Quote of the Day

"May Peace Prevail On Earth!" -- Masahisa Goi

Columns

Keeping the Perspective

Clarissa Pinkola Estés, an American poet, post-trauma specialist and Jungian psychoanalyst, shares wisdom and vision relevant to these times in her noted essay, "Letter To A Young Activist During Troubled Times". Although it was written nearly a decade ago, her words ring true for any of us who find ourselves buffeted by winds of unanticipated change. -- Sandy Westin

Sandy Westin's Resignation

Greetings to my partners in peacebuilding throughout the North America region. I regret to inform you that as of the end of this year I will be resigning as your Regional Coordinator. While this step has not been taken lightly, nor as my preference, I have no doubt it will strengthen URI as an organization in the long run....

I trust that URI will be able to select a new Regional Coordinator to serve and support the North America region and its Leadership Council in the next few months. If you are aware of someone, perhaps yourself, who might be interested and qualified to serve in this part-time, contract-based capacity, I encourage you to contact Sally Mahe, Director of Regional Development for the global URI organization in San Francisco... Read more...

Faith Starbucks and Twitter

by Dr. David Thompson

Have you heard the latest translation of the 23rd psalm?

Caffeeine is my shepherd; I shall not doze. It maketh me to wake in green pastures: It leadeth me beyond the sleeping masses. It restoreth my buzz. Continued...

News from URI North America

Baltimore, MD, Gandhi Jayanthi Celebration at the Greater Baltimore Temple, reported by Kali Mallik, URI in N.Am. Leadership Council Member. Dr. George Wolfe, who is chair of the Muncie Interfaith Fellowship Cooperation Circle of URI North America, gave the keynote. See the writeup and good photos.

Bedford Hills, NY, Unity Made Visible Affirms "CommUnity". Unity Made Visible, a 7-year-old Bedford Hills organization that is a Cooperation Circle of the worldwide United Religions Initiative, held a spirited interfaith event at Fox Lane High School in Bedford Hills on the 10th anniversary of the attacks of September 11th.

What Do the Ancient Ones and the Ancient of Days Say About the Future of the Human Family

by Phil Lane, Vancouver
Very Beloved Relatives,

There is no question that a tempest, unprecedented in its violence, unpredictable in its course, catastrophic in its immediate effects, unimaginably glorious in its ultimate consequences, is at present sweeping the face of the earth. Read more of this astonishing epistle from one of URI in N.Am. individual Affiliates...

**IDP Call to Action - Troy Davis**
by Audri Scott Williams

There was a time when the fear of an external power destroying our nation was a great motivator for war. I am concerned that the gross disparities affecting the poor and people of color is creating a war on our own citizenry while we posture peacemaking as a call to war with other nations. Perhaps I am treading on dangerous ground but PEACE is PEACE and this is the time to replace injustice with justice, hate with love and fear with faith. The full thoughtful article...

**The Power of Photographs**
by P. K. McCary
1000kalema.org

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**Good photos.**

**Berkeley, CA**, successful IDP Peace Forum 2011, co-sponsored by URI with Charles Gibbs and a number of other URI participants. Nice photos.

**Chicago IL**, Meet new individual Affiliate Miranda Hovemeyer, who is bringing the FUNATICAL "We Come in Peace" Comedy Tour to Chicago. See the Announcements section on the left for more about the tour.

**Elizabethton, TN**, In conjunction with the Northeast Tennessee URI CC, the First Presbyterian Church planted a Peace Pole by the labyrinth in the church yard in honor of the International Day of Peace. See photos.

**Highland Park, NJ**, URI in North America is delighted to welcome new Affiliate, Greenfaith: "we believe that protecting the earth is a religious value, and that environmental stewardship is a moral responsibility."

**Sacramento, CA**, International peace day Aztec dancers in front of the state Capitol of California. The Interfaith Experience of Sacramento represented the URI and spoke at the event for world peace, through peace between religions. See photo.

**San Mateo, CA**, Margaret Jones of the Peninsula URI CC had an article published in the United Methodists California/Nevada site, The Human Family: Transforming Spirit. Good article. (Margaret apologizes for "Muslims" being missing from the list of CC participants.)

**San Mateo, CA**, URI SF Peninsula CC Hosts Youth Coordinator Krithika Harish. This is definitely worth a look.

**Stony Point, NY**, new Affiliate, A World Alliance of Interfaith Clergy, held a highly successful conference: "The Present and Future of Interfaith Ministry" on September 30. See photos.

**Surrey, BC**, Acharya Dwivedi, the main contact for the
Words are powerful. What we say and how we say it can change the course of history. With that reality, if words can motivate and mobilize, then a photograph could change the world. Full essay...

Iftekhar Hai brings an article from the Middle East Media Research Institute to our attention.

