### Congratulations to the Cobbler!

When Mary's operation was over and the anesthesia had worn off, she sat at a computer and read emails that had arrived from around the world. Someone had cobbled them all together and made it easy to take in the whole world all at once. Mary was deeply, deeply moved. By the way, the cobbler was Barbara Hartford.

That's what Barbara does. She brings together rich human resources and makes them available in the healing process. She helps you see the big picture. THE BIG PICTURE!

How do I know? Because I have seen her engaged in pictures and peace-building, in human resources and humongous visions. Seen her in action thousands of times. When URI was a baby, Barbara got a picture album and also helped the toddler to walk. Versatile! She was one of URI's midwives, parents, nannies, teachers, God-parents, sponsors, coaches, dietitians, janitors, sages, event planners, and spirit sources.

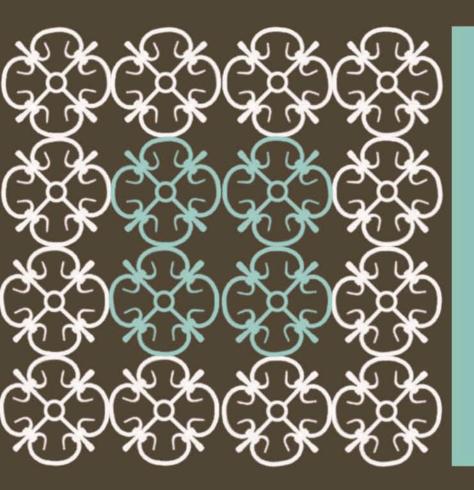
"Spirit sources!" Before URI became an interfaith force....before URI had a Charter, URI was first of all and probably best of all, a spirit-filled community. Barbara was standing there in the middle when this spirit first circulated in URI. When URI had only amateur status, Barbara was varsity squad amateur....ready, willing and able to do whatever needed to be done. Her fingerprints are all over our scene of creation.

As a co-conspirator, I thank you, Barbara, for giving flesh to the URI dream. We could not have had a nobler pioneer than you. I will always walk around with a grateful heart when I remember the "good old days" and your energetic, multiple contributions. You have cobbled together a rich body of work and made it easy for lots of us to take in the whole world all at once.

Congratulations to the cobbler!

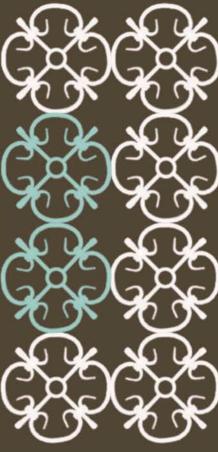
With love from Mary and me, +Bill





## Extraordinary





I have had the privilege of working with Barbara for nearly 15 years and count her not only as a valued colleague but also as a dear friend. Again and again over the years, Barbara has stepped forward to do, in her words, "whatever is wanted and needed – providing support and leadership in a selfless way with extraordinary dedication and competence.

Barbara joined the URI staff a few months before our first Stanford global summit in 1997 and immediately brought great skill and a high ethic of service into the foundational work of helping an organization run effectively. Without this foundation, the great visioning that brought URI into being would never have happened.

Over the years, Barbara has provided support in operations and financial management, communications, human resources and overall support wherever and whenever it was wanted and needed.

In 2000, I asked Barbara if she would begin exploring a unique URI approach to peacebuilding, which might help answer the question I had been asked on a trip to Manipur, India – "What will URI to do help us 'end religiously motivated violence?"

As she always responded when asked to do something, Barbara said, "Yes"; and dove in. Though she often wondered if she could grow enough to meet this opportunity and challenge, over the years she led URI on a magnificent journey – education for herself and others at Eastern Mennonite University's Summer Peacebuilding Institute; fruitful relationships with key people in the field of interfaith peacebuilding, like Mohammed Abu-Nimer, Cynthia Sampson and Libby Hoffman; a peacebuilding training before and during the 2002 Global Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, which led to the creation of the Interfaith Peacebuilding Guide; and, finally, the connection of URI with John Paul Lederach's The Moral Imagination – the Art and Soul of Peacebuilding, which formed the basis for a two-year pilot project and led to the vision for the Traveling Peace Academy.

This is a moment of great sadness, of grief, for me, as I imagine it will be for many in our community.

