

International

NEWSLETTER

Bonhoeffer Society

English Language Section

John D. Godsey, editor
James Patrick Kelley, managing editor

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SCHEDULE OF BONHOEFFER SOCIETY EVENTS IN SAN FRANCISCO

The following meetings of the Bonhoeffer Society are scheduled to take place in Room Franciscan A (Anza), Building 1, Ballroom Level, San Francisco Hilton (H1-B-Franciscan A), on Sunday morning, November 22, at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Francisco, California:

2½ Hour Session: 9:00-11:30 - Prof. William Jay Peck, UNC, Chapel Hill, presiding.

Theme: Suffering, Oppression, and Post-Modern Developments

Paper: William V. Johnson, Northwest Baptist Church, Ardmore, Oklahoma
"A Narrative Reading of Bonhoeffer's Theology of Suffering"

Respondent: Charles Marsh, Loyola College of Maryland

Paper: John S. Conway, University of British Columbia, Vancouver
"The End of a Legacy? Dietrich Bonhoeffer and East Germany"

Respondent: Jean Bethke Elshtain, Vanderbilt University

Paper: Jane Pejsa, Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis, MN
"Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Letter to an Unknown Woman"

Note: Those who wish to receive papers in advance should send \$2.50 for each to the following addresses:

Rev. William V. Johnson
2006 Yorktown Court
Ardmore, OK 73401

Prof. John S. Conway
Department of History
University of British Columbia
#1297-1873
Vancouver, BC V6T1Z1, Canada

Business Meeting: 11:30am-1:00pm on Sunday, November 22, in the same room, H1-B-Franciscan A, that is, immediately following the session listed above. Clifford Green will preside - unless he decides to turn the gavel over to his successor, Geff Kelly. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Testimonial Dinner Honoring Clifford Green and Burton Nelson: Sunday evening, November 22. Planning is underway for a reception hosted by Fortress Press from 5:00-6:00 at its suite, followed by a dinner (place to be announced later)

to honor Cliff and Burton who have finished their terms of office as president and vice-president, respectively, and who chose not to run for reelection. Those who are interested in being part of that testimonial are asked to send their names to Geff Kelly at La Salle University, Philadelphia, PA 19141, so that adequate reservations can be made for the dinner, the cost of which is estimated to be about \$35 per person. Geff will act as MC, but all are encouraged to add their own words to the testimonial. The motto, paraphrasing Luther: Bibe et come fortiter!

NEW IBS OFFICERS TO ASSUME DUTIES AT AAR MEETING

At the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion to be held in the San Francisco Hilton, November 21-24, 1992, the newly elected officers will begin their four-year term. Geff Kelly will replace Cliff Green as President (Cliff has been the President ever since the English-Language Section of the International Bonhoeffer Society was founded in 1973!), Jim Burtness will take over from Burton Nelson as Vice-President, Wayne Floyd will assume Geff's duties as Secretary, and Pat Kelley will continue on as Treasurer. Pat Schoelles will become the new Editor of the Newsletter, replacing John Godsey, who is retiring from that position and will become an emeritus on the Board of Directors of the Society.

