

Ninth National AAW Conference

July 4-8, 1991
Marriott Hotel
Santa Clara, California

Thursday P.M., July 4

2:00 Registration

7:30 Welcome
Martha Hoffman, AAW
Herbert Broeckel,
President, Central
California Conference

9:00 Fireworks at
Great America

Friday A.M., July 5

8:00 AAW Business Meeting, I,
Peggy Harris, Chair

10:00 Welcome to Silicon Valley
Martha Hoffman, Bernie Beck,
Karyl Dupee

10:30 Pathbreaker Vignette
Maryan Sitrling

11:00 Keynote Address
Pat Wick

Friday P.M.

2:00 Workshops

6:30 "Babette's Feast"—A Meal, A Story,
A Conversation

Sabbath A.M., July 6

10:00 "Brought to Light"
Pastor Margo Pitrone

11:00 "A Line in the Sand"
Pastor Hyveth Williams

Sabbath P.M.

3:00 The Gender Inclusiveness
Task Force Story
Penny Miller, Chair

6:30 Banquet with
Nancy and Leonard Bailey,
Karyl Dupee, Merikay
McLeod, Leona Running

Sunday A.M., July 7

8:00 AAW Business Meeting, II,
Peggy Harris, Chair

9:30 Pathfinder Vignette
Kit Watts

10:00 World Reports of
Women's Ministries
Bernie Beck, Chair

11:00 NAD Women's Ministries
Elizabeth Sterndale

Sunday P.M.

2:00 Workshops

7:00 "Sunday Night Live"

Monday A.M., July 8

10:00 Future Action Roundtable

11:30 The Charge: Ginger Harwood

12:00 The Mizpah: Martha Hoffman

NAD women's summit issues joint proposals

A summit meeting for leaders of Adventist women's groups in the North American Division (NAD) attracted 35 women representing 17 different groups to gather at NAD headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, March 15-17. The summit was sponsored by the newly established NAD Office of Women's Ministries headed by Elizabeth Sterndale. The NAD Women's Commission hosted the summit; Ramona Perez Greek coordinated weekend activities.

After a weekend of fellowship, worship, and dialogue, the group voted support for 14 proposals and recommendations. Among them:

■ Urge conferences and unions to implement NAD D 75 (equal-employment policy).

■ Urge conferences and unions to adopt and act on the affirmative-action plan developed by the Office of Human Relations under the direction of Rosa Banks.

■ Urge conferences and unions to elect

women to boards and committees in proportion to their membership in the church.

■ Recommend that women commissioners from each union or conference become regular members of their respective union/conference executive and human-relations committees.

■ Recommend that every church in

North America elect a women's-ministries coordinator to foster women's activities and ministries in the local congregation.

During the opening session on Friday night each woman introduced herself and the ministry with which she is involved.

See **SUMMIT ATTRACTS LEADERS**, p. 2



Worship, small group discussion, dialogue with NAD leaders, reports, and a business session filled the March 15-17 women's summit weekend.

Five divisions set up office for women's ministries

Five of the 11 divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church have already appointed—or have promised to appoint in 1991—coordinators for women's ministries. This announcement came in March from Rose Otis, director of the newly created Office of Women's Ministries at the church's world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland.

The North American Division led the way last October by appointing Elizabeth Sterndale. Subsequently, the USSR indicated its plan to do so, closely followed by the Far Eastern Division. Both the Euro-African Division and South American Divisions have promised action in 1991.

Three divisions said they "were not yet ready" to make a commitment—Eastern Africa,

Inter-America, and Trans-Europe. Other divisions had not yet replied to Otis's query.

Otis has raised consciousness of women's ministries by two other programs. During March she sponsored a week of morning workshops at the GC celebrating Women's History. She also received approval to establish two women's advisory groups.

One is in-house, bringing together a representative group of women working at the GC office. It met first on May 16.

The second has representatives from each world division who currently reside in the metro Washington, D.C., area. "We are beginning this way since we have a very limited budget," Otis explained. The group first met on March 28. Fred

Thomas, a member of the special GC Commission on Governance made a brief presentation and answered question about women's chances for being better represented in the church structure. (Slim, he admitted.)

WMA members agreed to function between quarterly meetings by working in six smaller committees. Three will study global mission projects to possibly be located in the USSR, China, and Indonesia. The other three will focus on scholarships for women, collecting statistics, and reaching young people who have left the church. The next meeting is set for June 27.

Otis also announced plans to begin a newsletter.

Women join hands in AWC, seek affirmative action

The Adventist Women's Coalition (AWC) plans to hold its first public meeting to coincide with the AAW national conference, July 4-8, 1991, according to Dr. Helen Thompson, of Walla Walla, Washington, where AWC is headquartered. Thompson is one of AWC's five coordinators and has chaired a steering committee that formed last September to organize the group. Other coordinators include Nancy Marter and Beryl Longway (Maryland), Donna Haerich (Florida), and Susan Sickler (Ohio).