Let this also a moment to celebrate Barbara as the remarkable human being she is and to celebrate all that she has contributed to the heart and soul of URI for nearly 15 years.

> Faithfully, Charles

### SUPPORTIVE

I met Barbara far back during the URI Africa meeting I think in the early 2000's. We were many in that meeting and I had mobilised the Ugandan participants. Godwin the then-Africa Coordinator wanted us to redesign the program for the meeting. I do remember Barbara working so hard even when some of us including Tendai, Paul Gundan, Mama Joyce had started enjoying a drink while working. Godwin was a swift person in whatever he did and had little patience. He also wanted things done quickly and although some of us were grumbling Barbara worked so hard and always reminding us where we had stopped where we needed to get the dots going. She easily connected with us and she typed all our thoughts and at last we had this incredible program.

That was then.... now Barbara had a close connection to the Africa team. She was always in our meetings, we did the strategic planning for Africa together, she was also a good administrator wanting you to do the best but not doing it with negative energy. When it came to the planning of the MI program she was the one who rang me and requested me to select the team to represent Uganda and that is how Sheikh Khalil, Sr. Lakot and Rev. Patrick joined the team. She had a vision for the MI program always challenged by resources but not giving up.

I also shared a great deal of my personal love life with Barbara and she was also supportive and accommodated my ups and downs. I shall greatly miss her and her warmth to me. Her encouragement to the work that I am doing which kept me going and even wanting to do much more. I have ever been accommodated at her place and the love she and her husband gave me was incredible. I do wish the best for Barb and I do know that she will continue to be a friend. My sincere love to her.

Despina Namwembe





## Memories of a great trip

Greeting from the Holyland Palestine,

I am really sad to know that our dear sister Barbara Hartford is going to leave the Peacebuilding Initiative in 2012. I have known our dear sister from a very close position, she was a real example of URI activist and she was a model of a great interfaith person inside our URI family.

I extend my deep thanks to our sister Barbara for everything she is making and still doing to the whole world and will be glad that at least she will still be part of our beautiful family in URI.

I look forward to meet you Barbara soon.

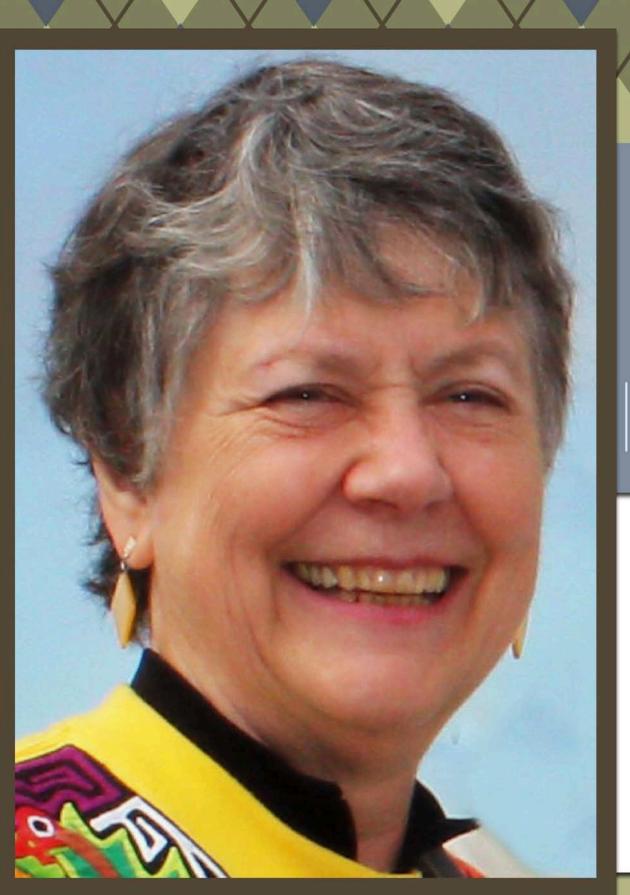
With regards,

Tareq









### Inspiring

Dear Barbara,

You are a treasure!

Your work in the Peacebuilding programme is very inspiring to all of us. Your photos are artistic and beautiful, and you share them generously.

As you are so often behind the camera, it is not easy to find a picture of you. I found this lovely one on the web, which I really like.

You are a wonderful friend and human being. Many memories bind us together.

