Like our new look? This issue of North America’s Newsletter incorporates the new URI logo and colors. You’ll find other changes as well. To accommodate all the exciting that’s happening in our region, you’ll find some articles have only “teasers” posted here. The complete versions are being posted on our website beginning with this issue. Just follow the links. If you distribute the newsletter to your members and contacts in printed form, print out those articles you feel would be of most interest to them. Let us know how you like the new format, or if you have further suggestions on how we can continue to make your Newsletter more interesting and useful to your interfaith work in our region....................................................The NA Communications Team

In this quarter’s newsletter:
- Sandy Westin Appointed Interim RC
- “Dancing the Circles” - Leadership in CCs
- CC Founder Elizabeth Stewart Passes
- Interim Leadership Council Gains Momentum
- Draft North America Work Plan 2010
- URI Celebrates the International Day of Peace
- Typhoon Results in Interfaith Cooperation

Interim Regional Coordinator Appointed

Sandy Westin has served as the Technology and Communications Coordinator for URI in North America since September 2008. Working in close collaboration with Regional Coordinator (RC), Margi Ness, she developed the North America segment of the www.uri.org website, established this quarterly series of newsletter publications, and began a program of reaching out to many of our region’s CCs to get to know them better.

When Margi stepped down as Regional Coordinator in June 2009, Sandy offered to serve as the Interim Regional Coordinator in addition to her duties as T/CC until the Global Office in San Francisco could conduct a process of hiring a new RC for North America. Selection of a new RC is expected to be announced by the end of this year.

Dancing the Circles – Leadership in CCs

Anne Roth, a member of the Interim Leadership Council for North America shares the following thoughts gleaned from a workshop on Cooperation Circles held during the URI May 2009 Regional Assembly. Her article includes several suggestions and links to valuable resources for maintaining vitality in our local CCs. .........................Read about it here.

International Day of Peace 2009

Before, during and after the September 21 IDP, announcements of innovative and inspiring celebrations were rolling into our email inbox from around our own URI region and around the world. Here are just some of the gatherings and events that were held this year through the initiatives of URI CCs.......Read about it here.
Unity and Diversity CC Mourns Its Loss

Elizabeth Stewart, co-founder with Roger Eaton of the Unity-and-Diversity World Council in Los Angeles, passed away on Monday, October 5th. She led a valiant struggle with pancreatic cancer, but had only known of her disease for four months. Numerous faith leaders and some outstanding musicians will be in attendance at her memorial service on the afternoon of Sunday, October 18th. Elizabeth was instrumental in founding a vibrant organization which has left a legacy that continues to contribute to interfaith peace throughout Southern California and beyond. Thank you for the gift that you were, Elizabeth.

Interim Leadership Council (ILC) Gains Momentum

In these, the first four months of its existence, the ILC that was appointed at the end of the May 2009 Regional Assembly has made some remarkable strides while also experiencing some turnover in its membership. Eight members of the Council will gather in Colorado in mid-November for a Leadership Retreat to get some hands-on time together to work towards fulfilling its commission by its May 2010 deadline. Read about it here.

Draft Work Plan for 2010 Available for Review

Each year, all Regions of URI are charged with developing a Work Plan which will guide its operations in the coming year. This year for the first time, our region’s Work Plan is being drafted with the direct participation of members of our CCs through a committee of the Interim Leadership Council. All our region’s CCs are being asked to participate in this important process by reviewing the Draft Plan posted on our website. Whether you have suggested revisions to offer, or agree with it as currently drafted, please take a peek at what we are planning to accomplish in the coming year and respond no later than November 15. Read about it here.

Philippines Typhoon Brings Interfaith Cooperation

The Peacemakers Circle and its youth arm, Youth 4 Unity, joined forces to bring relief goods and aid from friends and donors to 500 Muslim and Christian families affected by Super Typhoon Ondoy on September 26 in Tala, Caloocan City, the Philippines. Noted as the worst flooding in the country with more rains dumped than Hurricane Katrina, Typhoon Ondoy brought about almost 300 dead and thousands displaced. Read about it here.