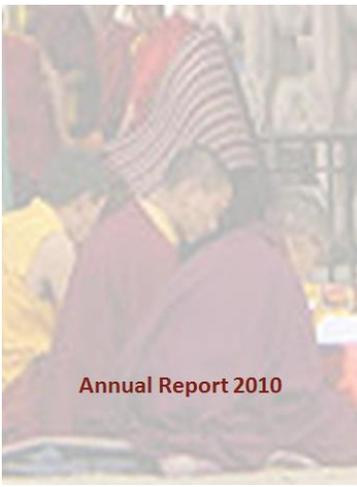




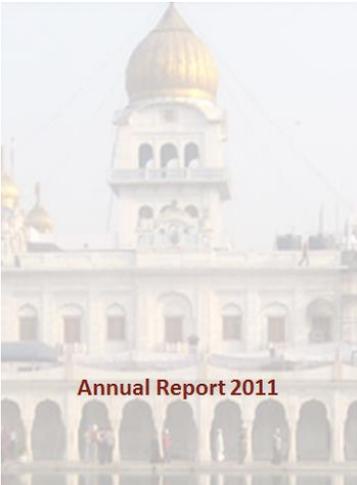
**UBEROI FOUNDATION**  
for RELIGIOUS STUDIES

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**Annual Report 2013**



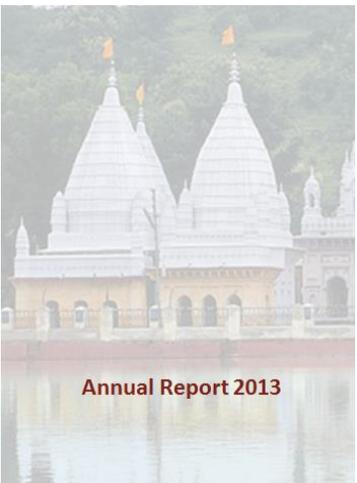
**Annual Report 2010**



**Annual Report 2011**



**Annual Report 2012**



**Annual Report 2013**



**Professor Ved P. Nanda**  
Chair of the Board  
Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies  
Denver, Colorado

December 2013

*For the Uberoi Foundation, 2013 was a year of reflection and engagement. Last year, the Trustees committed the Foundation to two fundamental priorities for the next several years. The first of these is the training of U.S. teachers in the Indic Dharmic traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. The second is the correcting of distortions about the Dharmic traditions in U.S. textbooks.*

*These two priorities remained as the focus of our grant-making this year. As informed by Professor Mahinder Uberoi's will, our grants committee each year selects grantees from among the many excellent proposals for funding which the Foundation receives. We are deeply grateful to Dr. Shiva Bajpai and Dean Yashwant Pathak, chairs of our grants and advisory committees, respectively, for providing superb leadership. In 2013, the Uberoi Foundation made 13 grant awards, amounting to \$188,000. Since its inception five years ago, the Foundation has now provided in excess of \$800,000 in programmatic investments.*

*Each year, the Foundation's Trustees, Executive Director, and Secretary, along with the valued friends of the organization, have organized an Experts Meeting around a theme aimed at advancing our understanding and appreciation in North America of the Dharmic traditions. Reports of these annual deliberations are aptly captured on the Foundation's website.*

*The vitality of the teacher training program served as the centerpiece of this year Experts Meeting. With a desire to take a moment this year for more reflection, the Uberoi trustees elected to have a smaller group assembled for its annual Experts Meeting and to take part in the teacher training session held annually at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. We're especially grateful to Dr. Bal Ram Singh for the leadership he has provided to the teacher training program there, now in its fifth year. Special invitees were Dr. Richard Yoshimachi and Dr. Virginia Benson from the Ikeda Center, Boston. In 2014, we hope to lay the groundwork for teacher training programs to be expanded into different parts of the United States.*

*Two special new connections are noteworthy. In May, we met with Dr. Charles Lief, President of Naropa University, the premier Buddhist institution of higher education in the United States. Together, we decided to convene the Experts Meeting of 2014 at Naropa in Boulder in conjunction with Naropa's 40th anniversary. The planning is underway in collaboration with Dr. Judith Simmer Brown, Distinguished Professor of Contemplative and Religious Studies, who suggested the theme of compassion as it is understood and practiced in these Dharmic traditions. Another new connection for the Foundation is with the University of Colorado's Department of Religious Studies, and specifically with Prof. Holly Gayley. In 2014, we will co-sponsor the University's lecture in Buddhist studies during our Experts Meeting held in Boulder.*

*It is always an extreme joy to be working with my esteemed Trustee colleagues and our distinguished Executive Director and Secretary with the sole aim of realizing Professor Uberoi's vision for creating awareness of the Indic Dharmic traditions in North America.*

Sincerely yours,

*Ved P. Nanda*





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## Vision and Mission

Mahinder Uberoi saw a world of many facets. He cherished the Dharmic tradition that was his birthright and felt its power as a vehicle for spiritual awakening and fulfillment. Professor Uberoi grasped the breadth of this tradition across the land of its origin and its range of experiences known as Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism.

The Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies is Mahinder Uberoi's legacy. After his death in November 2006, a will was read in which he wrote, "I leave all my assets for the scholarly study of Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, and other related religions and their music and arts." In order to honor his wishes, the Foundation was established on November 14, 2007, to encourage and support the work of scholars in these Dharmic traditions and to extend the reach of this knowledge in the United States in particular. The Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies provides a unique opportunity for the scholars of these traditions to explore their common ties in the Dharmic source.

The mission of the Foundation is summarized in these few words: *The Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies serves to raise awareness of the four major Dharmic religions of Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism in an effort to promote understanding, communication, tolerance, and peace among the diverse peoples of the world.*



## **Mahinder Uberoi: The Invisible Benefactor**



Mahinder Singh Uberoi was born in Delhi, India shortly after World War I, on March 13, 1924. He ultimately earned a doctorate degree in engineering and lived for most of his adult life in the United States, primarily in Boulder, Colorado. Professor Uberoi passed away in 2006 as a retired academic having chosen to live with very little pretense and ostentation. His wealth, however, was considerable, and his assets today help to raise awareness of Dharmic religions in an effort to promote understanding, communication, tolerance and peace in the world.

### **Education**

Professor Uberoi grew up in Sialkot, India, and received a bachelors of science degree from Punjab University in 1944. Subsequently, he studied in the United States, earning a masters degree from the California Institute of Technology in 1946 and a doctorate degree in engineering from the Johns Hopkins University in 1952.

### **Academic Leadership**

Professor Uberoi began his academic career on the faculty of the Department of Aeronautical Engineering at the University of Michigan from 1953 until 1963. During that period, in 1958, he earned early professional distinction as a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellow at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm.

In 1963, Professor Uberoi moved to Boulder, Colorado, where he lived for more than forty years until his death in 2006. From 1963 to 1975, he served as the chairman of the Department of Aerospace Engineering Sciences at the University of Colorado. Four U.S. astronauts graduated from the Department during those years, including Ellison Onizuka who died with other members of his distinguished crew aboard the space shuttle Challenger in 1986.

As chairman, Professor Uberoi added faculty and advanced basic research in the fields of fluid mechanics, modern control systems, and the biological sciences. Adolf Busemann, the father of supersonic aerodynamics, joined the department in 1963. Much of Professor Uberoi's academic career involved research and teaching far from his adopted city of Boulder, Colorado. In 1966, he was an

exchange scientist with the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Between 1972 and 1974, he was an invited professor at the University of Quebec, followed thereafter in 1974 as a visiting scientist at the Max Plank Institute of Astrophysics in Munich. From 1975 to 1976, Professor Uberoi was an honorary research fellow at Harvard University, and he returned to the University of Colorado between 1981 and 1982 as a Croft professor.

### **Scientific Achievement**

Professor Uberoi made innumerable contributions to scholarly literature during his career, on topics such as turbulent flow, magneto-hydrodynamics, and combustion. He was the editor of *Cosmic Gas Dynamics* by Evry Schatzman and Ludwig Bierman. He served on the steering committees associated with the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics from 1966 to 1969 and with the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences from 1967 to 1969 at the University of Colorado. He organized the all-university Seminar on Environment and Public Policy from 1970 until 1975. He directed and organized a science of flight program of High School Honors Institute from 1968 to 1974, directed the Summer Institute for Disadvantaged High School Students in 1969, and directed and lectured in the Pre-Engineering Program for many years.

### **Posthumous Orientation**

Mahinder Uberoi passed away on November 25, 2006. He never married and had no children. In 1986, twenty years before his death, he signed his last will and testament. In that document, Professor Uberoi ordered that his assets be used to establish a foundation “for the scholarly study of Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism, and other related religions and their music and arts.” In implementing his mission, he made it clear that his intent was not to proselytize. “Scholars need not have any particular faith or beliefs,” he wrote. To carry out his mission, Professor Uberoi intentionally left much judgment to the men and women who would be named as trustees of the foundation. Nevertheless, by way of example, he wrote, “Obvious candidates for support are persons who are regularly engaged in scholarly work, such as universities, institutes, and religious centers.”

