



Timelines

The Newsletter of the Episcopal Women's History Project

Summer, 2014

EPISCOPAL WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT AND THE NATIONAL EPISCOPAL HISTORIANS AND ARCHIVISTS HOLD JOINT MEETING IN SALT LAKE CITY, JUNE 17-20



Figure 1 View from the Aerie Restaurant at Snowbird



EWHP and NEHA joined forces this summer to present papers on the conference theme, *The Quiet Strength of the Episcopal Church: Our Forgotten Women*. At the same time, our group held its annual meeting and the first board meeting of the 2014-2015 program year to make plans and elect officers. Those elected include Matilda Dunn of Tennessee, President, Kathryn Horvat of Utah, Vice President, Joyce Menard of Florida, Secretary, and Joan Gundersen of Pittsburgh, Treasurer.

Figure 2 Board Members Attending the EWHP Conference. (Joyce Menard attended by telephone) L to R: Susie Guise, Joan Gundersen, Kathy Horvat, Matilda Dunn

BOARD MEMBER SUSAN GUISE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA SHARES HER REFLECTIONS ON THE CONFERENCE

The meeting of NEHA which included EWHP participation was an incredible opportunity to enjoy the friendships of both groups, enjoy the magnificent scenery of Salt Lake City, and to tour many interesting spots celebrating that city's fascinating history. St. Mark's Cathedral was a perfect spot for such a meeting. There was a warm welcome with remarks from Bishop Scott Hayashi at the opening Eucharist where the retiring NEHA president, Bindy Snyder presided and preached. The beauty of that sanctuary with its remarkable stained glass and also embroidery of kneelers was featured in a tour of the cathedral itself. Another fact that underlined the organizational efforts of the committee was the serving of delicious breakfasts and lunches by the Cathedral staff in a space adjoining the conference tables. This promoted the smooth flow of conversations and informal meetings prompted by the presentations.

After the presentations and following lunch the committee had arranged for bus tours to various landmarks of the city. These included a visit to the Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Madeleine, St. Paul's Episcopal, and the Greek Orthodox Holy Trinity Cathedral. These visits rounded out the very strong impression of the contributions of the religious community to the development of Salt Lake City.

For the archivists in the group the visit the following day to the University of Utah's Marriot Library's Archival Storage facility as well as the LDS Church's Church History Museum was awe-inspiring as well as very instructional. Not to be missed is the "This is the Place" Heritage Park.

A very exciting road trip to The Aerie Restaurant at Snowbird for the banquet was also a highlight of the conference.

The presentations and papers were extremely thoughtful and showed the dedication and enthusiasm of each of the presenters. The first one gave a wonderful picture of the early hymn writers who were female and emphasized the elements of life in earlier times that encouraged this. Prominent women educators were reported on, especially women in Holy Orders. The archivist from the Diocese of Missouri, Sue Rehkoph, arranged an interesting showing of photographs that upon identification prompted extemporaneous and brief reports from various conference attendees. This cooperative project was presented as a possible way to communicate the lives of historical figures at church gatherings. There was also a presentation by the product manager of the popular software *Ancestry* who announced that many different denominations are digitalizing their records with them and encouraged using this in the work that archivists of today are involved in.

As well as these informative presentations of a more formal nature it was in informal conversations that there was wonderful exchange of the ideas and concerns of attendees as they take part in diocesan life. I especially resonated to a conversation about "Connecting the Dots" ...as historians and archivists emphasized the relevance of the lessons of history to our world today. It brought to mind as well that wonderful cover of the national ECW publication *Communique* in an issue 8 years ago that showed "A Tapestry of Women's Ministries". Knowing a little of the history of the 12 women's ministries mentioned therein and aware of the several more really important additional ones women have coalesced around, I see that EWHP has a lot of work to do in linking these stories and celebrating the lives of the women involved.

As I reflect on that time in Utah I choose to look to the future and consider how we are taking these stories from history and interpreting them to those who follow...both newcomers to our tradition and also lifelong Episcopalians. Are we capturing the blessed energy and determination and also vision of those who went before in a way that is truly understood?

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Matilda E. G. Dunn, B.S., M.S., M.Div., D.Min., earned her Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from the School of Theology, University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. She has served as a priest at several churches in East Tennessee, and as the Episcopal chaplain at both the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga and at Chattanooga Technical Community College. Dunn briefly served at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Trion, Georgia and Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Petoskey, Michigan.

