

## Programs

### *Facing Down Slavery: A Contemporary Story*

On Tuesday evening, September 29, The Mary Baker Eddy Library hosted a program on the issue of slavery in contemporary society. Three prominent humanitarians and activists spoke about the challenges and the promise of facing down conditions of oppression and entrapment.

Rev. Gloria White-Hammond, MD, described her work in confronting literal practices of enslavement in the African country of Sudan through the organization My Sister's Keeper, which she co-founded in 2002. Ned Eames discussed how Tenacity, the organization he founded in 1999, is helping Boston youth overcome the fetters of low expectations and lack of opportunity due to an inadequate public school system and other hampering social conditions. Rev. Kaia Stern, PhD, explained her work in supporting transformation and healing to those caught in what she described as the "crisis of mass incarceration" in the United States.

Stern directs the Pathways Home project at the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School.

Library President Lesley Pitts welcomed the audience and launched the evening's discussion with a quotation from Mary Baker Eddy: "Citizens of the world, accept the 'glorious liberty of the children of God,' and be free! This is your divine right." Library Programs Manager Jonathon

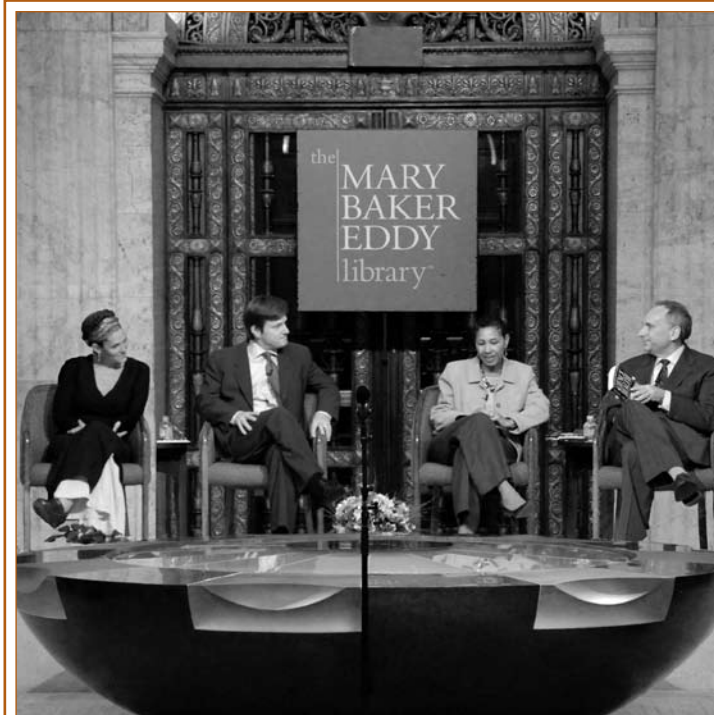
Eder, who moderated the event, described Mary Baker Eddy's forceful writing on overcoming slavery in all its forms and the necessity for "mental emancipation." All of the panelists articulated a strong sense of the importance of spirituality and faith in sustaining them in their respective callings.

Stern noted the impact that the spiritual life of inmates has had on her life path and self-understanding: "I was introduced to various populations behind bars, in what we call the belly of the beast. I knew from that

moment—it was over fifteen years ago—that this was my path, this was my work, this was my service, that fed me and made me feel free, reminded me in what ways I was enslaved: in the most oppressive environment that I had ever witnessed, people were talking about liberation and relationship to God."

White-Hammond spoke of her initial resistance to the spiritual calling that prompted her to serve the embattled and terrorized women of Darfur, Sudan. Referring to her initial visits to Sudan, she commented, "I felt totally overwhelmed and in that moment I had a conversation with God in which

I made it very clear that I did not have the right stuff to address this plight. . . . God reminded me that, as a well-educated, highly-favored African-American woman, I did not come from generations of previous slaves and a long line of black descendants who ever had the luxury of giving up in the face of injustice. For the first time, I saw myself through a different set of eyes—as a vision that wasn't lynched, as a promise that refused to be silenced. So, I didn't have the option to throw up my hands and recoil into my own safety zone." *continued on p. 2*



