

the Adventist Woman

Volume 1, No. 5

Fall 1982

AAW — What Is Its Mission?

By Josephine Benton

From the earliest stages of planning, women who expressed a need for an organization of Adventist women have stated that the mission of the association should be to communicate to Adventist women everywhere that they are not alone and that they have the support of other women in the Denomination.

The need for improved and increased communication and support is reflected in the present statement of mission. The national organization has been given the responsibility for wide communication via the newsletter. Local chapters have been given responsibility for providing information and communication at the local level and for offering appropriate support where assistance can be seen and felt in a very tangible way. Both the national and local chapters have the responsibility for seeking ways to finance these projects.

The mission of the organization can be broken down into four major areas:

A. To encourage communication, support and wider understanding among Adventist women in diverse situations.

The Association of Adventist Women not only provides an opportunity for increasing awareness of women's needs and potential at the various levels of Adventist organization, but the association should also help women to understand options that are open to them as well as to share with one another the benefit of what they have found.

The term "diverse situations" expands the scope of our mission. It is probably only through the medium of a newsletter that a woman not in one of our large centers might have knowledge of women with a similar view or problem, and be able to respond. Women who live in areas with a large Adventist population do not have as great a problem in sharing ideas and information.

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

It is sometimes painfully apparent that our church is not, as a whole, fully cognizant of women's contributions, or of their potential for perhaps greater contributions. Other denominations have surpassed us. We have regressed.

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Josephine Benton, Chair of the Forum Committee on Women, presents her report.

The Church and the National Assoc. of Adventist Women

By W.S. Banfield

"I am not liberated. I still enjoy having someone open the door and hold the seat for me as a woman." "As a business manager, I have employed women with equal training to that of males but have found none equal in decision-making judgment." "It is against the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy for women to serve as pastors and departmental heads in our church. Man is to be the head and the woman is to serve as a helpmeet." "High level professional opportunities for women to serve in the Seventh-day Adventist Church are very limited. Professional women are beginning to lose interest in a church that is not interested in them." These are examples of a variety of opinions I have recently received concerning the role of women in the



W.S. Banfield, Director, Office of Human Relations, General Conference.

Seventh-day Adventist Church.

I see no reason why The Association of Adventist Women cannot work together harmoniously within the church organization to achieve goals and objectives that will enable the church to fully utilize its human resources and potential. On behalf of the Denomination's Office of Human Relations, I appreciate being able to meet with you.

As opportunities for women in the secular world change, changes within the church will follow. Some changes will be made quite easily, others more gradually, and some only with the greatest difficulty. There is no agreement on whether to break with custom and tradition in other areas. The Association of Adventist Women can be a great blessing to the church as we navigate these new and uncharted waters. To this end I would like to make the following observations:

Social change is best facilitated when there is broad public support for

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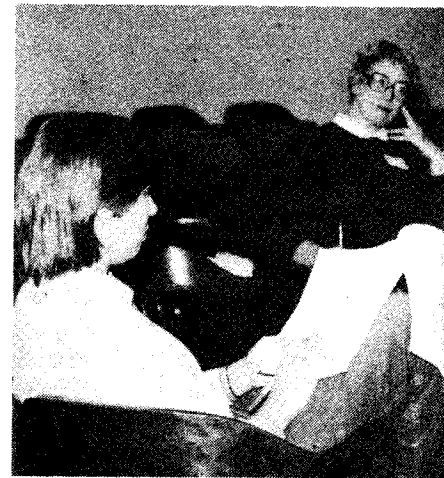
The Association Of Adventist Women Is Born

By Margaret McFarland

Sunday, June 13, marked the official first meeting of the newly incorporated Association of Adventist Women, Inc., (AAW). Growing out of \$500 of seed money planted by the Association of Adventist Forums (AAF) in 1979, the organization of AAW was the fulfillment of the work and wishes of a goodly number of women such as Viveca Black, who, along with Joan Angelo Adams, Shirley Kinsman, Vickie Hyde Corey, Jeanne Kinzer, Pat Horning, and Karen Ott-Worrow to name a few, nurtured the initial group located in the Washington, D.C., area. In the Loma Linda, California, area, Danielle Wuchenich gathered a large group of women, including Jan Hackleman, Patty Hansen, Alyce Pudwell, Linda Halstead, Cheryl Lessard, Martha Nelson, and Helen Little, among others, who met frequently during 1979 and 1980 in an effort to get a publication started. The group in California developed the statement of the organization's purpose, which has appeared on the back of each newsletter.

