Quote of the Day

"But the most basic principle of interfaith dialogue is that the dialogue must begin, first of all, within oneself...We must recognize and accept the conflicting elements that are within us and their underlying causes. ...When we have peace within, real dialogue with others is possible."..............Thich Nhat Hanh

Announcements

Welcome This Month's New Affiliates

Four more organizations were approved as new Affiliates of URI in North America over the past month. All are doing innovative interfaith work. Visit their websites to learn more.

The Interfaith Council of Bainbridge Island / North Kitsap in Washington State,

The Surrey Neighbouring Faiths Program, in Surrey, BC, Canada,

I Am Jerusalem in Orange County, California

The Center for Peace through Culture located in Monterey, Massachusetts.

URI Urges United Action to Stem Middle East Violence

STATEMENT FROM THE URI GLOBAL COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Standing Committee met in California last week to deliberate on change facing the Global Council and URI. North America's Trustee Rebecca Tobias (center, back row) was present.

Cooperation Circles to be Polled This Fall

Once in awhile, URI's Principle 19 comes to the forefront as it has this week. The Principle states "We are committed to organizational learning and adaptation." With incredible financial challenges facing URI as all nonprofits worldwide currently, URI as an organization is working hard to explore a number of possible changes that will impact us all. Some of the changes being proposed will require the review and voting of URI's members, its CCs. This is also the year in which Global
As Trustees of the Global Council of United Religions Initiative, we write to express our support for the millions of people in the Middle East and North Africa who have joined together to demand democratic freedoms and respect for human dignity, and urge an end to the sectarian and political violence that threatens to undermine their gains. Read more...

(This GC statement includes a strong paragraph about "activism on behalf of human dignity". -- ed.)

Bishop Swing Responds to the Norway Shootings

Stopping the Islamization of Europe?

Rev. Charles Gibbs on July 4th as a Much Needed Reminder

Those Whose Stories We Have Not Heard

A Tasty Local Fundraising Idea

The Peace Committee of a Presbyterian Church in Tennessee wanted to plant a Peace Pole in their church garden this summer. The only problem was finding the nearly $200 to purchase the pole and other materials to make it happen.

When some creative minds went to work on the problem, a Pies for Peace event was held one Sunday afternoon. Volunteers brought pies of every kind, from quiches to peaches - home baked and store bought. There were even some pans of pie-shaped homemade bread. Volunteers cut and handed out individual pieces to willing customers who either ate them up on the spot or collected them in containers so they could be taken home and enjoyed at leisure.

With prices of $2.00 a slice, 2 for $5 (really!), or a whole pie for $18, the event raised enough to not only pay for the Peace Pole project, but for several future projects as well. What a tasty Trustees' terms are ending, which will result in CCs being asked to re-certify their existence, then nominate and vote for who they wish to have represent them on the Global Council. This important story will be continued in the August Bulletin.

Welcome a New North American Cooperation Circle

Meet our newest CC - The Interfaith Experience in Sacramento. With a membership of 50, this 2-year old nonprofit works to build bridges between religions through their weekly interfaith worship services. They are working to strengthen interfaith relations in the Sacramento area through education, bridge-building, community service and cooperation. You can contact The Interfaith Experience through the Rev. Dr. David Thompson.

News from North American Cooperation Circles & Affiliates

We're reaching critical mass here! There's so much going on among the North America URI CCs and Affiliates that your newsletter producers are hard pressed to keep up with them!

Bainbridge Island, WA - The Interfaith Council of Bainbridge Island/North Kitsap is co-sponsoring a 15 day Interfaith Peace Walk, now in progress. The walk will be coming through Bainbridge Island on August 5. If you are in the area, this is a don't miss event. See the flyer.

Croton Falls, NY - Unity Made Visible - “We have 9/11 every day in Pakistan,” said Fr. James Channan, Regional Coordinator for the United Religions Initiative (URI) in Pakistan, speaking on “Interfaith in Pakistan” at the Chapel at Croton Falls on Sunday, July 10, 2011. Full Report with photos.