The purpose of AWC is to bring about affirmative action for Adventist women. Thompson has already begun a ministry of letters and telephone calls to church leaders throughout the North American Division (NAD).

Implementing 1985 GC session action

"Delegates at the 1985 General Conference session authorized affirmative action for women," says Thompson, "but many church leaders have not yet implemented it. Women," she added, "form the majority of the church membership. They should be carrying responsibilities in every decision-making group in the church." AWC specifically recommends that women make up 30

percent of such committees and boards.

Such affirmative action would also help implement NAD policy D 75, adopted in 1989, which mandates equal employment opportunities for women.

Thompson said that AWC is also committed to affirming those church leaders who are, by voice and action, supporting these concepts.

Presidents respond

Thompson said that in reply to her first letters this spring a union president said that one-half of the lay persons on his executive committee are women. Another told her that for the first time in the history of his union (as far as he knows) a woman was elected as a staff member. A third said he was struggling to see that women would be adequately represented at his union's constituency meeting.

Conference presidents have reported some gains, too. Among them: more women members on a conference executive committee and a woman elected to chair the lay advisory committee in another conference.

In a third conference the executive committee voted that "when openings occur, [we

will] actively search for qualified women candidates and, when possible, place women in conference leadership positions which do not require ordination, i.e., Treasury, Education, Publishing, and Church Ministries." It also voted to "Encourage women to consider careers in the church, including the pastoral ministry."

How to join AWC

Adventist women's organizations throughout North America are invited to join and support AWC. Individuals may also join for \$50. For information write AWC, Rt. 1, Box 84, Walla Walla, WA 99362.

According to Thompson, representatives of the first member organizations and individual members are urged to participate in the July meeting. A constitution will be finalized, a board appointed, and officers will be elected.

AWC is the outgrowth of a meeting in Pennsylvania last September when 35 women from across the nation met to develop a response to the General Conference session's vote in Indianapolis (1,173 to 377) denying women ordination. (Reported in the *Adventist Woman*, December 1990, Vol. 9, No. 6, p. 1).



An open letter

Dear Robbi, Joni, Debra, Sandra, Joan, and Bonny:

Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

For me, the first women's retreat for the Potomac Conference, April 19-21, was a nurturing, filling experience. With my busy schedule I need to get away every three months for a change of pace. This was my getaway!

The meetings and seminars were outstanding. But every bit as important were the creative, aesthetic little touches such as fresh flowers, welcome notes, table decorations, a bit of candy on our pillows. This loving care created an atmosphere for each of us to feel very special.

The time for interaction that you built into the schedule gave us an opportunity to get acquainted, share, and pray with one another. One Hispanic woman I met said she had just recently been rebaptized. Her husband, who has had no religious affiliation, is now attending church with her and her children. I also met a young woman who was eager just to be able to talk about spiritual things with another adult. On a day-by-day basis she has only her children to talk with. Her husband, although a baptized Adventist, is an unbelieving one. Before I left it was my privilege to have prayer with both of these women, including the latter one's husband.

Doubts transcended by affirmation

Some women came to the retreat suspicious about a group of women getting together. Were we all "libbers"? they wondered. Others were single parents struggling to keep it all together. Still others were hurting women who were suddenly released from their day-to-day struggles and found themselves bursting with the desire to talk, laugh, and party together. Most of us could not have predicted in advance our reactions to a weekend such as this. *We did not know until we were there how starved we were for the special spiritual renewal that could be experienced in this setting.*

I am grateful to the Potomac Conference administration for offering its support to begin this kind of ministry to women. I hope the retreats will continue—and expand. This ministry will not only benefit Hispanic and Indian women, for example, but could extend to other groups including singles, couples, and Adventist men!

I'm convinced that in the retreat setting we get excited about getting ready to go home to heaven. And we can become better prepared to help our churches, pastors, families, and communities.

I urge the Potomac Conference administration—and other conferences throughout the division—to build conference budgets that include provision for women's retreats and the development of women in retreat leadership. Just as Jesus took the disciples away for retreats, these key women also need time to renew their spirit. They can nurture others only as they are fed through the Holy Spirit.

With a full, loving, grateful heart,
Peggy Harris

P.S.

Has your conference had a women's retreat yet?
If so, have you thanked them?

Statistics show that women's retreats provide significant soul winning and commitment opportunities.



Six Adventist women's groups displayed their wares at the Pacific Union Layman's Conference, February 15-17 on the Loma Linda University campus. Bernie Beck and Cynthia Williams were among those volunteering at the booth.