In the fall of 1980, the Association of Adventist Forums asked a committee of

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Margaret McFarland, AAW's legal counsel, with Otilie Stafford in a working committee.

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PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNIQUE



Betty Howard, President, AAW

The political and economic realities of the 1980's will mean that women will need to support each other to merely retain the gains that have been made during the last decade. Our upward moves may be like swimming against the tide. We will need to build communication networks and professional links to help each other as men characteristically have: something of "a new girls circuit."

Inflation, unemployment and the Reagan administration's postures toward affirmative action and equal opportunity for women and minorities foretell a tough decade for women. Some have characterized the mood of the federal government as a period of

affirmative inaction.

As President of AAW I am interested in trying to achieve change by working hand in hand with the AAW Board, with the membership and with the leadership of our church. You will need to help me identify the issues and let me know your thoughts as to what the process ought to be as we work together to bring about a better understanding of the role of women in the church. I want to hear from you. I assure you that I am dedicated to the maximum growth of all people, and I will work vigorously to implement this notion.

I have established a committee on Planning. Bev Habada is chairing this committee which will look carefully at our Mission Statement and give input to the Board and me about goals and objectives. This planning will be vital to the development of our organization.

All of your officers are volunteers in this association. Like you, we are busy with jobs and families and have joys and stresses. We are all proud of our work with AAW and are thankful for the personal friendships, professional support, and continued challenge found in working for people and God. Advance His cause in whatever way you can.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Betty Howard
President AAW 1982-84

Mission

(Continued from page 1)

An analysis of the Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook a few decades ago indicates a higher percentage of women in departmental chairmanships at the college, conference and union levels. Positions such as conference treasurer or departmental secretary are rarely held by women today, but were frequently held then.

The loss to the denomination in terms of human potential is considerable. Many women who are doing unchallenging jobs would be holding down major responsibilities if they were males.

There is an increasing possibility that women who are denied an opportunity to utilize their talents fully in our denomination will find employment outside the church, creating a brain drain similar to that which occurs when people from underdeveloped countries come to America to study but never return to their countries because of political repression. Similarly, there may be women seeking administrative posts, pastoral work, and other types of employment who will have no choice but to work outside of the denomination.

C. To assist Adventist women in achieving fulfillment in their interpersonal relationships, personal development and relationships to God.

Women need to have a vision of what they themselves can become. As children rarely achieve goals higher than the expectations their parents have instilled in

them, so it is difficult for women to achieve when others, as well as themselves, tend to hold a low opinion of women. It is tragic when women view themselves only as people who bear children and wash the dishes and floors.

It is sad to see women sometimes objecting strongly when they find other women moving into nontraditional roles which they themselves do not occupy or see themselves as filling. A great deal of effort needs to be directed toward helping women see themselves with potential and self-worth. A series of articles in major church publications would help.

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

Many changes in our society have affected women. Improvements in industry, greater mechanization, and birth control have all offered advantages. Most women today who marry and have children still have a segment of life left after the children have left home. Women needed to be educated to anticipate these years by being prepared to do interesting things.

Whether she is a woman who is single, married without children, or a mother in one of the phases of the child-bearing cycle, a woman needs to examine assumptions and perceptions that are prompting her behavior. Not every woman has to be a career woman, but every woman has to be fulfilled.

Chapter Development

Local chapters of the Association of Adventist women are already beginning to organize for activity. Two chapters, one in the Berrien Springs area and another in the metropolitan Washington area had informally organized groups prior to the June 13 organization of the National Board of the Association of Adventist Women. Women in Hinsdale, Illinois, and in Anchorage, Alaska, have indicated an interest in starting local chapters in their areas.