Deploying the assets of Professor Uberoi upon his death, the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies requested and subsequently received authorization as a tax-exempt private foundation by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service on December 13, 2007. The five founding trustees of the Foundation wish to express particular gratitude to a former student of Professor Uberoi, Mr. Randy Nishiyama, for his tireless and selfless work in helping to lay the groundwork for the Foundation. Along with founding trustee, Parveen Setia, Mr. Nishiyama provided a most thoughtful and invaluable service in memory of the man who was once his educator.



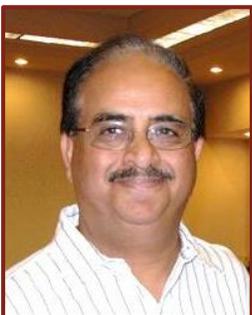
## Board of Trustees



**Professor Ved P. Nanda**  
**Chair, Board of Trustees**

Professor Ved P. Nanda is John Evans University Professor and Thompson G. Marsh Professor of Law at the Sturm College of Law, University of Denver and serves as Director of the International Legal Studies Program there. In 2006 Professor Nanda was honored with the founding of the Nanda Center for International Law. He was also Vice Provost at the University of Denver from 1994-2008, and since 2007 he has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Iliff School of Theology, Denver. He holds or has held numerous official posts in international, regional, and national professional and civil society organizations.

Among numerous national and international awards, he has received the World Jurist Association's Highest Order of Justice and its World Legal Scholar Award, the Gandhi-King-Ikeda Award for Peace-Building from Soka Gakkai International and Morehouse College, the Human Rights Award from the United Nations Association, and Civil Rights Award from B'nai B'rith. He has received honorary doctorates from Soka University in Tokyo, Japan and from Bundelkhand University, Jhansi, India. He is widely published, having authored or co-authored 23 books in various fields of international law and over 180 chapters and major law review articles. He is a frequent guest on television and radio and writes regularly on international issues for the *Denver Post*.



**Mr. Parveen Setia**  
**Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees**

Parveen Setia, Vice-Chair, has been a US citizen since 1987. He is married to Minaxi Setia, sister-in-law of Anu Bhatia, and has three children, all in college. Mr. Setia graduated from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and earned his MBA from Webster University, 2008. He is employed as Pharmacist Team Leader at the Lakeland Medical Center in Lakeland, Florida. He is actively involved in the Ekal Vidalya project to support education of children in Indian villages.



**Mrs. Anu Bhatia**  
**Trustee**

Anu Bhatia, eldest of the three nieces of Mahinder Singh Uberoi, lives with her husband and two daughters in Delhi. She graduated from the St. Ann's Convent in Hyderabad in 1979 and obtained a diploma in Textile Designing with Distinction in 1983 and went to work for four years in a textile printing house. After she married her husband in 1984 she has managed the family textile business. Mrs. Bhatia also takes a keen interest in social activities such as raising funds for under-privileged children and has taken part in discussions regarding social issues

on the national television.

Regarding her uncle's legacy, Mrs. Bhatia says, "Living thousands of miles away, the most difficult task was finding people in U.S.A. who would take interest in fulfilling our Uncle's wishes. God has been kind and we are very fortunate to have such good friends to work with. As work progresses on the Uberoi Foundation we sincerely hope as trustees that by carefully choosing the plan of action we wish to act upon, we are able to achieve the vision of our late Uncle."



**Mrs. Jyothi Bhatia**  
**Trustee**

Jyothi Bhatia lives with her husband and two daughters in Noida, on the outskirts of New Delhi. She graduated from St. Ann's High School in 1980 and completed her diploma of two years in Fashion Designing in 1982. She then worked with Paris-based garment house "Jack and Jack" for five years. She travelled extensively all over the country and to Nepal between 1982 and 1987. She has her own fashion design studio and the couple has been successfully running their own business for the last 10 years.

Mrs. Bhatia and her husband were married in 1988. He is a real estate consultant in Delhi. They have two daughters -- Sahiba (20 years) who is doing her Bachelor's in Business Administration (BBA) and Vrinda (17 years) who is studying in the 10th standard.

Mrs. Bhatia is actively involved in religious activities at the "Bhakti Dham Mandir," a hillside temple and ashram in Nakuchiatatal, Nainital, in the Himalayas. The ashram also serves as a school to educate poor children. She says, "I thank God for this wonderful opportunity that we have, to fulfill our uncle's wishes."



**Mrs. Sneha Harjai**  
**Trustee**

Sneha Harjai is the youngest of the three sisters. She graduated from Kamla Nehru College of the University of Delhi with a BA degree in Honors English. She studied travel and tourism and worked as the Travel Assistant with the Grand Hyatt Hotel for two years. She was married in 1989 to Sunil Harjai, who recently

was awarded for his success as an entrepreneur in an Indian small industry. She brought her love and experience in travel to her work with her husband in their shoe exporting business, "Siddharth Exports," for which she handles the interactions and correspondence with foreign buyers, especially in the UK, Germany, and Italy. The couple has two children.

About the Uberoi Foundation, Sneha says, "Our uncle has left us a purpose to fulfill which we hope to achieve with the help of our dear friends who head our foundation. We would like to put in our best efforts and move towards the goal of our foundation."



## Executive Staff



**Mr. James T. Polsfut**  
**Executive Director and Treasurer**

James Polsfut has served as the executive director of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies since 2008, as well as its Treasurer since 2011. In addition, he serves as the president of the Cordillera Foundation and as treasurer and founding CEO of the U.S.-Mexico Foundation, two charitable organizations aimed at raising funds to benefit not-for-profit organizations in Mexico.

Previously, Mr. Polsfut helped to create a private bank and trust company called First Western Trust Bank, based in Denver. In that capacity, he served as president of First Western Development Corporation, a division of the bank responsible for corporate acquisitions. During his tenure there, First Western Trust Bank grew its assets to \$3 billion under management. Earlier in his career, Mr. Polsfut served as general manager for GE Capital in Mexico City and in the United States, as Denver Mayor Federico Peña's assistant for finance for the City and County of Denver, and as an associate in the public finance office of Smith Barney.

In addition to his professional responsibilities, Mr. Polsfut is active in the Denver community. Currently he chairs the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, the governing body of the 28 public universities and colleges in the State of Colorado, and he also serves on the board of the University of Denver Social Science Foundation. Previously, he served as one of two founding co-chairs of Denver's Road Home, a \$50 million plan organized in metro-Denver to combat homelessness over a ten-year period, as chairman of the board of the Urban Peak shelter for homeless and runaway youth, as treasurer of the Mi Casa Resource Center for Women, and as a board member of Open World Learning, the New America High School, the Latin American Educational Foundation, and the Arvada Council for the Arts and Humanities, among other organizations. Mr. Polsfut earned an undergraduate degree in Government from Harvard University and an MBA from Stanford University.



**Mrs. Katharine Nanda**  
**Secretary**

Katharine Nanda, MA, JD, University of Denver, has practiced law for many years and is currently working in the criminal area through the Office of the Colorado Alternate Defense Counsel. She has been actively involved with many organizations serving the Indian community in Colorado, having served as the Chair of the Hindu Society of Colorado and a founding board member and Secretary of the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of the Rockies (Denver).



## Programmatic Summary

Since Program Inception in 2008

The Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies seeks to propel the vision of its benefactor, Professor Mahinder Uberoi, in the programmatic efforts which it undertakes. The Foundation focuses principally on annual Grant Awards and an annual Experts Meeting.

The Foundation does not accept unsolicited requests for funding, but rather, extends invitations to proposed applicants based on their areas of expertise and engagement within the Dharmic traditions. A review of the Grant Awards made in 2013 appears in Section II of this Annual Report. A summary of the Experts Meeting 2013 appears in Section III.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Total</u>
2008	Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	<i>Experts Meeting 2008: Denver, Colorado</i>	\$ 14,150
2009	Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	<i>Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions</i> <i>Experts Meeting 2009: Orlando, Florida</i>	\$ 94,206
2010	San Diego State University Foundation Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	<i>Research on Tantric Culture</i> <i>Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions</i> <i>Experts Meeting 2010: Denver, Colorado</i>	\$ 241,902
2011	McGill University, Faculty of Religious Studies USF Foundation Inc Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Longwood University San Diego State University Research Foundation Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation The Regents of the University of Michigan Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	<i>Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Conference</i> <i>Eastern and Indigenous Perspectives on Global Sustainability and Conflict Resolution</i> <i>Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions</i> <i>Communications Studies &amp; Dharmic Traditions</i> <i>Database and Writing</i> <i>Finalization of book on Dharma</i> <i>Sikhism Workshop</i> <i>Science and Vedanta Symposium</i> <i>Experts Meeting 2011: Los Angeles, California</i>	\$ 231,565
2012	Southern CA School of Theology Hindu American Foundation Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Hindu University of America, Orlando Southern CA School of Theology Southern CA School of Theology University of Michigan Cambridge in America SDSU Research Foundation California State University Foundation Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	<i>Int'l School for Jain Studies (ISJS) at Claremont Lincoln</i> <i>Dharma education outreach efforts</i> <i>Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions</i> <i>Vedic Traditions</i> <i>Research/publishing on books by Rajiv Malhotra</i> <i>Hindu Perspective of Ageing, Death, Dying, and Euthanasia</i> <i>Dharma Studies Publishing Project</i> <i>Confluence Integrative Studies Institute Syllabus Project</i> <i>Sikh 7-Day Seminar</i> <i>PhD studies of Varun Khanna at U of Cambridge</i> <i>Database and Writing</i> <i>TeachIndia! Teacher training</i> <i>Experts Meeting 2012: Denver, Colorado</i>	\$ 247,591

