

Initiatives

Helping everyday people work together, build community and learn for life!

Elizabeth Houde is ICA's new Chief Executive

ICA USA Board announces an important new milestone

Richard Wilkinson, President, Board of Directors, ICA USA

I am pleased to announce that Elizabeth Houde has been hired to serve as ICA's Chief Executive beginning August 1, 2005.

Betsy Houde (pronounced "Hood") brings to ICA over 30 years experience in international NGO management and leadership, most recently as the European and Russian Regional Director for Kidsave International, dividing her time between Moscow, Russia, and her home in Tempe, Arizona. She was also an executive director of a Washington, DC-based nonprofit, and is especially strong in financial management, grants management, and social marketing.

Betsy's arrival marks a new beginning for ICA that builds on our extraordinary history and the participatory processes we have pioneered. She is energized by the strength she sees in ICA's core programs and the potential for ICA to make an even greater impact in the future.

This fall we will hold events in cities around the US to introduce you and Betsy to each other. Please generously share your stories about ICA and your hopes for our future.

Initiatives is published two times each year by the Institute of Cultural Affairs in the USA, a nonprofit organization promoting life-long learning, collaborative change and community initiative through direct services, practitioner training and innovative leadership. The purpose of the ICA is to equip, inspire and support individuals, organizations and communities to create inclusive, just and sustainable societies—across America and around the world.

Windows on ICA's new world



Volume 20/1

Summer 2005

An opportunity to pursue a dream

ICA's new Chief Executive shares a vision of the future

At a recent conference in Moscow, the U.S. Ambassador to Russia, Mr. Vershbow, said to me that he "was so tired of the world's obsession with hatred." We wondered together how we could change this madness.



I told him about my consulting trip to Srebrenica a few years ago. A Bosnian woman said that the week before, the Serbian man who had killed her husband and two young sons in 1995, spit on her as they passed in the street. Sadly, such hatred is not only in the Caucasus but also in our own backyards.

My dreams are to address this sad state of affairs.

Robert Fulghum wrote, "...when survival was the only concern, one individual did not eat what he found but decided to take it back to the cave and share it with others—a first act

of community in the most elemental form." Somewhere along the path of history...we have evolved into a world that prizes the life of the "rich and famous"—materialism—instead of the value of each individual—each soul—in a benevolent community.

Introducing Elizabeth Houde

Watch the ICA USA web site at www.ica-usa.org for more information as dates are set this fall.

- September 15, **Chicago**
- October 4–6, **San Francisco**
- November 7–11, **New York City and Washington, DC**
- December 7–8, **Denver**

When I first learned about ICA's work...I recognized a real opportunity to facilitate the resolution of disputes and build consensus on neighborhood, business, and citizen issues. My hope is first and foremost that we promote a culture of change that recognizes democratic ideals and values each individual in this world. Working together we can advance civil society worldwide through ICA's participatory methods of conflict resolution and strategic planning.

Elizabeth Houde

Celebrating great facilitative leaders

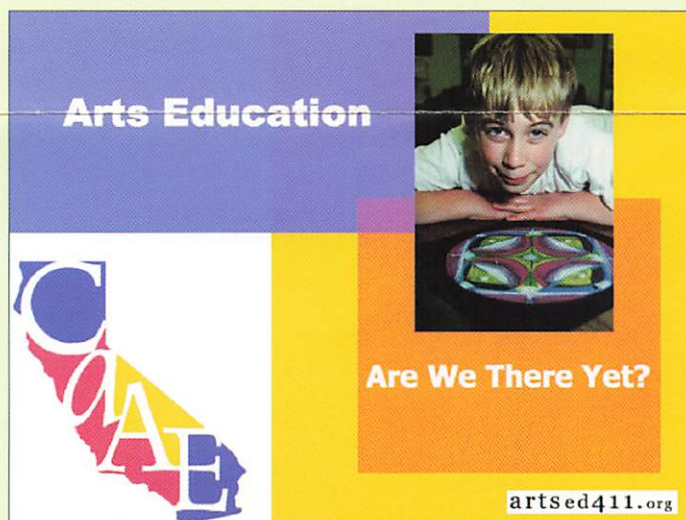
ICA announces the ToP® Champions for 2005

David Dunn and members of the ToP® Trainers Network in the US

ICA is pleased to announce the winners of its second annual ToP® Champion awards for excellence in facilitative leadership. Fifteen organizations were nominated by ICA staff and ToP trainers around the US. Winners range from a major online travel agency to an arts advocacy group. We can highlight only one of this year's winners here. Visit www.ica-usa.org to see the others.

The methods provide the leveling ground that enables everyone to work from the same set of assumptions and toward a common goal.

California ToP facilitators **Jane Stallman and Liz Lindsley** nominated the **California Alliance for Arts Education**, and its Executive Director, **Laurie Schell**. Unlike math or English, the arts need advocacy and support from a larger community and CAEE is using ToP methods to help that happen.



Laurie writes, "The ToP methods have made it possible for the CAEE to work with teams comprised of school administrators and community members, who represent very different perspectives, and achieve consensus around a district-wide K-12 vision and strategic plan for arts education. The methods provide the leveling ground that enables everyone to work from the same set of assumptions and toward a common goal."

Laurie has trained over 15 school district teams throughout California in ICA's ToP methods. CAEE has used ICA-trained facilitators to conduct its own strategic planning and has used ToP methods in statewide and local meetings.

Learn more about CAEE at www.artsed411.org and about the other ToP Champions at www.ica-usa.org.

All fifteen ToP Champions are listed below in the following order: **Person—Organization, City, Title.** To see photos and learn more, click on *InitiativesOnline* at www.ica-usa.org.

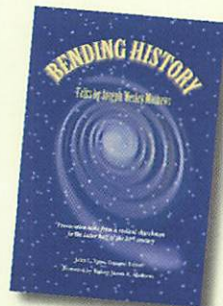
2005 ToP® Champions



- **Christina Welter—Cook County Dept of Health**
Executive Director, Community Preparedness
- **Karen Boran—[formerly] Chicago Public Schools**
Manager of the High School Demonstration Project, now with the Chicago Teachers Center of Northeastern Illinois University
- **Karen Freitag—Southern Illinois Regional Social Services (SIRSS),**
Carbondale, IL, Executive Director
- **Misty Shatto—Sabre Holding/Travelocity**
Southlake, TX, Senior OD Consultant
- **Brett Jenks—RARE Conservation, Arlington, VA, CEO**
- **Linda Brekken, Ann Carr, Linda Brault, Anne Kushner—CA Institute of Human Services**
Rohnert Park, CA, Senior Managers
- **Darci Smith—CA School Age Consortium (CAL SAC)**
San Francisco, Executive Director
- **Laurie Schell—CA Alliance for Arts Education (CAAE)**
Pasadena, CA, Executive Director
- **Deb O'Brian, Sr Kerry O'Reilly—Archdiocese of St Paul/Minneapolis,** Training Team, Office of Social Justice
- **Cindy Maag, George Brewster—Allied Solutions**
St Paul, MN
- **Karen Zeleznak—Bloomington Dept. of Public Health**
Bloomington, MN, Public Health Administrator
- **Susan Day Scherz, Supt—Williams Unified School Dist**
Williams, AZ. Nicole Vorpahl, Beth Packard, Williams Alliance Against Drug Abuse
- **Tesha Hensley—Committee Alliance Against Family Abuse**
Apache Junction, AZ
- **Carla Roberts—Arizona Community Foundation**
Phoenix, AZ
- **Esther Moyah, Nancy House—Gila River Indian Cmty**
Sacaton, AZ

Bending History—a new book of interest to faith communities.

This collection of seminal talks is a window on the profound insights of Joseph W. Mathews, founder of the Ecumenical Institute, the predecessor of the Institute of Cultural Affairs. Order online from www.resurgencepublishing.com.



Summer 'shorts'

Explore the rest of these stories and more in *InitiativesOnline* at www.ica-usa.org.



This Moment in Time Retreat—August 10–12

This retreat offers quiet time in a collegial atmosphere on Lake Tahoe to explore your own inner journey and its authentic expression in your life and work. Learn more at www.ica-usa.org; click on TMIT.

International Conference Center (ICC)—Chicago



The ICC is a great resource for nonprofits.

Dean Keith Anderson, Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, credits this unique ICA service for its “hospitality, welcome and partnership.” After 15 years, 19 groups and 800 participants, Dean Anderson offers an appreciation in *InitiativesOnline*.

“The Long Road Home” forums on refugee assistance in Arizona

The ICA and InterAction, America’s largest alliance of US-based international development organizations, sponsored public forums to explore ways to better assist refugees’ resettlement journey. Read about the forums in an article from InterAction’s *Monday Developments* at:

http://interaction.org/campaign/townhall/arizona_refugee.html. You can read about InterAction’s Global Partnership for Effective Assistance at www.interaction.org and about the forum’s results in *InitiativesOnline* at www.ica-usa.org.



Lowry-East Montclair Neighborhood Academy—Denver

ICA volunteers, staff, and the Rocky Mountain Mutual



Housing Association organized and led a successful leadership capacity building program with a diverse east Denver community that includes Ethiopians, Somalis, and Mexicans. Read about their project to improve a dangerous intersection and their impact on a Denver city councilwoman in *InitiativesOnline*.

6th biennial International ToP® Training of Trainers—nationwide

Last April and May, ICA staff and volunteers helped 20 participants from 12 countries develop facilitation skills, practice teaching methods, and explore how to build democratic, participatory societies. A Chilean participant wrote, “Here I could grow more like a human being and understand that I have the tools to be a part of the change.” Read more in *InitiativesOnline*.





The Institute of Cultural Affairs
Office of Publishing
1060 Bannock Street, Suite 203
Denver, CO 80204-4037

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To subscribe to ICA's electronic newsletter, click on the
Friends' Flashes link at <www.ica-usa.org>.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs • www.ica-usa.org

The **mission** of the Institute of Cultural Affairs in the USA is to help individuals, families, organizations, and communities work together to create inclusive, just and sustainable societies. ICA emphasizes the central role played by culture—our shared understandings, patterns, stories, and symbols—in working for the effectiveness and quality of life of individuals and groups at all levels of society. The ICA was incorporated in 1973 as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

Through **programs** in family literacy and early learning, life transition mentoring, facilitative leadership, organizational development, and community building, the Institute touches thousands of individuals and communities across the United States each year. ICA staff and volunteers also offer capacity building support and technical assistance to ICAs and other NGO partner in nations overseas.

ICA **coordinating centers** are listed below. Call for information about ICA staff, course registrars, and volunteers in California, Iowa, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Washington, and other locations around the US.

Chicago, Illinois
4750 N Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60640
773-769-6363
Email Chicago@ica-usa.org

Phoenix, Arizona
4220 N 25th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85016
800-742-4032 (602-955-4811)
Email Phoenix@ica-usa.org

Invest in nurturing literacy, preventing child abuse

Learning Baskets are used to nurture very young children and Learning Basket training supports their caregivers and parents. Donations to the Learning Basket Project touch many lives.



Learning Baskets are made by two women's cooperatives in Viet Nam and the Philippines.

Your donation of \$100 helps these women support their children by selling this wonderful product at a fair trade price. It also helps provide a unique resource we use to nurture learning with our very young children, their caregivers, and parents.



Your donation of \$150 provides *Play to Learn* activity books for groups of parents who meet regularly to learn how to nurture learning in their young children through play. The book provides over 100 activities that help parents establish loving bonds by playing with their children 'the Learning Basket way.'

Your donation of \$600 for a Learning Basket scholarship makes it possible to train caregivers and parents. Caregivers in childcare settings learn how to give individual attention to each child using the Learning Basket. They also learn how to guide parents so that their children's learning unfolds gradually and naturally because they are working in concert with caregivers.

Visit www.ica-usa.org to explore other ways to support ICA projects.



Helping Hand to Lao Community

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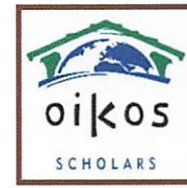
Sojourners Welcomed

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Kick-Start for International Program

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Collaboration with Oklahoma City University

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Initiatives

Autumn 2010

Institute of Cultural Affairs in the USA. 4750 N. Sheridan Road. Chicago, IL, 60640. (773) 769-6363. www.ica-usa.org.

Message from the CEO



Dear Colleagues,

Dreams are powerful. They inspire us to create a better world and propel us into action. The Institute of Cultural Affairs-USA's dream of "releasing the capacity to create positive sustainable futures"

endures today as we strive to reaffirm and transform that dream in the coming decades.

This issue of *Initiatives* tells the story of many dreams. As you see the faces and read the stories of our colleagues, clients, tenants, partners and other members of the ICA community, I hope you'll be prompted to be part of our efforts.

This year many more colleagues than in recent years wanted to be part of our emerging programs. Karen Snyder Troxel and Jan Sanders were facilitators for our Summer Youth Green Advocates Program. Chaired by Alan Gammel and Cheryl Kartes, the nine-member 50th Celebration Committee anticipates to electronically dialogue with 1,000 colleagues about visions for ICA's next half century. The renewed International Initiatives, spearheaded by Louise Singleton and Dick Alton, have connected with 14 ICA partners from other countries and Stanford University. The 38 Technology of Participation (ToP®) Certified Facilitators and 100 licensed ToP Trainers continue to use methods that are simple, elegant, flexible and profound. During the months of May through October more than 80 colleagues worked on the Global Archives project with Marge Philbrook, Pam Bergdall and David Dunn. In July more than 30 colleagues joined with students and faculty members of Oklahoma City University for an Oikos forum on Peace, Poverty and Planet Earth.

continued on page 2

ICA Launches Green Advocate Program

"The Earth is the only world known so far to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is where we make our stand." Carl Sagan

Saving the environment is a large task for anyone to take on, especially today's youth. Yet the Institute of Cultural Affairs' Summer Youth Green Advocates proved that they had a passion to do just that. ICA provided them with the skills, resources and relationships to lead effective green and eco-friendly campaigns and projects. They stepped forward, took the initiative and made their voices heard. In doing so, they helped to bring about change in the ICA building and in the Uptown community.



Hydroponics on the 6th floor

The eight youth participants, ages 18 - 21, were recruited by ICA-USA from the Put Illinois Back to Work Program in Chicago and the Jewish Vocational Services of Evanston, IL. The participants were involved 40 hours a week in projects such as: site visits to green environments, hydroponic window gardening, maintaining an urban garden lot, and performing green assessments in Uptown. Their text book was The Transitions Handbook by Rob Hopkins.

The Green Advocates were also trained in some of ICA's globally-recognized Technology of Participation (ToP®)

facilitative methods that helped them: 1) develop as strong community leaders and advocates, 2) build self-confidence and self-esteem and 3) develop entrepreneurial and facilitative skills that will carry on throughout their lives.



Cultivating seedlings

"How does one empower communities to be sustainable?" is one of the key questions of our times. The Green Advocates program is ICA's initial answer to the question. The concept for this program was developed in 2008 when ICA received its first grant for a summer youth program from the CNA Foundation. In 2009, ICA received support from the City of Chicago Department of Support and Family Services, Central State Services, 46th Ward Alderman Helen Shiller, 48th Ward Alderman Mary Ann Smith, 9th District Representative Jan Schakowsky, and the Uptown Chamber of Commerce to implement this youth program.

The 2010 youth program team was led by Walter Fisher with Pam Bergdall, Terry Bergdall, John Perkins, Jan Sanders, Lesley Showers, Karen Snyder and Nina Winn assisting as curriculum developers and facilitators.

This summer's Green Advocates are an inspiration to us all to do something to help our world. It doesn't matter how small the initial change is, it only matters that we all make the effort to bring about that change.



THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS IN THE U.S.A.

continued from page 1

James Addington has been creating a youth Service Learning Program that will collaborate with national and local universities and nonprofits. John and Lynda Cock's Profound Journey Dialog attracted about 100 colleagues and young adults who were interested in redefining their relationship with the multi-dimensional world in which we live. During the summer the Conference Center hummed with the energy of high school and college students on mission trips to Chicago.

If part of your personal dream is helping organizations increase their capacity to strengthen their communities and training individuals to lead in a complex and rapidly changing world...then I can pledge to you that your year-end gift to the 2010 Annual Fund will ensure a hope-filled tomorrow.

As I complete my first year as CEO, it is my pleasure at this season to extend heartfelt thanks for your support, friendship and goodwill.

Warmly,



Terry D. Bergdall, PhD
Chief Operating Officer

P.S. If you have included the Institute of Cultural Affairs in your estate plans, please let us know. We would like to invite you to be part of the *Legacy Society* that the Board of Directors will be initiating in 2011.

Board Profile: Elsa Batuca



What first attracted you to EI/ICA- USA?

I was still in college when I was introduced to the EI/ICA. It was at the height of the student movement and I was in search of an effective participatory leadership model. I was invited to an "Ecclesiola" dinner where I recognized the value of the "Artform" conversation. From there I attended more courses and eventually facilitated LENS (Leadership Effectiveness and New Strategies) and many other courses.

What social issues are you currently most passionate about?

Access to quality healthcare for all and elimination of healthcare disparities.

What aspects of serving on ICA-USA's board do you find most satisfying?

I accepted the nomination because I believe it is time to give back full-circle to the organization that taught me many different methodologies or models of strategic thinking and community organizing. I hope to contribute the skills I've learned through my extensive management experience in all sectors – including private, public and nonprofit. I am pleased to be surrounded by dedicated staff and colleagues who are fiscally responsible and programmatically accountable.

How would you briefly describe ICA?

The ICA-USA enables people to respond strategically and comprehensively to the contemporary challenges in society through participatory and focused planning, and through the creation of clear, concise and innovative steps geared towards facilitating change.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs-USA and the Ecumenical Institute Plan For a 50th Celebration in 2012



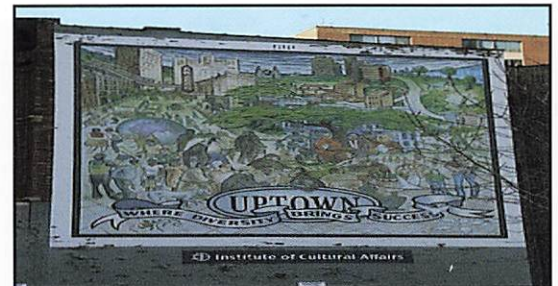
MOTIVATE!
CONGRATULATE!
APPRECIATE!

The 50th Celebration Planning Committee has been formed to honor the starting point of the Ecumenical Institute and the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA). The age of an organization says nothing about the strength of its origin, its vitality in terms of service innovation, or even its culture at any special moment in time. ICA is at the mid-point in a century of care. There is certainly much to consider when preparing for such a landmark occasion.

The committee members, chaired by board member, Alan Gammel, are Dick Alton, Cheryl Kartes, Judy Lindblad, Richard Sims, Jim Wiegel and Donna Ziegenhorn.

Planning strategies and celebratory events that might have been applicable a few decades ago would almost certainly be considered outdated in today's hi-tech world. Therefore, the committee intends to connect with 1,000 colleagues during 2011 through small group virtual meetings, social media and electronic focus groups. This is unprecedented for ICA. The real-time visual and interactive dialogues will illuminate and interpret the history and heritage of ICA.

Our "virtual wizard" for this process and the new variation of the methods will be board member and Technology of Participation (ToP®) Certified Facilitator, Cheryl Kartes. She has enlisted the help of other ToP trainers who have been developing virtual facilitation methods for several years.



Artist and colleague Paul Noah has been commissioned by CEO, Terry Bergdall, to design a celebration logo and paint a new 4750 N. Sheridan Rd. mural above the parking lot.

DO YOU KNOW that ICA-USA's historically significant building has many spectacular architectural design elements? Our beautiful and elaborately carved elevator doors were featured in the Uptown Chamber of Commerce's new marketing material.

Help for Recent Immigrants

The Lao American Community Services assists refugees and immigrants from Laos who reside in Illinois, especially those in metropolitan Chicago, to become self-sufficient, productive participants in American society. Its goal is to preserve and enhance the Laotian cultural heritage and to create an identity and sense of belonging to a community.



Credit "Countries and their Cultures"

Located in Southeast Asia, Laos measures approximately 91,400 square miles, making it slightly larger than the state of Utah. The country shares its borders with Thailand in the southwest, Cambodia in the south, Union of Myanmar (Burma) in the west, China in the north, and Vietnam in the east.

Lao American Community Services has been a tenant in the 4750 N. Sheridan Rd. Nonprofit Center for 22 years. The Executive Director, Thavone Nyatso, said she loves her job because she "is always engaged by it and gains meaning from it. Our constituency isn't the largest Asian community in Chicago but it is a remarkable group of hard-working, tenacious and resilient individuals."

LACS provides citizenship classes, health care outreach and education, interpretation, and referrals/assistance with immigration applications at no-cost to the community. They have a satellite office at the Lao Community Alliance Church in South Elgin, Illinois.

Local ToP® Network Helps Arizona

The Central Arizona Project (CAP) is the largest water reclamation program in Arizona and one of the largest in the country. CAP is responsible for delivering central Arizona's share (approximately 1.5 million acres) of Colorado River entitlement to retail water providers who serve 4 million residents. Current supplies are expected to meet demands until sometime between 2040 and 2060. CAP and its customers are seeking to create a new water supply to meet the next level of demand in Central Arizona.



Project ADD Water (Acquisition, Development and Delivery of new Water supplies) is a public stakeholder process that resulted in a consensus regarding how new water supplies should be shared and paid for by water users in CAP's three-county service area. The stakeholders created a 35 page summary of the emerging consensus which was unanimously approved by the Board of CAP.

Technology of Participation (ToP®) Certified Facilitator, Marilyn Olyer, principal in Partners in Participation, LLC, and her team continue to work together with the Project ADD Water stakeholders to create the structures, policies, contracts and financial mechanisms to implement the project. They are now in the realization and achievement phase of the project with the continuing support of ToP methods.