Lay leaders friendly to women's issues

Organizers of the Pacific Union Layman's Conference invited Adventist women's groups to share their concerns and activities with constituents during the weekend of February 15-17. Close to 2,000 lay persons were expected to attend but the numbers seemed exaggerated, according to TEAM's (Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry) board representative, Kay Rosburg. Still, those who stopped by seemed friendly and asked many questions, Rosburg said.

The Association of Adventist Women,

TEAM, the Adventist Women's Institute, Women's Spiritual Koinonia, and two hospitality ministries sent representatives to answer questions and provide material to interested passersby. The meeting convened on the Loma Linda University campus in California.

Rosburg was encouraged to see the number of individuals who identified themselves as being newly appointed to coordinate women's ministries in their local churches. Many sought assistance and suggestions in fulfilling their new roles.

Letters

Thumbs up for Joel Tompkins, too

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on your fine editorial [February/March 1991], "Silence: Voice of Complicity."

I have a "thumbs up" nomination. Elder Joel Tompkins of the Mid-America Union deserves some recognition for his open-minded and supportive attitudes regarding women in leadership.

While I served for five years as vice president of Union College, Elder Tompkins was the board chairman. I could count on wise counsel and support from him both during critical and profitable circumstances. He never lost sight of the "broad picture," and gender was never an issue. I appreciated working with him.

He certainly enabled me to accomplish much for the benefit of this SDA institution.

Elder Tompkins is a sincere Adventist, a firm believer in Adventist education, ready to listen to more than one side of an issue, and willing to discuss sensitive topics. It's SDA leaders like Elder Tompkins who exhibit the traits I believe Jesus exemplified while on earth, and therefore keep me loyal to my church. This reminds me in a positive way that God does not view me as inferior or second rate just because I happen to be female.

Best wishes as you continue to serve Adventist women.

Lilya Wagner, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Center on Philanthropy
Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN

SUMMIT ATTRACTS 35 LEADERS FROM 17 GROUPS

From front page

Highlights of the Sabbath services included Bible study and small-group sharing, organized by Karen Nicola, president of the Adventist Women's Speakers Guild; and a sermon by Esther Ramharacksingh Knott, associate pastor of the Sligo SDA church.

Manuel Vasquez, newly elected NAD vice-president, engaged in a cordial two-hour dialogue with the women leaders, answering questions about how the church is governed, how policy is made, and how women might have more impact on the system.

Those attending:

Among those attending the summit were: **NAD:** Elizabeth Sterndale. **NAD Women's Commission:** Atlantic Union, Junell Vance; Canada, Jean Parchment; Columbia, Dorothy Williams; Lake, Thesba Johnston; Mid-America, Evelyn Glass; North Pacific, Betty Rayl; Pacific, Carmen Rivera-Jara (for Lourdes Silva); Southern, Evelyn VandeVere; Southwestern, Carla Baker; NADWC Coordinator, Ramona Perez Greek.

Adventist Women's Coalition (AWC): Helen Thompson. **ACE (Adventist Community for Equality):** Sue Harrington. **Adventist Women's Institute (AWI):** Iris Yob, Estelle Jorgensen.

Adventist Women's Speakers Guild (AWSG): Karen Nicola. **Association of**

Adventist Women (AAW): Peggy Harris, Viveca Black, Beverly Habada, Beryll Longway, Elisabeth Wear. **[Pacific Union] Bible Instructor's Guild (BIG):** Isabelle R. Dickens, Sue Pearson.

BYKOTA (Be Ye Kind One To Another), New York City: Valerie A. Bennett, Sybil Gooden. **Gender Inclusiveness Task Force,** Southeastern California Conference: Carmen Rivera-Jara. **General Conference—Office of Women's Ministries:** Rose Otis.

Hannah-Rite Women's Club, Flatbush, N.Y.: Ena Reed. **Hispanic Women's Ministry,** Southeastern California Conference: Carmen Rivera-Jara. **Justice Commission,** Southeastern California Conference: Carmen Rivera-Jara.

Lydians Women's Organization, Hanson Place SDA church, N.Y.: Vera A. Grant. **Mary's Place,** Takoma Park, Md.: Beverly Habada, Kit Watts. **Shepherdess International:** Ellen Bresee. **TEAM (Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry):** Pat Habada, Rebecca Brillhart, Geri Ann Fuller.

Women in Ministry Support Group, Southeastern California Conference: Carmen Rivera-Jara. **Women's Spiritual Koinonia,** Vallejo, Ca.: L.J. Hughes, Sable Hughes.