<b>2013</b> Southern CA School of Theology Hindu American Foundation Loyola Marymount University Maharishi University of Management Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Univ of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Meru Education Foundation Himalayan Academy CSULB Foundation Himalayan Academy Loyola Marymount University Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	<i>Ahimsa High School Teachers Program in India via Claremont Lincoln</i> <i>HAF Director of Education and Curriculum Reform</i> <i>Master's of Arts in Yoga Studies</i> <i>Perennial Philosophy of the Dharmic Religions, an Introduction</i> <i>Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions</i> <i>Indigenous Social-Economic Institutions of the Vedic Tradition</i> <i>Meru Curriculum Leadership Training</i> <i>Review of California School Textbook Framework for Bias Treatment of Hinduism</i> <i>TeachIndia! Pilot Project at California State University Long Beach, Year 2</i> <i>Create Documentary Teaching Resource on Hinduism and Indic Heritage</i> <i>Doshi Bridgebuilder Award</i> <i>Experts Meeting 2013: Dartmouth, Massachusetts</i>	<b>\$ 228,010</b>
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**Total Programmatic Outlay Since Inception in 2008: \$ 1,057,424**



## Grant Awards in 2013

The Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies serves to raise awareness of the four major Dharmic religions of Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism, in an effort to promote understanding, communication, tolerance, and peace among the diverse peoples of the world. The Foundation's primary source of grant-making revenue is investment proceeds from the perpetual endowment created by the estate of the late Professor Mahinder Singh Uberoi.

In 2013, the Foundation awarded eleven grant allocations as summarized below.

1. **Southern California School of Theology:** *Ahimsa High School Teachers Program*
2. **Hindu American Foundation:** *HAF Director of Education and Curriculum Reform*
3. **Loyola Marymount University:** *Masters of Arts in Yoga Studies*
4. **Maharishi University of Management:** *Perennial Philosophy of the Dharmic Traditions*
5. **University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation:** *Teacher Training*
6. **University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation:** *Vedic Tradition*
7. **Meru Education Foundation:** *Meru Curriculum Leadership Training*
8. **Himalayan Academy:** *California School Textbook Framework*
9. **CSULB Foundation:** *TeachIndia! Pilot Project at California State University*
10. **Himalayan Academy:** *Documentary Teaching Resource on Hinduism and Indic Heritage*
11. **Loyola Marymount University:** *Doshi Bridgebuilder Award*

### 1. **Southern California School of Theology**

**Project:** *Ahimsa High School Teachers Program*  
**Applicant:** Yashwant Malaiya, Colorado State University  
**Leads:** Sulekh Jain, Claremont Lincoln University  
 Philip Clayton, Claremont Lincoln University

Project Plan: The core concept of this proposal is an India-based program on *ahimsa* for high school teachers across North America. In 2012, a trial program was held for a group of teachers with virtually no financial resources, and with amazing results. The unexpectedly enthusiastic response to last summer's program is the primary reason for bringing this grant proposal to the Uberoi Foundation.

The 2012 Ahimsa High School Teachers Program in India was created in order to expose U.S. high school teachers to the dharma traditions and to train them to practice and teach *ahimsa* in their schools across America. This first-of-its-kind program was not about winning religious converts but about *ahimsa* and its dharmic (esp. Jain) roots. The program teaches people how to make *ahimsa* a way of life and incorporate it into traditional U.S. K-12 education, so that the teachers can influence thousands and thousands of American students. An overarching principle is that *ahimsa* practice enhances personal and social harmony, personal development and wellness, and global peace.

The program was collaboratively designed last year by the ISJS academic council, led by Dr. Sulekh C. Jain, and by Laura Hirshfield, an English teacher at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School in Acton, Massachusetts. Dr. Sulekh Jain and Ms. Hirshfield were assisted by Yogendra Jain from Boston. Taking place over three weeks, the Ahimsa High School Teachers Program was entirely based in India, thus making India an experience-based classroom for the program. It incorporated lectures, discussions, and site visits with Jain students, teachers, and practitioners, making it unique among peer programs for its level of exposure and immersion. Teachers who participated paid their own airfare, visa fee and part of their expenses in India. However, ISJS (with philanthropic support) significantly subsidized the program, and coordinated all aspects of the program (including delivery of academic content, hospitality, lodging and board, and travel within India). On behalf of these organizations, Ms. Hirshfield and Dr. Shugan Jain from India coordinated the program, assisted by ISJS staff members in India (Sushil Jana and Sahel Narang).

The responses by participating teachers to the 2012 program format was overwhelmingly positive. They also included helpful suggestions for modest course and itinerary adjustments, which will be incorporated. If funding from the Uberoi Foundation is secured to continue the program, the same curriculum will be used for the sessions in 2013 and beyond—only this time with a much larger group of 50 to 60 high school teachers from across North America. Teachers who complete the program in full will receive an Ahimsa High School Teachers Program in India certificate with the designation “Ahimsa Fellow.”

## 2. Hindu American Foundation

**Project:** *HAF Director of Education and Curriculum Reform*  
**Applicant:** Suhag Shukla, Hindu American Foundation  
**Lead:** Samir Kalra, Hindu American Foundation

Project Plan: The derogatory presentation of Hinduism and Ancient India in state content standards, and in turn, social studies curricula and textbooks is well known in the community. The Aryan Invasion, caste hierarchy and caste-based discrimination, multi-armed gods, cow worship, subjugation of women, and Buddhism as an “improvement” upon all that was corrupt in Hinduism is the frequent narrative that most of the major publishers provide. National organizations have filed lawsuits, community groups have participated in state-level textbook and curriculum adoption

proceedings and have been shut out, and most importantly, young Hindu students have shrunk in sheer embarrassment about their heritage. For the few students who have had the courage to speak up, they have done so by risking their grades.

In spite of growing awareness of the need to better advocate for curriculum and textbook reform and sporadic, individual community member efforts, the presentation of Hinduism has remained relatively unchanged. This is not to suggest that better results are not possible. Looking to other faith communities, such as Sikh, Jewish, or Muslim, one will find that those that have dedicated full-time attention and a multi-pronged strategy, both from the local level to a national level, have achieved the greatest strides.

To this end, the Hindu American Foundation, the only Hindu advocacy organization that has professionalized with professionalized staff and a physical office, seeks to hire a full-time Director of Education and Curriculum Reform. This director would be tasked overall with creating a positive image and fostering appreciation for Hindus and Hindu traditions through educational initiatives and actively working on educational reform both locally and nationally on a full-time basis.

### 3. **Loyola Marymount University**

**Project:** *Masters of Arts in Yoga Studies*  
**Applicant/Lead:** Chris Chapple, Loyola Marymount University

Project Plan: As stated in the vision of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies, the study of Yoga promotes understanding, communication, tolerance and peace among the diverse peoples of the world. The United States National Institute of Health also states that practicing Yoga can help one to feel more relaxed, be more flexible, improve posture, breathe deeply, and get rid of stress. Its benefits are reflected in the fact that there are 15.8 million individuals practicing Yoga in the United States and a total of 18.3 million Americans interested in Yoga. There are several more million people practicing Yoga from around the world. Loyola Marymount University's Master's of Arts in Yoga Studies program will contribute to the quality and competency of Yoga teachers and practitioners.

This university program is the first of its kind in the United States. The uniqueness of Master's of Arts in Yoga Studies at Loyola Marymount University is that it will be directed towards the needs of Yoga teachers and students to enhance their training and improve their competencies. The primary goal of the Master's of Arts in Yoga Studies program is to provide students with the tools needed to succeed in the practice and teaching of Yoga. The program is designed to produce leaders in the field of Yoga, equipped to open centers and studios for the study and practice of Yoga, to teach Yoga classes and to conduct trainings for Yoga students.

The Program's curriculum will enhance the students' understanding of the theory and practice of Yoga by offering courses on the complex history of Yoga, its primary classical textual resources, its health benefits and its relationship to various forms of spirituality. Students will learn the contemplative, meditative aspect of Yoga and a range of styles of Yoga from Sivananda to Krishnamacharya to Self-Realization Fellowship to Bikram to

smaller lineages. They will also gain a deeper understanding of the connection between Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism and Yoga.