"Facing Down Slavery" program panel

## Fall 2009 Issue

*This periodic newsletter is provided to promote awareness of The Mary Baker Eddy Library, its exhibits, programs, and activities, to current and potential Library patrons and supporters.*

## Mission Statement

*"The Mary Baker Eddy Library provides public access and context to original materials and educational experiences about Mary Baker Eddy's life, ideas, and achievements, including her Church. The Library promotes exploration and scholarship through its collections, exhibits, and programs."*



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## Recent Programs

### *Smithsonian Subscribers Visit Library*

Smithsonian Day 2009—September 26—was a success! The day, organized by the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C., is a chance for members or subscribers to its magazines, to gain free entry to hundreds of museums around the country. Last year, three Smithsonian Day visitors came to the Library under the special program; this year, 68 came—nearly a quarter of the day's total visitor count.

## Programs—continued



The interchange between the panelists alternated between political, sociological, and theological considerations. Eames questioned the ability of schools in Boston, and elsewhere in the United States, to educate ef-

fectively under current policies. "How do you educate 60,000 kids in a system here in Boston . . . when the leaders of individual schools are not empowered to choose their own staff?" he asked. "It's not a performance-based system. . . . Organizationally, we have to empower the leaders of these schools to do great things."

Stern took a hard look at how religion can both be a punishing and liberating force in society. She observed that "traditional theology is in exile from itself, is enslaved to itself, that in the name of mercy, and in the name of justice . . . we continue to commit the most common blasphemy every day—where we do not look at each other, realize the sanctity of being human, being created in the image of God, and how that brokenness is so common." Nonetheless, she affirmed humanity's capacity to resist the instinct to look away: "We can look each other in the eye, we can recognize the humanity of the people in our midst. And that is radical—to take Jesus as an example, as a human example, of someone who didn't turn away from affliction—and how rare and blessed that is."

The question and answer period was full. One questioner was delighted to see so many people engaging with the topic, but noted that most were white, while he was a person of color. He wondered what could be done to have more people from his community involved in discussions of this kind, "so that they better understand what is self-slavery, self-oppression. How does class, and privilege, and racism fall into this?"

The Library looks forward to developing more programs that demonstrate the utility of Mary Baker Eddy's life story, her writings, and the Library's collections in addressing issues today. To view a video of this program, please go to the Library's Web site.

## Programs

### *2009 Fellowship Winners Explore the Library's Collections*

The Library's fellowship program is open to academic scholars and independent researchers whose work requires access to the papers of Mary Baker Eddy and records documenting the history of Christian Science. The program is designed to support original research and to help increase scholarly awareness of Mary Baker Eddy and her ideas. This summer, the Library hosted four scholars.

Lisa Stepanski, PhD, an associate professor of English at Boston's Emmanuel College, examined the correspondence in our collection between Mary Baker Eddy and Bronson Alcott. Stepanski, an experienced Alcott scholar, was thrilled to learn that the New England philosopher and Eddy had contact and was particularly interested in why Eddy saw Alcott as a sympathetic reader and sent him a copy of *Science and Health*. Prof. Stepanski also looked at the relationship between Alcott's transcendental beliefs—and transcendentalism in general—and the development of Christian Science.

Rhetorician Brandy Scalise, a PhD student in the English Department at Penn State University, examined Mary Baker Eddy's public speaking for her dissertation, which looks at the language used in Christian Science, as well as that used in Seventh-day Adventism and the Emmanuel and New Thought Movements. For her work, Scalise looked at our collection of Eddy's letters and manuscripts, in addition to her published writings, to learn how Eddy used specific language to share her ideas.

Another graduate student, Eva Payne, a master's candidate at Harvard Divinity School, continued her

research on Laura Lathrop, one of the first Christian Scientists in New York City. Payne first studied her for a graduate seminar paper and was awarded a fellowship to enable further development of this work into an article for publication. During her three weeks in the archive, she explored Lathrop's style of leadership and how it impacted her relationship with Eddy as Lathrop founded Second Church of Christ, Scientist, New York City.

