



# waterwheel

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual

## Shoulder to Feminist Theological Shoulder

By Mary E. Hunt

When men talk about making history they frequently speak of standing on the shoulders of giants. Women in the various suffrage movements, especially in England, understood themselves as standing shoulder to shoulder. The anatomical difference is telling.

The women's model prevails in theological circles. It was much in evidence at the Harvard Divinity School Women's Studies in Religion Program conference, "Religion and the Feminist Movement," held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1-3 November 2002. Both audience and speakers huddled to look closely at the impact and future directions of our work.

The conference was the first of what I hope will be many efforts to reflect systematically on "the interconnections between religion and second wave feminism." Director Ann Braude set out "to elicit and document the collective narratives of religious women who have advanced a movement." Activists and

the need for more such gatherings, scrupulous attention to archiving our work, and critical reflection on its scope and content. Organizers and participants deserve credit for paying attention to this important history before some of those who have been a part of it can no longer remember and/or articulate it on their own terms.

The speakers' roster was replete with movers and shakers. A sample of the content conveys the flavor of a rich offering. Charlotte Bunch, president of the Center for Women's Global Leadership, linked her deep roots in the Methodist Church with her lifelong commitment to human rights, citing support from church women bureaucrats as key to her success at empowering women around the world. Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, professor at Harvard Divinity School, reminded the audience that when asked with whom she studied feminist theology she answered that

*The conference was the first of what I hope will be many efforts to reflect systematically on "the interconnections between religion and second wave feminism."*

scholars, practitioners and students, religious professionals and interested colleagues from cognate disciplines came together for an unforgettable weekend of lectures, recollections and visionary presentations.

For me the gestalt experience was having many dimensions of the past, present, and future of our field in one room. Of course many people were missing and many groups were underrepresented. But that only points to

she and others of her cohort had to write it first! We are the beneficiaries of their pioneering work in virtually every theological subspecialty, a work of less than four decades duration that has changed world religions.

Movement activists Letty Cottin Pogrebin, a Jewish writer, and Azizah al-Hibri of Karamah, a Muslim women lawyers group, laid out their perspectives of how religious feminism played

*(Continued on page 2)*

### In This Issue

Shoulder to Feminist Theological Shoulder	1
Editorial	2
Marian's Story Updated	3
In Memory of Her	3
Liturgy: Peace for the Children of the World	4
New Book: <b>Women's Rites</b>	5
WATER in Motion	6
NEEDED: A Few Good Women	6
Resources	7

*We appreciate the ongoing financial and moral support of our friends and donors. We wish you Seasons Blessings and a New Year filled with peace.*



*Carolyn Farrell, BVM, of the Gannon Center for Women and Leadership at Loyola University, and Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza of Harvard Divinity School strategize the future of feminist work in religion at the "Religion and the Feminist Movement" conference.*

## Editorial

"I hate war" is etched in rock at the monument to Franklin Delano Roosevelt in Washington, DC. Not far away is a statue of Eleanor Roosevelt who was part of the first U.S. delegation to the United Nations, an organization intended as a forum for public discourse so that war may be relegated to the history books. No such luck in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Drum beats of war sound loud and clear. Some people mistakenly think war will be good for a soft economy. Weapons of mass destruction, first strike capability, pre-emptive action, biological warfare, smallpox vaccinations, and collateral damage are terms thrown around as if real people do not suffer from them, as if they were just abstract ideas bureaucrats debate. As the beat goes on, preparations for large-scale military buildup in the region around Iraq continue apace. Miracles happen, but preventing a conflagration at this stage seems unlikely.

World opinion has turned on the U.S. for good reason. The policies of the George W. Bush administration invite little cooperation from other governments, short of strong-arming them into coalitions that will benefit the United States. Emboldened by its successes, the administration is appointing increasingly hard line people, including some recycled from the Nicaragua contras scandal, to do its bidding. Meanwhile, the lowest rungs of the military ladder are filled with poor, young, under-educated people who find being in the military the best alternative in an economy beset with high unemployment. Such expendable souls are the fodder for a good-sized war.