Looking forward to continued connection, insha'ALLAH, through URI photography and wherever life will lead us.

Warm greetings

Karimah







### Dreaming the Light

Like a good mirror, here is a reflection of your own beauty, passion, creativity

coming back to you:

From the waves of detail Emerge beautiful faces Love is visible

To have this work now Moral Imagination Spectacular gift

Demands all I have learned Creating way beyond that Great work for Grandma

> Barbara Hartford, MI Program 2006

May you enjoy every richness from MI, TPA (and the whole enchilada of URI) - and know that your special gifts are embedded there. You are still creating way beyond that. Who knows what the future will bring to us.

It is a true joy and blessing to me to be your colleague and friend all these years...especially when the space between us was tough - it makes me appreciate our friendship all the more.

Love beats fear again, Yeah!! Sally

## PRAYERS



Barbara and her camera were always present for the richest occasions URI had to offer.

This is one of my fondest memories: URI Global Council members from diverse faiths and countries around the world praying for peace on a rainy day at the DMZ between North and South Korea in 2005.

I always thought Barbara took this photo – but now I see her head peeking out among the group. In any case, it will always make me think of her with love and gratitude.

May Peace Prevail in Korea!

Deborah Moldow



## Mabuhay!







Dearest Barbara,

I am so glad I had this opportunity to journey with you in the URI.

You have been a great friend, always offering your support whenever and wherever it is needed.

I am also inspired by your commitment and contribution to the peace building training

programs in the URI. I am sure these experiences were very rewarding for you. I fondly remember the time you spent with us here in the Philippines.

We will miss your physical presence as a staff in the URI but are heartened that you will always be around when we need you.

I will always remember the smile on your face,

twinkle in your eyes and that camera around your neck – of which you wonderfully get to encapsulate the captivating moments in the URI.

I wish you more successes and satisfaction in your personal life. May the blessings of the Lord be always on you!

Mabuhay! With love, Shakun Hi Barb,

I just wanted to say how grateful I am to you - I feel like you really welcomed me when I first came to URI, and that it made a big difference to have your support over the years. I admire your passion for peacebuilding and all that you have put into it during your career. You're an inspiration, not only for your work but how you live your life every day. You've taught me a lot, just by example. I'll miss you and I hope we can keep in contact. And I hope that you are able to devote even more time to your fantastic photography!

Love, Brit



### AJOY AND AN HONOR



My first impression of Barb is from speaking with her on the phone when she called shortly after I submitted my application to work for URI (yay Craigslist!). It was immediately obvious to me that this was an organization that I wanted to work for; where not only could I pursue my interests in making the world a better place but do so in an environment and with people who truly cared about others and what they were doing.

I have always enjoyed talking with Barb about photography, nature, whatever happens to be going on in the world as well as our work here at URI. I could always count on her to notice when I was having a bad day and offer kind words that would lift my spirit. She also was always aware of making sure that those who weren't in a room had a voice and that people's wellbeing and feelings were accounted for. It was a joy and an honor to have had the chance to work with her and even more so to count her as a friend.

You and your spirit will be missed greatly, your departure from your role as Peacebuilding Director is a sad day for URI but I know that you will find ways to stay involved in it, whether it be through whatever the Peacebuilding Satellite becomes or another path. Thank you for taking a chance on me and bringing me into the URI family, it is something for which I am eternally grateful.

May your life's journey continue to take you to wonderful places and be joined by amazing people.

Sam Ruben





Dear Barb,

I will miss you so much.

I truly value your mentorship, friendship and love over these last few years. You've been like a big sister to me.

Time goes by so quickly but I know this is not goodbye but so long for now.