After his first fellowship yielded articles in several academic publications, Rolf Swensen returned to the Library as a fellow for the second time to continue work on a new project. This time Swensen, Reference Librarian/Social Sciences Bibliographer at Queens College, City University of New York, mined the archives for his project, "'The Seekers of Light': An Occupational

Analysis of Christian Scientists in the United States, 1890-1910." This work will present a national picture of who constituted the early movement and how they were attracted to this new faith.

As part of their fellowship, the fellows were each required to give an informal

talk to staff members about their project and their experiences working in the Library's collections. This summer's talks proved to be lively conversations about the fellows' individual projects and their impact on scholarship and the Christian Science movement.

Another requirement for the award is that fellows will share their findings with a wider audience, through publications or conference presentations. To learn about publications by past fellows, please contact the Library's Lending and Reference Services at 617-450-7325 or [reference@mbelibrary.org](mailto:reference@mbelibrary.org).

Applications for the 2010 fellowship program are now available on the Library's Web site. Go to Collections > Archives & Research > Fellowships.



Fellows Lisa Stepanski and Rolf Swensen



## Lending and Reference Services

### *John Calvin: 500-Year Anniversary*

*Our wisdom, insofar as it ought to be deemed true and solid wisdom, consists almost entirely of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves. But as these are connected together by many ties, it is not easy to determine which of the two precedes and gives birth to the other.*

—John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

In honor of the 500-year anniversary of John Calvin's birth, Lending and Reference Services is featuring a display of books related to this powerful Protestant reformer whose writings influenced Mary Baker Eddy's religious upbringing. Eddy struggled with Calvin's doctrine of predestination, for, according to her autobiography, *Retrospection and Introspection*, she was unwilling to be saved if her brothers and sisters were counted among those who were banished from God. And the theology she later developed in Christian Science with its emphasis on an all-loving God contrasts strongly with Calvinist ideology.

Born in France in 1509, John Calvin (Cauvin) was a highly educated Bible scholar, theologian, and church organizer. By 1532, after his university training in both theology and law, Calvin befriended Lutheran reformers in Paris. Their ideas, especially that salvation could be achieved by grace through faith alone, shook Paris. It was a Luther-inspired address by Calvin's close friend, the rector of the University of Paris, which set his destiny in motion. Theologians at the Sorbonne reacted strongly to the speech and Calvin was implicated due to his participation in creating the address. He fled France and spent the rest of his days in exile.

*Institutes of the Christian Religion* was published in 1536, and it was this treatise that made him one of the foremost minds of the Reformation. It was also in 1536 that Calvin ended up by chance in Geneva, Switzerland. His fame had preceded him, and a local reformer named Guillaume Farel asked him to stay to reform the church in Geneva and threatened the wrath of God against him if he didn't. By 1538, Calvin was asked to leave the city due to theological conflicts. But he re-

turned three years later, and his changes led Geneva to become the model for other emerging Protestant states. Calvin's worldview included the ideas of predestination, which meant that some people are saved while others are destined to everlasting death; total depravity, or the belief that humans are totally bound to sin; and a strict adherence to the Word of God. These ideas greatly influenced today's modern world. For example, Calvin wanted church and state to work together to create society, but he firmly believed in the limitation of state power over the church. His reorganization of church structure, whereby church government was elected from the local membership, significantly affected the democratic political structure in the West. Calvin used these reforms to transform Geneva from a city of ill repute into one in which a strict moral code regulated the lives of every citizen.

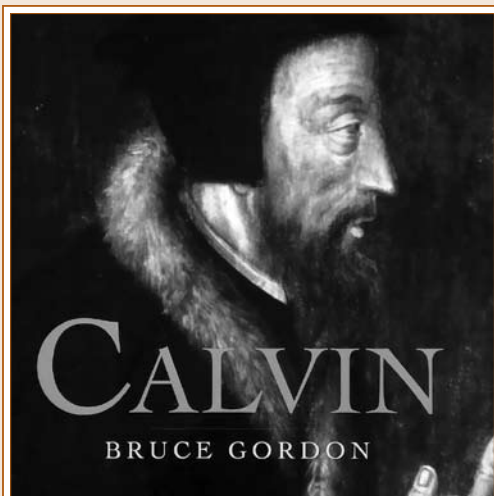
Calvinism, as it is now called, spread throughout Protestant Europe and later came to America. According to a recent article in *Christianity Today*, Calvin's *Institutes*, along with the Geneva Bible, both came to America on the *Mayflower*. Churches such as the Congregational denomination were influenced by Calvin's ideals and helped to shape the America of today.

