "new in the work" (as we said in the 1960s), we were best friends—Kit Watts, Rosemary Bradley, Jane Allen, and Pat Horning. We lived in small apartments in Takoma Park and worked (for much less money than our male coworkers) at either the General Conference or the Review and Herald, then next door to headquarters. For nearly four years our quartet was intact.

Then I went to Andrews University to work on a master's, Jane headed for new challenges in the Far Eastern Division communication office, and Rosemary got married. Only Kit remained in Takoma Park for a few more years. Not only were we reunited after 18 years, but we were together celebrating on Rosemary's 50th birthday (she being the first to reach that milestone).

When kindred spirits are reunited, conversation quickly peels away the decades. For a couple of hours it was hard to remember whether we were 25 or 45...and it didn't matter.

The lovingly chosen joint birthday present was a set of antique sterling silver dessert spoons, still in the original pink-satin-lined box from a jeweler in Europe. Each was engraved with the initials (perhaps of a bride and groom? We are still romantics at heart!) and the date 1914.



Reporters for the ninth AAW conference (left to right): Pat Horning Benton, Rosemary Bradley Watts, Jane Allen, Kit Watts.

Two workshop sessions met back-to-back on Friday afternoon with a choice of four different seminars offered during each time slot. There was something for every-

body—from spouses of pastors to working couples to women wanting to start a special ministry.

I was interested in Dr. Arlene Taylor's discussion of "whole brain nurturing." She introduced the subject by reviewing us in the ways people are nurtured through their senses—seeing, hearing, and feeling. "Our only role is to help people feel good about themselves," Arlene said.

Seminar participants took a simple quiz to discover their own leanings, and Arlene gave examples of how to nurture people with each sense preference. For example, the greeter in the church lobby should make eye contact with each person, thereby nurturing those who are visually oriented. She should also say hello, which makes auditory people feel welcome. She should shake hands or hug people, for those who prefer kinesthetic (touch) nurturing. The concept was intriguing and the examples were concrete.

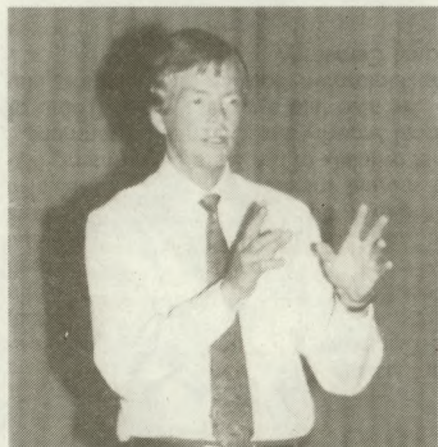
Final feast

Our quartet met again around one of the large round tables set for the Friday evening meeting, Babette's Feast. We shared the simple meal of breads, cheeses, and fruit. As we were finishing, Rosemary handed each of us a silver spoon to use with our herb tea. After we'd seen the film, that symbolic act was even more meaningful.

The Academy Award winning foreign film *Babette's Feast* is a parable, not unlike the story of Mary anointing Jesus' feet with her oil of spikenard. The conversation following the film uncovered only a few of the many underlying meanings.

One person at our table commented, "Babette was able to accomplish much even when she followed the rules set down for her. But look at how much more she could do when she broke out of the mold and freed her talents and her creativity!"

From the Pathbreaker Vignette to Babette's Feast, Friday was a circle of extravagant love, a day flowering with friendship and feasting.



John Lorntz, with his wife Joyce, presented a workshop for spouses of women in ministry.



Dr. Arlene Taylor offered a workshop that explored "whole brain nurturing."



Sally Kiasiong-Andriamiarisoa (left), of Mauritius, and Vivianne Haenni, of Switzerland, doctoral students at the SDA Theological Seminary, led a workshop on the "ministry of reconciliation."





Lonna Tachenko Milburn
Outstanding Achievement Award



Lilya Wagner
Work/Professional Life Award



Hazel Burns
Church Life Award



Mary E. Henderson
Home/Family/Community Award

Sabbath: A Feast of Blessings

by Jane Allen

By Sabbath, those of us who had traveled to Santa Clara from the Eastern United States had pretty well adjusted to Pacific Daylight Savings Time, and were able to take in the full day's schedule of meetings and activities without a nap break.

First on the agenda was the President's Breakfast for the presentation of the 1991 Women of the Year Awards.

And the winners are

Dr. Lonna Tachenko Milburn: Outstanding Achievement Award. Elizabeth Sterndale, director of the North American Division Office of Women's Ministries, presented Lonna Milburn to us. Milburn had journeyed to California from Fairfield, North Dakota, to accept this award.

Milburn holds a Ph.D. in nursing and is currently working on an M.B.A. She has also developed family-life seminars, women's prayer groups, provided outreach activities to aid the homeless, and was the first woman elder of the South Austin, Texas, Adventist church. Her ministry there is believed to have been a key element in causing the church to grow from 31 members to more than 170 members.

Mary E. Henderson: Home/Family Award. Mary Henderson established the Henderson House in McMinnville, Oregon, to shelter abused women and children. Because of her untiring dedication to this worthy cause, the Chamber of Commerce for Yamhill County named her their Woman of the Year in 1989.

