



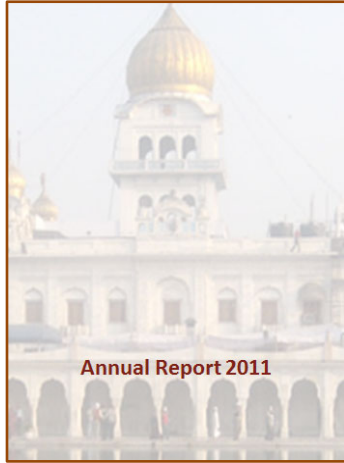
UBEROI FOUNDATION
for RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Annual Report 2022

15th Anniversary



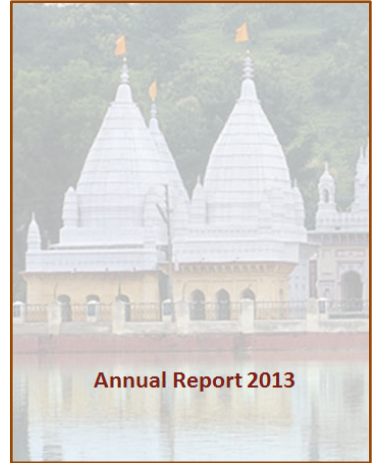
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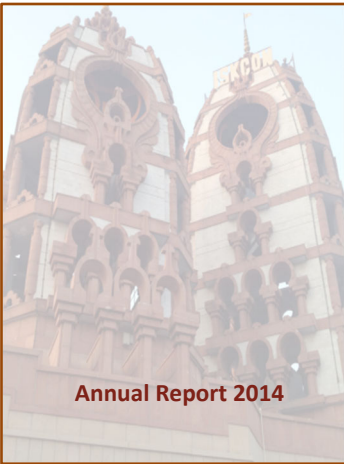
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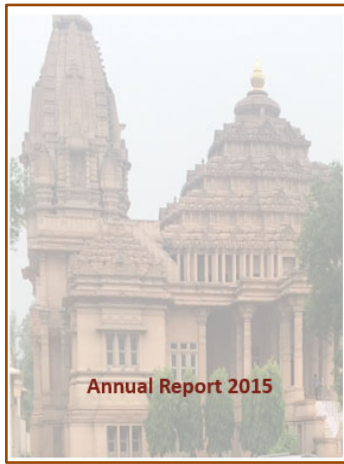
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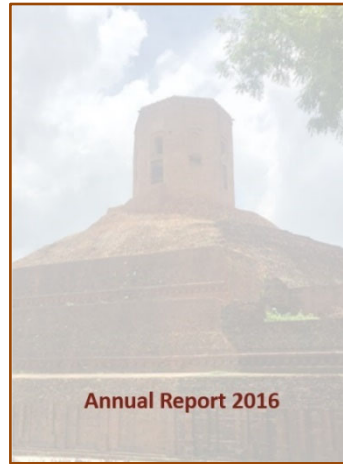
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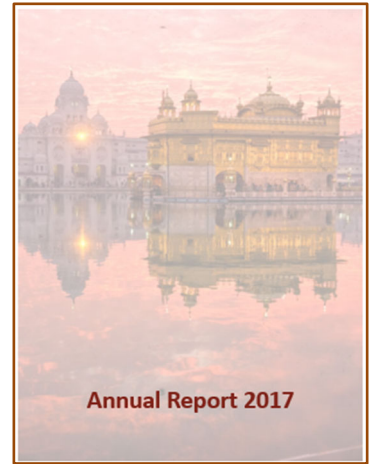
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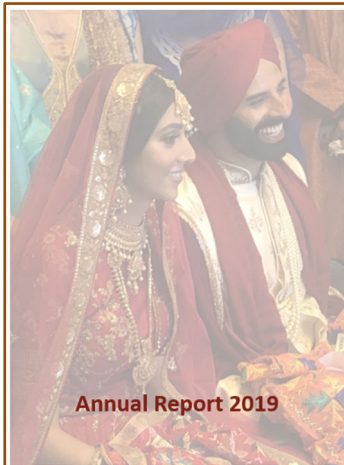
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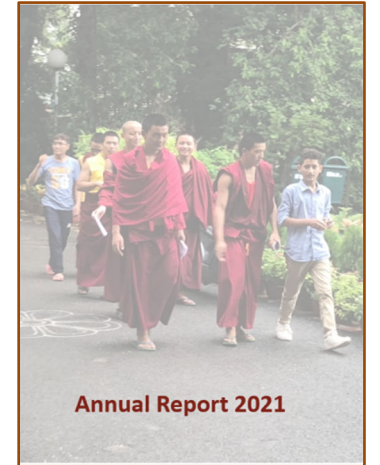
Annual Report 2018