#### 4. **Maharishi University of Management**

**Project:** *Perennial Philosophy of the Dharmic Traditions*  
**Applicant:** Evan Finkelstein, Maharishi University of Management  
**Leads:** Evan Finkelstein, Maharishi University of Management  
Chris Jones, Maharishi University of Management

Project Plan: As a prelude to the descriptions of each Dharmic religion's unique, differentiating characteristics in the curriculum development otherwise being supported by the Foundation, a critical predicate is to identify the most profound lessons that each tradition shares with the other Dharmic traditions, with all the spiritual traditions of the world, and with all the peoples of the world. This is pedagogically sound, as it will make the study relevant and engaging for the student; the lessons will not devolve into an impractical and personally meaningless study of an exoticised, foreign phenomenon. And most significantly, it will elevate the discussion to foster the synthesis critical in today's fractionated world: what is it that unites every person and all of mankind? This discovery by the student is the necessary antidote to the current disunity in the world and the ethnic and religious hatreds which have been the ironic plague of our great religious traditions for centuries. Each student in the 21st Century must have this unified perspective and experience, or the past history of unending conflict between groups will continue to its inevitable Armageddon. Educating about diversity without unity is untenable in the contemporary world.

Professors Finkelstein and Jones will provide this unifying prelude to the curriculum offered for the Dharmic traditions in the research funded by this proposal. They will research all the materials of the respective traditions of Hinduism or the Vedic tradition, Buddhism, Sikhism and Jainism to uncover the common, highest experiences of human existence, regardless of whatever linguistic or cultural covering it may be wrapped. They will locate the most authentic English translations which properly convey these ultimate expressions of human existence. The two professors will share the work, though Professor Finkelstein will focus on the ancient texts of each tradition to identify those expressions of the highest unifying relevance. Professor Jones will focus on organizing and expressing this body of material so that it is accurate, inspiring, and easily comprehensible to High School age students. He will also provide appropriately challenging learning activities that will assist the students to work with and integrate the knowledge content.

The deliverable will be two sets of work offered for a Ninth grade reading level. One abridged version of 5,000 words, and one of 20,000 words with annotations for teachers.

#### 5. **University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**

**Project:** *Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions*  
**Applicant/Lead:** Bal Ram Singh, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Project Plan: As a continuation to the pilot program implemented in 2009, one or two week-long workshops will be organized at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth during the summer of 2013. By way of background, the Uberoi Foundation sponsored a pilot program held at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth campus, during the summer of 2009, and that program has continued annually thereafter. The intended audience for the program each year is high school teachers. The objective is to broaden the teachers' views of India as a country and, in particular, of the Dharmic traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Jainism. Since the inception of the teachers training program, dozens of teachers have taken part. The program's primary organizer is Bal Ram Singh, the director of the Center for Indic Studies at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, where he is also a professor of biophysical chemistry.

Over five days, individualized workshops cover a general introduction of India followed by in-depth background on Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Jainism, and on the final day, a comprehensive conclusion. Local and regional experts lead the workshops. The participating teachers also enjoy cultural activities, such as a classical Hindustani music concert, a tour of a nearby Hindu temple, and a trial of Indian clothing such as saris, lehngas, dhotis, and kurtas. On the final day of the training, participating teachers showcase the lesson plans they prepared throughout the week as well as their designs to continue working on lessons plans oriented for use in their high schools back home.

## 6. **University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**

**Project:** *Indigenous Social-Economic Institutions of the Vedic Tradition*  
**Applicant:** Bal Ram Singh, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth  
**Lead:** Shivi Chandra, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Project Plan: In 2012, the Uberoi Foundation funded a project entitled "Indigenous Social Democratic Institutions of the Vedic Tradition: Elements of *Praja* Democratic Philosophy and Applications in Modern Governance". This project was developed to produce original research to help generate scholarship to be used in teacher training program at UMass Dartmouth.

During the past three years of teacher training at UMass Dartmouth, questions have always arisen about caste, corruption, poverty, marriage, and their connections to religious beliefs. There are also historical questions such as Aryan Invasion Theory. We have found that providing access to published materials is very helpful to address those questions. One major issue that keeps coming up is the role and system of the caste. In addition to confusion with varna and jaati (caste) there is no positive value that is considered in the modern world. It is now possible to collect original data on praja from original ground level sources. It is necessary to examine the role of praja (the skilled group of population) in the sociopolitical context to synthesize a narrative for not only the past but perhaps its relevance to future.

Data can be collected in different parts of India by research assistants with relatively low expense. This project intends to include an anthropologist (Dr. Lisa Maya Knauer at UMass Dartmouth) and a sociologist (Dr. V. D. Misra, an adjunct professor at the Center

for Indic Studies, and former head of Sociology at Lucknow University) to oversee the data collection and analysis. The data will be collected on a non-governmental basis for their role in social life, such as birth, marriage, death, etc., and how much social power and pressure these groups wield in the society. The data will be annotated to assess the social harmony, political freedom, and economic independence of the praja group currently in existence in Indian villages (examples, barber, carpenter, blacksmith, goldsmith, potter, dharikars, washerman, etc.). The scholarship thus generated will become part of a workshop/symposium at the 21<sup>st</sup> International Congress of Vedanta (July 11-14, 2013), which will include selected scholars to provide chapters encompassing textual, historical, economic, political, and social perspectives on the praja system. A book will be published by the summer of 2014, which can then be used for advancing a better understanding of caste system in India.

This project aims to extrapolate the tenets, practice, functioning, and philosophical foundations of the Vedic *praja* system of social democracy, described predominantly in the epics of the Ramayana and Mahabharata and peripherally in historical sources of the period. Concepts which feature prominently in this Vedic construction of social democracy include *swadharma*, the selfregulation of the individual, *swatantra*, the self-governance of the individual, and *prayaschit*, a self-regulating system of punishment.

The proposed analysis of the *praja* system will be carried out with practitioners of the Dharmic traditions as well as with those practicing Islam and Christianity, as caste system in India transcends such barriers. Linking of the praja system with socio-political construct will allow a parallel analysis of the labor classification in the Western model (blue collar, white collar, professional classes, etc.) that will allow solutions rooted in the *praja* system to classical problems in the discourse on society. It will also posit implications for international development more generally based on the *praja* model and its philosophical foundations.

This project is initially to begin as an academic undertaking with production of books, position papers, and journal articles as its primary goal. However, eventual involvement with grassroots and governmental organizations in international development is the intent. The project will be led by Dr. Bal Ram Singh, with primary assistance from Ms. Shivi Chandra from Harvard University, who will be serving as a Research Associate for this project. Two collaborators, Dr. Lisa Maya Knauer (anthropologist) and Dr. V. D. Misra (sociologist) will work on this project to assist in designing the survey and analysis of the data.

## 7. Meru Education Foundation

**Project:** *Meru Curriculum Leadership Training*  
**Applicant:** Shekhar Shastri, Meru Education Foundation  
**Lead:** Vanita Shastri, Meru Education Foundation

Project Plan: The Meru Educational Foundation seeks to conduct training workshops across the U.S. to coach academicians and activists in becoming effective in influencing School Curriculum Frameworks from the lived Dharmic perspective. The goal is to

establish a culture of developing insight into the key Dharmic themes, effectively interacting and responsibly influencing the key actors. This is a scalable model of bringing about change in academic discourse which is in alignment with the Dharmic ideals of peace and harmony amongst all.

In each training workshop, scholars and community leaders will learn to organize their thoughts cogently and will be coached to speak clearly. They will also learn to ask for feedback, listen to any critical feedback without feeling attacked and respond thoughtfully and effectively without expressing any anguish. In addition, they will be taught how to make their talks entertaining. A rigorous, joyful discourse is the desirable foundation to build upon. If Dharmic interactions are brief, full of authentic content and entertaining, it has the potential to generate a new level of discourse.

The workshops, entitled *Bootcamp for Effective Dharmic Leadership*, will be led in-person by the lead applicant, supported by the core Meru team. In addition, a group of world-known Dharma scholars will instruct and interact through Skype during the course of the workshops; these luminary scholars will be brought in to impart innovative ways of thinking on Dharma topics.

The workshops will be conducted over five cities in distinct regions in the U.S. over the course of the year 2013. These interactive weekend workshops will be conducted over two days: Saturday and Sunday. Participants will be given homework prior to coming to the workshops and will be assigned work after the workshops, as well. The expectation will be that a specific action plan is drawn out and tangible actions initiated by the participants shortly thereafter in their respective districts. There will be substantial preparation needed prior to each workshop in studying the state-specific curriculum frameworks and customizing the workshops accordingly.

## 8. **Himalayan Academy**

**Project:** *Review of California School Textbook Framework for Bias*  
**Applicant:** Shiva Bajpai, California State University Northridge emeritus  
**Lead:** Acharya Arumuganathaswami, Hinduism Today

Project Plan: The project seeks to engage in the State Revision of (the curricular) Framework for grades K-12 Revision Process, to be resume shortly in 2012 after stoppage for budgetary reasons in 2010 and to be completed by 2014 under legislative mandate. The project, under the direction of Shiva Bajpai, will take up work on the proposed Framework revision and make recommendations through proper channels. Dr. Bajpai will coordinate with Khanderao Kand and the Hindu American Foundation to generate both public and scholarly support for the project's campaign to right the wrongs and introduce substantive changes on Hinduism especially, but also on Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism in the textbooks on World Civilizations for grades 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. This is unique opportunity, which comes only once every five or more years, for parents, practitioners and the public to influence the write-up and amend the narrative of their own religions and heritages in the social science textbooks that are to be prescribed for their children in particular and all the students at large.

