

BURKE LIBRARY

NEWS

Spring/Summer 2014

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK * COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Welcome, Elizabeth!

We are very pleased to announce that we have a new Public Services Librarian at the Burke -- Elizabeth Call. Elizabeth comes to us from the Brooklyn Historical Society where she has served as Reference Librarian, as Special Collections Librarian, and most recently as Head of Reference and User Services. She has an MA in Public History and Archives from NYU, an MLIS from the Palmer School of Library and Information Science, and a BA in history from SUNY at New Paltz. The search committee was impressed by her experience developing innovative outreach and instruction programs, her background in archives and public history, and her energy and enthusiasm.



She can be contacted via email at enc2118@columbia.edu.

Please join us in welcoming Elizabeth!

Elizabeth started at
the Burke on Monday,
June 9, 2014

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How Theological Education Can Form Leaders

By: Beth Bidlack

Columbia University Libraries recently held its 11th annual symposium: <http://symposium.cul.columbia.edu/>. This year's topic was **"Leaders Everywhere: Fostering Leadership Across the Academic Library Organization."** It was an engaging day with insights from Elliott Shore, Jerily Veldof, Courtney Young, and a panel of librarians who lead from the middle. I had the honor of facilitating the closing session, which was a reflective discussion on insights and takeaways from the day. I was asked to facilitate due, in part, to my involvement with the American Theological Library Association. Prior to and during the event, several of my Columbia University Libraries colleagues joked that they looked forward to my "preaching" and "pastoring" at the end of the day. At the time, I wasn't quite sure how to take these comments, but thought it would be a great opportunity to integrate the various talks of the day.



I started the closing session by reflecting on how a background in theological studies can be instrumental in the formation of leaders. I then outlined some of the ways that my education and experience had helped me develop as a leader and decided that seven was a good stopping point. First, my background in biblical studies provided me with various models of leadership. There were central and peripheral prophets in ancient Israel. There were also leaders with severe character flaws, as there are now. Many of these examples inspired me, albeit in very different ways. Second, my experience with clinical pastoral education taught me important lessons about emotional intelligence, lessons that I use on a daily basis in my administrative work. Third, I was trained in the art of reflective practice. Sometimes to my own detriment, I constantly reflect on my actions and their impact, and I reflect on my surroundings and interactions with others. Fourth, seminary training and vocational discernment often creates a heightened level of self-awareness (via all those psychological tests) and an ability to see things from other perspectives (sometimes referred to as "reframing"). Fifth, theological education often includes integrative seminars whereby theory and praxis are brought into dialogue. Sixth, it has been helpful for me to have a theological vocabulary to draw on in times of celebration and crisis and during the moments in between. Finally, my training in research methods has helped me to define and solve problems, to identify and evaluate evidence, and to make decisions and reach conclusions.

The Burke Library Welcomed the 2013/2014 Scholar-in-Residence:

Heather R. White

Heather R. White is the 2013-2014 Burke Scholar in Residence at the Burke Theological Library and a Fellow with the Engaged Scholars Studying Congregations Program of Hartford Seminary. She has a Ph.D. in American Religion from Princeton University and has taught in the religious studies programs at Vassar College and New College of Florida. She is completing a book on American Protestants and homosexuality politics, tentatively titled *Reforming Sodom: Protestants and the Making of Modern Sexual Identity*. During her stay as a Scholar-in Residence at the Burke Library, she will be working on a new project, which investigates the relationships between liberal churches in New York and radical political movements of the 1960s and 70s, with a focus on the Church of the Holy Apostles (Episcopal), which provided meeting space for gay liberation groups formed in the immediate wake of the Stonewall Riots. It is tentatively titled "Gay Liberation at the Church of the Holy Apostles."

On March 24, 2014, Heather gave a talk which was sponsored by Columbia University's Center for the Study of Religion and Sexuality, under the direction of Professor Katherine Ewing. The talk was on "The Talking Text: How the Bible Came to Speak about Homosexuality:"

Modern American Bible translations have become increasingly loquacious about same-sex sexuality. This talk traces the paradoxical ways that Protestant Bible practices, over the course of the twentieth century, facilitated marked change in the words of Holy Writ. This attention to a changing Bible illuminates the ways that Protestants actively took part in cultural changes to sexuality while also reforming the very authority that would seem to provide a timeless anchor to tradition.

The Burke Library hosted a number of successful events during the fall 2013 and spring 2014, with a description of a few of them coming up next!

Admitted Students Day

On April 24, 2014, the Burke Staff hosted four small groups of potential students. We showed them a variety of material from the archives and special collections, and told them all about the amazing resources at their fingertips (should they choose to attend Union Theological Seminary!).