The Michiana Chapter, as the Berrien Springs group is called, is the first group to file a copy of their constitution and by-laws with the national organization. In a recent election, Ramira Jobe was chosen president of that chapter, with Judy Blanton, the treasurer, and Vivian Ahlers, the secretary. This group began meeting early last Spring under the leadership of Ruth Murdoch and Thesba Johnston. They have set up nine working committees to accomplish their goals. The areas which have emerged as significant for the Michiana Chapter over the summer are education and research. Judy Blanton, who chairs the education committee, noted that she and several other women have presented seminars for ministers and conference administrators, and they are prepared to work with any group interested in learning about and discussing Adventist women. This group has also set plans for educational seminars for academy age girls and the professional woman.

Vivian Ahlers, chairwoman of the research committee, is working on a survey of Adventist women to discover basic demographic information as well as the attitudes of Adventist women toward family, work and the church. When asked why the need for research on the Adventist woman, Ahlers responded that presently we do not even have basic information on Adventist women such as what percentage of the church is female. Church officials have indicated their support of the research project and are eager

to discover what the women of the Michiana chapter discover.

In the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, Beverly Habada, along with Joan Angelo-Adams, have organized several special events including a meeting with women in local politics and an attorney from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Last Spring about thirty-five Adventist women got together for a banquet with Elder Charles Bradford, president of the North American Division, who gave a short talk on the role of women in the Seventy-day Adventist Church followed by a question and answer period. Habada and Angelo-Adams have been joined by Shirley Zork, the Atlantic regional representative to the national board, in planning an October 17 meeting to organize officially.

On June 13 the national board of the Association of Adventist Women passed a resolution setting out the guidelines for forming local chapters. A local chapter must consist of at least five subscribers to the newsletter, *The Adventist Women*, must be in harmony with the goals of the national organization, and must file a constitution and by-laws with the national Association of Adventist Women. If you are interested in organizing a local chapter in your area, to find out about other subscribers in your area and to receive information write to:

Jan Daffern
Director of Chapter Development
7700 Carroll Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Central Mass. Chapter Organizes

The Mission of Women in the Adventist Church was the title of Dr. Helen Tyler's talk at the opening of the newly organized Central Massachusetts Chapter of the Association of Adventist Women. Helen Tyler, who holds a D. Min. degree from Boston University, is Chaplain for the New England Memorial Hospital. She is also an R.N., the wife of a physician, and has been a missionary to Thailand. She says that her concerns are as much for the mission of women to families as for the opening up of greater opportunities for women in the church.

Also on the agenda for the September 14 meeting was the election of officers for the new chapter. A report on the election will appear in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.

Notice to Subscribers

Since the *Adventist Woman's Newsletter* is now a publication of a new organization, financed by a different group, and edited by a new publication committee, its relation to the current list of subscribers is unclear. However, the new Association of Adventist Women wishes to be fair to all who have subscribed in the past. Therefore, all those who were currently subscribers when the Association was formed on June 13 of this year, will be treated as new members of the association and will receive one year's issues of the Association's publication.

All new members of the Association will receive the publication for one year from the time of their joining. The format and editorial policies of the publication may change when a new editor takes over at the beginning of 1983, but this will not affect subscriptions.

Interim Publications Committee

Beverly Rumble

Judith Nembhard

Margaret McFarland

Elisabeth Wear, Chairman

The Interim Publications Committee is serving until the AAW National Organization selects an editor and makes final decisions on the frequency and format of future publications.

Women In Church Leadership

By Judith Nembhard

From the Human Relations Office of the General Conference comes word of a recent study by the Institute of Church Ministry revealing evidence of an increasing role for women in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The findings show that 106 women are now members of union or conference executive committees in North America.

Currently, sixteen women hold the new commissioned minister's credentials from either unions or conferences, while another ten carry the commissioned minister's license. The two new designations, voted by the 1980 Annual Council, are issued to both men and women serving the church as Associates in Pastoral care, auditors, Bible instructors, conference departmental workers, secondary school principals, and treasurers. Individuals holding commissioned minister's

credentials do not exercise any legal ministerial functions; however, they are eligible for ordination by the church should the authoritative bodies so decide.

Between 1976 and 1981, thirty-three women completed undergraduate ministerial training at Adventist institutions. These women hoped for ministerial appointments, the study notes, but only eight were placed in ministerial-type positions. It also reveals that at one college some women interested in pursuing ministerial training were advised to pursue other fields.

