The Elders say the Native American women will lead the healing among the tribes.

---Journal #962 from sdc 11.05-11.9.97

**Quote of the Day**

**Columns**

**The Many Forms of Peacebuilding**  
by Linda Lauretta

We are moving into an era of fewer boundaries and limitless creativity. I don’t think of URI as just an interfaith organization. I see us as inter-everything agents of change; cultural, religious, socio-economic and organizational making our scope of actions as broad as the heights of our imaginations. [Full text...](#)

**In the Middle East, Justice Served is Not Always Justice Done**  
by Dr. George Wolfe

If we are to expect authoritarian dictators in the Middle East and elsewhere to voluntarily step aside and allow democracy to take root, the international community and the citizens of the country desiring reform must be prepared to offer some form of asylum. The trial and possible execution of former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is an unfortunate development and will...

**World Interfaith Harmony Week** will conclude on Feb 7th at the UN with a great and wonderful ceremony and conference, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM ET, as organized by URI’s own Monica Willard. [See the invitation from Deborah Moldow](#) to this important event. All Cooperation Circles and URI in N. Am. Affiliates are encouraged to organize their own event for WIHW and to spread the word about the Feb 7th event. [Register](#) by Feb 1.

URI has issued an updated and expanded tool card to encourage people to take action for this year’s World Interfaith Harmony Week, February 1-7. The card provides ideas for action by individuals and groups alike, including interfaith gatherings, community service projects and social networking as ways to bridge the religious divide and build relationships of trust.

The San Francisco Interfaith Council and the URI Global office have prepared an [outline of an interfaith sermon or discourse](#) that can be adapted for any tradition.

**News from URI North America**

**New Regional Coordinator**  
**Katie Ward** lives with her husband and daughter in Burlingame, CA. While exploring different tools that would help her teach her small daughter how to better understand and appreciate different religions, she came...
merely serve as a warning to other despots in the region to hold fast. Continued...

The BeLoved Lives
a poem & photo by neshamah emi miller

The BeLoved Lives with-in.
The BeLoved Lives with-in The ONE HEART of all
Inside of the Eyes and the Hearts of those one has chosen to isolate or to hate,
and for the slayer, the soldier, the triggerman, inside of all those they are coming to kill
The BeLoved Lives. ...continued

Dr. Emi Miller is active with URI of Charlotte, NC.

My Summer at Death’s Door
by Tom Mahon

Wrapping up the passing year, I’d like to share with the URI list an email I sent to my family and close friends in September when I was released from the hospital after 70 days (and unconscious for 50 of those days). I dunno if I had an ‘epiphany,’ but I experienced something out of the across the URI website. Inspired, she offered her services as a volunteer and served as a member of the Regional Leadership Council for a few years until family obligations interrupted. Happily, her family moved to the Bay Area and Katie enthusiastically applied for the RC position. Katie has extensive experience in fundraising, project management, marketing, and board relations. Most recently, Katie was Director of Philanthropy at the Rady Children’s Hospital in San Diego. Katie also served as Development Chair at Jaanagraha, a civic organization in Bangalore, India where she develop an international funding structure aimed at empowering individuals in the governing process. She graduated from Wake Forest University in North Carolina and The University of Queensland, Brisbane Queensland, Australia.

Danya Wellmon joins the Leadership Council as of January 1. She is co-Founder of Women Transcending Boundaries an interfaith women’s organization founded in Syracuse, NY, two weeks after 9/11. Medical Laboratory Technician with the American Red Cross. Member of the Islamic Society of CNY and past board member.

A World Alliance of Interfaith Clergy is delighted to announce their new website. AWAC promotes the use of the URI Interfaith Peacebuilding Guide as part of its vision of cooperation with URI.

Contra Costa County, CA, Rev Brian Stein-Webber of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County provides a refreshing perspective on the subject of charity. Thank you Rev Stein-Webber!

Greenville, SC, Get to Know Someone of a Different Religion, by Laurie Rovin. This is an old story now from mid 2011 but it is well written and gives us insight into the praiseworthy activities of The Interfaith Forum of Greenville, a URI Cooperation Circle.

Hendersonville, NC, The 13th Annual Interfaith Peace Celebration, held at Trinity Presbyterian
The Deeper Meaning of 2012
by Rev Leland Stewart

"THE LAW OF POLARIZATION: In every crisis, two things are taking place at the same time: (1) The majority of people follow the crisis and find their world disintegrating, or (2) others either see bottom or hit bottom and are able to move beyond the crisis and into the new synthesis." -- Pitirim Sorokin

Continued...