The project aims to:

- a. Establish by scholarly analysis (with concurrence from other recognized scholars) that the California Draft Framework is unequal in its treatment of Hinduism compared to other religions, overemphasizing social issues and under emphasizing religious belief, tradition and practice.
- b. Identify instances of “adverse reflection” upon Hinduism throughout the Framework.
- c. Establish by scholarly analysis that the unequal treatment and adverse reflection in the Framework are found in the actual textbooks currently in use in California.
- d. Recommend remedial changes and additions to the Framework to bring it in line with the presentations of other religions.
- e. Analyze each textbook now in use and propose specific changes for the publisher to bring them in line with a fair treatment of Hinduism.
- f. Develop and test programs for educating K-12 teachers in the study of Hinduism and Indic heritage.

#### 9. California State University Long Beach

**Project:** *TeachIndia! Pilot Project at California State University*  
**Applicant:** Shiva Bajpai, California State University Northridge emeritus  
**Lead:** Tim Keirn, California State University Long Beach

Project Plan: This project is a continuation of the Pilot Project Workshop in 2012, with a larger number of teachers at CSULB. The purpose and the format of the workshop will remain the same with certain modifications aimed at enhancing the attractiveness of the course materials.

The basic format is a one week-long Teacher Training Workshop on the India section of the California Textbooks of World Civilizations in pursuit of the goals and objectives of the Institute of Curriculum Advancement – namely, to plan, review and reform the current curriculum in Indic civilization, especially the narrative of the dharma traditions in K-12 school and university education. The goal is to concentrate first on the California school education system because, as a provincial adage says, “as goes California, so goes the Nation.” If the objective is accomplished to revise and rewrite the India section of the world civilization textbooks, it would have a far-reaching impact not only in America but also in other countries including India-South Asia.

The first and foremost task that the project will undertake is the review, revision and reform of the narrative of Indic civilization, especially the portrayal of Dharma traditions in the world civilization textbooks that are being used in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes in the California State Education System. This involves examining those textbooks for accuracy, authenticity, and relevance of their content on India by a group of school teachers who would subject the textbook content to the criteria of its conformity to the California Framework, focusing on accuracy of the material and relevance to the image of the Indo-American/South Asian children in larger American community. The teachers will also provide assessment of this material used in classroom instruction and offer suggestions for improvement within the scope of State policy and procedures. Their

work will be critical to developing the kind of issue-oriented content that is comparable to other cultures and religions as well as appealing to the students, especially of Indian/South Asian background.

The second part of this project will be to involve the evaluation of the school teachers' Review and Assessment document by a select group of academic experts who will also provide their own review of the textbook materials and suggestions for revisions and improvements.

The third part will involve the consolidation of these reports and suggestions for the curriculum advancement into an actionable document that can be tested and refined in larger workshops or summer courses at several institutions over the next year and thereafter. These Teacher Training Workshops will expand the project, involving a larger body of school teachers and academic experts in preparation for eventual presentation to the publishers for incorporating changes in the textbooks and also to the State educational authorities for correction, revision, and rewriting of the narrative in the texts on Indic civilization, especially dharma traditions. Such a document will also be circulated among the Indo-American community, urging them to take up the issue with the state and other agencies as well as to mount some sort of a public campaign for securing revision of the textbook narratives that is accurate, authentic, and relevant.

#### 10. Himalayan Academy

**Project:** *Documentary Teaching Resource on Hinduism and Indic Heritage*  
**Applicant/Lead:** Acharya Arumuganathaswami, Hinduism Today

**Project Plan:** The concept is to create a ten-minute documentary style video suitable for grade 6 based on Chapter One of *The History of Hindu India*. This chapter covers the same time period as the California 6th grade textbooks. Himalayan Academy will hire a professional videographer to create the movie based on a script worked out by Hinduism Today and Dr. Shiva Bajpai and reviewed by appropriate parties.

Section One of the video will cover:

1. Basic geography of India, focusing in on the Indus Valley with a brief description of the civilization.
2. Evidence of continuity with subsequent Indian civilization in use of namaste, sindoor, fire altars, Siva, etc.
3. The Aryan invasion with evidence against it, specifically DNA research
4. The movement of people out of Indus Valley due to tectonic changes
5. Sanskrit and the Vedas
6. The structure of society, including hereditary occupations, family and status of women
7. Magadha, Pandyan, Maurya, Gupta rulers
8. The accomplishments of ancient India in science, medicine, astronomy, mathematics

Section Two will cover the:

1. Definition of Sanatana Dharma

2. Nature of God, Gods and Goddesses
3. Nature of the soul
4. Definition of puja
5. Key beliefs: dharma, karma, reincarnation
6. Key scriptures: Vedas, Upanishads, Ramayana, Mahabharata
7. Origin and development of Jainism, in brief
8. Origin and development of Buddhism, in brief

Section Three (exploring current practices with examples) will cover the:

1. Basic practices of Hinduism
2. Nature of home worship
3. Temple worship in India and abroad
4. Spread of Hindus worldwide in modern times
5. Saints, teachers and swamis in the past and today
6. Yearly festival cycle, Diwali, Raksha Bandan, etc.
7. 2013 Prayag Kumbha Mela, the greatest gathering of humanity on the planet

The strategy of the video is to produce a movie which is close enough to the textbooks, various state guidelines and curriculum frameworks, but that corrects the inherent errors in those books and curriculums in the process of presenting Hindu history from a Hindu point of view, on par with the presentation of the other religions of this time period. The movie will include Jainism and Buddhism, but not in such a comprehensive fashion as Hinduism, in part because *The History of Hindu India* does not encompass these religions and in part because they are not so unfairly dealt with in the typical texts as is Hinduism. Sikhism is not included because it did not develop during this time period.

#### 11. Loyola Marymount University

**Project:** *Doshi Bridgebuilder Award*  
**Applicant/Lead:** Chris Chapple, Loyola Marymount University

Project Plan: As a special undertaking of the Uberoi Foundation, sponsorship is requested of the Loyola Marymount University Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts' *Navin and Pratima Doshi Bridgebuilder Award, Presentation and Conference*. The 2012-13 recipient of the Doshi Bridgebuilder Award is Dr. Karan Singh, author, member of Indian Parliament, and former ambassador to the U.S.

Vedanta has influenced every aspect of Indian thought and culture for nearly 3,000 years. In the new millennium, the importance of Vedanta remains greater than ever in expanding the boundaries of human self-conception through transpersonal and integral psychologies and new trans-religious theologies. Dr. Karan Singh will deliver the keynote address on Saturday evening, June 15. Conference presenters include Pravrajika Vrajaprana, Makarand R. Paranjape, Paul Muller-Ortega, Sthaneshwar Timalsinha, Christopher Key Chapple and Debashish Banerji.



## ANNUAL EXPERTS MEETING

Beginning in its first year of operation in 2008, the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies has placed a high priority on gathering together experts from the four Dharmic traditions – in one city and in one room, in order to share, collaborate, brainstorm, and engage. A brief recap of the Experts Meetings held to-date follows below.

**2008:** During its first year of operation, in October of 2008, the Uberoi Foundation hosted in Denver, Colorado, more than a dozen renowned scholars of Dharmic traditions. The scholars used their time together to sketch out the contours of the Foundation’s work. Representatives of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism were on hand in person, and a representative of Sikhism was present by conference call. Remarkably, the scholars noted how unusual it was for them to be together to reflect on the common threads that bind these Dharmic traditions and that, as scholars, they rarely, if ever, have that opportunity. It was a wonderful and meaningful beginning to the work that the Foundation had launched.

**2009:** Over two days in late October of 2009, the Foundation organized a second opportunity to meet with scholars. To participate in its “Uberoi Foundation Experts Meeting,” on location in Orlando, Florida, the Foundation invited twenty academicians to collaborate with its five-member board of trustees in three joint sessions. In the months leading up to the sessions, the Foundation announced its intention at the Experts Meeting to delve deeply into the commonalities of the four Indic Dharmic traditions as well as into the ways in which those traditions contribute to society. For the Experts Meeting, Shiva Bajpai prepared a paper on *Theism: The Ultimate Reality* and Arvind-Pal Mandair and Bal Ram Singh prepared a paper on *Karma*.



*At the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado: The 2010 Experts Meeting*

**2010:** The Foundation’s Experts gathered in Denver in October of 2010 at the Iliff School of Theology. Over two full days of fast-paced discourse, the Experts revealed their considerable talents and scope. In so doing, they demonstrated a high level of academic rigor in their presentations and conversations.

Deliberations at the Experts Meeting among the scholars very successfully met the lofty charge set by the organizer, Dr. Arvind Sharma, who selected the topic of “Decolonizing Indic Studies.”

