



**Left:** Elisabeth Aeberli of Luzern, Switzerland, explores WATER's library. **Top center:** Mary E. Hunt (center), Ivone Gebara (center left) with CDD colleagues in São Paulo, Brazil. **Right:** Former WATER Staff Associate Emily Cohen (right) and FaithTrust Institute colleague Marie Fortune enjoy each other at the 2016 FLTN gathering in San Antonio, TX. **Bottom center:** Marta González (left) and María Concepción Flores of Cátedra Teología Feminista at Mary's lecture, Iberoamericana University in Mexico.

## WATER's Commitment to Justice

We at WATER are deeply concerned by the direction the current U.S. administration is moving. We are especially chilled by the unjust treatment of immigrants and refugees, among many other egregious policies. We affirm that all of WATER's efforts are focused on changing the cultural and intellectual assumptions that ground discrimination, exclusion, and destruction. We gather in service of a very different vision—inclusion, equality, and justice. All are welcome.

## WATER Invites Internship and Visiting Scholar/Minister Applications

WATER welcomes students and visiting scholars/ministers from seminaries, universities, congregations, and colleges worldwide to apply for a summer or year-long internship. The program includes event planning, writing and editing projects, non-profit fundraising, community outreach, and website/social media maintenance.

Summer internships typically begin in May and end in July, with flexibility; a minimum of six weeks is required. The application deadline is April 1, 2017. Year-long internships typically begin in September and end in July. Visiting scholars/ministers work on their own projects and schedule. Apply: [www.waterwomensalliance.org](http://www.waterwomensalliance.org) or 301.589.2509.



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## 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. Founded in 1983 by Mary E. Hunt and Diann L. Neu, we have been empowering people to address structural violence for over 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 us at [www.waterwomensalliance.org](http://www.waterwomensalliance.org).

Mary E. Hunt Diann L. Neu | Co-directors Hannah Dorfman Mallory Naake | Staff Associates Joe Scinto | Volunteer

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Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual • NEWSLETTER

Volume 24 • Issue 3-4 • 2016

## Women Continue Crossing Worlds in Latin America

By Mary E. Hunt



*l to r: Lupita Chávez, Martha González, Mari Carmen Servitje, Mary E. Hunt, Andrea González, and Marisa Noriega at Mary's lecture, Iberoamericana University in Mexico City, October 2016.*

Latin American women are doing exciting work in feminist studies in religion. WATER has a longstanding commitment to collaborate with them for mutual learning and support through our *Women Crossing Worlds* program.

**In Mexico:** In October 2016, Mary E. Hunt joined colleagues from the Cátedra de Teología Feminista at Iberoamericana University in Mexico City. She lectured on “La teología hoy: Desde la liberación al cuidado cósmico / Theology Today: From Liberation to Cosmic Care.” Mary, along with leaders of the Cátedra, met with Ibero's religion faculty to discuss feminist theology and implications for

ministry. Mary and Cátedra colleagues reached an even larger audience via radio on this theme as well as on women deacons. The Cátedra signed an agreement with the University formalizing its place in the structure and assuring that feminist theological work will continue to flourish in that Jesuit setting.

La Asociación Mexicana de Reflexión Teológica Feminista sponsored Mary's workshop on “Elige la vida: Justicia Sexual y Relacional para todos / Choose Life: Sexual and Relational Justice for All,” held at the Centro Bíblico Apostólico. The Centro is identified with the Catholic Church but run by a savvy board of wise, experienced women. More than sixty participants spent two days looking the challenging social issues facing Mexican society and how feminist theo-ethical resources could be used to deal with them.

**In Brazil:** Mary ventured to São Paulo, Brazil in the late fall to join representatives of Católicas pelo Direito de Decidir from around the country. Her presentation on “Género, sexualidad y religión: Entre dogmas y derechos / Gender, Sexuality and Religion: Between Dogmas and Rights” was an effort to explore theological implications of the construction of gender and sexual identity. CDD women do the important tasks of helping Brazilians access reproductive health care and understanding their rights to it.