Once an abused wife herself, Henderson determined to help others with her hard-won experience. She wanted to establish an organization that provided practical help, hope, and the love of Christ to women suffering from these traumas. She is also active in her local church as communications assistant, a church board member, leader of a women's prayer band, and member of the nominating committee.

Dr. Lilya Wagner: Work/Professional Award. The faculty and staff at Union College say unequivocally that without Lilya Wagner's fund-raising efforts, Union College (Lincoln, Nebraska) would have faced certain financial disaster. As vice president for advancement, she raised more than \$4.7 million in two and one-half years to help pay off the college's operating debt.

Wagner, who holds a doctorate in education, and master's degrees in music and journalism, is now a member of the faculty of the Fund Raising School, Center on Philanthropy, at Indiana University in Indianapolis.

Hazel Burns: Church Life Award. Formerly a beautician, Hazel Burns left the business of hair spray and curling irons for a permanent career in a ministry of Bible studies. She is a local elder in the Kettering, Ohio, Adventist church, and a much-

sought-after speaker at retreats, ministers' and women's groups.

Though unpaid, Hazel ministers to everyone from multimillionaires who want Bible studies to poor families who need counsel, to conference officials who need reassurance that someone is praying for them.

Startling discoveries

Enlightened, outraged, and angered are a few ways to describe our responses to "A Synopsis of Women in Christian History" presented by Pastor Margo Pitrone for the Sabbath morning study hour.

Pitrone, a pastor in San Diego, California, demonstrated from historical research that women have served as ministers right from the first century. For example, translated documents in the Princeton Theological Seminary library, known as the "Apostolic Constitutions," include an ancient prayer of ordination for female ministers (which was first discovered by two Catholic priests in 1956, but has remained unheralded and unwelcome by scholars and Christian leaders.)

Pitrone gave a succinct but sweeping account of women and the church during the past 20 centuries.

God's woman of the hour

Dynamic is a gross understatement for the morning message and God's woman of the hour, Pastor Hyveth Williams of the Boston Temple in Boston, Massachusetts.

Williams spoke forthrightly of events at the 1990 General Conference session in Indianapolis and the action not to ordain women to the gospel ministry. She pointed out that the very things the GC delegates feared would occur should women be ordained—disunity, dissension, and diversion—are occurring without ordination of women.

"We don't need permission from any man or woman to minister for God," she challenged. "Women are not a mission field, but a mighty force for God. We are ministering women."

Williams asked the group to let go of the past and be willing to forgive. "We must not allow ourselves to be overcome by nonessentials. We must strive to turn things around and make a positive impact on church leaders. We can only do that only with unconditional love."

Pathbreaker Vignette

Sabbath afternoon's program began when Ifoema Kwesi, an M.Div. student at the SDA Theological Seminary, presented the story of Eva B. Dykes, the first black woman in America to receive a Ph.D. Dykes taught for 25 years at Howard University, became a Seventh-day Adventist, helped found Pine Forge Academy, and made her a lasting mark on Oakwood College because she insisted on excellence. "She died at the age of 93 leaving us a legacy of hope," says Kwesi.

The Gender Inclusiveness Task Force Story

Dr. Penny Miller, from Loma Linda University, has chaired the Gender Inclusiveness Task Force for the Southeastern California Conference since it was mandated into existence by the January 1989 SECC constituents. "We were full of hope to change things in a hurry," she said. "Now we've all earned a Purple Heart."

Originally, GITF had 20 members and funding equal to one-half of a pastoral salary. Raymond F. Cottrell has served ably as project director.

When Conference President Steven Gifford failed to endorse women's ordination, last October, he established a new group, a Justice Commission. The roles of the two organizations overlap. Funding has been hard to get since then.

But GITF members are undaunted. The projects they've completed include: a video about women in ministry called "What's Good for the Gospel?"; a slide-tape program entitled "Whose Church Is This?"; and a pamphlet inserted into the Pacific Union Recorder which reprints an article by Dr. John Brunt discussing the hermeneutics of texts used by anti-ordinationists. The newest video celebrates the first 25 years of women in ministry in SECC. (It was 25 years ago that Peg Hempt joined the pastoral staff of the Loma Linda University church, beginning as a Bible worker.)

GITF also worked to influence the Pacific Union Conference constituency this year by supplying names of qualified women for consideration by the nominating committee, and then by getting some names introduced right from the floor, "a first in our history," Miller said. In this connection, she quoted Smuts Van Rooyan who said, "The first job in raising the dead is to raise their eyebrows."

The feast continues

Approximately 130 attended the banquet Saturday evening. Highlights of the

program included messages by Leonard Bailey, M.D., pediatrics cardiologist from Loma Linda University Medical Center, and his wife, Nancy Bailey.

Mrs. Bailey said, "I'm glad to be here, but I know pioneering such as you are doing is painful, too." Mrs. Bailey is a member of the California Commission on the Status of Women for her county. "Leonard and I have learned," she said, "that trying to bring change, when communities don't want to be changed, can bring a lot of flack."