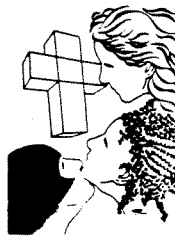
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National AAW Office: (301) 270-5776

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| Education. Beryll Longway, 10511 Deneane Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20903. (301) 439-8183. | Southwestern Union Director. Judy Fol-Miles, Southwestern Adventist College, Keene, TX 67059. (817) 641-4564. |
| Overseas Chapters. Iris Yob, P.O. Box 235, | |

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

ASSOCIATION OF ADVENTIST WOMEN
Ninth Annual Conference, July 4-8, 1991
Marriott Hotel - U.S. 101 and Great America Parkway
Santa Clara, California



With only a few weeks left until the Ninth Annual (Second International) AAW Conference begins, now is the time to get in your registration and make your hotel reservation. Here is an overview of what is in store for you during the four-day weekend, and below is a registration form for you to fill out, detach and mail in.

Highlights of this year's conference include:

- * Fireworks celebration of Independence Day.
- * Powerful messages from frontline women in ministry.
- * Workshops sharing resources for ministries.
- * Exhibits of women's action groups.
- * Group caucus events.
- * "Pathbreaker" Vignettes.
- * "Babette's Feast," a Meal, a Story, a Conversation.
- * Gender-Inclusiveness Task Force Story.
- * World Reports of Women's Ministries.
- * Future Action Roundtable.

SOME OF THE WORKSHOPS *Resources for Parish Ministers*, Margo Pitrone; *Resources for Spouses of Pastors*, John and Joyce Lorntz; *Resources for European Ministries*, Viviane Haenni; *Biblical Resources for Women*, Madelyn Haldeman; *Whole Brain Nurturing and Touchstone Gender Teamwork*, Arlene Taylor; *Resources for Conflict Resolution*, Karyl Dupee; *Resources for Women Educators*, Rosalyn Upshaw; *Resources for Dealing With Sexual Harassment*, Merikay McLeod; *Medical Ministry*, Yvonne Stratton; *The Nitty-Gritty of Starting an International or Local Ministry*, Karen Kotoske; *Resources for an Independent Life: Toward a New Community*, Lani Longshore.

SPECIAL GROUP MEETINGS AND/OR EXHIBITS To arrange group or luncheon meetings for your organization or interest group, or for display space for an exhibit for your group, contact AAW Hotel Coordinator Bernie Beck, (408) 948-6262.

HOTEL INFORMATION For reservations, call the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel, 1-800-228-9290. The special room rate is \$55 for up to four persons. *Identify your reservation for the AAW Conference on the July 4th weekend.* * If you plan to arrive before July 4 and/or would like to stay past July 8, you may obtain the special \$55 rate for up to 4 persons by arranging directly with Santa Clara Marriott, (408) 988-1500.

CHECK-IN On Thursday, July 4, 1991, check-in registration will begin at Santa Clara Marriott Hotel at 2:00 p.m. Try to arrive early to avoid Fourth of July Fireworks traffic to Great America that evening.

GETTING THERE By car: Take Highway 101 to Santa Clara (between San Jose and Sunnyvale), and exit at Great America Parkway. Go north about a quarter mile and turn right on Mission College Boulevard. The Hotel is on your right at that corner. * By air: From San Jose International Airport, you can take the Marriott Hotel Limousine, which meets every flight, free of charge. From San Francisco or Oakland International Airports take the Airport Connections Limousine service. * For the lowest air fares write or call: Carol Outtrim, Travel Tech, 333 W. Maude Ave., Suite 210, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. Phone 1-800-343-3354, or (408) 737-7500. (Lowest fares are obtained up to 3 weeks prior to flight.)

ASSOCIATION OF ADVENTIST WOMEN
Bay Area Chapter
P.O. Box 832
Los Altos, CA 94022

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

OVERVIEW OF CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1991

- 2:00 p.m. Check-in registration begins
- 3:00 p.m. Open AAW Board Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. Adventist Women's Coalition Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Welcome to Central California
Martha Hoffman,
Herb and Jeannie Broeckel
- 9:00 p.m. Fireworks at Great America

3:00 p.m. Gender-Inclusiveness Task Force Story

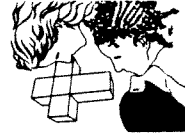
- Penny Miller, Chair
- 6:30 p.m. Banquet with Karyl Dupee,
Nancy and Leonard Bailey,
Merikay McLeod, Leona Running

SUNDAY, JULY 7, 1991

- 8:00 a.m. AAW Business Meeting
Peggy Harris, Chair
- 9:30 a.m. Pathbreaker Vignette
Kit Watts
- 10:00 a.m. World Reports of Women's Ministries
- 11:00 a.m. NAD Women's Ministries
Elizabeth Sterndale
- 2:00 p.m. Workshops
- 7:00 p.m. "Sunday Night Live"