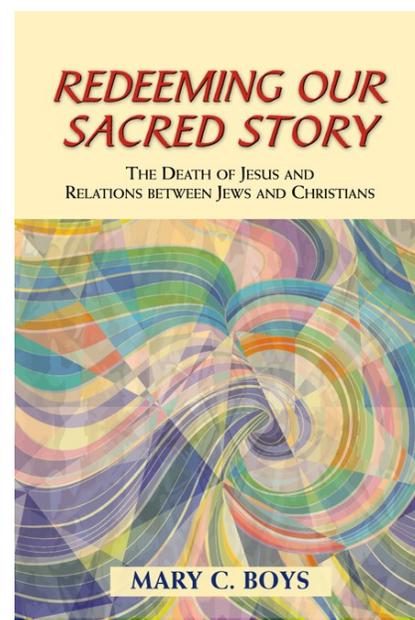
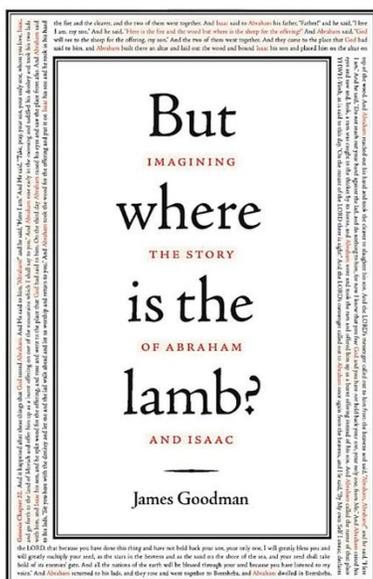


Book Related Events

October 11, 2013: James Goodman joined us to discuss his book *But Where is the Lamb?*

November 8, 2013: Joe Ferguson, a stained-glass artist, led a discussion pertaining to his book *The Evolving Image*.

December 10, 2013: Dean Mary Boys' book launch party for *Redeeming our Sacred Story: The Death of Jesus and Relations between Jews and Christians*.



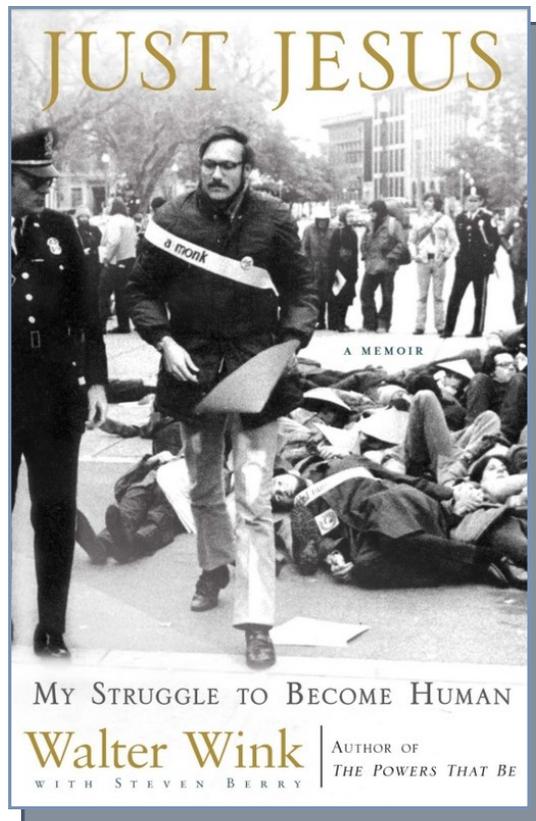
Burke Library Hosts Visit by UTS Greek and Hebrew Language Classes

On April 25, 2014, the Burke Library welcomed 16 students from Dr. Dan Pioske's spring Greek and Hebrew courses to view historic holdings relevant to the study of the Bible, biblical languages, and the history of exegesis. The session provided students the opportunity to examine up close a number of items from the Burke's special collections, both archival and printed, as unique and fascinating material objects as well as landmark accomplishments in biblical and theological scholarship.

The visit took place in the library's Wise Conference Room and included a papyrus from the first century CE, a volume from the celebrated London polyglot Bible (featuring versions of the biblical text in Syriac, Ethiopic, and Persian), an Erasmus *Novum Instrumentum* (the first published Greek New Testament), and a volume from the first *Biblia Rabbinica* (a seminal early printed version of the Hebrew Bible). From the archives, students were able examine notes from the Francis Brown papers relating to his work on the biblical Hebrew Lexicon that bears his name, as well as notebooks of Emily Grace Briggs, an accomplished scholar and exegete and the first woman to graduate from UTS. Also included in the session was a 19th century manuscript Psalter and lectionary in Coptic and a 1550 Greek New Testament known as the *Editio Regia* because of its beautiful printing and which was among the first critical editions of the text.



On May 1, 2014, the Burke Library and June Wink hosted an event about the life of Walter Wink and specifically his final book, *Just Jesus*. *Just Jesus* is the jubilant autobiography of Walter Wink, the man who sought justice in all walks of life, including his own. The event featured readings from the book, which were read by a variety of individuals including those from Union, the Burke Library, and Auburn Theological Seminary. It was an extremely successful event and we saw a high turnout.