The denomination does not grant women ministerial licenses, but a growing number of women are now seeking ministerial positions. This Institute of Church Ministry report shows that in 1981 some forty-five women inquired about or made applications to conferences for ministerial openings.

Association Is Born

(Continued from page 1)

seven women in the Washington, D.C., area— Josephine Benton, chairperson, Joan Angelo Adams, Judith Nembhard, Betty Howard, Margaret McFarland, Beth Wear, and Jan Daffern— to take responsibility for creating a separate, tax-exempt organization to sponsor the newsletter. After serious and sustained efforts over several months, with the assistance of Cynthia Northrop, a nurse and Maryland attorney, Articles of Incorporation were filed with the State of Maryland in February and By-laws were adopted. On May 24, 1982, the State of Maryland proclaimed the Association of Adventist Women, Inc. a Maryland corporation.

The birthday came just in time, as the ad hoc committee had already arranged for an organizational meeting to be held on June 13, 1982, in Takoma Park, Maryland. Regional directors from around the country were nominated and requested to be present or to station themselves by a telephone for the afternoon to guarantee a quorum. The telephone brigade, it turned out, was not required, as regional directors to be nominated from places as far away as Colorado and Massachusetts made special efforts to be in Takoma Park for the organizational meeting. In fact, Thesba Johnston, the president of a local women's group at Andrews University, took a bus down to Takoma Park and back to her vacation spot in New Hampshire to make sure the new baby got off to a good start in life.

The organizational meeting was a tiring but inspiring all-day effort. The meeting was opened by Josephine Benton, who had chaired the AAF committee that had worked through many evenings to bring about the events of the day. In a devotional to start the proceedings, Jan Daffern, a pastor at Sligo church, told the story of Ruth as a tale of female solidarity. Remarks on effective organizing followed from Elder Warren Banfield, the director of the Office of Human Relations at the General Conference (See companion article relating the content of his remarks on page one. Reports, com-



Jan Daffern, Associate Pastor at Sligo church, presents the worship talk at the June 13 board meeting.

mittees, discussions, motions, resolutions, votes, and more discussion filled the day until nearly 7:00 p.m., punctuated by a brunch prepared by the Columbia Union College food service and paid for by the Office of Human Relations.

More than a few votes and resolutions were taken, as one would expect at a first organizational meeting intended to set things on their course for two years. Of most significance, of course, was the election of the directors and officers (listed on this page), but two other items warrant reporting. First, the By-laws were amended to specify the regional directors' duties as: (1) chapter development; (2) fund raising; (3) submitting news for the AAW publication; and (4) liaison with other entities in their region. Secondly, after extended committee and group discussion, it was decided that two more issues of the newsletter *The Adventist Woman* would be published before the end of 1982. The group, as could be expected, held divergent views as to what the news letter should be and who should edit any new or continuing publication. In an honored tradition, necessitated by the one-day limit for the organizational meeting, a committee was appointed to study the question of the type of publication AAW would sponsor and to recommend an editor. The committee is to report back to the Board by January 1, 1983. As part of the Board's effort to decide these im-

Church

(Continued from page 1)

change. The greatest opposition to change within the church appears to be coming from Adventist women themselves. On many nominating committees, women are reluctant to nominate other women or to raise questions that will challenge tradition. Two tasks that The Association of Adventist Women face are (1) to help the church redefine the role of women in terms of the Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy and the times in which we live, and (2) to generate broad public support for change. These are difficult tasks, but they are necessary. You may find a few of the following recommendations helpful:

You should periodically invite local church elders as well as conference and General Conference personnel to discuss your concerns, goals and objectives.

In addition to an emotional appeal, a factual, rational, logical

case needs to be articulated that has some basis for becoming a reality.

The primary responsibility for providing the kind of education that will rally broad support from the majority of women in the church should be assumed by women with the support of sympathetic men.

It would be helpful if women's professional groups and social clubs would include women's issues on their agendas and collectively make their voices heard.

Since there is always a backlog of issues waiting for administrative attention, often, out of necessity, issues deemed to hold a higher level of urgency receive priority over the issues of special interest groups.