MONDAY, JULY 8, 1991

- 9:00 a.m. *Who Do You Think You Are?*
Merikay McLeod
- 10:00 a.m. Future Action Roundtable
Yvonne Stratton, Chair
- 11:30 a.m. *Looking Again*
Ginger Harwood
- 12:00 noon The Mizpah
Martha Hoffman



Annie Poublan, Artist

SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1991

- 10:00 a.m. *Brought to Light*
Margo Pitrone
- 11:00 a.m. *A Line in the Sand*
Hyveth Williams

REGISTRATION FOR WOMEN IN MINISTRY CONFERENCE

July 4-8, 1990
Marriott Hotel, Santa Clara, CA

Make check payable to:
Bay Area AAW, P.O. Box 832, Los Altos, CA 94022

Name: _____
Street: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Member (\$55; after 6/1/91, \$70).
Nonmember (\$70, after 6/1/91, \$85).
New member (\$70, including registration and membership fee;
after 6/1/91, \$85).
Banquet tickets for additional guests (\$22 each).
Donation to scholarship fund.
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED.

Interested in child care: ages of children: _____

Interested in tours: 17-Mile Drive on Monterey Bay coast Muir Woods/Mt. Tamalpais; Elmhaven/
Pacific Union College/Old Pacific Press; San Francisco; Weimar Institute.

Volume 10 of the Adventist Women: Celebrating our shared history

The forerunner of the *Adventist Woman*, the "Update" giving news for and about women, was first published by Viveca Black and a group of women living in the metro Washington, D.C., area in the fall of 1979.

As with any new publication, it took time to establish a constituency, find funding, and set up editorial policy and a publication schedule.

Although the Association of Adventist Women organized in 1982, and the

first issue bearing the title of the *Adventist Woman* appeared in 1980, we are in 1991 celebrating the publication of the 10th volume of the paper.

A cluster of articles in this issue reviews some of our shared history.

The writers are key women who actively encouraged and participated in publishing this paper and helped establish and lead the Association of Adventist Women.

—The Editors

Connections

by Margaret McFarland, founding editor, 1980

You know you've hit middle age when they start asking you to write about history, and you are the history. Even more telling, you can't remember the events all that well. However, here is what I do remember.

I remember standing in the bedroom of our Victorian house in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with packing boxes all around, ready for the moving truck to arrive to move my husband and me to Takoma Park. The phone rang: it was Viveca Black in her inimitable way "asking" and ultimately persuading me that I should be the first editor of a newsletter for Adventist women.

I had just completed four years of editing my neighborhood newsletter for Ann Arbor's first residential historic district. I was moving to a new town and figured I needed to connect with some new friends in a new place. But I was in the middle of finishing my J.D. degree and thought I wouldn't be able to commit enough time to start up a new enterprise.

Friendly persuasion

Viveca, as usual, knew all the effective words of service and need and ultimately "persuaded" me. I agreed on the condition that there would be a "council" of editors—which was the way my "Old West Side News" was edited—so there was not a big burden on any one person.

I remember more than a few meetings with that initial group—Viveca Black, Karen Ott-Worrow, Vickie Hyde Corey, and Shirley Kinsman—with both pain and pleasure. It was a lot more work to start a newspaper than to carry on a tradition as I had in Ann Arbor. But finally the contest was over, the name was settled, and the first issue came out.

Since the name for the newsletter, which I favored, *Connections*, lost out, I gave that name to my first editorial. It reflected my views about the purpose of

the newsletter and the new association.

Our dreams were to find a way to affirm Adventist women, whether career woman, church woman, or homemakers, and to find ways to connect with one another. I still believe in that ideal and have friends who have chosen each of those paths. My view was that the newsletter's function was to improve our connections—to one another, to the church, and to God.

I had even bigger dreams: that the newsletter and association would connect church women to the world beyond the church door, to women and activities in community organizations, in government and business.

Inside the church, I hoped it would improve connections both for women with a special call to the ministry and the women running Tiny Tots. I still consider both those calls to be important, and wish the latter got more attention and money.

My dream that my sons could be baptized by a woman in ministry is now a real choice for them; even though equal treatment beyond the local church for women in ministry is still a dream unfulfilled.

When you start out with such big dreams, there is room to reach for a long time. I believe the newsletter forms an important link in providing vital connections among Adventist women, and I hope it continues to expand its scope in the coming years.

I still enjoy the paper each time it arrives, and having been around during the painful process of editing, production, and even mailing, I marvel at the commitment of so many women that have kept it going for 10 years. Many thanks to all those who have stayed the course!



M. McFarland

A little taste of heaven

by Beverly Rumble, assistant editor, 1982-

Looking back, I can recognize markers on the trail that led to my involvement in AAW. In 1974 I spent seven weeks in bed waiting for my daughter to be born. Josephine Benton, then an associate pastor at Sligo church, found people to do my laundry and to bake casseroles for my family. She even arrived at my house prepared to scrub the floors. Male ministers might have offered a prayer—but Josephine knew what to do. No longer did I wonder whether women could minister!