Hancock, MA - New affiliate Center for Peace through Culture is co-sponsoring a one-day Peace Conference and Festival keynoted by Denis Kucinich at Hancock Shaker Village on Sep 17.

Los Angeles, CA - Unity-and-Diversity World Council has recently weathered a financial
This week the North America Interfaith Network held its annual Connect conference in Tempe, AZ. Three of our URI regional Leadership Council members were in attendance - Anne Roth, Margie Coles and Sande Hart and many new and important connections were made. The keynote address for this year's Connect was offered by URI's own Mussie Hailu, the URI Regional Coordinator for Africa. Anne Roth's report on this important conference is linked here.

**A Bright Idea From a Library: Check Out a Person!**

An usual and creative idea was spotted recently in an article about the Toronto Public Library offering a *Human Library* where borrowers can "check out" interesting persons from the community to sit and converse with them for half an hour about their life experiences. Last fall more than 200 patrons were able to meet a police officer, a comedian, a former prostitute, a model, and a person who had survived cancer, homelessness and poverty.

The *Human Library* harkens back to olden times, said a TPL official, where "story-telling from person to person" was the only way to learn. Can you imagine having persons of different faiths available to be "checked out" for such one-on-one conversations in your community, either through the library or in a special event at one or more schools?

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difficulty and emerged in good form. See the latest article from UDC Founder, Rev Leland Stewart: [Faith in a Time of Uncertainty](#).

**Ontario, Canada** - The *Spiritual Heritage Education Network* held its Second Annual Conference on Education to Globalize the Human Mind. URI's Sandy Westin gave a talk about URI. [Here is her report](#) on her visit and the conference.

**Orange County, CA** - S.A.R.A.H. CC co-sponsored the screening of *Out of Cordoba* and an appearance by the film's maker Jacob Bender to a full house at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Laguna Beach on July 10th.

**Orange County, CA** - OCICE Newsletter - Brave New Planet - Faith Leaders Luncheon Success - Open Space via Measure M2 - Letter to Obama - Recommended Reading

**NY, NY** - We the World and URI in N.Am are picking up the pace for the [11 Days, 11 Ways Campaign](#), Sep 11 - Sep 21. If you have an event in that time frame, please coordinate with the campaign by emailing Sandy Westin or Roger Eaton.

**San Francisco, CA** - San Francisco Interfaith Council CC has a new online address. You'll find them now at [www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org](http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org).

**Seattle, WA** - Interfaith Circle of Love CC celebrated URI at their July 3rd Interfaith Community Church Service. [Read more](#).

**Surrey, BC, Canada** - the Surrey Neighbouring Faiths Program has a multi-generational program which introduces children to other faiths in an innovative, hands-on way.

You can keep up to date with events by checking our [North American Interfaith Calendar](#). Have something you want to share? Send that news in to Roger Eaton to have it added to our Calendar and/or this monthly bulletin.

**New Videos Worth a Look**

**We The People - Freedom of Religion** (7:32 minutes)

**My Fellow Americans** -- Short online video juxtaposes scenes of American Muslims going about their day with radio rants of Muslim haters. (2:49 minutes)
Fever, a Video Guide. Fever explains what climate change is and why it is so important to indigenous peoples. (21 minutes)

Honoring Diverse Beliefs in Our Communities - a Conversational Toolkit from partners DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society & URI in North America Affiliate, Surrey Neighbouring Faiths Program. Low key, lovely video. (19:40 minutes)

Notes from the Editor:

1. If your URI CC or Affiliate organization has a website, we'd love to exchange links with you. Contact Roger Eaton.

2. Do you have videos, photos or reports about your CC or Affiliate's events and programs to share? Send them in! The deadline for submissions for each bulletin is the 5th of the month. Material for our website is accepted at any time. Also, you are welcome to post your items on our Facebook page.

3. Please forward this Bulletin to others in your organization so they can be aware of what's happening in URI beyond your community. This will also allow them to manage their own subscription to these bulletins if they wish.