



HDS alums celebrate with Mary E. Hunt! **Top left (l to r):** Margaret Hutaff, Mary, and Jane Redmont. **Right:** Rachel Ingraham, Mary, Margaret R. Miles, Diann L. Neu, and Emily Cohen. **Bottom left (l to r):** Ruth Purtillo, Robert Canavella, and Mary.

Pentecost Prayer for Justice

By Diann L. Neu

The feast of Pentecost signifies the outpouring of the Spirit of God upon Earth. This Spirit is the life force energy that flows through the universe. She is the Divine presence that embraces everything in the cosmos. Let us pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, breathe your Gifts into us as we struggle for justice.
Come, Spirit of Truth, enlighten our resistance, our insistence, our persistence.
Come, Spirit of Peace, unite races and nations to stop wars and violence.

When we are fearful, challenge us to act bravely.
When we are lonely, bless us with communities of love and compassion.
When we are weary, replenish us with bold dreams.

Open our hearts to listen to the cries of those who are pushed to the margins.
Free our tongues to speak truth with courage.
Unclog our ears to hear the needs of the children of the world.

Come, Spirit of Wisdom, spark in us a new fire.
Amen. Blessed Be. Let It Be So.

© 2017 Diann L. Neu is Co-founder and Co-director of Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER).



Women's ♀ Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual

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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.

Join the WATER community as we work toward inclusive theologies and rituals, push for social change, and collaborate across many differences. To learn more about what we do, visit us at 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

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Mary E. Hunt Receives Award at Harvard's 200th Anniversary

By Mary E. Hunt



(l to r): HDS alums Renate Rose, Emily Cohen, HDS Dean David N. Hempton, Mary E. Hunt, Diann L. Neu, HDS alums Ruth Purtillo and Robert Canavella at the Peter J. Gomes STB '68 Memorial Honors. Mary E. Hunt, MTS '74 received the Peter J. Gomes STB '68 Memorial Honors at Harvard Divinity School's 200th Anniversary on April 29, 2017 along with three other distinguished HDS graduates and two others.

They are all "people who have changed the world" — "chosen not only for their impact on the world," but in this bicentennial year, "also for the way they changed Harvard Divinity School."

Mary's award shines light on her pioneering work at the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER) and on the many accomplishments of women in religion

worldwide. It points to the work that needs to be done to assure that people of color, LGBTIQ people, women, and other previously marginalized people are central to religious life and theological reflection. The award reads:

"For passion and activism on behalf of women, and for giving WATER to those who thirst for justice."

Here are Mary's remarks:

Thank you for this honor. I understand myself as receiving this award on behalf of lots and lots of people.

I happen to represent and am mindful of the many women and LGBTIQ people, with special emphasis on trans people in this difficult time, who strode onto this campus well before and after I did. They left their marks on these halls and on the fields of feminist and queer studies in religion. I bow in gratitude to each and every one of them.

I think, for example, of my friend and colleague Brinton Lykes who was the first Coordinator of Women's Studies and of the Research-Resource Associates in Women's Studies program, the student-crafted precursor to the program Connie Buchanan inherited.

I also call to mind the early women students in the 1950s, including the late feminist theologian Letty Russell, who couldn't have had an easy time being the first women in these places. I think gratefully of Dr. Rena Karefa-Smart who was the first African American woman to receive a doctorate from Harvard Divinity School in 1976. *(continued on page 2)*

Presentation of Mary E. Hunt, MTS

'74 By Margaret Rose, MDiv '79

Mary Hunt has a thirst for justice. It's no surprise, then, that over the course of 34 years, she and her partner Diann Neu have built their organization, Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual—WATER—into a vibrant organization that goes beyond conventional approaches to religion to provide a wide array of intellectual, political, and spiritual resources to those working for social change.

As a religious leader, a scholar, and an activist, Mary is committed to "creating livable, habitable, welcoming, embracing spaces, where people and animals and other parts of creation can be nurtured and can thrive."

Mary E. Hunt and Diann L. Neu at the Peter J. Gomes STB '68 Memorial Honors.



WATER Says Goodbye to Mallory Naake

On May 8, 2017 WATER Staff Associate Mallory Naake graduated with her Masters in Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary. During her two years at WATER, Mallory played a key role in planning monthly *WATERrituals*, coordinating our resource library, and so much more!

Mallory will head back to her hometown of Sacramento, California to begin a yearlong Clinical Pastoral Education program at the University of California Davis Hospital.

Congratulations, Mallory! We are grateful for your time and amazing energy.

We will miss you!

Photo: Cindy Lapp and Diann Neu, clergy learning partners, congratulate Mallory Naake on her graduation from Wesley Theological Seminary at the Washington National Cathedral.



Marching for Climate Justice By Hannah Dorfman

On a sweltering April 29, 2017 WATER Staff Associate Hannah Dorfman and her dad David Dorfman joined over 300,000 marchers in Washington, DC and around the nation for the People’s Climate March. Environmental groups, Indigenous Nations, students, community activists, and faith organizations came together to resist the current administration’s dangerous environmental agenda and advocate for a clean energy economy. The irony of the heat was not lost on the crowd—it was the hottest April 29th on record for DC. But hope persisted despite the temperature as marchers made their way down Pennsylvania Avenue. Led by Indigenous people, young people of color, and those on the front-lines of climate change, the group made its way to the White House to demand justice for the Earth and policies that care for all creation.

Hannah and her dad David Dorfman marching for climate justice in Washington, DC.