Sheila Brennemann, Marty Rozelle, Marilyn Olyer and Terri Sue Rossi

Marilyn Olyer and her team of Courtney Geer, John Olyer, and Jim Wiegel have been on board with this project since 2008 and facilitated all the Project ADD Water stakeholder meetings. Jim Wiegel also assisted in the development of a survey and led CAP through their history with the Wall of Wonder method.

Three CAP employees completed the year-long ToP Mastery program. CAP's facilitation team of Sheila Brennemann, Tanya Luther and Terri Sue Rossi used the training to facilitate inter-departmental projects with the Water Information Finance Group (WIFG), the CAGR D Finance Coordination Group, the IT Department, and Resources Planning and Analysis. They have also used these techniques as a framework to create consensus for external projects like the CAGR D Plan of Operation, Project Wheel and Project ADD Water.

"I realized years ago that for decisions to be sustainable at CAP a collaborative process with all our employees and all our customers was needed, in many cases, to make those decisions," said Sheila Brennemann from the CAP team. "The only issue was how best to create a participatory environment. The ToP methods really opened up a whole new world for us externally and internally at CAP."

The stakeholders throughout this process have been individuals who represent large or small municipalities, water users, irrigation districts, Native American tribes, developers, private water companies, etc. from the three involved local counties.

When asked about the impact of the ToP process, Tom McCann, Assistant General Manager at CAP, explained, "We all like to think we are smart people. We can apply logic and reason to data and facts to determine the best solution to any problem. But no matter how good we think our solution may be, if it does not have stakeholder support it has little chance of succeeding. That's where the Technology of Participation facilitation techniques come into play. When we set out to develop a new water supply program for Central Arizona, we quickly learned that there were many different stakeholders with strong opinions on the topic. The ToP facilitation methods helped us understand and reconcile those competing interests and develop a solution that can be supported by all."

The Central Arizona Project was chosen as the ToP Champion in 2009.



Stakeholders share ideas

Chicago or Bust!

It was a whirlwind of a summer at the Institute of Cultural Affairs' Conference Center at 4750 N. Sheridan Rd. One of the primary purposes of the Center is to provide space for education, inspiration and service. The newly decorated rooms, abundant meeting space and proximity to numerous social service learning opportunities made the building an attractive and convenient location for groups of young people traveling to Chicago.

The first (and last) group of the summer was Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ). IWJ gives undergraduate, graduate and seminary students a variety of internship opportunities focusing on labor justice issues all over the country. The group came in early June for their orientation to the program and returned in August to reflect on their experiences. They held all of their meetings in the ICA's 6th floor conference room and enjoyed meals with the Keystone Ecological Urban Community.



First Baptist Church of Inola, Oklahoma

The remainder of the summer found the residential 8th floor of ICA looking like an urban summer camp. School and church youth groups, a total of 173 participants, traveled from as far away as Alaska to do mission work in the Uptown community. Two noteworthy groups were from Green Valley Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama and First Baptist Church of Inola, Oklahoma. Most had never been to Chicago but they left with a love for the city and a real heart for the diverse and needy people in Uptown. ICA's practical focus was giving these groups secure and comfortable lodging at affordable rates. Little did the staff realize the inspiration that they would receive in return.

Global Archives Sojourners Preserve ICA History

During the months of May and October, the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) was host to a total of 80 Sojourners who worked on the Global Archives Project. You can just imagine the uniqueness and variety of skills that were applied to this activity. All of those skills and talents were needed to organize the 170 filing cabinets filled with of the documents, manuals, reports, course curriculum, letters, speeches, outlines, original songs/plays, publications, posters, pamphlets, meeting notes, photos, videos/audio tapes, and artifacts of ICA and the Ecumenical Institute

Every week was an adventure as dusty files were opened, sorted and the papers refiled into acid-free folders. The historical files contain the treasures of the 1976 Town Meetings and Global Community Forums; the New Social Vehicle and New Religious Mode materials, the Spirit Method papers; the core courses of the Academy; and the Band of 24 Human Development Projects, plus, the replication in communities' documents.

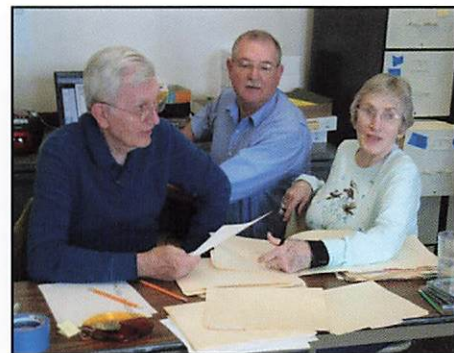


Files before and after

Each week a minimum of six people committed to seven days of work with team leaders Marge Philbrook, Pam Bergdall, David Dunn and James Addington. Beyond the archives work, the Sojourners connected to a rich community life consisting of discussion, study and celebration. They were housed on the newly renovated 8th floor of the 4750 N. Sheridan Rd. building and meals were shared with the Keystone Ecological Urban Community that resides on the 7th floor.

The volunteer archives work is critical for the ICA because there is a considerable amount of national academic interest in the archives collection.

The management field of Collaboration Engineering has indicated interest in researching the consensus-building outcomes and community development projects triggered by the 5,000 community reports on the Bicentennial Town Meetings held in every county in the USA. Another audience for the ICA/EI documents is social science educators who have an interest in the challenges and perceived strategic directions of our nation's modern historical times.



Charles Hahn, Doug Druckenmiller, Muriel Griffin

The historical significance of the collection is partially linked to the initial years of the ICA/EI in the 1960s and 1970s. In a world that was in social chaos and discord, bright young people thoughtfully created, fashioned and refined facilitation and community development tools and methods that brought consensus, compromise and agreement to local communities all around the globe. The roots of those methods initiated the ICA's Technology of Participation (ToP®) methods that are currently being used by facilitators throughout the world.

The ICA Sojourners came from 14 states, plus the Netherlands, Canada and Taiwan. The volunteers were joined by international interns from the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program at the University of Minnesota. The fellowship program is sponsored by the U. S. State Department and designed to bring mid-career professionals to the U.S. for ten months of leadership development work and study. Our two fellows were Todor Efremov and Eka Kvakhadze. Todor Efremov has worked for eight years in public administration as the head of the local economic development sector in the Municipality of Kavadarci, Macedonia. Eka Kvakhadze currently serves as a director of the Local Government Information Center in Rustavi, Georgia. Their short-term affiliation with ICA provided valuable professional development by giving them insight into the structure and function of nonprofit programs and projects in the United States. ICA Board member Elsa Batica connected us to the program.

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Planning Your Legacy to Provide and Protect

The Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) and its mission are thriving in an exciting renaissance begun in 2009 with the appointment of Terry Bergdall as CEO. There is a renewed sense of possibility throughout the organization that is guiding its efforts to uphold the vision of inspiring wisdom and commitment to the social fabric of our times.

ICA is striving to continue the foresight and leadership of the earlier generations into the future. The Board of Directors will be launching a *Legacy Society* that will enable ICA to expand social innovation, participation and community building in all sectors of society.

In considering your plans for the future, you may not only be thinking about how to help your family and save on estate taxes, but also how you might leave a legacy of service to the world. A simple cash bequest, IRA or insurance policy bequest permits you to leave a lasting legacy and can provide valuable tax savings.

If you have included the Institute of Cultural Affairs in your estate plans, please let us know. We would like to invite you to be part of the *Legacy Society* as it is launched in 2011. If you would like to speak to someone who can provide additional information about how to include ICA in your estate plan, please call Karen Sims, Director of Resource Development and External Affairs, 773-769-6363 x232.

OIKOS Conference Sparks Collaboration on Service Learning

The Institute of Cultural Affairs co-sponsored a research conference with Oklahoma City University and its Oikos Honors Program on July 12-14, 2010. The purpose of this collaboration is to develop curriculum, both for use in the classroom and beyond, to prepare university students, and others, to respond to the moral responsibilities and spiritual implications of twenty-first century global challenges.



Leadership teams



Peggy Rowe and Larry Ward

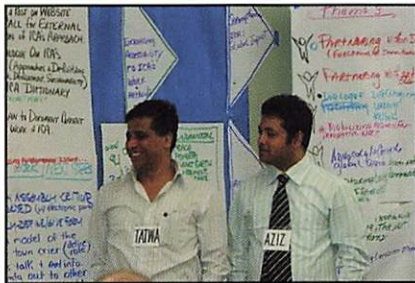
The event came about because of the university's interest in the 45+ years of social engagement symbolized by the EI/OE/ICA Archives. This is an opportunity for ICA constituents to ensure that the past institutional wisdom and experience is expanded upon and practically incorporated into new educational undertakings. There is a potential for ICA to be involved in virtual classroom courses, intern placement programs and academic research based on the Archives.

ICA-USA Renews International Commitment

In June, the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) announced that it would be re-energizing its international program in response to dialogues and recommendations at the International Think Tank that was held in Chicago in the Spring.

Called the "ICA-USA International Engagement Task Force", the purpose of the meeting was to create a practical plan of action for connecting resources from the United States, both human and financial, with opportunities to address innocent suffering in developing countries.

The three-day event was attended by nearly 40 colleagues from around the world. It was especially heartening to have participants from Canada, Botswana, Bangladesh, Nepal and the United Kingdom join forces and collectively reflect on this topic. Friday's opening session featured a special celebration of the completed life of Dr. Don Elliott, a long-time colleague, advocate and supporter of ICA's international work.

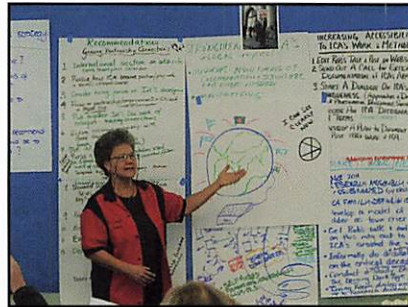


Tatwa Timsina and Aziz Rahman

Starting this summer, colleague Dick Alton and new part-time staff member, Seva Gandhi, have been working to reconnect with ICAs around the globe. In just a short time, they have begun to build relationships with ICA offices around the world, including Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

ICA-USA now has had successful collaboration dialogues with the American Jewish World Service, UNDP Global Environmental Facilitate Small Grant Program (UNDP-GEF-SGP), Stanford University HIV/AIDS Positive Self Management Program (PSMP) and Rotary International.

The team is working on USAID registration and developing an HIV/AIDS report from data collected from specific African ICAs. A significant accomplishment is the establishment of a new consultancy contract with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). Colleague Jan Sanders worked with ICA's CEO, Terry Bergdall, to complete the project on time.



Pam Bergdall

Thank you to the ICA donors that made the International Initiatives start-up possible. More than \$25,000 of the \$100,000 needed to sustain this effort over the next two years has been raised. It is projected that the long-term success of meeting this goal will lead to grant support for the global ICA network and fielding capacity building teams in six sites.



Sally Stovall, Mary Laura Jones, Judy Lindblad, Rosemary Albright and David Scott

There is also a new International Initiative section on ICA-USA's website. Go to www.ica-usa.org to follow the exciting updates there!

ICA-USA Signs Stanford University Contract

ICA-USA has signed a license agreement with the Stanford University Medical School to lead courses in Chronic Disease Self Management (CDSMP) and Positive Self Management Program (Living Well with AIDS) in the United States and Africa. Sandra True (ICA-USA board member), Meshack Mutevu (ICA-Kenya) and Gerald Gomani (ICA-Zimbabwe) attended the Trainer-of-Trainers course at Stanford in May of this year. Charles Wabwire (ICA-Uganda), Sally Stovall and Dick Alton have also attended the Master's training. They have trained 25 HIV positive leaders for Living Well with AIDS in Zambia and two sets of leaders in Zimbabwe.

ICA-UK introduced Living Well with AIDS four years ago with ICA-Kenya in a pilot project in Kenya and Uganda through the support of the Elton John Foundation. Living Well uses facilitated dialogue tools such as brainstorming, group problem solving and individual action planning. Sessions are highly participatory and offer mutual support. The success of the sessions builds the participants' confidence in their ability to manage their health and maintain active and fulfilled lives. The Kenya and Uganda pilots were assessed as being unquestionably successful.

Zambia OPAD has used the Living Well curriculum and now ICA-Zimbabwe is implementing the program. It will be followed by Self Help Groups (SHG) which will give HIV positive people long-term support. The Zimbabwe work is part of a three-year grant from the Rotary 3H Foundation. ICA-Zimbabwe will be a test of putting 1,000 HIV positive individuals through the seven-week, two-hour a week program. The Ford Foundation is considering a Living Well grant with ICA-South Africa.

ICA INITIATIVES



Page 2

Learning Basket works with Bhutanese refugees



Page 3

Sarah's Circle helps women rebuild lives



Page 5

Archive work advances at ICA

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Dear Colleagues:

ICA now has the necessary critical mass for vibrancy. The year of 2011 continues to be a great one. With the extraordinary financial matches of the Sandra True family and Raymond and Tina Spencer, we raised a total of \$180,000 in six months. The inspiring response and generosity of ICA colleagues has moved the organization from cautious reactions to preparation for new programs.

This generous and timely financial encouragement will allow ICA programming to focus on results, harness the power of impact, and change lives.

Now, more than in the recent past, ICA is turning to new ideas, programs, and partners to fuel growth, drive innovation and expand its global presence. A sense of excitement is in the air as colleagues exchange information, network and share new ideas on the upgraded website www.ica-usa.org. The potential of empowered communications, collaboration and creativity builds an all-inclusive stage that may produce 50 events around the world for ICA's 50th Celebration in 2012.

A great piece of advice I was once given was never to think about the next step without thinking of the step beyond that. Always think toward the future. That is exactly what ICA is doing! The celebration's theme, *Midway in a Century of Care - 2012*, heralds the forward thinking of ICA. All 50 events will consist of gatherings, some large and some small, with a

Continued on Page 2

MIDWAY IN A CENTURY OF CARE—2012

Celebration Time!

Over the course of nearly 50 years, the Institute of Cultural Affairs has changed its name, its organizational structure, its methods and its sources of funding in order to adapt to new challenges. As it plans to honor the past, it will also focus on the promise of the future with the theme of *Midway in a Century of Care - 2012*.

50 Events Around the World

The celebration will occur over a year beginning in October 2011. All of these events around the U.S. and the world will consist of gatherings, some large and some small, with a focus on group discussion about the next 50 years. The first gathering is an "Awakening the Dreamer" symposium that will be held in Binghamton, N.Y.

There are bold plans for a world prospective on the 50th celebration. The ToP Trainers annual meeting is in Sacramento, Calif., on January 6 - 8, 2012 and will feature a distinctive commemoration and festivities. The ICA International Conference is in Kathmandu, Nepal, on November 2, 2012.

ICA Chicago is anticipating hosting a day-long conference called "Sharing Approaches that Work." The June 2012 conference will showcase resources including those from: the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, the Illinois

50th Anniversary Celebration



Midway in a Century of Care

Clean Energy Community Fund, Growing Power, Faith in Place, The Delta Institute, ComEd, Center for Neighborhood Technology, Transition Chicago and others.

Under colorful tents in the parking lot, the conference will bring together sustainability groups to build a common vision for the future. The event aims to catalyze local efforts and encourage people in Chicago's 77 community areas to hold their own sustainability workshops and share fairs and to contribute to the success of the Chicago Climate Action Plan. All colleagues are welcome to attend the presentations and join the discussion. Read more about this on the website www.ica-usa.org.

Bright Colors - Bright Future

A special creative artful commemoration is planned. Strips of cloth of diverse colors and patterns measuring approximately 4 inches by 12 inches will be made available at each of the 50 events. Participants at these events will choose a strip and write a brief phrase expressing a hope for the future. These strips will be collected and used as basic working material for a fabric artist to weave a contemporary tapestry that symbolizes a shared vision of the future from the 50 events. This art form will then be unveiled, for permanent display, at the ICA office in Chicago to serve as a historic artifact of the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO, CONTINUED

focus on group discussions about the next 50 years.

This issue of *Initiatives* tells many stories of the new and forward-thinking ICA programs. Particularly notable are the articles on the Technology of Participation (ToP)[®] Virtual Facilitation Methods Course, announcement of the Greenrise Uptown Learning Laboratory, and a report on the collegiate Service Learning Program.

Currently, ICA's greatest challenge is being able to respond fast and flexibly enough to make sure it meets the needs of the Uptown neighborhood, the city of Chicago, and programming across the country. We want to ensure that ICA stays relevant and connected to the needs of this fast-paced society. I'll judge success on whether we established good communication among ICA colleagues, on the degree to which the programs we offer are used and the public profile ICA has in the Chicago and national nonprofit communities.

Supporting the future

Finally, it is in the desire, aspirations and dreams of the immigrant parents who attend Learning Basket classes, the eager college students who gain leadership skills, the earnest nonprofit staff who gain facilitation know-how, that we see the true meaning of what is unique and unchanging in the character of ICA. I remember my own dream as a young ICA colleague: the desire to honor cultural values and shift communities' images of learning and leadership. I have seen the same dream in all the generations of ICA colleagues that I have worked with since the 1970s, and hopefully, fulfilling that dream will remain the leading unchanging characteristic of ICA as it transforms itself for the future.

Sincerely,



Terry D. Bergdall, PhD
President and CEO

P.S. The initial success of this year would not have been possible without the colleagues who responded to the match opportunities. However, the fiscal year hasn't ended and the fledgling programs that have been initiated need to be nurtured, developed and supported through the end of December. Please use the enclosed envelope to mail your 2011 gift or, if you possibly can, make an additional gift. You may also go to www.ica-usa.org to make your gift today.

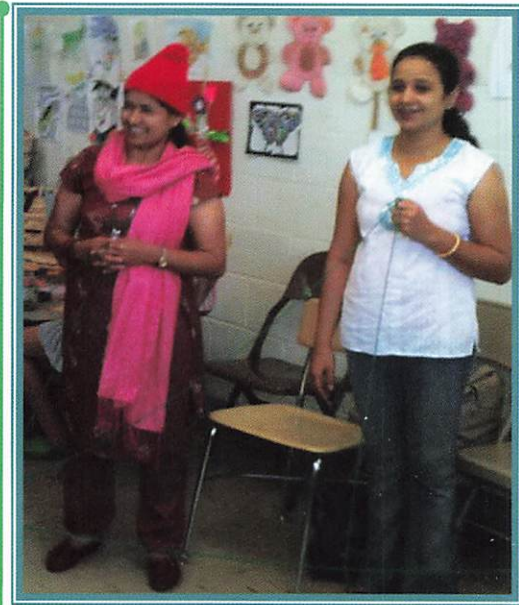
BOARD PROFILE: LARRY LOEPPKE

What first attracted you to EI/ ICA-USA? It was the only organization that seemed to represent hope for the future from my perspective in the late 60s/early 70s. It allowed individuals to put their own life experience into a meaningful sociological context at that historical moment. It was the only group of people that seemed to be intentionally doing that.

What social issues are you currently most passionate about? Caring for Mother Earth with every decision we make. That can best be accomplished in the long run by making our educational system and individuals' preparation to participate in that system as society's number one priority.

What aspects of serving on ICA-USA's board do you find most satisfying? I find it fascinating and satisfying to be part of the re-forming of the ICA in the U.S. While the organizational form of 40 and 50 years ago no longer exists, its spirit continues... and is defining the shape of what we now see emerging.

How would you briefly describe ICA? It's a two-fold answer. Organizationally, the ICA is a nonprofit whose mission is to push on social pressure points that help ensure there is a human factor—that is to say, a self-conscious spiritual factor—in our development of the global village. Functionally, the ICA is a manifestation of this self-conscious spirit in the human community spread around the planet. Either way you look at it, we are best described as Those Who Care.



Bhutanese refugees listen during the Learning Basket sessions in Rogers Park.

SUPPORT FOR BHUTANESE REFUGEES

ICA teamed up with the Bhutanese Community Association of Illinois (BCAI) through RefugeeOne to introduce the ICA's Learning Basket[®] to 20 refugees and newcomers in the U.S. It was an abbreviated program and took place at the BCAI's headquarters, located in the Rogers Park neighborhood. The training consisted of six two-hour sessions. The BCAI provided an interpreter.

ICA's Learning Basket consultant Katie Kretzmann and the participants incorporated playtime after each session, allowing the attendees to test the newly acquired knowledge and skills immediately. At the end of the course, the parents and grandparents improved their skills to interact with their children. They learned how to stimulate infant and toddler cognitive skills and enjoy more quality time with them. One enthusiastic mother said, "The session taught me that even if I only have a few minutes to play with my child, I should take the time with him. I learned that with a simple piece of cloth I can teach my baby many things."

The mission of the BCAI is to promote, integrate, and strengthen the social, economic, cultural and professional values of Bhutanese immigrants and the community at large. RefugeeOne is a Chicago-based nonprofit organization, providing a full range of services to refugees from many countries. One of the largest groups RefugeeOne serves are Bhutanese of Nepali origin who have fled from ethnic cleansing.

WOMEN REBUILD THEIR LIVES

A tenant for seven years at 4750 N. Sheridan Road, Sarah's Circle is a nonprofit with the mission of serving women who are homeless or at risk and in need of a safe space. Sarah's Circle has provided support for thousands of women over the course of its 30-year history.

Today, the agency is guided by executive director Kathy Ragnar who has a passion for growth and stability so that women are not just safe for today – but for the future. She said, “We encourage women to empower themselves by rebuilding both emotionally and physically, realizing their unique potential as women. We are constantly striving to improve and expand as an organization in our efforts to serve a growing number of women facing homelessness.”



Women find support at Sarah's Circle

Providing indispensable services

With a small staff of six, a dedicated core of 200 volunteers and eight interns, Sarah's Circle has substantially grown its service offerings in the last few years. Services include comprehensive physical services, permanent supportive housing, clinical services, a network of resources, and offers community to more than 900 women a year who are affected by homelessness.