Religious feminists realize that despair is a luxury we can ill afford. As a U.S.-based organization, WATER has a particular responsibility to publicly and in no uncertain terms oppose any unilateral U.S. military efforts. Moreover, we call for peaceful means to settle the myriad conflicts around the world. Groups like Women in Black—Muslim, Christian, and Jewish women working together for peace—demonstrate in cities around the world. They prove that people with different starting points can find ways to prevent the deaths of our children and the destruction of our environment.

We join with others—the Progressive Religious Partnership, Women-Church Convergence, our neighbors, and religious communities—to voice our conviction that there are better ways than war to handle threats to communal well-being. There are diplomatic channels waiting to be explored and as-yet-unimagined ways to help humans to value more what unites than what divides us. As Eleanor showed Franklin, let hatred for war turn into loving action for peace.

*Retired women in religion may prove to be among the most "dangerous."*

## Shoulder to ...

*(Continued from page 1)*

a role in the so-called secular arena. It would be interesting to hear from Betty Friedan, Ellie Smieal, Gloria Steinem, Patricia Schroeder, and the like to know from their perspectives what, if any, impact we have had.

Judith Plaskow, professor at Manhattan College, and Carol Christ of the Ariadne Institute in Greece, coedited influential anthologies, collecting the early writings of the movement in books that sparked the imagination of many in the field. They were Yale doctoral students together forging new ways to be religious feminists—Judith in Jewish feminist studies, Carol in theology and Goddess studies.

Mary Daly, writer and activist, described her exodus from patriarchal religion—both the literal walkout from Memorial Church in November of 1971 and the figurative move "beyond God the father" that transformed the theological landscape. Rosemary Radford Ruether, now at Pacific School of Religion at the Graduate Theological Union, laid out the roots of her theological scholarship and activism in civil rights and anti-war efforts of the 1960s, commitments that continue to inform her work for peace in the Middle East and her tireless feminist scholarship. Historian Gerda Lerner provided interesting contextualizing remarks from beyond the field.

Drew Divinity School professor Ada-Maria Isasi-Diaz recalled her efforts to develop *mujerista* theology from the communal reflections of her Latina sisters. Virginia Ramey Mollenkott, retired from William Paterson University, located her work in the evangelical Christian tradition. From inclusive language to seeing gay/lesbian/bisexual and transgender people as dear neighbors, from women's spirituality to her current focus on transgender concerns, Virginia, like others who come from very conservative backgrounds, brings the best of her tradition and creates the rest.

Delores Williams, professor at Union Theological Seminary, brought wise womanist insights to the mix, pushing the horizons for future generations. Riffat Hassan of the University of Louisville, articulated her experience as a Muslim woman, both the challenges in a field dominated heretofore by Christian and Jewish colleagues, and the complexity of being religiously observant in any tradition.

Blu Greenberg, president of the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance, explored similar challenges to being religious from her Orthodox starting point. Letty Russell, retired from Yale Divinity School, provided a vivid account of her life's work, a dynamic combination of social activism and scholarship.

Striking similarities were articulated by Protestants and Catholics struggling for women's ordination (Nadine Foley, Donna Quinn, and Betty Bone Schiess). Similar dynamics were at play for lesbians wishing to be out in their churches (Jeanne Audrey Powers), for evangelical women in higher education (Roberta Hestenes), and Mormon feminists who have been excommunicated for their theo-political beliefs (Margaret Toscano). In each instance, the patriarchal institutional machines are threatened by truth claims to women's full personhood. They reject the messengers with a vengeance. The stories are at once of pain and triumph, courage and commitment, pluck and luck. One wonders whether religious institutions deserve such marvelous women.

Lois Wilson of the United Church of Canada moved into government after decades of church work. She illustrated how religious values can be lived out in public service with aplomb. Addie Watt of the Church of God engaged in labor organizing as an integral part of her mission. Writer Vicki Noble spoke of how she incorporates Buddhist insights into her counseling practice. In all, the variety and diversity of women's efforts to be religious feminists continues to deepen.