She noted that women enrolled in LLU are on the rise. For example, in the medical and dental schools there were 631 males and 309 females last year. "When Leonard graduated in 1969 there were just three females in his class," Mrs. Bailey noted.

As for women in church and society, Mrs. Bailey called on AAW members not to be entrapped in others' agendas. "Let's make our own agendas," she urged. "Let's not wait for boards to give us their approval."

What issues does she believe women can impact? Domestic violence. Quality of education. Exploitation of women by the media and society. "Don't give in or give up. Don't divide—embrace each other."

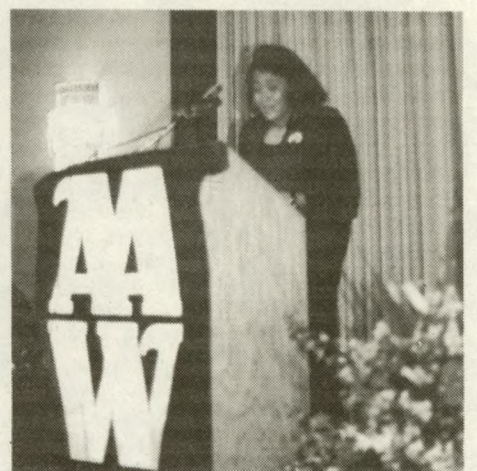
Tribute to Leona G. Running

One of the highlights of the evening was the 12-minute tribute Merikay McLeod, of San Jose, California, made to Dr. Leona Running. In 1955 Running became the first woman (and one of the few ever) to join the faculty of the SDA Theological Seminary. Among the languages she speaks or has taught are biblical Greek, Hebrew, Syriac, Akkadian, Egyptian, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish. (The tribute is reprinted on page 5).

At the close of the tribute an announcement was made that a commemorative book program will be established in her honor at Andrews University. Running's priceless response? "This leaves me speechless in many languages."



Banquet speakers Len and Nancy Bailey



Hyveth Williams preached Sabbath morning.

Leona G. Running: Scholar, teacher, author, and great human being

by Merikay McLeod

Tonight we pay tribute to Dr. Leona Glidden Running—teacher, scholar, author, editor, Adventist pioneer.

Her life, like most women's lives, has been lived in many spheres: she's been a student, a wife, a daughter, a behind-the-scenes helper, a caretaker, and through every experience, Leona Running has left those lives she touched, transformed.

Multilingual labors of love

After earning a bachelor's degree in 1937, Leona taught German and French at Laurelwood Academy in Oregon for four years. For three of those years she also served as the school's librarian.

She then moved to Glendale, California, where in 1942 she married Leif H. Running, whose untimely death four years later brought a sudden and tragic end to their relationship.

She worked at the Voice of Prophecy and was responsible for Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Italian scripts for the radio broadcast.

In the early 1950s, she served as copy editor for *Ministry Magazine*, headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Larry Geraty, president of Atlantic Union College and a former student of hers, says that Leona was not only a copy editor, she also served as a secretary to many of the General Conference men, proofing their work and catching errors of language and content. She had a reputation for meticulousness. Geraty told me, "She improved their work and they took the credit."

While at the General Conference, she studied Biblical Greek and Hebrew at the Adventist Theological Seminary in Takoma Park, and earned a master's degree in 1955. In 1964 she received her doctorate in Semitic languages from Johns Hopkins University and was hired by the seminary to teach biblical languages. Leona Running was the first woman to join the regular faculty at the seminary.

While at Johns Hopkins, she served as William Foxwell Albright's research and editorial assistant. She has coauthored the definitive biography of this world-renowned archeologist. Her book, *William Foxwell Albright: A 20th-Century Genius*, was published in 1975. I understand that it will be reissued next year for the 100th anniversary of Albright's birth.

The most telling credential

More than the degrees after her name, this woman's life story is her most telling credential, but a résumé like this gives us a chance to identify with our sister.

Like Leona, many of us have served as teachers doing double duty with no extra pay. Like Leona, many of us have had to work days and take classes at night to complete our education. Like Leona, many of us have taken on extra tasks for men—polishing their prose, typing their papers, streamlining their projects—and gaining our reward from the knowledge (rather than the acknowledgement) that we had an important part in their success. Like Leona, some of us have pioneered, serving as the only or the first woman in some capacity.

For many years Leona cared for invalid relatives, supporting them with her less-than-equal income, and enriching their lives with her loving comfort. Like her, many of us have or will serve loved ones in a caretaking capacity.

So a quick rundown of her personal and professional accomplishments is a good way to remind us that, like us, she has lived a woman's life in a world that is very hard on women. But Leona Running has done more than simply survive.

Words of life

The woman we pay tribute to tonight breathes new life into stodgy old traditions, startling men's minds into fresh awareness.

Fritz Guy, president of La Sierra



Merikay McLeod (left) and Lorna Tobler paid tribute to Leona G. Running (center) for her many talents, a career of distinguished service at the SDA Theological Seminary, and for all the Adventist women whom she has encouraged by her example.

University, told me with great enthusiasm about a meeting of seminary faculty and General Conference officials that Leona made unforgettable.