Sarah's Circle endeavors to provide indispensable and comprehensive services that may not be similarly replicable outside of Chicago's Uptown neighborhood. Twenty percent of the ladies are chronically homeless; but the majority of them are episodically homeless and middle-aged with skills. Ragnar said, “They are all so inspiring. They are women with persistence and perseverance.”

Although mental illness and homelessness are typically interrelated, each lady has a unique story. They support and empathize with each other because at Sarah's Circle, homelessness is the norm, the common thread. All are welcomed and comforted.

TECHNOLOGY OF PARTICIPATION (TOP)® IN ACTION ACROSS THE WORLD: VIRTUAL TRAINING PILOT IN ROME

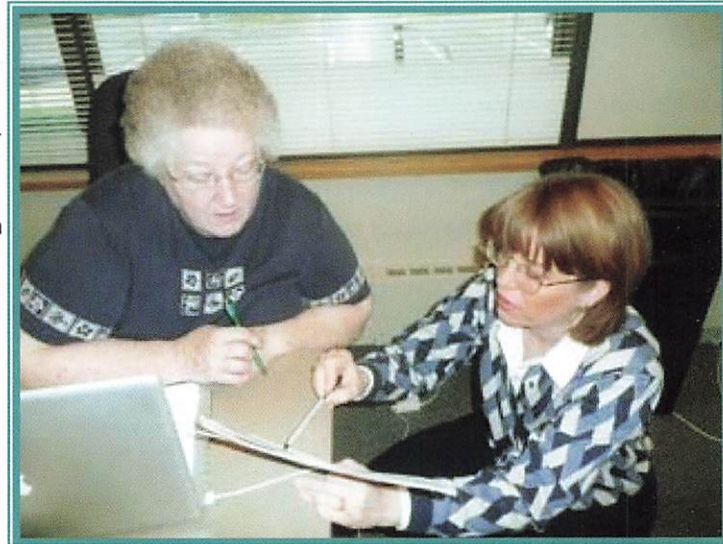
Sheila LeGeros, Ester Mae Cox and Eunice Shankland had a big job on their hands this year in a project for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. The organization has 6,640 people working on their staff. Of those, 3,761 work in decentralized offices and 2,879 are at the headquarters in Rome, Italy. The UN's directive to decentralize all operations had dramatically increased the need to collaborate across geographic boundaries. The Technology of Participation (ToP)® Virtual Facilitation Methods Course was the on-target assistance FAO needed to make the rapidly growing number of online meetings more effective.

Challenges Met

Globalization is driving organizations to collaborate virtually and some ToP trainers wanted to be on the forefront for addressing this reality. Starting in 2009, an entrepreneurial group of ToP facilitators created a virtual team to work on the idea of virtual facilitation. As a result, ICA's new Virtual Facilitation Methods Course is rooted in the Focused Conversation and Consensus Workshop Methods. There are about two dozen ToP trainers and facilitators who meet regularly in jam sessions to enhance their virtual facilitation skills, push the boundaries of technology, and explore new virtual facilitation methods.

Using the team's trailblazing collaboration as a platform, Sheila, Ester Mae and Eunice were ready to tackle the FAO assignment. “I delighted in the invention and innovation that evolved in the FAO project. It was cutting edge. All aspects were new,” Sheila said. Ester Mae and Sheila needed to:

- Select appropriate virtual collaboration tools for FAO's situation,
- Innovate virtual facilitation methods,
- Adapt the Design Eye and the Orchestration Method to virtual,
- Develop virtual facilitation best practices,
- Use design patterns as the frame for presenting facilitation methods,



Ester Mae Cox and Sheila LeGeros go over notes from the ToP virtual training.

- Design the course from scratch,
- Incorporate Accelerated Learning principles for the first time in a ToP course; and,
- Use InDesign to design all the learning materials.

Building Virtual Capacity

FAO contracted Sheila for a year-long project to train FAO employees in virtual facilitation, followed by a six-month community practice, plus coaching. They knew that there were FAO team members spread around the world and face-to-face meetings were expensive and time-consuming. Training virtual facilitators could help FAO design effective online meetings, choose appropriate facilitation methods and tools, and encourage productivity in participants. Departments and program areas had to fill out an application and be selected for the pilot project. Ultimately, 16 facilitators from different offices and four global projects in Egypt, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and Hungary were trained in Rome, Italy.

The agency had the foresight to set-up a community of practice to imbed the skills of virtual facilitation following the training. Sheila supported the FAO staff in the pilot for six months with regular coaching and monthly best-practices meetings. The long-term plan is to have the program become available to all FAO staff who wish to conduct effective virtual meetings.

To learn more about ToP and the Virtual Facilitation Methods Course, contact Sheila at sheila.legeros@mac.com.

STUDENTS TAKE CHARGE OF THE FUTURE

On September 23-25, 2011, ICA co-sponsored, with Oklahoma City University's (OCU) OIKOS Scholars Program a "Caring for Our HOME: Educating Moral Leaders for Ecological Sustainability" conference. This is the second collaboration held on the OCU campus. The 30 students, ICA colleagues and OCU faculty attendees focused on the role of higher education in working with students and communities to create educational programs and community partnerships to care for planet Earth.



Mark Davies, Dean of the Petree College of Arts and Sciences at OCU, has always seen ICA's network of experienced change agents as a "living archive" that has valuable wisdom to share with today's students and faculty. The vision is that this shared wisdom and collaboration can inspire a new generation of leaders who not only reflect the contemporary reality of a more inter-dependent world, but are also empowered with the skills, confidence and practical knowledge to lead.

The distinguished presenters were: Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean of Boston University School of Theology; David Orr, Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics and Special Assistant to the President of Oberlin College; Daniel Wallach, Executive Director and Founder of Greensburg GreenTown; Catherine Hart, Program Director of Greensburg GreenTown; Larry Ward, Director of the Lotus Institute.

The OIKOS Scholars program is a premier liberal arts program for preparing students to engage in lives of social and ecological responsibility. All OIKOS scholars participate in service learning projects, complete courses addressing issues of peace, justice, and ecological sustainability, and are required to complete at least one approved international education experience while at Oklahoma City University.



(From left) Paul Noah, David Dunn and Rosemary Albright of the Archives team working their way through files.

THE THRILL OF THE HUNT

Our society tends to value the present and the future above all. And yet, from time to time, we turn back, to rediscover and reconsider where we have come from. That is what the ICA Global Archives project is helping ICA do. It is an ongoing and important part of the preparation for the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

The archives ... the reports, the tapes, the documents and all the rest ... stand as witness to all that has come before, a guard against those who might reshape or rewrite the past. This all too human weakness places a special responsibility on the ICA's permanent archival team of Marge Philbrook, Rosemary Albright, Sally Fenton and college intern Emmanuel Cole.

This August, the team had the special assistance of Christina Wolf, Archivist for the Dulaney-Brown Library on the campus of Oklahoma City University. She spent a week with the core team plus key volunteers David Dunn, Beret Griffith, Frank Knutson, Bruce Williams and Paul Noah.

Christina led tutorials and left ICA with a three-year plan to create digital archives for the Institute of Cultural Affairs. There are well-defined tasks, a product to produce, techniques and methods for proceeding. There is a lot of rigor and discipline required to create an archive. Yet, the opportunity to reconstruct the past captured in the preserved documents gives life to the future research that simple file folders might not support.

Archival work can appear dull when the materials are antiseptically filed, boxed, and listed. Yet, the team is more involved in solving the mysteries and the possibilities of the records themselves. Their judgments are critical to building paths for generations of researchers, across the entire spectrum of topics, and into an unknown future.

PROFOUND JOURNEY DIALOGUE IN TAIWAN

The first ICA Taiwan Profound Journey Dialogue was held at the International Farmer's Training Center, Tien Mou Branch, Taipei, Taiwan on May 28 -29, 2011.

Four sets of square huddle tables and a total of 21 people including all the guides and translators dotted the room. There were participants from India, Hong Kong, middle of Taiwan and Taipei City, and the U.S. The youngest was 22 and the oldest was 77 years old with equal numbers of men and women.

The latest May Chicago PJD workbook constructs were used, which had four sessions: Living in this World, Transformative Events, Manifesting Our Self-Understanding, and Living Between the No Longer and the Not Yet, which was in both English and classical Mandarin. Sessions included: Time for personal journals with a Life Timeline, identifying my Transformative Events, drawing a picture of the transformative event, song verse creation and working through a personal mission was.

Thought-provoking questions were: How would you talk about transformation? Who is my neighbor? What is my calling? What is my great work? Where have I been in the No Longer? How does it feel in between the No Longer and the Not Yet? How do I sustain myself to be my mission to do my Great Work? English and Chinese verses were created for the Responsibility Song.

The members of the ICA Taiwan PJD team are Richard and Gail West, Larry and Evelyn Philbrook, Jessie Hsiao, Joyce Mei, Chris Lin, Frieda Lin, Jorie Wu, Shawn Chung, and Jackie Chan.

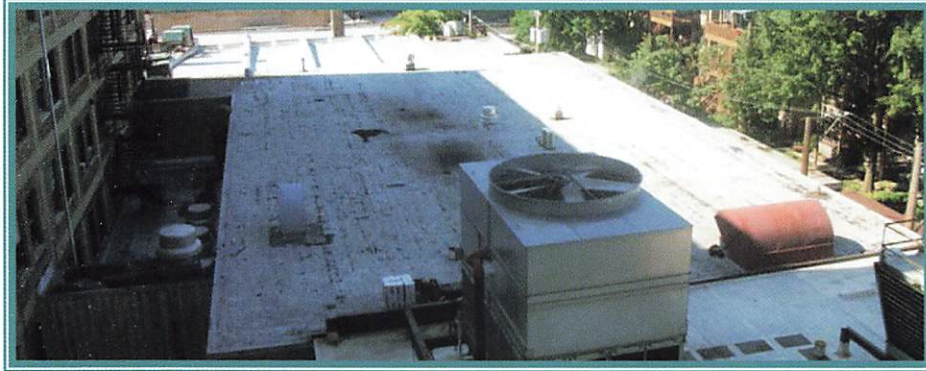
IN MEMORIAM

Grace and Peace

Fredrik L. Buss

Donald R. Moffett

Rodney E. Wilson



Before and after photos of the roof at 4750 N. Sheridan Road.

GREENING CONTINUES AT 4750 N. SHERIDAN

The Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) has launched the **Greenrise Uptown Learning Laboratory** with its flagship building at 4750 N. Sheridan Rd. Built in 1921, the 166,000-square-foot terra cotta building in the diverse Uptown neighborhood of Chicago is a gold mine of opportunity, not only for energy savings, but also for creating a living laboratory to showcase sustainable and resilient community life.

Energy Efficiency Pursued

In ICA's 50-year history of promoting social transformation and systemic change, there has grown an understanding about how environmental degradation undermines human development work. The Institute has a strong moral commitment to pursue a bold plan to retrofit the building and make it energy independent.

The vision is to create a healthy, energy-efficient, mixed-use building for agencies and clients to both live and work in. An important secondary effect of achieving this is to demonstrate that revitalization of a neighborhood can happen without displacing people or reducing services. Additionally, during implementation, ICA will partner with the City of Chicago and tenant agencies in the building to create new clean energy jobs and local employment.

A total of \$1,200,000 in funding has been solicited and committed for various parts of this plan, including lighting, windows, facade work, safety upgrades, elevators, insulation and replacement of kitchen appliances. The ICA has committed itself to a new hot water heater, cooling system repair and a roof replacement in anticipation of putting in rainwater catchment and a living roof. Professionals have been engaged to examine the potential for geothermal, solar and wind energy.

Sustainable Food Source

The tenant agencies are investigating the creation of a self-sustaining, ecologically-innovative building including living walls, vertical window farms and waste prevention. A team is working on how to maximize the use of plants to insulate the windows, grow edibles and clean the air. They will be designing a food production system that includes inside greenhouses, window gardens, an outdoor rooftop garden and a community garden. Also planned are lobbies on each floor with vertical gardens, a rain catchment system for the building and systems for storing excess produce through canning, freezing and drying.

LEARN AND GROW IN CHICAGO

"Developing Leadership in a Time of a Transition" is an academically rigorous ICA Service Learning Program, created for the Oklahoma City University's (OCU) OIKOS Scholars program. The course looks at social justice concerns through the lens of peace, poverty and Planet Earth.

ICA's three-week intensive program started on July 25. The action-reflection method integrates academic study with an intense community involvement experience. Undertaken for the first time, the program is one of the two options offered as a part of ICA's innovative Service Learning curriculum. The other is a semester-long internship. The program has three integrated components: a contextual academic curriculum, civic engagement at the neighborhood level, and an intentional community life.

The participants, four students from the Oklahoma City University, stayed on the eighth floor of the 4750 N. Sheridan Rd. building and did their community research in the Bronzeville and Pilsen neighborhoods in Chicago. For every hour spent in academic study, two hours were spent in neighborhood engagement. Enjoying Chicago was a key piece of the learning experience. Although their schedule was full during the week, Friday evenings and weekends were free for exploring the city. Upon completing the course, the students received three college credit hours.

By the time they left Chicago, the students had a better grasp of global interdependence, the importance of local/micro actions in relation to global/macro challenges, and gained the ability to see and think beyond the silo imagination separating the issues of social justice, ecological sustainability and world peace. "It's been really great with the tools they've used," says Alethia Bartley, one of the four students from OCU. "It's all been wonderful." All the students are studying fields focused on the humanities and social development.



ICA staff and students from the Service Learning Program.

Institute of Cultural Affairs in the USA
4750 N. Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60640

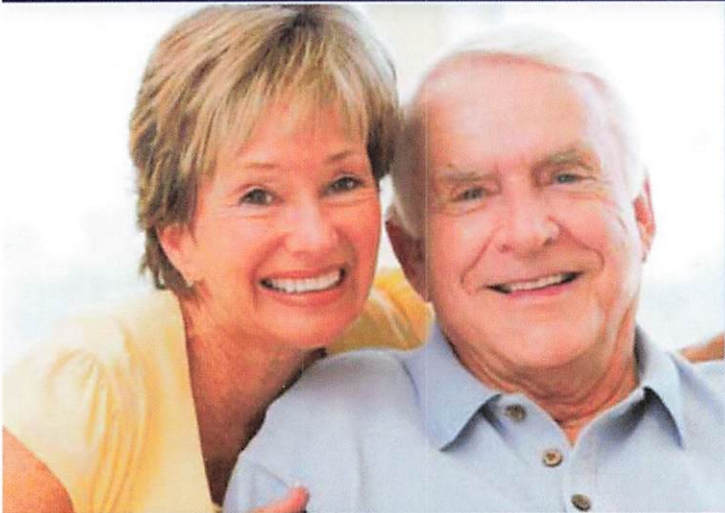
Non-Profit
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US POSTAGE
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Marketing
Connections



~IRA Rollover Gifts~

Charitable Giving Through Individual Retirement Accounts

Congress recently changed the rules for charitable gifts made from IRAs. If you are over age 70 1/2, the Federal government now permits you to rollover up to \$100,000 from your IRA to charity without tax.



 **ICA** The Institute
of Cultural
Affairs in the U.S.A.



Martha was a retired county administrator and a volunteer for her favorite charity. Martha's retirement plan with the county had grown substantially and she had almost \$450,000 in her IRA. Since Martha had all of the income she currently needed, she decided to make a gift of \$2,000 from her IRA to her favorite charity. It was easy for Martha to make the gift and she liked the fact that she could help her favorite charity without increasing her taxes.

ICA INITIATIVES

SPRING 2012



Page 3 - ToP Conference



Page 4 - Accelerate 77



Page 5 - International Initiatives

Dear Colleagues:

Happy 50th Anniversary! As 2012 begins, I am reminded once again that the ICA community extends far beyond the 4750 N. Sheridan Rd. building. No matter where you live, you are a colleague, united by memories, traditions and skills, and by a strong belief in the mission of the Institute to see and seize possibilities.



Dreamers Wanted

ICA, first and foremost, has been and continues to be about people. It's about people who dare to dream of ways to make the world a better place.

It's about people who are able to connect those dreamers together to turn something bravely imagined into something effectively realized.

We are people who dream of the future. The exciting plan to host 50 events around the world has turned into a reality. The focus of the events is your current passions and future hopes. The events and leadership are highlighted in this issue. Please read about them, go to the website for more information, and consider planning an event in your town.

Spencer 50th Anniversary Match

In many ways, 2012 will be a banner year for ICA. I believe that additional support to ICA will be one of them. I'm honored to announce that to commemorate this milestone, Raymond and Tina Spencer have pledged to match

Continued on Page 2



Some of the people attending the first of the 50th Anniversary events at the "Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream" Symposium on October 9, 2011, in Binghamton, NY.

Looking Ahead to the Future

In 1962, a group of young activists joined the staff of the Ecumenical Institute in Chicago. Fifty years later, the EI and the Institute of Cultural Affairs are celebrating a half century of history and work by looking forward to the next 50 years.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs in the U.S.A. (ICA) plans to host an event to commemorate each of the past 50 years. At each of the 50 events, people will discuss where the Institute will go in the next half century. At each event, guests will add their names and thoughts to strips of cloth which will be incorporated into an artwork to be created by Chicago artist



Gina Alicea. The finished artwork will be displayed in the ICA building in Chicago.

The first of the 50 events took place in Binghamton, NY with the "Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream" symposium at

Broome Community College. The symposium was a Pachamama Alliance program. "I saw the event capture the interest and participation of both experienced activists and people new to thinking of themselves as having something important to give in creating the future," said colleague and event organizer Janice Ulangca. "Work in pairs and small groups alternated with

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

dollar-for-dollar every new gift and additional gift to ICA up to \$50,000. We applaud and thank them. This matching gift campaign will build up and boost a series of 50th Anniversary strategic plans including aggressive goals for Service Learning, International Initiatives and Resilient Communities programs.

Dreaming for the Future

This issue of *Initiatives* tells about solid growth in ICA programs and renewed attention to our historic Uptown building. As we use this anniversary year to prepare for the future, we continue to believe people have the power to make good things happen. I know that you inspire people every day to invest in their dreams and you are helping organizations build capacity to make real and lasting results.

For 50 years, you and I have come together and accomplished more than we could on our own. During the 2012 anniversary year, a new or additional donation to the annual fund would maximize the Spencer match and point us in the right direction for the next 50 years. Please use the enclosed envelope or the Donate button on the ICA website at www.ica-usa.org.

Sincerely,



Terry D. Bergdall, PhD
President and CEO

P.S. If you haven't been to Chicago lately, I invite you to come and celebrate the 50th Anniversary at 4750 N. Sheridan Rd. on September 15, 2012. The "Sharing Approaches That Work" (SATW) conference that will document our year-long project to highlight successful sustainable projects in each of Chicago's 77 community areas.

Board Profile: Joyce Sloan

What first attracted you to EI/ICA? What first attracted me to EI/ICA was the understanding the organization embodied of what it means to live a life of service, which includes empowering those you serve to resolve their own issues and solve their own problems. The work EI/ICA was doing on the west side of Chicago was a strong draw for me, because it was a laboratory for demonstrating that understanding worked.



What social issues are you currently most passionate about? These days, I am most passionate about promoting successful inclusion of the diversity that exists within communities as a solution for many of the challenges we face in the world rather than a problem. In my role as superintendent of a school district, this means closing the gaps in achievement and leadership between different student groups.

What aspects of serving on ICA's board do you find most satisfying? The most satisfying part of serving on the ICA board for me is knowing this is a body that shares a deep conviction about what it means to be a global citizen, to promote reflective thinking and to be agents of humane social change.

How would you briefly describe ICA? ICA is part of a global network that works with all individuals and groups interested in strategies and programs that promote better communities, nurture compassionate humanness and sustain global co-existence.

Continued from Page 1

excellent DVD presentations by people such as Desmond Tutu, Thomas Berry, Matthew Fox, Thich Nhat Hanh, Wangari Mathai, Paul Hawken (author of *Blessed Unrest*) and Rob Hopkins (*Transition Communities*)."

The ICA Board held a reception on November 7. President and CEO Terry Bergdall spoke to the gathered Board members and the Accelerate 77 Advisory Board to talk about the goals and hopes of the "Accelerating Green Initiatives in Chicago's 77 Community Areas" project. This project is a year-long effort to gather and highlight the sustainable development activities in each of Chicago's 77 community areas, ending with the SATW conference at the ICA's headquarters on September 15, 2012.

The event will involve community groups, businesses, and agencies of city, state, and national government. A report on the initiatives will document successful local undertakings and key lessons learned in their implementation. These will be shared electronically with organizations across Chicago.

More events are already planned, with the conference in September 2012 being the peak event. Already, events have been set up across the United States, Europe and Nepal. Events in December included a "surprise" birthday party for ICA colleague Richard Alton in Chicago and the *Courage to Lead* book study group in Oakland, CA. Events in January included the ICA-UK Annual Meeting and Conference in Manchester, the Grassroots Participation in Community Change in Greensboro, NC and the Technology of Participation (ToP)® Annual Conference in Sacramento, CA.

Colleagues are invited to host an event in support of the anniversary. Information and advice on how to host an event is available on the ICA website. If you would like to organize a 50th anniversary event in your area, please contact any of the colleagues below:

Judy Lindblad - nj.lindblad@gmail.com
Ellen Howie - rhowie3@verizon.net
Janice Ulangca - aulangca@stny.rr.com
Ester Mae Cox - missestermae@gmail.com

The next step with Technology of Participation

Nancy Jackson, a Technology of Participation (ToP)® trainer and a longtime leader in the network, says “the beauty of the ToP methods is that they can be used in such a wide variety of ways and settings. For instance, you can do large-scale community change or small-scale coalition building work. You find ways to work together and make change.”



