## BACKGROUND OF THE BOGERT FUND

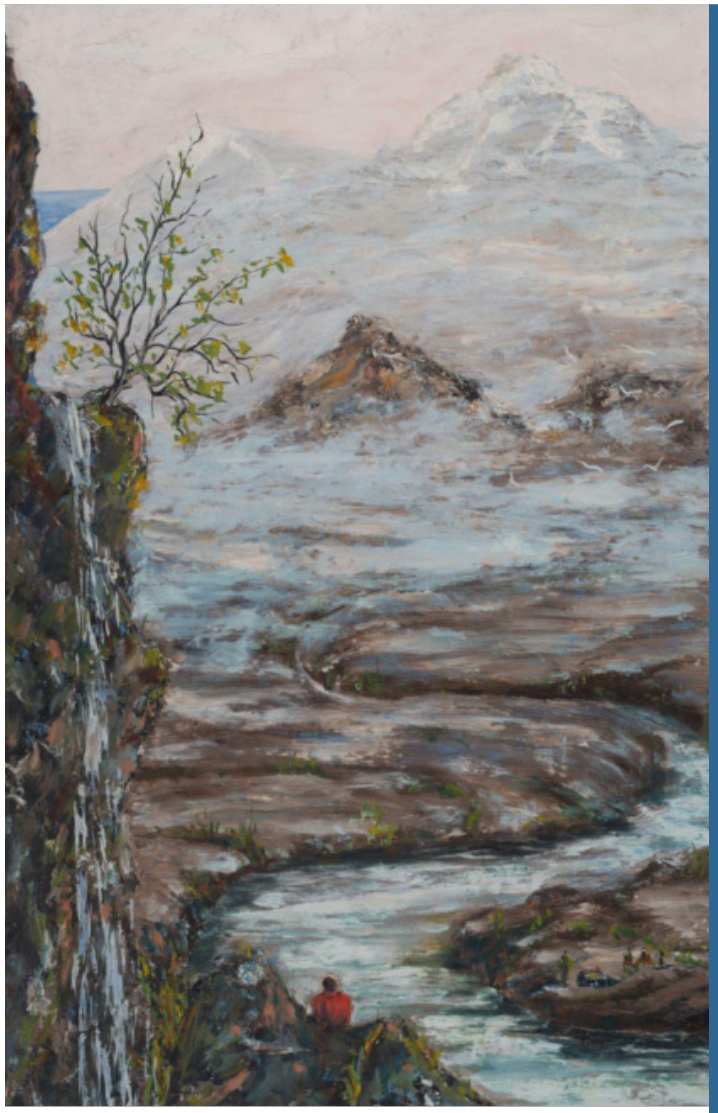
Elizabeth Ann Bogert grew up in an affluent but troubled home. She took a college degree in physical education and taught that subject at the secondary and college level before serving as a naval officer in World War II. Raised in the Episcopal Church but relatively inactive in it as an adult, she maintained a generalized interest in religion, which led her to read William James's *The Varieties of Religious Experience*.

In the course of this reading, one evening she experienced a sudden, intense change of consciousness, so profound and important to her that she wrote a careful, analytical description of the experience. Her description is an account of a classical mystical experience.

Out of this experience grew a greatly enhanced ability to relate to people and a personality change away from self-centeredness to concern for others. She enrolled in a theological school, where one of her professors described her as the most remarkable woman he had ever known. She took ordination as a Congregational minister serving several churches well.

Her mystical bent found expression in painting in which she won first prize in an art show a few months before her death from cancer.

Walter Houston Clark, one of her professors at Hartford Seminary and her counselor and friend, took the initiative to establish in her memory the Elizabeth Ann Bogert Memorial Fund for the Study and Practice of Christian Mysticism.



Contributions to the Bogert Fund are welcomed and may be sent to:

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas

PO Box 925

Voorhees, NJ 08043

The Elizabeth Ann Bogert Memorial Fund for the Study and Practice of Christian Mysticism

# GRANTS PROGRAM

Administered by the **Friends World Committee for Consultation** Section of the Americas

# PURPOSE

The Elizabeth Ann Bogert Memorial Fund was established to support the study and practice of Christian mysticism. The Christian tradition manifests a variety of understandings of mysticism. We affirm the rich variety in which mystical experience has occurred within the Christian context. As a general guideline, the Bogert Fund understands the mystical element in Christianity to be that aspect of its belief and practices that relates to an immediate and direct sense of the presence of the Divine.

We encourage both experiential and scholarly exploration of this realm.

# GRANTS

The Fund is administered by an independent Board under the care of Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas.

Grants up to a maximum of $1,000 are made to individuals, groups, or institutions. They will be made without denominational, cultural, racial, or national preference or age restriction.

**To apply or for more information, email Ilia Delio at ilia.delio@villanova.edu**

**Please include your postal address.**

# HOW TO APPLY

To be considered, a proposal must be received by the current secretary.

The proposal should be in the form of a summary of not more than two typed pages. It should include a detailed description of the project, an estimate of the total cost, the specific amount requested from the Bogert Fund, and an indication of any other resources expected to be called upon.

The applicant should include how they envision results will be communicated to a wider audience. At least two letters of reference from individuals familiar with the applicant's work should be submitted directly to the secretary.

Recipients will be expected to give a full progress report to the Board within one year.

Deadline for applications is March 1.

Awards are announced by July 1.