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL BONHOEFFER CONFERENCE AT UNION IN NYC A GREAT SUCCESS

The Sixth International Bonhoeffer Conference, which took place at Union Theological Seminary in New York City between Saturday, August 15, and Friday, August 21, 1992, proved to be a glorious time of fellowship, learning, and enjoying special events. Around 170 registrants took part, with more from the local area coming for part-time participation. Meals together in the refectory were wonderfully relaxing and enjoyable and marked by animated conversations. Morning prayers in Lampman Chapel, led so inspiringly by Burton Nelson with the use of the Moravian Losungen and appropriate passages from Bonhoeffer, set the tone for each day. The major themes of the Conference were presented and discussed in morning and afternoon plenary sessions by the likes of Otto Maduro, Clifford Green, Wolfgang Huber, Ruth Alice von Bismarck, Jane Pejsa, Ruth Zerner, Ernst Feil, Hans-Dirk van Hoogstraten, Walter Lowe, Robert Scharlemann, Douglas John Hall, Christian Gremmels, Irving Greenberg, Jean Bethke Elshtain, John de Gruchy, and Keith Clements - a rich mixture indeed! Then there were 33 seminar sessions, usually four running concurrently at specified times during the day or night, with a variety of topics presented in papers by scholars from around the world (registrants included people from ten European countries, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, Venezuela, Canada, and the United States). Besides this stimulating academic fare, several unforgettable occasions provided the icing on the cake: Sunday morning worship at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, where Bonhoeffer taught a Sunday School class when he was a student at Union in 1930-31; the world premier of Altar Tryptikon für Bonhoeffer, a concert in James Chapel honoring Bonhoeffer and featuring original compositions by Herman Berlinski, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, and Robert M. Helmschrott, and sung by members of the Dresdner Kammerchor, the Handel Choir of Baltimore, the Shir Chadash Chorale of Washington, and the Mt. Vernon Chamber Orchestra; a one-act play entitled "Dietrich Bonhoeffer" performed by Al Staggs of San Antonio, Texas; an address by Bonhoeffer's nephew, Dr. Klaus von Dohnanyi, former mayor of Hamburg, on "The Legacy of Anti-Hitler Resistance: Its Significance for Our Time," followed by a Reception sponsored by the German Consulate, both events taking place at the St. Peter's

Lutheran Church on the lower level of the Citicorp Bank Building at Lexington and 54th St.; a time with Ruth Alice von Bismarck, sister of Bonhoeffer's fiancée Maria von Wedemeyer (Weller), who shared the contents of some of the correspondence between Maria and Dietrich and explained her decision to publish these letters this year in Germany under the title: Brautbriefe: Tegel Cell 92 (Beck Verlag, Munich); and a Conference Banquet on Thursday evening, featuring speeches by both Renate and Eberhard Bethge, and music by the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Choir, directed by Horace Beasley (the choir from Ruth Zerner's home church in the Bronx!).

Many thanks are owed to the organizational committee that planned the Sixth International Bonhoeffer Conference: Geff Kelly (chair), Jim Burtness, Wayne Floyd, Cliff Green, Pat Kelley, Charles Marsh, Burton Nelson, Larry Rasmussen, and Ruth Zerner. This committee selected the theme and the dates after lengthy consultation with the various national groups, met several times to consider the names of possible speakers, contacted the speakers chosen, set up the daily schedule of the sessions, and raised funds to meet all expenses of the conference. Particular thanks are due to Larry Rasmussen, who made all the arrangements with Union Theological Seminary and kept things running smoothly day by day (with the help of Betty Howe, son Andy, et al.). Also, a debt of gratitude is owed John Matthews, who was responsible for persuading Lutheran Brotherhood to come through with the needed funds for which Jim Burtness had so diligently applied. Thanks to the Brotherhood and all others who contributed money!

SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING, INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Sixth International Bonhoeffer Conference concluded with a one-hour business meeting beginning at 11:30 am, August 21, 1992. Clifford Green presided and Larry Rasmussen served as secretary pro tem. The chief item on the agenda was the location of the next international conference, to be held in 1996. Three proposals were made: Cape Town, South Africa in January, Prague, and Berlin (or somewhere else in Germany), the latter two probably in the summer. John de Gruchy indicated that the University of Cape Town facilities would be available the second week of January and that Archbishop Tutu would welcome the possibility and might well be a patron of the conference. A consensus was reached that Cape Town be the first choice and that if this should not work out, the German delegation would suggest an alternate site. De Gruchy was mandated to explore the feasibility of holding the conference in South Africa.

The following themes for the 1996 conference program were suggested: racism and race issues; Bonhoeffer's political ethics; the South African churches and confessing movements (Kairos Document, etc.) and Bonhoeffer (Confessing Church, Barmen, etc.); the "movement people" in South Africa, praxis, and the Bonhoeffer legacy; an agenda shaped by the South Africa situation but using Bonhoeffer's "After Ten Years" to focus the issues; the Bible as a site of struggle: biblical hermeneutics and Bonhoeffer's hermeneutics as ingredients in exploring the South African's use of the Bible in the national struggle. Eberhard Bethge reminded everyone that by 1996 the 16 German-language volumes of DB's Werke and the volume with the letters of Maria and Dietrich will all be available.