Several of my long-term observations were confirmed at this meeting. First, since I was a graduate student in the 1970s, I have been impressed by the collegiality of women in the field. Of course I don't romanticize the turf battles, petty jealousies, and real intellectual differences that go with the terrain. But on the whole I think our strength is collective and it works. I have experienced the support and encouragement of so many women in this field that I can only hope to repay it by sharing my resources with others. I saw that happening in the halls at Harvard where some of the best conversations, per usual, took place over cups of tea. Pity we didn't have more structured time for such exchange. It would be good in

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Marian's Story Updated

By Nancy Poling

Thank you for your spring issue of *WATERwheel* on clergy sexual abuse. My thanks to Diann Neu ("Walking with Truth-Tellers," *WATERwheel*, Spring, 2002) who included in her liturgy excerpts from *Victim to Survivor: Women Recovering From Clergy Sexual Abuse* (United Church Press, 1991), a book I edited. My response here is an update on one of the women who contributed to the book. As the following paragraphs state, she has since taken her own life.

To demonstrate the lifelong effects of sexual abuse, I want to share that Et Al, one of the contributors to the book whose story Diann cited in the liturgy, took her own life about a year ago. She would not mind my revealing her name, Marian, for she spoke publicly about her abuse. Besides, her actual name allows us to see her as a real woman living with real pain.

Marian's reasons for ending her life were many, but central to all of them was sexual abuse. Her father sexually molested her when she was a child. When, as a teenager, she took her pain to a priest, he too sexually abused her. Later, when she took her accusations against the priest to the Catholic Church, the church did not investigate. Its spokesperson

discounted her to the media by saying she was mentally ill. Yes, she suffered from mental illness, but its genesis was sexual abuse.

For most of her adult life, Marian's main concern was getting the message out that sexual abuse exists and that it is extremely damaging. She was frustrated that people's response to her was usually silence. When *Victim to Survivor* came out she called the local paper, told them she had contributed, and volunteered to be interviewed. Though even her picture was in the paper, not one person from her church mentioned the article to her.

Marian died alone. Her parents were dead, her siblings alienated because she spoke publicly about how their father had abused her. Her church, which could not be with her in life, could not be with her in death either. Her neighbor and closest friend, Daryl, had died earlier in the year.

Shortly before she died, Marian sent me a photograph of her as a small child. The picture, she said, was taken before the abuse. Her eyes sparkle. It's clear that she loves life.

A lifetime of pain separated that child from the fifty-year-old woman who decided that living was harder than dying.

## In Memory of Her

From *WATER*, Massachusetts Women-Church, Kay and Bob Haughey, Rose Mary Meyer, Kathy Shorter and Kathy Nietch, and Alan Croft and Mary B. Ramey:

In memory of **Elizabeth Campbell Hunt**, mother of Mary Hunt. A gracious hostess, a fine teacher, a loving mother, she found her niche and illuminated it. We are thankful for the quiet peace of her departure.

From *Barbara Pfarr*, SSND, Chicago, IL:

In memory of **Aurea C. Refugia**, who died in Quezon City, the Philippines, on 17 July 2002. She is the beloved mother of Sister Amy Refugia, SSND.

From *WATER*:

In honor of **Diane Reis**, who died on 4 August 2002, and in support of **Sue Julian**, justice-seeking friends.

From *Catherine C. Snyder*, Blacksburg, VA:

In honor of **Jeanette Stokes**, founder of the Resource Center for Women and Ministry in the South, on the occasion of their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

From *Cynthia Lapp*, Mount Rainier, MD:

Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday to **Catherine Fei Min Hunt-Neu**, daughter of Mary Hunt and Diann Neu.

## Shoulder to ...

(Continued from page 2)

the future to have direct dialogues between women from various theological generations for mutual enlightenment and strategizing.

A second observation is that there is no way to disconnect feminist work in religion from social activism. Thanks to Rosemary Radford Ruether, Ilene Stanford and others, a petition against a U.S.-led war in Iraq was circulated at the conference and released to the media. Another whole meeting could focus on the specific impact of feminist work in religion on public policy, past and future.

Third, longstanding problems of racism, Christian hegemony, heterosexism, colonialism, not to mention sexism itself, persist as if untouched by our efforts. I do not mean to contradict my enthusiasm for the myriad accomplishments of the past four decades. I mean to acknowledge that there is so much left to do that it feels at times as if we are still on page one. The odds are formidable and the backlash severe.