Love, hugs and never ending blessings,

Kay

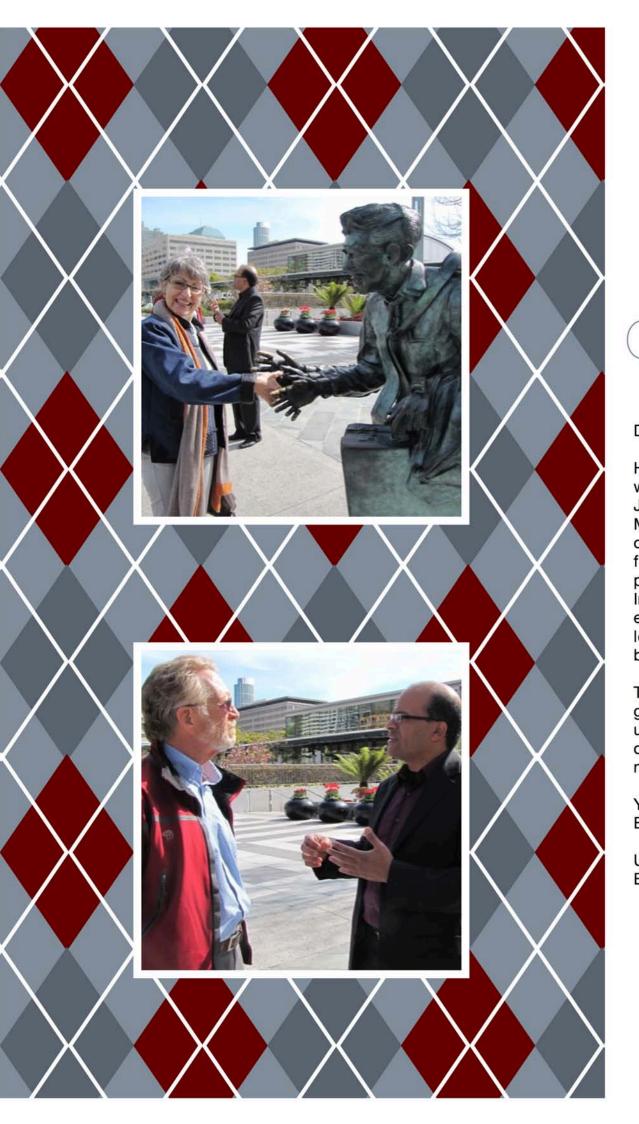
### BIG SISTER

# A Jewel of a Peacemaker Award Barbara Chartford For your service and dedication to URI and the World We love you Rachael & P.K.

Barbara, you have been a joy to work for more than a decade. You have shown us the ways of peacemaking in a plethora of ways. Remember, however, that we are and will always be a team. Thank you for your help with 1000Kalema. We could not have done it without you! P.K.

Barbara, I can only echo the thoughts of all those who have shared their words and voice with you. You are a good friend and deserving of the warmth and praise you have received. I look forward to working with you in the future on other projects through mutual friends and acquaintances.

Peace and joy by yours. Rachael



### GENEROUS

Dear Barb,

Here are two photos YOU shot when we had the chance to be with you and Jim visiting the SF MOMA, last March on the occasion of the Circles of Light 2011 Gala; it has been a fantastic occasion to get to know the peacebuilding woman you are. Indeed your work, your skills and your experience opened an innovative learning pathway for religious peace building.

Thanks for your smile and your generosity! We will remain always united, because U are I, the only question is to know where shall we meet next?!

You are always mostly welcome here in Barcelona.

Un abrazo Elisabeth

#### A Moment in Bethlehem

Through Bethlehem's streets
The bus had brought them all here
To a place 'mid the steep hills
Where wise men drew near.

With feet that were weary From trudging all day Through sites all historic And sacred, they say,

The tourists filed into Yet one more domed hall To see for themselves Where angels had called.

The walls of the round room Had paintings adorned To tell the old story of When Jesus was born.

In hushed tones they marveled. As if it were new, The story unfolded, With shepherds there too.

In awe and in wonder, One voice, small and soft, Brought forth an old carol Giving life to a thought.

Angels were heard up on high One more time, And one by one voices Were added in rhyme.

Six times did the verses go Round the big room. With harmonies true And feelings they bloomed.

At last that dear moment Came to an end,

But into each memory And heart it did send

A gift very precious Without wrap or bow. Each traveler tucked it Away to bring home.

With hearts lifted higher, And steps now more light, The travelers made their way To the bus in the night.

### For Barbara from Sandy Westin



This photo was taken while our traveling troupe was stuck on a siding in Northern India after the 2008 Global Assembly in Mayapur as we were trying to get to Varanassi. That's Susanna McIlwaine walking with Barbara. What a memorable trip!

Dear Barb,

Over the last two years I have been blessed by your generous spirit and numerous talents. You put so much heart in all that you do. I continue to be enthralled with your stories from your 14 years with URI—stories that you tell and stories that are told in your moving photographs.