Nancy Jackson

That’s what she does both as the returning treasurer of the ToP Network Board and as the operator of Gammy Bird Consulting. The business is named after the gammy bird, a sea duck that is known for sociable quacking behavior. Likewise, Nancy named the business since it “gathers flocks for quacking of

great importance – facilitation training, short and long term planning, transition planning, and problem solving retreats.”

Nancy said that the ToP Network has adjusted the leadership team structure to a more traditional board style with an executive committee and at-large members. The organization still has a number of standing committees and will continue those for various issues. The board itself is made of committed people who aren’t necessarily taking an active leadership role in committee-level work. “We have a whole other circle of people involved,” she continues. “Broadening our concentric circles of people taking an active role.”

She adds that the election of a board is a necessary change to match the lifecycle of the ToP organization as it continues in its process – from a brand new idea to a group finding its legs. “It’s the right thing to do to maintain a volunteer organization so that the workload isn’t concentrated in a small number of people,” Nancy stated. The step also allows for succession planning and providing more opportunities for new members to take a leadership role.



Technology of Participation trainers discuss the day’s activities during the ToP Annual Conference in Sacramento, CA, in January 2012.

ToP elects new board members at meeting

Trainers of ICA’s Technology of Participation (ToP)® met in Sacramento, CA for their annual conference. More than 90 people from across the country were in attendance with at least a third attending their first conference. Terry Bergdall, President and CEO of ICA, spoke to the gathered attendees telling them about the Institute’s activities of the past year. The conference was also one of the 50 Events for 50 Years in celebration of ICA’s 50th Anniversary.

The membership also elected a board for ToP. The new board members are Mary Flanagan as chair, Molly Shaw as clerk, Nancy Jackson as treasurer and at-large members Ann Epps, Heidi Wilson, Dennis Jennings and Suzanne Esber.

Building Trust

Nancy added that facilitative leadership and consensus building plays a prime role in managing an executive transition, which is a key aspect of her work. “The relationship building, organizational marketing and display of organizational culture that occurs throughout the candidate vetting steps is critical to a successful hire,” she states. “I thoroughly enjoy the pure facilitation of conversations, debriefings, debates, and decision-making in a way that quickly

guides them to their desired end without my critical analysis of candidates (although I certainly have strong opinions).”

Trust in the process is fundamentally important. “As you get closer and closer to the real function, they need to work fast,” Nancy explained. “It’s really comforting that we have a methodology that has that. It helps get to key decisions quickly without leaving anything out. It’s very modern even though the techniques were honed over a period of time.”

77 Neighborhoods Project Roars Ahead

The Institute of Cultural Affairs' "Accelerating Green Initiatives in Chicago's 77 Community Areas" project is roaring ahead with seven area universities now participating in the research.

The ICA, with the cooperation of students and professors, is working to catalog the sustainability efforts in each of the city's 77 community areas. So far, Northeastern Illinois University, University of Illinois-Chicago, DePaul University, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago State University, Roosevelt University and St. Xavier University all have students participating in the research either for a formal class or college credit. Nina Winn, Resilient Communities program coordinator, said that the students are coming from a variety of disciplines including journalism, geography and service learning.

Karen Snyder, a volunteer in the project, mentioned that as of early March, there were an estimated 180 students who have been active in the research. At least 54 of the community areas are now cataloged.

The project is a contribution to the ICA's 50th Anniversary celebration, culminating in a "Sharing Approaches That Work" conference on September 15, 2012. The conference will show selected sustainability projects from each community area sharing resources with each other.

Nina and Karen are continuing to reach out to schools and organizations throughout the Chicago area, including Truman College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago in ICA's home neighborhood of Uptown. So far, 19 organizations have joined the advisory council for the SATW conference.

Karen said that they have actually been surprised at the number



DePaul students are among the many Chicago-area college students that are contributing to ICA's Accelerate 77 project.

and types of projects that have been found. "Some of the students came in and told us they found six LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified buildings just in the Near North neighborhood, both renovated and new construction," she explained.

Work is also continuing on a web community that will include information and links to both the organizations working toward sustainable development in the city and people doing the work. Nina explained the ICA is working with graduate students from DePaul's College of Computing and Digital Media and the social media company OhSoWe to build a platform that will allow for the sharing of resources and the cross-pollination of ideas.

Uptown Christian School aims to raise kids with social conscience

The newest tenant to come to 4750 N. Sheridan Rd., the Uptown Christian School (UCS), is currently renting two rooms on the first floor of the building.

Katherine Williams, principal of the K-12 school, described UCS as something along the lines of a co-op school for members of the Jesus People USA community based in the Uptown neighborhood. The school has a strong social conscience direction, with students required to spend a certain number of hours per month doing community service. Many of the students volunteer at a local community garden and help at a homeless shelter. There are a total of 61 students ranging from kindergarten through high school.

As for challenges, "It's pretty similar to any school – accommodating the aca-

demic needs of a wide range of abilities," said Katherine. She added that she and the other teachers constantly work to keep up on the latest educational techniques while trying not to follow short-lived trends.

UCS became a tenant because the building that will ultimately be its home was not ready for occupation. "It was such a god-sent miracle to be able to rent here," Katherine declared. The school has been in Uptown since 1974 when the children of the community needed a place for their education. The nature of the community, where many members share a living space, also allows the teachers to interact with many of the students outside of school. The availability of the space at 4750 N. Sheridan Rd. allowed the school

to keep operating while the new home is finished.

Many of the teachers are parents of the students themselves, backed up with other teachers who have professional teaching credentials. The school is also accredited by the State of Illinois. The set up allows for a very high teacher-student ratio of one teacher for every two students and the one-on-one attention that can help students. With the small number of students, there aren't organized sports, but they do have physical education time and "a rocking drama club," according to Katherine.

"I feel in many, many ways, because of the interweaving of school and community, we have raised really socially conscious kids," Katherine concluded.

International Initiatives builds on successes

It's been a long and busy year for the International Initiatives team at the ICA, and the work would not have been possible without support and insight of colleagues around the world.

In the past two years ICA-International went through major changes; ICA-USA was a part of the reorganization team, and played a pivotal role in making sure that ICAI is an entity that both promotes the growth of all global ICAs and encourages and facilitates a strong peer-to-peer network. ICA-USA's International Initiatives team member and volunteer Dick Alton has been serving on the board of ICAI since restructuring.

ICA-USA has worked with several different organizations, both within and outside of the ICA network, to strengthen ICA's global impact. Inside the ICA network, the Institute has facilitated relationships between U.S.-based Rotary Clubs and African partners in Zimbabwe and South Africa. ICA-USA also wrote a letter of support for the formation of ICA-Ukraine to USAID.

The program has worked hard on making materials and work more accessible both in the U.S. and around the globe. Volunteers and staff have been working with Louise Singleton on updating the HIV/AIDS Peer Educator Manual each year, along with other tools to be used in global community development initiatives.

The Institute has been working on creating formal partnerships with new organizations around the world. This year, it has



Mesha K. Murew (back row, third from left) and Bernard Mwanja (back row, second from right) of ICA-Kenya with members of a self-help group in Kenya's Mwala District in October 2011.

created a Memorandum of Understanding with collaborating organizations, and has worked with global ICAs in capacity building initiatives, evaluations, and fiscal sponsorship. ICA-USA's official partners include ICA-India, ICA-Kenya, ICA-Canada, UMUHUZA in Rwanda, and is currently working on formalizing relationships with ICA-Zimbabwe and Organization for the Promotion of meaningful Development through active Participation (OPAD). The International Initiatives team has also been busy visiting new and potential partners. Dick made it to Nepal and program coordinator Seva Ghandi visited Zimbabwe, Kenya, Zambia, and Uganda. ICA-Zimbabwe and ICA-USA partnered on an HIV/AIDS Peer Educator Training, and in Nepal, ICA-Nepal and ICA-USA

Eighth Global Conference on Human Development

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have worked on planning the 2012 Global ICAI Conference scheduled for October.

ICA will continue to follow strategic directions in the coming year, and is working on scheduling a conference for African ICA Partners, creating a space on the web to share resources and tools, updating the HIV/AIDS Peer Educator Manual, and most importantly, preparing for and participating in the 2012 Nepal Global Conference!

October Think Tank describes strengths of Learning Basket

On October 22 and 23, a group of educators and practitioners gathered as part of a Think Tank to discuss the unique strengths of the Learning Basket approach. The group was composed of colleagues from Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and Illinois as well as Canada.

The gathering provided the opportunity to share perspectives gained after working for multiple years in 16 schools not only in Chicago and Phoenix area, but also with a variety of ethnic groups. Some

of the strengths of the approach included engaging parents as partners in nurturing the development of young children; acknowledging and affirming cultural differences; flexibility of approach to complement school outreach initiatives and home visiting requirements as well as multiple curricula. They also involve incorporating a variety of learning methods that embed critical thinking and problem solving and strengthens parents to be contributors to their children's learning experience.

Those gathered for the session blended their perspectives and experience to determine the critical strategic actions needed to position the Learning Basket approach as a resource in the concern for School Readiness. The group determined that the program approach that emphasizes the power of cultural differences and identity, and the importance of socio-emotional development for both children and parents provides a needed emphasis to programs concerned with children's learning success.

Institute of Cultural Affairs
4750 N. Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60640

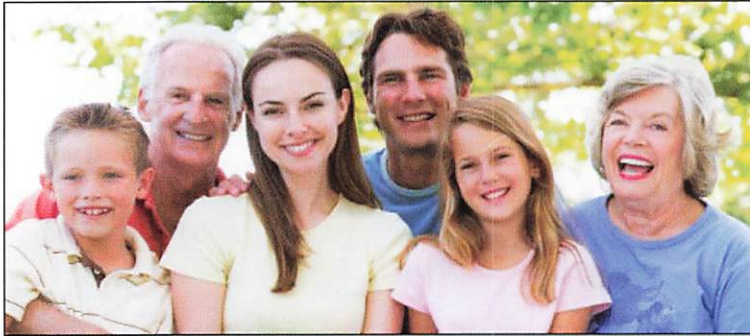
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The Archives: Rediscovering the Past to Inform the Future

The purpose of the Archives project is threefold:

- to move the 50 years of materials, recordings and photographs from the basement to the new Archives area on the sixth floor;
- to organize the vast collection in a way that allows future research; and
- to have the information available to the public.

Christina Wolf, an archivist at Oklahoma City University's Dulaney-Browne Library, has been instrumental in assisting the Archives staff and volunteers to move forward on these goals.

So far, a quarter of the file cabinets have been sorted and organized. A grant has been submitted for funds for digital scanning equipment to allow the material to be stored in a stable format. In December, a group of volunteers found files that held the Fifth City Preschool and Emerging Generation Curriculum.

They also discovered many ICA speeches made from 1970-1980 that were anonymous. The Archives Team is organizing the transcripts and hopes to identify the authors of each. If you are familiar with this period of history and would be willing to help identify the authors, Marge Philbrook will send you a list of the "unknown" documents for you to help identify.

As always, the Archives Team needs more hands in sorting and organizing. Contact Marge to find out how you can help at mphilbrook@gmail.com.

INITIATIVES



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Learning Basket Pilots
a Success



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Zimbabwe HIV/AIDS...
Learning to Live Well



Page 5

The Unfolding Story of the
Archives Project

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Colleagues,

As this issue of Initiatives goes to press, the country is again tied in knots of polarization and animosity at a national level. With the 24-hour news cycle constantly fanning the flames of a confrontational narrative, urgent sustainability issues facing our planet are continually pushed to the margins where they apparently receive scant attention. It is easy to succumb to the sheer volume of negativity that dominates so much public discourse today.

Yet dramatic positive action is occurring all around us as people in local communities, associations, and organizations undertake creative initiatives based on their concerns, interests, and ideas for innovation. Last year, ICA identified over 900 of these in all 77 communities of Chicago. It is through connecting local initiatives like these in peer-to-peer relationships that shared vision is created and new knowledge, practices, courage and commitment are generated. Rather than trying to convince people to change, we understand our task today to be one of connecting kindred spirits to spur on collaborative efforts that are already taking place.

This has long been a driving motivation behind ICA's Accelerate 77 program in Chicago's community areas.

Continued on Page 2

ACCELERATE 77 FACILITATES A COMMON VOICE TOWARDS COLLABORATIVE ACTION

ICA's Accelerate 77 project continues to flourish as the implementation of Phase III gains momentum. At the beginning of 2013, the Accelerate 77 team hosted several sustainability vision workshops across the city, organized the first local Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network (CSLN) gathering, created a pilot sustainability roadmap effort with Chicago's Austin community, and held a forum on Building Community Energy Strategies for the City of Chicago.



In addition to doing work in and around Chicago, Accelerate 77 was also invited to present at the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) Conference in Minneapolis, the Garrison Institute's Climate, Mind, and Behavior Symposium in New York, and the City of Chicago's Earth Day Data series.

The year began with regional gatherings on the north, west, south and south west sides of Chicago to cultivate a better understanding of the trajectory Phase III might take. One of the ideas that emerged from the community meetings and internal discussions among the Accelerate 77 team was the creation of a citywide network, the Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network. The network aims to connect local leaders and organizations, develop a common voice, and inspire new ideas through increased peer-to-peer learning and collaboration.

On Tuesday, October 1, ICA GreenRise hosted the first meeting of the network. Nearly 50 community leaders attended, representing over 40 organizations throughout the city. Participants discussed common values, what shape and form the network could take, and goals they hoped would be accomplished as a result of organizing together. Key ideas that emerged included a needs and asset pairing between organizations within the network, capacity building through interorganizational knowledge, and skill sharing. A resounding message heard throughout the gathering was how the diversity of knowledge within the room expanded thinking and innovation via a multidisciplinary lens of sustainability.



Continued on Page 3

MESSAGE FROM ED CONTINUED...

As the accompanying report in this issue highlights, we are now building upon the success of last year's work in a new phase focused on the creation of a sustainability network rooted in innovative community work. As the network grows, based on lateral connections between communities, their collective bottom-up voice is strengthened in vertical interactions with programs of regional and municipal planning agencies from the top-down. This creates a new working relationship between community initiatives and the city thereby giving practical form to the in-between space of collaborative government.

Collaboration is also a key feature at home with tenants and residents of the "ICA GreenRise Building" in Uptown. Beyond Chicago, developing collaborative relationships have been central to ICA's Technology of Participation (ToP)® program for the past twenty years across the entire country. It remains a cornerstone as well for ICA-USA's international partnerships with other national members of ICA International in their community work. Collaborative efforts like these are actions that anyone can administer as an antidote to toxic polarization.

We are grateful to all of our supporters in this collaborative work, from individual contributors to corporate sponsors like the Boeing Corporation, as well as the volunteer and board members who give so much of their time. Thank you all for helping to make it possible.

Sincerely,
Terry D. Bergdall, PhD
President and CEO



STAFF PROFILE: FARA TAYLOR



How long have you been working at the ICA?

Since September of 2008 - Just a little over 5 years.

What is your role at the ICA?

Finance/HR Administrator is my official title, but my relationship to it is, if there is a dollar sign in front of it, its my responsibility. I am also the official ICA contact for the ICA/ToP liason, Anne Neal.

What are your favorite things about the ICA?

I think the ICA culture suits me- I appreciate the autonomy and flexibility of the work environment. I

like the fact that every conversation we have here is interesting and meaningful. There is such a wealth of knowledge here I have the opportunity to have unending in-depth conversations -and talking is one of my favorite things to do!

An interesting fact:

I am currently in the process of becoming a resident of the 7th floor community at ICA GreenRise.

GROWING GREENRISE



Rendering of GreenRise streetscape proposal

2013 has been an exciting year of innovation for the ICA GreenRise building. In addition to receiving Landmark Status, GreenRise joined Retrofit Chicago and committed to reducing its energy consumption by 20% within two years, welcomed over 500 visitors during Open House Chicago and officially signed the contract to have over 500 solar panels put on its second and eighth floor roofs.

In addition, 2014 will be the start of the 'GreenRise Streetscape' project. Designed and sketched by Tim Watson in collaboration with the GreenRise team, the project will beautify the spaces around the outside of the building along both the Sheridan and Lawrence sidewalks.

Amidst the great strides the building is taking in energy reduction and raising its public profile, excitement continues to grow as the Incubator Program, an idea conceived earlier this year, shifts from planning stages to implementation this November.

The Incubator Program will support social enterprises at their current stage of development. ICA GreenRise will provides the office space (private or shared), mailboxes (actual or virtual), 'getting it done' workshops, fiscal sponsorship, and the opportunity to network and connect with other nonprofits. The goal is to provide targeted support where assistance is requested from a budding non-profit: from business plan workshops to nuts and bolts support with Articles of Incorporation, FEIN registration, setting up business financial systems and websites. The Incubator is located in a 3,200 square foot physical space on the first floor of ICA GreenRise. You can learn more about the Incubator Program on the website www.ica-usa.org.

ACCELERATE 77 CONTINUED...

Another part of Phase III that gained momentum this year was the participatory community sustainability roadmaps. The initial pilot program took place in partnership with Alderman Deborah Graham of Chicago's Austin community. The project launched on September 4th at the Columbus Park Refectory with close to 100 Austin residents participating in a vision workshop and dialogue that expressed what a sustainable Austin would look like by 2015. The second session was held at Shriner Children's Hospital October 2nd with over 75 attendees taking the vision, breaking off into teams to create focused 'working group roadmaps' for each vision category of particular interest to the community.

To add to the growth, this November AC77 held its very first community centered forum. Titled "The Future of Chicago's Energy: Building Community Energy Strategies", the forum looked to bridge the gap in dialogue between grassroots community based organizations, resource providers, and policy makers. The day began with an imaginal exercise around energy. Participants then broke up into three different tracks: reduce, reinvent, and transform. Each track engaged participants through panels, ignite sessions, and facilitated dialogue around those three key themes. The event ended with a remarkable speech from keynote listener Jamie Ponce of the City of Chicago and C40 initiative, capturing what transpired throughout the day, followed by a conversation reflecting on what participants felt were the key emerging energy strategies in Chicago.

This project has succeeded so wonderfully through public support, and a grant given by The Boeing Foundation for \$90,000 for 2013 and 2014. The Accelerate 77 project continues to look for opportunities to share its approach of encouraging and cultivating a city-wide learning community.

More information about Phase III and the activities mentioned above can be found on the website www.accelerate77.net.



Community leaders at an SLN meeting



Discussion at the Energy Forum

LEARNING BASKET PILOTS SUCCESS



Participants interchange during pilot project

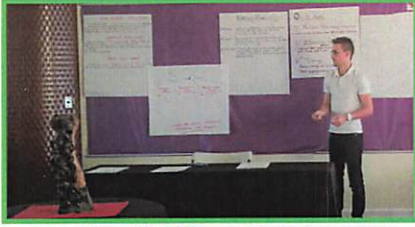
The Learning Basket is growing with new grants supporting the development of two new pilot programs — the "Learning Basket for Healthy Families" and the "Learning Basket School Readiness." The Learning Basket for Healthy Families pilot was funded by the Thorek Foundation and implemented in conjunction with Heartland Health Association. The program involves six weeks of parent education courses in the Uptown/Rogers Park area, mainly serving refugees from Burma and Bhutan. The course focuses on different ways to promote physical and mental health in young children, as well as information and advice on the health of the parents. As a result of the course parents have increased knowledge about how to support the health of their whole family.

The Learning Basket School Readiness pilot was conducted at two Chicago sites. At the Daystar School in downtown Chicago, learning baskets and new activities for 3-5 year olds were used in three preschool and one kindergarten classroom. Teachers were trained in the implementation of the activities and the trainers regularly observed their use in the classrooms. The goal of the pilot was to evaluate the effectiveness of the basket materials and activities in preparing 3-5 year olds for school. The results are still being evaluated, but the general consensus is that the materials are appropriate for use with older children and can aid in school readiness.

The second site was the Bhutanese Community Association of Illinois Center, in partnership with RefugeeOne. The program's goal was to work with parents of 3-5 year olds with a focus on school readiness for their children and families. For eight weeks, the parents were trained in implementing new 3-5 year old Learning basket activities. Parents also learned about school readiness, from physical abilities to cognitive and social-emotional readiness with such topics as "Pre-Literacy Skills" and "Visiting Your New School." Preliminary results indicate that parents emerged with a stronger sense of how to prepare their children for school.

It has been a busy and exciting year for the Learning Basket, but also one that includes a major transition. Katie Kretzmann, a staff member that split her time between the ICA and The Carole Robertson Center recently found a new position. ICA is eager to continue the work that has been taking place, and has been working on a creative an innovative and financially viable way to do so.

SERVICE LEARNING



Tanguy Boneu (INSEEC) presenting his groups work

The Service Learning program continues to grow and flourish at the ICA. This year, participants in the program included two different student groups from Nebraska Wesleyan University, students from DePaul University's Stean Center Scholars Program, and Students from the INSEEC Grand Ecole in Paris and Bordeaux in France.

Most recently, in November, ICA conducted a three-week portion of a ten week Chicago experience for Masters of Business Administration students from Paris. The students were enrolled in a degree program focusing on Social Entrepreneurship. Twenty-three English speaking graduate students – housed across the city of Chicago – spent four days a week from November 4 through November 22 in an intensive learning lab facilitated by ICA Service-Learning team. The ICA's portion of the students' Chicago experience explored social entrepreneurship in the context of the challenges contemporary globalization presents to local communities.

Each of the three weeks began with a day of contextual academic work focusing on three themes: the role of social entrepreneurship in Creating a Just and Equitable Society, Shaping Sustainable Communities, and Building the Foundations for Peace. Three days of practical engagement through internship assignments followed. Students' internship placements were framed by the academic context. Students were placed at sites across the city that are shaping entrepreneurial responses to the challenges local communities are facing in these times of transition. On Thursday of each week, students reflected in an electronic blog post about their internship experience and its connection to the contextual work highlighted that week.

