

the Adventist Woman



Good weather and vacation options are part of the plans for the seventh AAW Conference to be held in Orlando, Florida, this fall. Shown here are some of the planning committee members (left to right): Jane Allen; Sherri Craig, president; Ethel Steward, Brenda Gray, and Donna Haerich.

Lindy Chamberlain—special guest

Floridians will host AAW annual meeting September 28-October 1

by Jane Allen

The Central Florida Chapter of the Association of Adventist Women is hosting the seventh annual conference September 28 to October 1 in Orlando. The theme will be "The Adventist Woman and Relationships: Pursuing the Ideal."

Lindy Chamberlain of Australia has verbally agreed to be the keynote speaker, and the planning committee is presently working out the details with her. Chamberlain, whose experience is told in the book *Evil Angels* and in the movie "A Cry in the Dark," was acquitted last September of charges that she had murdered her infant daughter.

Seminars on a variety of subjects are planned for the conference, including women's leadership styles, relationships in the family circle, single parenting, abuse, divorce recovery, grief recovery, and egalitarian marriage. Some programs will be presented in Spanish.

Another highlight of the four-day conference is an agape feast on Friday evening,

which has become a tradition at AAW conferences. A local amateur theater group will present Ibsen's "A Doll House" on Saturday evening, and a report of the current status of ordination for Adventist women who are pastors and chaplains will be presented on Sabbath afternoon. The planning committee is still working on some other features of the conference, which is designed to address real needs and concerns of many Adventist women today, according to Sherri Craig, president of the Central Florida chapter.

With the possibility of some people combining the AAW conference with a vacation to the Orlando area, the chapter is preparing to host a well-attended conference.

Brochures and pre-registration forms are scheduled to be mailed in June. Updates on conference plans will be published in future issues of *The Adventist Woman*.

Jane Allen is director of corporate communications, AHS/Sunbelt.

Women's role in church explored by German SDAs

by Irmtraut Wittenburg

A group of German Adventists spent a weekend last September in the little town of Weikersheim probing the topic of women's role in the SDA Church.

In opening remarks, Rolf Gelhaar noted that the same topic had been discussed 14 years ago. He urged participants to ask themselves what had happened since then; had anything changed?

Petra Moormann, teacher at Marienhoehe College and one of the weekend coordinators, opened the program by referring to James Thurber's fable of "The Little Girl and the Wolf" which ends in the significant moral, "It is not so easy to fool little girls nowadays as it used to be."

In her meditation on Mary and Martha, psychologist Marianne Mulke-Geisler provided new ways of thinking about the old cliché of Martha as active hostess and Mary as passive listener. When members of the audience participated in role-playing, both women became real personalities and individuals with special traits of character.

On Sabbath morning Margarete Prange preached on the biblical view of women.

Prange, Germany's only ordained woman elder, was also a member of the 1988 General Conference Commission on the Role of Women, which met last March in Washington, D.C.

She pointed out that for God there is no difference between men and women. The Holy Spirit is given to all people who are baptized. The New Testament does not adopt a hierarchical model but envisions a ministry of all believers.

Prange challenged the audience to reread the Bible. Adventist tradition, she said, is not to keep the ashes but "to hold the gospel, burning."

Sabbath afternoon was for reporting. Wilfried Rinner gave an overview of the historical development of the role of women. Alice Ewert interpreted empirical research on "typical" behaviour of boys/men and girls/women. Irmtraut Wittenburg analyzed the role of women as seen in our Adventist magazines. She pointed out that during the past two years there has been almost no discus-

See GERMAN ADVENTISTS, p. 2

By SECC constituents' vote

Task force promotes gender inclusiveness

by Jocelyn Fay

Delegates to Southeastern California Conference's special constituency meeting on January 29 voted to establish a 12-member task force "to plan and implement a broad spectrum of programs and materials on gender inclusiveness in family and church."

This action also encourages women's involvement in all dimensions of the church's life and leadership; communicates to higher organizational bodies the will of Southeastern's constituency to ordain women in ministry as soon as possible; and places gender inclusiveness in ministry on the agenda for Southeastern's Triennial Session, May 21, 1989. An amendment to the action provides for a balanced presentation of the issues.

The task force, which is to have a half-time secretary, is to be funded by a budget at least equal to a half-time pastor's salary, in addition to the costs of materials and programs.

"In my opinion, this represents a building on our track record here in Southeastern," said Louis Venden, Loma Linda University church pastor, as he introduced the item for discussion.

