Quote of the Day

"We're talking about calling the entire world of religion into a global dialogue,"
--Bishop William E. Swing

Heartfelt Stories

A Letter from Norway
by Anne Helgedagsrud of Oslo

There is very little demand for revenge against the anti-Islamic offender. Instead a collective agreement has been reached to embrace the values that the offender wished to destroy by creating a more open, friendly and inclusive society. The moving full letter.

Columns

How the Interfaith Movement is Trending in North America
by Linda Lauretta

As I sit down to write this, my candles are lit, a metal peace dove hangs above my laptop, the symbol for Om rests behind me as does a picture of the Dalai Lama and a distressed copper tree rife with items from Palestinian Christians and Muslims, a hamsa from Israel, a Sufi heart emblem, magnetic Shivas and Sun Gods, a dowsing pendulum, can’t forget the smudge stick and yadda, yadda, yadda. Some may label this a lack of identity or a smorgasbord attitude toward religion, others have less kind words. I call it appreciation of the diversity of spiritual expression.

"How to Boil a Frog" is a friendly, fun and troublesome educational film on the end of the world as we know it. See the Aug 23rd press release. Thanks largely to URI Global Trustee Rebecca Tobias, the film and its director and producer, Jon Cooksey, are now an Affiliate of URI in N.Am. Here is the full press kit.

HTBAF is off to an great start here in the N.Am. URI community. If you have not heard of it yet, you may want to check it out for a possible showing in your area. Here is the report from Rebecca Tobias on the Miami showing, where the film generated both interest and action. And here is a report from Sande Hart of URI CC S.A.R.A.H. on the showing of "How to Boil a Frog" in Orange County, CA. Plans are in progress for the interfaith communities in both Orange County and Los Angeles to host two more showings of the film later this year. Showings are also lined up for Utah and British Columbia. With momentum building, this is a story to follow.

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otherwise known as the way of interfaith.  Continued.

The uncertain God?
by Dr. David Thompson

Perhaps you are like me and have spent most of your life believing that God was certain about everything and that God in order to be God had to know everything. The French scientist and cosmologist mathematician Pierre Simon de LaPlace who produced much of his original work in astronomy between the years of 1771–1787 believed that it would be possible to understand the world in such a way, so that everything would be predictable. This however was not to be. Instead, in the 1920’s Heisenberg unleashed his theory of the ‘uncertainty principle’ in his work with quantum mechanics. One could not know both the speed of a particle and its location at the same time. One or other was always uncertain. In our day Stephen Hawking has reinforced this idea saying that quantum mechanics provides an unavoidable element of unpredictability and randomness into science.  Continued.

The Role of Interfaith in Humanizing Our Political Decisions
by Rev Leland Stewart

When governments oppress their people, as is happening in Syria and other countries in the Middle East and other parts of the world, many people of faith are called by their consciences to act in behalf of what is right. We do not have to be political experts in order to know what is right; our consciences tell us that. We need to respond to our inner guidance and to act from faith rather than fear. What we do depends upon our abilities and our guidance, but acting to keep in line with truth is

Speaking of Money
by Sandy Westin, Regional Coordinator

A sure way to quickly bring a meeting of any nonprofit to an awkward silence is to ask "Who would like to serve on the Fund-raising Committee this year?" While some organizations can get by with little if any cash to produce its programs, hold meetings and events, or send out mailings, it’s a fact of life that sooner or later most will need to find some way to bring in money to get the job done they’re trying to accomplish, either on a one-time or ongoing basis.

There it is -- Money -- that term which, along with its close cousins -- Lucre, Cash, Revenue, Capital - carries more emotional baggage than most in our language. Some feel it is the root of all evil; others see it as the source of all options. Both are true to some extent. When the day comes that someone raises the hot topic of “Where are we going to find the money?”, there are at least nine categories of approaches to fund-raising that might just fill the bill... so to speak.

Some of these Nifty Nine... continued

News from URI Global

Cooperation Circles to be Polled This Fall - This important story is still in the works. More when we know more.

Sabbatical This Fall for URI's Charles Gibbs -- "We have heard your heart and your need to refresh and renew your spirit asking for a time of needed Sabbatical. We want you to know that you have our blessing to take this time to revitalize your precious spirit."  Read more...

Welcome a New North American
necessary to keep our lives on track.

**Announcements**

**New URI Toolkit: Actions for Interfaith Solidarity.** "The tenth anniversary of the 9-11 attacks is a critical time to reach out to our Muslim neighbors. In the spirit of URI, this tool kit is aimed at helping people take positive action to promote religious tolerance in an environment of increasing hostility toward Muslims and other religious communities..." [Open toolkit as pdf](http://example.com).

**Wake-up Teleconference on The Threat of Nuclear Weapons**

presented by [Voices for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons](http://voicesforpeace.org), a URI CC, and co-sponsored by [11 Days of Global Unity](http://11days.org) and [Four Years Go](http://fouryearsgo.org). Sept 20, 3:00 PM, EDT, FREE - [flyer / how to register](http://example.com).

