

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**For more information:**

**2020 New Thought Walden Awards Announced**

***Partnership of New Thought Organizations Honors Spiritual and Socially  
Conscious Leaders***

**UNITY VILLAGE, Mo.**—Seven of the country’s largest New Thought organizations join together to announce the **New Thought Walden Awards**, honoring those who use empowering spiritual ideas and philosophies to change lives and make our planet a better place. Nominations were received from the public, and each was considered carefully by a selection committee comprised of representatives from each of the partner organizations.

The committee chose 20 honorees in six categories: **New Thought Wisdom, Interfaith and Intercultural Understanding, Social and Environmental Activism, Creative Arts and Entertainment, Next Generation** (under 40), and **Mind/Body Connection and Healing**. In addition, the committee gave the **Rising Star** award to Greta Thunberg and the **Champion of Change** award to Lynne McTaggart.

“The honorees include both well-known individuals and relatively unsung heroes alike, each of whom has made a valuable contribution to furthering the ideas at the core of New Thought,” says *Unity Magazine*® editor Katy Koontz, a member of the selection committee. “Our goal with the Waldens is not only to honor these fine people and spotlight their notable accomplishments but also to inspire others to follow in their footsteps.”

Each honoree is profiled in the September/October 2020 issue of *Unity Magazine* and listed in the September 2020 issue of *Science of Mind* magazine. Many of the honorees will soon be featured in a podcast series on Unity Online Radio ([unityonlineradio.org](http://unityonlineradio.org)), starting on August 17.

## **2020 New Thought Walden Awards Honorees**

### **New Thought Wisdom**

Rev. Sylvia E. Sumter  
Rev. Erin Fall Haskell, D.D.  
Rev. Dennis Merritt Jones, D.D.

### **Interfaith and Intercultural Understanding**

Pema Chödrön  
Rev. John Scott  
Rev. Ed Bacon

### **Social and Environmental Activism**

Charles Eisenstein  
Azim Khamisa  
Rev. Vaile Leonard

### **Creative Arts and Entertainment**

Rickie Byars  
Jesse Campbell  
SARK (Susan Ariel Rainbow Kennedy)

### **Next Generation**

Kendrick Chavez  
Justin Michael Williams  
Jon Miller

### **Mind/Body Connection and Healing**

Siri Sat Nam, Ph.D.  
Gwen Kenneally  
Paul Selig

### **Champion of Change**

Lynne McTaggart

## **Rising Star**

Greta Thunberg

Short biographies of each honoree are available at *waldenawards.com*.

Nominations for the 2021 New Thought Walden Awards will begin in mid-August at *waldenawards.com*.

The New Thought Walden Awards partner organizations include Unity, Centers for Spiritual Living, Association for Global New Thought, Agape International Spiritual Center, Divine Science Federation International, Universal Foundation for Better Living, and Affiliated New Thought Network.

### **About the New Thought Walden Awards partner organizations:**

**Unity** was founded in 1889 and helps people of all faiths apply positive spiritual principles in their daily lives. Unity World Headquarters at Unity Village, Mo., publishes *Unity Magazine* and *Daily Word*<sup>®</sup>, while the Unity prayer ministry, Silent Unity<sup>®</sup>, offers support 24/7 (receiving nearly 1.4 million prayer requests annually). Unity Worldwide Ministries supports Unity ministries, their leaders and congregants around the world (*unity.org*).

**Centers for Spiritual Living**<sup>®</sup>, based in Golden, Colo., is a global community whose teachings bring religion and science together. It is comprised of nearly 400 spiritual communities, teaching chapters, study groups and other ministries around the world. The organization publishes *Science of Mind* magazine, a monthly publication founded in 1927 by Divine Science minister Ernest Holmes (*csf.org*).

**Association for Global New Thought** (AGNT) is an organization of ministers and laypeople of all faiths who are dedicated to spiritually guided social action. Founded in Los

Angeles, Calif., in 1996, AGNT includes members representing all the major New Thought entities. It is focused on gaining new opportunities within and outside its churches and spiritual centers for direct engagement with other faiths, cultures and issues worldwide (*agnt.today*).

**Agape International Spiritual Center** was founded in 1986 to promote the teaching and practice of the New Thought-Ancient Wisdom tradition of spirituality. It has since expanded into a transdenominational movement and community of 9,000 local members and 1 million friends worldwide via livestreaming. Based in Los Angeles, Calif., Agape focuses on the transformative healing power of prayer, meditation and selfless service (*agapelive.com*).

**Universal Foundation for Better Living** (UFBL) is an international association of New Thought Christian churches, centers and study groups throughout the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and South America. Based in Miami Gardens, Fla., and founded in 1974, UFBL strives to empower people to realize their potential by becoming consciously aware of Spirit within them (*ufbl.org*).

**Divine Science Federation International** was founded more than 130 years ago based on the unchanging foundation of Omnipresence. Divine Science churches are located in many major cities. They are currently headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (*divinesciencefederation.org*).

**Affiliated New Thought Network** (ANTN) was founded in La Mesa, Calif., in 1992 to help foster global transformation and healing through empowering independent New Thought ministries. ANTN assists these ministries and metaphysical churches of all sizes in fostering the growth of caring communities that encourage creativity, integrity, education and spiritual growth (*newthought.org*).

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