The purpose of the United Religions Initiative in North America is to promote enduring, daily interfaith cooperation, to end religiously motivated violence, and to create cultures of peace, justice and healing for the earth and all living beings by connecting and empowering the interfaith movement in the North America region.

June-July 2012

“If we ourselves remain angry and then sing world peace, it has little meaning. First, our individual self must learn peace. This we can practice. Then we can teach the rest of the world.” -- Dalai Lama

URI joins the Global Call to Action

Over the past few decades, there has been an exponential growth of peacebuilding efforts quietly emerging around the world. This emergence has spread over multiple sectors of society and across a continuum ranging from inner to international peace.

In 2012, a group of strategic partners is catalyzing a worldwide celebration of these diverse efforts as part of a growing wave of peace. Their aim is to reach one billion people and inspire a billion actions for peace. This period of celebration and action, centered around the International Day of Peace on September 21, 2012: Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future, extends from June 13th through December 22nd.

Successful 2012 Global Trustee Election

The elected representatives included six women and 17 men; and the following traditions: 2 Buddhists, 8 Christians, 2 Hindus, 1 Humanist, 3 Indigenous, 1 Jew, 6 Muslims, 1 Sikh, 1 Spiritual (the total is more than 23 because 2 trustees have more than one tradition). Michael Pappas, Rebecca Tobias and Osama Wazan were elected for North America. More details on the URI in N.Am. homepage.
URI 2012-2013 Youth Ambassadors Program: Applications OPEN!

URI’s Youth Ambassadors Applications have been released in our region for the 2012-2013 cycle. I know that each of you are connected to diverse networks in different geographical areas, and I would love for you to forward this opportunity to talented and dedicated youth in your communities and cooperation circles. This year, we are looking to choose four youth ambassadors from the North American region. -- Krithika Harish • URI Young Leaders Program Coordinator - read more

Peace Sunday / Peace Fest 2012 - Sep 21-23, Los Angeles

Peace Sunday/Peace Fest 2012 is presented by the Unity-and-Diversity World Council along with numerous other co-sponsoring and participating organizations. It is a transformative weekend-long celebration and educational convergence to help awaken humanity for a sustainable and evolving world. These critical times on our planet today call us, more than ever, to step up and create a CULTURE OF PEACE together. - read more

URI Youth Contribute to Floating Lantern Ceremony in Hawaii

URI North America Leadership Council

Ardisanne Turner, Chair
Anne Roth, Vice Chair
John Denker, Secretary and Treasurer
Sande Hart
Kali Malik
Michael Pappas
Rebecca Tobias
Osama Wazan
Danya Wellmon
Kathryn Ward, Regional Coordinator

Blogs - Youth

Ten year old Ta’Kaiya Blaney has our support *** Youth and Age at URI of Greater Baltimore - Report from Kali Mallik *** Youth, Governance, Peace Building & Social Media Compassionate Seattle - June 26 *** Meet the 2012 NAIN Young Adult Scholars

Blogs - Peace

The Spiritual Power of Nonviolence by George Wolfe *** Vigil at the UN for Arms Trade Treaty - from Monica Willard *** 11 Days, 11 Ways to Change the World *** CTBT Teleconference with Jonathan Granoff *** International Day of Peace 100 Day Countdown from UN’s Ban Ki-moon

Blogs - Newsletters

Compassionate Listening July *** Levantine Cultural Center July *** InterAction: URI’s e-newsletter July *** R
Please take a moment to watch this amazing short film. Interfaith Youth coming together to honor a common value. The first speaker is an agnostic young woman who states she believes interfaith collaboration will heal the world. SARAH Advisory Council member Valentina Khan and the URI’s Krithika Harish also are featured! Who wants to go next year? - read more

Summer of Peace 2012: NPA

It’s safe to say that, if you’re reading this, you would like to see more peace in our world. And it’s probably not a stretch to say that you love to help bring that peace to our world.

Yet how to do that? How does one become an instrument of peace?

Gandhi opened a doorway to the big picture when he encouraged us to "Be the change we wish to see in the world."

In addition to this wisdom, we need the practical steps and actions to create peace within ourselves and in the world. What are those steps? - read more