Finally, the truism that women get more radical as we get older is especially relevant to

women in religion. Young women asked edgy questions convincing me that the field is in good hands. Many graduate students got a crash course in their own history that weekend. Yet I was most heartened by the fact that age seemed only to intensify and focus women's analysis and commitments. Of course each generation has its own experience and integrity, but the older women, and even those of us who are middle aged, conveyed a sense of urgency about the work at hand.

Retired women in religion may prove to be among the most "dangerous." Witness three of our own in action. At the November 2002 American Academy of Religion/Society for Biblical Literature meeting in Toronto, Rosemary Radford Ruether circulated a hand-written petition to thank Françoise Ducros, press spokeswoman for Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, who lost her job for saying out loud what many people think, namely, that a certain U.S. president is "a moron." Rosemary even passed a knit hat for donations to send flowers as our sign of support.

At the same meeting, Letty Russell chaired a

panel on "Gender, Faith, and Responses to HIV/AIDS in Africa," a project of Yale Divinity School and USAID "to work in solidarity with women in Africa to examine the intersection of gender, faith, poverty, and AIDS." Jeanne Audrey Powers is an activist par excellence for women and gay/lesbian/bisexual and transgender persons now that she has finished her work in the United Methodist Church bureaucracy.

Standing shoulder to shoulder with these women, and with the many graduate students, professors, ministers, and activists who were or wished they could have been at the Harvard conference gives me confidence and motivation to do this work for decades to come. It clarifies that I am well accompanied.

For information on the conference and other offerings from the Women's Studies in Religion Program at Harvard Divinity School, see [www.hds.harvard.edu/wsrp](http://www.hds.harvard.edu/wsrp).

Mary E. Hunt, Ph.D., feminist theologian, is cofounder and codirector of *WATER*.

Most children in Iraq are probably afraid that the United States will start bombing their country soon. Many children in the United States will not forget the sunny day in September 2001 when terrorist attacks, unprecedented in U.S. history, changed their lives. Most children who live in Montgomery County, Maryland, will not forget the sniper attacks that caused them and their parents to fear going outside this fall.

All of these children will certainly hear the adults in their lives tell stories of these difficult days. They will read about them in their history books. As these times remain in our memories, how will we talk to our children? What will we teach them about peace?

This liturgy invites us to pray with children. Gather your children, nieces and nephews, neighbors and friends together with the adults in their lives, and pray and work for peace.

### Preparation

Invite two children to read the prayer. Gather paper, pencils, crayons, and markers to have for the drawing and sharing. Have cookies and juice for the closing.

### Call to Gather

Thank you for coming here today so we can be together and pray for peace. A terrible thing happened (add where the event took place, for example, in the United States on 11 September 2001, or in Maryland during the sniper attacks). Who can tell us the story? (Invite the children to share what they know. Affirm their feelings.) This was very scary, and it still is. Yet, we have to work for peace so children around the world will not have bad things happen to them, their families and friends.

### Naming the Circle

Let's promise to work for peace now. Let's say our names and then say, "I want peace in the world." (I am Diann. I want peace in the world.)

Song: "Paz Queremos Paz," Traditional.

Paz, queremos paz,  
Y libertad en este mundo.

Peace, we want peace,  
And liberty in this world.

### Prayer

(Two children read, alternating line by line.)

1. Dear God, that's the name Christians call you.
2. Dear Allah, that's the name Muslims call you.

1. Dear Love, that's the name many people call you.
2. Dear Spirit, that's the name others call you.

1. We pray for the children who live in the United States.
2. We pray for the children who live in Afghanistan and Iraq.

1. We pray for children who use their allowance money to go to the movies.
2. We pray for those who have no blankets to keep them warm.

1. We pray for children who eat three meals and snacks each day.
2. We pray for those who can't find any food to steal.

1. We pray for children who give their parents kisses every day.
2. We pray for those whose moms and dads were killed in war.

1. We pray for children who are encouraged to do more.
2. We pray for those who don't get a second chance.

1. Dear God of many names, give peace to all the children of the world.
2. Dear God of many names, give peace to the whole world.