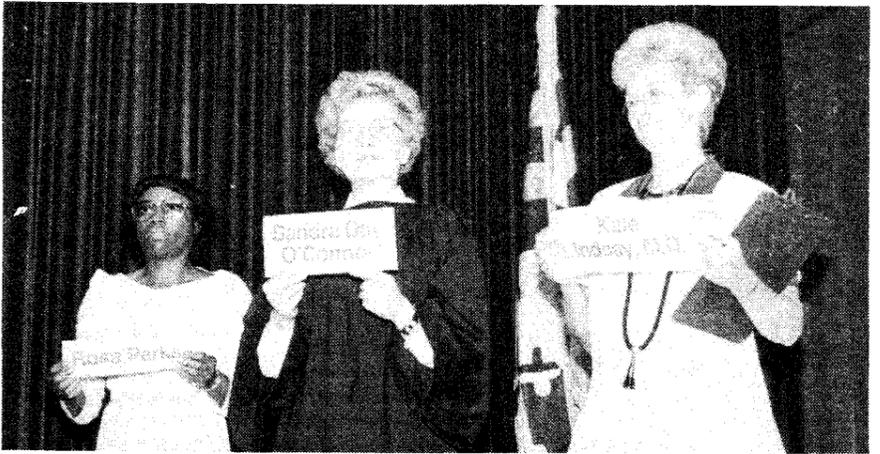
In 1986, the conference's constituency voted that its women pastors should be given the same status and responsibilities as men in similar positions. A subsequent North American Division action has enabled the conference to equalize their salaries. Southeast-

ern employs five women in pastoral positions (Peg Hempe's retirement from the LLU church on February 12 has brought the number down from six) and is subsidizing one woman pastor who is attending the SDA Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Although several people spoke against the action, the majority of speech-makers favored it. Rhoenna Armster, from San Diego, summed up the feeling of many when she said, "This is an issue whose time for implementation is long overdue." Gloria Ochoa, delegate from the Indio Spanish church, urged that educational materials generated by this task force be made available in Spanish as well as English.

L. Stephen Gifford, conference president, says that the constituency action will be referred to the Conference Executive Committee for implementation. "This action calls for a half-time salary in a year when we're making major cutbacks to keep our budget balanced," Gifford says, "but we're here to carry out the will of our members. Our Conference Committee will be discussing this soon, and I have no doubt that they'll find a way to implement it."

Jocelyn Fay is Communication Director of the Southeastern California Conference.



Women's history came alive in an employee chapel program last year at the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Maryland. Show left to right: Edith Cartwright as Rose Parks; Doris Pierce as Sandra Day O'Connor; and Rose Otis as Kate Lindsay, M.D.

For Women's History Month

R&H employees dramatize 12 famous women

March is Women's History Month. What can you do to initiate a celebration in your church, your work place, or your AAW Chapter?

One year ago Hepsi Singh, controller at the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Maryland, and a member of the GC Women's Ministries Advisory Committee, helped spark a special R&H chapel program highlighting famous women. She and Rose Otis, director of public relations, sought out 12 employees willing to study up on six women from world history and six from church history. From their personal research each participant found appropriate props, costumes, and developed a brief speech.

According to a write-up in the March 24, 1988, issue of *Typeline*, the R&H weekly newsheet, "It was an interesting-looking group, from Indian dress to long skirts to coveralls. Then there were the props: battered suitcases, a helmet, antique umbrella, an old book of poems, doctor's bag, baby doll, a copy of the Constitution of the United States, etc."

One by one the 12 women gave their three-minute speeches at the microphone. To encourage audience participation the program planners handed each R&H employee a list of 17 famous women and encouraged

See WOMEN'S HISTORY, p. 3

1988 Zapara Awards include 14 top-notch women

Fourteen women were among the 36 teachers who received the first Zapara Awards of Excellence in Teaching, which included a \$1,000 cash grant. From this group, three individuals were chosen as national winners and received an additional \$3,000 at the North American year-end meetings (November 1988) in Minneapolis. No women were among the three finalists.

Determined to boost Adventist educators, who have often been underpaid and underappreciated, Tom and Violet Zapara donated \$250,000 to be used in recognizing and rewarding teaching excellence in Adventist colleges in North America. The Zapara awards will be given out for five years.

A second set of awards, funded by an additional \$750,000 donation, will benefit academy and elementary school teachers. The first recipients in this group will be announced later this year.

