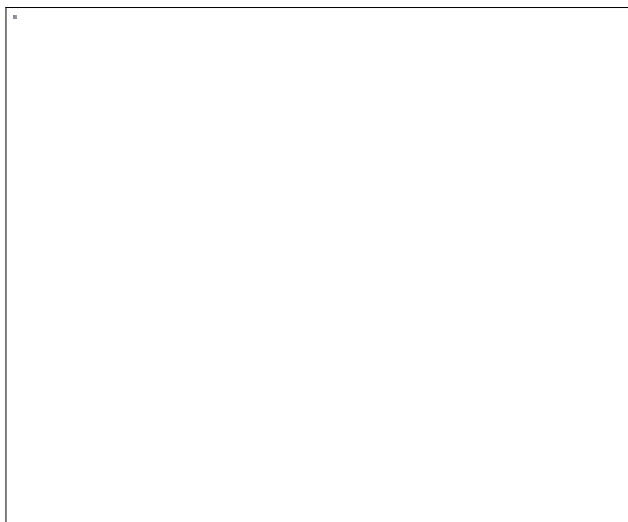




URI eUpdate for February 2004

Our Monthly Electronic Newsletter

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Ektaan CC of Mumbai, India

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1. New URI Peacebuilder Video

See the many faces of URI throughout the world and share URI's story in images, words, and music. Our new six-minute ***Be a Peacebuilder!*** VHS/DVD is available through the San Francisco office. If you'd like a copy, please contact Victoria Smiser at office@uri.org and type

'Video Order' in the subject line. VHS copies are \$15 and DVDs are \$20, which includes shipping and handling.

2. Cooperation Circles Shine Brightly in India

Sally Mahé of the global office attended interfaith conferences in India and extended her time in order to visit URI CCs there. She traveled to Kerala, Mumbai, Delhi, and Cochin. Of the experience, she said:

"The beauty and power of URI's vision shines brightly in India. URI generates hope, provides connections and skills, and engenders trust and inspiration. URI members in India are contributing to humanity's competence for cooperation worldwide. Thank you, India."

Read the full story

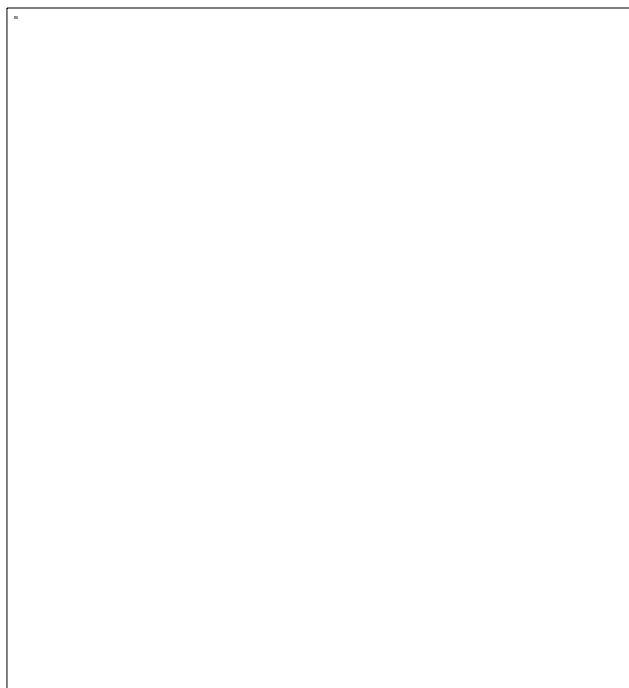
3. URI Supports USA National Youth Violence Prevention Campaign

URI, working as the Religious Sector Sponsor for the National Youth Violence Prevention Campaign, invites faith communities and interfaith groups across the United States to participate in National Youth Violence Prevention Week, March 29 through April 2. This educational and awareness-raising event focuses on effective ways to prevent and reduce youth violence. People from all sectors of society are encouraged to join in activities that demonstrate the positive role young people can play in making their schools and communities safer.

Each day of the week will focus on a specific violence prevention strategy. These strategies include: promoting respect and tolerance, anger management, resolving conflicts peacefully, supporting safety, and uniting in action. URI invites its US-based membership to participate in activities of solidarity and education. Please check our website to see how your faith community or interfaith community can participate at **<http://www.uri.org/youth/vpc/>**.

For more information on the campaign, please visit **<http://violencepreventionweek.org>**.

4. Circles of Light Fundraising Dinner Honors William K. Bowes, Jr.



Top photo - Swami Prabuddhananada, Rev. Heng Sure, and Rev. Masato Kawahatsu participate in the Interfaith Invocation.

Bottom Photo - The Rt. Rev. William E. Swing presents William K. Bowes, Jr. with a book of greetings and gratitude from CCs all around the world.

On January 24, URI honored William K. Bowes, Jr. for his visionary philanthropy in support of the URI mission. More than two hundred people--investment bankers, members of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), journalists, philanthropists, interfaith leaders and more--from around the greater San Francisco Bay Area gathered for a night of celebration and honor.

The evening featured an interfaith blessing for each URI region, the debut of a new URI Peacebuilder Video, and a moving speech by Mr. Bowes on his enthusiasm for URI and the work our '200+ networked start-ups' have accomplished in just 3 years.

The Rt. Rev. William E. Swing, President and founder of URI, announced that a \$250,000 award had been established in Mr. Bowes' honor. The William K. Bowes Award will endow a fund to provide future cash gifts to reward exemplary community efforts by URI Cooperation Circles around the world. Bishop Swing then surprised Mr. Bowes by announcing that the gift was pledged by John and Frances Bowes, the honoree's brother and sister-in-law!

Read more about this event in the Executive Director's Report for February

5. Your Gift Makes a Difference!

Please contribute to our peacebuilding programs with your financial support! URI accepts gifts of cash, stock, property and service. You can make a **donation online** or mail your gift to United Religions Initiative, P.O. Box 29242, San Francisco, CA 94129.

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