Anne Roth Elected Global Trustee for North America

Please offer a warm welcome to our newest addition to the URI Global Council, Anne Roth of the Interfaith Council at Stapleton CC. Anne was elected as our Global Trustee in January. Anne's education includes a B.A., a Masters of Divinity, and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction. She has published several articles on Biblical studies and social justice issues, and has been an active voice in URI for over a decade. Anne was one of the first women ordained in the United Methodist system in 1977, and spent ten years in parish work on the East Coast before moving with her husband to California to care for her aging parents. In California she spent a number of years working with an AIDS Project. Her bio continues on the URI-NA web site.

Fully 76% of the certified CC's voted in this election. Kudos to both David Randle and Anne Roth for their good campaigns, to the North America Regional Team (the Interim Leadership Council), and to all who participated in achieving an impressive turnout of voters. The vote was 72%-28% in Anne's favor.
Regional Assembly 2011 Location Still Under Consideration

Plans are getting underway for our next Regional Assembly, tentatively scheduled for late May 2011 - a little more than one year from now! Original plans for holding it in Vancouver, BC, have proven not feasible. Possible locations now being discussed include Seattle and the Bay Area, with the following factors being taken into consideration:

1. A major airport nearby
2. Substantial local URI support available
3. Several appropriate meeting and housing venues to choose from
4. West Coast location favored because the 2009 Assembly was on the East Coast

The Regional Assembly Design Team, anchored by Margie Coles of Seattle, would like to hear from anyone who has a suggestion or comment to offer, or would like to take part in designing and producing our next regional gathering.

Featured Event: One Voice of Faith, U.S. Interfaith Conference on Global Poverty

Sponsored by 30 organizations including the San Francisco Interfaith Council, a URI CC, and URI Global.

April 20-21, 2010, San Francisco - The “One Voice of Faith” conference is a catalytic convening of religious and interfaith leaders and activists for networking, education and advocacy towards the fulfillment of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

We are asking our federal legislators for real and effective support for increasing the amount of aid that the United States provides so that the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals can be implemented and the goal of eliminating the worst of the world’s poverty can be accomplished by 2015. More...

CC Spotlight: URI San Francisco Peninsula CC (URISFPCC)

What a great joy we share that for nearly 10 years we have been meeting together on the first Monday night of each month to learn about faith traditions other than our own by listening to and dialoguing in community with those of diverse backgrounds, cultures and belief systems. We have had outstanding presentations every month during those years - some from our own diverse group and others from the wider Bay Area community. We have had the
pleasure of continuing to meet and make friends with newcomers at the meetings, and our diverse and shared experiences have provided new opportunities for seeking peace in the world. More information, photo credit: Dr H. Koya of Interfaith America

Upcoming Cooperation Circle Campfires
No mosquitoes, no smoke, just the peace of quiet talk, trading experiences that have meant something. The last Sunday of each month, 5:00 pm EST, 2:00 PM PST. Our April get-together will be held on Sunday, the 25th, with the discussion topic being "Recruiting and Growing New Leadership for a CC". All CC members and ICC leaders are welcome to attend. Read more about it here.

North America Affiliate Program Launched!
As URI enters its second decade, we recognize that the Cooperation Circle model is not right for everyone. We are therefore expanding opportunities for forging relationships with individuals and organizations who join URI in being committed to peacebuilding.

The Affiliate program is designed both for individuals and for existing, self-sufficient interfaith, faith, or peacebuilding organizations who, while sharing common values and goals with URI, prefer an alternative way to connect with URI other than by forming or joining a Cooperation Circle. Learn more...

Our First Organizational Affiliate
The LOTUS Center for World Faiths (www.LOTUS.org) serves to further the understanding and application of the principle "Truth is One, Paths are Many" embodied in the Light of Truth Universal Shrine (LOTUS) located in Buckingham, Virginia. Contact Person: Swami Jyoti. The LOTUS Center is now listed on the URI North America website Registered Affiliates page. Welcome to The Lotus Center!

