Quote of the Day
"Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened.
Happiness never decreases by being shared. -- Sutta Nipata

Columns

9/11 at 10 - URI at 11: President’s Report to the President’s Council
by Rt Rev William E. Swing

At this 10th anniversary of 9/11 I am deeply aware that all of life is infused by a religious dimension.....healthy religion, sick religion, anti-religion, indifferent religion. Further I believe that more and more religion is being subordinated to the political designs of people who are bringing great harm to tribes, nations, the environment, the global economy, and placing the world in an elevated nuclear threat. The world of religious persuasions is either flying in the direction of 9/11 or in the direction of URI. URI isn't the solution to all of the world's problems. But...it is the right vision, it is effective in local circumstances, it does raise hope, it does make a difference all over the world on a daily basis, and it does inspire a global community, a family of people.

Somehow some creative solution can be found to acknowledge a sacred dimension in the midst stalemated religious differences. Full report.

International Day of Peace (IDP)

By taking a Minute of Silence at 12 noon local time on September 21, you can be a part of a global wave of peace prayers.

Gulfam Paul has a post on Global Healing in which he says, The United Nations goal for this day is "a day of non-violence and ceasefire". Wouldn't it be nice if this one day succeeded and spread, country by country, day by day, until there is no more war or violence. Can this goal ever succeed? Former Beatle John Lennon had the right vision in his song "Imagine".

Here are many more URI IDP Events.

Award-winning film Budrus will be made available for free online for 24 hours on September 21st, 2011, the International Day of Peace. Budrus was produced by URI North American Cooperation Circle, Just Vision.

11 Days of Global Unity 2011 was featured on Pacifica Radio with Rick Ulfik, Monica Willard, Deborah Moldow and others. The 11 Days program concludes on IDP, with a strengthened network looking towards 2012.

Student observance of IDP at the UN Webcast with Michael Douglas, Jane Goodall, Stevie Wonder, Ishmael Beah, Monique Coleman, moderated by Chris Bashinelli. The webcast ends with Deborah Moldow, who represents both the World Peace Prayer Society and the URI at the UN, leading the World Peace Flag Ceremony. We sent out prayers for peace to every country of the world, so you were prayed for during this observance!

September, So Many Opportunities to Create Peace
by Linda Lauretta

Ready, Aim -- ACTION
by Sandy Westin, URI in N.Am. Regional Coordinator

I'm rapidly becoming a fan of video as the
Every month offers up a bevy of events, themes and calls to action as fodder for our newsletter. September brings us so much more. The 11 Days, 11 Ways project gets underway this month leading up to The International Day of Peace. The global URI September pledge, “Intolerance ends with me,” kicks off and The North American Leadership Council prepares for their annual gathering. This year, the council is seeking input from us on how they can help strengthen our URI region. Continued.

'A more perfect union' against the backdrop of 9/11 by Dr. David Thompson

Osama bin Laden chose a path of violence and terror to address what he saw as injustices in the Middle East, particularly in Palestine and indeed anywhere in the world where he thought Muslims were being attacked. His avowed aim was to bleed America to the point of bankruptcy. He continues to succeed in doing that even after his death. No doubt if he were alive he would be pleased at the stats on the website www.costofwar.com which carries a running total of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan which so far have cost 3 trillion dollars and counting every minute. Read the full article.

Meditation on a Weak Economy by Rev Leland Stewart

New kinds of jobs are emerging which often require new kinds of skills. The green movement is coming into its own, as we realize that our dependence on oil and our previous technologies is coming to an end. More people are seeking employment that includes moral and spiritual values; these

Next Frontier that beckons to be conquered. I’ve been nibbling around the edges of that possibility for a few years now, but this Fall I took the plunge and enrolled in a college course on the production and editing of Digital Media at East Tennessee State University. (Hey! In Tenn. the tuition for such courses is $0 for those who are lucky enough to have passed the 65 years mark, so why not?) You might find a similar course available in your local community college. In this, my third week into the semester, I’m having a ball learning how to not only use my Samsung Camcorder more effectively, but also how to edit the resulting “clips” and turn them into real videos. So naturally my next thought has been how might we make good use of this brave new medium to strengthen URI in North America? Read more...

News from URI Global

It is not too late to take the pledge. "I ENVISION a world where all people are valued and their differences respected. I PLEDGE to take one action every day in September to promote respect for diversity and make my community a place where everyone is welcome." Intolerance Ends with Me!