The meeting concluded with these announcements: (1) Cliff Green announced that several volumes of the English translation of the Bonhoeffer Werke are underway and should be available within a year or so. Fortress Press and Kaiser Verlag

seem well along in resolving issues of publishing rights and arrangements. But the costs are enormous, running perhaps to \$500,000. About \$200,000 of this is in sight, but the remaining \$300,000 will be more difficult to raise. (2) Hugh Searle announced that in the summer of 1994 there will probably be a major academic conference in England on the German Resistance, noting its ties with England, Bishop Bell, etc. (3) Green noted that we are in need of someone to take over the functions of the International Secretary which Guy Carter had performed. Geff Kelly suggested that the issue of secretarial functions be pursued when the national heads consult together over the arrangement for the 1996 conference. This was approved by consensus.

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND UPDATE

Following seven years of legal negotiations, a court judgment awarded Susan Kelly a small compensatory settlement against her original pediatrician. Much of the settlement, which comes from the Pennsylvania Medical Society Liability Insurance Corporation, will go toward paying the expenses incurred by the law firm that represented Susan and the lawyer's contingency fees. Except for emergency needs approved by the court, this settlement will take the form of a court-supervised trust fund intended to help Susan meet the expenses she will incur when she reaches adulthood. The money does not cover the Kellys' present efforts to provide for Susan's medical needs that include physical therapy, imaging therapy, and nutrition/enzyme therapy that at present is substituting for the chemotherapy recommended by Children's Hospital after her surgery last April. For this reason, the Good Samaritan Fund continues to be available to channel the necessary financial support for Susan's special needs. Donations can be sent to:

The Good Samaritan Fund
c/o The Rev. Charles W. Sensel
Grace United Methodist Church
503 North Fourth Street
Pekin, IL 61554

ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT PUBLICATIONS

(1) Bonhoeffer Bibliography: Primary Sources and Secondary Literature in English, by Wayne Whitson Floyd, Jr. and Clifford Green, has just been published by American Theological Library Association, Evanston, IL. This thorough update of their earlier work is an indispensable tool for scholarly research on Bonhoeffer. For information, write or call ATLA, 820 Church Street, Suite 300, Evanston, IL 60201-3707, (708) 869-7788. \$15⁹⁵ + 2⁵⁰

(2) Two recent volumes of the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Werke have been published by Chr. Kaiser Verlag of Munich: Barcelona, Berlin, Amerika 1928-1931, edited by Reinhart Staats and Hans Christoph von Hase in cooperation with Holger Roggelin and Matthias Wünsche; and Ethik, edited by Ilse Tödt, Heinz Eduard Tödt, Ernst Feil, and Clifford Green.

(3) The address of the distributor for the USA and Canada of the Amsterdam Volume: Bonhoeffer's Ethics: Old Europe and New Frontiers, edited by G. Carter, R. Van Eyden, H. D. van Hoogstraten, and J. Wiersma (Kampen: Kok Pharos Publishing House, 1991), is the following:

Books International, Inc.
P. O. Box 605
Herndon, VA 22070-0605
Fax: 703-689-0660

(4) Clarke Chapman reports that 1992 copies of Moravian Daily Texts, the English-language edition of the Losungen that were used by Bonhoeffer and most German pastors during the days of the Church Struggle and which are referred to so often in his letters from prison, are available from the bookstore at Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA 18018, for \$2.50 (paperback edition) plus 15¢ tax. Call (215) 866-5481 to order; credit cards are accepted. The German-language edition, which Clarke actually prefers, is available from many German booksellers. He orders from Otto Roppel, Postfach 1670, 355 Marburg/Lahn, Germany.

