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Flowers in memory of Georgia
Hodgkin from Sheila Hodgkin

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You can join AAW at
associationofadventistwomen.com

Association of Adventist Women

**Woman of the Year
&
Champion of Justice**

Banquet



October 12, 2024

Loma Linda University Church

Association of Adventist Women

AAW goal is to advocate for the participation of women in all leadership roles in Seventh-day Adventist organizations and communities around the globe.

- ◆ Share women's stories to inspire others worldwide.
- ◆ Redefine leadership to include women's 'service' & 'lay activities,' thereby enhancing the church's effectiveness.
- ◆ Promote access to Biblical materials supporting women's leadership in the Adventist world church.
- ◆ Strengthen the network & support for Adventist women in ministry, enhancing their leadership.
- ◆ Highlight Adventist women's contributions in the past so we can better understand our history and inspire women's unique leadership in the future.
- ◆ Keep church structure accountable for following correct abuse prevention protocols and acting quickly to prevent further injury to the vulnerable.
- ◆ Work amicably with the church to create more significant opportunities for women in all levels of administration and ministry, including ordination.



Past Awardees

2009

Joy-Marie Ford Butler
Karen Hanson Kotoske
Rigmor Mari-Anne Nyberg
Qin Zheng Yi "Zhang Zhu"
Nancy Weber Vyhmeister
Dorothy Eaton Watts
Jan Paulsen

2008

Mary Ang'awa
Sally Shadel Hasselbrack
Cheryl Roberts Saunders
Gabriele Stangl
Audray Moorhouse Johnson
Mary Whipple

2010

Ella Louise Smith Simmons
Don Roth

2011

Myrna Costa Casado
Bonnie Wharton Dwyer

2012

Cynthia J. Prime

2013

Christine P. Crosby
Judith Lloyd Storfjell

2014

Frederica Harris
Sandra Roberts

2016

Carolyn Slepnikoff Lacy
Iris Landa
Adeny Schmidt
Fritz Guy
Randal Wisbey

2018

Durdica Garvanovic Porobija

2019

Carole Ferch-Johnson
Linda Mendez
Chris Oberg
Corene Stennis
Dan Jackson

2020

Dynette Elaine Hart
Nyslie Guerrier
Juana Dina Salas Montoya
Hilde Thorkildson Huru
Ginger Hanks Harwood
Ricardo Graham
David Weigley

2021

Dianne Sika-Paotonu
Helen Hopp Marshak
Phyllis Ware Lee
Charles Sandefur
Henry Fordham III

2022

Sylvia Klinger
Nandi Fleming
Carmela Monk Crawford
Margaret Solomon
Verna Alva
Judy Lello
Randy Roberts

2023

Drene Somasundram
Maria Silvia Neri Castrijón
Norma Nashed
Olive Hemmings
William G. Johnsson
Loren Seibold

Liturgy

The Commission of Every Believer

Christ said a farewell to his disciples, "I am going to him who sent me...But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, (because) If I go I will send (the Advocate) to you;" "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you (John 16:5-7; John 14:26)

"It (is) he who (gives) gifts to people; he appoint(s) some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. He (does) this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ." "That will continue until we all become one in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son. Then we will be grown up in the faith. We will receive everything that Christ has for us." (Eph. 4:11-13)

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses." "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (Acts 1:8, 1 Pet. 4:10) "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." (Jn. 20:21, Mark 16:15)

Each one of us has a part to play in spreading the Gospel. We each have different journeys as we each have different gifts. So "may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." (Rom 15:13)

All: Amen



Program

Welcome – Nerida Bates

Blessing – Emily Egolet Banda, Dir WM Malawi

Are we making a difference?

Nerida Taylor Bates, MD PhD, President AAW

Natalie Hohensee, DDS, vocal & Aimee Leukert, PhD, piano

Introduction of Victor Marley by Reinder Bruinsma, PhD

We're not done yet!

Women in ministry in Europe and the world

Elder Victor Marley, President, Norway Union

Woman of the Year Awards Presentations – Linda Becker

Introduction by Derrell Mundal, Vice president LLBN

Elizabeth Talbot, PhD Spiritual Leadership & Media Ministry

Introductions by Nancy Vyhmeister, PhD

Silvia Scholtus, PhD Church Leadership & Scholarship

Accepted by niece, Pr. Gisella Montana

Introduction by Myrna Hanna, MA, Assistant VP, LLU and Larry

Geraty PhD prof emeritus, past president La Sierra Univ.

Vi Zapara, PhD (honorary) Philanthropic Leadership

Accepted by Kimberly Thomas, friend of Vi

Introduction by Linda Becker, PhD

Rene Drumm, PhD Scholarship & Church Leadership

Champion of Justice Award:

Victor Marley, MA

Liturgy – SECC women pastors by Frances Priest, MA

Final prayer Elizabeth Talbot, Jesus 101



Silvia Scholtus



Silvia Scholtus is currently faculty emeritus at River Plate University where she has taught undergraduates, graduates and post-graduates since 1990. She holds a doctorate in Theology from the same university. She has written more than 30 book chapters and books on theology and over 100 articles in a variety of languages (Portuguese, English, Spanish and Finnish). Her publications include not only a focus on theology but also Seventh-day Adventist history, research and articles in Greek.