"I don't remember why the GC men were at Andrews, but you can bet it wasn't for pleasantries," Guy told me. "Whenever the GC wanted to talk to the seminary people, it was because of a problem, or to whip us into line. But what makes this meeting stand out in my mind is Leona. She offered opening prayer, and she began, 'Our Heavenly Parent.' It was startling. It was wonderful!"

Do you see the power of this woman?

She changed one word and made the entire event unforgettable for those who were there. She changed one word, and opened minds and awakened hearts.

Leona's impact is immeasurable. For 30 years, anyone going through seminary and studying Greek or Hebrew, had her for a teacher. The men who studied under her read like a Who's Who in contemporary Adventist history. And they all have memories of her stirring their sleepy brains awake.

Seeds of curiosity

Dick Winn, former president of Weimar Institute, said, "She loved those old languages. Her eyes would twinkle as she showed us how the original text held so much more than we had been taught in the past. Because of her broad education, she could point out errors in English translations that have led to erroneous assumptions about God, and about the relationship of men and women to each other and to God. You could tell she just loved planting seeds of curiosity in our minds, opening us to larger possibilities."

The T-shirt

While some women are known for their jewelry or their designer gowns, Leona Running is known for a T-shirt. Everyone, without exception, talks about it.

Larry Geraty remembers, "One day she came to class, wearing her coat, and at the perfect moment, she took the coat off, and there was this T-shirt that read, 'A woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle.'"

Fritz Guy says she wore the T-shirt in the halls of the seminary. "Can you imagine that T-shirt on a faculty member in the stuffy, musty old halls of the seminary?" he laughed. "She was always

stirring up our minds."

As a seminary teacher, she had a reputation for being rigorous. There was a kind of snob appeal at having studied under Dr. Running.

Earl Hilgert, a seminary colleague, said she is notable for her utter devotion to whatever she espouses. "She gives herself totally and without reserve," he said. "She was an excellent teacher and the most helpful, outgoing human being you can imagine."

That helpfulness, that caring capacity has touched many lives. That caring capacity is partly responsible for our being here tonight. Viveca Black, founder of the Association of Adventist Women, credits Leona with AAW's inspiration. The year that Viveca's mother became so ill, Viveca was having a difficult time in school. She got all Incompletes one semester because she had to make so many trips to be with her mother. Viveca was running out of money for tuition and she was growing discouraged.

Helping Adventist women

"Leona invited me over to her house one day and told me that she had been saving money and had formed her own fund to help women," Viveca told me. "Here she had worked all those years with inferior women's pay, she had struggled to support her husband when he was sick, and she'd helped her parents. Despite all that, she'd saved money to help those women she noticed were having a hard time. And so she said she could help me. She asked how much money I needed, and she supplied that amount. She explained that this was not a gift; it was a loan. When I paid it back she could help someone else. But there was no deadline; I didn't need to pay it back until I could. Then she took me under her wing, had me live with her, gave me free room and board. Made sure I had a balanced diet and didn't need to worry about anything but getting rid of my Incompletes."

Viveca continued, "Her interest in me at my moment of need made me realize how much we as women need to help and support each other. Out of that experience with her, I decided to form a group to make connections and help one another. That's where the inspiration for the Association of Adventist Women

came from."

Daniel Augsburg, a colleague of hers at the SDA Theological Seminary, said, "No matter what you say about Leona that is good, it will be but a feeble representation of this most interesting woman."

Speaking out

Leona Running was one of the first women within the Adventist formal structure to speak out about the limitations the church imposes on women. She rarely misses an opportunity to underscore the problems women face.

I know that many of you have read or heard Leona's uncompromising statements on women in church and society. But for those of you who are not quite sure what I am referring to, I want to share just a couple of paragraphs from an article she wrote for *Hers Magazine*. This was published in 1973. Listen to these words and see how accurate and how current they are.

Leona Running wrote: "The fact is that our very religious training has come to us filtered through men's minds, and from a Holy Book written by men with prevailing cultural assumptions during millennia of male domination of the world.

"We have been brainwashed by church and society all our lives; but we women of the church are beginning, along with women in secular life, to counteract this male-dominant religious and cultural brainwashing and to understand and claim an equal place under God.

"What women really want of the church is a Christian environment and an educational environment and a work environment that will enhance not only their own outlook on life but the outlook of those with whom they associate in work or in marriage."

Sharing information

When the Pacific Press equal pay drama was playing out here, Leona served as an information pipeline to women and men at Andrews who cared about the issues. Viveca Black said, "Whenever she got a new set of briefs, she'd xerox a copy for me. I'd share it with other students. She kept us all posted. When I picked up the newest instalment, she'd give me a little overview and would say something like, 'Be sure to read page 889; you won't believe it!' She had this outrage, and, at the same time, this wild sense of joy about the Press mess."

One way Leona is always helping is by sharing information. In 1981 she donated her personal collection of materials on "Women in Church and Society" to the Adventist Heritage Center, an archives and research center in the James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

To date, Dr. Running's collection includes more than 85 books and pamphlets, 40 cassette tapes, and 70 folders of newspaper and magazine articles, manuscripts, and other items.

Fritz Guy, after lauding Leona and chuckling with admiration about her intellect, her strength, her authenticity, and her ability to remain totally uncowed by artificial authority, said that one day he walked into her classroom for some reason. Class was over and the room was empty. On the chalkboard someone had written, "Running is a hard act to follow."