June thanks everyone for attending

Walter Wink



UTS Faculty Barbara Lundblad



UTS Student Timothy Wotring

Genealogy Event

Our last big event was held May 5, 2014, in which we hosted members of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. The members toured Butler Library, Avery Library



as well as the Burke Library. The event was deemed a “triumph” and there are talks of hosting other similar events in the future.

Archives Updates



Many archival collections have been used during the past few months, not only by special collections readers but also by the various events previously mentioned. We were and still are hard at work organizing materials to make them available for researchers. The entire group of records from MRL6: China is

now available for use! The Burke Library Archives hosted a number of interns, including Cecile Queffelec who joined us all the way from France. Her library school, ENSSIB, is located in Villeurbanne, France. She assisted both Ruth and Brigitte on a number of projects during her three month internship.



Project Archivist, Brigitte

Getting to Know You

Eun Ja Lee

Circulation Supervisor

1) **Why did you decide to work in a library?** “To make a fast buck.” This is the very first American phrase I learned when I came to America as a graduate student fifty years ago. My first part-time student job in America happened to be at the school library. Just before starting my new job, a few of the ladies from my scholarship sponsor group taught me this very phrase as a means how to answer. So, whenever I was asked about my job, I answered: “I am working at the library to make a fast buck,” without knowing the exacting meaning or nuance of it. Then, why the Burke Library? During my seminary student days in Berkeley, California, I happened to come to New York one summer via camping ride through some of the northern American states. Then, I got a summer job with the help of a friend at the Missionary Research Library in the Brown Tower at the Union Theological Seminary, again “to make a fast buck!” and I fell in love with this library.

2) **What are a few of your favorite books?**

1. Homer's Odyssey
2. Victor Hugo's The Hunchback of Notre Dame
3. Charles Dickens' Great Expectations
4. Fyodor Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment
5. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's Evangeline

3) **What "interesting" things do you do outside of your job that people might not know about?** My hobby is: flower arrangements/houseplants tending. I am involved in Korean School of New Jersey which is a Saturday Korean language and Korean culture school for the 2nd and 3rd generation Korean Americans from kindergarten to high school levels. I served as the first principal for 11 years of this school's 31 year history. I am active in my Korean high school and also Korean university alumnae associations in New York metropolitan area. I am involved in AHL Foundation (Art, Humanity and Love) which sponsors emerging Korean young artists in contemporary art in New York area.



4) **Where is a place you'd like to travel to, that you haven't already been?** India. Indian history, culture, philosophy and religions always fascinate me. My first 3 years' mission work experiences in West Pakistan gave me some glimpses of the historical Muslim culture side of India, but I wish to go and see and experience the real Hindu culture side of India.

5) **Favorite collection at the Burke?** a. MRL Collections. They stimulate my curiosity and interest in different parts of the world and the pioneering spirits of the mission workers.

b. Flower arrangements for circulation and reference desks, and also c. the people.

Getting to Know You

Beth Bidlack

Director

1) Why did you decide to become a librarian?

For most of my career, I was multi-vocational. I taught in the classroom, worked in libraries, and was a candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry. Now, I identify primarily as a librarian and administrator. I have a variety of research interests, and love teaching and learning and solving problems so library administration is a great fit for me. I always tell people I'm a generalist rather than a specialist. I also believe that valuable teaching and learning happens in contexts outside of the classroom, especially in the library.

2) What are a few of your favorite books?

Sorry, but I don't have a definitive list. As a youngster, I loved the Nancy Drew and Encyclopedia Brown series, and I still love a good mystery to this day. Growing up I was very inspired by *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*. I have had a long love-hate relationship with the biblical book of Ezekiel. I also enjoy reading biographies. I'm hoping to read the new biography of Margaret Fuller this summer.

3) What "interesting" things do you do outside of your job that people might not know about?

I like baking, working jigsaw puzzles, watching old movies (especially film noir), and going to museums. I try to play a few rounds of mini golf whenever I am on vacation.

4) Where is a place you'd like to travel to, that you haven't already been?

One of my hobbies is researching Unitarian and Universalist women, especially those who were active in the US woman's suffrage movement so I like visiting important historical sites. Since moving to New York, I visited Seneca Falls and would like to visit Rochester, NY (former home of Susan B. Anthony). On a grander scale, I would love to visit some of the world's great libraries and museums.

5) Favorite collection at the Burke?

Since my arrival at the Burke Library, I have been eager to explore the Van Ess collection, which formed the core of the Library's original collection, and the Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship. In addition, I plan to investigate the papers of Sophia Fahs, a pioneer in Unitarian religious education.



Comments/Questions

Have a comment/question/concern on this or future newsletters?

Would you like to receive this digitally (and in **full color!**)?

Please contact Brigitte by phone or email:

bck2115@columbia.edu

(212) 851-5622



Burke Library News

Spring/Summer 2014

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

Columbia University Libraries

3041 Broadway

New York, New York 10027

Web: <http://library.columbia.edu/indiv/burke>

Email: burke@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