Our First Individual Affiliate
Ms. Margie Coles is an active member of the Interim Leadership Council of URI in North America, and is also active in her community of faith in Seattle. She is a member of Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue, and Past President of the Interfaith Council of Washington CC. Professionally, Margie is one of the team of independent professionals that keeps Microsoft humming effectively. Welcome, Margie!
**ILC Spring Leadership Retreat Coming up in Houston**

The Interim Leadership Council and other members of the North America (NA) URI Volunteer Corps will be gathering this month for our second semi-annual Leadership Retreat. We will be hosted by the *Spring Branch Mennonite Church* in Houston the weekend of April 23-25. If you will be in the Houston area that Saturday (April 24) and would like to join us for an evening of fun and fellowship, come by the *Zen 5 Japanese restaurant*. We'll be that group in the back room sharing a rousing good time.

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**URI-NA joins NAIN (and our CCs did, too!)**

As part of your ILC's development of the benefits available to our North America CCs, we applied this spring to have our own membership in NAIN, the North America Interfaith Network. We're pleased to report our application received unanimous approval by their committee, and agreed to extend NAIN membership privileges to all member Cooperation Circles of URI in North America! This means North America's CCs need not pay extra to receive member discounts when attending the annual NAINConnect conference. This year's Connect conference will be held July 24-28 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Two of our Global Trustees, Rebecca Tobias and Anne Roth, plan to attend this year's conference along with our RC, Sandy Westin. Anne and Rebecca will be giving presentations on topics of interest. If you'd like to send someone from your CC or attend yourself, check it out. See you in Utah!
Sandy Westin's March Bioregional Trip to Washington, DC and Virginia

Have brochures, will travel! Our busy Regional Coordinator made a whirlwind tour of the Central Virginia and Washington, DC area last month by car to connect with current and potential members and affiliates of URI-NA. She got to visit the March meeting of the URI in Central Virginia CC, and had very productive meetings with contacts at American University and the Washington National Cathedral, as well as the Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond, Virginia. She said, "It felt like I was plowing the ground in preparation for planting new seeds for URI. I was gratified to find such a positive response from everyone I spoke with. Several expressed very strong interest in becoming Affiliates of URI in North America. I've been invited to visit again, and hope to be able to do so before long.

Sandy plans to make two such "bioregional" visits each year to meet with old friends and new of URI. The specific locations will depend on invitations she receives, as well as time and budget considerations. Our Global Trustees are also interested in doing such visits as ambassadors for URI. Trustee Rebecca Gonzales-Tobias has been visiting in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada this spring and making tremendous gains in building contacts and interfaith connections there.

First Multiregional Assembly by Anne Roth

"It’s much easier to see eye-to-eye when you meet face-to-face."

Advertisement for Hyatt at the Walnut Creek BART station!

Representatives from 21 CC’s met at the Brahma Kumaris Anubhuti Center in Novato, California on March 4. This is a lovely property on the banks of San Francisco Bay. I was there as a liaison Trustee, and also as a member of two Multiregion CC’s. Lance Trumbull, Regional Coordinator, did a fine job of logistics and planning with the help of his Trustees and newborn son. continued...
Unity-and-Diversity Ministry Training Program

The Unity-and-Diversity World Council, a URI in North America CC, has a specialized affiliate called the Unity-and-Diversity World Fellowship. The Fellowship offers Unity-and-Diversity Ministry Training to people who feel called to this kind of world service. In line with this training, we are starting a new form of interfaith services on Sunday mornings in the greater Los Angeles area. Similar services can be developed in other communities anywhere in the world once the training has been completed. For more information.

Seeking an Historian

Now that our North America region is nearing 10 years old, it's time to intentionally capture our history as it has unfolded, both up to now and going forward. This spring's research to compile a list of those in NA who have been URI's "pioneers" has established a good beginning in this direction. Now we need to find someone willing to serve as the North America region's first Historian. Are you a scrapbooker? Would you be interested in serving our URI community in this way? If so, please contact Sandy Westin to discuss that possibility. While it would not take a lot of time, the role of Historian will become an increasingly important one as we grow and stretch our wings as a region.

The Web Guy’s Corner

The URI-NA website now has a North American Interfaith Events Calendar and a News and Views page. Send your events, news and commentary to Roger Eaton. We are canvassing all CCs asking to be placed on your email list. We hope you’ll say OK when we get to you so we can stay up to date with your programs and coming events.

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