God, fantasy or?
by Dr. David Thompson

"Those who believe in God without passion in their hearts, without anguish in mind, without uncertainty, without doubt, without an element of despair even in their consolation, believe only in the God idea, not God Himself." -- Miguel de Unamun

Continued...

Orange County, CA, S.A.R.A.H., a URI in North America Cooperation Circle, had a creative, wonderful and successful holidays project called Sock of Love, which is still continuing: "On Jan 22nd, we will be returning to the corner of Ross and Cypress and feeding approx. 300 folks. For this we need your help! If you would like to help cook and/or stuff socks please contact us here."

Church in Hendersonville, Dec. 29, was attended by more than 200 area residents. The program included music by a community choir under the direction of Robert Hudson of Providence Baptist Church. A group of dancers under the guidance of Tarleton Brooks, whose husband is a Buddhist leader, presented a moving dance program.

Highland Park, NJ, GreenFaith's Executive Director Fletcher Harper has been elected an Ashoka Fellow. Ashoka Fellows include Nobel Laureates and influential leaders in over 60 countries who have developed and implemented pioneering strategies to addressing pressing needs at a large scale. Full story...

San Francisco, CA, Here is an Interfaith Center at the Presidio and Veterans story. ICP plans for an Interfaith House of Peace and Reconciliation look to be a significant new direction for the Chapel. Stay tuned.

Sarasota, FL, The Center for Religious Tolerance has a new intern. Laura Robinson is a student at New College of Florida interested in exploring peace building and South Asia studies. She has been blogging about her experiences with CRT and when she leaves for India in the Fall will continue to share how things are going via her blog.

Seattle, WA, New Year's Eve at Green Lake in Seattle - an annual URI tradition with a walking meditation, music, interfaith dialog and cookies. Here are a couple pictures of this chilly but clearly heart warming event.


And here is TIO's January 15th Issue focusing on Meaning Making (with an article by URI N.Am. previous Regional Coordinator Sandy Westin).

News from URI Global

URI Certification, Bylaws, Trustee Selection 2012 - letter from Mark Mancao. This letter went out to all Cooperation Circle contacts. Basically, things came together in the last week of 2012. The bylaws changes passed and we have enough certified CCs in each region and candidates to proceed with the Trustee elections under the new bylaws. For URI North America, 33 of 50 CCs are certified as of 2011, which is slightly above average for the regions. Five persons are nominated and three will be elected for North America: Leila Al-Imad, Michael Pappas, Anne Roth, Rebecca Tobias and Osama Wazan. Bios and possibly short youtube interviews will be available well before the election
International Women’s Day. URI at the United Nations & the URI Women’s Coalition invite you to participate in an online event for IWD 2012. URI and UNA women and men will elect messages to Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women. The women will elect one message and the men another. UNA-SF is co-sponsoring - see their greeting to URI below. More information. To participate contact Roger Eaton.

An invitation from Vancouver: Join us for the launch of Women of Spirit and Faith Canada when we will host Kathe Schaaf, one of the original co-founders of WSF. January 25, 2012, 7 ? 9 pm. Flyer.

ALL ACROSS THE USA: Interfaith Power & Light invites clergy of all religions, lay leaders, and green team members to participate in the National Preach-In on Global Warming over Valentine’s Day weekend, February 10-12, 2012. Those who register on the IPL website will receive support materials to aid in their preparations, including sample sermons, a Global warming fact sheet, and bulletin inserts.

Flat Rock, NC, The United Religions Initiative in Henderson County is sponsoring an outstanding program featuring Cecilia St. King, Peace Troubadour, Sat., Feb. 4, 6:30 p.m. at BRCC. Flyer - this is large but worth it.

NYC, NY, The Commission on the Status of Women meets February 27- March 9, UN Headquarters, New York City with the theme “The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges”. As an ECOSOC NGO, URI can participate in UN Conferences. Travel and accommodations are the responsibility of those planning on attending. If you would like to register, please contact Monica Willard by e-mail and include the following information: Full name, as it appears begins on March 2. Also included in the document is a second letter from Mark explaining the difficulties of arranging an electronic voting option for the Trustee Elections. Read the letter...

Please don't respm the spam! Some advice from Mark Mancao of the URI hub office: The best actions are to delete these messages and to have good passwords for your own online accounts.

News from Other Regions

Mr. Mamoun Ahmed, regional coordinator of the Middle East and North Africa Region has proposed that CCs light a candle for peace on February 1st as a way to share World Interfaith Harmony Week. Please join in. Already Finland says yes as does India. Send word to Nancy Mornany and Sally Mahe if your CC decides to participate. And please send photos and a paragraph to your URI in N.Am. Bulletin Editor.

