



## Inside this Issue

33 <sup>rd</sup> Congress Ann.	1
Rev. Polly Laughton Guild	1
Chapter Conf. Report	2
Setting our Sights	2
Meeting UUA President	3
Interfaith at Work	3
Parliament of the World's Religions	3

## U.S. Chapter Board

Doris Hunter, Chair  
Nyla McCulloch  
Alexander Gibber  
Richard Kellaway  
Gale Maynard  
Peter Richardson

## Advisors

Rev. Koichi Barrish  
Prof. John Berthrong  
Prof. Hal French  
Rev. Gilbert Friend-Jones  
Roy Kaplan  
Val Kaplan  
Dr. Jim Kenney  
Kay Lindahl  
Prof. David Little  
Dr. William Schulz  
Dr. Robert Traer

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the IARF & Annual Meeting of the US Chapter September 4 – 7, 2010 Kochi, India

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the IARF will be a very special occasion for participants. The theme *Beyond Conflict to Reconciliation: The Challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, features an international list of speakers including His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, Dr. Karan Singh, President of the Temple of Understanding, Ms. Asma Jahangir, UN Special Rapporteur on *Religion or Belief* from the UN, Dr. Sheikh Ali, Muslim Interfaith leader. Consult the IARF website for more details and sign up! The International Association for Liberal Religious Women will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> year with a special program for women. Don't miss this event and don't miss the unique welcome provided by our Indian hosts!

During the Congress we will hold our US Chapter, IARF meeting which will include a slate of officers for the coming years between Congresses. The Boston area has completed its years of service and now it is time for a new slate of officers and a new location. It is the board's responsibility to maintain membership, promote financial solvency, plan conferences for the membership and friends, support programs of the international organization such as the human rights work in India, and encourage "branches" within the United States that will, in turn, support the work of the board. This should be an interfaith board and have as officers, a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and membership chair, as well as three or four other board members. We need to hear from you regarding your interest in the future of the US Chapter and the make-up of its board. Please contact Doris Hunter, [revdrleen@gmail.com](mailto:revdrleen@gmail.com) with your suggestions and indicate your willingness to serve on our next board. Thank you!

## The Reverend Polly Laughton Guild

The November death of Polly Guild, our dear friend and member of the US Chapter Board, left us with a loss we can never replace. She served on our board faithfully for many years and as many of you know, her international work in interfaith relationships was evident

in so many parts of this world of ours. With her husband, Ted Guild, she initiated projects in the Khashi Hills, the Philippines and in Pakistan and India. Polly attended the Congresses of IARF since 1958 and made life-long friends with people around

(Cont'd on Page 4)



**See attached itinerary for the IARF "Temples & Treasures" South India tour preceding the 2010 Congress.**

## Setting our Sights

With the opportunity for members to get together at our U. S. Chapter conference in Clearwater, Florida in January, and our anticipation of the Congress in Kochi in September this year, we've decided we will not be hosting a member reception at the UUA General Assembly this June in Minneapolis. Materials about the upcoming Congress will be available at the International Organizations booth in the exhibit hall.

We were very happy to present this year's IARF U. S. Chapter Service Award to **Thomas Mathew**, IARF Council President, who attended our Clearwater conference. Dr Mathew has been steadfast in his work in human rights education in India, his home country, and has represented IARF so successfully at venues around the globe, including the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions in Australia. In addition to his work on behalf of IARF, Dr. Mathew is director of a children's orphanage in Kochi, India.

## U.S. Chapter Conference Report

The conference, *Reconciliation with the Earth, Each Other and the Stranger* was held at the Clearwater Unitarian Universalist Church from January 14-17<sup>th</sup> with over 50 people attending plus speakers and invited guests. (See picture below) The US Chapter and the World Congress of Faiths sponsored the conference with the assistance of the Clearwater Congregation and its minister, the Rev. Abhi Janamanchi. We were very pleased Dr. Thomas Mathew from India was able to join us for the entire conference. Also attending was the Rev. Eric Cherry from the UUA.