Annual Report 2019



Annual Report 2020



Annual Report 2021



Professor Yashwant Pathak
Chair of the Board
Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies

December 2022

Just last month, on November 14, 2022, the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies celebrated its 15th anniversary. What a tremendous trajectory the Foundation has experienced in its formative years. As of this writing, programmatic investment has exceeded \$3 million. In the process, the Foundation's support has funded conferences, research papers, books, teacher training, textbook reform, and much more. A complete list of the grants underwritten by the Uberoi Foundation appears in Section II of this annual report.

Beyond financial investment, the Foundation's commitment to connecting people is also a significant achievement. In 2008, during its first year of operation, the Uberoi Foundation held its first "experts meeting," later renamed the Annual Uberoi Meeting, or AUM, pronounced "om" as in the resonant syllable uttered at the beginning and end of prayers and chants in the Hindu and other Dharma traditions. At that first meeting, and every other meeting held since then, experts in the Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, and Sikh traditions have gathered in Denver, Tampa, Boston, Los Angeles, and other rotating locations for three days of dialogue and association. A complete description of the Annual Uberoi Meetings appears in Section IV of this annual report.

As we celebrate our fifteenth anniversary, let me thank the founding trustees of the Uberoi Foundation for their foresight and leadership – including Professor Ved Nanda, Parveen Setia, Anu Bhatia, Jyothi Bhatia, and Sneha Harjai. Katharine Nanda as founding secretary, and Jim Polsfut as founding and current executive director, also deserve much gratitude. At this time, I would also like to thank retiring trustee Professor Ramdas Lamb. His knowledge and enthusiasm have made a significant contribution to the work of this Foundation.

As I've relayed in these past few years, the vision of our founder, Mahinder Uberoi, is truly becoming a reality. Increased awareness of the Dharma traditions is a vital spoke in a global wheel churning toward the promotion of understanding, communication, tolerance, and peace among the diverse peoples of the world.

With best wishes,



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Section I:

Overview of the Foundation



Vision and Mission

Mahinder Uberoi saw a world of many facets. He cherished the Dharma 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 Dharma 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 Dharma 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 Dharma 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 Dharma 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.

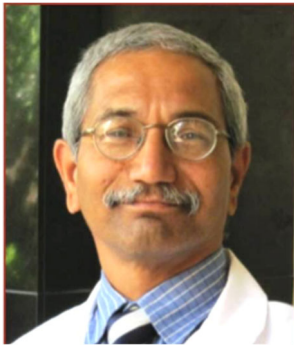
Posthumous Orientation

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 Yashwant Pathak
Chair, Board of Trustees

Originally from Nagpur, India, Dr. Yashwant Pathak is a tenured professor and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at Taneja College of Pharmacy at the University of South Florida. He has travelled to over 80 countries, strengthening wherever possible the local Dharma diaspora. He became associated with the Uberoi Foundation shortly after its incorporation, and in January 2020, became chair of the board.

