



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

## WATER Receives President's Award from DignityUSA



(l to r) Diann L. Neu and Mary E. Hunt receive the President's Award at "A Spiritual Gathering for All Women" sponsored by DignityUSA and WATER.

### For Thirty Years of Leadership in Using Feminist Religious Values to Create Social Change

"We are deeply grateful, honored, and humbled to receive the President's Award from DignityUSA for WATER on our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Thank you! That it comes during the distinguished presidency of Lourdes Rodríguez-Nogués only makes us cherish it more."

"We receive this award as a symbol of our common commitment and as a sign of our intention to work with Dignity for many years to come. The women's retreat that we collaborated on this week was a rich and delightful example of how together we can deepen and diversify our outreach. We look forward to many more opportunities to collaborate." – *Mary E. Hunt and Diann L. Neu*

## Around the Office: Meet Our Summer Interns!

Wondering why WATER has been flowing faster than usual? With three new interns in the office along with our yearlong Loretto Volunteer Wendy Mallette, the pace has quickened, and possibilities are endless.

Wendy graduated from Valparaiso University in 2012 and is headed to Yale Divinity School in the fall for a Master of Arts in Religion with a concentration in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She came to WATER because she wanted to learn more about the work being done in feminism and religion in a nonprofit setting. She's excited to work with so many new colleagues this summer!

Molly Bolton is a third year M.Div. at the Wake Forest School of Divinity. As a student and a pastoral intern at Green Street United Methodist Church, she found WATER's resources lovely and helpful, and was inspired to join the alliance! Molly is especially interested in rituals for women, feminist methods of pastoral care, and "queering" worship. She is looking forward to a summer of learning from the pros and getting to know wonderful women. (Editor's note: she is one.)

Rebekah will be a senior at Smith College located in Northampton, MA. After falling in love with alternative biblical interpretations, she declared a major in religion, though still pursuing the pre-medicine track. She hopes her studies in religion will prove valuable for a career in genetic counseling, providing the most holistic and ethical approaches to her practice. Rebekah came to WATER thirsting for feminist perspectives, wanting to



(l to r) Molly Bolton, Rebekah Renfro, Elizabeth Lancaster, and Wendy Mallette, 2013 WATER Summer Interns

learn from the strongest of women and gain real life work experience. "I know I will take WATER with me wherever I go!"

Elizabeth is beginning her senior year as a Religious Studies major at Hendrix College in Conway, AR. She came to WATER to learn more about feminist theology, specifically body theology. She also wanted to get involved in the administration of a nonprofit organization, to learn by doing. Elizabeth hopes to take a mental bibliography of feminist theologians back to Hendrix, expanding her religious studies as she continues her education.

**We've started printing our quarterly newsletter *WATERwheel* again! In keeping with WATER's ecological commitment, we publish the majority of information on our programs and articles on our website and in our e-newsletter, *WATERmark*.**

**Go to our website, [waterwomensalliance.org](http://waterwomensalliance.org), and sign up with your email for free.**

# Rest at the Reflecting Pool

By Diann L. Neu

*Fill your favorite bowl with water.*

## Centering

Look into the water and calm yourself.  
Come, rest at the reflecting pool.

*Blessed are you, Holy Wisdom,  
for bringing rest to my body.  
Blessed are you, Well of Stillness,  
for surrounding me with calm.*

## Blessing the Body

Dip your hands into the water.  
Touch your forehead saying,  
*Bless me, Holy Wisdom; rest my body.*  
Touch your heart saying,  
*Bless my heart and rest my loving.*  
Touch your eyes saying,  
*Bless my eyes and rest my seeing.*  
Touch your ears saying,  
*Bless my ears and rest my hearing.*  
Touch your mouth saying,  
*Bless my mouth and rest my speaking.*  
Touch your breasts (or where your breasts used to be)  
saying,  
*Bless my breasts and rest my nurturing.*  
Touch your womb (or where your womb used to be)  
saying,  
*Bless my womb and rest my creating.*  
Touch your hands saying,  
*Bless my hands and rest my touching.*  
Touch your feet saying,  
*Bless my feet and rest my walking.*  
Take a deep breath and exhale saying,  
*Bless me, Holy Wisdom; rest my body.*

## Reflection

How will I take time to rest tomorrow?  
Take time to do something you enjoy.  
Go forth, refreshed from the reflecting pool.

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**Monica A. Coleman**  
“Third Wave  
Womanist  
Religious Thought”



**Grace Ji-Sun Kim**  
“Colonialism, Han, and  
the Transformative Spirit”



**Linn Marie  
Tonstad**  
“The Sexuality  
of God”

## Feminist Conversations in Religion Teleconferences

WATER holds monthly teleconferences as part of our *Feminist Conversations in Religion* program that features colleagues working in feminist ministry, spirituality, and theology. WATER’s teleconferences invite feminist scholars and activists to share their approaches to justice and religion.

Our summer teleconferences speakers were Monica A. Coleman and Grace Ji-Sun Kim. In the fall Linn Marie Tonstad, Nancy Sylvester, Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, and Keri Day will lead the discussions.

We make these teleconferences widely available in order to socialize feminist resources in religion. Go to [www.waterwomensalliance.org](http://www.waterwomensalliance.org) to find the audio and notes of these and other teleconferences.



**Nancy Sylvester**  
“Communal  
Contemplation  
and Dialogue”



**Cynthia  
Moe-Lobeda**  
“Resisting  
Structural Evil”



**Keri Day**  
“Is Moral Economy  
Possible?”

# WATER celebrating



(l to r) Carol Coston, OP, Diann L. Neu, and Mary E Hunt at WATER’s 1985 Conference: “Connecting Conversations: Women, Work, Economy.”



## Please Donate to WATER for our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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