Song: "Paz Queremos Paz," Traditional.

Paz, queremos paz,  
Y libertad en este mundo.

Peace, we want peace,  
And liberty in this world.

Reading: "Imagine Living" by Diann Neu

Imagine living in the mountains of Afghanistan or Iraq.

You wear a veil and search for food to eat.  
Five times a day you pray to Allah  
for peace on earth.

Imagine living in a crowded city in China.  
You shop at street stalls and ride your bike to work.

Every day you pray to the Buddha  
for peace on earth.



## Peace for Children of By Dian

Imagine living in the Hopi Nation.  
You make beautiful pottery and live in the pueblo.  
Every day you pray to the Great Spirit  
for peace on earth.

Imagine living on the west coast of Africa.  
You grow yams and walk five miles to school.  
Every day you pray to Oshun  
for peace on earth.

Imagine living on the other side of town, or in another state.  
You have different neighbors, a different job, a different lifestyle.  
Every day you pray to your God  
for peace on earth.



# er the the World

L. Neu

### Sharing

Can you imagine children around the world praying and working for peace every day? Are you praying and working for peace every day?

Let's write letters to the children in Afghanistan and Iraq, and to President George W. Bush, and tell them how much we want peace. Let's draw pictures to show what peace means to us. *(Pass out paper, pencils, crayons, and markers. When everyone has finished, gather back together.)*

Let's read the letters we wrote and let's talk about the pictures we drew. *(Sharing)*

### Litany of Peace

What does peace mean to you? Finish the sentence, "Peace means..."

If you want peace in the world, shout yes. *(Yes)*

If you want children in the world to live in peace, clap your hands. *(Clap)*

If you promise to work for peace, stomp your feet. *(Stomp)*

Now let's sing a song and dance for peace.

**Song and Dance:** "Hevenu Shalom A'leychem," traditional Israeli melody, arranged by Sandra Joan Billington, dance steps by Diann Neu.

*(Hold hands and circle right)*  
With words of peace now we greet you.

*(Circle left)*  
With words of peace now we greet you.

*(Circle right)*  
With words of peace now we greet you.

*(Raise hands together and step into the center of the circle)*

We bring you peace in God's name,

*(Stomp right foot)*  
Peace,

*(Stomp left foot)*

*(Lower hands and back out of the center)*  
We sing shalom.

He-ve-nu sha-lom a'ley-chem.  
He-ve-nu sha-lom a'ley-chem.  
He-ve-nu sha-lom a'ley-chem.  
He-ve-nu sha-lom, sha-lom,  
sha-lom a'ley chem.

### Greeting of Peace

Let's give everyone a hug of peace. *(Hugging)*

### Sending Forth

Let's share cookies and juice with one another.

*Diann Neu, D.Min., LCSW, feminist liturgist and psychotherapist, is cofounder and codirector of WATER.*

## NEW BOOK

# WOMEN'S RITES *Feminist Liturgies for Life's Journey*

By Diann L. Neu

"New voices are calling for new rituals. Communities need liturgies to honor a women's biological passages: menarche, menstruation, miscarriage, abortion, childbirth, menopause, and old age (called 'crowning'). Some women need rituals dealing with battering, sexual abuse, rape, trauma, and violence. Some families need ceremonies for coming out and holy unions. Women-church communities and feminist spirituality groups, groups from diverse cultures and religions, the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer communities, and persons with disabilities are developing new rites that fill the spiritual, political, and justice needs of their members."

*Women's Rites: Feminist Liturgies for Life's Journey* is a collection of new feminist liturgies Diann designed that celebrates and pays tribute to women's physical, spiritual, and emotional rites of passage.