Theologian Ivone Gebara, a deeply respected and beloved colleague, was a special guest at the seminar. She added depth to the analysis and brought her signature insights to the conversations.

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## WATER Staff Visit the NMAAHC

WATER staff enjoyed a holiday trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. We savored the vast contributions of African Americans, expanding our knowledge of this people's journey and our nation's story.

The powerful display on Shirley Chisholm in the exhibition “A Changing America: 1968 and Beyond” inspired us. In a time of assaults on the freedoms of marginalized people, this daughter of immigrants was the first African American woman elected to Congress and the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.

© Alan Karchmer/NMAAHC







## Loretto Volunteers at WATER

WATER is thrilled to welcome our new Loretto Volunteer, Hannah Dorfman. Hannah graduated in 2015 from Tufts University with a B.A. in Religion and American Studies. She joins a community of four other Loretto Volunteers “working for justice and acting for peace” in the D.C. area.

In October, her cohort joined us for breakfast to learn about WATER. They are a vibrant, passionate group and have become active in many WATER programs!

*l to r: Hannah Dorfman, Lizette Guevara, Abigail Holtzman, Molly Butler, Ariana Alvarez, Glen Bradley, and Merette Khalil*

## Women Crossing Worlds . . .

*(continued from page 1)*

Ivone’s presence reminded participants that Brazilian, indeed Latin American women theologians know best what they need in their context. WATER is always grateful to work with these fine colleagues and learn from their leadership.

**In Cuba:** This year, we look forward to further collaboration with Cuban colleagues. However, the new administration’s policies may complicate travel and exchange. Time will tell.

Meanwhile, the exchange of resources and the deepening of friendships and collaboration that have made Women Crossing Worlds an integral part of WATER’s work for three decades continues with vigor and commitment. ■

*Mary E. Hunt is Co-founder and Co-director of Women’s Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER).*

## Recent Articles by Mary E. Hunt

“Much more than Women Deacons” in the *Feminist Studies in Religion* blog, October 18, 2016

“Feminist Theologians’ Discussion Models Fruitful Disagreement” in *National Catholic Reporter*, January 11, 2017

Find these articles and more at [www.waterwomensalliance.org/category/writingsbymaryhunt](http://www.waterwomensalliance.org/category/writingsbymaryhunt)

## Feminist Liberation Theologians’ Network 2016 Annual Meeting Report by Mary E. Hunt

The twentieth meeting of the Feminist Liberation Theologians’ Network convened in San Antonio, TX on Friday, November 18, 2016 at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature. The theme was *Intersectionality and Political Action*.

**Judith Plaskow**, Professor Emerita of Religious Studies at Manhattan College, explained *I’m Here As a Jewish Feminist*. She described her anti-racism work through Jews for Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ), a commitment that flows from her religious values.



*Mary E. Hunt (right) and Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza (center left) moderate the discussion, “Intersectionality and Political Action,” with speakers Andrea Smith (left), Judith Plaskow (center), and Nami Kim (center right).*

More than seventy participants from over a dozen countries shared political involvements. We thanked one another for our work and realized that despite the dim global situation there are plenty of efforts underway to bring about justice.

**Nami Kim**, Associate Professor at Spelman College, spoke of *Survival at No One’s Expense: Forging an Intersectional Coalition*. She shared her two recent book projects, “U.S. imperialism in Asia” and a feminist analysis of “gendered politics of the Korean Protestant right.”

**Andrea Smith**, Associate Professor at the University of California Riverside, laid out an argument for moving *Beyond Ethnographic Entrapment: Changing the Terms of the Debate*. She rejected simply including people, for example Native People or people with disabilities, into the existing models. She proposed that we change the “logic of oppression.”

Join us for the next FLTN meeting in Boston, November 17, 2018. ■

## Fall 2016 Program Highlights

### WATERtalks



In September, feminist religious scholars **Judith Plaskow** and **Carol Christ** shared their new book, *Goddess and God in the World: Conversations in Embodied Theology*, a landmark work on the nature of the divine and an important contribution to the field of feminist theology.

