Thank You for Another Year

As we reflect on the bounty of this year, we are thankful for you. Your generosity in 2014 has been vital in sustaining WATER’s resources, programming, and networks for the WATER community and broader world of religious feminists. Your support helps to continue a strong foundation of voices working for good and ensures that WATER’s much-needed work for social justice will carry on to the next generation of young feminists in religion.

Please consider WATER in your year-end giving because you can count on us to keep feminist religious values alive. As a non-profit, we rely on the generous donations of people like you to sustain our work: producing feminist rituals and scholarship, growing our library, hosting events like the “Holy, Wholly Holy” retreat, producing scholars, and cultivating an environment where young scholars and activists can form connections and deepen understanding. Since you have benefited from our resources, and if you have the means to give, please donate today using the enclosed envelope or online at waterwomensalliance.org. Thank you for helping WATER continue to grow.

Who We Are

WATER is a global network, an educational and spiritual space, a center for dialogue on feminism, faith, and justice. We connect activists, religious leaders, students, scholars, and allies who are using feminist religious values to create social change. WATER was founded in 1983 by Mary E. Hunt and Diam L. Nea and has been empowering women to address structural violence for more than thirty years — making WATER one of the oldest feminist religious non-profit organizations in the world. The WATER community needs you to work toward inclusive theologies and rituals, to push for social change, and to collaborate across many differences. Join us! To learn more about what we do, visit waterwomensalliance.org.

Mary E. Hunt
Diam L. Nea
Cathy Jaskey
Kate Stoltzfus

New Edition of A Guide for Women in Religion Released

When A Guide for Women in Religion was first published in 2003, the book was necessary and informative for women in theology. While the years and field might have changed, the book’s endurance is a reminder of both the necessity for navigation of the often precarious spaces in religion for women, as well as the Guide’s sage, well-formed advice. In the revised edition, editors Mary E. Hunt, Kecia Ali, and Monique Moutrie have updated the book for 2014’s women in the field. See WATER’s website for more information on how to get your hands on a copy (waterwomensalliance.org).
Women-Church Convergence Plans Future

Women-Church Convergence gathered for its 31st annual meeting on October 17-19, 2014 in Chicago, IL. WATER’s Diann Neu and Cathy Jaskey were in attendance with representatives of 16 of the Catholic-rooted social justice member organizations and communities.

Each group works for progress on social justice causes such as feminist Eucharist, women’s leadership support of Catholic sisters, LGBTQ rights, women’s ordination, and reproductive choice.

The groups met for strategic planning of W-CC’s future direction, as well as a process of recommitment with liturgy and renewal. “Women-Church is where Catholic feminists come together to be church because the institutional Church doesn’t give space,” Neu said. “We discussed where we’ve been and where we’re going— an intense, wonderful process. From my perspective, I commit myself to passing this work on to the next generation.”

Jaskey, a second-year staff associate at WATER, felt that empowerment. “It makes you feel like you can actually do something,” said Jaskey. “We can come together with all our differences and find power in that. We’re better together.”

W-CC also produced a statement about the Extraordinary Synod on the Family, a culmination of the weekend’s discussions. “The egregious omission of women and families in forming Church policy has a devastating impact on Catholics and others worldwide,” a portion of the statement reads. “We believe it is long overdue for all families to be welcomed into the sacramental life of our Church.” For more information on Women-Church Convergence, visit women-churchconvergence.org.

Company in Guatemala

Mary E. Hunt with feminists in Guatemala

Upcoming Programs

Our series of WATERtalks feature conversations with feminist activists and theologians for an open dialogue of ideas, research, and experiences. The 2015 line-up promises to be as refreshing as the last five years: Riza Gross (January 14), Dawn-Marie Gibson (February 4), Jann Aldredge-Clanton (March 4), Namsoon Kang (April 15), Gina Messina-Dysert, Rosemary Radford Ruether, and Xochitl Alvaro (May 6), Nancy Wilson (June 3), and Alisha Beliso-De Jesus (July 8). All WATERtalks are free and run from 1 to 2 p.m. EST on their selected dates.

The next Catholic Lesbian/Queer Women’s Discussion will be January 11, 2015 from 11:30am-12:30pm EST. Speaker Bernadette Brooten will share a talk on “Sexual Violence at Home: In Our Families, At Our Colleges, Between Lesbians.”

WATER also offers a monthly Contemplative Prayer/Meditation session, a gathering time for shared meditation and silence followed by discussion of the month’s topic. Scheduled dates for 2015 are January 12, February 2, March 2, April 3, May 4, June 8, and July 13.

RSVP is required for all events to join by phone or in person at the Silver Spring, MD office. Begin your upcoming talks on our website or email watersstaff@hers.com.

Holiday Ritual: You Are Home

by Diann L. Neu with WATER staff

Take a minute. Make yourself a cup of tea or drink of choice. Light a candle. Think about what it means to be home for the holidays.

Home can be a source of joy and a cause for pain. Home is an important and meaningful place for many. Yet some are made homeless because economies favor a few, differences divide families, violence leaves scars, and some spaces are unsafe.

Home is that place within yourself where you can rest, take a deep breath, and be safe.

Come home to yourself, and be nourished. Welcome home!

“Maybe journey is not so much a journey ahead, or a journey into space, but a journey into presence...The Journey is Home.” —Nelle Morton, American feminist theologian

Come home to your friends, family, family of choice, and be supported. Welcome home!

“The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are...” —Maya Angelou, American poet

Come home to WATER and your community, and find hope. Welcome home!

Bless Your Home

For believing that I am home, thanks! For creating a home with others, thanks! For having a home where people love me for who I am, thanks!

For welcoming others into my home, thanks! For those who provide a home to people who do not have a home, thanks!

Act at Home

Welcome friends to your home for the holidays.

Let go of any pain and hurt connected with home.

Be thankful for the spaces where you have felt at home and for the homes you have created.

Volunteer at a local shelter.

Educate yourself on why people are made homeless.

© Diann L. Neu in co-founder and co-director of WATER. A full version of this email is available on our website, waterwomensalliance.org.