(5) Yohan Hyun, a member of the IBS, has returned to Korea after completing his doctoral degree under Charles West at Princeton Theological Seminary. The title of his dissertation is "The Holy Spirit and the Problem of the Cor Curvum in Se in Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Early Theology." The following is an abstract:

This dissertation brings up Dietrich Bonhoeffer's early theology to counter the individualistic and subjectivistic view of the Holy Spirit. In Bonhoeffer's view, underneath the subjectivistic and individualistic understanding of the Holy Spirit lies the problem of the cor curvum in se (the heart turned in on itself), which is common to all thought systems and ethical sets of rules. According to Bonhoeffer, this problem of the cor curvum in se can only be overcome by the reality of divine revelation in a communal context and by the work of the Holy Spirit. In the revelatory work the Holy Spirit breaks into and opens up the subjective, individual mind as the cor curvum in se....In The Communion of Saints the problem of the cor curvum in se is dealt with in the social sphere. Here the Holy Spirit is understood not only as the principle of unity between Christians, but also the principle of personal barrier. The Holy Spirit makes the I recognize the personal barrier of the Thou, so that the I can respect and love the Thou without placing the Thou under the domination of the I. Thus true community comes into being and individualism is overcome. In Act and Being the problem of the cor curvum in se is treated in the sphere of theological epistemology. Here the Holy Spirit is viewed as the knowing subject of revelation in us and the creator of faith as actus directus, not actus reflexus. Therefore, subjectivism is overcome. Bonhoeffer's concern with the problem of the cor curvum in se and the idea of the Spirit as the transcendent God who is present to us are translated into different languages in his later works. In this way the traditional doctrine of the inner witness of the Holy Spirit is interpreted anew and expanded into the ethical and social spheres....As an evaluation, brief comparative studies with the pneumatologies of Schleiermacher, Ritschl, Hegel, Seeberg, Barth, and Luther are presented.

(6) Bishop Albrecht Schönherr's paper, "The Legacy of the Church Struggle in Contemporary Germany," was presented by him on March 3, 1992, at the 22nd Annual Scholars' Conference which was held at the University of Washington in Seattle. In it he looks at the present situation in Germany in the light of the six theses of the Barmen Declaration. Translated by Barbara Green, it will be published in the volume of essays stemming from the conference. If you want to know what people in the former GDR really think about what has happened since unification, this is necessary reading.

THE RE-MARRIAGE OF DR. DIETLINDE JEHLÉ

Dietlinde and her late husband, Herbert, were students with Dietrich Bonhoeffer in Germany, and for many years, prior to his death a year or two ago, they lived in Charlottesville, VA, and were long-time members of the Bonhoeffer Society. On May 2, 1992, she married Mr. L. Miles Rasig, and the couple now reside at 28 Seminole Place, Ruckersville, VA 22968, tel. (804)985-8220. Best wishes to them both from all their friends in the IBS!

ANNOUNCEMENT/CALL FOR PAPERS FOR "REMEMBERING FOR THE FUTURE II"

Since July 1988 when the highly acclaimed international conference Remembering for the Future was held at Oxford, the world has witnessed dramatic changes in Central and Eastern Europe. The euphoria that greeted the collapse of Communism has been tempered as ethnic and national divisions have reappeared in bitter forms, minorities have experienced harassment and fear, and antisemitism has resurfaced as an ingredient of religious and political reaction. A second international conference, Remembering for the Future II, is scheduled for 13-17 March 1994 in Berlin. It will carry forward the work of the prior conference by exploring, at the highest scholarly level, several major topics, with some sub-themes. Those wishing to present papers must submit an Abstract of not more than 500 words no later than 15 January 1993 to Mrs. Sharon Gutman, 518 Lawrence Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090. She may be contacted for more information about topics and themes.

AN ANGLO-GERMAN MEMORIAL SERVICE AND ACADEMIC CONFERENCE IN BRITAIN IN 1994

Dr. Andrew Chandler, School of History, The University of Birmingham, has written to announce plans for an Anglo-German Memorial Service and Academic Conference to commemorate those in Germany who died resisting the Hitler regime, 1933 to 1945, and their English advocate, Bishop George Bell. The commemorative service will take place at Chichester Cathedral, the conference at Birmingham, the dates for both probably being toward the end of July 1994. A provisional title of "Christian Morality and the Resistance Against National Socialism, 1933 to 1945" as been discussed. In any case, the conference will focus on Bonhoeffer and Bell. Chandler writes as follows:

It is deeply important that the crisis of National Socialism and the people who confronted it at such cost, should not be forgotten. It is just and appropriate that Bell's convictions and acts be recalled and debated. An Anglo-German occasion to mark the two, and their intensely meaningful association, would be profoundly important.