To be nominated for the Zapara Award, college teachers had to meet several criteria including:

- full-time teaching status
- teaching excellence
- good student evaluations
- professional development
- concern for students

- good relationship with colleagues
- commitment to quality
- service in academic discipline/profession

The 14 women recipients, grouped by institution, were: Luanne J. Bauer (Andrews University); Deborah J. Brown (Columbia Union College); Margaret L. Rodenburg, (Kettering College of Medical Arts);

Mildred T. Akamine and Karen D. Wells (Loma Linda University); Lucile Lacy and Juliaette Phillips (Oakwood College); Barbara T. Jones and Frances Mosley (Southwestern Adventist College); Minon Hamm, Marilyn Lang McArthur, and Virginia Sim-

mons (Union College); and Rosemarie Buck and Donnie Thompson Rigby (Walla Walla College).

The male recipients were: Eric D. Anderson (PUB), Roy Benton (CUC), James Burns (CUC), Jon Dybdahl (WWC), Robert D. Egbert (CaUC), Dwain Ford (AU), Lawrence Ford (CaUC), Jan Haluska (SC), Ray Hefferlin (SC), Ronald Hershey (LLU), Vernon Howe (LLU), Oystein Sakala LaBianca (AU), Edward Lamb (SC), Roger McFarland (LLU), James Melancon (OC), Stacy Nelson (AUC), Clifford Pope (AUC), Gregory Schneider (PUC), Erwin Sicher (SAC), Charles Teel, Jr. (LLU), Steven Waters (PUC), and Myron Wehtje (AUC).



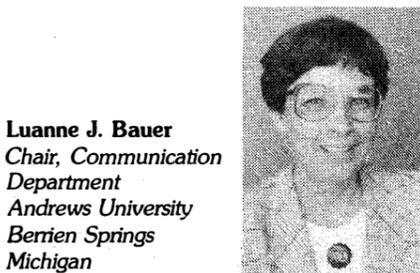
Mildred T. Akamine
Associate Professor
of Nursing
Loma Linda University
Loma Linda, California

According to one evaluation Mildred Akamine "motivates students toward excellence by modeling excellence."

Chosen from the faculty of the Loma Linda University School of Nursing, Akamine was cited for "her thought-provoking classes taught with knowledge and enthusiasm; for her demanding yet enabling guidances of her students; for her obvious Christian commitment; and for her ability to relate to her students with warmth, empathy and respect."

After finishing her high school diploma at Hawaiian Mission Academy, Akamine studied at California State University at Los Angeles and the Loma Linda University School of Nursing. On the LLU faculty since 1975 she has taught basic and advanced community health nursing. She is an associate professor. Most recently she has specialized in gerontological nursing. She has also served as head deaconess of the Loma Linda University church for two years.

"My big challenge now is being chairperson for the LLU Multidisciplinary Geriatric Conference coming up in March," Akamine adds.



Luanne J. Bauer
Chair, Communication
Department
Andrews University
Berrien Springs
Michigan

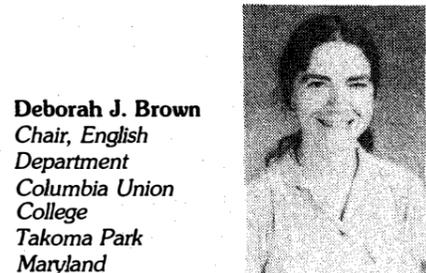
"Luanne Bauer is a teacher with special skills as an integrator: of classroom with the marketplace; of experts with neophytes; of quality technology with faith and optimism," according to fellow-teachers at Andrews University.

Bauer, a 1967 graduate of Andrews University, completed her Ph.D. in communication education at Northwestern University in 1979.

Her early professional teaching experience included teaching scores of international students at AU. She has also coauthored *English for Modern People: SDA English Series*, a text used by student missionaries teaching in Japan. She spent one quarter in Japan presenting workshops for the student missionary teachers and their school supervisors.

Bauer is known on campus for the lively productions of eight plays, a demanding extra curricular project in which she has achieved a delightful team-spirit among a cast which included faculty, community members, and students.

As a consultant in the Chicago business community, Bauer has expanded her influence, training employees in an accounting firm to be more successful communicators.



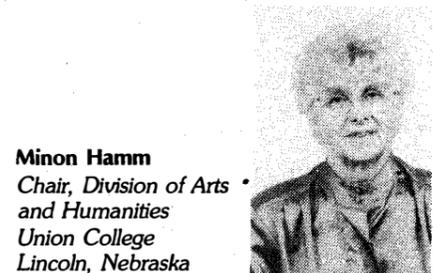
Deborah J. Brown
Chair, English
Department
Columbia Union
College
Takoma Park
Maryland

"Deborah Brown is the only faculty member in the history of the college to be selected by three consecutive graduating classes as their Consecration speaker for the Commencement weekend," said Joseph Gurubatham, vice-president for academic affairs, in commenting on Brown's nomination for the Zapara award at Columbia Union College.