At the end of their nine day internship placements – three days each of the three weeks – the students showcased their work in a celebratory gathering with their host site organizers. Given the success of this year, ICA anticipates a continued partnership with INSEEC as more and more young professionals are looking towards socially responsive entrepreneurship.

TOP NETWORK IS GROWING AND THRIVING

The ToP Network is evolving into a strong hub of professional support and development among facilitators who embrace Technology of Participation Methods. This past summer included a stellar exploration of environmental sustainability programs and practices courtesy of Jane Stallman, and the fall has provided even more gems courtesy of the talented and committed peer members.



The focus of October was on virtual facilitation opportunities for Network members led by the ToP Network's Virtual Facilitation Collaborative (VFC). Members include Nadine Bell, Kathy McGrane, Cheryl Kartes, Catherine Tornbom and Sunny Walker. Throughout the month, weekly "Jams" were aired to showcase & pilot advances from across the world using developing and existing virtual platforms. These "Jams" allowed for groups to both enjoy an amazing experience as well as learn how they can support ToP Methods. There have been a number of articles written by colleagues on their experience with virtual facilitation. All of these articles are posted on the ToP Network website. The ToP Network is emerging and thriving as more and more people are connected and becoming committed to each other while also furthering the ToP Methods. The latest virtual facilitation focus is but one of the many benefits all members are able to enjoy.

Adding to the growth is the creation and implementation of the new ToP training website <https://icausa.memberclicks.net>. The conversation around the new site started in 2011 with a group of ToP Trainers who wanted a better ToP course registration system. The vision was to have a system that was user friendly, could be managed by ToP Registrars, and would retain the contact information of registrants, thus forming a national database.

In September of 2012 ICA hired the ToP Network's recommended project manager, Nelson Stover, to find a system suited to the group's needs and set it up. ICA formed teams with various registrars and trainers to make preliminary decisions on each of 14 business processes initiated. A group of trainers was formed as the initial website support team.

The new website was launched in May of 2013, but not without some issues, policy decisions needed, and technical problems. Shortly after the launch date, a team was formed, comprised of Nancy Jackson, Marti Roach, Marilyn Oyler, Erness Irvin-Wright, (ToP Registrars), and Fara Taylor and Anne Neal (ICA Staff) to address these challenges.

ICA thanks all who held the vision for the new website, served on the initial website support team, provided input on the business processes, and helped launch this website. It has been a team effort for sure. The partnership between the ToP Network and ICA continues to strengthen and evolve.

THE UNFOLDING STORY OF THE ARCHIVES PROJECT

The Living Archives Project at the ICA is currently being worked on by colleagues who participated in the work of the Order: Ecumenical, Ecumenical Institute, and Institute of Cultural Affairs throughout the past 50 years. Although the foundational archival activity of preserving and cataloguing this history has been going on for decades, today's constantly improving technologies are allowing colleagues to take the treasures and learnings from the past and make them easily accessible and understandable to new generations.

For ICA's future vision, the archives team believes it needs a way to grasp the past; not to replicate it, but to draw on its experience and learnings to inform future directions.

The archives team, based out of Chicago with remote team members, has the power to build a bridge from the O:E/EI/ICA history to current ICA-USA and ICA International projects and catapult this knowledge through the world wide web.

The work during the 2013 Fall Archives Sojourn was constantly electrified by the energy created together by singing and sharing of stories as colleagues rediscovered past wisdom, like core strategies of 1) Contextual Re-Education; 2) Structural Reformation; and 3) Spirit Re-Motivation.

"Baby steps" were taken to help colleagues get a handle on how to be WordPress website designer/builders. The published collections to date are only "Starter Collections" which have the promise to synergize collaborations with peoples involved in social change today.

The Global Archives Team is looking for fresh ways to help communicate "the future of our past work" online. The team anticipates being present online and face-to-face in Chicago and

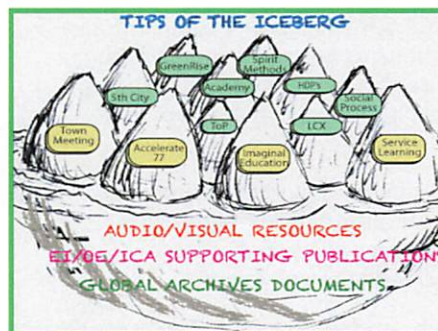


2013 Fall Archive Sojourners

Minneapolis for a YouTube channel broadcast. There is still a call for short imaginal stories for new collections like Imaginal Education, Facilitation Methods and Human Development Projects. Inspired by ICA-Ukraine's broadcasts of two weekly live programs to 8,000 Ukrainian subscribers in Russian and English, there is a plan to produce live on-air prototype programs, like the Imaginal Education Collection broadcast done in September by Elise Packard and Kaze Gadway.

New partner teams will be created to design and bring online new Collections for the Spring Sojourn 2014. Stay tuned for these program prototypes.

The Spring Sojourn is scheduled for April 28 to May 9, 2014. To join the team either in Chicago or by working with a team remotely from home, please contact margephilbrook@gmail.com for more information.



Spring Sojourners create visuals for Archive

ZIMBABWE HIV/AIDS... LEARNING TO LIVE WELL



ICA ZIM 50 planning team working hard!

ICA – USA has been partnering with ICA Zimbabwe on The Zimbabwe 50 Communities project, a five-year project that intends to do 50 yearlong HIV/AIDS campaigns in 50 communities in and around Harare. The campaign itself will be a demonstration of communities that can respond to the epidemic effectively themselves, using their own energy and determination with minimal outside assistance and resources.

One year campaigns will engage leaders and villages who are serious about getting the crisis under control. The role of Institute of Cultural Affairs – Zimbabwe is to provide a toolkit to do so, and training on how to use it. Residents will modify the tool kit and implement the strategies in the way that is appropriate for their community.

Currently the project is working in four communities outside Harare, plans to expand to eight new communities in 2014, and twelve new communities in each of 2015, 2016, and 14 new neighborhoods in 2017 for a total of 50 communities reached.

This year ICA Zimbabwe's HIV/AIDS project was chosen as an Advanced Special of the United Methodist Church's Board of Global Ministries. This designation allows any Methodist Church to support the work. Tuesday, December 3, the General Board of Global Ministries had a dollar for dollar match for any money given. Through the generous support of Louise Singleton, Bob True, Lynda Cock and many others over \$23,000 was raised and matched for a total of \$46,000 given to support the Zim 50 project.

Cumulatively, the anticipated cost of \$296,500 is planned to affect 400,000 people. This project is the living embodiment of ICA Zimbabwe's by-line of Community Empowerment in Zimbabwe. There's no question ICA Zimbabwe's talented and dedicated staff is well-suited to mount this demonstration in 50 communities over five years. While no one can or will do the job that communities must do for themselves, ICA Zimbabwe is enthusiastic about enabling 50 communities to take hold of this threat in their midst.

INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
4750 N. SHERIDAN ROAD
CHICAGO, IL 60640

DONOR PROFILE: MARY HOPKINS

Mary Hopkins and her husband, Don, are retired educators who currently live in Minnesota. Mary taught English in high school while Don taught Physics at the university. They first came into contact with ICA during the late 1960s through work with their local church in Rapid City, SD. They have long seen themselves as global citizens. In 1978-79, they spent a year working with ICA's human development project in Chile. In 1991-93, they were in the Peace Corps in Kenya.

More recently, Mary has been active in working with ICA's Learning Basket program in Minnesota. This year, Mary is one of many around the country who have taken advantage of the tax benefits allowed for charitable donations from her Individual Retirement Account (IRA) by sending a gift to ICA. "When I attended ICA 50th Anniversary event in Minneapolis last year, I decided then that I wanted to continue to support an organization that looks beyond immediate needs to the long-term future. It is pleasing to see ICA doing this creatively with new programs on community sustainability, leadership development with university students, and early childhood education."

We are extremely grateful for the support from all our colleagues around the country and for our growing Legacy Society. The Legacy Society is comprised of colleagues who have written ICA into their wills, leaving a lasting legacy for our organization. Please contact us if you would like additional information about creative use of your IRA withdrawals or to learn more about the Legacy Society.



Legacy Society Tree at the ICA



INITIATIVES

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Zim50: ONE-YEAR HIV/AIDS CAMPAIGNS IN 50 COMMUNITIES

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SLN: WITNESSING A THRIVING CULTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY

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GCC'S ONE EARTH FILM FESTIVAL OPENS NEW DOORS

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Colleagues,

Symbol is key. This has long been an underlying principle at ICA and it is as important today as it was fifty years ago.

The ICA GreenRise Building and its solar energy project bears witness to this. It's anticipated that 30% of our current electrical use will be generated through renewable means upon installation of 500 solar panels. That is a lot of watts being taken off of the grid. However, projects of this size are extremely rare in our part of the country because, in the short-term, solar remains a much more expensive option in comparison to electricity generated by coal or natural gas from hydraulic fracturing (also known as fracking).

While popular views are dominated by short-term thinking, there has been a severe failure to consider long-term costs to community health and the environment -- costs of which tend to fall inequitably upon the most vulnerable in society. ICA's solar project is a powerful symbol because it transcends conventional wisdom about immediate financial gain as the sole value for measuring a return on

Continued on Page 2

RAISING THE BIG TOP: FACILITATING LEADERSHIP IN THE MIDST OF DIVERSITY AND CHANGE



January 10th - Jan 13th 2014, the ToP Network hosted its annual gathering in Minneapolis, MN. This year's theme was *Raising the Big Top: Facilitating Leadership in the Midst of Diversity and Change*. The conference drew over 150 participants - from over 58 different cities and 21 different U.S. states, as well as visitors from Canada and Kuala Lumpur! In addition to the wide reach of the conference, locally, over 50+ facilitators joined in on the exchange.



Facilitators enjoying the circus themed learning

The *Raising the Big Top* circus theme had several different acts, including facilitation acrobatics, cirque du soleil plenary session, and a minute to win it networking time. The hosting team in MN found that the circus theme lent itself to sessions that moved with 'flexibility, fun, frolic' role-modeling innovative, deep, and participatory facilitation.

The breakout sessions included avant garde topics around facilitation including but not limited to, climate change, public health, virtual facilitation & social media, information technology and more. For a full list, check out the conference brochure at www.top-network.org. There were many pre and post conference events, some notable ones being a *Community Development Intensive* course led by Bill Staples from ICA Associates in Canada, and in partnership with ICA-USA, and *Inspiring Group Creativity - Facilitation for Innovation* pilot course facilitated by Ann Epps

Continued on Page 2



MESSAGE FROM ED CONTINUED...

investment.

Several ICA colleagues understand this and have stepped forward as social investors by collectively matching \$250,000 in fulfillment of a grant. The symbolic nature of the solar project is thereby enhanced even further because of the way in which it is being financed.

Another family among ICA supporters has imposed upon themselves a gas tax. For every mile they drive, they send 50 cents to ICA to support our programs in catalyzing a culture of sustainability. We are very grateful to colleagues everywhere who understand, and act upon, the transformative power of symbol and story.

Take care,
Terry D. Bergdall, PhD

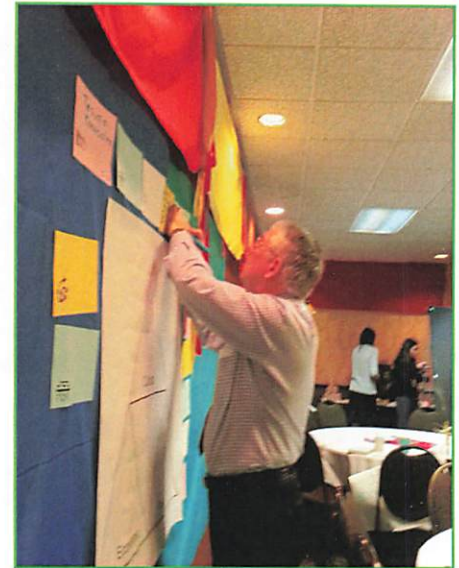


RAISING THE BIG TOP CONTINUED...

and Marti Roach and also co-created by Eunice Shankland and Cherie Lockett.

In addition to a great conference, the ToP Network has had an exciting start this year. A new executive team is in full force, chaired by Irina Fursman, who founded ICA-Ukraine, and Barbara MacKay of North Star Facilitators and past professional development chair of the IAF. Nine action teams have been formed to further development in new curriculum initiatives, community development, marketing the ToP brand and courses, network membership, building relevant resource materials for other fields, initiate topic specific virtual communities of practice, strengthen the certification program, ensure the website stays current, and more.

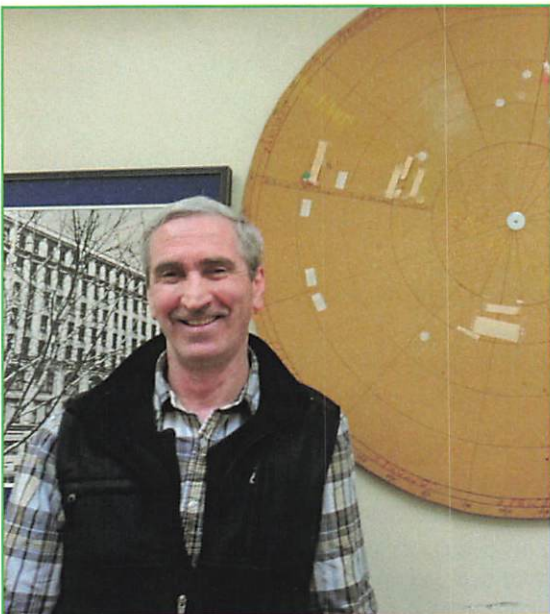
Globally, a task force of about ten people, in conjunction with the ICAI Board are having conversations regarding policy recommendations to the ICA International network around the ToP brand globally. Led by Larry Philbrook, representatives from the US on the taskforce include Irina Fursman and Sheryl Johnson of the ToP Network, and Seva Gandhi of ICA-USA. ICA and the ToP Network are excited for all the things to come in 2014.



The conference had 150 participants this year!



STAFF PROFILE: Ekrem Denis



Lead Engineer Ekrem Denis stands in front of the building's famous wheel calendar

How long have you been working at the ICA?

Since 1998 - for 16 years

What is your role at the ICA?

I am the head building engineer, essentially my task is to keep the GreenRise together and running with the others on my team.

What are your favorite things about the ICA?

I like the fact that it is never boring here. There is a lot of diversity in the people who come and use the building, all sorts of things to always get involved with, and I really enjoy working with my hands. I actually met the ICA because I was a participant of an organization in the building was offering services for Bosnian Refugees - I appreciate the kind of services the building offers to people.

An Interesting Fact?

I've been in a lot of famous places around the world when big things were happening - I was in Berlin when the wall came down, I was in what is now known as South Sudan after civil unrest, I have been in a concentration camp in Bosnia, I was in Grant Park when the first African American president was elected. I have also lived all around the world; Norway, France, Germany, Algeria, Yugoslavia, Croatia.

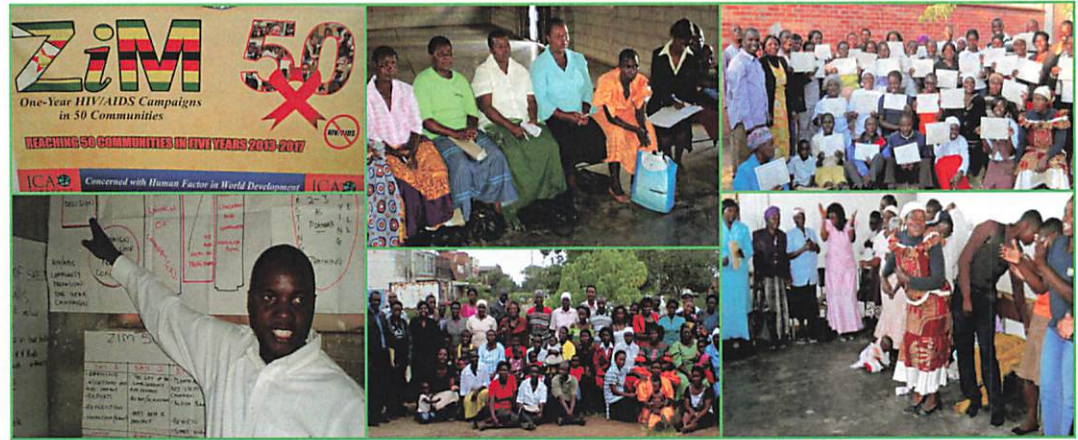
Zim50: ONE-YEAR HIV/AIDS CAMPAIGNS IN 50 COMMUNITIES

By: Gerald Gomani, Director ICA: Zimbabwe with edits by ICA-USA staff

In January 2013, ICA Zimbabwe, in partnership with ICA USA, officially launched the *Zimbabwe 50 Communities HIV/AIDS Project (Zim 50)* project to implement one-year HIV/AIDS campaigns in 50 communities in and around Harare for the next five years. The Zim 50 project demonstrates that communities can respond effectively themselves, using their own energy and determination, with minimal outside assistance and resources to manage the HIV/AIDS challenge. The four communities around Harare were chosen as pilot projects: Whitecliffe, Crowborough North, Churu Farm, and Granary.

African ICA's have worked with HIV/AIDS community prevention and management for a decade with partners in USA, Canada, UK, and Japan. Projects have evolved from training peer educators to talk with their neighbors, to mobilizing communities to discuss the issue, to training for those effected or affected by AIDS to manage their disease. As testing and treatment came on line, both became key components of an HIV/AIDS management program. Programs such as Living Well and Self-Help Groups were developed to provide social and economic support for those who needed it.

Over time, knowledge about the disease and its transmission became better known. Government health services were able to cope with the flood of sick people and have answers for what to do to help them - getting people started on anti-retroviral therapy. As the international community began to support drug therapy at the national level and drugs became more accessible locally, people were able to work again, lifting despair.



Community members participating and completing Zim50 programs i.e. the Living Well and Self-Help Groups

But there are huge gaps in the system of care. Too many are outside the fragile systems. For prevention and management to be effective, it has to be local, part of the community knowledge and culture base and part of the social infrastructure. What is needed is a dramatic effort one community at a time to shift images: preventing and managing HIV is everybody's business, as individuals and the community as a whole. ICA's efforts to assist communities to manage HIV prevention and care have worked well over the past decade, but the pace of communities becoming engaged is too slow to meet the challenge.

Communities need the tools and methods to prevent and manage HIV themselves. Their efforts need to be sustainable and the project template replicable and adaptable to individual communities. One-year campaigns in four communities engaged leaders and villages to tackle this problem themselves. The role of ICA is to provide a tool kit and training in how to use it. Residents do the work in the way that was appropriate for their community.

It is known that there are activities and capabilities effective in preventing and managing HIV as well as other diseases such as TB and malaria. Those capabilities include:

- knowledge – trained peer educators are an invaluable asset in mobilizing awareness

- close association with local health and social services resources
- testing – it is available and essential for individuals to make a decision about behavior.

Testing also identifies people who are infected and need treatment and support, and families that need assistance to cope; Living Well, Self-Help Groups, and food security are useful programs for disease management and social and economic support.

To be sustainable within the community, programs that includes the determination of community leaders and a well-trained core of volunteers willing to spend time and energy must be put in place. The basic attitudes and culture of individuals and the community must shift: It is our problem; we are the only ones who can make the changes necessary to manage this challenge.

Evaluating results leads to improved programs and infrastructure. The one-year campaign timeline adds urgency - to force the process. It has so far offered assistance and training for one year in four communities to help develop the knowledge base and implementation plans, change attitudes, create structures, and evaluate results to determine what is needed going forward. ICA staff assistance will end after a years time, with the hope that the seeds planted during the training will continue to germinate.



SLN: WITNESSING A THRIVING CULTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY

The Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network (SLN) was launched in October 2013 by ICA as part of the accelerate77 project. SLN has become a key strategy to bring community leaders together to work collaboratively on a wide variety of sustainability and justice issues. Network members are currently working towards defining the details of how to accomplish their goals to strengthen and expand community-based sustainability efforts and increase collective impact.

Having an inclusive definition for sustainability is an important value for members of the SLN. Members come from a variety of professional backgrounds and include individuals who are independently employed as well as participants representing non-profit organizations and for-profit businesses in the community. SLN members also work on a diversity of issues, ranging from urban agriculture, healthy eating, energy production and conservation, climate change education, and sustainable landscaping to cultural diversity, youth leadership development, participatory facilitation, cooperatives, veterans' rights, after-school programming, job training, and much more.

During the very first SLN gathering, one participant, Vito Greco, remarked on the power of a holistic approach: "When you get people together who do a lot of different things, but share values – you can do a lot more." Working in a multidisciplinary and collaborative way helps to prevent siloed action. Working in silos can constrict not only the individuals involved, but also the knowledge and methods available to comprehensively address problems.

The SLN has been meeting regularly and working on building relationships, sharing knowledge, setting goals for 2014, working to clarify it's aims, and give shape to it's future. Currently, network members are exploring several different collaborative interest areas:

- a "hub" model to provide space for collaborative network activities
- conceptualizing a city-wide sustainability calendar
- exploring a regular publication highlighting sustainability efforts in Chicago
- developing a way to share assets and skill among members and communities
- capturing the shared values, mission and vision of network into a statement to share with others.

There is tangible excitement as members begin to reap the benefits of the network - in the words of active member Benjamin Handy, "We are creating a new culture; It's like yeast, spreading out." Being a member of the SLN gives participants an opportunity to be change agents in their own spheres of influence.

The SLN is still at the beginning stages of formation and is eager to welcome new participants interested in collaborating on community sustainability issues. Current members act as a springboard for further participation. As another member of the network, Ron Kartholl, put it: "We all have a certain amount of isolation, but we can all then be able to take this conversation back to our communities and be able to hook up the broader community."