The conference opened with an interfaith worship service led by Abhi. Its message set the tone for the conference. The next day we had a major address by Dr. Paul Razor and a panel on *Racial Justice in a Post-Racial Society, Myth or Reality* led by Dr. Roy Kaplan. Following that we had several

workshops including *100 Years of Interfaith Work* focusing on the IALRW with Kathy Matsui and Jopie Boeke. The Rev. Eric Cherry also presented a workshop on *Charting the Future of International Relations*. The conference then broke into circle groups to exchange introductions and opinions. In the evening, we had an Interfaith Music Program that included music from many different faith traditions. The next day opened with a worship service led by the Risho Kosei-Kai, followed by a lecture by Dr. Hal French. Dr. Thomas Mathew then gave a PowerPoint presentation on the upcoming Congress. The conference concluded with lectures by Doctors Mozella Mitchell and William Schulz, followed by a panel discussion. On Sunday morning there was a special worship service honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with the sermon by Dr. Schulz.

(Continued on page 4)



## A Meeting with UUA President, Rev. Peter Morales



Nyla McCulloch and Doris Hunter were very pleased to have the opportunity to meet with President Morales last fall. The Rev. Eric Cherry, Executive Director of the International Resources Offices, helped to arrange the meeting and he joined us for conversation about the purpose and activities of the IARF. We presented President Morales with materials from the organization and invited him to come to the 33rd IARF Congress in Kochi, India in September of this year. He appreciated the information and indicated that he hopes to be able to join us for that event. We look forward to this possibility and we continue to express our appreciation for all the support we receive from the Rev. Eric Cherry and the International Resources Office at the UUA.

### Experience of Interfaith Work

Recently we heard from Sara McLarty, IARF member and member of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Lubbock, Texas. She wrote about the interfaith activities in her community including the Interfaith Dialogue that is hosted by the St. John's United Methodist Church that meets for lunch on the 4th or 5th Tuesday of each month. The list of topics discussed was indeed universal and ecumenical. Sara included one order of service titled "Abrahamic Faith Traditions: Celebration and Forum" that was held at her church. Speakers included representatives from the Islamic Center, Baha'i World Faith, Jewish Congregation Shaareth Israel, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, and Roman Catholic Churches. It was inspiring to learn about what is happening in her community. Thank you, Sara!

We would like to hear from you. Perhaps some of you have started interfaith dinners. We have one in the Boston area that is continuing to meet after several years where we share food while feeding our spirits. This is the true spirit of IARF – to promote interfaith relationships in small gatherings, circle group meetings, and in larger programs such as our recent conference in Clearwater, Florida. Let us hear from you!

### IARF at the Parliament of the World's Religions

Since 2003, Rev. Orlanda Brugnola has participated in the Consultation for Interfaith Education ([www.globalinterfaithed.org](http://www.globalinterfaithed.org)) on behalf of the IARF. In December, 2009, she helped plan and present a portion of a program entitled *Landscape of Faith: Sharing Wisdom for a New Vision of Community*, which was held at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Melbourne, Australia. [See [www.cpwr.org](http://www.cpwr.org)] The seminar addressed the challenges of prejudice, injustice and alienation from the earth, while weaving the theme of the possibility of transformation through the arts. The arts have the potential to bring diverse peoples into new understand-ings, cooperative peacemaking, and shared revisioning of relationships. When people make art together it is an expression of their highest selves and can be a transformational experience. Rev. Brugnola's hope is that at the next Parliament that all registrants will have a chance to participate in the creation of a nonrepresentational piece of art work.



*(Guild, cont'd from Page 1)*

the world. In addition to her dedication to IARF, she also worked to develop and strengthen the organizations of the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church and the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists. She was a devoted Unitarian Universalist minister serving churches in the Boston area giving her skills as a caring pastor to those who needed her ministerial support and love. We who were her friends also experienced this ministerial support and love and we consider ourselves so blessed to have known her during those precious years of her life.