The book covers such subjects as:

- + Blessing Women at Life-Changing Times
- + Designing Feminist Liturgies for Women's Life Passages
- + Creating Community
- + Honoring Women's Blood Mysteries
- + Making Reproductive Choices
- + Mourning Loved Ones
- + Women's Life Cycle Liturgies Worldwide

### Other Recent Books from WATER

- **Return Blessings** by Diann L. Neu, \$20
- **Peace Liturgies** by Diann L. Neu, \$15
- **Good Sex: Feminist Perspectives from the World's Religions** by Patricia Beattie Jung, Mary E. Hunt, Radhika Balakrishnan, \$20

Order from WATER, 8035 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Silver Spring MD 20910, 301-589-2509; [water@hers.com](mailto:water@hers.com)

Please send me:

\_\_\_ copy(s) of **Women's Rites** @ \$23 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ copy(s) of **Return Blessings** @ \$20 each \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ copy(s) of **Peace Liturgies** @ \$15 each \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ copy(s) of **Good Sex** @ \$20 each \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL (includes postage) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email/Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# WATER in Motion

WATER's late summer and fall have been a veritable whirlwind of interesting work. A sketch follows of some of the events your financial support helps make possible.

## Staff At Work

Kudos to longtime WATER staff person **The Rev. Cindy Lapp** who was ordained to the ministry in the Hyattsville Mennonite Church. The event was a moving celebration that featured many women, including little ones like her daughter Cecilia who danced and read scripture. WATER wishes Cindy many happy and fulfilling years of ministry.

Congratulations to **Diann Neu** on receiving her Doctor of the Ministry: International Feminist Emphasis from the San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, CA. Her dissertation, *Women's Rites: Feminist Liturgies for Life's Journey*, will be published in January 2003 by Pilgrim Press.

Diann has been busy writing this Fall. Her book, *Return Blessings: Ecofeminist Liturgies Renewing the Earth*, was published in September 2002. You can order both of her books from WATER. See order form on page 5.

Hello, and an all too early goodbye, to **Erika Callaway**, an M.Div. graduate of Vanderbilt Divinity School, who filled an important staffing gap this fall. Her sure skills and deep commitment to women's well-being will serve her well in her chosen field of anti-violence work, as they served WATER well during her short but sweet stay.

Welcome back to **Laura Bernstein** who is now our data base manager. Laura worked at WATER years ago through the LEAP (Life Experiences Activities Program) and returns now as part of our *In a Different Style* program. We welcome her back with confidence that our database is in good hands.

**Susan Davies**, professor at Bangor Theological Seminary, graced WATER during part of her sabbatical year. She wanted and created good conversation on a range of topics, including how progressive religious folks can be supportive of one another within and beyond religious institutions.

**Mary Hunt** has been on the road again. She taught a summer school course at Iliff Theological Seminary in Denver on "Same-Sex Love and American Religion." Watch for a similar one in June 2003 at Pacific School of Religion in

Berkeley. Dr. Hunt joined the board of the newly formed Frontier Internship in Mission Foundation dedicated to raising funds to support ecumenical international exchanges.

She had the privilege of speaking at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Center for Women and Ministry in the South in Durham, NC, where beloved colleague Jeanette Stokes has pioneered artistic, spiritual and political work. See the Resources section for the Rev. Stokes' wonderful book, *25 Years in the Garden* with Mary's Foreword.

Mary's lecture for the Zygon Center in Chicago was on the new shape of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. That group is looking creatively at the intersection of scientific and theological issues in an effort to stem the tide.

Mary Hunt provided a contextualizing introduction to Mary Daly at the Harvard "Religion and the Feminist Movement" conference. She pointed out that Dr. Daly's major contribution is to create intellectual and spiritual space for people to imagine ways of being other than those offered by patriarchal religions.

In Boston, the epicenter of the Catholic Church's priest pedophilia and cover-up scandal, Dr. Hunt spoke at the Massachusetts Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice on "Faith and the Freedom to Choose." She joined The Rev. Dr. Bryan Hehir, President of Catholic Charities USA, for a spirited dialogue at Regis College's symposium on "Women, Church and Society." In both gatherings she called for substantive structural change, not cosmetic tinkering with a fundamentally corrupt and inadequate kyriarchal system.

## Collaborations

WATER is part of a broad coalition of groups—including Women-Church Convergence, Catholics Organizations for Renewal, Voice of the Faithful, and survivors groups—that is committed to eradicating the heinous crimes of abuse and violence. When the Catholic Bishops' met in Dallas and in Washington, DC, we were there to stand with survivors and fortify efforts for real change.