If you're interested in learning more about the SLN or participating, please contact ICA Fellow Jenny Hirsch at Jhirsch@ica-usa.org.



Sustainability Leaders during a breakout session



Brainstorming working group topics



SLN meeting at the Planning Coalition



Sharing Knowledge working group

An Urban Learning Lab

ICA's GreenRise Uptown Learning Laboratory began its exploration into the world of urban agriculture during the 2011 Summer Youth Program, when students were tasked with building a hydroponic window garden. The garden now runs as an aquaponic system, using fish in collaboration with plants to create a complete, self-sustaining food production system.

As the projects have evolved, so has the GreenRise. It now houses a greenhouse in the community kitchen, which both provides herbs and vegetables for the community and acts as a food waste hub. GreenRise aims to address environmental concerns through a variety of waste reduction methods with a focus on agriculture.

Methods to cut down on waste include but aren't limited to composting and bokashi (food fermentation process) and working with the intentional community to collect food scraps to create an enriched compost. The compost will be used in conjunction with hyperaccumulating plants in an effort to remediate the buildings parking lot soil to create a sanctuary for wildlife. Through our gardening and waste reduction models, GreenRise looks to be an example to others on the future possibilities Urban Agriculture holds.

The exciting activities within GreenRise join hundreds of urban agriculture initiatives underway all over the country, providing innovative, alternative approaches to food sourcing in urban settings. In March, the GreenRise community witnessed some of these activities in a screening of *Growing Cities* as part of the One Earth Film Festival. The film followed the journey of filmmakers Dan and Andrew as they travelled to cities across the US to find people who are challenging the status quo through urban farming initiatives, from gardens on rooftops, vacant lots, and inside rehabbed buildings to using a lawnmower powered by rabbits.



7th floor resident, Joseph Taylor, working in the community greenhouse

The screening, which drew an audience of 75, was followed by presentations from three local urban agriculture initiatives forging new paths in Chicago, including Loud Grade Produce Squad, the Peterson Garden Project and Green Scene Chicago. The audience was then engaged in a lively discussion and reflection facilitated by Learning Lab resident Pamela Bergdall. Pam engaged the audience in thinking about what ideas and practices showcased in the movie piqued their excitement, and how they were inspired to change their own behaviours and actions.

As Chicago thaws from the winter time freeze, the community prepares for the spring planting of the rooftop vegetable garden. The garden will showcase urban gardening models made from low cost and reused materials that work with nature to attract beneficial wildlife. More than an increase in the ICA GreenRise agricultural footprint, the rooftop garden will allow the community to explore innovative Urban Agricultural techniques and their ability to be integrated into just about any space.

One Earth Film Festival Expansion Opens New Doors

ICA plays a fiscal sponsorship role to a few select organizations with complementary aims and goals; Green Community Connections is one such organization. This year the volunteer-run organization held a film festival in several communities including Oak Park, Berwyn, River Grove and eight Chicago locations. Nearly 2,500 people, from the north side to the south side, and three colleges in between, saw 30 films in 28 different locations the weekend of March 7-9, as well as at eight pre-festival screenings.

Dominican University held the first pre-festival screening, which also featured a well attended mini farmers market. New venues this year were WIRE music club in Berwyn, the University of Illinois Chicago's Latino Cultural Center, Columbia College's Film Row Cinema, and Sacred Keepers in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood.

An enthusiastic crowd of 70 people turned out to watch "Urban Roots," an inspiring film about urban agriculture in Detroit, at Sacred Keepers on a snowy Saturday afternoon one week before the festival. Following the film, audience members broke out into small groups, discussing everything from grocery store options in Chicago to rebuilding the local food economy to "getting un-addicted to processed food," as one woman put it.

Despite weather, screenings would often alight a buzz of attendee enthusiasm. When "More Than Honey," was shown in the Jensen Room at Garfield Park Conservatory, not only did it draw 135 people, but according to Pam Todd, a member of the Chicago expansion team, "they hung out more than an hour after the program ended to talk to one another and local bee experts."



Discussion after Viewing *Urban Roots* at Sacred Keepers

 COMMUNITY CALENDAR 

Upcoming Events

May 3 - May 4, 2014

Community Development Intensive (CDI)

2 Day Training

ICA-USA is partnering with ICA Taiwan to offer a two day Community Development training. The training will focus on holistic community development through a lens of sustainability. Participants will learn new methods of engagement to use within the community context.

June 16 - Aug 8, 2014

Sustainable Community Development Intensive (SCDI)

8 Week Summer Training Program

This summer the ICA is offering the SCDI training to upperclassman and graduate students. Student time is split between academic work, methods training, and community action in a 1:1:3 ratio. The community action piece places students in Chicago non-profit grassroots organizations that are part of accelerate 77's Sustainability Leaders Network.

Stay Tuned!

ICA Solar Unveiling - Fall 2014

After the installation of solar panels, ICA will host a celebratory event to share our success and story with the community! The ribbon-cutting for the ICA GreenRise rooftop solar panel project will occur in Fall 2014 on a date to be announced with City dignitaries, Uptown community members, and national stakeholders in attendance. Further celebration, reflections, and consideration of future implications will take place on the day afterwards with ICA colleagues.



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ICA GreenRise Grows as a Community Sustainability Hub

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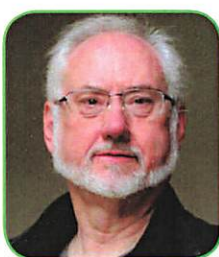
Successful One Earth Film Festival Joins City of Chicago Earth Day Celebration!

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The Work of the Archives Basement Resettlement Plan

Message from the New Chief Executive Officer



Ted Wysocki, CEO

Dear Colleagues,
I have always regarded my now 40+ year community development career not as a series of jobs but as a vocation, seeking a just economy. I posted these U2 lyrics when I launched my weekly blog, **U2Cando**, last August: "But I still haven't found what I'm looking for."

Our economy is still not equal for all. I spent my 2013 vacation reading Joseph Stiglitz's *The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future*. Many of his points resonated with me. At the core, our current dilemma begs action: "Unemployment – the inability of the market to generate jobs for so many citizens – is the worst failure of the market, the greatest source of inefficiency, and a major cause of inequality."

I have appreciated ICA's vital facilitation work since 1984 when I became CEO of the Chicago Association of Neighborhood Development Organizations (CANDO), of which ICA was a member. ICA's Technology of Participation (ToP)[®] facilitation methodology harnesses the energy and wisdom of a group to build consensus and create and implement strategic plans.

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Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network Holds City Round Table

On Monday, March 23, 2015, the Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network (CSLN) participated in the network's first round table meeting at City Hall. The purpose of the round table was to establish an ongoing forum where community leaders and municipal officials can dialogue about mutual concerns related to sustainability. It was a first step in nurturing a creative 'in-between space' that connects city and regional program planning with initiatives driven by local people's interests, concerns, and action.

Meeting attendees included 25 CSLN members (representing a diversity of neighborhoods from the south, west, and north sides of Chicago), Karen Weigert, the Chief Sustainability Officer of the City of Chicago, Jamie Ponce of C40, and four ICA staff/CSLN organizers. Following introductions, the group began by exchanging ideas on how to make round table events creative and meaningful for all stakeholders.

The second part of the discussion focused on specific issues. Oboi Reed of Slow Roll Chicago spoke briefly about his organization, based in Pullman, and the importance of promoting bicycling in communities of color. He noted that many of the

City's current efforts with creative alternative transportation programs like Divvy bike rentals and the designation of bike lanes on city streets have primarily occurred in affluent areas where biking is already prevalent. From his perspective, areas that do not have the proper infrastructure for biking need the basics prioritized before areas that have heavy users get upgrades. Karen responded by acknowledging the concern and sharing plans through which the City is intending to address the issue. Such matters will not be resolved overnight, but the exchange highlighted the value of a forum dedicated to the 'in-between space.'



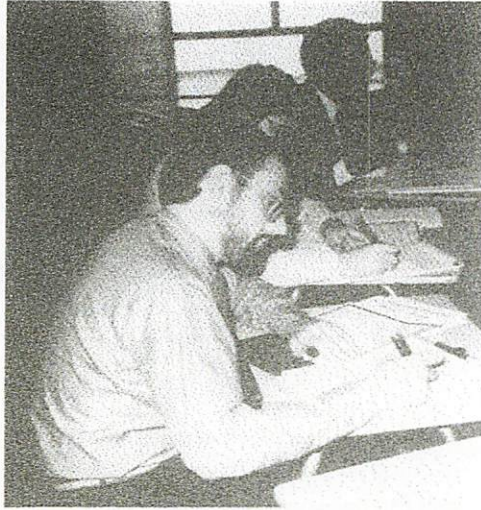
Members of the CSLN and Karen Weigert, Chief Sustainability Officer of the City of Chicago

The meeting ended with an agreement to continue round table forums on a quarterly basis, with the next one occurring in June 2015. A CSLN 'policy' group has formed to prioritize topics the network would like to discuss with the city in the future.

Read more about the CSLN on Page 4

MESSAGE FROM CEO CONTINUED...

ToP participatory processes draw upon decades of ICA's worldwide community development experience. There is even a photo of a younger me in the mid-'80s at a ToP workshop on page 73 of *Winning Through Participation* by Laura Spencer.



Individuals write their answers on 5" x 8" cards.

Ted Wysocki in *Winning Through Participation*

I spent my most recent vacation time in February reading Naomi Klein's inspirational *This Changes Everything*. This book did change everything for me. Its message resonates with ICA's mission to "build a just and equitable society in harmony with planet earth." It solidified my decision to accept ICA-USA's CEO position. All of our work [which I can now say after my first month full-time] is grounded in a set of strategies which facilitate sustainable community development by drawing upon assets and social capital in a collaborative manner.

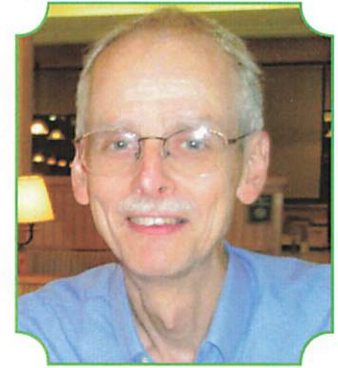
Our GreenRise Uptown Learning Laboratory and the Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network (CSLN) are national models for sustainable change. This engagement of communities to pursue local actions is an example of the cultural paradigm shift required to address climate change. ICA-USA will be exploring where else in the US we can work with local community partners and ToP facilitators to replicate our Chicago sustainability initiatives. Naomi Klein ends her book with a question for us all: "History knocked on your door, did you answer?" I have. Let me know if you are ready to answer; email me at twysocki@ica-usa.org.

Ted Wysocki began as the new CEO of ICA-USA on March 30th. Previously, Ted was CEO of the Local Economic & Employment Development (LEED) Council, now North Branch Works, for 12 years. Prior to that, he was CEO of the Chicago Association of Neighborhood Development Organizations (CANDO) for 17 years. He started his community development career in 1974 with Gale Cincotta, the mother of the federal Community Reinvestment Act.

COLLEAGUE PROFILE: Dennis Jennings

How did you find the ICA?

I was living and working in the Uptown Chicago neighborhood. I was a counselor at the time working with individuals who were making their transition into the neighborhood after being in mental institutions. I was on leave as a seminary grad student where I was in a program focusing on community urban ministry. I engaged as a volunteer in ICA's work in local community in Uptown. It was a fit for me with the focus on human development in community and the values of service. I joined the ICA after 2 years. I served as a regional coordinator of Town Meetings with citizen organizations in local communities and statewide events in the southwestern and southern United States.



Dennis Jennings
ICA resident & ToP Facilitator

Internationally I served as site co-director with the ICA in rural western India in village development, focusing on local community planning and leadership development. I returned to Chicago where I engaged in ICA's transition into organizational development providing planning and training with local government and non-profit organizations. I collaborated along with others in the development of what came to be ToP Methods. In the 90's I became part of the national program team delivering ToP training and facilitation in Chicago. I served on the staff of ICA through 2006.

What is your role at the ICA?

I am currently a Certified ToP Facilitator and Mentor Trainer, working with the ToP Network in partnership with the ICA. Together with my colleague, Judy Weddle, we continue to provide ToP training and facilitation services based here in Illinois and Chicago. Our facilitation has taken us to locations across the US and internationally.

What are your favorite things about the ICA?

The ICA's integrity of building on its values and its capacity to read the times and re-invent itself.

An Interesting Fact about you?

A highlight has been to serve on the Core Faculty of the International Management Development Programme of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease to provide facilitation and training with health managers from poor - middle income countries. In the past 5 years this has taken my colleague Judy and myself to Mexico, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Scotland and France.

ICA GreenRise as a Community Sustainability Hub

ICA GreenRise continues to grow as a demonstration of sustainability on Chicago's north side, using both its historic building and programming to support local community efforts. GreenRise's community of tenants is expanding this May, welcoming long-time Uptown fixture Lawrence House Pharmacy. Lawrence House was recently sold to a new developer, and ICA GreenRise is happy to allow the pharmacy to continue serving the community from the other side of Lawrence Avenue.

ICA GreenRise aims to support the family-owned pharmacy and other tenants of the building by connecting them to one another and continuing to grow as a community hub. The 2014 Solar Launch and Uptown Share Fair was a great launch of these efforts.

Another event designed to help build ICA GreenRise as a accessible community space was a CSLN Hub event in March. The event showcased the GreenRise building, screened two separate films as part of the One Earth Film Festival (more on page 5), and finished the day with mini-workshops for hands-on learning.



ICA Hub events engage participants in building tours and workshops



Thursday March 26
5:30pm

In addition to single day events, this January ICA convened a cohort comprised of ICA GreenRise tenants, residents, and Uptown community members to discuss ways to build community around health and wellness. The group named itself 'Nourish Yourself, Your Community' and co-created a 6 month health and wellness curriculum led by cohort members.



Uptown cohort uses collective knowledge to lead community trainings

Topics in the curriculum included stress management, meditation, pickling and sprouting, creative storytelling, and intro to improv, to name a few. The project, supported by a small grant from Thorek Memorial Hospital, aims to create a space for individuals to learn more about each other and exchange strategies to help serve themselves and the community more effectively.

When the cohort concludes in June, the ICA GreenRise aims to continue to build on the community momentum as a north side sustainability hub. ICA staff and volunteers are currently in the planning process for the first official GreenRise Community Sustainability Hub Day, slated for June 20th.

This Hub day will draw upon local expertise and be centered around experiential learning through skill shares and workshops for attendees. June 20th will serve as the first of four hub days for 2015 which are made possible through a grant from the Seabury Foundation.

5 New Certified ToP Facilitators

On April 25, 2015, five new facilitators were assessed on their competencies with the Technology of Participation (ToP)[®]. The assessment process looks for seven core competencies which include the ability of the facilitator to:

- Manage Positive Client Relationships
- Create a Participatory Environment
- Evoke the Creativity of the Group
- Use ToP Methods Effectively
- Model Positive Professional Attitude
- Orchestrate Quality Events
- Produce Effective Results.

Additionally, a portfolio for a Certified ToP Facilitator (CTF) must minimally include:

- 1 Substantial project completed & documented; starting from the request to the client, all the way to the event reflection worksheet
- 1 Strategic Planning process completed & documented
- 3 Focused Conversation designs with procedures
- 3 Consensus Workshop designs with procedures
- 1 facilitation design for a small group
- 1 facilitation design for a large group
- 1 facilitation event design that shows the use of tools or exercises that engage at least 3 distinct individual "processing/learning"
- 1 ToP method Action Plan design with procedures
- 1 Historical Scan / Wall of Wonder design with procedures
- 1 Co-facilitated event design
- Finally, include in your portfolio your evidence of understanding.

On April 25th, Becky Groff of Des Moines IA, Robert Quintana Hopkins of Oakland, CA, Robin Rifkin of Melrose Park, PA, Jen Schanen of Green Bay, WI, and Kap Wilkes of Duluth, MN all passed the assessment process and became Certified ToP Facilitators. We congratulate these new CTFs on their accomplishments and joining the other 70 CTFs currently in the ToP Network. We look forward to all the great things they will accomplish!



Welcome new Certified ToP Facilitators!

Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network Spring Collaborations and Events

The Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network (CSLN) has been working on neighborhood sustainability across Chicago and around the Midwest. In partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), the ICA and three member organizations of CSLN --the Chinese American Service League (Chinatown), Centers for New Horizons (Bronzeville), and Sacred Keepers Sustainability Lab (Bronzeville)--have been awarded a \$250,000 grant from ISEIF, the Illinois Science & Energy Innovation Foundation, to integrate Smart Grid consumer education into ongoing efforts to become neighborhood-based sustainability hubs.

All partners are trusted community educators with extensive experience working on sustainability and have strong cultural ties with diverse, low- to moderate-income communities. Smart Grid education will become part of their holistic approach to engaging constituents in energy work, which involves addressing energy as it relates to people's everyday lives and priorities, e.g., through housing, youth development, senior services, nutrition, and other programs. In addition to conducting their on-campus Smart Grid project, UIC will train and assign student interns to work with community partners. Work on the project started in January 2015 and will conclude at the end of the year. To learn more about the ISEIF project, visit the website www.accelerate77.net.

Although still early in the grant implementation, a diverse group of 5 CSLN members presented on the ISEIF project at the third annual Integrated Network for Social Sustainability (INSS) conference at Michigan State University. The presentation "Smart Grid, Historic Landmarks, & Corner Stores: A Network Approach to Sustainability in Chicago Communities", shared the CSLN partners' cultural and value-based approach to Smart Grid education. Designed as a participatory presentation, the CSLN



Presenters discuss sustainability from nonprofit and social entrepreneurship backgrounds.



From left to right: Johnnie Owens (Centers for New Horizons), Joseph Taylor (ICA GreenRise), Belinda Li (Citta Partnership) and members from the ICA/CSLN organizing team, Caitlin Sarro, Jenny Hirsch and Samantha Sainsbury

group was able to both present on their individual approaches as well as dialogue with participants about the process. The presentation shared a unique practitioner perspective at the conference, and had a fully engaged audience.

The conference aimed to approach the topic of sustainability from various disciplines, both academic and community-minded, and the group is looking forward to following up with kindred spirits from Detroit and the Lansing area to continue sharing knowledge and building national connections.

The ISEIF initiative, however, is only one of many collaborative CSLN projects. Launching from the Is it Just Space? event in October 2014, CSLN members have co-created a series of interactive discussions and activities exploring how to create public spaces that are truly sustainable: just, safe, environmentally and climate friendly, and welcoming to people of



Students at MSU led a tour of the organic greenhouses

While touring the organic farm, the group learned about sustainable agriculture - and saw newly-born piglets!



ICA GreenRise highlight was titled "Concerned with the Human Factor in World Development"

diverse cultures, ages, and backgrounds. This series recently launched with a Saturday afternoon session titled Urban Ecology Classroom: The Tale of Two Migrations - Monarchs in Bronzeville. Attendees watched *Flight of the Butterflies*: a movie chronicling the discovery of the Monarchs' migration from Michoacan, Mexico to Chicago then Canada and back. After the movie, attendees planted milkweed, and explored parallels between the Great Migration of African-Americans and migration of the Monarchs.

Sorting through milkweed as part of the Is It Just Space? Urban Ecology Classroom event



The Is It Just Space? series of events will continue monthly until October, when the network will gather to discuss implications for future action. Read more details on the website www.accelerate77.net!

One Earth Film Festival and ICA Partner with City of Chicago's Earth Day Celebration!

Green Community Connections, an ICA fiscal sponsee, has expanded the reach of their One Earth Film Festival (OEFF) over the last four years.

This year, the festival screened 40 films at 31 partner sites around the Chicagoland region and partnered with the City of Chicago for the City's official Earth Day Celebration. *Just Eat It*, the 2015 Festival Choice winner chosen for the celebration, is an award-winning documentary about the staggering amounts of food waste generated in households and farm fields.

Before the movie Karen Weigert, the Chief Sustainability Office of the City of Chicago, Jeff Spitz of Food Patriots, and Ted Wysocki of the ICA addressed the 150+ movie attendees and discussed the importance of the sustainability movement within the city.

ICA-USA in Tanzania

The International team at ICA-USA has been busy planning for three productive weeks in East Africa. Starting the second week of May, ICA-USA staff member Seva Gandhi, (treasurer of ICA-International (ICAI)), will be participating in a face to face ICAI board meeting in a town outside of Arusha, Tanzania. The following week, ICA-USA volunteer Richard Alton and other colleagues from around East Africa will come together for an East African Conference. The final week, Richard and Seva will travel to Uganda and Kenya to meet with local partners.

The board meeting will allow for the new board (comprised of 3 returning and 5 new members) to meet together for the first time. The plan for the board meeting will roughly follow ICA methods around strategic planning; the board will take stock and get clear on ICAI's governance and vision, discuss underlying issues keeping the ICAs and ICAI from reaching that vision, and create strategic ideas and action steps on how to move the board itself, and all ICA's forward.

Two virtual meetings about global communications are also scheduled, and



OEFF Director, panelists, and jury members with Karen Weigert at the screening of *Just Eat It*.

After the film, a short reflection was held, and then panelists from Zero Percent, Seven Generations Ahead, the Resource Center and the Greater Chicago Food Depository engaged with the audience in a participatory discussion facilitated by ICA staff member Seva Gandhi.

The entire OEFF was a success, including the finale on Earth Day. OEFF was recognized as a regional leader in sustainability for its ability to bring citizens together — "in dialogue and action — around a multitude of sustainability topics, in order to bring about concrete and measurable change."

will include the editorial and technical teams related to the Global Buzz, Winds & Waves and the ICAI website.