I don't think I've ever met someone who has such a strong ability to stay genuinely connected with so many people. You've embraced Facebook and find those threads that connect back to URI. Your passion and commitment to transformative peacebuilding laid the foundation for URI's global mission. Your willingness to take on any challenge thrown your way with cheerfulness and skill constantly amazes.

It may come as a surprise that I have learned a lot from you in a short period of time. The grace you have demonstrated during a period of great transition and change for URI has taught me that embracing challenge can lead to enormous personal growth (and to slow down). Your eye for photography and photo-editing has helped me see the depth of your point of view and love of your subject in a single frame. This has helped me pause to take in more than what is directly in front of me. Most recently, your photos of Occupy Oakland have helped me find something I thought I had lost: the connection between art and activism.

It would take pages to describe what I personally will miss when you are no longer in the office on a regular basis. But if I could choose one thing, it would be your smile. It's a window to your soul, full of warmth, faith and love.

I look forward to continue working with you as URI's official photographer and photo editor, but will miss your ongoing presence. I hope we have lots of opportunities for you to come in, take photos, create slide shows and add your art to our work.

With love, appreciation and deep respect,

Debra





### DEEP RESPECT







Dear Barbara,

### Greetings of LOVE.

I am indeed sad to know that you will be leaving URI Peace Building initiative next year. It was pleasure to know you for so many years. I remember when you came to Nairobi for the Regional Meeting, where we spent a lot of time together. In 2009, during Trustee's Meeting at Vallambrosa, we went to see the museum, and after shopping at the Bay Area, you dropped me at the airport. Thank you for being a wonderful friend besides being remarkable member of staff of URI.

Regards, Rattan K Channa



Dear Barbara,

I add my voice to Rattan, expressing my deep appreciation to all your long years of devotion in sake of peace building around the globe.

I wish you, Barb, happiness, good health and love.

Regards, Dr. Shlomo Alon

### GRACIOUS



Thank you Barbara for your true commitment and passion for your work. Whenever we have met, you have always been smiling and have created a warm, positive ambience.

Your photography skills are also second to none! Thank you for your contribution!

Kiran

"It is not frequent that I find no words to express my feelings. I have to accept at this time only silence that expresses how I feel"

Love, Maria

Lucky. We are all lucky who have had the good fortune to cross your path. In the short time I have known you, you have inspired me to so many things. To be adventurous; to be graceful and gracious; to be direct and honest; to be creative; to be strong. I will never forget what you said to me on your 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. When I asked you how it felt you replied, "I feel as though I have arrived." May what comes next be icing on your cake.

With love, Julian



I express my sincere gratitude to Barbara Hartford for her dedicated work for the United Religions Initiative. I know her and I have witnessed her zeal, commitment and passion for URI since 1997 when I first met her at Stanford University, San Francisco. She has been very much part of URI right from the beginning. She was present when the idea of URI was conceived and when URI was born. She has also been very helpful for the new born baby URI grow. I have many sweet memories of meeting Barbara at so many occasions, meetings, global conferences and assemblies all around the world.

I wish her all the best in her future plans and assure her of my sincere prayers and good wishes. God bless Barb and her family!

With prayerful good wishes and infinite gratitude,

Fr. James Channan OP



Dear Barb,

We have enjoyed many fun times together and I look forward to many more years of friendship.

From SF to Korea, NY to Jordan to everywhere you worked and traveled, your smile, knowledge and talents helped build URI.

Your fabulous photos might be the most visible legacy but that is only part of the picture.

You added love, art, and joy to peacebuilding; care and exactness to our ECOSOC application and lots of fun to our GC and staff meetings.

So I will remember or more likely look up 'nrwudi' and think of you! I loved being your roommate in Jordan and the fan and extra food were just extra benefits. The trip to Petra was extra special.

When I started to work with the Mission of Jordan for World Interfaith Harmony Week, it was so special to share the URI Tool Card with your beautiful photo from our gathering in Amman. It continues to be shared with many at the UN.

Your support for IDP has always been appreciated. It was very special to have you and your grandchildren at the UN to experience it in person.

This note comes with lots of love and appreciation for what you have done and for who you are. It's an honor to be your friend.

Wishing you a fabulous retirement. From my experience with Dave, you may soon be wondering how you ever had time to work.

Thank you.

May Peace Prevail on Earth.