"Her quiet but dynamic and humorous approach to the teaching of English and American literature is highly esteemed by past and current students," he added.

Brown is a 1975 graduate of CUC and has taught at the college since 1982. She holds a master's degree in English from Loma Linda University, and is completing her doctoral dissertation at Southern Illinois University. She chairs the CUC English department.

One student commented that Brown is "knowledgeable about her subject, and she manages to make class demanding, interesting, and fun."



Minon Hamm
Chair, Division of Arts
and Humanities
Union College
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dr. Hamm is chair of the Arts and Humanities Division of Union College and teaches a full load of English courses each semester.

After 20 years of elementary school teaching on the East coast and in South and Central America, she earned both her master's and Ph.D. degrees in English from the George Peabody Teachers College of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Before coming to Union College in 1981, she taught English at Southern College of Seventh-day Adventists.



Lucile Lacy
Chair, Department
of Music
Oakwood College
Huntsville, Alabama

A native of Huntsville, Alabama, Dr. Lucile Lacy is associate professor of music at Oakwood College, disproving two of her teachers' predictions in 1963 that she was the "most likely not to succeed."

After graduating from Oakwood College in 1968 she earned a master's of music education degree from the George Peabody College for Teachers in 1970.

The years of 1983 and 1984, consecutively, she received the United Negro College Fund Teaching Stipend Grant of \$20,000 and pursued her doctorate at Ohio State University in Columbus.

She chairs the college's department of Music and is also minister of music for the campus church. She coordinates nine choral organizations, a hand bell choir, and a string ensemble.

Among her many achievements she has received the Oakwood College United Student Movement "Partners in Excellence Award."

Rosemarie Buck
Assistant Professor
of Nursing
Walla Walla
Washington



An assistant professor of nursing, Rosemarie Buck was praised by students for her classroom skills and support of her students. This in turn earned her the respect of her peers. As one person put it, "She is continually encouraging and motivating her students to do their best. And her peers consider her their leader."

Buck holds a master's in nursing from Loma Linda University. She currently is on leave from WWC to serve as director of nursing in Karachi, Pakistan.

GERMAN ADVENTISTS STUDY WOMEN'S ISSUES

From front page

sion on the topic of women's ordination although this question is soon to be decided and "settled" by the General Conference.

A highlight of the afternoon was a short report about the Association of Adventist Women provided by Vivica Black. Black was returning to the United States from South Africa where she had just spent five months training blacks how to do fund-raising for their schools among multi-national corporations.

To our surprise most people stayed until Sunday morning, indicating the strength of their concern about this issue. Christine

Feldman-Neubert and Karin Loebmann discussed the typical language men and women use. Later, Gabriele Gohr and Thomas Steininger talked about feminist theology.

At the conclusion of this stimulating meeting several men from the group indicated that they had become more conscious of the problems their sisters have and want to do whatever they can to support women in the church.

Irmtraut Wittenburg writes from Hamburg, Germany.

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Barbara T. Jones
Professor of Chemistry
Southwestern
Adventist College
Keene, Texas



Professor of chemistry, Dr. Jones was nominated for the Zapara award "because of her competence and compassion." In 1984 she received the Minnie Piper Stevens Award for excellence in teaching. This prestigious award is given to the 10 top college teachers in the state of Texas.

Jones received her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Alabama A&M University. Her Ph.D. is in biochemistry from Howard University in Washington, D.C. She has worked as a biochemist at Tuskegee Institute and Dow Chemical Company. She has also done extensive work with the American Foundation for Negro Affairs.

Juliaette W. Phillips
Chair,
Psychology/Social
Work Department
Oakwood College
Huntsville, Alabama



After serving with the Philadelphia Department of Welfare for several years, Juliaette Phillips joined the faculty of Oakwood College in 1974. She is director of the social work program, and chairs the psychology/social work department.

Her contributions to the Huntsville, Alabama, community have utilized her professional skills and knowledge through board memberships and volunteer services. She is currently involved in the last phases of the college's self-study in preparation for social work accreditation by the Council of Social Work Education.