A few years later, I was busily editing *The Journal of Adventist Education* and raising three small children. Beth Wear may remember it differently, but I suspect that she put AAW up to inviting me to assist with its newsletter. Beth and I had become friends when I attended her parenting seminars.

In the beginning I participated mostly as a favor to those who asked, not because of strong feelings of my own. Not surprisingly, as an editor I'm a firm believer in the power of the written word. I truly "read" my way into my present convictions about the role of women in the church. But the terrific people with whom I worked in AAW provided mentoring too. People like Pat Habada, Kit Watts, Nancy Marter, Josephine, and Beth have had a major impact on my life.

Interim editor

In 1984 when AAW found itself without an editor, I was asked to take over on an interim basis. I would never have agreed if it hadn't been for my coeditor, who still remains unnamed and uncredited (may her tribe increase). She served as my "Deep Throat" source, mentor, and super-energetic assistant. Because of her position in the church, she could not allow her name to be used. For her, and for a number of others, supporting the cause of women has brought pain and negative

repercussions.

Despite my publishing experience, editing the *Adventist Woman* turned out to be a much bigger project than I had imagined. Getting in material, editing it, and making everything fit and come out error-free on a tight schedule and small budget was a real challenge.

During my tenure as editor I got a lesson in church politics. A GC official scolded me for printing names of people on a commission to study ordination before they had been officially announced. I think he wondered how we'd gotten the names so quickly! Though somewhat intimidated, I felt happy that the people who leaked the names cared about the status of Adventist women, and wanted our readers worldwide to share with commission members their convictions about the role of women in the church.

Although preparations took an enormous amount of work, I remember the 1987 AAW Conference as a highlight in my life. Countless hours went into details like the type style of brochures, printing and shipping posters, fund-raising, and making sure the participants knew what to do and where to be.

However, the networking and the friendships that were forged there and at other AAW conferences have helped me appreciate the quality of Adventist women. We have wept together, laughed together, and planned together. Sharing our hopes and dreams for the church, we have been drawn together, despite our differences in background, age, and other interests. Through these experiences, AAW has given me a taste of what heaven will be like.



Beverly Rumble

City of refuge

by Kit Watts, editor, 1985-1987

To my surprise, when Betty Howard asked me in early 1985 to consider becoming editor of the *Adventist Woman*, hopes that had died years before began to stir with life.

At Dale Hannah's invitation I had joined the Sligo pastoral staff in April 1973, arriving with a seven-year-old B.A. degree in theology—and high hopes. That fall, Josephine Benton and I were among the 22 or so individuals bidden by the General Conference officers to study the "Role of Women in the Church" at Camp Mohaven. We listened respectfully to differences of opinion. But we came to Mohaven without baggage. There were as many women on the committee as men. The clear consensus was to move toward equality, to open doors for women in ministry, thus giving them an opportunity to establish a track record that would provide an appropriate basis for ordination. In my opinion, the Adventist Church could have moved forward then, in the 70s. Had it done so, it would have saved itself years of grief and dissension. It didn't.

Overdosed on reality

Five years later I left Sligo church having overdosed on reality. I had watched in disbelief as powerful church leaders, whom

I had admired and trusted, used their political know-how to stall progress and shut women out theologically. These leaders said that controversial issues that might cost millions of dollars—such as moving Columbia Union College to the country—could be resolved by a simple majority vote of 51 percent. But when it came to deciding whether women could be local elders in Sligo church they demanded 66 percent agreement. More than 60 percent of the Sligo members who voted said Yes. But it was not enough. And, although I felt many men and women of conscience beyond Sligo believed as I did, I had no idea who or where they were. I felt alone.

Fortunately, I had in the meantime earned a library degree. Although Andrews University officials (I learned privately) did not want to hire such a "firebrand," I finally did get a job as periodicals librarian. I spent nine years shelving magazines and straightening chairs and wondering what in the world God wanted me to do. Those were wilderness years



Kit Watts

While living in Berrien Springs, Michigan, I heard of the fledgling Association of Adventist Women and received its newsletter. I was heartened. But AAW seemed like distant rain that might never water my parched earth. Pioneer Memorial church, in the early 1980s, was light-years behind Sligo church. No one was even talking about women elders, not to mention women pastors. When I took seminary classes I seldom had women classmates. And male students tended to avoid us—filling up seats in the rows ahead of us and behind us, not beside us.

In 1984 I was a codirector of the second annual AAW conference, which met at Andrews University. Although we approached the GC and the university seeking a cosponsorship for the event, it became apparent that we would, in the main, have to go it alone.