Here is a great new development. We are drawing closer into the family net of Abraham, Sarah, Issac, Hagar and Ismael. The Sheikh of Al-Azhar in an Exceptionally Tolerant Article. Non-violence should be and must be the only means of solving disputes. -- Iftekhar Hai, UMA Interfaith Alliance

Interfaith not Infidels

And in an Article published in the San Francisco Chronicle, Iftekhar Hai tackled the question of who are the kafirs, the infidels condemned in the Quran? Read the article...

Global Clergy Association of Vancouver CC presented Hinduism in SFUC on 2nd October at Newton Seniors’ Centre. Story and photos: Building the Bridges.

Surrey, BC, the Global Clergy Association of Canada Celebrated the 30th International Day of Peace at the Northwood United Church. See photo and story.

And here is TIO's Second Issue focusing on Interfaith History.

News from URI Global

URI Trustee Selection 2011-2012 – letter from Mark Mancao. This letter and an enclosed letter from Charles Gibbs went out to all Cooperation Circle contacts. Please make sure your CC understands the process. URI Regional Trustees are elected by the Cooperation Circles of each region. The Trustees are your voice and it is not that hard to get nominated. It is an open process. URI North America Trustees are automatically members of the URI in North America Leadership Council, so this is another reason to stay on top of events. Read the letter...

On September 14, URI President Rt. Rev. William E. Swing joined a panel of leading San Francisco Bay Area religious and interfaith thinkers at the Commonwealth Club of California for a discussion on Finding Faith and Spirituality in the 21st Century. Click here to listen online.

Don't miss Global Oneness Day with Charles Gibbs and many others, Oct 24, online. See details here.

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!

Funding Peacebuilding

Each month in this section, we list a few of the funding efforts of URI in North America Cooperation Circles and Affiliates.

URI Principle #17: We have the responsibility to develop
Ik Onkar Peace Foundation is heading to India and Pakistan for a 2012 Virsa (Heritage) Celebration in March. You are invited! Full Details...

Danville, CA, Women's Interfaith Circle of Service CC Fall Meeting, Oct 29, 1:30-5:00, Visionary Wisdom of An Indigenous Grandmother by Charlie Toledo. Download Flyer.

Euphrates Summit: Our World Beyond 9/11, a groundbreaking event at Principia College, Elsah, IL this October 27th and 28th. Charles Gibbs of URI and Jordan Elgrably of the Levantine Center, a URI in North America Affiliate, will be among the speakers. Register now or attend the event via live streaming at this same web page.


Orange County, CA: How to Boil a Frog. URI co-sponsored. Nov 20 Chapman University Auditorium 3:00 pm Presentations, 4:00 pm Film Screening and Q&A with filmmakers, 6:00 pm Catered. How to Boil a Frog is a comedic documentary about the consequences of overshoot: too many people using up too little planet. An everyman dad (Jon Cooksey) gives a financial and other resources to meet the needs of our part, and to share financial and other resources to help meet the needs of other parts.

Interfaith Center at the Presidio, a URI Cooperation Circle, could use your support. If you are in the San Francisco Bay Area, please consider becoming a co-sponsor of the Center.

The Interfaith Cooperation Circle of Central Virginia, a URI Cooperation Circle, has a lovely website and monthly meetings. You are encouraged to attend.

The Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County would be delighted to accept your donation. "We as people from a diversity of religions, spiritual traditions and sectors of society, gather to manifest our unity as we promote the spirit of community, service and cooperation through the work of the Interfaith Council."

We, the World, a URI in North America Affiliate, is making an historic 2001 teach in available. "As an expression of our appreciation, if you make a tax deductible donation to We, The World of $75, we will send you the complete 6 CD set as a free gift." Details here.

URI in North America is in search of a volunteer grant writer to work with us in building our region's capacity. This might be an internship opportunity for a student, or a way to contribute life experience and expertise to help in building URI's strength throughout the US and Canada. Please contact Ardey Turner, (449) 434-8128, for more details and to explore the possibilities.

The URI in North America Region also seeks your help. When you buy from Amazon, please always go in through the N.Am. website. Look for the Amazon search link on the right at urinorthamerica.org.

New Resources

The Multiregion website has added a Religious Festivals Calendar. It is very embarrassing and can lead to difficulties when a major religious holiday is forgotten. Who in the interfaith community doesn't know this first hand? Today, as it happens, October 19, 2011, is Hoshana Rabbah, the seventh day of Sukkot in the Jewish calendar.

International Peace Studies Scholarship Program and
satirical overview of our global situation, and five surprising ways we can save civilization while making our own lives better. Flyer, Presskit.

**New Videos**

See the trailer for the new *Thrive: What on Earth will it Take?* THRIVE lifts the veil on what's REALLY going on in our world. Coming 11.11.11.

**Globalized Soul Preview** - interviews from around the world.

**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.

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Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Principles Of Nonviolence.

Next Issue, November 16, 2011