**2011:** In the beginning of October in 2011, the Foundation's Experts had the pleasure of meeting over two days in Los Angeles, California, with the significant assistance of co-sponsors Loyola Marymount University and Nalanda International. The 2011 Uberoi Foundation Experts Meeting, entitled "In Our Own Voices: Dharma Education in North America," sought to facilitate the emergence of innovative and creative theories, approaches, and methods to education and scholarship in Hindu, Jain, Buddhist and Sikh Dharma traditions. "In Our Own Voices" drew attention to the fact that Dharma traditions are not at the center of the dominant global discourse on contemporary issues and challenges. The voices (wisdom and discernment) of the Dharma traditions are currently on the margins. Yet they are of great significance and relevance to the crises that face humanity. The on-going goal is to position the insights of Dharma as integral to addressing these challenges. The term "In Our Own Voices" does not refer to who is talking or writing but rather refers to which lens is being used to define and understand the Dharma traditions.

**2012:** In mid-October of 2012, the Experts of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies once again had the opportunity to meet together over a period of two days. Gathering in Denver, Colorado, the Experts began



*At the Daniels Fund in Denver, Colorado: the 2012 Experts Meeting*

with reflections on the tragic attack brought upon the Sikh Gurdwara in Wisconsin earlier that year. The Experts then turned their attention to practical, in-depth discussions on the two programmatic priorities of the Uberoi Foundation – namely, training U.S. school teachers in Dharmic traditions and correcting distortions and inadequacies of Dharmic traditions in North American textbooks. The Experts concluded their time together by sharing brief presentations of pivotal work underway on each of these two programmatic priorities by likeminded organizations and experts.

**2013:** In the summer of 2013, the vitality of one of the Uberoi Foundation's primary grant-making programs served as the centerpiece of the Foundation's annual Experts Meeting. Assembling in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, the trustees gathered together a smaller, core group of Experts for reflection on the Foundation's strategy and participation in the annual teacher training program held at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Twenty Experts began their time together on July 31 with a mini-symposium in recognition of the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and, specifically, on the impact of his travels to the western world in 1893. The mini-symposium's discussion included the participation of Uberoi Foundation chair Ved Nanda and Uberoi trustees Yashwant Pathak, Shiva Bajpai, and Bal Ram Singh. Witnessing the detail of the training provided to the teachers, the trustees took part mid-week in a focus placed on Jain beliefs, lifestyle, and culture, as well as an evening dance demonstration by UMass Dartmouth student Anuradha Tata. In a strategy session held in the afternoon of August 1, the Uberoi trustees brainstormed on how best to implement the intended mission of Professor Mahinder Uberoi, especially with regard to the Foundation's two fundamental priorities for the next several years – the training of U.S. teachers in the Dharmic traditions and the correcting of distortions about the Dharmic traditions in U.S. textbooks.



## UBEROI FOUNDATION EXPERTS MEETING 2013

Dartmouth, Massachusetts: July 31 to August 1, 2013

### AGENDA

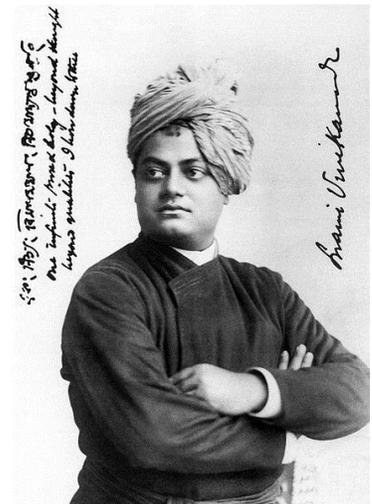
#### Wednesday, July 31, 2013

6:00 - 7:00 pm      **Welcome Dinner**

7:30 - 9:00 pm      **Mini-Symposium: Swami Vivekananda's  
Travel to the Western World, Universal  
Message, and Impact on Modern Society**

Speakers:

- Ved Nanda, University of Denver
- Yashwant Pathak, University of South Florida
- Shiva Bajpai, California State University
- Sukalyan Sengupta, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
- Bal Ram Singh, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth



**Thursday, August 1, 2013**

Morning:                   **Participation Mid-Week in the UMass Teachers Training Program**

7:45 to 8:4 am           **Breakfast**

8:15 - 8:45 am           **Meditation**

Led by:

Jerry Solfvin, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

8:45 - 9:30 am           **Contemporary Issues for Dharmic Traditions**

Led by:

Shivi Chandra, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

9:30 - 10:15 am         **Contrasting Perspectives on Teaching Literature on India**

Led by:

Danielle Johansen, UMass Dartmouth

10:15 - 10:30 am       **Break**

10: 30 - 11:00 am       **Summary of Jainism Pre-Reading**

11:00 - 12:00 pm       **Core Jain beliefs, Jain Lifestyle and Culture**

Led by:

Pravin Shah, Jain Study Center of North Carolina

12:00 - 12:30 pm       **Jain Food and Other Practices**

12:30 - 1:30 pm         **Lunch, Q &A**

1:30 – 4:00 pm

## **Uberoi Foundation Experts Strategy Session**

### Participants:

- Ved Nanda, Chair, Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies
- Parveen Setia, Vice Chair, Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies
- Anu Bhatia, Trustee, Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies
- Sneha Harjai, Trustee, Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies
- Jyothi Bhatia, Trustee, Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies
- Jim Polsfut, Executive Director, Uberoi Foundation
- Katharine Nanda, Secretary, Uberoi Foundation
- Shiva Bajpai, Chair, Grants Committee, Uberoi Foundation
- Yashwant Pathak, Chair, Advisory Committee, Uberoi Foundation
- Virginia Benson, Ikeda Center for Peace, Learning, and Dialogue
- Christopher Chapple, Loyola Marymount University
- Rita Gross, Buddhist dharma teacher
- Maureen Hall, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
- Sulekh Jain, International School for Jain Studies
- Yashwant Malaiya, Colorado State University
- Pravin Shah, Jain Study Center of North Carolina
- Shekhar Shastri, Meru Education Foundation
- Manohar Shinde, Dharma Civilization Foundation
- Bal Ram Singh, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
- Richard Yoshimachi, Ikeda Center for Peace, Learning, and Dialogue

**Evening: Participation Mid-Week in the UMass Teacher Training Program**

6:00 - 7:00 pm **Indian Dress and Customs**

Led by:

- Maureen Hall
- Danielle Johansen

7:00 - 8:00 PM **Dinner and Dance Demonstration**

Traditional Dancer:

Anuradha Tata



*Maureen Hall, Jyothi Bhatia, Anu Bhatia, Sneha Harjai, and Katharine Nanda*



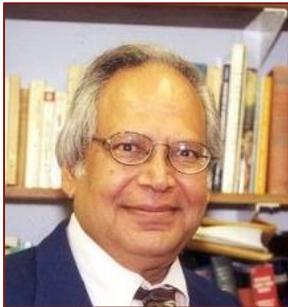
## Uberoi Foundation Experts Meeting 2013

Dartmouth, Massachusetts

July 31 to August 1, 2013

### Participants

(in alphabetical order)



**Dr. Shiva G. Bajpai**, Ph.D. served as Professor of History and Director of Asian Studies at California State University, Northridge, Los Angeles, from 1970 to 2003; as Professor Emeritus continued to teach (2003-2009). He has BA and MA from the Banaras Hindu University and Ph.D. from SOAS, University of London, UK. He also taught at the Banaras Hindu University, India, (1958-68) and worked at the University of Minnesota (1967-70). He has received many awards including an AHS-NSF Senior Fellowship and AHA & AAS best book awards for his coauthored work; a regular Examiner of Ph.D. theses of many Indian Universities. He has published, many articles on various aspects of Indian history and culture including contributions to Hindi Vishvakosha (Encyclopedia) and Encyclopedia of Asian History. He co-authored a major reference work: A Historical Atlas of South Asia (1978: University of Chicago Press & Updated 2nd edition. 1992: Oxford University Press; 2005: The Digital Library of South Asia, Chicago University Press.) His forthcoming books and works in progress include The Empire-State (Raja-Mandala): Dynamics of Geopolitics in Classical India; Trade and Patterns of Commerce in early Medieval North India (c.700-1200 C.E); India through the Chinese Buddhist Pilgrims' Eyes; and Early India in World History Following the California Textbooks Controversy, he has collaborated with the Hinduism Today in their publications) of Hindu History Lesson Supplements in 5 parts, (2007 & 2010) to the World History School textbooks.



**Ms. Virginia Benson** is Senior Research Fellow at the Ikeda Center for Peace, Learning, and Dialogue. She served as executive director of the Center from its founding in 1993 to 2009. Before joining the Center, Ms. Benson co-directed Pioneer Institute, a Boston-based public policy think tank, which she helped to establish in 1987. During the early 1980s she worked in publishing in New York City; and during the 1970s she worked in Washington, DC, where she served as a legislative researcher in the House of Representatives, a financial analyst in the Treasury Department, and an urban policy aide in the Carter White House.