Dr. Pathak has been adjunct professor in varied universities throughout the world, including Airlangga University in Indonesia, the University of West Indies, and Witwatersrand University in South Africa. Over the years, he has supervised numerous PhD and masters students. Dr. Pathak's research includes the publication of over 50 books in the area of drug delivery systems; Nano technology in drug delivery and artificial neural network for drug design, delivery and disposition; conflict management; and Dharma studies. He also has over 250 research publications, reviews and book chapters.

Dr. Pathak has a passion for the study of ancient civilizations and traditions. He actively volunteers for the International Center for Cultural Studies and, in that capacity, has organized many Conventions of Elders of Ancient Civilizations and Cultures of the World. These events occur every three years, and hundreds of Elders represent more than 35 nations.

In 2022, Walter De Gruyter GMBH (with Co-Editor Professor LaVena Wilkins) will publish Dr. Pathak's book entitled *Handbook of Organizational Conflicts*. He has two previous books in the field of conflict management, Eastern and Indigenous perspectives on conflict resolution and organizational conflict management (with Co-editor Professor LaVena Wilkins). In addition, other edited books include *Vanaprasthashram and Sewa Vrata* and *Meanings of Old Age and Aging in the Tradition of India* (with Co-Editor Professor Srinivas Tilak).



Professor Ramdas Lamb
Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

Dr. Ramdas Lamb is a Professor of Religion at the University of Hawai'i, where he has been teaching for more than two decades on the world's religions, with a specific emphasis on the Dharma traditions of India. From 1969 until 1978, he was a Hindu *sadhu* in the Ramananda Sampraday India, during which time he began his study and practice of traditional methods *sadhana*, including *ashtanga yoga*.

Dr. Lamb's current research includes a focus on the Ramanandis and on rural education in central India, looking at the various methods and tools that can be incorporated to help facilitate a more meaningful and useful educational experience for students. He joined the board of the Uberoi Foundation as vice chair in January of 2020.



Mrs. Anu Bhatia
Trustee

Anu Bhatia graduated from St. Ann's Convent in Hyderabad in 1979 and then obtained a diploma in Textile Designing with distinction in 1983 from South Delhi Polytechnic for Women. Thereafter, she worked for four years in a textile printing house. Mrs. Bhatia specializes in designing traditional Indian women's wear. Her work has been in a number of exhibitions in Delhi and other cities throughout India. She married Rakesh Bhatia in 1984, and since then has been managing the family textile business. Mrs. Bhatia takes a keen interest in social activities, such as raising funds for underprivileged children and participating in discussions regarding social issues on national television. In her capacity as a trustee of the Uberoi Foundation, she is actively involved in encouraging students and teachers from the United States to engage in religious study programs conducted in India and the United States. To this end, she passionately promotes dialogue between institutions in India and the U.S. on the study of the Dharma Traditions of India. With equal passion, Mrs. Bhatia encourages women on refining their role in society. Her hobbies include light vocal music and hand painting on fabrics. She lives by the motto that all people are inherently good, and our accomplishments depend largely on developing the spiritual aspects of our personality. Mrs. Bhatia has two daughters and lives with her husband in Delhi.



Mrs. Jyothi Bhatia
Trustee

The middle of three nieces of Mahinder Singh Uberoi, Jyothi Bhatia serves as a trustee of the Uberoi Foundation. Mrs. 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. Mrs. Bhatia has travelled extensively throughout India and to Nepal. She has her own fashion design studio, and she and her husband have successfully run their own business for the last 10 years. 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."



Mrs. Sneha Harjai
Trustee

Sneha Harjai is the youngest of the three nieces of Mahinder Singh Uberoi, and in that capacity, she serves as a trustee of the Uberoi Foundation. Mrs. Harjai 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 a travel assistant with the Grand Hyatt Hotel for several years. She was married in 1989 to Sunil Harjai, who recently was awarded for his success as an entrepreneur in 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, Mrs. Harjai says, "Our uncle left us a purpose to fulfill which we hope to achieve with the help of our dear friends who head the Uberoi Foundation. We enjoy putting forth our best efforts in moving towards the goal of our Foundation."



