



eNewsletter of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual

WATER's Feminist Conversations in Religion Series Presents

A Century of Creative Feminist Leadership in Religion

An hour-long teleconference with **Marie M. Fortune, Jeanette Stokes, Mary E. Hunt, and Diann L. Neu**

May 22, 2013
1 pm - 2 pm EDT

- In 1977, **Marie M. Fortune** founded **FaithTrust Institute** to mobilize faith communities to address sexual and domestic violence.
- In 1977, **Jeanette Stokes** founded the **Resource Center for Women and Ministry in the South (RCWMS)** to support women in and entering ministry and to weave feminism and spirituality into a vision of justice for the world.
- In 1983, **Mary E. Hunt and Diann L. Neu** founded the **Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER)** in response to the need for theological, ethical, and liturgical development for and by women.

Together, these modest non-profit organizations have logged more than a century of progressive feminist work for justice.

These colleagues will reflect on their founding visions, their struggles and challenges to keep small, stalwart organizations flourishing, and their strategies to create new platforms necessary to extend and expand this justice work.

Join in the conversation that is sure to be lively—with tales of shared history, common concerns, and that spark that makes entrepreneurs create and sustain their efforts!



Marie M. Fortune is senior analyst at FaithTrust Institute. Ordained in the United Church of Christ, she is a pastor, educator, author, and theologian. Her books include: *Keeping the Faith: Guidance for*

HOW TO REGISTER

Email "Register Me Teleconference" to waterstaff@waterwomensalliance.org by Tuesday, May 21, 2013 in order to receive dial-in information.

Please consider making a [secure online donation](#) for your participation in this event. Thank you!



On this Mother's Day, WATER celebrates all women who seek peace, nourish justice-seekers, and act lovingly toward Earth.

**Proclamation by Julia Ward Howe
27 May 1819 to 17 October 1910**

"The little document which I drew up in the heat of my enthusiasms implored woman, all the world over, to awake to the knowledge of the sacred right vested in them as mothers to protect the human life which costs them so many pangs."

**Arise, then, women of this day!
Arise all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be that of water or of fears!**

Say firmly: "We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies, Our husbands shall not come to us reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy, and patience. We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says, "Disarm, Disarm!"

Christian Women Facing Abuse, Sexual Violence: The Sin Revisited, and Is Nothing Sacred? From 2000-2008, she was editor of *The Journal of Religion and Abuse*.



Jeanette Stokes is executive director for RCWMS. She is an ordained Presbyterian minister and has led workshops on women, spirituality, creativity, and justice. She is the author of *Hurricane Season:*

Living Through a Broken Heart, a memoir about recovering from divorce, and two collections of essays: *25 Years in the Garden* and *35 Years on the Path*.



Mary E. Hunt is co-director of WATER. A Catholic active in the women-church movement, she lectures and writes on theology and ethics with particular attention to liberation issues. She is the editor of *A Guide for Women in Religion: Making Your*

Way from A to Z and co-editor with Diann L. Neu of *New Feminist Christianity: Many Voices, Many Views*.



Diann L. Neu is co-director of WATER. A feminist minister and psychotherapist, she specializes in ritual planning, retreats, counseling, and spiritual direction. She is the author of *Women's Rites: Feminist Liturgies for Life's Journey; Return Blessings:*

Ecofeminist Liturgies Renewing the Earth; and Seasons of Healing: Prayers and Rituals, Journaling and Resources for Women with Cancer.

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The sword of murder is not the balance of justice! Blood does not wipe out dishonor nor violence indicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after her own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

from *Julia Ward Howe, Reminiscences, 1819-1899, Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1899.*

Contemplative Prayer at WATER Monday, May 13, 2013 7:30 PM (EDT)

WATER offers a regular contemplative prayer opportunity each month. This is a communal meditation, a time of silence and reflection followed by a short discussion. Geryl McDowell will lead the meditation on "The Power to Name."

RSVP by sending an email with the words "Register Me Contemplative" by Friday, May 10, 2013 to waterstaff@waterwomensalliance.org or call 301.589.2509 so that we can expect you. If you wish to join by phone, please indicate that so we can send you the phone-in number.

The office will be open at 7 PM for a cup of tea and conversation. Silence will commence promptly at 7:30 PM, so please be here by then. We will finish and be on our way by 8:30 PM. [Read more.](#)

Upcoming Programs:

June 3: Contemplative Prayer with Cheryl Nichols, 7:30 PM EDT

July 8: Contemplative Prayer, 7:30 PM EDT

September 9: Contemplative Prayer, 7:30 PM EDT

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