Fortunately, because we needed a lot of help to make the AAW conference happen, I had to reach out to women and men across campus with whom I had had very little or only superficial contact. To my amazement, many felt that women's issues had merit. Not only did they help but they also brought to bear their academic expertise and credentials. They were not power brokers in the church but they were people of knowledge. Their training and knowledge gave them—and me—assurance that women's issues were vital, that the

church's unrecognized biases and prejudices needed to be addressed.

And so, when AAW asked if I would become editor of the newsletter in 1985, something in me hoped again. I hoped that the newsletter—by reporting events, information, experiences, and opinion—would help us as Adventist women create for ourselves a city of refuge. A place where we could be at home and not have to beg to be let in. A place where we could speak our minds and bare our souls. A place where we could claim our personhood and recognize one another for achievements won. A place where we could hold the church accountable when it institutionalized discrimination and where we could praise and uphold church leaders who were setting things right.

History will tell

Considering that the newsletter continues to appear regularly, in spite of meager financial resources and the busy schedules of a mostly volunteer staff, I'm pleased to see that it is rarely challenged for being nonfactual or irresponsible. But only those of you who read and support the newsletter know if you have found in it a city of refuge. And perhaps only 10 years from now will we be able to measure whether the knowledge and information it helped to disseminate was persuasive enough to prevail over long-standing prejudices and fears. I hope history will be on our side.

Beginnings are so hard—how did we ever do it?

by Elisabeth Wear, chair, AAW Interim Publishing Committee, 1982-1984

Sunday, June 13, 1982, was a long day with complicated resolutions that formalized the new Association of Adventist Women, Inc. Officers had been elected, a board of directors appointed, and policy established for admitting chapters. Almost everyone in the room had been assigned a task.

The afternoon droned on. The matter of the newsletter came to the floor. An interim publishing group was needed until an editor could be found. The chairperson's eyes panned the room looking for anyone who did not already have an assignment. Heads were lowered and handouts were studied with renewed interest. Someone raised her hand.

"Beth, you are not doing anything." (Was this a new definition for college teaching, I wondered?) Someone else spoke. "Beverly Rumble, Judith Nembhard, and Margaret McFarland are excellent writers. These four could become the interim publishing committee—to study what kind of publication AAW needs, how money could be raised, and bring back a report to the board." Somewhere in my head a warning sounded.

"All in favor?" All, except the four named, were in favor.

Rush of advice

Now there was a rush of advice. "The newsletter needs to be regular." "Publish it at least four times a year." "Five issues a year." "We need six issues a year." "At the very minimum we need two issues before next January." Murmurs of agreement. The chairperson seized the moment.

"All those in favor of having the Interim

Publishing Committee publish two issues of the newsletters before January of next year?" All, except the new committee, gave authoritative "ayes."

"No problem," whispered Margaret McFarland who was spending 80 hours a week at a D.C. law firm. "Just delegate."

"Right after I get out the next *Journal* I'll be glad to help." The note came from Beverly Rumble. At the time Beverly was paid a half-time salary at the General Conference for doing more than full-time work editing the *Journal of Adventist Education*.

"This summer I have a series of workshops to give, but after that let's get together." Judith Nembhard was a busy assistant professor of English at Howard University.

The meeting continued around us. "And be it resolved that Otilie Stafford, Ann Parrish, Beverly Beem, Beth Wear, and Jan Hackleman are hereby appointed to serve on an advisory committee to develop policies and procedures to govern the publication of the newsletter." Again there was a round of "ayes."

Filled with compassion for the overextended committee members and feeling guilty about having nothing to do but teach a summer graduate course and coordinate CUC's Master of Arts in Teaching program, I



Elisabeth Wear

decided to do a bit of background work for the Interim Publishing Committee.

The earliest issues of the *Adventist Woman* had been printed on slick paper in an 8 1/2 x 11 format. It appeared that costs could be cut by using an inexpensive grade of paper and going to tabloid-size. A printing firm in Silver Spring, The Record, seemed to have the best prices for typesetting and publishing. Candy Krause, Takoma Park artist and designer, made suggestions about type style, masthead, layout, headers, graphics, boxes, screens, leading, photographs, and the nameplate.

Meanwhile, the committee decided on articles for the first issue. Copy began arriving, with major pieces written by committee members themselves. We would publish the first two issues and establish the format. The board would then define a statement of what AAW wanted from the new editor. No one envisioned that the statement would take two years to implement.

Nitty gritty

Copy from the typesetter came in long strips with sticky stuff on the back. Somehow I had imagined it would come preorganized. Bev Rumble said it didn't. Galleys had to be cut and placed. It was supposed to be simple. Just pay attention to hierarchy—place important articles first, balance the pages with photos, add footers when jumping an article to another page, don't lose paragraphs, and make sure it all makes sense.