Love and Blessings, Monica



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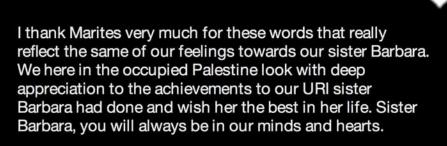
The initial shock of the announcement has turned into one of new hope. I say this after I have had time to reflect on the richness of the gifts that working with Barbara has given me in the course of our shared peacebuilding endeavors in URI. Barbara has not only been a dear friend and a big sister to me, she has also given abundantly and selflessly of yourself to the endeavor of supporting all the things that I believe in about URI. I believe that URI is all about relationship-building, and essential to relationship-building is peacebuilding. She encouraged and inspired me to engage in it, grow in capacity for it, and to find co-creative, courageous, and relevant ways of promoting it in my own parts of the world!

I realize that a turning point has now come upon us and we--in the peacebuilding teams of URI around the world who have journeyed together in the Moral Imagination program and who have received the gifts of inspiration and learning resulting from Barbs' tireless and visionary efforts to support the development of a Peacebuilding Program for the URI--are called to share the richness of these experiences in ways that are bold and fearless, visionary and expansive, inspired by our moral imagination, and filled with new hope and joy in knowing that transformative change can happen--and is happening--in the URI, and we are all here to help each other make this change possible.

I look forward to carrying on and growing with Barbara and all interfaith peace activists in the URI around the world who wish to engage in actions that help end religiously motivated violence and create cultures of peace, justice, and healing for the Earth and all living beings!

This is not good-bye, Barb, but welcome to the vital and exciting world of grassroots peacebuilding through the humble efforts of our Cooperation Circles!

Love, Marites



Your brother Dr. Taleb Al-Harithi and all members of the Palestinian Peace





FEARLESS

Dear sister Barbara,

Greetings of love and peace from India. We returned to India on the 17th November.

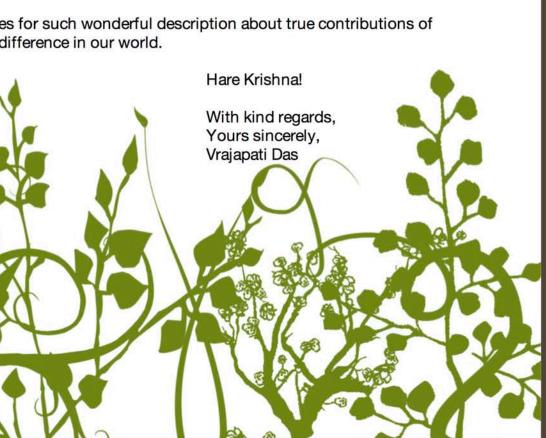
I just came to know about the following announcement and deeply moved.

We did not know about it when we visited URI office last month. Your ever happy reception in welcoming us at the URI office did not allow us to have a slight doubt about such a thing is happening.



Your continuation of working with URI is a symbol of your deep commitment to the vision and mission of URI. We feel honored and blessed to have a sister like you amongst us in the family of URI. May Lord bless you.

Special thanks to Charles for such wonderful description about true contributions of Barbara that made true difference in our world.



Dear Barb,

We are little bit worried that you have to leave officially from the URI staff family at this juncture. Every individual is unique and a replacement is impossible. Barb, you are very special, your gifts, too, very rare. As peace builders, we have been on a journey that is incomparable. Mennonite University, Moral Imagination Program, Organizational Learning Team, MIPD, Travelling Peace Academy, IPRI etc are some of the mile stones in our journey together and when I understand that you have to leave us at this unexpected moment, I am at a loss. There are occasions when words fail and we cannot heave our heart to our tongue.

But Barb, you are a fountain of inspiration and I always respect the visionary in you. Your contribution in preparing the TPA Manual is extra ordinary and I am sure that will be our basic resource for all our future PB activities. You have captured every moment of our rich experience. You work wonders not just with your camera, but with words also.

We will never say good bye to you Barb. We need the services of Jim and Barb and the hospitable atmosphere of your Auckland residence, too, for our ongoing adventures. Please be assured that you have a family here, far away in India, where you are always welcome.

With warm regards,

Dr. Abraham Karickam

IRREPLACEABLE











### Dear Barbara,

I still remember our first conversation when you conducted a phone interview with me. I was sitting out in the steps in the parking lot of Center for Independent Living holding my plant. And I thought maybe I have found a new work home.