Silvia has done presentations at conferences in Argentina and abroad. She has served on teams that produced research on Adventist history in Latin American countries and has worked on the editorial teams of several academic journals at the River Plate University, and in other countries.

She was a librarian and archivist at the Ellen White Research Center-Argentina for more than 25 years. From 2017-2020 she was the director of the Adventist Historical Center of the Argentine Union of Seventh-day Adventists located on the university campus. In July of 2020, over 30 of her articles were published in the new General Conference Adventist Encyclopedia of History available online. She has received various recognitions for her educational work and also as a researcher and writer. She has been retired since June 2020, though she continues to be active as a speaker and writer.

Silvia is married to Mario E. Roscher, and they have three children and one grandson.

AAW recognizes the legacy Silvia leaves in Adventist history, theology and leadership. She has a proven track record of chronicling the events that have shaped the Adventist church in South America. Her work will be utilized as future leaders seek to understand the past and lead into the future. Thank you, Silvia, for the contribution you have made in the academic world!

Junia Award Winners

East-Central Africa Division: Mary Mburu is chaplain to the 3000 Adventist students at the public Kenyatta University, Nyrobi.

Euro-Asia Division: Elena Butova was previously an evangelist in Russia is now a pastor in Victoria, Australia.

Inter-American Division: Margaret Ramsarran, of Guyana, went from successful lay evangelist to being a commissioned pastor in 2011. She is 74 years old and still evangelizing.

Inter-European Division: Abigaela Trofin, a Romanian in Italy, has pastored in 12 church communities and now serves in Sicily.

Northern Asia-Pacific Division: AAW has chosen the **nine women pastors in the Mongolian Mission.**

South American Division: Fedra Pérez works as chaplain in a K-12 church school in Argentina and has church planted.

South Pacific Division: Joyce Kandawok Bale is a consistent soul winner in her rural area in Papua New Guinea.

Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division: Tshepiso Anathi Mbele, who studied theology at Solusi University in Zimbabwe, is a commissioned pastor (February 2022) in South Africa.

Southern Asia Division: Sharon Roja Vakkanthula (Clinton) is an assistant pastor, Spicer Adventist University Church & Assistant Professor in the Division of Religious Studies in India since 2016.

Southern Asia-Pacific Division: Jadaza Hintay. She shone as a missionary/evangelist in Central Luzon Conference, now in Admin.

Trans-European Division: Joanna Krupa-Roszak leads in her church in Poland and loves being an evangelist.

West-Central Africa Division: Samuelle Ngo Ikouba epse Nfor is senior chaplain, Div. of Spiritual Life, Babcock University.

North American Division: Maria Ejurango of Waterman-Visayan Fil-Am Church and **Elina Camarena** of Paradise Valley Hispanic Church for their ordination and ministry in their cultural communities. And **Shiphrah Fepulea'i**, the first Samoan, **Therezinha Barbalho**, the first Brazilian and **Linda Biswas**, the first Bengali-American, ordained in culturally-mixed communities.



Victor Marley



Victor Marley was born in the Northeast of England in 1969. As the son of an effective evangelist, he grew up listening to the gospel of Jesus Christ as presented through the doctrines of the Adventist church. He first felt the call to ministry as a teenager and was active in the youth ministry of his local church. After leaving school, he worked for an insurance company for a year before embarking upon theological studies at Newbold College in 1989. Six years later, he left with a BA and MA in systematic theology from Andrews University, and began ministry in Colchester and Bury St. Edmunds, in the East of England, where, along with his wife, Gry Beate, they enjoyed five wonderful years before being called back to Newbold where they both worked as a part of the pastoral team.

In 2002 they moved to Norway, Gry Beate's homeland, where Marley became Associate Youth Director in the Norwegian Union. He was elected as Youth Director in 2005, a position he has held since. He stated he "loved the privilege and excitement of working with youth, pathfinders, children and families these past 14 and a half years. I have been amazed and thrilled at the way God has led."

In recent years, Marley's interest in leadership has led him to embark upon a second MA, this time in Leadership. He says, "The MA in leadership is causing me to grow, both personally and professionally, providing me with tools that I have already begun to use in my work."

Victor and Pastor Gry Beate are the proud parents of three wonderful teenagers, Miriam (17), Mattias (15), and Miranda (14).

Victor Marley was selected as President of the Norwegian Union of Seventh-day Adventists in 2017, a post he has held since that time.

AAW recognizes Victor Marley for his courage and insight in standing for equitable church leadership processes that decentralize authority, and for his support of women in ministry.



