

# Religion as a Force for Peace

## Annual Report 2013

Dear Friends,

In a recent editorial in the New York Times, Thomas Friedman quotes extensively from Marwan Muasher's new book "The Second Arab Awakening and the Battle for Pluralism." Friedman makes the point that sustainable change will not be possible until an "ethic of pluralism" permeates all aspects of society. He also notes that

"If 500,000 American troops in Iraq, and \$1 trillion, could not implant lasting pluralism in the cultural soil there, no outsider can . . . . There also has to be a will from within."

Friedman has captured the essence of the CRT approach. Our work promotes pluralism in regions torn apart by conflict. We do so by supporting individuals and groups who are working to create an ethic of unity and tolerance from within. And we are having success, not just in the Middle East, but also in Africa and Latin America.



Arlene Pearlman, CRT board member Anna Lewis, and Jacci Tutt

In Israel, where structural inequities between Jewish and Arab citizens have been a persistent barrier to peace, CRT has supported a collaborative social movement of Israeli Jewish and Arab women. In rural Kenya, where the oppression of women has slowed economic development and long-standing ethnic rivalries have led to periodic outbreaks of violence, CRT has helped improve tribal relationships and reduce violence against women. In Latin America, where political instability and unfettered development have led to violence and social tensions, CRT has helped indigenous groups strengthen their voice. In each case, CRT has supported locally-inspired and locally-determined efforts to build a more pluralistic and tolerant future.

Although much of our focus is on the international community, we also support and encourage local peacemakers. This year, CRT established the Elisabeth Schilder Award for Courage in Religious Tolerance to honor individuals who have spoken or acted with courage to promote religious tolerance, diversity and/or social justice. Our first two awardees, Arlene Pearlman and Jacci Tutt, are lifelong social activists and founders of the Women's Interfaith Network of Sarasota-Bradenton. Their lives demonstrate that ordinary citizens can lead extraordinary lives by undertaking seemingly small acts of compassion and courage. Whether working to end racial intolerance in the U.S. or religious intolerance abroad, individuals like Arlene and Jacci are the key to a peaceful future.

We believe that CRT is making a difference – thanks to you. Without your support, CRT would not exist. We look forward to the coming year.

In peace,

Andrea Blanch, PhD Director

#### **CRT BOARD**

Andrea Blanch, Ph.D. President, Sarasota, FL

**Howard Nelson** 

Vice President, Saratoga Springs, NY

Robin Saenger

Secretary/Treasurer, Tarpon Springs, FL

Jelilah Judith Allen Seattle, WA

> William Elliot Roanoke, VA

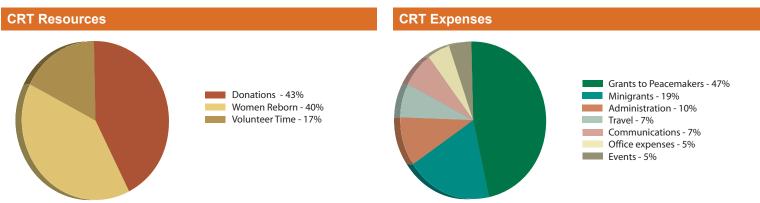
Anna Lewis, Ph.D. St. Petersburg, FL

Please consider including CRT in your planned charitable giving. Ways to donate:

http://www.c-r-t.org/action-donation.php

#### CRT Financial Report

CRT activities are conducted almost exclusively by volunteers and are funded with a combination of donations and grants. Estimated value of volunteer time in 2013 was \$25,000. Contributions from donors totaled \$63,054. A grant of \$60,000 from the Clark Charitable Trust, administered through an Israeli nonprofit, funded the Women Reborn Phase II project. Total resources in 2012 (including volunteer labor and the Women Reborn grant): \$148,064. Expenses included direct grants to peacemakers, minigrants for a variety of small projects, office expenses, administrative support, travel, communications, and events. Expenses were covered by donor contributions. Total CRT expenses in 2012 (not including Women Reborn): \$53,770.