Award. . . (from page 1)

And in a particular way this afternoon, I want to acknowledge my friend and colleague Emily Cohen and her cohort of religious explorers about to graduate this spring. They are proof that the richness of HDS lies ahead of us. It is remarkable how quickly women have achieved parity, not to mention upped the game here at Harvard. Likewise, people of color, LGBTIQ people, people of many faiths and of no faith whatsoever bring to this institution and to the world an endless array of talents and commitments. If ever anyone worries about diluting the product by diversifying the pool, let HDS be living proof that things only get better with more variety. A hundred years from now when HDS convenes for the 300th birthday, I daresay very few, if any, of us will be present in body. But I wonder if the concerns that we Gomesians today represent—civil rights (Charles Adams), Islam in America (Precious Muhammad), international human rights (David Little), justice for women and LGBTIQ (Mary E. Hunt), women’s studies (Connie Buchanan), and world religions (Robert H.L. Slater) will still be on the agenda. I fantasize that they will be long settled and that future HDS alum events will highlight other issues in need of critical religious attention—

the environment, an end to war, and a new, just economic order. Perhaps 100 years from now, robots and even some of the Great Apes will number among the HDS alums—who knows! But whoever follows us a century from now will certainly be in the same position that we are in today. Peter Gomes put his finger on it, and with this I conclude. He wrote in a sermon in 1990: “Therefore, those of you who think that now is the moment that we celebrate need only look around you to see what remains to be done, and those of you antiquarians who think it was back there somewhere and we’ve lost it, that we have only to go back and find it again, you too don’t understand that what we seek is something that we have never yet had, which is why we continue to seek it. We’re not recovering anything, we’re hoping to discover something, and that is why virtue and wisdom are necessary ingredients in the osngoing renewal of our public, civic life together.” I urge us to cultivate the virtue and wisdom that emerge from myriad sources. I daresay virtue and wisdom are needed this season more than any I can recall for our collective survival and the thriving of this planet. Mary E. Hunt is Co-founder and Co-director of Women’s Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER).

Recap of Spring 2017 Programs

Find audio of all Programs at www.waterwomensalliance.org Register for upcoming events on our website or email waterstaff@hers.com. Join us at WATER or by phone.

WATERtalks



In March, WATER spoke with community organizer and writer **Caitlin Breedlove** about the role of feminism in her work and the need for resistance through intersectional coalition building.

In April, **Ayesha S. Chaudhry** outlined her book, *Domestic Violence and the Islamic Tradition*. She expressed the need for Islamic Studies scholarship that reflects the diversity of thought and expression among Muslims.

In May, award-winning novelist **Judith Freeman** explored her memoir, *The Latter Days*. She reflected on her Mormon upbringing and the challenges of being a girl in a strictly patriarchal world.

Upcoming: Wednesdays, 1-2pm ET
June 14 with Ani Zonneveld
July 12 with Jennifer Rycenga and Linda Barufaldi

WATERmeditations

In March, **Cheryl Nichols** engaged the writings of Etty Hillesum, a Dutch Jewish intellectual who was killed at Auschwitz. We found inspiration from Etty’s contemplative life and deep spirituality.

In April, **Janet Bohren** shared her vacation photos as a springboard for meditation. We reflected on simple lessons in the midst of social turbulence.

In May, WATER staffer **Hannah Dorfman** used the metaphor of an airplane trip to remind us to pause, remember our departure, embrace the hope of new arrival, and find ease in the journey.

Upcoming: Mondays, 7:30pm ET
June 12 with Phoebe Knopf
July 10 with Judy Bond

WATERrituals

with **Diann L. Neu**, **Mallory Naake**, and **Hannah Dorfman**

In March, we prepared for the return of new life and gave thanks for the life-giving element of water with *Spring Equinox* and *World Water Day: Returning to Life*.

In April, we lifted up compassionate activist, peace advocate, and spiritual leader Saint Catherine of Siena and shared in her humility and wisdom.

In May, we blessed the mothers and caregivers in our lives and offered gratitude to our female lineage with *Mother’s Day Ritual: The Mark of the Mother Relationship*.

Upcoming: Tuesdays, 7:30pm ET
June 20 Summer Solstice
July 20 Mary Magdalene

WATER in Cuba— The Exchange Continues

By Mary E. Hunt

My fourth trip to Cuba in May 2017 deepened WATER’s relationship with people there, especially those at the *Seminario Evangelico de Teologia* in Matanzas (SET). Vice Rector Clara Luz Ajo is always a welcoming presence in a faculty that plays an important role in developing ecumenical theology in the Caribbean region.

I taught a master’s level class on professional ethics. Interestingly, my several students were 7th Day Adventist men for whom feminist theology was a novelty.

A highlight of this visit was an intensive seminar that I shared with three wonderful women colleagues who are working on Doctor of Ministry degrees at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Seminar participants were Ofelia Ortega, former rector of SET in Cuba; Marta Palma from Chile, a longtime World Council of Churches staff person and now working on issues of religion and peace; and Deborah Garcia from Nicaragua, former president of the Baptist Seminary there. It was a rich, intensive, and productive time, hopefully resulting in three DMin grads.

Life at the seminary is interesting on its own. During my ten days there many people, including the Stated Clerk and the regional staff person of the Presbyterian Church USA passed through. Church-sponsored groups from New York and Florida were there; professors from Canada were involved in a seminar on decolonial theology. Fifty Pentecostals spent a week in prayer and study.

Daily chapel services and life in the dining room provide glimpses of Cuban life unavailable to the ordinary tourist. Meetings with the rector, dean, vice rector, and other faculty provided opportunities to exchange ideas about theological education especially in Latin America.

Professor Ajo will join us at WATER in July as our exchange continues. This is one way that *Women Crossing Worlds* can make sense of the often senseless situation of U.S.-Cuban relations that remain tenuous at best. Happily, relations between SET and WATER are stronger than ever as we confront the challenges ahead together.

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

Colleagues Ofelia Ortega, Marta Palma, Deborah Garcia, and Mary.