The Feminist Liberation Theologians' Network met at the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature gathering in Toronto this fall. The discussion focused on the implications of the current economic

situation and priorities for feminist work in religion. WATER sponsors the group, which will discuss issues of feminist pedagogy next year at the Atlanta meeting. Meanwhile, contact [water@hers.com](mailto:water@hers.com) for info on how to access the group's e-mail discussion list.

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Scholar Activists in Religion met at the same venue thanks to WATER's leadership. Virginia Ramey Mollenkott, author of the Lambda Literary Award winning *Omni-Gender: A Trans-Religious Approach* (Pilgrim, 2001), made an insightful presentation on transgender persons. This topic challenges fundamental assumptions about gender, sexuality and theo-politics.

We were pleased to participate in and co-sponsor the CLOUT, Christian Lesbians Out, meeting in Washington, DC. The theme of the meeting was "Women and HIV/AIDS: A Cry for Compassion." Particular attention was on HIV+ women and children who are the fastest growing cohort of those infected in the U.S. Workshops on transgender concerns, sexuality and the like added to a rich program. Anti-racism work by predominantly white organizations like CLOUT is a challenge we embrace.

## NEEDED: A Few Good Women

Do you have skills you would like to share with WATER?

- Are you a closet fundraiser waiting to come out by volunteering to help with donations?
- Are you a web expert just dying to contribute your skills to a web page that needs revision?
- Are you retired and looking for a place to ply your editorial skills?
- Do you have an afternoon to spend at a busy, friendly office that needs help shelving books and handling routine mailings?

If so, we need YOU at WATER. Call 301 589-2509, or e-mail [water@hers.com](mailto:water@hers.com) to offer your time and talent. Many thanks!

---

## Resources

---

Andolsen, Barbara Hilkert. **THE NEW JOB CONTRACT: ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN AN AGE OF INSECURITY.** Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 1999 (164 pages, \$15.95).

With U.S. unemployment inching upward this is an increasingly useful read. The so-called knowledge elites will feel the same force of injustice that the working poor know so well.

Coupar, Regina. **THE ART OF SOUL: AN ARTIST'S GUIDE TO SPIRITUALITY.** Toronto, Ontario, Canada: Novalis, 2002 (248 pages, \$19.95).

A lovely, useful volume that encourages readers to see, experience and create spiritual insights through the arts. Ideal for a self-guided retreat or group work.

Ferder, Fran and John Heagle. **TENDER FIRES: THE SPIRITUAL PROMISE OF SEXUALITY.** New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 2002 (267 pages, \$16.95).

Sexuality is a many splendored thing. These authors explore the spiritual dimensions from their unique perspective as a nun and a priest, respectively, who are obviously good listeners, compassionate learners and responsible in love.

Goss, Robert E. **QUEERING CHRIST: BEYOND JESUS ACTED UP.** Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 2002 (251 pages, \$20).

Robert Goss tackles topics and texts that have been taboo even in the queer community in a candid, courageous, and catholic (small and large "c") book. He insists that we "Do Ask, Do Tell" in a volume that will generate rich, necessary conversation.

Horwitz, Claudia. **THE SPIRITUAL ACTIVIST: PRACTICES TO TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE, YOUR WORK, AND YOUR WORLD.** New York: Penguin Compass, 2002 (257 pages, \$16).

A how-to manual for staying healthy and sane in life-long struggles for justice. Practical, politic, and insightful.

Livingston, David J. **HEALING VIOLENT MEN: A MODEL FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES.** Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2002 (129 pages, \$13.60).

Perpetrators need help to cease and desist abuse. This slim study may provide some ideas for pastoral implementation.

Moe-Lobeda, Cynthia D. **HEALING A BROKEN WORLD: GLOBALIZATION AND GOD.** Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2002 (236 pages, \$20).

Economics is a prime concern for feminist theology/theory. How to do justice in a globalized economy is the conundrum

Peay, Pythia. **SOUL SISTERS: THE FIVE SACRED QUALITIES OF A WOMAN'S SOUL.** New York: Penguin Putnam, 2002 (241 pages, \$16.95).

More "feminine" than "feminist," this workbook will encourage women to seek their birthright in the spiritual realm.