**Mrs. Anu Bhatia** is a trustee of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies. She is eldest of the three nieces of Mahinder Singh Uberoi and lives with her husband and two daughters in Delhi. Mrs. Bhatia graduated from the St. Ann's Convent in Hyderabad in 1979 and obtained a diploma in Textile Designing with Distinction in 1983 and went to work for four years in a textile printing house. After she married her husband in 1984 she has managed the family textile business. Mrs. Bhatia also takes a keen interest in social activities such as raising funds for under-privileged children and has taken part in discussions regarding social issues on the national television.

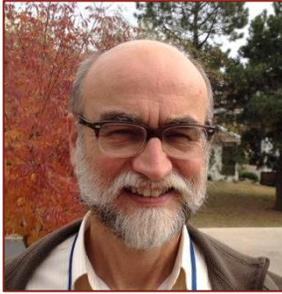
Regarding her uncle's legacy, Mrs. Bhatia says, "Living thousands of miles away, the most difficult task was finding people in U.S.A. who would take interest in fulfilling our Uncle's wishes. God has been kind and we are very fortunate to have such good friends to work with. As work progresses on the Uberoi Foundation we sincerely hope as trustees that by carefully choosing the plan of action we wish to act upon, we are able to achieve the vision of our late Uncle."



**Mrs. Jyothi Bhatia** is a trustee of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies. She lives with her husband and two daughters in Noida, on the outskirts of New Delhi. Mrs. Bhatia graduated from St. Ann's High School in 1980 and completed her diploma of two years in Fashion Designing in 1982. She then worked with Paris-based garment house "Jack and Jack" for five years. She travelled extensively all over the country and to Nepal between 1982 and 1987. She has her own fashion design studio and the couple have been successfully running their own business for the last 10 years.

Mrs. Bhatia and her husband were married in 1988. He is a real estate consultant in Delhi. They have two daughters -- Sahiba who is doing her Bachelor's in Business Administration (BBA) and Vrinda who is studying in the 10th standard.

Mrs. Bhatia is actively involved in religious activities at the "Bhakti Dham Mandir," a hillside temple and ashram in Nakuchiatal, Nainital, in the Himalayas. The ashram also serves as a school to educate poor children. She says, "I thank God for this wonderful opportunity that we have, to fulfill our uncle's wishes."



**Dr. Christopher Key Chapple** is Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology at Loyola Marymount University where he has taught since 1985. He has published more than a dozen books, including *Karma and Creativity* (1986), *Nonviolence to Animals, Earth, and Self in Asian Traditions* (1993), *Reconciling Yogas: The Yogadrstisamuccaya of Haribhadra* (2003), *Yoga and the Luminous: Patanjali's Spiritual Path to Freedom* (2008, winner of the Gandhi Book Award for Best Dharma Studies), and several edited volumes on religion and ecology, including *Hinduism and Ecology* (2000), *Jainism and Ecology* (2002), and *Yoga and Ecology* (2009). In 2002 he established the first of several Yoga Studies Certificate programs at LMU. He served on the advisory boards for the Forum on Religion and Ecology (Yale), the Ahimsa Center (Pomona), the International Summer School for Jaina Studies, and the Green Yoga Association. Chris and his wife Maureen trained in the theory and practice of Classical Yoga for more than a dozen years at Yoga Anand Ashram, Amityville, New York.



**Professor Rita Gross** is internationally known for her innovative work on gender and religion. She is also a Buddhist dharma teacher having been appointed to that position by Her Eminence Jetsun Khandro Rinpoche.

Professor Gross gives original, engaging talks on a wide variety of topics and can lead meditation retreats of varying lengths. She specializes in bringing together the values and perspective of academic research and Buddhist dharma teachings.

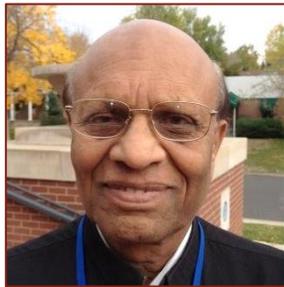


**Dr. Maureen P. Hall** is an Associate Professor of Education at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and has been teaching there since 2003. Before this teaching, she was a secondary teacher of English, geography, and U.S. History for ten years in the public school of New Hampshire. She has been involved with the Uberoi Foundation through the Uberoi Fellows Teacher Training at UMass Dartmouth since its inception in 2010. Her current research centers on cognitive-affective approaches in teaching and learning, the integration of contemplative practices for deepening learning, and how reading and writing can change lives. She spent a year in India over 2010-2011 as a Fulbright-Nehru Research Scholar researching the Super Accelerated Learning Theory (SALT). Part of her sustained interest in India involves learning more about the origins and ideas underpinning various contemplative practices, as she finds that these practices hold great possibilities for deepening student learning. Through teacher training and research, she continues to work on synthesizing and integrating the most effective pedagogies and teaching philosophies from East and West.

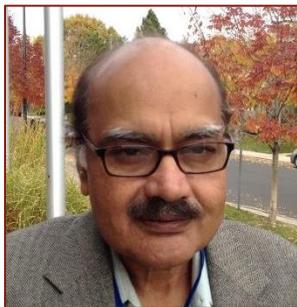


**Mrs. Sneha Harjai** is the youngest of the three sisters. She graduated from Kamla Nehru College of the University of Delhi with a BA degree in Honors English. She studied travel and tourism and worked as the Travel Assistant with the Grand Hyatt Hotel for two years. She was married in 1989 to Sunil Harjai, who recently was awarded for his success as an entrepreneur in an Indian small industry. She brought her love and experience in travel to her work with her husband in their shoe exporting business, “Siddharth Exports,” for which she handles the interactions and correspondence with foreign buyers, especially in the UK, Germany, and Italy. The couple has two children.

About the Uberoi Foundation, Sneha says, “Our uncle has left us a purpose to fulfill which we hope to achieve with the help of our dear friends who head our foundation. We would like to put in our best efforts and move towards the goal of our foundation.”



**Dr. Sulekh C. Jain** has been active in many religious and social activities within the Jain and non-Jain communities in the U.S.A. and Canada. Dr. Jain is Founder /Co-Founder of more than one dozen organizations and institutions in North America namely; Jain Center of Greater Boston (1973), Jain Society of Houston (1981), JAIN DIGEST Magazine (1985), JAINA Library (1988), Young Jains of America (1989), Jain Center of Central Ohio at Columbus (1991), Jain Academic Foundation of North America(1994), Mahaveer Vision Inc.(1994), JAIN SPIRIT International Magazine (1999),World Council of Jain Academies (1999) , JVB Preksha Meditation Center in Houston (1999). and International School for Jain Studies (ISJS) in 2004.



**Dr. Yashwant K. Malaiya** has been a Professor in Computer Science Department at Colorado State University since 1982. He has published widely in the areas of security vulnerabilities, fault modeling, software and hardware reliability, testing and testable design.

He has also published many articles on Jain history and demography, both in Hindi and English. His first publication in 1971 was on Jain history. He has served as a general chair for several international conferences in USA, India and China. He has served as an ABET commissioner and as a volunteer for IEEECS in several capacities. Dr. Malaiya has received the IEEE Third Millennium Medal, 2000 and IEEE CS Golden Core Award, June 1996. He has been an invited speaker and panelist at the biennial JAINA (Jain Associations of North America) Conventions for many of the conventions. He is the coordinator for office of Alumni Affairs for ISSJS (International Summer School for Jain Studies).he has also been an invited speaker at other Jain forums.

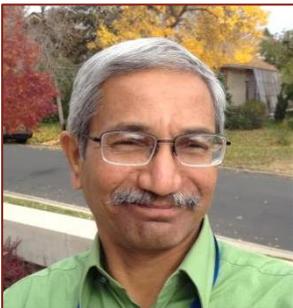
Dr. Malaiya was the founder of the India Association of Northern Colorado and has served as its elected President for two terms. He was also the creator of the very first website on Hindi language, and the first major web-site on Jainism. He is the moderator of an internet forum on Indian Archaeology. He was educated in India and USA and received a PhD in Electrical Engineering in 1978.



**Mrs. Katharine Nanda**, MA, JD, University of Denver, is Secretary of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies. She has practiced law for many years and is currently working in the criminal area through the Office of the Colorado Alternate Defense Counsel. She has been actively involved with many organizations serving the Indian community in Colorado, having served as the Chair of the Hindu Society of Colorado and a founding board member and Secretary of the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of the Rockies (Denver).



**Dr. Ved P. Nanda**, Chair of the Trustees of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies, is John Evans University Professor and Thompson G. Marsh Professor of Law at the Sturm College of Law, University of Denver and serves as Director of the International Legal Studies Program there. In 2006 Professor Nanda was honored with the founding of the Nanda Center for International Law. He was also Vice Provost at the University of Denver from 1994-2008. He holds or has held numerous official posts in international, regional, and national professional and civil society organizations. In addition to serving as the Uberoi Foundation chair, he was the founding president of and is currently a Trustee of the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of the Rockies (Denver), and is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Iliff School of Theology, Denver. He has received numerous national and international awards, including honorary doctorates from Soka University in Tokyo, Japan and from Bundelkhand University, Jhansi, India. He is widely published, having authored or co-authored 24 books in various fields of international law and over 200 chapters and major law review articles. Professor Nanda is a frequent guest on television and radio and writes regularly on international issues for the Denver Post



**Dr. Yashwant Pathak** completed his education (M.S., Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Technology) from Nagpur University, India. He is Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Chairman and Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the College of Pharmacy, Sullivan University, Louisville, Kentucky. With extensive experience in academia as well as industry, he has to his credit more than 100 publications, including a book in his professional field and several book chapters.