You welcomed me into the office and I knew that this was the place for me. Thank you for picking me out of the pile. As we both transition, I think about all that you have given URI and me. When you sing this song....

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me. Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow,

To take each moment and live each moment in peace, eternally.

Let there be Peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.

...know that you have been, are and will always be peace. Thank you!

Love, Rory

Be Peace



My dear, dear Barb -

It is hard to find the words to adequately express my gratitude for the significant contributions you have made to my own development as a peacebuilder, a philanthropist, and as a person. I talk about you to others as the one who created the space for my own vision and my own leadership to emerge more fully into being – you invited it right out of me. And then you allowed me to play in those moral imagination fields with you in a way which both allowed me to make a contribution and to gain and grow immeasurably myself. Thank you.

In reflecting on the core of our work together, some special highlights come to mind to share:

Our work together has been like the castoff Christmas tree that took root sideways in our fields in Michigan – watching things take new root and grow in all sorts of unexpected ways.

Throughout my work with you, you have been dedicated to carving a path for others' growth. You have demonstrated gentle, persistent leadership – leadership that's always been about helping pave the way for others' leadership to emerge. And not only that, you've documented and celebrated that leadership at every turn.

I have always loved the way you see the best in others, and help them to see it as well – with unparalleled generosity of spirit and joy in the discovery.

And finally – I have loved basking in the glow of your zest for life, and your defiance of gravity, and your refusal to see anything that is right and good as impossible.

I cherish our friendship, and look forward to the new ways we'll get to exercise it as we go forward!

SO MUCH LOVE!!!! -- Libby



I offer this poem as a gift to you, and as a blessing and wish for the next phase of your life. xoLib

### NOW IS THE TIME

Now is the time to know That all that you do is sacred.

Now, why not consider A lasting truce with yourself and God.

Now is the time to understand
That all your ideas of right and wrong
Were just a child's training wheels
To be laid aside
When you finally live
With veracity
And love.

Hafiz is a divine envoy
Whom the Beloved
Has written a holy message upon.

My dear, please tell me, Why do you still Throw sticks at your heart And God?

What is it in that sweet voice inside That incites you to fear?

Now is the time for the world to know That every thought and action is sacred.

This is the time
For you to compute the impossibility
That there is anything
But Grace.

Now is the season to know That everything you do Is sacred.

"The Gift" - versions of Hafiz by Daniel Ladinsky

My Dearest Sister Barbara,

The peace, light and blessing of the divine be with you and your family. To be honest I am at loss of words how to write and express my respect, admiration and good memories I have for you all these years I have been working with you. We have been working together to move forward the purpose of URI right from the beginning. I think Ray said it all well what I want to say and like Ray I was saddened to hear that your employment with URI ended. Well in life things has its own time.

In all aspect you embrace the spirit of URI in your day to day work and you have your great share in the history of URI. You left a legacy in the work of URI.

I hope Ray will not mind if I repeat what he said as his words explained who you are to all of the URI family "Amongst your peers, you were respected and loved. You always made yourself available to others, and many of us came to you for information, advice, counseling, sharing of thoughts and ideas. Without a doubt--you were thoughtful, enthusiastic, creative, and very dedicated."

I will not see your end of working with URI as the end of your involvement with URI, but it is the beginning of something new. You are always part and parcel of URI. Will continue to work with you in many different ways.

I wish you all the best in your future new undertaking in life and please do know that I am always here as your brother and colleague for life time. Your kindness, compassion, helping hand, listening ear and big heart will always remain with me and with many others who get the chance to know you and work with you like me.

Please do stay in touch and do know that you are always in my prayer. you are a friend not only for this life time but for life after life

I will not say so long as we are walking in the same path of serving humanity and Mother Earth in the journey of everlasting life

God bless you and be with you in all your walks of life

In Peace, respect and admiration

Mussie



As I worked on this little book of blessings for you, Barb. I realized that I was assuming a role that you played so well and for so many years. More than a few times, I stopped to appreciate your gifts. I feel truly honored to have had all the years of connection with you-like so many have. I will certainly miss you in the day to day work. At the same time, I'm excited to be become your Oakland neighbor. Here's to the next great chapter! Much love, Mark