Quote of the Day

"First you love and peace will follow." -- Mary Dube

Columns

Confronting the Shadow Side in URI
by Sandy Westin

When the Shadow sneaks into peace work: It usually begins small. Maybe some comment was taken wrong, or a decision was acted on by one that not all agreed with. Then the gossiping starts. A snide or critical remark is made in person or (more indelibly) by email. Dissension grows. Pretty soon what ostensibly exists as an organization dedicated to building peace and harmony is experiencing anything but such a climate. Feelings are hurt, and resentments brew like festering toothaches. Good people leave, and the shadow of grief and confusion descends. Read more

Search for a New Regional Coordinator

A month long search for a new URI in North America Regional Coordinator began on November 4. This is an exciting opportunity for the right person. Starting date is January 9, 2012.

Details are available on the URI website and for download as a pdf. Please help us build a truly excellent pool of candidates by sharing this announcement with individuals and organizations that might provide a good match. You are encouraged to download the pdf and distribute it as seems appropriate. The position is posted at idealist.org as well.

2011-2012 Global Trustee Selection

Nominations for the URI Global Council are now being accepted through the end of the year. The Trustees are your voice and it is not that hard to get nominated. It is an open process. All Cooperation Circles are likewise asked to certify their eligibility to vote before the end of December. Changes to the URI Bylaws are to be voted on in the same time frame, and the proposed changes affect how the elections will work. Please be sure your CC leadership is aware. There are five documents: Guide to the Process | Certification Form | Nomination Form | Bylaws Material | Bylaws Ballot. The documents are also available in Spanish and Portuguese. Send questions to Mark Mancao at the URI Global office. The Trustees are your voice and it is not that hard to get nominated. It is an open process.

The Global Trustee elections will be held March - May 2012. The three North America Trustees are automatically included as part of the URI in North America Leadership Council, so nominations and the elections make a direct

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Here are several thoughtful columns

Watch for the December issue when Sandy will provide an example of a conflict reconciliation procedure for URI to consider using or adapting at all levels.
about Occupy Wall Street. What does this new movement mean for URI?

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Spiritual Support for a Just Revolution
by Linda Lauretta

On my second visit to the ‘tent city’ at Liberty Plaza, I was fortunate to be there for one of their Interfaith services. The encampment had just survived an early snowfall on October 29th and the seizure of their generators, used for heat, on a night when the temperatures had dropped to 26 degrees. There are so many words I can use to describe the scene there that day. The campers, day protesters, tourists and ministers shared a sense of elation, commitment, cooperation, efficiency and TLC for everyone present and mostly for a way of life devoid of exploitation of any person or resource. If this sounds Utopic to you, then you should know that what is happening there, as well as at the over 1600 other Occupy camps, is a shining example of what a compassionate, non-violent and mutuallyrespectful community can be. Full Article.

Occupy Oakland - an Email Exchange
from Rabbi Michael Lerner of the Network of Spiritual Progressives, a URI in N.Am. Affiliate

Sun, Nov 13, 7 PM. I think you might find this exchange between a student and me about Occupy Oakland and the Oakland community of some interest. There is a rumor that there may be a new violent confrontation hours from now as the occupiers refuse to leave... Read the two emails. (The police did clear the Occupy Oakland encampment early Monday morning, Nov 14 with 32 arrested including many clergy, but

difference at the regional level.

News from URI North America

Charlotte, NC: The URI Charlotte CC held a tree planting day in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity and had a great time as these lovely photos attest.

Elsah, IL: Euphrates Summit: Our World Beyond 911 October 27 & 28 made a difference of the sort that pile up until one day it is that one extra difference that makes all the difference. It’s not often that a conference on the Middle East begins with a talk about the Golden Rule and ends with one on loving one’s enemies. Full article...

Indianola, WA: The URI in North America Leadership Council (LC) retreated in October to Camp Indianola across Puget Sound from Seattle. As in previous retreats, the LC members felt their bonds strengthened and themselves rejuvenated. Despite Sandy Westin's resignation there was a sense of optimism about the future of the region. Photos of the retreat are posted here.

Orange County, CA: Valentina Khan of URI in North America Affiliate **[i am jerusalem](http://www.uri.org)** was featured on Newshour on PBS with Claremont School. "I am jerusalem" represents Jews, Christians and Muslims all over the world, whom each have Jerusalem as a sacred place in their hearts.


And here is The Interfaith Observer's **[Third Issue](http://www.interfaithobserver.net)** focusing on "How We Organize".

News from URI Global

**World Interfaith Harmony Week**, which was launched at the UN in 2011, will be observing its second year in the first week of this coming February. If your organization is planning an event near that time, you are encouraged to register it as part of this worldwide
Global Awakening and the Occupy Movement
by Rev Leland Stewart

Western civilization is fast being replaced by global civilization. We are one planet earth, and we need to be able to live together in this larger wholeness. All races, cultures, and religions make up our new basis of life, so it is our opportunity to get acquainted and to discover the new common ground that will make possible our survival and our happiness.

Complete article...

From the November issue of The Interfaith Observer

A Religious Reading of the Occupy Movement - Occupy's Sacred Mob and the Politics of Vagrancy by Vincent Gonzalez.

Life the mortal gift!
by Dr. David Thompson

A Catholic priest, a Protestant minister, and a rabbi were discussing what they would like people to say at their funeral when people filed by paying their respects. Priest: I would like someone to say, "He was a righteous man, an honest man, and very generous." Minister: I would like someone to say, "He was very kind and fair." Rabbi: I would want someone to say, "Look! He's breathing!"

Continued...

Protecting the Sacred - Urgent Unified Spiritual Action Needed
Address to the Third Annual International Indigenous Leaders

Funding Peacebuilding

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

URI Principle #17: We have the responsibility to develop 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.