Executive Staff



Mr. James T. Polsfut
Executive Director and Treasurer

Jim Polsfut has served as the executive director of the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies since its inception, as well as its treasurer since 2011. In addition, he serves as chair of the advisory board of the University of Denver Josef Korbel School of International Studies (the Social Science Foundation) and as the chair of the board of the IPODERAC Children’s Fund in support of the IPODERAC Orphanage in Puebla, Mexico.

Professionally, Mr. Polsfut has focused on financial services and Latin America throughout his career. Currently, he serves as the CEO and Chairman of the Board of the North American Specialty Hospital. Previously, he 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. 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.

Mr. Polsfut earned an undergraduate degree in Government from Harvard University and an MBA from Stanford University.

Section II:

Programmatic Summary



List of Programs Since 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, a teacher training program, 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 Dharma traditions. A list of the programmatic investments since inception follows below. Thereafter, a description of the Foundation's teacher training appears in Section III, and a summary of the Annual Experts Meeting follows in Section IV.

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

<u>Year</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Total</u>
2013	So CA School of Theology Hindu American Foundation Loyola Marymount University Maharishi University of Management U of MA Dartmouth U of MA Dartmouth Meru Education Foundation Himalayan Academy CSULB Foundation Himalayan Academy Loyola Marymount University Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	Ahimsa High School Teachers Program in India HAF Director of Education and Curr. Reform Master's of Arts in Yoga Studies Perennial Philosophy of the Dharmic Religions Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions Indigenous Institutions of the Vedic Tradition Meru Curriculum Leadership Training Review of Calif. School Textbook Framework TeachIndia! Project at California State University Long Beach and Northridge Documentary Resource on Hinduism and Indic Heritage Doshi Bridgebuilder Award Experts Meeting 2013: Dartmouth, Massachusetts	\$228,010
2014	Himalayan Academy Himalayan Academy Calif. State Univ. Long Beach Fnd Loyola Marymount University Claremont Lincoln University Hindu University of America University of Colorado Foundation University of Michigan Hindu American Foundation Inst. of Adv. Sciences University of Michigan Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	Hindu India: 300 to 1850 CE California School Textbook Controversy Revisited TeachIndia! Project at CSU Long Beach and Northridge Master's of Arts in Yoga Studies ISSJS Ahimsa Teacher Training Teachers Empowerment on Hindu Dharma Annual Lecture Series in Buddhist Studies at the Univ. of Colo. and Naropa Teaching Sikhism Comprehensive Education Reform Teacher Training in Dharmic Traditions Indian Religions Encyclopedia Colorado Teacher Training Program Experts Meeting 2014: Boulder, Colorado	\$242,273
2015	Hindu University of America Inst. of Adv. Sciences McGill University Insight Meditation Community of Colorado Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Int'l Documentary Asn Hindu American Foundation University of Michigan Himalayan Academy Forum for Rel. Freedom SSU Development Foundation CSULB Research Foundation Himalayan Academy Loyola Marymount University Inst. of Adv. Sciences Himalayan Academy Inst. Of Adv. Sciences Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	Denver Teacher Training Program Nationwide Teacher Training Program World Religions Conference in Sep 2016 Earth Sila Project: Dharma-Based and Interfaith Int'l Summer School for Jain Studies (ISSJS) Creation of Center(s) for Sikh and Jain Studies American Veda Documentary Project HAF Director of Education and Curr. Reform Translation of Punjabi Clarifying Publications History of Hinduism Documentary Part 3 Writing on Vedic Correlation with Dharma OH Forum: Indian Cultural Heritage in Global Age TeachIndia week-long training California School Textbook Controversy Revisited Master in Yoga Studies Uberoi Teacher Training in India (UTTI) Program TeachIndia classroom material Uberoi Teacher Training in India Experts Meeting 2015: Tampa, Florida	\$324,706
2016	McGill University Inst. Of Adv. Sciences True Dharma International Himalayan Academy Himalayan Academy Himalayan Academy Himalayan Academy Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Hindu University of America CSULB Foundation Hindu American Foundation	World Religions Conference in Sep 2016 Nationwide Teacher Training Program "Good Death, Auspicious Rebirth" resource book Indian Monasticism: Ramananda Sampraday History of Hinduism Documentary Part 4 History of Hinduism Documentary Part 5 California Textbook Issues and Teaching Aids Int'l Summer School for Jain Studies (ISSJS) Scholarships -- Study of the Dharma Traditions Professorship of Jain and Sikh Studies Denver Teacher Training Program TeachIndia week-long training HAF Director of Education and Curriculum Reform Experts Meeting 2016: Montreal Unexpended Return of Grant 2015-11	\$225,611