**Euphrates Summit, Our World Beyond 9/11** - Oct 27 and 28 at Principia College, in [Elsah, Illinois](http://example.com), overlooking the Mississippi River. How can we shift our thinking and our relations with the Middle East? URI's Charles Gibbs will be participating. [Register now](http://example.com).

**UN International Day of Peace** is celebrated on Sept 21 by URI by many organizations and networks across the world. Monica Willard, UN NGO Representative for URI has forwarded the [Pathways to Peace Newsletter](http://example.com) with information and ideas about IDP.

**The Peace Wave, Sept 21:** There will be a Minute of Silence at Noon in All Time Zones Worldwide, as requested by Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the UN.

**1000 Kalema photo contest** is open until Sept 21 - IDP.

**The Interfaith Observer (TIO)** first issue, to be posted September 15, 2011, explores "Deepening Interfaith Dialogue". [Subscribe here](http://example.com).

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**Cooperation Circle**

**Meet our newest CC - Women Transcending Boundaries** out of Syracuse, NY. "Bringing Women of Faith Together After 9/11".

WTB began in September, 2001, with the heartfelt conversation of two women over coffee. Betsy Wiggins had been reflecting on a recent discussion at church about how to discourage discrimination against Muslim women after the 9/11 tragedies. She called the Islamic Society of Central New York asking if Muslim women needed transportation, grocery shopping or other help. That led to an invitation for coffee with Danya Wellmon, who was one of the women leaders at the masjid (mosque).

... In sharing about WTB, Betsy once said, "I thought all I was going to do was have coffee with Danya. I had no idea the women we invited would become a dynamic group. I didn't realize what sort of response our little group would engender. I didn't know we had touched a nerve in the community and that we would become a salon of discussion for many spiritual women with complicated questions." [Read more](http://example.com).

**And Four New North American Affiliates**

**The Center for Peace Through Culture** in Monterey, MA, is co-sponsor of the upcoming [Peace Conference, Pathways to Peaceful Living](http://example.com) on Sept 17, at Hancock Shaker Village, Pittsfield, MA, keynoted by Dennis Kucinich.

**The Global Family**, in Nevada City, CA, is an international network of individuals and groups who choose to experience themselves as members of one human family and who desire to actualize their life purpose through joining with others in compassionate action for the benefit of all.

**The National Peace Academy** is built on the Four Cornerstones: education, research, practice, policy. URI North America and the NPA are working out a joint program for 2012. Stay tuned for more on that.

**How to Boil a Frog** is Jon Cooksey and his company.

Thank you for affiliating with us, Jon!

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**News from URI in North America**
**A-OK Acts of Kindness** weekend is coming up Sept 9-11 in Syracuse, NY, thanks to Women Transcending Boundaries. [Event details here.](#)

**United We Stand: One Nation, One Destiny** -- All day, Saturday September 10, Washington, D.C. - United For Change is dedicated to increasing the awareness of and sympathy for issues requiring the attention and action of the Muslim community. [For more information.](#)

**The UN Alliance of Civilizations** (AOC) is inviting groups to apply for their new Award for Intercultural Innovation. Applications will be accepted until Oct 16th, 2011 @ 12 am EST. I hope that many URI CCs send in applications that share your amazing and innovative work in intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, cooperation and actions. Good luck to all. -- Monica Willard - [More info / how to apply.](#)

Volunteer reporters and columnists! Send us an interfaith related story each month from your area. [Contact the editor.](#) The URI Community in North America is something like a small town and every small town needs a newspaper (or two or three).

**J Street and Just Vision in Seattle.** On August 12th members of Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue, J-Streeters and many from the larger Seattle interfaith community gathered to watch the wonderful film, Encounter Point, from Just Vision, a URI Cooperation Circle (CC). [Continued.](#)

**Scarboro Missions in Ontario** has posted a new page, [Golden Rule Art Exercise and Lesson Plan](#), fabulous for the example artwork and perfect for interfaith art teachers everywhere.

**San Francisco Interfaith Council** - SF Mayor Ed Lee Appoints SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas to Seat on SF Human Rights Commission. [Full story.](#)

Look for the URI North America on YouTube in the near future! Thanks to new volunteer Fred Fielding, we are now working to make video a more readily available resource for our members and the world. [Full story.](#)

Find upcoming events on the **North American Interfaith Calendar**.

**New Videos**

**Ireland Joins Celebration of UN International Day of Peace** With Deborah Moldow, colleague of URI's Monica Willard, making a passionate speech. (5:46 minutes)

**Out of Many, One:** a video created for the upcoming 911 Remembrance Ceremony in Cleveland. Readings from the religious texts affirm human unity.

Cooperation Circle Contacts: Please forward this bulletin to your email list.

Forwarded? Subscribe yourself so as not to miss an issue. Keep up with the expanding community of URI in North America.