Virginia Simmons
Professor of Education
Union College
Lincoln, Nebraska



A 1961 graduate of Union College, Dr. Simmons has been teaching in the department of education since 1973. An experienced elementary teacher and principal, she is director of Union's George Stone Laboratory School, a multigrade, two-teacher elementary school located on the college campus as a training facility for education majors. Dr. Simmons was instrumental in establishing George Stone School more than 10 years ago. She also serves as chair of the Committee for the Professoriat at the college and has twice been named Teacher of the Year.

Marilyn Lang McArthur
Assistant Professor
of Nursing
Union College
Lincoln, Nebraska



"She never perceived her work as having been completed upon finishing a lecture or terminating her supervisory time in a clinical area," colleagues and students say of Marilyn McArthur, an assistant professor of nursing who began teaching at Union College in 1982.

After completing her bachelor of nursing degree at Loma Linda University, McArthur earned a master's degree from the University of Nebraska in 1987.

In nominating her for the Zapara Award, colleagues agreed that McArthur "is especially strong in her commitment to providing quality teaching while never losing sight of the service motif which must ever characterize those in the nursing profession." They added that "students responded with heartening achievement levels from having been associated with this caliber of instruction."

Donnie Rigby
Professor of
Communication
Walla Walla College
Walla Walla
Washington



"Donnie Rigby is one of Walla Walla's finest teachers," say her colleagues. "Both in and out of the classroom she incarnates four basic qualities: preparation, process, personality, and personalization." She is professor of communication and teaches a variety of speech and dramatic arts courses.

Commenting on the Zapara award, college news editor Dan Kaempff reported that Rigby "is a true cosmopolitan, who brings her love for the world and the finer things in it back to WWC. Her peers and students describe her as 'delightful,' 'thought-provoking,' 'creative,' and one who stresses 'quality work and individualistic thinking.'"

She holds a master's degree from the University of Redlands.

Karen D. Wells
Instructor in
Dental Hygiene
Loma Linda University
Loma Linda, California



After having graduated with a B.A. in dental hygiene in 1982 at age 33, Karen D. Wells practiced her newly chosen profession for a year and a half before she was invited to join the teaching faculty in April 1984.

Among the comments made by students supporting her nomination were these: "Her relationship with God is consistently revealed through her actions and words." "Her devotion before each class begins is personal and meaningful."

"She is accessible to students far beyond classtime." "She is never satisfied with just the acceptable, but is constantly striving for excellence."

Faculty members supported her nomination for "her creative resourcefulness as a teacher and mentor; for her skillful and insightful clinical evaluations; and the consistent first-place showings of her students in state-wide table clinic competitions." They also cited her for "her enthusiasm, humor, and Christian example" which inspire her students.

Wells is currently on a one-year leave of absence for an advanced degree and is considering studying medicine. Before becoming a dental hygienist, Wells taught in Montessori schools.

Frances S. Mosley
Professor of
Education and History
Southwestern
Adventist College
Keene, Texas



Professor of education and history at Southwestern Adventist College, Dr. Frances Mosley joined the faculty in 1982.

"She is scholarly and meticulous," according to those who nominated her for the Zapara Award. "She has written several syllabi that exceed 100 pages for the benefit of her students. But she is also a gentle and caring teacher whose affection for her students is obvious."

Mosley earned her bachelor's degree in Spanish, education, and history, from the University of the Americas in Mexico City. Later, she earned her master's degree in education and American history from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. For her doctorate, also in education and history, she wrote a dissertation on "Changing Concepts in Instructional Procedures in High School History Teaching since 1900." She earned her Ph.D. from Texas A&M University.

She is the author of *A Student's Guide to Problems in Education*, published in 1974. A number of her articles have been printed in professional education journals, and she has developed workshops on British education and comparative education.

Margaret L. Rodenburg
Professor of Chemistry
Kettering College
of Medical Arts
Kettering, Ohio



Professor of chemistry since 1977 and a member of the faculty since 1969, Margaret L. Rodenburg is unique among those cited for excellence in teaching at Adventist colleges in that she herself is Lutheran.

Prior to joining the Kettering College of Medical Arts staff Rodenburg completed her Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Nebraska, and worked as a senior research chemist for the Monsanto Research Corporation, and as an abstractor for Chemical Abstract Service.

She has also been on the adjunct faculty of the College of Mount St. Joseph (1978-1983), and a member of the Ohio Lutheran Campus Ministry Board (1983-1988).