Year	Program	Project	Total
2017	Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Hindu University of America Hunter College Himalayan Academy Naropa University University of Michigan SSU Development Foundation University of Colorado Foundation Institute of Advanced Sciences Hindu University of America CSU Fresno Foundation Himalayan Academy Loyola Marymount University Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	International Summer School for Jain Studies Professor of Jain and Sikh Studies Scholarships: Study of Dharmic Traditions 1 Day Dharmic University Program The Nay Science: Reader's Guide Teach India Videos Yoga & Hindu Studies, Naropa University Consciousness Studies in Indic Traditions Uberoi Seminar on Indian Culture and Globalization Trungpa Lecture in Buddhist Studies Nationwide Teacher Training Program Denver Teacher Training Program Women, Goddesses, Yogis, and Others California Textbook Controversies and Issues Uberoi Teacher Training in India (UTTI) Experts Meeting 2017: Denver, Colorado	\$178,020
2018	Institute of Advanced Sciences Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University True Dharma International Hindu American Foundation Manthratalk Organization Himalayan Academy Graduate Theological Union McGill Univ. School of Religious Studies Hindu American Foundation	Nationwide Teacher Training Program International Summer School for Jain Studies Scholarships: Study of Dharmic Traditions "Good Death, Auspicious Rebirth" training Hinduism 101 and Educator Professional Dvlpmnt Annual Meeting of American Academy of Indic Studies Teach India Videos GTU Global Sustainability Initiative Remedying the Misinterpretation of Hinduism Comprehensive Education Reform Project	\$209,680
2019	CSU Fresno Foundation Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Buena Vista University Institute of Advanced Sciences True Dharma Int'l Buddhist Mission Hindu American Foundation University of Michigan Hindupedia California State University Fresno Foundation Loyola Marymount University Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program	Gandhi's Global Legacy: In India and Beyond Clinical Professor of Yoga and Health Uberoi Foundation Scholarship in Dharmic Studies ISSJS Teaching for Peace Institute Uberoi Teacher Training -- Iowa Nationwide Teacher Training Program Good Death Auspicious Rebirth Training Getting Hinduism Right: Empowering Educators Indic Contemplative Traditions in College Classrooms Hindupedia's Textbook Reform Uberoi Teacher Training -- Fresno Uberoi Teacher Training India (UTTI) Experts Meeting 2019: Denver, Colorado	\$227,410
2020	California State University Fresno Foundation California State University Fresno Foundation Graduate Theological Union Hindu University of America University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation Hindupedia Mahavir Vision Inc. True Dharma International Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Institute of Advanced Sciences Loyola Marymount University American University of Sovereign Nations Himalayan Academy Wellesley College Manthratalk Organization Boston Center of Excellence Chandan Shamala Library	Support of Guru Nanak's birthday symposium and writing project Gandhi's Moral Methods and His Global Influence Graduate Certificate in Yoga Philosophy & Applications Mainstreaming Dharmic Perspectives in International Relations Four Dharmas: Mantra and Lectio Textbook reform International Jain Winter School 2019-2020 Good Death Auspicious Rebirth Training Yoga Studies -- Clinical Professorship Yoga Studies -- Scholarships for MA Students Uberoi Foundation Fellow program of teacher training Dharmic Traditions and Higher Education Native American and Dharmic Wisdom Dharmic Temple Student Tours Sounding Gurbāni: Experiencing Sikh Scripture Indian History and Culture Conference Intermittent Fasting in Dharmic Traditions Impact of Indian Culture on Second Generation Indians	\$197,500