All organizations, including the church, have a political structure. Women should become involved in the political process at the local church, local conference and union conference levels. They need to gain membership on key committees, discover where the entry level opportunities that lead to high positions are, then find, nominate and encourage women to continuously apply for these jobs.

Write and publish all you can in every journal you can. Educate, educate, educate. Publish, publish, publish. You will thus win friends (male and female) and influence people.

Nurture the development of numerous subchapters of your association from coast to coast.

The most difficult issue to resolve will be that of the ordination of women to the ministry. Some reasons for this are:

1. Deep-rooted theological divisions need to be resolved.
2. There is no broad support for the ordination of women.
3. In many churches there is reluctance to accept women pastors.
4. Administrative agendas are crowded with other, higher-priority issues.

The staff of the Office of Human Relations (OHR) should either have a professional woman on the staff or have a female standing committee to work with OHR. An appeal from you may help.

In general, male leaders in the Seventh-day Adventist Church are not hostile toward women. However, varying degrees of apathy, fear, and lack of understanding do exist. Despite this, I believe that a number of men over a broad spectrum of church leadership are receptive to change.

At the request of the General Conference or the North American Division, the Office of Human Relations places on its agenda issues dealing with the role of women in the church. As this happens, we try to be as objective, open-minded, fair, honest and as courageous as possible. We hope our service will be satisfactory to you and the church as a whole.

Collaboration is presently considered to be the ideal way to initiate change. There is a spirit within The Association of Adventist Women and within the leadership of the church to use collaboration in resolving issues amicably. In doing so, the church can thereby make its fullest contribution and be a light to the world.

portant issues, each reader is asked to fill out the publication survey on page 4.

If you would like a copy of the June 13 minutes of the organizational meeting, the By-laws and/or the Articles of Incorporation, please send a stamped, self-addressed 8½" x 11" envelope to Margaret McFarland, 806 Maplewood Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912.

Association of Adventist Women BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Betty Howard, Dean of Women, Columbia Union College, Takoma Park, MD 20912;

Margaret McFarland, 806 Maplewood Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912;

Beverly Habada, 236 Manor Circle, Takoma Park, MD 20912;

Jan Daffern, c/o Sligo Church Office, 7710 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912;

Dolores Maupin, 7516 Dundalk Road, Takoma Park, MD 20912;

Otilie Stafford, English Department, Atlantic Union College, South Lancaster, MA 01561;

Shirley Zork, 8020 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, MD 20810;

Thesba Johnston, 159 Bell Hall, Andrews University, Berrien Spring, MI 01561

Vickie Danielson, 2735 So. Pennsylvania, Englewood, CO 80110;

Helen Evans Thompson, Box 84, Walla Walla, WA 99362;

Jan Hackleman, P.O. Box 251, Bryn Mar, CA 92318;

Pat Horning, Box 1301, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420;

Melinda Howes, 1718 Gulf View Drive, Maitland, FL 32751;

Judy Foll Miles, Dept. of Business Administration, Southwestern Adventist College, Kenne, TX 76059.

Delight Clapp, 10314 Floral Drive, Adelphi, MD 29783



The session breaks for lunch in the CUC cafeteria.

Publications Survey

Association of Adventist Women

1. Please rank the following in order of preference: (1-4)

- ___ National Women's Newsletter published six times per year. This would include some treatment of major issues. Spectrum, the Review, etc., would be encouraged to publish major articles.
- ___ A National Newsletter published five times per year, plus one journal issued annually.
- ___ A National Women's Journal published four times per year — similar to Spectrum.
- ___ Other—Specify:

2. Please rank the following in order of preference to indicate the content that you would like to see in a National Newsletter: (1-19)

- ___ News about S.D.A. women and their activities, both professional and in the church, home and community.
- ___ News from church developments and decisions affecting women.
- ___ News from local chapters and national Association of Adventist Women
- ___ News about legal and political development of special interest to women
- ___ Science and medical news of special interest to women
- ___ Regular columns with specific content:
 - ___ Opinion/speak out
 - ___ Book reviews
 - ___ Religion
 - ___ Family/home issues
 - ___ Editorial column
 - ___ Letters to the editor
 - ___ Placement/job section
 - ___ Church and governmental issues affecting women
 - ___ Women's civic involvement/voluntarism
 - ___ Women as professionals
 - ___ Women's finances
 - ___ Education
 - ___ Business