From May 17-23rd of 2015, ICA-Tanzania and ICA-USA are co-hosting a 'Sharing Approaches that Work' gathering with over 20 colleagues from Africa. The focus will be on ICAs sharing current programs and practices, discussing the future of African ICAs, and what has been promising in their work and what hasn't. The conference will include trainings and workshops on ICA methods and other skills the group would bring to the event - i.e. youth leadership curriculum, permaculture workshops, and farmer-based self-help groups.

Expected in attendance are ICA-Zimbabwe, ICA-Kenya, Safe Neighborhoods, ICA-Uganda, OPAD, ICA-USA, ICOD Action Network, a representative from the IAF, and other ICAs and colleagues currently assisting with programming in East Africa. ICA is grateful to make this conference possible through financial support from an ICA-International mini grant, as well as funds from legacy donor Ruth Reames specifically dedicated towards international initiatives.

The Work of the Archives Basement Resettlement Project

Over the years many cabinets of files have been transferred from the basement archive storage to the 6th floor Global Archives work rooms. The Global Archives team is in the midst of the Archive Basement Resettlement, an initiative to make sure all of the most valuable information will be preserved. Over 18,000 documents have been logged into the archive database, and volunteers are working to make documents available online.

The original 177 file cabinets in the basement have had all files and notebooks accessioned (meaning their basic contents are recorded along with location). In January, a new process for selecting and bringing up the files was tested. It was a great success, where over the course of a week a total of 28 boxes of documents and manuals were systematically brought up from the basement. Five file cabinets worth of material were added to room 653 and condensed to three filing cabinets.



Archives team shares archive update over lunch

Toward the end of the January Sojourn, the Archive team hosted the ICA staff, community residents, & maintenance team for lunch and an archive updates. Archive team members shared the details of the Basement Resettlement Plan as well as the technical aspects of FileMakerPro and the accession prototype. The room was full of energy and guests were eager to investigate ways to access and dialogue with Archival materials.

There is deep interest by current staff in understanding and making relevant the archived research and documents in order to inform ICA's community development methods, skills in event management, and ToP training around the globe. Moving forward, the staff is interested in coordinating with the Archives team for training in how to navigate archival materials, with training formats both in person and accessible remotely to include ICA global partners.

ICA Community Calendar

May 17-23rd: Sharing Approaches that Work 2015

ICA-Tanzania and ICA-USA are co-hosting the gathering with over 20 colleagues from Africa. The gathering will focus on ICAs sharing current programs and practices; discussing the future of African ICAs; and what has been promising in their work and what hasn't. Additionally the conference will include trainings and workshops on ICA methods and other skills the group would bring - i.e. youth leadership curriculum, permaculture workshops, and farmer-based self-help groups.

July 11th: Memorial for Betty Pesek

The ICA will be hosting a memorial for long time colleague and friend Betty Pesek at the ICA GreenRise. If you are interested in lodging in the building, please call 773-769-6363 or email reception@ica-usa.org.

Is It Just Space? Series of Events

June 14th: One by Land, Two by Sea! Transit to Trail: Montrose Harbor Sandy beaches, songbirds, Uptown architecture, and doughnuts ... what more could you ask for? Join us by Metra, CTA, bus, or DIVVY, and set out on foot to explore Montrose Harbor and the neighboring community.

July 16th: Do You Feel Welcome Here?

See the exhibit *Chicago's Families: Where Community Begins* and participate in interactive activities exploring how cultural heritage and cultural diversity inspire welcoming, sustainable communities.

August: Re-envisioning Underutilized Community Spaces

Envision new ways to take advantage of under-used community spaces. Meet others who have space and need space, and enjoy a local, seasonal meal. After lunch, you can even volunteer to help in the garden!

September: Rides to Transform Communities

Ride bicycles to build community and shift perceptions of local sustainability efforts in a series of 5 rides in 5 Chicago communities.

October: Is It Just Space?: Implications for Action

Reflect on key themes from the 2015 series, and help us discover ideas and actions that will make Chicago a more sustainable place for all.



INITIATIVES



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New & Returning Youth Service Learning Partners



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CSLN Cross-Community Collaborating for Action

Photo: Joe Mazza



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Growing GreenRise: A Hub Of Activity

Message from the Executive Director



Ted Wysocki, CEO

"If there has ever been a moment to advance a plan to heal the planet that also heals our broken economies and

our shattered communities, this is it." -- Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything*

It's been a busy few months since I posted my first *Initiatives* column last spring. I have visited ICA colleagues, Technology of Participation (ToP)[®] trainers, public officials, and community and sustainable development activists in the Twin Cities, Denver and Austin, Texas. The range of sustainable initiatives being pursued is diverse and strategically pertinent, including promoting community solar in Minnesota, expanding urban gardening in Denver, and improving interfaith understanding and civil discourse in Austin. You can read more about the visits by reading my blogs. [details on the next page]

To address the urgency of today's environmental crisis, comprehensive action is essential

Fall Archives Sojourn 2015: Exploring the Future of Our Past

From Sept. 21-25th, the ICA Global Archives team came together for the largest sojourn to date, with 50 colleagues joining both in person and virtually. The sojourn had three major areas of focus:

- Historic Use of the GreenRise Building
- Training Inc.
- New Religious Mode

Historic Use of the GreenRise Building

The task before this team was to find evidence supporting the use of the building as a place where innovative social justice programs were designed, coordinated and implemented over 44 years. This work is integral to the process of the ICA GreenRise applying to become a National Historic Landmark (NHL). (read more about this in the GreenRise article to follow)

The search for documentation focused on three areas of ICA work to meet necessary criteria: Uptown 5 (local); Town Meeting '76 (national); and The Band of 24 Human Development Projects (global). The team found the necessary documentation to build a case for the use of the building and new documents were created. The next step is preparing the application for submission to become an NHL in January 2016.

Training Inc.

The Training Inc. team was called to celebrate 40 years of Training Inc. and discern what aspects of the curriculum are relevant to the future of ICA. The group was able to archive key documentation of both



Members of the Training Inc. team with timeline

the beginning and most recent years of Training Inc. and articulate the 'heart of the matter' that made Training Inc. successful. The work of this team resulted in a draft of an 'Image Transformation Toolkit' to be used in future conversations and programs related to image transformation.

New Religious Mode

This team drew in the most newcomers to the archives. The team aimed to make the wisdom of the past relevant to ICA's current sustainability work while still maintaining the depth of the original curriculum.

The teams worked during the day and celebrated each day's accomplishments with wine and cheese, reflecting on what they learned and hopes for the future. To close out the week, the three groups reported out their progress and reflected on how to proceed. Another notable accomplishment from earlier this fall was *A Chronological History of the Ecumenical Institute and the Institute of Cultural Affairs, 1952 - 1988*, published by colleagues Beret Griffith and David Dunn. They are currently working on expanding to the end of the 90s.

Continued on Page 2

MESSAGE FROM CEO CONTINUED...

at all levels of society. This requires intentionally creating a space for coordinated action between policy-makers at the top and grassroots, local organizations at the bottom. Supporting this *in-between space* for government and community collaboration is the focus of ICA's 2016 city exploration.

Engagement of communities to pursue local actions is a prerequisite for the cultural paradigm shift necessary to change behavior to impact climate change. Implementing ICA's Technology of Participation (ToP)[®] facilitation methodology is key to expanding meaningful community engagement, through building consensus and creating and implementing strategic plans. ToP participatory processes draw upon decades of ICA's worldwide community development experience.

There have been two Global Archives Sojourns since I began working at the ICA. September's was the largest sojourn to date with 50 volunteers working in three teams to *Create the Future of our Past*. With the archives of original source materials, ICA is working towards having GreenRise placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is possible due to the history of social justice work that has stemmed from the building.

On October 23rd we convened a Faith & Sustainability Forum at the ICA GreenRise in order to exchange stories, ideas, and resources around what Chicago's faith communities are doing in sustainability. We focused the conversation on "How are faith groups taking care of their facilities, engaging their congregation and reaching out to their communities to actively care for the earth?" We'll update you in our next newsletter on the results and actions from the Faith Forum, as well as the work we continue to do to engage communities in Uptown and across Chicago, the US, and the globe.

As we look forward to the work ahead, let's embrace Pope Francis' call to action: "I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all." Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* of The Holy Father Francis

To read more about each of the visits mentioned above visit my blog at: <https://u2cando49.wordpress.com>



MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER Beret Griffith

How did you find the ICA?

A visit of my young family to my parents' home in Wisconsin in 1970 - began over a cup of coffee with my mother. The first thing out of her mouth was, "Your dad and I just went to a terrific course put on by the Ecumenical Institute (EI). You will love it." My husband and I took Religious Studies I (RS-1) in St. Paul, MN. I signed up for the Global Academy the fall of 1970, hired a babysitter for the kids and off I went. It has been 45 years since then and work with EI and ICA has continued to enrich, challenge and bring focus to my life.



What is your current role with the ICA?

Work with the ICA Global Archives captured my attention several years ago. I currently serve on the Archives Advisory Council (AAC), participating in weekly AAC Google hangouts for planning; attend regular archive sojourns; and occasionally come to Chicago to work in the archives at other times during the year. I write about various aspects of ICA History, the ICA Global Archives, and the ICA role in launching the International Association of Facilitators (IAF). I am a member of the ToP Trainers' Network (TTN).

What are your favorite things about the ICA?

The deep bond among colleagues not talked to in years, resulting in challenging and deep diving conversations, is a treasured experience. Last summer colleagues I worked with in New York City during the 1980's, stopped overnight at our cabin. We started talking over breakfast at 7am and continued through lunch. I love working with colleagues in person and virtually. I am pleased at the current reinvention of the work of the ICA toward focusing on the environment.

An interesting fact about you?

Two facts...I went to a library science class in 1964 at the University of Minnesota. I found it dull and unchallenging. I did, however, get a list of banned books and proceeded to read them all. I love everything about books.

In 1972 I had been taking art classes at the St. Paul College of Art and Design. I had decided it was time to get serious about art. I put together a portfolio and was waiting for an appointment with the Director of the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Mulling on an upcoming EI Summer Program, in a moment of crazy clarity, I picked up my portfolio, left the office, went home and made flight arrangements to go to Summer 1972 in Chicago.

Now I take snap shots and occasionally have a show of photographs.



Beret & team at Fall 2015 Archives Sojourn

New & Returning Youth Service Learning Partners

To close out the summer, two youth ministries participated in a week-long ICA Service Learning program while staying at the ICA GreenRise. Northway Christian Church and the First Christian Church of Rowlett, both from Texas, arranged for their two ministries to learn, live, and volunteer together. The cohort of 40 youth (aged 12-17) and their youth ministers explored a deeper understanding of service work, causes of homelessness, and systemic injustice. The group's curriculum incorporated action and reflection by pairing theory and methods with hands-on volunteering with nonprofits across Chicago.

This fall, for the third year in a row, ICA is continuing its partnership with the Social Entrepreneurship from INSEEC Graduate Business School in Paris. The program aims to deepen the students' community and cultural competence, enabling them to think critically about society in the US and France. Using an action reflection pedagogy, the curriculum includes theoretical components on race, the environment and economy, an action research component and a methods training component.

The action-research component places students at social enterprises in Chicago, providing the opportunity to develop applicable skills and gain a greater context about the city. Action-research sites are connected to the ICA through the accelerate77 and CSLN projects. The action-research provides benefits to the students and host sites, as well as the ICA, through the project deliverables and strengthened organizational relationships.



INSEEC students using the Social Process Triangle to asset map

NTTA & 2016 Annual Gathering

ICA and the ToP Network have partnered to create the National ToP Training Academy (NTTA). Set to launch in 2016, the NTTA is a one-year, comprehensive, train-the-trainer model designed to qualify trainers to teach the ToP Facilitation Methods. The aim of the academy is to allow individuals to transition from Apprentice Trainers in ToP to Qualified Trainers within a one-year timespan.

To qualify for this training, individuals must already be Certified ToP Facilitators (CTF) who are experienced in the application of ToP Methods; candidates who are strongly anchored in ToP methods and well on their way to fulfilling the CTF requirements also qualify. The focus is on becoming a Qualified ToP Trainer, not on becoming a facilitator of ToP methods.

Colleagues and ToP Network members Judy Weddle, Cheryl Kartes, Dennis Jennings, and Heidi Kolbe have been working diligently on a comprehensive curriculum for the NTTA, along with recruiting the first round of participants. ICA and the ToP Network are looking forward to the program and its ability to help interested people navigate the training process.

The NTTA is just one of the exciting initiatives coming out of the ToP Network. Recently ToP Facilitation Methods and ToP Strategic Planning courses became accredited for continuing education credits by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC) and American Planning Association (APA).

ToP Network Turns 25!

The 2016 Annual Gathering, *Claiming Our Legacy: Shaping Our Future*, is taking place on January 8-11, 2016 in Paradise Valley, AZ and will commemorate the great work of the network for the past 25 years.

Attendees will gather for several days of learning, creating, networking, and celebrating ToP. The gathering is organized to allow attendees to participate in sessions that are designed to help grow and develop their skills as ToP facilitators and share skills with one another.

To learn more and register for the annual gathering, visit <http://www.top-network.org/>.

Chicago Plans Series

Local Initiatives Support Coalition (LISC - Chicago) has launched its *Chicago Plans* workshop series, and partnered with ICA to co-design and lead the training workshops. The Chicago Plans workshop series is geared towards non-profit and community leaders and is designed to strengthen engagement and facilitation skills and support meaningful neighborhood engagement in place-based planning.

Chicago Plans is open to teams of up to three community leaders – including at least one full-time staff at a local community organization with a clear goal or vision specific to place-based planning. The cohort consists of 30 participants from across the city, including both seasoned community planners and leaders who are new to planning. Planning teams are all focused on communities within the City of Chicago.

LISC chose to partner with the ICA to transition from their previous planning trainings, generally focused around theoretical frameworks of the planning process, to a training focused on tools and methods for practical applications for participatory planning.

This is an exciting partnership for both organizations, and the series has received positive feedback from participants.



Chicago Plans sessions bring together organizations from across the city



Photos Credit: Gordon Walek/LISC

Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network Cross-Community Collaborating for Action

In the past few months Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network (CSLN) activities have exemplified the network's strength in collaborating across disciplines to effect change. Notable collaborations have been the continuation of three initiatives:

- Is It Just Space? Series
- Policy Working Group
- Smart Grid Energy Education

Is It Just Space?

This series consisted of collaboratively designed, multidisciplinary events that aimed to explore the intersection of justice and space. Since the series launched in April with the Urban Ecology Classroom: A Tale of Two Monarchs, CSLN members & their communities have gathered for eight events across the city.

Highlights from the events include:

- *Do You Feel Welcome Here?:* Reflecting on the Chicago Families exhibit at the Swedish American Museum to dive deep into the question of what makes a space welcoming and brainstorm ways to cultivate more inclusive spaces;
- *From Transit to Trails:* Engaging with land, water, and city at Montrose beach in a way that connected historical and natural contexts to the current state of Uptown;
- *Sustainable September Ride Series:* Exploring the nuances of 5 communities with Slow Roll Chicago while promoting an equitable bike culture--each community area shared something unique, from a welcoming front-porch culture in Greater Lawndale to Growing Power's urban farm in Back of the Yards; and
- *Re-envisioning Underutilized Community Spaces:* Working in a reclaimed lot in Englewood with students from Urban Prep Academy. The food producing garden will add a hands-on activity to their regular curriculum.

All the events encouraged community members to explore new perspectives, either through learning something entirely new or looking at a familiar topic in a different way. With 25 partners across all events, this series made apparent the network's value as a multidisciplinary entity. Organizers and participants alike look forward to continuing to build on their insights from the series.

Policy Working Group

The CSLN 'policy' group moved forward with the round table forums with Chief Sustainability Officer of the City of Chicago, Karen Weigert. On July 17th, 21 CSLN members gathered in Clarendon Park Community Center, to discuss ways that community organizations and the city could better collaborate.

The meeting ended with the idea that a tangible next step for collaboration might be for CSLN members to offer their input on the next Sustainability Plan the city is creating (the current plan ends in 2015).

To follow up, CSLN members came together on October 14th to form consensus as a network on how City programs, policies, and partnerships could be implemented to promote CSLN values, such as equity and meaningful community engagement, in the City's next sustainability plan. ICA staff are now compiling the data to share it with the larger network; the final CSLN input will be delivered to City officials.

Smart Grid Energy Education

Last fall, five CSLN members collaboratively applied for and received an Illinois Science and Energy Innovation Foundation (ISEIF) grant to create and implement culturally appropriate Smart Grid energy education in their own communities in 2015.

Grant partners include Chinese American Service League, Centers for New Horizons, Sacred Keepers Sustainability Lab, ICA and University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

On June 14th, the partners joined at ICA GreenRise for a Cross-Community Energy Exchange that brought together over 60 community members from Bronzeville, Chinatown, UIC, and Uptown. The aim of the event was to create a space where partners and community members could meet, learn about the interactive Smart Grid education approaches each partner had developed, and creatively adapt their own Smart Grid messaging. In November another cross community event, The Past & Future of Energy, geared at youth from each of the sites, will be held at IIT and allow the participants to tour the microgrid and learn from youth working in energy innovation.



Group at ISEIF Cross Community Event



Karen Weigert and CSLN members at Policy Meeting/City Roundtable



CSLN Meeting: Planning for the future



From Transit to Trails



Bikers on Sustainable Sept. Rides



ISEIF Cross-Community Event

Photo Credit: Joe Mazza

Growing GreenRise: A Hub Of Activity

To seek greater security for ICA GreenRise and increase access to historic resources, a team of ICA staff, consultants and contractors are making the case to place the ICA GreenRise on the National Historic Landmark (NHLs) registry.

NHLs are nationally significant historic places that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Taking the perspective of a recent Archives sojourner, “this building is part and parcel to the social justice work we’re doing [and have historically done].” It is through the lens of our historical social justice engagement that the ICA is petitioning the Secretary of the Interior to designate the ICA GreenRise as a National Historic Landmark.

If granted NHL status, the ICA GreenRise would then be eligible to apply for National Treasure status. National Treasures are NHLs that are found to be endangered irreplaceable buildings, landscapes, and communities. The ICA GreenRise, built in 1921, is already a Chicago Landmark and is seeking to restore the building to its original condition through Historic and New Market Tax Credits.

Restoration will involve rehabilitating the main entrance, stairwell, elevator lobbies, and executive suites, and some of the infrastructure by combining original systems

with innovative green technology. The building also has some deferred maintenance that would benefit from the preservation efforts of National Treasures status.

The historic social justice work that stemmed from the building is also linked to its future sustainability. Currently ICA GreenRise is in the process of embedding itself as a community sustainability ‘hub’ in the Northside of Chicago. The hub concept was created through the CSLN, and attempts to create decentralized spaces across the city for people to come learn skills and tools around sustainability.

ICA GreenRise is excited to announce the addition of Stone Soup, a housing cooperative with a mission around social justice and action, to our 5th floor. To welcome Stone Soup to the building programming staff organized a hub day around intentional communities. Four different intentional communities, including ICA GreenRise and Public Allies, Stone Soup, Benton House and Jesus People USA came together to learn from one another about the various forms of intentional community life. After a potluck meal, there was a lively World Café that centered around questions each of the communities were currently experiencing along with a bicycle maintenance and organizing (organizing through origami) workshops.



Intentional Communities Coming Together



Sharing Community Skills: Bike Repair



Sharing Community Skills: Organizing

Energy & Excitement Around ICA Regional Gatherings Around The Globe

In May, ICA-USA’s international team partnered with ICA-Tanzania to host an East & South Africa regional conference. With over 23 colleagues in attendance, representing ICAs and colleagues in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Togo, Canada and the US, the gathering was a great success. The gathering enabled collaborative dialogue and engagement among the ICAs in the region; it has subsequently sparked regional conferences all across the globe.

In September, ICA-Cote D’Ivoire hosted a regional gathering for West & Central Africa with over 26 colleagues from Cote D’Ivoire, Ghana, Benin, Nigeria, Togo, Japan, and Holland in attendance. Similar to the gathering in Tanzania, attendees were explored new ideas of how ICAs, ICA colleagues, and other organizations can collaborate on change-making and community development to increase their impact and effectiveness.

A European Interchange is scheduled for November 20 - 22nd in the Netherlands, as well as an Asian Pacific Regional Conference from November 29 - December 5th in Pune, India. ICA-Guatemala is currently working with ICA-Peru to host a North and South America Regional Conference in April in Peru. The completion of the North and South America Regional Conference will signify that, within a one-year span, all regions of the world will have had the opportunity to gather with one another.

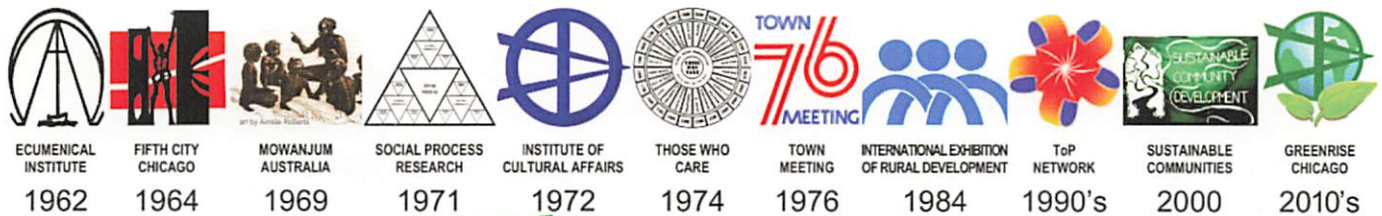
‘It is exciting to see so much energy and excitement and a reinvigoration of ICAs around the globe,’ noted ICAI Treasurer, Seva Gandhi. ‘It has been quite a while since ICAs have had this opportunity, and it is nice to see that there is a true desire for collaboration and coordination of social change efforts.’ These regional meetings will set the tone for the ICAI Global Conference, scheduled for August 2016.