Dunn is a long time member of the Community of the Cross of Nails and is presently serving on the organization's board. She is an associate of the community of St. Mary's

Sewanee: The Ayres Center for Spiritual Development. Dunn is a member of the Racial Reconciliation Network in Chattanooga and is a life-time member of the Union of Black Episcopalians. She has served as chair of the Southeast Community Service Agency and chair of the Franklin County Health Agency. Dunn is a former member of the board of the Cumberland Center for Justice and Peace.

Dunn's academic writing includes the work "Women Bishops in the Episcopal Church". This year, Dunn published "St. Mark's Church and Otey Memorial Parish Church in Sewanee, Tennessee: A Case Study of a Merger in the Episcopal Church". The book is available through Africa Homestead Legacy Publishers.

Greetings and God's blessings to my fellow Episcopal women! Please allow me to introduce myself to those of you I have not met and to reintroduce myself to the many of you I already know: I am Matilda E. G. Dunn, an Episcopal Priest in the Diocese of East Tennessee living in Chattanooga, Tennessee. For the past several years, I have served as the Treasurer of the Episcopal Women's History Project. Given my long history with the EWHP, I am delighted to have been chosen as the organization's new President and I look forward to working with each of you. For your information, a brief biography of me will be on our website for your perusal.

Recently we held the National Episcopal Archivists and Historians Conference on Women in Salt Lake City, Utah from June 17th to June 20th. I am glad to report that it was a great success and a wonderful way to honor Episcopal women who are doing remarkable things. We were treated to very informative and interesting presentations and given the opportunity to acknowledge and honor hardworking women for their numerous contributions to the Church and wider community. In particular, we applaud Kurt Cook and his team for putting together such an excellent conference. Many thanks to all who made the conference happen.

During the course of the conference in Utah, EWHP held its regular Board meeting and annual meeting. We reviewed the organization's membership list and are now actively encouraging lapsed or inactive members to become re-involved in the mission of the EWHP: assisting to record the good work of women in the Episcopal Church and to foster public knowledge of Episcopal women's contributions to the Church. To this end, please check to insure that your membership is current. If you have any questions about reactivating your membership or ideas of how you would like to promote the mission of EWHP, please visit our website, www.ewhp.org, EWHP will email copies of the newsletter to members, as well as continuing to make it available online. Additionally, we will provide snail mail copies of the Newsletter via regular mail for those persons who do not have access to the Internet. To request a regular mail copy of the Newsletter, please call me at (423) 400-7760. The newsletter will be produced on a quarterly basis. Lastly, as EWHP has done in the past, we will continue to offer monetary grants and awards to individuals who are working on projects that are related to the mission of the EWHP. The specific requirements for such grants and awards, as well as the monetary value, can be found in this newsletter or on our website.

I truly look forward to continuing to grow with each of you in Christ as we work to promote the mission of the EWHP. May God continue to bless you.

Board Awards Grant to Aid in Publication of Virginia Norman Biography

Virginia Norman, who has been a major force in the life of the Episcopal Church in the Dominican Republic and through service to the wider church is soon to have a published biography. Fittingly, it will be published in both English and Spanish. EWHP has awarded Vickie and Robert Stevens a \$500 grant to cover final copy editing and preparation of camera ready copy for *From a Life of Humble Beginnings and Service to The Woman of the Century: The Extraordinary Devotion of Virginia Norman*. The board of EWHP has also encouraged them to reapply for an additional grant once the actual costs of printing are known. Text and pictures run sixty-five pages. The total work will thus be about 130 pages with both Spanish and English.

In making the award, the EWHP board noted that Norman had served not only in every role open to lay leaders in the church in the Diocese of the Dominican Republic, but she had held positions in Province IX, and served on the Executive Council, the Pension Board and the Episcopal Church Women. Current EWHP Board member, Susie Guise had first introduced EWHP members to the life of this extraordinary Episcopalian by making a presentation on her at our conference in Seneca Falls in 2011. Because of her involvement in the project, Guise recused herself from Board deliberations on the grant.

EWHP has available both grants and awards. The board is still looking for nominees for its Ruth Alexander Award (best article or book published in the last 2 years with considerable content on women), and for the Malcolm and Pat Diesenroth Award honoring a parish for a completed project or event that brought attention to the role of women in the parish's history.

