



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

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## October 2010

*Bienvenido! Willkommen! Karibu! Huānyíng guānglín!*

### Teleconference with Dr. Wanda Deifelt

*WATER's Feminist Conversations on Religion Series presents—*

A conference call with Wanda Deifelt on Wednesday, October 13, 2010 1-2 PM EDT

RSVP to [waterstaff@hers.com](mailto:waterstaff@hers.com) or call 301-589-2509 to receive dial-in information by October 12, 2010.

Dr. Wanda Deifelt is Professor of Religion at Luther College where she teaches courses on gender and women's issues in religion. She is an ordained Lutheran minister from the southern part of Brazil where she grew up and taught for many years at the Lutheran University in Sao Leopoldo. Wanda is deeply involved in embodied issues in theology—including issues of violence against women, the relationship of dance and movement to religion, and the eradication of sex trafficking.

She will talk with us about her chapter, "Crossing Borders: Feminist Christianity in Latin America," in *New Feminist Christianity: Many Voices, Many Views* (edited by Mary E. Hunt and Diann L. Neu, SkyLight Paths, 2010). Wanda does that border crossing in her own life. She currently lives with her family in Decorah, Iowa, where she teaches but takes students to Brazil to learn about the culture. She remains active with women graduate students and colleagues all over Latin America who are reshaping that religious landscape.

Please feel free to join us on the call for an important discussion with Wanda Deifelt. Gather some friends, have lunch, and join in the conversation!

### Religious Leaders Promote Reproductive Justice

*WATER, as a member of the Women-Church Convergence, invites you to the below event.*

#### Contacts:

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301.589.2509

For Immediate Release - October 4, 2010  
Chicago:

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### A Prayer for October



**"Chains of Fire" by Elsa Gidlow,  
from *Elsa: I Come with My Songs* © 1986**

I know myself linked by chains of  
fires  
To every woman who has kept a  
hearth.  
In the resinous smoke  
I smell hut, castle, cave,  
Mansion and hovel,  
See in the shifting flame my mother  
And grandmothers out over the  
world.

***New Feminist  
Christianity: Many Voices,  
Many Views***

**Edited by Mary E. Hunt and Diann L.**

## RELIGIOUS LEADERS PROMOTE REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

To continue their work to stop violence against women The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC) and Women-Church Convergence (W-CC) are co-sponsoring an event titled Reproductive Justice in 2010.

This event will be held on Saturday-October 16, 2010-1:30 to 4:30 P.M. at the Country Inn & Suites - 2200 S. Elmhurdt Rd.-Mt. Prospect, IL.

A Panel of distinguished speakers will lead a discussion around the following topics:

Reproductive Justice and What This Means for Us  
Marissa Valeri - Catholics for Choice  
Sexual Violence in Our Schools and Neighborhoods  
Larry Greenfield - Protestants for the Common Good  
Comprehensive Sexual Health Education  
Khadine Bennett- Staff Attorney ACLU of Illinois  
Parental Notification  
Lorie A. Chaiten-Attorney for ACLU Reproductive Rights Project  
Removing The Stigma in Teen Pregnancy Prevention  
Ana B. Soto - Mujeres Latinas En Accion

RCRC is a Coalition of Religious Communities, Clergy and Laity working to continue reproductive choice through education and advocacy. Founded in 1973 RCRC seeks to give a clear voice to the reproductive issues of all people.

W-CC, founded in 1983, is a Coalition of autonomous Catholic-rooted organizations/groups raising a feminist voice and committed to an ekklesia of women which is participative, egalitarian and self-governing.

For those attending we ask that you contact Ed Searl at edsearl@gmail.com by October 10, 2010.

### **Contemplative Prayer at WATER**

*Join us at 7:30PM or gather a group in your area*

WATER offers a regular contemplative prayer opportunity each month. Join us on Tuesday, October 12, 2010 at 7:30 PM. This will be a time for communal meditation, a time of silence and reflection followed by a short discussion.

The office will be open at 7 PM for a cup of tea. 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.

### **Upcoming dates for contemplative prayer**

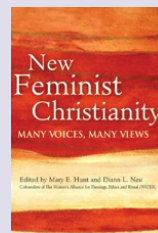
*November 9, 2010  
December 14, 2010*

Please RSVP to [water@hers.com](mailto:water@hers.com) by the day before so that we can expect you or notify you of any changes.

Parking is free in the garage behind the office after 7 PM. The front door of the building has a phone entry system; find "WATER" and dial the office to be buzzed in.

All are welcome. Some of us have been involved in the Engaging Impasse process ([www.engagingimpasse.org](http://www.engagingimpasse.org)) which combines meditation with community dialogue. No experience required! Just come with a contemplative spirit. Your presence will enrich us all. Click [here](#) to donate online.

Neu



**The twenty-eight contributors to this book are the thought leaders of the future who are shaping, and being shaped by, the emerging directions of feminist**

**Christianity. A must-read for anyone in Christian ministry, as well as religious feminists in and beyond the Christian tradition, and church-based study groups.**

Click [here](#) to order now.

### **We Count on You!**

Your financial support will assist WATER in its important work of actualizing feminist values for religious and social change. Make checks payable to WATER and send to:

WATER  
8121 Georgia Avenue, Suite 310  
Silver Spring MD 20910

Or click [here](#) to donate online.

[Forward this message to a friend](#)

## **WATERWomen Gather for Ritual**

Join us at 7PM or gather a group in your area

**Thursday, October 21, 2010 7PM**

### **A Women's Harvest Ritual**

WATER offers a women's ritual group that meets monthly to pray, sing, and nourish one another to do our work for peace and justice. The liturgies celebrate the seasons, honor wise women, and focus on current world issues.

### **Upcoming dates for WATERWomen Rituals**

October 21, 2010

November 18, 2010

December 16, 2010

Please RSVP to [waterstaff@hers.com](mailto:waterstaff@hers.com) by the day before so that we can expect you or notify you of any changes.

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## **New Feminist Christianity in Review**

A review by Alena Amato Ruggerio of Evangelical and Ecumenical Women's Caucus (EEWC), publishers of Christian Feminism Today.

*"There are certain books that every well-informed Christian feminist must have on her or his shelf. There are certain books you read with a highlighter in hand so you can pinpoint special passages of delight and challenge. There are certain books you long to discuss in a community of like-minded people. This is one such book."*

-Alena Amato Ruggerio

Read the full review here: <http://www.eewc.com/CFT/v34n2r1.htm>

Judith Laura provides a substantial review of *New Feminist Christianity* on her blog, Medusa Coils, which has the following tagline: "Fiercely defending, bravely exploring Goddess and spiritual feminisms." She calls the book

*"an extraordinary anthology in its depth and breadth."*

Read the full review here:

<http://medusacoils.blogspot.com/2010/09/review-new-feminist-christianity.html>

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## **Mary E. Hunt's "Will the Pope be Served" on Religion Dispatches**

Read Hunt's latest contribution to the online magazine and join in on the discussion. She begins,

*"Serving court papers on the Pope takes some doing. According to the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP), for the first time a US federal judge has entered the fray in a case involving alleged sexual abuse by the late Rev. Lawrence Murphy at St. John's School for the Deaf in Milwaukee, Wisconsin." -M. Hunt*

Read the full article here:

[http://www.religiondispatches.org/dispatches/guest\\_bloggers/3502/](http://www.religiondispatches.org/dispatches/guest_bloggers/3502/)

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