Details as to exact time and arrangements will be forthcoming as soon as they are available.

REPORT FROM PAT KELLEY ON FREE COPIES OF BOOKS FOR IBS MEMBERS

Pat Kelley reports that he will receive enough free copies of the English translation of the catalogue for the exhibit at the Bonhoeffer House in Berlin to make it available for those who have paid dues for 1991 and 1992. The work, more than 200 pages, includes excerpts from Bonhoeffer's writings, essays (sometimes excerpted also) about him, his family, the social, political, and geographic situation in Berlin, and many pictures. Pat completed the basic text more than a year ago and expects publication soon. The catalogue will

be available for the use of visitors to Marienburger Allee 43 who do not read German but who can read English. This volume will be mailed to members as volume V in our publication series, which calls for a free volume every two years. Volume IV in the series, free for those who paid dues in 1989 and 1990, is Pat Kelley's book, "One Reality," which should be published by University Press before the end of this year.

REMINDER OF INDICATOR OF DUES-LAST-PAID

Our Treasurer, Pat Kelley, wishes to remind members that if no number follows one's name on the address of this Newsletter, this indicates that you have not paid dues for any year since 1988. If two numbers appear, they indicate the last two digits of the year you last paid dues, according to his records. Membership dues to the Society are \$20.00 per year, and if you owe dues, you should send a check payable to "International Bonhoeffer Society - English Language Section" to Pat at the following address:

Prof. J. Patrick Kelley
Treasurer, IBS
c/o Lynchburg College
Lynchburg, VA 24501-3199

NEW EDITOR OF IBS NEWSLETTER IS PATRICIA SCHOELLES

For the past four years, beginning with Issue No. 40 in February 1989, I have been editor of the IBS Newsletter, and I wish to thank all of you who have helped me during that time by submitting items of interest and official news. I am very pleased to be turning the editorship over to Prof. Patricia Schoelles, beginning with the February 1993 issue. Please send news items to her at the following address:

Prof. Patricia A. Schoelles
The Ecumenical Institute
St. Mary's Seminary and University
5400 Roland Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21210-1994
(301) 323-3200, ext. 149 (O)
(301) 821-5819 (H)

ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE CLASS OF 1996

The following are candidates for election to the Board of Directors of the Bonhoeffer Society for the Class of 1996: Wayne Floyd, Barbara Green, Clifford Green, Charles Marsh, John Matthews, and Eleanor Neel. John Godsey becomes Emeritus Member. Please vote for four (4). Send the ballot below to Prof. Geoffrey B. Kelly, Department of Religion, La Salle University, Philadelphia, PA 19141. DO IT NOW!

BALLOT

VOTE FOR FOUR (4)

_____ Wayne Floyd	_____ Charles Marsh
_____ Barbara Green	_____ John Matthews
_____ Clifford Green	_____ Eleanor Neel

IBS MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

___ I am submitting my 1992 dues (\$20) herewith.

___ I am submitting my 1991 dues (\$20) herewith and expect to receive, provided I have also paid my 1992 dues, a copy of the catalogue of the Bonhoeffer House in Berlin, when published.

___ I am submitting my 1990 dues (\$20) herewith and expect to receive, provided I have paid my 1989 dues, a copy of J. Patrick Kelley's book entitled "One Reality", when published.

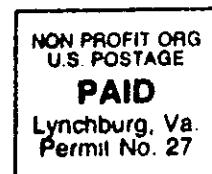
___ I am submitting my 1989 dues (\$20) herewith.

Copies of the Newsletters for these years will also be sent when dues are paid.

Please correct any errors in the address label below. Make checks payable to "International Bonhoeffer Society - English Language Section," and mail this form(or a copy of it) with your payment to: Prof. J. Patrick Kelley, Treasurer, IBS, Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, VA 24501-3199.

The IBS Newsletter is published three times a year: in February, May, and October. Materials for inclusion in any given issue should be sent at least two weeks in advance (Jan. 15, Apr. 15, Sept. 15) to Prof. Patricia A. Schoelles, The Ecumenical Institute, St. Mary's Seminary and University, 5400 Roland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21210-1994.

International Bonhoeffer Society
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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