Poole, Myra. **PRAYER, PROTEST, POWER: THE SPIRITUALITY OF JULIE BILLIART TODAY.** Norwich, Norfolk, England: Canterbury Press, 2001 (223 pages, \$12.99).

The history of women in religious congregations is a rich taproot of feminist inspiration. Julie Billiart inspired many.

Raiser, Elisabeth and Barbara Robra. **WITH LOVE AND WITH PASSION: WOMEN'S LIFE AND WORK IN THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH.** Geneva: WCC

Publications, 2001 (183 pages, \$17.90)

A beautiful collection of photos and stories, analysis and history about women who have made an enormous difference in ecumenical work worldwide. A treasure.

Sheridan, Vanessa. **CROSSING OVER: LIBERATING THE TRANSGENDERED CHRISTIAN.** Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 2001 (158 pages, \$16).

An indispensable resource for understanding and supporting trans people in Christian churches. Issues and problems are addressed by someone who has walked the walk.

Shiva, Vandana. **WATER WARS: PRIVATIZATION, POLLUTION, AND PROFIT.** Cambridge: South End Press, 2002 (156 pages, \$14).

Future wars will be fought over water. This Indian activist shows how the greed and cavalier assumptions of powerful people/nations threaten the wellbeing of the planet. The key is moving toward a deeper sense of communal property.

Starhawk. **WEBS OF POWER: NOTES FROM THE GLOBAL UPRISING.** East Hampton, MA: New Society Publishers, 2002 (288 pages, \$17.95).

Wiccan leader Starhawk chronicles her efforts to bring feminist spiritual values to social change work. She displays remarkable courage in the face of well-organized government forces bent on keeping demonstrators and those who articulate a different worldview away from policy makers. How wonderful that pagans and witches show the way toward peace.

**THE MYSTIC'S WHEEL OF THE YEAR 2003: A MULTIFAITH CALENDAR REFLECTING ECO-EGALITARIAN SPIRITUALITY.** Washington, DC: Page Two, 800-821-6604 (\$12).

An ecological/egalitarian focus this year makes this calendar more useful than ever.

Stokes, Jeanette. **25 YEARS IN THE GARDEN.** Durham, NC: The Resource Center for Women and Ministry in the South, 2002 (164 pages, \$15).

Mary Hunt writes in the Foreword: "Jeanette Stokes has created the genre of feminist inspirational writing. Quite simply, no one does it better."

Webb, Val. **FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE: THE MAKING OF A RADICAL THEOLOGIAN.** St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2002 (363 pages, \$34.99 hardcover).

Who knew Florence Nightingale was a Unitarian mystic much less radical theologian with an 800-page manuscript of her own? A substantive recovery of a storied historical figure.

### For Our Children

Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg. **NAAMAH, NOAH'S WIFE.** Woodstock, VT: Skylight Paths Publishing, 2002 (24 pages, \$7.95).

If Noah rounded up the animals, Naamah was in charge of the plants. Obviously both of them were successful as this charming story makes clear.



Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual  
8035 13th Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4803 USA

**Address Service Requested**

**WATERwheel** (ISSN 0898-6606) is published quarterly by the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual. Annual subscription, \$35. Additional copies of this issue, \$5 each. Complimentary copies available on request for conferences, classes, discussion groups, family, friends, and colleagues.

**WATER** is a feminist educational center, a network of justice-seeking people that began in 1983 in response to the need for theological, ethical and liturgical development for and by women. We work locally, nationally and internationally doing programs and projects, publications and workshops, counseling, spiritual direction and liturgical planning which help people actualize feminist religious values and bring about social change. If you would like to subscribe for weekly updates from the office and occasional news from colleagues in the field, send a message to [majordomo@hers.com](mailto:majordomo@hers.com) with the words "subscribe water-I" (that's water-hyphen-letter "I", NOT number 1) in the body of the message.

Mary E. Hunt and Diann L. Neu, co-founders and co-directors

For more information about WATER:  
Phone 301-589-2509; Fax 301-589-3150  
[water@hers.com](mailto:water@hers.com); [www.hers.com/water](http://www.hers.com/water)

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Silver Spring, MD  
Permit No. 1701