3. Please indicate the content you would like to see in an Adventist Women's Journal or magazine in order of preference: (From 1 to 17)

- ___ Association members and what they're doing
- ___ The Association of Adventist Women, local chapters and national organization
- ___ S.D.A. Church news of interest to women
- ___ Legal and political developments affecting women
- ___ Opinion/speak out
- ___ Book reviews
- ___ Religion
- ___ Other suggested topics: _____
- ___ Family/home issues
- ___ Editorial Column
- ___ Clusters of articles on one issue
- ___ Medical/scientific topics
- ___ Spiritual/religious topics
- ___ Features on interesting or important women ___ SDA ___ non-SDA
- ___ Political topics
- ___ Psychological/sociological issues
- ___ Business/financial topics

4. Is the type of paper that this Newsletter is printed on satisfactory for a National Newsletter? Yes No Comment:

Mail To: Association of Adventist Women
Box 3884 Langley Park, MD 20787

“So God made 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 the individuals in our church reflect more fully the image of God in their relationships to each other in the home, the church, the work setting and in the community.

Through the means of this publication which focuses on the development, discoveries, interests and potential of Christian woman, our goals are:

- 1) To encourage communication, support and wider understanding among Adventist women in diverse situations.
- 2) To acquaint the church community at large with Adventist women's potential and achievements.
- 3) To assist Adventist women in achieving fulfillment in their interpersonal relationships, personal development and relationships to God.
- 4) To help Adventist women to maximize their options, whatever their age and situation, that they may reflect more fully the image of God.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

By Judith Nembhard

Teresa Washington of Homestead, Florida, has been named to the list of Outstanding Women in America. A teacher at Miami Union Academy, Ms. Washington has had her poetry published by the *American Collegiate Poets* and the *College Poetry Review*. Recently she placed third in a poetry contest sponsored by the Dade County (Florida) Public Library System.

Faith Esham, a 1970 graduate of Columbia Union College, made her operatic debut at La Scala Opera in Milan, Italy, on May 18 this year. In June she performed in Paris with the Orchestra du Paris, and in July at the Carmel (California) Bach Festival.

Research done by the Institute of Church Ministry reveals that no women are currently employed in administrative positions in the unions; however, the recent appointment of Helen Harris Turner as treasurer of the Southwest Region Conference is being viewed as a move that will open the door for women in administration on the local conference level.

Doris Smith Suddarth, nursing educator and author of two textbooks which are highly regarded in the field, *Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing* and the *Lippincott Manual of Nursing Practice*, has been cited by the Greater Washington In-Service Committee in recognition of her significant contribution to the teaching profession.

Carol Cantu currently serves as Supervisor of Education for the Allegheny East Conference. Recently she conducted workshops in which we brought in specialists who introduced her corps of teachers to innovative techniques in individualization. The workshops were noteworthy in that they demonstrated ways of individualizing to reach the handicapped children in an Adventist school.

Viveca Black, who spent seven years with the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as editor of *The Philanthropic Dollar*, is now Director of Development for Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Washington, D.C. The organization is an affiliate of Boys Club of America and has eight local branches. Despite the current economic climate, under Ms. Black's leadership, her office has been able to raise \$75,000 in five months.

Spring Valley Academy senior Judy Pape has received from Pitney-Bowes, Inc. a \$10,000 scholarship to the college of her choice. The John Kohnle Scholarship, of which only four are awarded annually, will provide \$2,500 for each year of college. Ms. Pape plans to pursue a nursing career at Kettering College of Medical Arts. Ms. Pape, whose father works for Pitney-Bowes, is a member of the Centerville, Ohio, church.

About Our Writers . . .

W.S. Banfield is Director, Office of Human Relations, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Josephine Benton, PhD, is Associate Professor of Speech and English, Montgomery College, Germantown Campus, Maryland.

Betty Howard, doctoral student, University of Maryland, is Dean of Women, Columbia Union College.

Margaret McFarland is an attorney at O'Melveny and Myers, Wash. D.C.

Judith Nembhard, PhD is an assistant Professor of English at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

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