"Dr. Rodenburg has a high expectation of her students and inspires them to reach that expectation," comments Eugene Cowling, dean of the college. "She is a strong team member of the faculty . . . and she integrates her own Christian convictions into her professional conduct. As a result, she presents a fine model to our allied health and nursing students of a competent, professional, and practicing Christian."

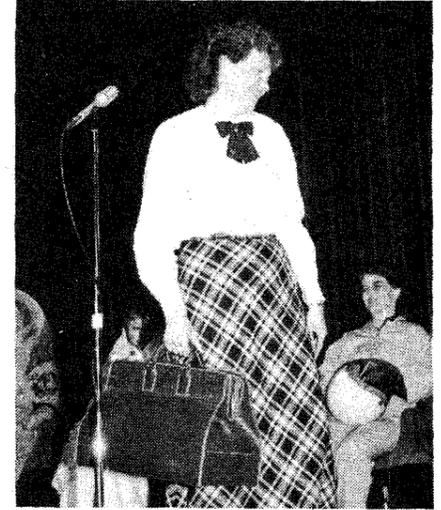
WOMEN'S HISTORY

From front page

them to identify as many as possible from the visual and verbal clues. Of the approximately 200 individuals in the audience, 14 correctly identified all 12 women.

The 12 historical women portrayed were Eva B. Dykes, Rosa Parks, L. Flora Plummer, Christa McAuliffe, Lora E. Clement, Mother Teresa, Kate Lindsay, M.D., Sandra Day O'Connor, Marian Anderson, Pocahontas, Annie Smith, and Georgia Burrus Burgess.

■ Ginger Church, who portrayed **L. Flora Plummer**, identified herself through this speech:



L. Flora Plummer, who headed the GC Sabbath School Department from 1913-1936, was played by Ginger Church.

"As a young woman I attended Sunday school because it was a place to go. Being fun-loving, I seldom had a serious thought. Yet during one of my more serious moments, I decided the time had come for me to begin preparing to become a school teacher—a secret ambition I cherished from childhood.

"Obstacles have often challenged me. For example, when I decided to be baptized into a Christian church, the ice had to be cut so the minister and I could get into the water.

"As I review my life I can only say, 'God had a plan for my life. From giving me a love of children to inspiring neighbors to welcome me into a new neighborhood by inviting me to study the Bible with them.'

"My life has had times of Gethsemane. It is not always easy being a worker for God. My husband of many years only joined me in the Seventh-day Adventist Church a short time before his death. Shortly after I myself became an Adventist I gave up school teaching to give Bible studies—but the year ended with almost no visible results.

"I turned to giving out literature—I bought several thousand pieces and sent them all out, bearing the entire expense myself. The Lord kept leading. The Iowa Conference called me to work for their Sabbath schools. What an unexpected pleasure to be paid for what I delighted in doing!

"So much happened in my life I can't begin to share it all. Can you believe I ended up on the General Conference staff?

"What did I want for Sabbath schools? 'My goal is to win souls. I want Sabbath school to make the Bible lovable from a young person's point of view. I encourage development of teaching materials that are attractive to children and adults and full of brightness, color, sweet sounds, rhythm, free expression, justice, confidence, and love.'

"You can't have enough equipment to teach or to win souls. I keep getting new ideas and wanting to share them. Often I'm heard to say as I travel from place to place:

"'Oh, little suitcase, don't you cry; You'll be a boxcar by and by.'"

■ In her speech about **Rosa Parks**, Edith Cartwright shared some of the following remarks:

"I was born in Tuskegee, Alabama, not far from Montgomery, on February 4, 1913.

"In Alabama black people had to live by special rules. I didn't like having to drink out

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See **WOMEN'S HISTORY**, p. 4



Presidential Communique

Women should be seen and heard

by Nancy Marter

At the time of the 1985 General Conference session in New Orleans I greatly enjoyed attending the Ministerial Pre-session as an active lay person. It was a real opportunity to listen and learn from gifted theologians and skilled practitioners in the art of ministry.

Actually, I made a special effort to attend because five years previously in Dallas the content and presentations of the Ministerial Pre-session were, for me, the high point of the entire GC session.

In 1985 I noticed, however, that during the three days of lectures, panels, and seminars, there were no women taking part at all. The one exception was when Miriam Wood moderated a panel having to do with ministerial wives and families.

It seemed to me that among the ranks of church leadership there prevailed a rather puzzled but pervasive attitude of irritation with the requests coming from some church women to participate and be present in the machinations of the church. But, looking at the exclusiveness of the chosen participants, one might understand women's concerns.

I hope things are changing. Women are, after all, an integral, universal, and vital part of the Adventist Church. And this has been so from our beginnings as a church.