The Interfaith Observer is off to a great start with its Sep 15th first issue. TIO bids to be the indispensable resource for the global interfaith movement, beginning with North America. If your interfaith friend asks what you thought of TIO's John Cobb article, you will want to have read it. It is a good read, btw - Cobb defends the idea that each of the great religions for all their internal divisions, do have a coherent identity. And that is just one example.

News from URI North America

Two nominees will be selected for the URI in N.Am. Leadership Council this Saturday, Sep 24. We have an excellent list to choose from.

We have two new individual URI N. America affiliates this month. Welcome to Aimé M. Pingi, a new affiliate from Amos, Québec who immigrated from Democratique Republic of Congo in 2008. Here is his bio and a photo. And welcome Ms. Miranda Hovemeyer from Chicago, IL, who has also joined us as an individual affiliate.

Long Beach, CA, Peace Sunday 2015 -- Going Global, exciting news from Rev Leland Stewart on the recent enthusiastic kick-off of Peace Sunday, 2015. Looks like we are all going to want to be part of this effort. Coming in just in time for this edition, a second take on the Long Beach meeting, this time by Sande Hart -- confirmation that the meeting was extraordinary and that we are all likely to be swept up by the energy released there.

Ocean Grove, NJ, A big welcome for a new Cooperation Circle, The Interfaith Gateway, a World Alliance of Interfaith Clergy. The Alliance is holding its annual conference Sep 30-Oct 2 in Stony Point, NY. Registration is still open.
jobs may well not have the income possibilities of previous ones, but they are more likely to have values such as mutual respect and support. Making this transition is not easy, but it seems to be necessary. Full article. (This article connects with the Global Family article in the right hand column. - ed.)

Is Jesus the Only Way
by Rev Susan Strouse

When I was writing my thesis for my doctor of ministry, "What Does It Mean to Be a Christian in an Interfaith World," I found that I had also stepped onto the pathway to Progressive Christianity. My exploration of other religious traditions forced me to look at my own through a different lens and caused a radical shift in my theology. Full article here.

A Definition of Legitimate Religion
by Oscar Koechlin of SF Peninsula CC

A major landmark towards the goal of eliminating violence between religions would be to establish a definition of Legitimate Religion that contains the requirement from the Charter for Compassion that states that: "Any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate." See the full article.

Announcements

Opening a Bay Area interfaith Youth Frontier

URI in N. Am. Regional Coordinator Sandy Westin introduces Krithika Harish, Youth Development Coordinator for North America. Read the letter.

Syracuse, NY, Women Transcending Boundaries AOK weekend went well completing hundreds of acts of kindness!

Bainbridge Island, WA, Peace Walk 2011, story with photos by Kathryn Keve. What defines civilization in its entirety?


Vancouver, BC, Anti Tanker Action reported by Rebecca Tobias - First Nations and environmental movement working together. Rebecca, a URI Global Trustee for N.Am. has also recently joined the Board of the Interspiritual Center of Vancouver, a story to follow!

Salt Lake City, UT, David Randle reports "we had a wonderful showing of 'How To Boil A Frog' the evening of Sep 9th in Salt Lake City, Utah. The event was hosted by the Utah URI, Utah Population Environment Coalition, and the Holladay United Church of Christ. Please consider hosting a showing of this film in your location. Make Friends, Make Fun, Make Trouble."

Sarasota, FL, The Center for Religious Tolerance brings our attention to Tara's Blog. Tara is a college student from Ireland who is spending two months getting to know women peacemakers in Israel and the West Bank. Her blog is full of rich description of places far from the traditional tourist path and meetings with old CRT friends... Tara also reports on fascinating grassroots peace projects like "Midwives for Peace," a group of Palestinian and Israeli women working together to provide prenatal care and childbirth support to women in the West Bank. It's the next best thing to a trip to the Holy Land!

Planning Ahead for February 2012

Talking about religion is coming out of the closet! The idea of working for interfaith harmony and understanding has become increasingly mainstream over the past decade. In February 2011, World Interfaith Harmony Week was inaugurated at the United Nations, thanks to King Abdullah of Jordan. If you are working now on planning programs and events for the next year, consider ways you might include that special week in your own community. How about bringing all the youth groups in town
Coming up, Oct 27 and 28th at Principia College near St. Louis. Registration now open, bringing together visionaries on global issues and the Middle East. Speakers include URI's Charles Gibbs and the 2011 class of Warriors for Peace. Download flyer.

**Introduction to Peace Education : A Course for Educators**

Offered by the National Peace Academy and Teachers Without Borders. Oct 8, 9, Manhattan, NY. $300. Collaborative Communication - download flyer. Looks great!