From her youth to 1875, Mary Baker Eddy was a member of the Congregational Church in Sanborn-ton Bridge (later Tilton), N.H. Eddy could not reconcile the Calvinist doctrine that was part of her childhood religious training with her own concept of God. As she writes on pages 13-14 of *Retrospection and Introspection*:

*My father's relentless theology emphasized belief in a final judgment-day, in the danger of endless punishment, and in a Jehovah merciless towards unbelievers ....*

*My mother, as she bathed my burning temples, bade me lean on God's love, which would give me rest, if I went to Him in prayer, as I was wont to do, seeking His guidance.... and the "horrible decree" of predestination—as John Calvin rightly called his own tenet—forever lost its power over me.*

For more information, visit Lending and Reference Services or contact 617-450-7325 or [reference@mbelibrary.org](mailto:reference@mbelibrary.org).



Cover of Bruce Gordon's  
book *Calvin*

## Exhibits

### *Object of the Month*

Object of the Month, a new feature of the Library's Web site, showcases items from the Library's collections, including letters, documents, objects, photographs, and textiles. Please visit the archived Object of the Month page (<http://www.marybakereddylibrary.org/collections/research/objects>) to see objects from past months.



#### **September 2009: Gems for You: From New Hampshire Authors**

A nineteenth-century gift book that includes a poem by Mary Baker Eddy



#### **October 2009: Pears Soap**

A gift to Mary Baker Eddy in 1900 from a U.S. soldier, containing gold coins



#### **November 2009: Silking**

A preservation treatment applied to Mary Baker Eddy letters and manuscripts

## Programs

### *Feedback from Library Program on Nursing*

The Library continues to witness outgrowth and appreciative response from last March's program on "Nursing's Spiritual Roots in Contemporary Practice." As a result of the program, Lesley Pitts and Jonathon Eder of the Library were invited by South Shore Hospital in Massachusetts to give a talk on Mary Baker Eddy and Christian Science care for its Diversity Committee. The event was held in a classroom as a "lunch and learn" session, which was filled to capacity with nurses, physicians, physical therapists, case managers, hospital administrators, pastoral counselors, and others. Pitts and Eder spoke about Mary Baker Eddy's experience, her discovery of Christian Science, and on approaches to healing and caring in Christian Science. The attendees were full of questions and promised to share what they learned with staff who couldn't attend. Recently, the American Nurses Association awarded the nursing staff at South Shore Hospital "Magnet Status" for its standard of care; only 5 percent of hospitals in the United States receive this elite designation.

One of the panelists from the program this March, Jean Watson, returned in the summer to use the Library as a setting in which to videotape for an initiative that her organization, the Watson Caring Science Institute, is spearheading. The Million Nurse Global Caring Field Project focuses on the power and potential of nursing as

a healing influence throughout the world in celebration of the year of the nurse in 2010. Watson and others videotaped messages in the Library's Mapparium to extend greetings and healing inspiration to be broadcast through the Watson Caring Science Institute's Web site: [www.watsoncaringscience.org](http://www.watsoncaringscience.org).

## Recent Programs

### *Opening Our Doors 2009*



"Opening Our Doors," Boston's largest single free day of arts and cultural events was back for the eighth year this past Columbus Day, with the Library and The First Church of Christ, Scientist, hosting the

kick-off. The day, sponsored by the Fenway Alliance, featured free museum and gallery admissions, music, dance, theatre performances, and more.

Library activities, which included two performances by Project STEP, a music program founded by the Boston Symphony Orchestra, face painting, storytelling, and visits to the Mapparium and other exhibits, brought in nearly 1,100 visitors that day! Check Facebook often for updated photos.