A full listing of the awards EWHP has available can be found in a separate article in this issue of Timelines and on our web site www.ewhp.org

Footnotes to History



Constance Baker Motley was the “kind of woman who accepts challenges.” A life-long Episcopalian, she sought to live out her faith by working for social and racial justice. Born in 1921, she was the ninth child out of twelve born to a couple who were immigrants to New Haven, CT from the Caribbean island of Nevis. Her father worked as a chef and her mother was a local activist. When she finished high school, Constance had to put aside her dreams of being a lawyer and worked as a domestic servant. When she was 18, white philanthropist Clarence Blakeslee heard her speak on racial justice, and offered to finance her college. With additional support from her parish, St. Luke's, she attended Fisk University for a year and a half, then transferred to New York University, graduating in 1943. While at Columbia Law School she began volunteering for the Legal and Education Defense Fund of the NAACP.

In 1946 she graduated from Columbia Law School and married Joel Motley Jr. Combining raising a family and legal work, Constance Motley became part of the team gathered by Thurgood Marshall to challenge segregation. Undeterred by threats she made multiple trips to the south to prepare and litigate cases. She wrote briefs for the *Brown v. Board of Education* case and then became the chief litigator for the NAACP in a series of high profile cases including the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., the enrollment of James Meredith at the University of Mississippi, and similar cases opening the Universities of Florida, Georgia, and Alabama, and Clemson University in South Carolina. When more than 1000 black students were expelled from the Birmingham public schools for participating in street demonstrations in 1963 to end segregation, Motley led the legal efforts that got the students reinstated. At various times she represented Freedom Riders and Martin Luther King, Jr. in cases involving their rights to demonstrate. She won nine of the ten cases she argued before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Footnotes cont.

In 1964 Motley became the first black woman to serve in the New York State Senate. A year later she became the first black woman to serve as president of the Manhattan Borough Council. She used her term to begin secure a \$700,000 grant plan a revitalization of Harlem and East Harlem. In 1966, over the protests of die-hard segregationist senators, she was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson to serve as a judge of the Southern District of the Federal Court in New York. Again, she was the first black woman appointed to the federal district bench. In 1982 she became chief judge and in 1986 a senior judge. On the bench she made a number of decisions furthering justice for welfare and low-income Medicaid recipients, and others who were those overlooked by society.

In 2005 New Haven honored her by naming a new senior residence for her, and the Greater New Haven African American Historical Society honored her for her contributions to human and civil rights. The ceremony was held at St. Luke's Parish. Four months later, the parish served as the site for her funeral, laying to rest a daughter of the church who spent her life living out her faith by trying to make the world a better place.

HISTORIANS AND ARCHIVISTS SEE HOW IT'S DONE IN SALT LAKE CITY



A demonstration of restoring damaged photographs at the LDS Church History Library and visiting the archives at the University of Utah where millions of documents are stored.

ANNUAL GRANTS
Research and Travel Grants \$250-\$750

Open to all involved in history-gathering projects concerning women in the Episcopal Church. To assist researchers with travel to archives and libraries, copy and gather of relevant materials, transcribe oral histories, and to advance work in the history of Episcopal women in other ways. Awarded annually.

The Katharine Jefferts Schori Grant up to \$2000

To promote the collection, preservation, and dissemination of records and other artifacts pertaining to the history of women in The Episcopal Church, including websites, print, film, video and other media formats. Submissions accepted at any time. Two awards annually.

ANNUAL AWARDS
Annual Seminary Essay Prize \$100-\$250

Open to all students at the eleven Episcopal seminaries. For an essay on some aspect of women in The Episcopal Church prepared as part of the student's studies. Announcement in August

Malcolm And Pat Diesenroth Award \$250

Encourages parish efforts to preserve and tell its history, especially including the stories of its women. It is awarded after the fact as recognition of the effort. Efforts are not limited to traditional forms, but can include honoring ceremonies, liturgies, cookbooks, calendars, or other creative forms of acknowledgement. Awarded annually.

The Ruth Alexander Award \$100

For an article or book published in the last two years that makes extensive use of local, diocesan and regional resources and has considerable content on some aspect of women in the Episcopal Church. Article award given in even years; book in odd years.

TRIENNIAL AWARDS

The Frank Sugeno Research Award - \$1000

For someone under-taking significant research on the work of women in the Episcopal Church. Grant is Awarded triennially. Next award 2015.

Adelaide Teague Case Award - \$100

Honors someone whose lifetime work best fulfills EWHP's mission. Triennial Award announced at General Convention.