**Golden Rule Art Exercises Lesson Plan Available Online**

Scarboro Missions has posted this excellent lesson plan for educators everywhere.

**How to Organize a City or County Wide Day of Service**

The SARAH CC has provided these excellent new resources. With this guidance, a local group can seriously consider launching a Day of Service in its community.

**New Videos**

Deborah Moldow, the UN Co-Chair for IDP for NGOs, was at Dublin Airport waiting for her next flight. She asked to meet members of Instruments of Peace. The highlights of that meeting are captured on this video.

PBS Interview with Danya Wellmon and Betsy Wiggins, Co-founders of new URI CC, Women Transcending Boundaries. See the Video and transcript.

Phil Lane, URI in N.Am. individual affiliate, reminds us that we are One Human Family.

**Generation Waking UP:** Igniting a Movement - a promotional video - This project will only be funded if at least $20,000 is pledged by Sunday Sep 25, together for an interfaith movie-and-discussions night -- Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu -- all of them! Throw in some popcorn and you've got yourself an interfaith event.

**Funding Peacebuilding**

In this new section of the newsletter, we will be tiptoeing around the s-p-a-m filters to alert you to ways of helping out URI at the regional and local level. And global, of course. At a rate of half a dozen opportunities a month, it will take more than a few issues to complete the circuit, but these are good stories and well worth covering.

**For URI in North America**, if you go to A-m-a-z-o-n please use the link on our funding page, where you will also find a p-a-y-p-a-l button. Things are tight, so give us a hand if you are able.

**UPF:** Be a Peacemaker. Reach mainstream America. End ignorance. Sponsor film showings on Muslims.

**Levantine Cultural Center Special Benefit Event** Oct 23 2011, 4:00 - 6:00 pm, in honor of Juliano Mer-Khamis & Rachel Corrie to launch Los Angeles' first Middle Eastern Theatre Company.

**California Interfaith Power & Light, CA**, invites your place of worship to take the Cool Congregations Challenge and help us keep these programs coming.

**The Center For Religious Tolerance, FL**, has a Women Reborn Network supporting social empowerment for Palestinian women, and here is the support link.

**The Coalition of Welcoming Congregations, CA**, itself welcomes congregations that are LGBTQI friendly into full or associate membership. Support, too, is welcome.

**The Circle Legacy Center, PA**, is also looking for congregations as well as volunteers, members and d-o-n-a-t-i-o-n-s. Help publicize and finally bring an end to the Doctrine of Discovery. If you never heard of it, please click in and become acquainted.

**The RSTAR Foundation, CA**, provides women in Nepalese communities with a goat. That one goat makes all the difference for a family. Here's how to make a big difference with a small gift.

**Global Family, CA**, is an international network of people who live consciously to promote human unity and love. A core team lives together at Hummingbird Ranch in New Mexico. They are looking for support for their model of conscious evolution. One core member has published a thoughtful article about "Money: a Manifestation of Separation Consciousness". It is long, but if you have time, it is worth a read.

**More News**

UN Secretary-General, calling Now a Time of Tremendous Tumult, Potential Promise, Asks Faith Community to Guide United Nations Mission for Peace. Complete speech.

Tikkun Daily Blog: Abbas’ U.N. Gambit: a Bold Rejection of...
San Francisco Interfaith Council's Executive Director Michael G. Pappas' remarks at Opera in the Park on 9/11/2011, the City of San Francisco's Civic Observance Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of 9/11. "Religions can no longer exist in silos of isolation."

John Burch of loveshift.com gives us a dose of common sense about finding security.

A promotional video of the only documentary available about Women's movement in Lebanon until 1975. One of the wonders linked via TIO.

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U.S. Diplomacy - the Network of Spiritual Progressives is an affiliate of URI in North America.

Coexist Prize of $100,000 offered. Letter from Mussie Hailu, who doesn't say so himself, but would be an excellent candidate.

There is also the UNAOC-BMW award for intercultural innovation which will split 50,000 USD between ten winning organizations. Perhaps time to start thinking about the 2012 award?

Ajarat Bada, URI Youth Ambassador 2011 for North America shows us how it is done with her The Missing MDG petition.

Iftekar Hai of the United Muslim Association offers his opinion that The Muslim world is on the brink of change -- or disaster. "Islam is not a homogeneous religion."

Some good advice - avoiding three common decision traps: Anchoring, Status-quo and Confirming-evidence. Short and readable.

Cooperation Circle Contacts: Please forward to your email list and/or encourage your list members to subscribe directly at urinorthamerica.org/subscribe.

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

Next Issue, October 19, 2011