East & South Africa Regional Gathering



West & Central Africa Regional Gathering



A NOTE FROM THE BOARD

SUSTAIN ICA'S "KEEPING & TILLING"

"Tilling" refers to cultivating, ploughing or working, while "keeping" means caring, protecting, overseeing and preserving. This implies a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature. Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations.

— Paragraph # 67 Encyclical Letter Laudato Si' of the Holy Father Francis

As you contemplate end of the year donations, we ask you to consider a donation to ICA. There are several unfunded initiatives that will prove vital for our future impact:

- Exploring collaborations with communities in other cities;
- Engaging in Climate Change Action;
- Furthering access to our Global Archives; and
- Sustaining future capital improvements to our building

To donate either use the donation envelope enclosed in this Initiatives or donate by mail to "ICA-USA" at 4750 N. Sheridan Chicago, IL 60640.



Last year, thanks to the generosity of our ICA colleagues, we were able to fund the installation of 485 solar panels, making the second largest solar array on a building in Chicago.

On September 23rd, ICA celebrated **one full year of solar energy!** ICA was able to cut down 224,835 lb of CO2 emissions from using the solar energy generated at ICA GreenRise during the year.

To put that into perspective, that is the same amount of CO2 emissions generated from burning 110,113 lbs of coal!



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Local



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Uptown Planning and GreenRise Historic Renovation

Citywide



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CSLN Explores the "In-Between Space"

National



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National Climate Action Conversations

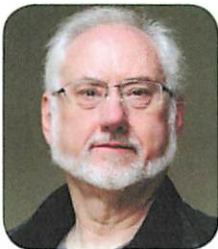
International



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ICAs Around the Globe

Message from the CEO



Ted Wysocki, CEO

"In every great struggle humanity has undertaken, the march towards progress has included both successes and setbacks. And

the struggle to protect and save the Earth's ecological system is no exception.

Today, I am as optimistic and resolved as ever that we will solve the climate crisis. Our collective efforts are dependent not on politics or ideology — or elections — but on our commitment to each other, to the health of our planet and to a sustainable future for all.... We must fight for the future we all believe in. Now, more than ever, our planet needs us — and I'm inspired by the knowledge that we'll take the path forward together."

- Al Gore, Founder & Chairman, The Climate Reality Project, 09/09/2016

In 1976, the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) launched a Bicentennial Commission approved initiative to convene Town Meetings across the US, creating one of the most comprehensive data sets of community aspirations and hopes for the future.

Continued on Page 2

Accelerating the National Conversation about Climate Change

ICA's Technology of Participation (ToP®) facilitation methods bring a legacy of tools for groups that foster participation, engagement, collaboration and effective action. ICA utilized these methods to launch Town Meetings '76. Those local efforts engaged citizens in considering issues and opportunities before them as they sought to improve and develop their towns and communities. In a bold experiment catalyzing engagement, collaboration, and action, ICA conducted over 5,000 meetings.

To celebrate this legacy of community action and the value of ToP methods, trained facilitators, ICA staff, and colleagues in the ToP network organized events in seven cities as part of a national collaboration to accelerate climate action. Facilitators partnered with local organizations to design and implement sessions which addressed critical issues in those areas. Over 40 collaborators organized this initiative, and many of the facilitators and organizations are planning on continuing the work with their new partners. In the following summaries a main ToP facilitator or organizer is listed but we thank all that participated.

Milwaukee Greenway Workshop, Milwaukee, WI. (Amy Murphy): 35 local stakeholders and activists currently working on the expansion of city greenways and storm water management met to share insights on project opportunities and challenges, strategized how to collaborate, and formed teams to move forward.

Accelerate Climate Action Community Forum, Denver, CO. (Sunny Walker): 40 residents from 17 Denver Metro neighborhoods came together to consider how local citizens could join in the effort to slow the worst effects of climate change. This event partnered with Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods (CHUN), ICA-USA and Wartburg College West.

Alliance for Sustainability Planning for Resilient Cities Workshop, Twin Cities, MN. (Rachel Hefte): 140 staff, elected leaders, and commission and community volunteers from 38 metro cities met to explore ways to develop sustainability vision statements, goals and strategies for implementation. Peers from other communities also gathered to explore how to advocate for their city to include energy, adaptation, transportation/land use, health/equity themes in city planning.



Minneapolis, Oct 24th



Denver, Oct 22nd



Milwaukee, Oct 18th

Continued on Page 5

MESSAGE FROM CEO CONTINUED...

Many of these original documents are still accessible in ICA's extensive archives.

This past year, our Archives Team worked with Dominican University Library Science graduate students to explore the community challenges and project proposals that were developed in nine states during the Town Meetings 40 years ago. I first found the results surprising, but then I remembered that this was the post-Watergate Presidential Election Year. What I find disturbing is how relevant these findings are for today's politics and this year's Presidential Election.

- Finding #1 was the gap between government and citizens fostered by poor communication between citizens & government.
- Finding #2 was the lack of citizen and community involvement and the extensiveness of public apathy.
- Finding #3 was no appreciation for diversity amidst racism.
- Finding #4 was the challenge of planning for long-term development when confronted with few public services, aging infrastructure, loss of resources, and not enough jobs.

The core of ICA's methods from its founding has been to engage in conversations that build consensus on action for solutions. Whether it was the Bicentennial Town Meetings or this past month's Accelerating Climate Action Initiative, this process is a powerful one. It is also essential to the spirit of our democracy if we are to trust government to represent its citizens.

There are more connections between ICA's past and the current challenges our country is facing. On October 3rd, Ladonna Bravebull Allard urged the UN to Halt Dakota Access Pipeline as the Standing Rock Sioux continue to protect their sacred waters and land. Ladonna is the daughter of Frank Brave Bull, who mentored Doug Druckenmiller (former ICA Board Chair and active member of ICA's Archives Team). Frank was one of the key supporters of ICA's Human Development project, Inyan Wakagapi, in Cannonball ND. I am confident as we move forward in the next year, as our Archives Team reviews the Band of 24 and we compare it to where those communities are now, we will see more clearly the impact of ICA's work.

For our current staff to continue ICA's legacy "to build a just and equitable society in harmony with Planet Earth," we all must engage locally, nationally, and internationally. Climate Action cannot wait for the 2020 Elections. It's time to reawaken, hear the call, and demonstrate the possible – now, more than ever.



You can read Ted's monthly blog post at:
<https://u2cando49.wordpress.com/>

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE: Bob Rafos

When did you first encounter the ICA?

I first encountered the ICA in 1967 when I was encouraged to attend a course. It really addressed me as I was very involved with the Civil Rights movement. I saw a way at that time to become more deeply involved in social justice. In 1969 our family joined the staff of The Ecumenical Institute (EI)/ICA and continued for the next 20 years.



What is your current role with the ICA? Also, what do you plan to do after leaving the board?

At the end of December of this year I will retire after six years as a Director. I have played a key role in financial matters and fund raising. I hope to continue working on the GreenRise development project with ICA. I will continue to be involved on Boards or as an advisor for several Canadian non-profit organizations. I am looking forward to our first great grandchildren and more time with my extended family.

What are your favorite things about the ICA?

What I like about ICA is the rich history of pioneering in social justice and spiritual renewal. ICA is not afraid to be engaged in the critical issues of our time, especially today's involvement with climate change and the environment. Of course, along the journey with ICA I have been deeply impacted by wonderful colleagues who have inspired, nurtured, and supported me. For all of you, I am forever grateful.

An interesting fact about you?

I have had four very rich and diverse careers. After post-graduate work I spent ten years as a research chemist for an oil company, Standard Oil of Ohio. The next 20 years as a community development practitioner working in over 20 countries. The next 15 years as a partner and managing director of Northwater Capital Management, an investment management company. Finally, since retiring from Northwater, as a volunteer and Board member for a number of non-profit charitable organizations in Canada. The photo is me presenting a check for \$25,000 from Northwater to the CEO of Save the Children Canada, while I was Vice-Chair of the Save Board.

The following is an excerpt of Bob Rafos' thoughtful closing reflection given at Bob's last face-to-face board meeting on September 18th.

"We are facing the greatest threat of our time: Climate Change. Our role now is as it was before:

- Be a source of awakening.
- Sound the call to commitment; and
- Demonstrate what is possible.

Using ICA's GreenRise building as a symbol of service and sustainability, we must outreach to others working on climate action."

Elevating Leadership in Chicago Sustainability

ICA has been organizing the Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network (CSLN) since October of 2013. The CSLN embarked on two new journeys this fall.

Internally, network members worked together to develop a formal membership structure. The intent of the structure is to provide support and clarity for current members and allow new interested parties to plug into the work of the network more easily. Starting in the spring, CSLN organizers conducted outreach to seasoned and new members, as well as community leaders who have experience in organizing networks, for input and suggestions on the most effective structure to serve the diverse network.

The formalized structure has three levels of membership: Core, Ally, and Grasstops. Each level of membership is equal to the amount of time and energy invested; the benefits received directly correlate to the investment made. Members self-select the amount of time and energy they see themselves contributing to the network and choose a coresponding membership level. Network organizers intend to use this membership structure as they continue outreach to new members and improve it as more feedback is received.



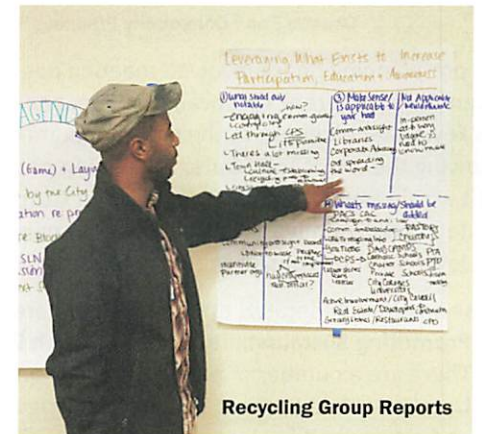
Nov. 2 Recycling Launch

Externally, the network's policy working group organized and delivered on their first tangible project in the 'in-between space,' aiming to reflect the voice of local residents and grassroots organizations in City policy. The CSLN policy team and the City of Chicago's Chief Sustainability Officer, Chris Wheat, laid the groundwork for and clarified the project through several round table discussions.

CSLN was invited and contracted to host four public meetings across Chicago to get community ideas on ways to improve Chicago's recycling, more specifically on how to reduce recycling contamination rates. The meetings educated attendees on the current reality of recycling and prompted them to share creative solutions to mitigate barriers they face to recycling. Meeting attendees produced many innovative ideas that are being processed to share with the City. The meetings also prompted some press coverage including articles in a few local newspapers, a radio segment on WGN, and a video segment on Chicago Tonight, WTTW.

City staff intend to review the ideas with members of the CSLN's policy team and begin implementing applicable ones to help improve Chicago's Recycling Program. Network members consider this project a positive one and are looking forward to exploring new opportunities through this partnership.

To read more about the work and members of the Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network or the recycling initiative please visit www.accelerate77.net/csln.



Recycling Group Reports



CSLN Shared Leaders Facilitated Group Discussions at Recycling Meetings



Sustainable September Bike Ride



CSLN Networking Event



Recycling Consensus Workshop



LET'S TALK TRASH: RECYCLING IN CHICAGO

HEAR THE DATA, SHARE YOUR IDEAS & LEARN FROM OTHERS!

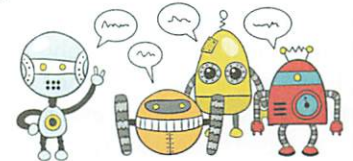
RECYCLING IN CHICAGO CAN BE HARD. LET'S CHANGE THAT.



The Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network (CSLN) will be hosting 3 regional gatherings this November.

Participants will be encouraged to brainstorm creative solutions to reduce contamination in Chicago's blue bins and contribute actionable ideas to support better citywide recycling practices.

Everyone is invited - Come Out!



Part of the Recycling Series Flyer

Planning in Uptown's Coastal Zone

In 2015, following a successful five year effort for ICA to re-engage in programming throughout Chicago, ICA began an effort to re-invest programmatically in its local neighborhood, Uptown. ICA has directed its local programming towards connecting residents to build relationships with one another and other organizations and live more sustainable lifestyles.

This year ICA's programming delved a bit deeper and connected residents and local organizations to collectively develop a community planning process to bring awareness and action to Uptown's unique, fragile, and beautiful coastal zone. The planning process was made possible by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Coastal Management Program.



Coastal Zone Community Planning Sessions

The pre-planning phase involved meeting one-on-one with over a dozen stakeholders at the local, citywide, and statewide level. With this key stakeholder input, the program team designed sessions following the arc of ToP Strategic Planning process, and adapted it to fit within four two-hour long sessions. Outreach materials were created and disseminated throughout Uptown, drawing in residents and local organizations to the planning sessions.

These sessions generated three areas of interest for working groups.

- **Promoting Sustainability in and through Projects and Programs:** There are a number of existing projects and developments in the Uptown area that could benefit from engagement with residents and a sustainability lens.
- **Connecting Organizations to Encourage Community Sustainability:** Uptown is rich in community organizations doing great work, and this group aims to identify and connect those groups to foster collaborations.
- **Creating Ways to Access Nature:** Uptown's existing green space continues to be in competition with development. This group aims to increase the visibility of green spaces to generate support to care for and improve Uptown's nature areas.

Following the completion of the planning process, the participants decided to celebrate the plan with a potluck dinner and invited additional residents to join one of three working groups to implement the plan in 2017. ICA received additional funding from NOAA and IDNR for 2017 and will begin educational programming about Uptown's Coastal Zone and how the lakefront's assets are related to a variety of fields ranging from mental health professionals to architects. ICA will organize a series of eight experiential-learning sessions focused on eight different interest areas, and will create a toolkit of strategies to connect the relevance of the Coastal Zone to any field.

EcoCharrette Stirs Interest in Historic GreenRise Renovation

ICA staff have been thinking critically on how to ensure the future of ICA GreenRise, ICA's historic, 8-story Uptown building. In addition to immediate concerns, such as completing an intensive replacement and repair of the plumbing system, there have been great strides to finalize a plan to sustainably renovate and restore the building to its original grandeur.

In 2012, ICA committed to Retrofit Chicago's goal to reduce energy usage by 20% by 2017; we exceeded that goal by reducing 23% in just four years, leading to the recognition of GreenRise as a member of the Retrofit Chicago Mayor's Leadership Circle for Outstanding Energy Efficiency Achievement.



Retrofit Chicago's Mayor Circle Award

ICA has positioned the GreenRise as an innovative and successful sustainable learning laboratory and nonprofit service center, thus the renovation and restoration project has drawn a lot of interest and eagerness to participate from professionals across Chicago.

On Oct. 25th, 25 people attended the ICA GreenRise EcoCharrette to strategize goals and discuss how sustainably renovating the GreenRise can improve the quality of life for people who live, work, and receive services in the building.

Some of the most probing questions of the day were:

- What is the long-range plan for the building?
- What is the best use of resources? Highest Performance?
- How do you get the most out of the space available?
- How do we use the design to generate revenue?

Although the specific details and timeline of the project are being refined, the EcoCharrette generated a framework for rethinking how the GreenRise deals with its water, windows (for daylighting and circulation), building envelope, and an infrastructure modernization for thermal comfort.

Farr Associates Architecture, organizers of the EcoCharrette, intentionally used a format that stressed an integrated design process that included the client, architect and engineers in order to ensure maximum buy-in to the project from the start. Technical experts on the project included



Participants at EcoCharrette

Farr Associates, dbHMS (plumbing and electric engineers), BTL Architects, and building enclosure specialists. The charrette also involved GreenRise experts from members of the ICA staff, residents, and volunteers. Bringing such diverse stakeholders together created a set of ideas that when implemented, will foster a holistic, environmentally friendly, beautifully restored, comfortable and functional community space

National Gatherings, continued

Phoenix Community Gathering 2016 (Neighborhoods Connect Town Hall Series Pilot), Phoenix, AZ. (Courtney Lonergan): 100+ multi-generational leaders and policymakers explored emerging solutions about the Muslim Reform Movement, police and neighborhood connections, and inspiring environmentally conscious citizens.

Youth as Facilitative Leaders Workshop, Chicago, IL. (Seva Gandhi): 15 Bronzeville community teens and other Chicago youth engaged in collaborative thinking and dialogue about how to activate their passions into constructive action.

Leveraging Our Leadership for Powerful Climate Action, Austin, TX. (Lynda Baker): 23 stakeholders of organizations working locally and nationally on climate action met to collaborate as leaders of climate advocacy, justice, and innovation to accelerate inclusive solutions locally, regionally and globally.

Tucson Emerging 2030 District Action Planning Session, Tucson, AZ. (Linda Ellinor): 22 participants strategized how to increase participation of residents and tap into the existing commitment of a 50% reduction in energy use, water use, and transportation emissions by the year 2030.

Climate Justice Allyship Building, Chicago, IL. (Caitlin Sarro): 60 residents and organizations gathered to identify actionable steps they could take to support each other and have greater collective impact around climate justice in Chicago. This event was organized with 350 Chicago and Thoughtworks.

In addition to helping the local initiatives, these meetings have produced a wealth of information on using ToP methods for climate change action of various scales and diversity. This series was a valuable learning opportunity that strengthened relationships and laid the ground for future collaborations.



Chicago, Oct 29th



Austin, Nov 1st



Phoenix, Oct 26th



Tucson, Nov 11th

“ It seemed a ‘soup-to-nuts’ variety of fabulous events; each meeting [feeding] needs that participants had. - Sunny Walker (Colorado) ”



Chicago, Nov 17th

ICA Network Activated Around the Globe

This year has been extremely productive for ICAs around the globe, both in terms of work in their own countries as well as with other ICAs to move forward to the work of ICA-International (ICAI).

Regional Meetings

Each region of the world's ICAs (East Africa, West Africa, Europe, Asia/Australia, N/S America) came together across five separate meetings in 2016. These regional conferences allowed local ICAs to look at ways to better collaborate, broaden, and deepen ICA's social change work. ICA-USA was represented at three of the five meetings.

ToP Global & IAF Partnership

ICAI and the International Association of Facilitators (IAF) have come together to form a working group consisting of three members/facilitators from each organization. The intent of the group is to explore ways the organizations can collaborate and support one another. Both organizations would like to collaborate in areas of conferences, events, complementary certification, and training endorsements.

In the coming months the team hopes to:

- Implement and uphold their common, core values;
- Launch and follow through on other initiatives that pertain to both groups' work;
- Discover other areas of collaboration, promotion, and research beneficial for both organizations.

ICAI New Members & Board Updates

The regional meetings have impacted local ICAs and allowed ICAI to broaden its network by welcoming four new associate members. The current network has 24 statutory and 7 associate member ICAs. Two new associate members, Support for Community Response (SCR) and Nairobi Community Organisation Consultants (NCOC) of Kenya, are from the African Region, Holistic Child Development India (HCD India) is from the Asia/Pacific Region, and Focus Homini of Poland is from our European/MENA region. These organizations were inspired to join the ICAI community after attending a regional gathering

Liseth Lorenzo was elected to serve as ICAI Board President and two new board members will be joining from Chile and India. ICA-USA staff member Seva Gandhi will continue on as Board Treasurer for two additional years.



European Gathering 2016

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UPCOMING EVENTS

TOP NETWORK ANNUAL GATHERING
JAN 13-16, 2017
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL
 TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE AT
WWW.TOP-NETWORK.ORG

GLOBAL ARCHIVES SPRING SOJOURN
MAR 12-18, 2017
ICA GREENRISE, CHICAGO
FOCUS: DEVELOPING A WORLD
CLASS WEBSITE FOR THE ICA
GLOBAL ARCHIVES
 RSVP/QUESTIONS: WENDELL REFIOR
 AT WENDELLREFIOR@GMAIL.COM



ECUMENICAL
 INSTITUTE
 1962



FIFTH CITY
 CHICAGO
 1964



MOWANJUM
 AUSTRALIA
 1969



SOCIAL PROCESS
 RESEARCH
 1971



INSTITUTE OF
 CULTURAL AFFAIRS
 1972



THOSE WHO
 CARE
 1974



TOWN
 MEETING
 1976



INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION
 OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
 1984



ToP
 NETWORK
 1990's



SUSTAINABLE
 COMMUNITIES
 2000



GREENRISE
 CHICAGO
 2010's

A NOTE FROM THE BOARD

ACCELERATING THE POSSIBLE

To address the urgency of today's environmental crisis, a comprehensive, multiple-dimensional intervention at all levels of society is essential. For decades, ICA has refined its methods to facilitate collaboration between and within governments and communities here in the US and in all 24 time zones across the globe.

Engagement of communities to pursue local actions is a prerequisite for the cultural paradigm shift necessary to change behavior and impact climate change. Using ICA's Technology of Participation (ToP) facilitation methodology, we are able to harness the energy and wisdom of a group to build consensus and create and implement action plans. Now more than ever, it is vital that we continue to strive towards making connections to inspire new ideas and practices through peer sharing, build consensus in the midst of conflicts, and activate passion into action.

Photos: ICA GreenRise was the Midwest Host Site for the 2016 Integrated Network for Social Sustainability Conference. ICA engaged a local, national, and international audience on seven focus areas of sustainability using the Permaculture Flower design.



As you plan for your end of the year donations, please consider giving to the ICA. There are several unfunded initiatives that prove vital for our future impact:

- Expanding the capacity of ICA's Chicago Sustainability work;
- Furthering access to our Global Archives;
- Sustaining future capital improvements to the ICA GreenRise; and
- Collaborating with communities locally, nationally and internationally.

To donate either use the donation envelope enclosed in this Initiatives or donate by mail to "ICA-USA" at 4750 N. Sheridan Rd. Chicago, IL 60640.

