Meet the 2011 Leadership Council
On its Sept. 18 conference call, the Interim Leadership Council approved the makeup of our region's new Leadership Council which will begin their work officially on 1/1/2011. Three new at-large members join our three Global Trustees and three continuing At-Large members to make up the nine member Council: Michael Pappas, Executive Director of the San Francisco Interfaith Council, Kathryn (Katie) Ward, a fundraising professional living in San Diego, and Kali Mallik of the URI of Greater Baltimore CC. The Leadership Council’s purpose and function is to encourage the implementation of URI’s Purpose, Preamble and Principles throughout North America by strengthening the work of our expanding network of Cooperation Circles and Affiliates.

Members of the outgoing Interim Leadership Council will be meeting with our new members in a joint Fall Leadership Retreat on October 29th in Orange County, California. The following day we will be attending the "Caring for Creation Conference" put on by the Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment CC in nearby Newport Beach. If you'll be in the Southern California area that evening, drop by to meet your Leadership Council over supper at the home of Sande Hart in Rancho Santa Margarita. Contact Sande for address and directions if you'd like to join us. <+>

Painless Fundraising Programs
Is there such a thing as "painless fundraising"? If you only need to do something or buy something at a price you were going spend anyway, and yet a nonprofit that was near and dear to your heart actually got a financial benefit from that purchase, that would be pretty painless, wouldn't it? With our changing economy, the North America region of URI, like all the regions around the world, is being asked by the global organization to become gradually more self-sustaining. As a result, we've looked into both some traditional and some not-so-traditional ways of raising funds. Here's what's in place so far:

- Start your holiday shopping at the www.uri.org/na website. URI-NA is now an Amazon Associate! Every purchase you make through Amazon by following the link on our homepage - whether it's a gift, a book for your own library, or even a Kindle book yields a small commission for URI in North America.
- Recycle those old electronics. URI-NA is now participating in working with the online Recycling Fundraiser program to get those old pagers, MP3 players, ink cartridges, and all kinds of old stuff out of your kitchen drawer and turned into cash to benefit
URI in North America. Just package up your stuff, print out a free Fedex shipping label from the website, and send it in. Just be sure to enter the following information as the return address: URI in North America, 1735 W State of Franklin Road, Suite 5-296, Johnson City, TN 37604

The list of what they'll accept is on their website as the "Price List" (top right corner). Unless your eyes are way better than mine, you'll need to blow it up a bit on the screen to read it, but there are three pages of items listed including cell phones, iPods, laptops, radar detectors, calculators…. you get the idea. Check it out; send them in; help build a world of peace by funding your region's programs and operations! <+>

Planning the 2011 Region-Wide Programs and Services
The Work Plan and Budget for 2011 are rapidly shaping up to be our most ambitious yet. The Interim Leadership Council has done the heavy lifting of getting our regional organization off to a good start since being appointed to that job in the last Regional Assembly in May 2009. With the first fully fledged Leadership Council about to get under way, we're now focusing on:

- Getting directly acquainted with the work of our region's CCs and their developmental challenges.
- Empowering our CCs with educational resources and programs they can put to work locally in their own way addressing today's needs and concerns.
- Developing our own revenue streams and funding apart from depending on the global organization to fund such these program as these well into the future.

The November news bulletin will contain details on these plans and more. It will likely be released a day or two late, as I have to get back from the Fall Leadership Retreat first where those decisions are going to be made! <+>

New Affiliates
In the past month we've added two new Affiliates to our growing network of people and organizations that are working on building interfaith peace and making a difference in North America. Fay Loomis, a long-time friend of URI in New York, has joined as an Individual Affiliate. The Interfaith Unity News, an independent news service based in Toronto, Ontario, has become our first media Organizational Affiliate. Welcome! <+>

Check out the homepage of our regional website at www.uri.org/na for op-ed pieces that are put out occasionally. Consider them nutritional supplements and food for thought. Responses welcome!

See you next month.

Sandy Westin, Regional Coordinator
Roger Eaton, Communications Coordinator
The Communications Committee of the North American Leadership Council