



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

## Sisterhood and Solidarity in Sweden and Iceland



L to R: Mary E Hunt of WATER, Solveig A. Bóasdóttir of Iceland, Ann-Cathrin Jarl of Sweden

Mary E. Hunt was privileged to offer the keynote lecture at a weekend symposium on "Friendship, Theology and Sisterhood" sponsored by the Seglora Foundation and hosted by the Sigtuna Foundation in

Sigtuna, Sweden, November 9-10, 2013. Participants included journalists, ministers, academics, and activists notably WATER Volunteer in Global Service, Ann-Cathrin Jarl.

In her lecture, "Love Your Friends: Feminist Relational Ethics for Solidarity," Mary spoke of friendship as foundational to a good society. Other speakers looked at historical and philosophical issues related to friendship. Mary also gave a public lecture on "Friends Act Friendly," encouraging people to "practice" being friends in the hope of creating a most just world.

Dr. Hunt lectured on "Post Colonial Catholicism: A U.S. Feminist Perspective," at the Theological Institute at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik. Former WATER Visiting Scholar Dr. Solveig A. Bóasdóttir is the dean of the faculty. Both Sweden and Iceland have small Catholic populations including people who seek to create new models of church.

## Welcome and Congratulations to the Loretto Volunteers



L to R: DC Loretto Volunteers Caroline Riebeling (Academy of Hope), Alexis Maguina (Bread for the City), Catherine Roberts (Interfaith Voices), Cathy Jaskey (WATER), Mary E. Hunt, Cecilie Kern (CARECEN)

Welcome Cathy Jaskey, WATER Loretto Volunteer 2013-14! Cathy is a graduate of Dominican University and an Associate of the Sinsinawa Dominicans.

WATER congratulates the Loretto Volunteer Program, directed by Katie Jones, for receiving the Call to Action Leadership Award. It honors groups and individuals who embody leadership for justice in the Catholic Church.

WATER hosted the DC Loretto Volunteers on their annual "Take Your Housemate to Work Day." We were the first stop as they visited their various placement sites. The group shared information about WATER as well as Cathy's birthday cake!

## Meehyun Chung Wins the Marga Bührig Award 2013

WATER congratulates feminist liberation theologian colleague Meehyun Chung for receiving the Marga Bührig Award, October 2013 in Basel, Switzerland, for her book, *Reis und Wasser: Eine feministische Theologie in Korea* (*Rice and Water: A Feminist Theology in Korea*, Frank & Timme, 2012).

Meehyun Chung, a pastor in the Presbyterian Church of Korea, was the first woman to receive the Karl Barth Prize of the Union of Evangelical Churches in 2006 in Germany.

Dr. Chung directed the Office of Women and Gender in Mission 21 of the Basel Evangelical Mission from 2005-2012. In April 2013, she was appointed University Chaplain/Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea.

Marga Bührig (1915-2002) held a doctorate in philosophy and was a pioneer in feminist theology in Switzerland. She directed the Boldern Protestant Academy near Zürich and also served as European Secretary for women's work in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.



L to R: Diann L. Neu of WATER, Meehyun Chung of South Korea, Elsi Arnold of Binningen, Switzerland

Dr. Bührig was one of three women elected to the eight-member presidium of the World Council of Churches in 1983. Previously only men were on that board. She was co-moderator of the world convocation on "Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation" at Seoul, Korea in 1990.

Meehyun Chung, Marga Bührig, and Elsi Arnold are longtime friends and supporters of WATER's work.





## Litany of Gift-Giving

By Diann L. Neu

Place in front of you a piece of ribbon. Let it represent the gifts that you have given and received. Let it symbolize the gifts many still need. Pray:

For friends who have supported me throughout my life, the gift of gratitude to you.

For colleagues with whom I network and collaborate, the gift of solidarity to you.

For people living in conflict, the gift of peace to you.

For those who are ill, the gift of healing to you.

For people in despair, the gift of hope to you.

For those whose basic human needs are not met, the gift of resources to you.

For women who experience violence, the gift of justice to you.

For young girls growing up today, the gift of empowerment to you.

For the dying, the gift of peaceful passing to you.

For children, the gift of love to you.

Put your prayer into the ribbon. Give it to the universe by tying it onto a package, tree, or wreath, or share it with a friend.

As we are blessed with gifts, may we also bless others with gifts.

## 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 fall teleconferences speakers were Linn Marie Tonstad, Nancy Sylvester, Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, and Keri Day. Go to [www.waterwomensalliance.org](http://www.waterwomensalliance.org) to find the audio and notes of these and other teleconferences.



## Women Crossing Worlds Brazil

Mary E. Hunt taught an intensive course in feminist theology at *Universidade Metodista* in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and was guest speaker at the university's conference, *XVII Semana de Estudos de Religiao* on Hermeneutics.

## Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Women-Church Convergence!

Women-Church Convergence, a coalition of diverse Catholic-rooted groups, celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary September 27-29, 2013, by affirming its mission and applauding the "Conscience Monologues: Women's Stories of Conscience within the Catholic Church" produced by the 8th Day Center, a member group of the Convergence. More than fifty gathered in the Chicago area representing fifteen member organizations for prayer, discussion, and festivity.

## We Give Thanks For You!

*Gracias! Danke! Xie Xie! Asante! Merci! Dzieki! Arigato!* YOU make a world of difference to the WATER community through your support – and we are grateful. Your generous gifts in 2013 have been invaluable in providing resources, programming, and support to the WATER community and beyond.

YOU have helped WATER be a voice for feminists in religion for 30 years. YOU can help assure WATER will flow for the next generations by remembering WATER in your year-end giving. Please send a check or give online at [www.waterwomensalliance.org](http://www.waterwomensalliance.org). Thank you!



Diann L. Neu and Mary E. Hunt, 1985,  
*Connecting Conversations: Women, Work, Economy*

Above: 1985, Empowering Women-Church  
Below: 2001, Shared Garden: Cuba

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