Yet, the picture presented in the programming—in the "visual aids," if you will—was that women have no place in ministry. Looking on, one might suppose there were no women capable of praying, speaking to theological issues, or presenting seminars. Surely this is not the case!

My point is this. Church leaders, everywhere: *You set the pace!* Remember the familiar quotation: "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day"?

How can our huge world-wide body of believers be expected to move ever closer to Christ's model of offering dignity and full acceptance of everyone unless leaders show by their example that we're all in this together? That we're all needed to share our wonderful Saviour with the world?

General Conference leaders, ministerial association directors, camp meeting planners—please include capable women. They have dimensions to share that will bring relevance, vitality, and balance to the church's outreach. If women are absent, I'm afraid large groups of the world population will receive, not the message we intended to share, but the one pictured, and just may conclude, "That gospel isn't really meant for me."



From the Pulpit

A tale of two funerals

by Penny Shell

When a person commits suicide, we seldom know what to say. We who come to comfort sometimes pretend we don't know it was suicide, or we make only oblique references to that fact. Even pastoral caregivers can be speechless. Many view suicide only as sin, a murder with no chance for repentance.

That's why two funerals I attended were so outstanding. One was non-judgmental. The other helped people talk about the suicide and express their feelings.

The first funeral was for my student Daniel, who, wrapped up in his own inner turmoil, jumped from a tall building. At his service, it was simply his pastor's words that brought us hope.

"We loved Daniel very much," he said, "and we want to see him again. God is the one who will decide if we will see Daniel again—and He loves Daniel even more than we do." Surely God who understands the pain and distorted perceptions of the desperate people who commit suicide will judge with mercy and compassion. The pastor's words drew us from sorrow to hope.

The second, less-traditional funeral was for my friend Phyllis. Phyllis, after facing uncommon stresses in her work, shot herself in the head. This was Phyllis, who had comforted and enabled so many others—Phyllis, who had seemed to us strong and indestructible! Her death aroused in those around her feelings of shock, anger, guilt, and abandonment.

Her family and her pastor planned her funeral to allow time for the expression of deep emotions—both positive and negative. As people spoke, their shock, pain, anger, grief, and guilt tumbled out together with forgiveness, humor, love, and tender memories. It was a healing time.

An important part of the service was a "meal" with symbolic elements somewhat like a Passover seder. As a cup was passed, each of us dipped a finger into it and drew a tear on the person next to us. Although I had not been crying, I had felt full of tears, and this symbol touched me deeply. Raisins were eaten as we thought of the dried-up dreams and promises of Phyllis's young life, and then grapes were distributed to remind us that life goes on. Having faced our loss and expressed our feelings, the meal drew us together into a grieving but comforted community. Simple. Fitting. Effective.

Even though the deaths were suicides, these two funerals brought us the sense of a merciful Presence. The funeral for Daniel brought us hope in the spirit of One who said, "Judge not" (Luke 6:37). The funeral for Phyllis brought healing by respecting the importance of our feelings. I believe both services pleased God, who long ago urged us, "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people" (Isaiah 40:1).

Penny Shell, Ed.D., is a chaplain at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Rockville, Maryland. This article originally appeared in the Fall 1988 Olive Branch, a quarterly publication of the Pastoral Care Department.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Copy deadline for the next issue of *The Adventist Woman* is April 3

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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The Adventist Woman
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Letters

Good reporting

Dear Editor:

I am delighted with the substance and direction of the December issue of your newsletter.

Taking a stand for women's role in the church, and calling the church both to be accountable and to take the lead in dealing with women's issues is something I've longed to see in your paper. Reporting facts, such as the lead article did in showing that

one in 15 elders in Adventist churches is a woman is terrific. Reporting on the advances as well as the losses for women in leadership positions is commendable.

The cartoon was wonderful. A sense of humor is always appropriate!

Keep up the progress. Please don't go back to trying to keep everyone happy and thus please no one.

Yvonne Stratton, M.D.
Long Beach, California

People and Places

Handicaps don't hinder

She can neither walk nor talk, but Brenda Clark, 25, has been the champion Ingatherer for the Homestead, Florida, church for the past 11 years. She has collected more than \$1,000 a year. In fact, for the past two years she has brought in one-half of the church's entire Ingathering goal.

Brenda became disabled at age eight; she was riding her bicycle with an older brother when both were struck by a van, leaving her in a coma for two months and causing brain damage.