*Peace, my heart, let the time of parting be sweet,  
Let it not be a death, but completeness.  
Let love melt into memory, and pain into song,  
Let the flight through the sky  
End in the folding of the wings over the nest,  
Let the last touch of your hands be gentle,  
Like the flower of the night.  
Stand still, O Beautiful End, for a moment,  
And say your last words in silence,  
I bow to you and hold up my lamp  
To light you on your way.*

Rabindranath Tagore

Don't forget to regularly check for the latest news on our two IARF websites: - IARF International at:

[www.iarf.net](http://www.iarf.net)

and

the U.S. Chapter site at:

[www.iarfus.org](http://www.iarfus.org)

*(Conf., cont'd from page 2)*

The Chapter sponsored one young adult, Mr. Sri Kota, but because of the size of our board and its limited budget we were not able to hold a young adult conference at the same time as we felt the need to concentrate on the conference itself. Perhaps in the future this will be possible. Many participants spoke enthusiastically about the coming Congress and hoped they might be attending. We are very grateful that all went as planned and that the program was appreciated and well attended.

*US Chapter, IARF,  
Doris Hunter, Chair*



*Conference attendees participating in a drumming session.*

**U.S. CHAPTER  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

1578 STILWELL RD., APT. F  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94129

NAME  
STREET ADDRESS  
ADDRESS 2  
CITY, ST ZIP CODE

# IARF 2010 TOUR



## Welcome to South India

## TEMPLES AND TREASURES

Tamil Nadu, the heart of the Dravidian culture and tradition, has, from time immemorial, been a pioneer of peace and knowledge, and the visual legacy of the culture of the state, is among the most satisfying spectacles in India. Tamil Nadu, the cradle of south Indian temple architecture, is a living museum of styles that originated in the 7<sup>th</sup> century and matured in its huge temple complexes studded with towering gateways.

### August 25: Chennai (Madras)

Arrival and overnight **BOOK HOTEL INDEPENDENTLY; NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE**

### August 26: Chennai

Today mid-day city tour of Chennai (formerly known as Madras) Visit National Art Gallery, the 8<sup>th</sup> Century Sri Kapaleeswarar temple, Fort St. George, St. Thomas Cathedral, and drive along the beach. Later, leisure for individual activities, or to visit the Unitarian Christian congregation.

### August 27 : Chennai / Kanchipuram / Mahabalipuram



**Kanchipuram** - known as the Golden City of a Thousand Temples. Visit Ekambareshwar Temple, Kailashnath Temple, Kamakshi Temple, the Vaikunthaperumal Temple, all built in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries. Kanchipuram is justly famous for its particularly fine silk saris. Visit the local homes of the weavers and watch them create magic out of silk thread into saris. Later on drive to Mahabalipuram.

Mahabalipuram is a tiny sea side village set in a boulder strewn landscape, but also has a beautiful unspoiled **20 km beach** and rock-cut art. Visit Krishna Mandapam, one of the earliest rock-cut temples. Pancha Pandava Rathas are splendid structures dating back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century located in the southern end of Mahabalipuram. These beautiful and romantic temples, ravaged by wind and sea, are so significant that they have been given World Heritage listing. Overnight at hotel.

### August 28: Mahabalipuram / Pondicherry



Breakfast at hotel. Morning drive to Pondicherry (approximate 3 Hrs). The word 'Pondicherry' means "new settlement". It is a former French colony. On arrival, transfer to hotel. Later tour to visit to some of the main area attractions: Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry Ashram, Sacred Heart Church, Bharathi and Bharathidasan Memorial Museum . Overnight at hotel.

### **August 29: Pondicherry / Chidambaram / Tanjore**

Morning breakfast at the hotel and drive to Tanjore; enroute visit Chidambaram.