Thank you, Leona, for what you have given us. Thank you for being who you are and for showing us who we can be.

As a symbolic token of our love and esteem, we will hang this plaque in the James White Library at Andrews to remind all who see it of your contribution to our lives. It's been a privilege to share this planet with you. And yes, Dr. Leona Running, you are a hard act to follow.



Elizabeth Sterndale described goals of the NAD Office of Women's Ministries.



Eliane Haenni reported on work for French-speaking Adventist women in Europe.



Annie Pouban did the cover art for the AAW program. She also edits a newsletter for French-speaking Adventist women.



Vickie Danielsen, editor of *Ponderings*, talked about the goals of the Adventist Women's Institute (AWI).

Sunday: Having a Ball

by Rosemary Bradely Watts

It was to be my last day—my last morning—at the conference, for like Cinderella at the ball, I had to be home by midnight.

My stop at the AAW hospitality center Sunday morning captured the essence of the weekend as I experienced it—food for body, fun for soul, and friends for generating memories and thoughts about the future.

Mary Mooy, a long-time casual friend from my academy days, was making certain the food was available. Fresh breads, cheese, apricots, and Santa Clara prunes stirred in me the memory of orchards blowing flowers in spring, a richness that today's computer factories in Silicon Valley will never compete with.

Pat Horning Benton, my dear friend—my sister—was in earnest conversation with Penny Miller, whose talk the day before had made me wish to know her. I made the twosome a trio and soon we were all by turns laughing and serious as we talked about the adventures of the Gender Inclusiveness Task Force in the Southeastern California Conference.

Swiss miss

Later, as I listened to the Pathbreaker Vignette, presented by Vivianne Haenni about Louise Herminie Roth I remembered the wonderful promise Ellen White gave us when she said that there is no limit to the usefulness of a person who has turned his/her life over to Christ.

This wonderful Swiss woman, Louise Roth, at age 105, is still encouraging young women to break their own paths. She has been teacher, Bible worker, pastor, and dean. She was born in 1886, baptized at age 14, and became a member of the Tramelan church, the first Adventist church established in Europe. About 1918 she went as a missionary to Haiti where she opened the *Seminaire Adventiste d'Haiti*, a secondary school.

Though bedridden now, she mentors and inspires. Troubles, of course, have been a part of her life, but "I never knit over them," she says. I particularly enjoyed hearing about her attitude toward old age. At 75 Roth still lived in her own small home near an "old folks home" because she wanted companionship, but she didn't want to *live* "with all those old people." At age 90 she learned to type because her handwriting was getting shaky.

World reports of women's ministries

Hosting the morning session was Bernie Beck, one of the three coordinators of the conference, whose phrase of exuberant affirmation to introduce everyone was, "She is God's gift to me."

The first report was given by Eliane Haenni, who told of the four conferences our Adventist sisters in France have held for women. At the end of her report she reminded us that we should work with the fragrance of God's love in our lives, performing the world around us. Then as we

sat listening to the rest of the reports she moved from chair to chair kneeling by each person so everyone could choose a spritz of one of the French perfumes she had brought us as a gift. She did not neglect the men in the group, either.

Other reports followed in quick succession—just enough information to let us know the organizations are alive and well.

Adventist Women's Institute (AWI). Vickie Danielsen, editor of their paper, *Ponderings*, cleared up some misconceptions about AWI's tithe escrow fund. She stressed that the tithe is sacred to God. She noted that people who chose to place money in the fund are not withholding their tithe. "They are paying it." AWI is not using the money at all, Danielsen emphasized, but merely holding it in escrow until the ordination of women is endorsed by the church.

Adventist Women's Coalition (AWC). Beth Wear reported about this new group since Helen Thompson, chief coordinator, couldn't come. AWC's goal is to make it possible for existing Adventist women's groups to speak to the church with one (louder) voice about affirmative action. To support this ongoing, pinpoint ministry of letters and telephone calls to church leaders, individuals can join for \$35, and groups can join by negotiating a fee.

TEAM (Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry). Rebecca Brillhart and Kay Rosburg stated that TEAM's reason for being is to promote equity in the church. TEAM is a network of more than 200 people who help fund special projects. One under study now would set up scholarships to support and encourage women attending the SDA Theological Seminary.

Mary's Place. Kit Watts and Penny Shell looked surprised by the enthusiastic response they got when they told us how they and Bev Habada run a once-a-month worship service for and by women in Takoma Park, Maryland. "We always have women preachers." (Applause!) "We use inclusive language in our prayers." (Applause!) "We freely modify the text of hymns so God is not pictured as male." (Applause!)

Office of Women's Ministries—North America. Elizabeth Sterndale, director of the newly established office, had an hour to describe how the office came into being (including AAW's strong lobbying for it). She told about some activities underway and what her own work is like as a member of the NAD officer group. (Committees take a lot of her time.)