Two years after the accident she wanted to go Ingathering. "For the first few years I tried to take her in the wheelchair from door to door," explains her mother, Alice Hardin. "But private yards and homes are just not wheelchair accessible." Robert Burns, then pastor of the Homestead church, approached the local Zayre store seeking permission for Brenda to sit outside during the Christmas season to solicit. Accompanied by an adult church member, Brenda began in 1976, often working six days a week between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

New management in 1986 prohibited solicitation completely, but made an excep-



Pastor Robert Burns presented Brenda Clark with a plaque in appreciation for her outstanding Ingathering efforts.

tion for Brenda to come on weekends only. Because of widespread interest by long-time customers, Zayre's invited Brenda to return to full-time solicitation during the 1988 Ingathering season.

Seated in her wheelchair in front of the store, Brenda has a cut-out Clorox bottle for donations strapped to her seat belt. Her Ingathering companion for many years, Bonnie Hood, distributes the literature. Both wear Pathfinder uniforms to lend credibility to their cause.

Of Homestead's \$2,244 goal this year, Brenda brought in \$1,232.53.

Physician speaks out

Dr. Joan Barice, member of the West Palm Beach First church in Florida, received the 1988 Excellence in Business Award from the Association of Women Business Owners for her impact in the community.

Barice, physician and author, is medical director for the Glenbeigh Hospital of the Palm Beaches, and has a private practice in internal and preventive medicine. She was baptized in 1987. She is scheduled as a guest speaker at the Florida Conference's Adult Health Retreat, March 5-12, and at camp meeting in May and June.

In addition to being medical advisor to U.S. Congressman Tom Lewis, she is a frequent radio and TV guest speaker on nutrition, fitness, alcoholism, drug addiction, and public health. Her work has been noted in national magazines and journals including *The New York Times*, *People Magazine*, *Good Housekeeping*, and *Woman's Day*.

"I want to help those who can't help themselves: the poor who don't have a lot of political clout, alcoholics, AIDS patients, and women who own their own businesses and are looking for leaders," says Barice. "Everyone is a child of God."

—Cindy Kurtzals, Editorial Assistant, Communication Department, Florida Conference

WOMEN'S HISTORY

From page 3

of special water fountains. It was hard going to old, crowded schools while most of the white children went to new ones.

"One day my cousin Annie Mae and I were shopping. We were so thirsty we went into a five-and-ten-cent store; Annie asked for a soda. The white saleswoman said, 'I'll sell you an ice cream cone.' She meant Annie could eat a cone outside and wouldn't have to sit at the counter. But Annie didn't understand—and asked three times for a soda. Finally the saleswoman whispered, 'We don't sell sodas to colored people.'"

"I also joined NAACP and sometimes helped Edgar Daniel Nixon, the president of the Montgomery NAACP, as a secretary. As a member of the Montgomery Voters League I visited the homes of blacks and taught them how to pass the voting test. They had to pass the test without one mistake to have their names placed on the list of registered voters.

"As much as I could I refused to go along with the unfair rules the city made. I walked up and down the stairs rather than ride elevators marked 'colored.'"

"Often I walked the mile from home to work and the mile back from work to home rather than ride the bus. The buses were worst of all. The law said that the driver was king of the bus.

"A black person who wanted to ride the bus had to get on at the front door, pay the fare, then get off, and reboard the bus through the back door. Sometimes the bus

would drive away before the person could reboard!

"If you succeeded in getting on the bus, you could sit only in certain seats. The seats in the front half were for whites; those in back for blacks.

"I had a job sewing and doing alterations in a department store. On December 1, 1955, I left work tired, my shoulders aching from bending over the sewing machine all day. When I got on the bus I took the first seat for blacks, right behind the white section. Soon the white section filled up. When a white man got on, the driver said, 'You have to get up.'"

"'No,' I said softly.

"'You better get up or I'll call the police,' he said. The bus was very quiet. I did not move. 'Are you going to get up?' the driver asked. 'No,' I repeated. When the driver returned he had two policemen.

"'You're under arrest,' they said. I walked off the bus. They took my picture and my fingerprints and locked me in a cell. I prayed a silent prayer and waited.

"Somebody told Edgar Daniel Nixon and the NAACP and they posted a \$100 bond for my release until my trial.

"Through the efforts of many people, including Dr. Martin Luther King, this led to blacks' boycotting the buses on December 5.

"At my trial the judge found me guilty. But my lawyer did not agree with him. 'We'll get a higher court to decide,' he said, 'and if we have to, we'll go to the highest court in the United States.'"