## Research Room

### *Query of the Quarter*

#### **What did Mary Baker Eddy say about personal finance?**

Mary Baker Eddy strongly favored frugal living and financial prudence, probably as a result of the simple New England lifestyle she had experienced as a child. Puritan ethics championed economy and discipline in all areas of life, and Yankee thrift is still legendary today.

After her first husband's death, Eddy (then Glover) was left in severe financial difficulties. Years of struggle followed. When she chose to devote her life to Christian Science, the system of healing that she discovered in 1866, her sister offered to give her financial security and a house if she would agree to give up her ideas, but Eddy refused.

She had to work hard and economize while she was writing down her ideas about Christian Science. For example, on June 7, 1869, she wrote to a friend to say: "I have just sent a work to the press for publication entitled—Science of Soul—I mean you shall read it sometime. I have written this and notes on the entire book of Genesis within the last year and this, besides laboring for clothes and other expenses with teaching I am worn almost out ...." [L08866]

Even after *Science and Health* was published in 1875, she worked to maintain financial independence while furthering the movement. In 1883, the bookstore Lockwood, Brooks, & Company demanded a 10 percent fee for carrying copies of the textbook in their store, and she wrote to them: "I shall be under the necessity of selling this edition of Science & Health myself and through my students who ask nothing for selling my books. My expenses are very heavy and demand economy." [L09550]

Throughout her life, even after she was earning enough through her writing to support herself easily, Eddy kept careful track of her finances or had a member of her household do so. As it turned out, her longtime secretary Calvin Frye's temperament was almost ideally suited to the minute job of recording

each credit and debit in account ledgers. He even noted expenses of a few pennies at a time.

She emphasized many times the importance of living within means; in an 1895 letter to the Christian Science Board of Directors, she chastised them for having incurred debt while finishing extra construction on the Original Edifice of The Mother Church in Boston:

*I charged you in a recent letter to be careful of expenditures—and getting into debt. Either inaction or overaction has tempted you all the way; and have you not yielded to this temptation? Had you duly watched and prayed to be delivered, you would have been. "Owe no man" is scripture. Either recklessness in business, or delay, is not Christian Science. ...You must not incur any further expenses than are already specified for the completion of the church building, and finish it at once.*  
[L02756]

In fact, when the Original Edifice was finished and immediately dedicated, its debt-free status was considered quite remarkable by newspapers around the country.

In 1898, Eddy set up a trust fund for the children who donated their pennies to provide decorations for the "Mother's Room," a small room set aside for her use in The Mother Church. She carefully specified that the trustees should take the money she gave and "invest the same in safe municipal bonds." [L00191] Later, when she was setting up bank accounts for her grandchildren to use for necessities, she emphasized that she was doing so "for the purpose of testing their habits of economy and trust that you will also aid me in this as in all that you are doing for them by teaching them economy as well as good morals." [L05322]

Throughout her life, she placed her income in conservative investments. In 1894, she offered to help Clara Shannon create a nest egg by investing in municipal bonds; she closed the letter by saying "I have caused many of my students to thrive by doing as I have advised you above." [L07771] Eddy regularly received lists of potential bond investments from an investment firm in Boston, and reviewed these lists with care, considering demographic data as well as interest rates.



As a rule, Eddy avoided investing in stocks. For instance, when the plans were being made for the Concord State Fair to be held near her home, she offered to put in \$100. When she realized that it was being organized as a stock corporation, she declined to participate as a stockholder, and instead gave the Fair Association a gift of \$100. [V01744] Part of her reticence may have been due to the minimal regulation imposed on the stock market at the time, creating a volatile environment that eventually led to the Great Crash of 1929.