#### Thanks to the following individuals who gave freely of their resources, time and creativity

Nazia Abid Lynn Strauss and Alexander Albee Mary Jane Alexander Barbara Ammirati Demont and Associates Mary Auslander Camilla Awwad Howard Ballinger and Khatiba Grais Scott and Laura Bandoroff Roger and Shirley Bascom Jerome Bass Miriam Bassuk Elizabeth Bates Carol Bechtel Eric Birnberg Fayegail Bisaccia Marsden and Lynette Blanch Heather Boake Gregory Du Bois Joan Branca and Al Bellos Ruth Brandwein Stephen and Eileen Brown

Louise Brunberg Phyllis Brunson Maureen Buell Judy Buffa Kathleen Burgess Elizabeth Burton Luciano Butti Sandy Cadman Mckenzie Cerri First Congregational United Church of Christ Diana Coleman Judi Creneti

Rebecca Crichton Karen Cross Laurie Curtis

Darren Curtis Britta Dedrick Ruth Doehring Shelly Dorfmann Charles and Lois Edwards Sally Edwards Kassandra von Etzdorf David and Nancy Evans Jewish Community Endowment Fund Mary Edda Gamson G.A.R.D.E.N. Carol L. Gaskin Heidi and Glenn Gates Network for Good Pamela Gordon David Gotlieb Jan Lauren Greenfield Suleiman Grosslight Debra Hanson Elaine Hartung Richard and Michelle Harvey Jeff Hass David Hildebrand Shel Horowitz Donna and Lloyd Howell Rising Tide International Lynn Jackson

Katherine Jacobson Edith Jason Thomas and Nancy Johnson Rosemary Jung South West Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice Agape Kapouranis David and Virginia Kendall

Jeffery Kessler Sajida Khudairi Joel Koransky

Lisa Kramer-Torop C. Shaffia Laue Mark and Cindy Lawton Florence Leduc Mark Leventer and Kathleen Anzicek

Marjorie Long Judy Madden Sally Mahe Phyllis Maisel

Ira and Catherine Mandel Richard and Judith Meltzer Kevin Mertens

Neal R. Mettler and Leila Kazimi

Rebecca Meyer Travis G. Milne Irene Mirkovic Sara Montgomery Kamil Mroczek John Neilsen Sylvia Nissley Muriel Nunn Gerald O'Connor Maureen O'Reilly Antony Parry Arlene Pearlman

Ralph and Mary Elizabeth Perry R.L. Ranch Press Cheryl and T.W. Prince

Roger Pritchard Liana Salima Rael Kathleen Rhodeen Nancy Richardson Martha Richmond Betsy Roberts Barbara Rosenberg Laeega Ross

Ethel and J. Gregg Royer

Cheryl Rudin Susan Salasin

Al and Idell Savisky Clifford and Linda Schatz Student Association of Harvard

Divinity School Marcia Schweitzer David L. Shern **Emily Siegel** Rawley Silver

Susan Quinn Simpson Zaid Smith and Anne Muir

Eunice Stahl Martha Stampfer Jeannette Stern Richard Stuart Arlene Sweeting Susan Taylor (ME) Susan Taylor (OR)

Mark L. and Lucy E. Thomas Vered Hasharon Travel

Chandra Travis Brenda Troup

Samuel and Jacqueline Tutt

Mitchell Waizer Jennifer Warlick Ellen Weaver Katie Welp Deana Widder Lois Williams J. Gayla Wilson Britt-Marie Winberg Lloyd Wolf

Julia Wolfson Jay Wolkoff Eileen Yager

Catherine Zatsick and Rose Ryan

### Special thanks for exceptional contributions to the CRT effort

Judith Allen David and Joy Bailey Andrea Blanch Casey and Naraiya Blood

Stephen Corrado and Robin Saenger

Bill and Diane Elliot Fund of Foundation for Roanoke Valley Russell Berrie Foundation Ann Jennings Peter and Gail Knight

Marion Larsen Anna Lewis Howard Nelson Nancy Newman Gloria Rosenzweig William and Donna Van Buren Howard Pasternack Pat Westwater-Jong