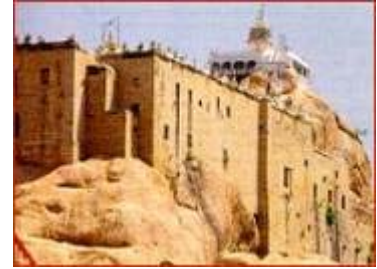


Later proceed to Tanjore. You will visit Sri Brahadeeswarar temple. pyramids. Also, visit the Palace next to the temple, built by the Nayaks and the Marathas. Overnight at hotel.

### **August 30: Tanjore / Madurai**

After breakfast at hotel. Morning drive to Trichy (approximate 5 hrs).

Situated on the banks of the river Cauvery, Trichy, or Tiruchirappalli, it is one of the most famous temple towns of South India. and the fourth



largest city in Tamil Nadu. Our sightseeing will concentrate on the spectacular temple architecture near Trichy at Srirangam. Set on an island in the Cauvery River within seven concentric walled courtyards, the Sri Ranganathaswami Temple is one of the largest complexes in India. Later, drive to Madurai, one of the oldest cities of southern India. Overnight at hotel.

### **August 31: Madurai**

After breakfast, and a morning city tour of Madurai, visit the **Meenakshi temple** one of the largest temple complexes in India - 46 ft. long by 790 ft broad, and Madurai's greatest landmark - a whole city within a city. The high point of the Meenakshi temple is Hall of a "Thousand Pillars". Also visit the palace of **Tirumala Nayak**. It's enormous roofed arcade is supported by 48 foot high stoned pillars. Evening visit of the Meenakshi temple. Journey to the temple by cycle rickshaws. Overnight at hotel.

**1<sup>st</sup> September Madurai / Kochi (Cochin)** : approximately nine hour drive

We will leave very early in order to arrive in Kochi in time for the opening events of the IALRW and Young Adult conferences.

### **Hotels to be used (or similar) Three Star:**

Chennai - Savera

Mahabalipuram - Ideal Beach Resort

Pondicherry - Hotel Anandha Inn

Tanjore - Parisutham

Madurai - Great Regency

LEADERS

Rev. Richard Kellaway of Boston, Massachusetts. A Unitarian Universalist minister, he has led several IARF tours, including two in India.

He has previously visited all of the sites on our itinerary.

We will also be accompanied by a professional Indian tour escort and guide.

## COSTS AND CONDITIONS

### **TOUR PRICE: 750 U.S. DOLLARS**

#### **Cost Includes:-**

Accommodation on twin sharing basis.

Meal Plan – Breakfast only

All of the hotels have restaurants with Western and Indian cuisine, or you can explore local restaurants.

Accompanying English speaking guide until we leave Madurai.

All Entrance fees, permit fees, and hotel taxes (as per itinerary).

#### **Cost Excludes:-**

Air fares.

Personal Expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, tips & gratuities, soft and hard drinks.

**Single room supplement will be 256 USD per person.**

**PAYMENT: 250 USD BY APRIL 1. (Non-refundable after June 1)**

**FINAL PAYMENT BY JUNE 1.**

**CHECKS MADE OUT TO: THE TRYWORKS COLLECTION.**

**MAIL TO: REV. RICHARD KELLAWAY, 10 ROSEDALE STREET,**

**DORCHESTER, MA 02124, U.S.A. (617) 533 8667; [rosedale10@comcast.net](mailto:rosedale10@comcast.net)**

#### **FLIGHTS FROM THE U.S. TO CHENNAI:**

Jean Kellaway is an experienced professional travel consultant who works with international flight consolidators. She may be able to offer attractive rates to Chennai.

You can contact her at (508) 992 – 0838; [j\\_kellaway32@msn.com](mailto:j_kellaway32@msn.com)

#### **AFTER THE CONGRESS**

**A post Congress to the North of India can be arranged if there is an interest.**

**Possible destinations include Agra, New Delhi, Jaipur, the caves of Ajanta and Ellora, Varanasi, and the Unitarian congregations of the Khasi Hills in Megalyha.**

**Let me know if you have an interest. Richard Kellawa**