Just Vision relies on the generosity of individuals -- your donation will help us support Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders and nonviolence leaders. All contributions are tax-deductible in the United States to the fullest extent offered by law.

Kashi Foundation: Since its foundation in 1976, Kashi Ashram and Ma Jaya have touched many thousands of lives throughout the country and the world and continue to do so every day. Kashi Ashram is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and we rely on contributions from our generous supporters for our continued operations.

The National Peace Academy has received a $40,000 Matching Grant from the Biosophical Institute. Click here to help meet this challenge! Please consider giving a recurring monthly donation of just $25 in 2012. With the Biosophical Institute challenge grant your $25 donation becomes $450 over the course of a year.

Network of Spiritual Progressives: If you'd like to support Rabbi Lerner's voice to continue to be active in presenting a religious/spiritual perspective in the active social movements of our time, please make a tax-deductible contribution to Tikkun www.tikkun.org or send a check to Tikkun, 2342 Shattuck Ave, #1200, Berkeley, Ca. 94704 or JOIN the Network of Spiritual Progressives, an interfaith activist organization at
Very Beloved Friends and Relatives,

...As we know, these ancient prophecies clearly promise that after a very long, difficult, challenging and painful spiritual wintertime our Indigenous peoples will fully arise from our suffering and become global leaders in the spiritual transformation, reconciliation and healing of our Human Family. This spiritual wintertime has ended and our long-promised spiritual springtime is now unfolding, with ever-increasing strength and beauty. Complete address...

**Announcements**

**Interfaith Celebrations for Thanksgiving** -- see the URI N.Am. Calendar for details. Houston, Nov 17, 7 PM * Los Vegas, NV, Nov 20, 6:30 PM * San Francisco, Nov 22, 5 PM * Bainbridge Island, WA Nov 22, 7 PM * San Rafael, CA Nov 23, 7 PM * San Francisco, Nov 24, 10 AM.

Nov 19, Culver City, CA: Peace Sunday Collaborative Exploration, 1-3 PM, AGAPE, 5700 Buckingham Parkway, Culver City, CA 90230

Los Angeles: Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Ethics is gearing up a new dramaturgical program aimed at teens, Life Choices through Interactive Drama. Might there be a good connection with URI Youth Programs?

Nov 20, Orange County, CA: How to Boil a Frog, Chapman University Auditorium 3:00 pm

**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**

From the GreenFaith website we have easy ways to get started for individuals/households and for houses of worship.

**A Morning Prayer for Mother Earth** from Neshamah Emi Miller of URI Charlotte, NC.

**A Greater Democracy Day by Day** by Sally Mahe and Kathy Covert brings together 365 thought-provoking quotes from around the world and through time, all centered on this concept that is the keystone of modern society. The book presents a theme for each month and a quote about that theme to ponder on each day of the year. Sally and the publisher have donated dozens of copies to the Occupy Wall Street movement, and more are available: For donation to OWS encampments, you may order a box of 50 books for shipping costs of USD 15.00. Order via the author's website. Educational selection of quotes and they are cool.

**The 11 Karmic Spaces** - Choosing freedom from the patterns that bind you by Ma Jaya Sati Bhagavati, founder of URI in N.Am. CC, the Kashi Foundation. The 11 Karmic Spaces reveals how and why most of us become stuck by karma and our habitual patterns of action and reaction. We learn that although karma is a spiritual law, we do not have to be bound by it. Through awareness, intuition and grace, it is possible to choose freedom from Karma. Ma Jaya shows us how. Pre-order for Thanksgiving.

**Bay Area Interfaith Connect** - indispensable Interfaith
Presentations, 4:00 pm Film Screening and Q&A with filmmakers, 6:00 pm Catered. HTBAF is a comedic documentary about the consequences of overshoot: too many people using up too little planet. URI co-sponsored. [Flyer.]

Santa Barbara, CA. Dec 2-4, Master Class in Peace Education from the National Peace Academy. Instructors: Betty A. Reardon and Tony Jenkins. $300 commuter, $400 residential. The "Occupy" movement is building energy for change and transformation around the country. Education will and must play a critical role in the transformations now being considered. Knowledgeable, well prepared, practiced and reflective peace educators will be on the front lines of these efforts. [More information.]

Nov 20, Spirit has chosen Vancouver, BC, for Inter-spiritual Sacred Dance. Come to the 3rd annual InterSpiritual Sacred Dance Festival: Sunday, Nov 20th, from 2 - 3:30 pm at Christ Church Cathedral, 690 Burrard @ Georgia.

Washington, DC, Dec 5: S.A.R.A.H., a URI in N.Am. CC, is a 2011 recipient of the Peace X Peace "Women, Power and Peace Award". Sande Hart will be accepting the award in DC. [More information. Congratulations to SARAH and to Sande Hart!]

**New Videos**

New URI in N. Am. GreenFaith Affiliate has a two minute get acquainted video.

Children Talk about the Golden Rule. This video was produced by the Arizona Interfaith Movement. Through event calendar for the SF Bay Area - is sent each month to nearly 2,000 subscribers, and is available online at the Interfaith Center at the Presidio website. To subscribe: simply write to info@interfaith-presidio.org. Please include your name, and, if you are willing, your street address and phone.

Interfaith Made Easy - Dial 1-800-INTERFAITH because Unity CAN be Made Visible.

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**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.

Send your favorite quotation to the editor for possible use in an upcoming bulletin.

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Next Issue, December 21, 2011
the efforts of AIFM, Arizona has declared itself a Golden Rule State.

A Land Called Paradise - In December 2007 over 2000 American Muslims were asked what they would wish to say to the rest of the world. Stereotypes and fear begone!

The Empathic Civilization - a spirited and easy introduction to Jeremy Rifkin's ideas.