Elizabeth Talbot



Elizabeth Viera Talbot, Ph.D. is the Speaker/Director for the Jesus 101 Biblical Institute, a media ministry of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. The Jesus 101 website (www.Jesus101.tv) and smart phone application (Jesus 101) offer in-depth Christ centered Bible study resources in English & Spanish, including daily devotionals, biblical studies, videos, podcasts and audio books. Dr. Talbot is regularly featured on TV, radio, and social media venues around the world. Dr. Talbot is the author of the adult daily devotional and Bible study course, "Jesus Wins!" Her books include *After God's Heart*, *The Battle Belongs to the Lord*, *I will Give you Rest*, *Surprised by Love*, *Matthew: Prophecy Fulfilled*, *Mark: Good News*, *Luke: Salvation for All*, *John: God Became Flesh*, *Revelation: The Fifth Gospel*, *Amazing Grace*, and *Radical Discipleship*.

Dr. Talbot was born in Argentina, to Adventist missionaries – Dr. Juan Carlos Viera and Alicia Viera. Her parents instilled in her the love of Jesus, and since her early childhood she envisioned herself preaching, even practicing with her dolls. After completing her BA in Music Ed., she worked in business for 15 years earning a MA in Organizational Behavior. All the while, she volunteered as a youth and young adults' pastor.

When the SDA Church invited her to pastor full-time, she gladly accepted God's call. She became an Associate Pastor and Evangelist, while earning her second Master's Degree in Biblical Studies from Azusa Pacific Univ. then her PhD. from the University of Gloucestershire. She became a Senior Pastor for several years and an adjunct Biblical Studies Professor. She has enjoyed evangelism and has led the media ministry, Jesus 101, for the last 15 years. Dr. Talbot is passionate about the good news of Jesus Christ: "It's like fire in my bones" she says, and she means it!

AAW recognizes Elizabeth Talbot for her amazing energy and focus on reaching the world with God's love. She is an effective communicator, sharing Jesus' light in this world, lifting the darkness and bringing joy and peace to the searching. She energetically applies God's love and principals to a confused and anxious world. We are grateful for the light she brings to each of us, and for her ministry that is reaching thousands.



Vi Zapara



Violet Zapara was born in North Dakota on April 21, 1926, to the Boyko family. She grew up on a farm with a younger brother, Don. Cold winters and unending chores were part of farming on the plains. She was eager to read and find out about the world, entering school a year early. After high school she attended Union College then La Sierra College where she met the young Tom Zapara. They began dating.

Vi turned down Tom’s proposals because she was fearful marriage would impede her French and English degree and pursuing her lifelong dream of teaching. When he realized the cause of her hesitation, Tom assured her that he would go wherever she found employment. Immediately after graduation they were married and headed to Indiana, where Vi taught high school for a year. She then became principal and teacher at Inglewood Elementary school for four years.

Vi retired from teaching in 1952 to help build and run the growing Zee Medical business that Tom had developed. She did the bookkeeping, was the ideas person and was “the main reason Zee Medical was a success”, according to Tom. Together they built a very profitable company. They sold Zee Medical in 1982 to fulfill their growing interest in philanthropy.

Tom and Vi were married for 77 years. Her lifelong companion passed away in June of this year. Being with Tom was Vi’s joy; they had a true and supportive partnership. She always enjoyed getting to know people, students, parents and Zee Medical staff and distributors. Vi particularly enjoyed encouraging teachers through the EXSEED science teacher education program and the Business Executives Challenge to Alumni. The La Sierra University School of Business and the Loma Linda University Rehabilitation Hospital bear the “Tom and Vi Zapara” name.

AAW recognizes Vi for her wise business mind and generosity in supporting Adventist education and healthcare. She has brightened the lives of many teachers, students and patients making the world a better place.



René Drumm



René Drum is a Senior Research Professor of Sociology and Adjunct Professor, at the School of Social Work at Andrews University. She also serves an adjunct professor for the Doctor of Ministry program, as well as research methodologist and lead teacher for the Institute of Church Ministry, at Andrews University’s Theological Seminary.

Working in higher education for nearly 30 years, Dr. Drum’s positions included serving as the associate dean for the college of health at the University of Southern Mississippi, dean of the school of social work at Southern Adventist University, MSW clinical program director at Andrews University and BSW program director at Southwestern Adventist University.

Dr. Drumm’s research interest is in the intersection of social issues and faith communities. Focusing on domestic violence, faith-based residential treatment, and sexual identity formation, Dr. Drumm has authored numerous academic articles and book chapters. Not content to just detail the problem, she has done studies to see how best to prepare pastors to recognize and manage abuse and worked educating church leaders to best implement the healthiest responses for our church communities.

Dr. Drumm holds a PhD degree in sociology with an emphasis in family studies from Texas Women’s University and the Master of Social Work from Michigan State University.

AAW recognized Dr. Drumm today for the work she has done in helping the church to recognize abuse and respond appropriate as an organization, in communities and as individuals. She has helped the conversations around these challenging topics to be evidence based and empowered clergy with a vision to make our organizations a safe place for hurting and vulnerable people.