Award-winning journalist **Celia Wexler** joined us in October to discuss her book, *Catholic Women Confront their Church: Stories of Hurt and Hope*. She outlined her own journey as a lifelong Catholic and profiled ten courageous women who have confronted the institutional church in diverse ways.

In November, long-time peace activist **Rev. Dr. Renate Rose** spoke about *Feminist Efforts to Overcome the Genocidal Mentality of Nuclear Weapons*. She outlined the history of nuclear weapons and provided important steps to advocate for peace.

**Mary Evelyn Tucker**, co-creator of the acclaimed PBS documentary *Journey of the Universe*, joined us in December to discuss her book *Living Cosmology: Christian Responses to Journey of the Universe*. Tucker invited over 200 participants to recognize the Earth’s spiritual and cosmological energy when answering questions of meaning and purpose.

### WATERrituals

**Diann Neu** and **Mallory Naake** led our October WATERritual, *Celebrating Women in Politics*. We recognized the courage and resilience of many past and present women public servants. We blessed the women who break barriers, engage in public service, and make a difference.

In November, *Healing After the Elections* with **Diann Neu**, **Mallory Naake**, and **Hannah Dorfman** provided a space to process and heal from the results of the U.S. presidential election.

**Diann Neu**, **Mallory Naake**, and **Hannah Dorfman** led our December ritual, *A Blue Winter Solstice*. We held ourselves in the comfort of the darkness after the recent election.

### WATERmeditations

In September 2016, **Cheryl Nichols** led *A Prayer of Compassion* in which we focused on how to foster spiritual compassion in our daily lives and relationships.

**Janet Bohren** offered October’s meditation, *Earth Provides Enough*. Janet’s lovely photos from a farmers’ market served to underscore that we are a richly endowed country that has serious problems distributing our plenty.

In November **Cynthia Tootle** prepared *Calling the Crone*, honoring the wisdom and the spirit of the Crone.

**Virginia Day** guided us in December on *Awareness and Response: Agnes Martin (1912 – 2004)*. We meditated on images invoking the spirit of the late artist Agnes Martin.

Find audio of all Programs at [www.waterwomensalliance.org](http://www.waterwomensalliance.org)

## WATERritual: Inspired by Sojourner Truth Living the Dream

*By Diann L. Neu and Mallory Naake*

Celebrate Black History Month in February with Sojourner Truth, a Spirit-led activist for abolition, women’s rights, and non-violence.

**Reading:** “A Name is Sometimes an Ancestor saying Hi, I’m with You” by Alice Walker, *Living by the Word* © 1988.

“There are always people in history (or herstory) who help us, and whose ‘job’ it is, in fact, to do this...Sojourner Truth is one such figure for me...The spirit of our helpers incarnates in us, making us more ourselves by extending us far beyond.”

**Song:** “Come And Go With Me To That Land,” Traditional

### Words of Sojourner Truth

Let the words of Sojourner Truth flow through you. After each quote, sing the words to the tune “Come And Go With Me To That Land,” and stir water in a bowl.

*1851 Women’s Rights Convention:* “I want women to have their rights, and while the water is stirring I’ll step into the pool.” (*Stir the water*)

**Song:** We’ll all be free in that land...

*1867 New York:* “So I am for keeping the thing going while things are stirring; because if we wait till it is still, it will take a great while to get going again.” (*Stir the water*)

**Song:** No more slavery in that land...

*1851 Women’s Rights Convention:* “Look at me! Look at my arm! I have plowed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain’t I a woman? ... I have borne thirteen children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother’s grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain’t I a woman?” (*Stir the water*)

**Song:** They’ll be singing in that land...

**Reflection:** What has Sojourner Truth stirred up in you?

### Blessing with Water

Stir the water. Touch your body saying, Bless my body that I may sense when the water is stirring, and step into the pool.

**Song:** “Sojourner’s Battle Hymn” by Sweet Honey in the Rock, *Still on the Journey*, © 1993.

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BLACK  
LIVES  
MATTER