National humiliation seemed moments away. An editor must immediately be chosen. We mailed the second issue produced

by the Interim Publishing Committee in the winter of 1982. One of the articles reported the results of a reader survey about the newsletter. AAW members wanted six issues per year, for five issues with an annual journal. They left no doubt that they preferred a church-centered publication, featuring church news and policies that affected women, with regular updates on news of interest to women as well as in-depth treatment of issues of concern.

Toward a permanent reality

January 1983 was fast approaching. No editor had been found. Further, there was no money to pay an editor. The Interim Publishing Committee decided that under the circumstances the best way to ensure the regular publication of the newsletter was to do it ourselves.

During the fall of 1984 the Interim Publishing Committee came to an end. For two years Beverly Rumble and Judith Nembhard had taken turns proofreading mountains of copy. Margaret McFarland solicited articles. Delight Clapp, Norma Osborn, and Cindy Carreno kept track of the membership and mailed each issue. Somewhere in the course of events I had become editor and the editor had become a member of the AAW board. The newsletter had been published bimonthly for two years. Final policies for format, contents, masthead, and publication deadlines were agreed upon by the AAW board. Funds were now in place for a modestly paid editorial post. The newsletter was a permanent reality.

Let's keep on!

by Patricia Habada, special issue, November 1984

Well do I remember the day I received a questionnaire from Viveca Black and Shirley Johnson that led me into involvement with AAW. After reading my response, Shirley invited me to lunch, and we talked about "doing something" for Adventist women.

Because of other commitments I was unable to do more than chair a committee now and then. I remember the contest to select a name for the fledgling newsletter and was excited that my friend Doris Roth gave the paper its name—*The Adventist Woman*.

Interested though I was, I little realized that one day Beth Wear would come to me and insist that I help with the paper. Under the influence of her gentle persuasion, I became more involved. I wrote a few articles—and participated in other ways during a short time when Beverly Rumble was acting editor.

Probably the most significant issue for

me was the November 1984 issue when we reported the first serious Annual Council discussion in the 80s on the ordination of women. Beth did a lot of research—and I did a lot of writing. Those were hopeful times—we really thought the church would move to ordain women in the 80s.

Charles Bradford told us in Indianapolis, "Keep on, keep on, and keep on." I believe the future holds much promise. It is ours to grasp as we continue to join hands with our sisters—and brothers—around the world. I am convinced that we must work together, side by side, to meet God's goals for all of us.



Pat Habada

Speak up, speak out, network!

by Karen Ott-Worrow, editor, issues in volume 1

I confess that I lost track of the newsletter until I was contacted to write this article. I remember that when I edited a couple issues, some 10 years ago, I was excited to have a vehicle for Adventist women to express their views. The need for such a publication continues. I would hope that to the extent that it is not now occurring the following issues would be addressed by the organization and the paper:

■ The Seventh-day Adventist Church is made up of an ethnically diverse population. The membership of the organization, the editorial staff of the newsletter, and the women whose accomplishments are highlighted should reflect that fact. We lose when we don't take advantage of everybody's talents.

■ While many of the readers of the paper no doubt work for the church, not

everybody does. Issues of particular interest to them should be addressed and their achievements also should receive regular attention.

■ The fight against discrimination (both gender and ethnic) should continue. Yet, don't waste opportunities when groups of Adventist women convene to focus solely on the problems. It's just as important to network professionally. Let's discuss career issues with the same passion that we discuss issues of bias. If you have made it, become a mentor to other women who show promise.

■ Don't forget about women who have chosen not to work for pay outside their homes. We should pay attention to what they have to say about issues that are important to them.

Finally, congratulations on 10 years of publication. Keep it up!

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

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

I am enclosing \$15 to subscribe to *The Adventist Woman*.

My tax-deductible contribution of \$_____ is also enclosed.

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Langley Park, MD 20787

AUGUST 10

Copy deadline for the next issue of the *Adventist Woman* is August 10.

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
Volume 10, No. 3

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Eleven women chaplains meet in Miami



Margaret Turner Photo

Among the approximately 60 Adventists who attended the SDA Health-care Chaplains' meeting, March 15-20, in Miami Florida, were 11 women from Adventist hospitals in Kansas, Tennessee, Ohio, Maryland, Colorado, Florida, and California. The entire chaplains' group once again endorsed a recommendation to ordain women. Joyce Lorntz and Glen Sackett co-chaired the Chaplains for Women in Ministry committee. In the photo, left to right, are (front row): Joyce Evans, Penny Shell, Shari Chamberlain; (middle): Joyce Lorntz, Duane Frey, Pat Hart; (back): Marit Balk, Mary Casler, Betty Unger, Juanita Mayer, and Margaret Turner.