Dr. Pathak has travelled extensively and is actively involved with many cultural organizations, including as the founder and International Coordinator for the International Center for Cultural Studies. He has organized several international cultural conferences, including the World Hindu Conference at Durban in 1995, attended by more than 45,000, people and addressed by President Nelson Mandela. Actively involved in academic research on ancient traditions of the world, he has recently organized a conference on Hindu-Buddhist Dialogue to be attended by Buddhist monks from six different countries, on the theme “Martial Arts, Non Violence and Spirituality,” which will discuss all the Dharmic traditions of the world including the Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist traditions. Dr.

Pathak also serves on a number of boards and advisory committees for several cultural organizations in India and the USA.



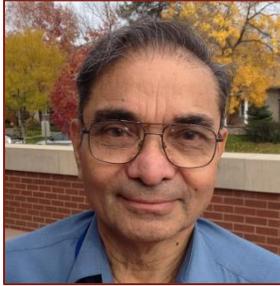
**Mr. James T. Polsfut** currently serves as the executive director of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies. In addition, he serves as the treasurer of the U.S.-Mexico Foundation, a charitable organization aimed at increasing awareness in both countries about the importance of the bilateral relationship and at raising funds for grant-making to benefit not-for-profit organizations in Mexico. Previously, Mr. Polsfut helped to create a private bank and trust company called First Western Trust Bank, based in Denver. In that capacity, he served as president of First Western Development Corporation, a division of the bank responsible for corporate acquisitions.

During his tenure there, First Western Trust Bank grew its assets to \$3 billion under management. Earlier in his career, Mr. Polsfut served as general manager for GE Capital in Mexico City and in the United States, as Denver Mayor Federico Peña's assistant for finance for the City and County of Denver, and as an associate in the public finance office of Smith Barney.

In addition to his professional responsibilities, Mr. Polsfut is quite active in the Denver community. Currently he serves on the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, the governing body of the 28 public universities and colleges in the State of Colorado, and he also serves on the board of the University of Denver Social Science Foundation. Previously, he served on the Board of the Child and Family Development Committee of the Rose Community Foundation and as a continuing elder of the Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church. He has also served as one of two founding co-chairs of Denver's Road Home, a \$50 million plan organized in metro-Denver to combat homelessness over a ten-year period, as chairman of the board of the Urban Peak shelter for homeless and runaway youth, as treasurer of the Mi Casa Resource Center for Women, and as a board member of Open World Learning, the New America High School, the Latin American Educational Foundation, and the Arvada Council for the Arts and Humanities, among other organizations.



**Mr. Parveen Setia** is Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees, of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies. He became a US citizen in 1987. He is married to Minaxi Setia, sister-in-law of Anu Bhatia, and has three children, all in college. Mr. Setia graduated from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and earned his MBA from Webster University, 2008. He is employed as Pharmacist Team Leader at the Lakeland Medical Center in Lakeland, Florida. He is actively involved in the Ekal Vidalya project to support education of children in Indian villages.



**Mr. Pravin Shah** is a founding member of Jain Study Center of North Carolina (Raleigh). He is a chairperson of JAINA Education Committee and advisor to JAINA YJA and YJP youth organizations. He is also a member of the Harvard University Pluralism Project Advisory Council and director of Triangle Interfaith Association since 2002. He is an Electrical Engineer, retired from IBM and lives in Raleigh North Carolina, USA.

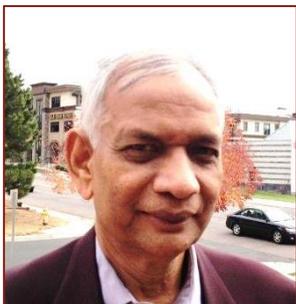
He is a Jain scholar, vegan and activist against animal cruelty. He has published several articles and books on Jain philosophy, cruelty to animals, and Comparative religions. His primary objective is to provide Jain religion education to Jain youths borne in the Western world. He offers two-day workshop on Jainism to educate Jain community and prepare teachers for Jain Pāthashālā (Sunday school).

As a chairperson of Jaina Education Committee, he has published a complete set of Jaina Pāthashālā Educational Material covering elementary level to college level education. Today more than 3500 Pāthashālā students across North America use this material. He is also the author of the books: Jainism - a Religion of Ecology and Non-violence, the Book of Compassion and Essence of World Religions.

He established the Jain eLibrary website [www.jaineLibrary.org](http://www.jaineLibrary.org) which provides Jain religious information worldwide electronically. At present more than 3500 books (more than 1,000,000 pages) of Jain literature in English, Hindi, and Gujarati languages are available on this site. The literature covers many aspects of Jain philosophy and religion such as Jain scriptures, commentaries, philosophy, rituals, conduct, art and architecture, His e-mail address [education@jaina.org](mailto:education@jaina.org).



**Mr. Shekhar Shastri** is an entrepreneur, poet, and an educationist. He is a co-founder and a Director of Meru Education Foundation. He was the founder and CEO of Redwood Investment Systems which he successfully built and then subsequently sold. He is a Charter Member of TiE – the largest global entrepreneurial network, and chaired its 2012 conference, TiECON East 2012. He writes and speaks on Dharma and transformational change and is a performing poet-musician. He has appeared on TV and radio, and has been written up in the *Boston Globe* and the *Wall Street Journal*. He lectures on ‘Sanskrit Poetry and Aesthetic Theory’ at MIT.



**Dr. Manohar Shinde** took full retirement from clinical practice of psychiatry in Los Angeles in August 2010, in the spirit of a "Vanaprastha" to devote more time to learning and networking with intellectuals and institutions for the purpose of nurturing Dharma-civilizational Studies and scholarship. Recently he founded the Dharma Civilization Foundation. In addition, he is a Founder Trustee of the "Global Foundation for Civilizational Harmony," a member of the board of SEVA International, an advisory committee member of Hindu Swayamsevak Sangha USA.

Previously, Dr. Shinde was director of the Eating Disorder Institute of California in Los Angeles, was on the clinical faculty of UCLA, USC, and The Institute of Contemporary Psychoanalysis (ICP). He has a PhD in Psychoanalysis from the Southern California Psychoanalytic Institute in Beverly Hills (1989). He graduated from the The Menninger School of Psychiatry in Topeka (1979) and undertook a fellowship in child psychiatry at UCLA (1981). He began his education with an MBBS from Osmania Medical College in Hyderabad, India (1968). Dr. Shinde is married with three children and has lived in the U.S. since 1969.



**Dr. Bal Ram Singh** is the Director of Center for Indic Studies at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, where he teaches a course on Science of Kriyayoga. As a Professor of Biophysical Chemistry and Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, and the Director of Botulinum Research Center, he has been conducting research for 19 years at UMass Dartmouth on the molecular mode of action of botulinum and tetanus neurotoxins, and lately also on yoga, mind, and consciousness. He has been teaching a graduate course on Chemistry of Mind for the past nine years. His research on biodefense and biotechnology is internationally recognized, and he has served on many national and international scientific panels. Dr. Singh has published about 175 research articles, has edited three books, and has obtained three patents. He is the Editor of The Botulinum Journal.

Dr. Singh received his B. Sc. from Avadh University in India in 1977 in Biology and Chemistry. He received his M.Sc. and M. Phil. Degrees from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India in Life Sciences during 1979-1982, and his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Texas Tech University in 1987. He completed his post-doctoral training at the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1990 and joined the faculty at UMass Dartmouth the same year. He received the First Scholar of the Year Award at UMass Dartmouth in 1996 and the 2004 University Service Award given by the UMass Dartmouth Alumni Association. He is President of BBTech, Inc., Dartmouth, and Managing Director of BBTech Herbal in India. He is also manager of a girls school, Kuruom Vidyalaya, which he has established in his native village in India.

Over the years, Dr. Singh has served on expert panels of National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security. He has published over three dozen scholarly articles on issues related to Indian tradition, culture, and philosophy, and contributes to a regional newspaper for Indian Americans. He also currently serves as an Associate Editor of the International Journal of Indian Culture and Business Management.



**Mr. Richard Yoshimachi** is President and Executive Director of the Ikeda Center for Peace, Learning, and Dialogue. Prior to joining the Center in 2009, he served as director of the Soka Gakkai International (SGI-USA) Culture Center in Washington, DC. From 1998-2003, Mr. Yoshimachi was the executive director of *Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century*, a traveling exhibition celebrating the Nobel Prize-winning scientist and peace activist. With tours in Europe, Japan, and the United States, the exhibition was viewed by more than one million people.



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