During the founding of *The Christian Science Monitor*, Eddy was frequently consulted about the financial details of running an international newspaper. She believed that such a thing could—and should—be done in as careful a way as possible, but refused to compromise quality for pecuniary reasons. In August 1908, Adam Dickey wrote to the Board of Trustees of The Christian Science Publishing Society on her behalf, expressing concern over the enormous scope and cost of the new daily paper, which was much greater than she had imagined. However the letter closed by stating that Eddy “does not wish to hamper your movements by placing restrictions on the amount you shall spend, but wishes you to go ahead with wisdom and economy as your guide.” [L07269]

It’s important to note that although Eddy was extremely careful with her money, and constantly advised others to save and stay within their means, she was never stingy. She contributed thousands of dollars each year to charitable organizations ranging from the New Hampshire State Library to the Home for Friendless Boys in Maine. Eddy often gave gifts of money to her students or those working for her. She also routinely re-

turned gifts of money sent to her by her followers; in 1897, she returned a check for \$25 to Alice Jennings, writing “Allow me dear one, to take your heart-offering and to return the material part thereof. As I uniformly do this with gifts of money, you will not think me ungrateful.” [L04733]

Eddy was financially successful at the end of her life through a combination of hard work and careful attention to finances. Frugality and economy served as watchwords for her dealings because of values she had absorbed in her childhood, values she continued to promulgate in her religion, Christian Science. Indeed, in

1892 she wrote that the “model Christian Scientist is the sharpest, the surest, the most successful business man or business woman that this earth can afford.” [A10386]

Contact the Research Room at [research@mbelibrary.org](mailto:research@mbelibrary.org) or 617-450-7218.

Rev Mary Baker Eddy		75
May 1	By Lamb chops .37 Peas .20	.57
"	" Mince shad .50 Butter .10	.60
"	" Beef .23 Oysters .20 Squash .14	.57
"	" Thread .25 Strainer .10	.30
"	" Chops .44 Mackerel .25	.69
"	" Stove polish .10 Yeast .02	.12
"	" Cheese .10 Oil for carriage	.30
2	" Seeds and bulbs .20	11.80
"	" Lobster .40 Lemons .20	.60
"	" Meat .53 Corn .56	1.09
"	" Oil to Brooklyn .100 36 Calf feed .35	.61
3	" 50 Monitors .05 36 Calf feed .35	2.00
"	" Butter .75 Eggs .50	.15
"	" 3 Fels seed	1.55
"	" Del to Shann .40 12 Stearin .40	.75
"	" " 40 26 1/2 Oil .25	.85
"	" 97 1/2 More trip to Boston	.65
"	" L.C. Sargeant goods for Mother	5.00
"	" Paid J. Spaulding 50 pens subs	5.00
5	" I & J Store (milk)	338.39
"	" Box for Mr. Eddy	4.50
"	" Food week at cottage	5.00
"	" Sewing machine for table &c	4.00
"	" Gas for April	13.75
6	" Repair on Bicycle	2.10
"	" Groceries to May 1st (Blanchard)	5.50
"	" Farm help to May 1st	9.15
		219.16
		632.97
		5.19
		632.97
		8556.92
		9195.08
		9195.08

Cash on hand

Page from a ledger kept by Calvin Frye at Pleasant View



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## Upcoming Programs

### *Mark Your Calendars*

**Caring for Christmas**—On December 6, the Library will be hosting a program entitled “Caring for Christmas: A Nineteenth-Century American Story,” which will feature a history of the celebration of Christmas in New England accompanied by a selection of carols and hymns from the time period. During the weekend of December 5-6, the Library will offer free admission to visitors who donate an appropriate item from the wish list of a local participating charity.



**First Night**—Come welcome the New Year at The Mary Baker Eddy Library! On December 31, the Library will again be participating in Boston’s First Night celebration. The excitement begins at 10 a.m., with fun craft activities, face painting, and a scavenger hunt through



the Library’s exhibits! Musical performances will include: Project STEP (children’s music program) at 11 a.m.; Stajez Dance Company (hip-hop dance group) at 1:30 p.m.; and the School for Chinese Instrumental Music Youth Band (children’s dulcimer group) at 3 p.m. Refreshments of cookies, apple cider, and hot chocolate will be served. Official First Night Buttons will be on sale at the Library.



**February Vacation**—Looking for fun, free children’s activities during school vacation week? Join us February 16-19, when the Library will again be hosting activities for youths.

For more information on these and other upcoming programs, please visit the Library’s Web site or follow us on Facebook and twitter.