The Environmental Satellite of the URI President’s Office is now the Environmental Satellite Cooperation Circle in the Multiregion. Read more...

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. However, after the deluge of year end fundraising, this month we feature a couple of CCs that are not asking for money just now.

Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment (OCICE) does not have the usual paypal link - so instead perhaps we might consider well their Creation Protection Campaign: "Never before in history, have human beings had the capacity for destroying the Earth as they are today. This continuing destruction of the environment, on a global scale, seriously brings into question whether humankind and the majority of living creatures can survive in the years to come."

San Jacinto, CA, the Peace Prayer CC requests that anyone in sympathy with The Prayer for Peace the most immediate contribution is his or her daily appointment for a minute at noon.

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, (559) 434-8128, for more details and to explore the possibilities.
on your passport, address, phone, e-mail, place of birth, passport country, gender, height, weight, eye and hair color, emergency contact information of name and phone number.

**Syracuse, NY**, Women Transcending Boundaries celebrates World Interfaith Harmony Week, Jan 29th, 3-6PM. We are invited.

### New Videos

**Dialogue in Nigeria**, Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future - 65 minute 2012 video free on the web. See the write up, See the Video.

Acharya S. P. Dwivedi of the Global Clergy Association of Canada, a URI CC, sings a poem about the power of the natural world. The eastern winds carry the clouds in their laps. Melodies pour down with anklets of rain.

**Israel, Dec 1, 2011**, with the help of a Center for Religious Tolerance mini-grant, women from the TRUST WIN (Women's Interfaith Network) held the Planting and Opening Ceremony of the Garden of the Mothers, creating a serene symbol of the sisterhood of Christian, Druze, Jewish, and Muslim women who have worked together in the northern region for ten years. See the video. Read the full article.

P.K. McCary, URI Global Council Secretary: To my URI family on the first day of Kwanzaa, I offer the hope of unity. Enjoy! India Arie is one of my favorite singers! "God bless the WHOLE world, no exceptions".

**Tomorrow** (Bokra)... a song extolling a wonderful future for the Middle East submerged in justice, peace, prosperity, happiness, equality, and acceptance across all religions and beliefs.

### New Resources

**Rabbi Michael Lerner** of the Network of Spiritual Progressives, a URI in N.Am. Affiliate, has authored a new book on the Middle East: Embracing Israel/Palestine in which he suggests that a change in consciousness is crucial. He examines how the mutual demonization and discounting of each sides' legitimate needs drive the debate, and he points to new ways of thinking that can lead to a solution.

**The URI Community Directory is a great resource.** Here is the latest version, just recently published in December 2011.

**Resources for Catholic Muslim Relations.** Together, Catholics and Muslims form one-third of the world's population. There are therefore lots of reasons for promoting positive relations between these two faiths. This two-page document on the Scarboro Missions website outlines numerous suggestions, tips and resources to enable Muslims and Catholics at a parish/congregational level to learn and cooperate with one another. To read the document, click here.

**The Islamic Shariah and the USA**, Dec 29, 2011 article by Dr Ishaq Zahid with audio. Recommended by Laurie Rovin of Charlotte, SC URI. This article about qisas will be helpful to understand one of Dr Zahid's remarks.

**One God, Three Wives, Five Religions** by Frances Worthington, long term supporter of the Greenville Area Interfaith Forum, a URI Cooperation Circle. By examining the scripture and traditions of the five Abrahamic faiths, Frances Worthington provides us with a better understanding of our shared heritage, as well as, how the faiths diverge into their own unique perspectives.

**The Golden Rule: An Islamic-Dialogic Perspective** - A rare paper about the Golden Rule by an Islamic scholar, Sohaib Saeed. This is a thoughtful essay, well worth reading.

Submit your ad of 40 words or less for possible inclusion in this new section of the Bulletin. Donations welcome, but not required.

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.
United Nations Association of San Francisco sends greetings to URI. We are looking forward to the online election of our joint message to Michelle Bachelet for International Women's Day. Thank you for arranging delivery of the elected message.

As a grandparent realizing the reality of e-books for young people, I have recently created a website featuring some of my illustrated stories for children of all ages: tommahonbooks.com. -- Tom Mahon

Katie Ward
Regional Coordinator
Burlingame, CA
kathrynqward@gmail.com
(619) 804-6882

Roger Eaton
Communications Coordinator
San Francisco, CA
reaton@uri.org
(415) 933-0153

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Principles Of Nonviolence are always worth rereading.

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.

Subscribe

Next Issue, February 15, 2012