Sterndale also said that the General Conference Governance Commission—which will overhaul how work is done at the GC headquarters (like who and how many sit on the decision-making committees) would bring their final recommendations in July. Later this year, NAD will set up a similar committee. Sterndale will be the secretary, assuring at least one woman's direct input into this historic restructuring of the church. She admitted, though, that the prospect for women's input in decision-making committees is very dim, indeed. When committees are cut to five or seven members, women will be lucky to have one member.

And then it was time for me to go. Kit promised she would complete the Sunday report, which was good, but not the same as being able to stay and do it myself. I didn't want to go. My celebrating wasn't finished, but my midnight approached and I left the ball.



On Friday and Sunday, conference attendees could choose among 18 workshops. Pastor Margo Pitrone of San Diego led a well-attended session for women in ministry.



Viveca Black, AAW founder, held a workshop on how to build upon your dreams.



Merikay McLeod defined forms of sexual harassment in the workplace.



Rebecca Brillhart described TEAM and its efforts to educate about equality.



Using her experience in legal work, Shirley Gear worked with Beth Wear to help shape the AWC constitution and bylaws.



Beth Wear brought consensus on the proposed goals of AWC. She also chaired the 1991 conference resolutions committee.



Bernie Beck (left) and Martha Hoffman provided generous hospitality and managed hundreds of details as they co-directed the 1991 AAW conference along with Lorna Tobler.

AWC ORGANIZES, HOLDS FIRST BOARD MEETING

From front page

viduals will be represented on the AWC board by having at least two seats.

The first groups to join AWC and to also have representatives at the first AWC board meeting on July 4 were: **Association of Adventist Women**, Elisabeth Wear; **Bible Instructors' Guild**, L. J. Hughes for Isabelle Dickens; **Mary's Place**, Penny Shell and Kit Watts; **TEAM**, Rebecca Brillhart and Delight Clapp; **individuals**, Marta Teel; **invited guest**, Elizabeth Sterndale, Office of Women's Ministry, North American Division. Others involved in the follow-up committees included Shirley Gear of California, Donna Haerich of Florida, and Jeannette Bryson of Massachusetts.

The coalition has its roots in a meeting in Addison, Pennsylvania, last September. More than 30 women from across North America spent a weekend discussing their response to the defeat of women's ordination by vote of the world church in Indianapolis. AWC grew out of the work of five coordinators and an *ad hoc* steering committee. Over the winter members of the committee wrote and critiqued several drafts of the AWC bylaws. With a few revisions, the Santa Clara group approved their work.

(For information about AWC write to Dr. Helen Thompson, Route 1, Box 84, Walla Walla, WA 99362.)

Three AAW conferees also serve as California women's commissioners

Three participants attending the AAW Conference are also members of the California Commission on the Status of Women. The commission's agenda deals with issues of health, child care, education, employment and economic rights, as well as violence.

Nancy Bailey was appointed to the San Bernardino County Commission, Merikay McLeod is a commissioner for Santa Clara County, and Julie Pearce is a commis-

sioner for Napa County.

The local commissioners deal with local issues and priorities. Julie Pearce, for example, coordinated the health section workshops for the state conference in March 1991. Presentations included care of elderly family members and women with AIDS. In her workshops Pearce presented information on female hormones and depression.

AAW 1991 conference resolutions

Church urged to adopt gender-inclusive policies, language, equal pay

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Association of Adventist Women urges the Seventh-day Adventist Church, at the General Conference, union, conference, and local church level, to address the following issues which impact women:

- Abuse and incest in families, and sexual harassment within church structures and programs.**
These situations could be addressed through:
(a) referrals to area support groups or resources
(b) denominational publications
(c) local church support groups.
- Qualified counselors.**
We recommend that the Office of Women's Ministries for the North American Division publish a list that includes Adventist and non-Adventist crisis and family counselors. Such a list should be given to all workers and volunteers at the union, conference, institution, and local church level.
- Funding for women's ministries and women in leadership roles.**
We recommend that provision for women's ministries work be included in church budgets at all levels.
We also recommend that specific funding should be earmarked to advance women within the church structure.
- Women's ordination to gospel ministry.**
We recommend that the church recognize that women's ordination is an essential step in the growth and development of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
- Women's health.**
We recommend that the church affirm a woman's rights to make her own choices regarding her personal health.
- Camp meeting speakers.**
We urge conference leaders to include capable women pastors, chaplains, and other professional women as speakers for camp meetings.
- Gender inclusiveness.**
We recommend that conference leaders provide church employees and lay leaders with training in inclusive leadership, and that gender inclusive models, materials, and language be used in Sabbath school programs, especially for children.
- Equal pay.**
We call on the world church to adopt the policy of equal pay for equal work, and to adopt an equal opportunity statement applicable in all divisions of the world church.

As members of the Association of Adventist Women we call upon ourselves and our AAW leaders to address the following issues:

- Caucuses.**
We recommend that at each national/international conference, at least one time period be scheduled for women from each union conference of the church to caucus.
- Media coverage.**
We recommend that AAW leaders provide effective media coverage of AAW events and activities.
- Move beyond the English language.**
We recommend that AAW publications dealing with women's issues also be published in languages other than English.
- Newly established Offices for Women's Ministries.**
We recommend that AAW support the Women's Ministries directors at the division, union, and

local conference levels through a two-way dialogue on a regular basis and, when possible, face-to-face.

- Speak prophetically.**
We recommend that AAW leaders continue to bring women's issues to the forefront in all areas of the church, through media coverage, and all other avenues of communication with members.
- Scholarship fund.**
We recommend that AAW solicit funds for scholarships to support and encourage women who are training for gospel ministry.

COMMENDATIONS:

The Association of Adventist Women

- Commends Robert S. Folkenberg and the General Conference leadership** for recognizing the gifts and needs of Adventist women by establishing the Office of Women's Ministries and by appointing Rose Otis as director.
- Commends Alfred C. McClure and the North American Division leadership** for leading the world church in recognizing the gifts and needs of Adventist women by establishing the Office of Women's Ministries and by appointing Elizabeth Sterndale as director, and Ramona Perez Greek as assistant director.
- Commends the Bay Area AAW Chapter and co-directors Martha Hoffman, Bernie Beck, and Lorna Tobler** for organizing and coordinating a conference outstanding for its hospitality, diversity, and spiritual energy. In particular we commend them for recognizing the sacrifices, achievements, and deep commitments of Adventist women through the presentation of Pathbreaker Vignettes.
- Offers its sincere appreciation to Elizabeth Sterndale (NAD) and Shirley Burton (GC Communication)** for their participation in this ninth annual conference.

Resolution Committee Members:

Beth Wear, chair; Shirley Gear, Delight Clapp, Bertha Dasher, Alyce Pudewell, Shari Craig, Peggy Harris (ex officio), Kit Watts (invitee).

AAW MISSION STATEMENT

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Genesis 1:27.

In God's sight each individual has the potential to make a valuable contribution to our world. It is the purpose of this group of Adventist women to help individuals in our church reflect more fully the image of God in their relationships to others in the home, the church, the work place, and the community.

This association, which focuses on the development, discoveries, interests, and potentials of Adventist women, has these goals:

- To encourage communication, sup-

port, and wider understanding among Adventist women in diverse situations.

- To acquaint the church community at large with Adventist women's potential and achievements.

- To assist Adventist women in achieving fulfillment in their personal development, interpersonal relationships with others, and their relationship to God.

- To help Adventist women maximize their options, whatever their age and situation, so they may reflect more fully the image of God.



Dagmar Clottu, concert pianist from Europe, performed during the conference.



Elvina Tomenko, theology student at CUC, talked about life in the Soviet Union.



Ginger Hanks Harwood, religion teacher at PUC, gave the closing message.



Yvonne Stratton, physician, led an open-ended discussion about what lies ahead.

Monday: Food for the Journey

by Kit Watts

It was like a relay race, doing these reports on the conference. By Sunday noon, Pat, Jane, and Rosie had heaved sighs of release and tucked away their notebooks. I was still in the race—for facts, for quotes, for getting names spelled right. In fact, by picking up the baton at noon on Sunday, I actually missed saying goodbye to my friend, Rosie, and our after-18-years-at-last-a-reunion ended in a blur.

This was my ninth AAW conference. I haven't missed one. So, believe what I say—this conference had amazing vitality and spiritual energy. The good things just wouldn't stop coming: they fountained over us, filling our souls as we laughed and sang, wept and prayed.

Fount of blessing

For one thing, concert pianist Dagmar Clottu played exquisite music for us throughout the weekend. She was part of Vivianne Haenni's train of devoted friends and family who, at considerable expense, had flown in from Europe especially for the AAW conference. The beauty of her music transformed any hour, any emotion.

The Pathbreaker Vignettes were riveting. Suddenly we met, through the living voice of someone who in most cases had personally known them, courageous Adventist women who had gone before us. On Thursday night I was fascinated by Esther Hashimoto's story of her mother, who had helped raise up the first Japanese church in San Francisco.

Sunday night Elvina Tomenko, a young Russian woman who is studying theology at Columbia Union College, told us about Teresa Melnick and Catherine Tomenko, her grandmother and mother, respectively. Elvina, we learned, is following in her grandmother's footsteps. In the 1930s Teresa studied theology, attending the Adventist seminary in Romania.

As Elvina spoke, we found ourselves transported, reaching out to touch these women whose lives intertwined with the history and hardship of Adventism in the Soviet Union. Despite war, terror, and religious oppression, these women of faith persevered. They infused Elvina herself with the courage to resist, to fast and pray, to stand for the Sabbath, and see God's miraculous intervention firsthand.

The conference had workshops galore. At last count there were at least 18 choices—but we had time to attend only

four. I joined my good friend Margo Pitrone, pastor from San Diego, who ably led the two-part section for women in ministry. On Friday at least 25 women told their stories of how God had led them into their ministries. (Many were pastors and chaplains, but not all.) During the Sunday session people forthrightly aired their feelings and brainstormed about next year's conference.

By popular demand Irene Longfellow was back for "Sunday Night Live." (Some of you remember her in Orlando in 1989). For a wonderful half hour she gave us laughter. To help us drown our serious issues—ordination, the Superwoman syndrome, male chauvinism—and all the baggage of slights and slurs, anger and frustration that goes with them—Irene gave us cartoons. Jokes. Banter. Caricatures. Sheer nonsense. She had it all. We laughed. We laughed until we cried. We hooted. I think the men enjoyed it as much as we did.

Stunning finish

As I said, this conference had amazing vitality and spiritual energy. Monday morning provided the grand finale. Besides three inspirational speeches—by Lorna Tobler, Merikay McLeod, and Ginger Hanks-Harwood—the conference planners wisely provided an hour to solicit feelings about the weekend and ideas on where Adventist women should go from here. Yvonne Stratton, a gynecologist who had also conducted a workshop on women's health, capably led the roundtable discussion.

Like popcorn over a hot fire the ideas filled the air. Ideas ranged from sponsoring women to study theology so that women could step into teaching positions in religion in Adventist colleges, to voluntarily entering local church politics. For example, if women get on the church nominating committees they could invite men to lead out in areas that have been traditionally left to women.

In her parting words Yvonne advised us to value our friendships with one another. "We're too busy; we must make time for each other."

Offering the final Pathbreaker Vignette, Lorna Tobler dipped into the rich history of Adventist women in Mountain View. Pacific Press moved here in 1904 after 30 years in Oakland.

Here Lucinda Hall served as the first

treasurer. She received equal pay with the men—\$12 per week. Mary K. White, wife of Willie, became assistant editor of *Signs of the Times* in 1877. She also edited books, including portions of the *Great Controversy*. Alma McKibben, a beloved teacher who moved to Mountain View later in life, authored the first Bible textbooks for Adventist schools.

Ellen White made her impact on Pacific Press. Women were often her strongest supporters as she helped establish new Adventist institutions. White also gave serious rebukes to church leaders for giving women low pay.

Resounding ovation

Finally, Tobler introduced Merikay McLeod (formerly Silver) who in the early 1970s asked Pacific Press management for equal pay. They declined, saying, "If we gave you head of household [status], then we'd have to do it for all the widows." In spite of the church leaders who tried to intimidate, discredit, and disfellowship her, Merikay clung to her principles. She said, "I may cry but I won't quit." Needless to say, Merikay received a resounding ovation from the audience.

In her speech, "Who do you think you are?" McLeod challenged us to discover our own values and to define them for ourselves rather than accepting wholesale the values of family, employer, or church. "Personally, what I have come to value the most is freedom," she said. "I find pleasure in the freedom to hold my own opinions, and then, as I get more knowledge, to freely change them."

Since no one else can tell you who you

are, it is important to discover yourself, Merikay said. "For me it began with shock treatment 18 years ago. I suddenly found myself freed from many things that had defined me—friends, marriage, a writing career, my job. What was left was me. And so I embarked on a glorious new life discovery." [The *Adventist Woman* plans to reprint Merikay's speech in a future issue.]

Feast of imagery

In the final moments of the conference Ginger Harwood, newly appointed religion teacher at Pacific Union College, put a challenge to us in the form of a prayer. She explained that, "When people wonder what women's chances of success are in the church, at least they can't say we 'don't have a prayer.'"

Drawing on Old and New Testament biblical images Harwood asserted that "we have dreamed dreams, and we have seen visions." She recalled heroines of faith, including Deborah, the daughters of Zelophehad, Miriam, Priscilla, Junia, and the four daughters of Philip. She concluded, "Oh, God, heal our amnesia. Set us free to follow, to reflect Your image, and to call Your people to Your banquet table."

Mizpah

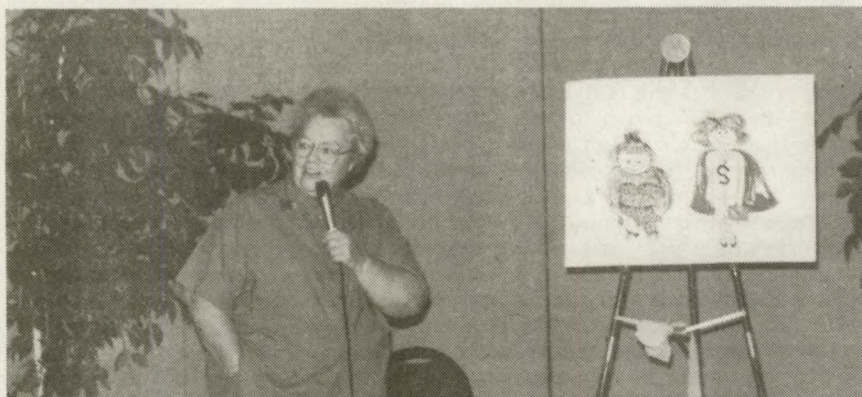
At noon Martha Hoffman, flanked by women from four different cultures, led us in the Mizpah. Linking arms and hearts, we thanked God for those who had given energy and vitality to provide this gathering of faith. We had feasted on blessings. And we had received food for the long journey ahead.



Cynthia Williams offered her comments during the roundtable discussion.



Penny Miller told the Gender Inclusiveness Task Force Story.



Even women's worst scenarios can be humorous if Irene Longfellow has a chance at them.



Chaplain Penny Shell spoke about inclusive language used at Mary's Place.



Pastor Halcyon Wilson shared her observations about the ninth AAW conference.