<u>Year</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Total</u>
2021	<p>Mahavir Vision, Inc. Himalayan Academy Graduate Theological Union Loyola Marymount University California State University Foundation Jain Academic Foundation of North America (JAFNA) GTU Center for Dharma Studies Cal State Fullerton Philanthropic Foundation American University Loyola Marymount University Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program</p>	<p>Lectureship in Jain Studies at UCLA Vedic Agriculture: Ancient wisdom for modern challenges Yoga Immersion Project: Contemplative, Consciousness, & Cognitive Studies in Yoga Two MA in Yoga Studies Scholarships (2021-22 and 2022-23) Interdependence and Interconnectedness: Jani-Hindu Symposium Symposium on Jainism and Mathematics at MIT Yoga & Contemplative Arts: Ecopsychological Healing Jain Studies Bhagwan Shantinath Lecturership Buddhism and Non-Violence Uberoi Teacher Training in India, Preparations for 2022 Uberoi Teacher Training in the United States 2021</p>	\$238,077
2022	<p>Osher Center for Integrative Medicine California Institute of Integral Studies Hindu American Foundation Himalayan Academy Claremont School of Theology Regents of the Univ. of Michigan Colorado Sikhs American University Regents of the Univ. of California Hindu American Foundation University of Colorado Foundation GTU Center for Dharma Studies University of Hawaii Foundation GTU Center for Dharma Studies Loyola Marymount University Loyola Marymount University Uberoi Foundation, Internal Program</p>	<p>Place and Space in wisdom in Native American and dharmic traditions Integrative Medicine Network Forum 2022 Ancient India and the Dharma Traditions Our Hindu Festivals Forgiveness: Jainism and Interreligious Perspectives Indic Wisdom Traditions and Global Thought CO Sikhs Historical Project Buddhism, Violence, and Non-violence Buddhist Cultural Heritage (arts/music) Contemporary India and the Dharma Traditions Heritage Buddhist Students – Research Fellowship Justice, Compassion, Service from Indian Philosophy Research Grant Research Grant Research Grant Annual Uberoi Meeting hosted at LMU Uberoi Teacher Training -- United States</p>	\$275,592

Total Programmatic Outlay Since Inception in 2008:	\$3,176,292
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Section III:

Uberoi Teacher Training



Uberoi Teacher Training

For 14 consecutive years, the Uberoi Foundation has made it a programmatic priority to train middle and high school teachers in the United States about the Dharma traditions. Initially, beginning in 2009, the Foundation provided grantmaking funds for this purpose to Dr. Bal Ram Singh at the University of Massachusetts. Teachers gathered for five days at the Dartmouth campus in July each summer from 2009 through 2013. For another seven years, from 2014 through 2020, Dr. Singh continued to lead the training program, but during this time, through the Institute of Advanced Sciences. Other states beyond Massachusetts gradually joined the effort, including most notably Colorado via Indira Walia and Katharine Nanda as well as Iowa via Swasti Bhattacharyya. In 2016 and 2018, the Foundation broadened its training to include a month-long segment in India, led first by Dr. Singh in 2016 and then in 2018 and 2022 by Dr. Chris Chapple of Loyola Marymount University.

The teacher training focus by the Foundation has evolved, therefore, into two primary facets:

1. **UTT-US:** The *Uberoi Teacher Training* program in the United States is a nationwide endeavor, comprised of a four or five-day course each summer for 50 or more middle and high school teachers.
2. **UTTI:** The *Uberoi Teacher Training* program in India is a month-long program for 15 or more high school teachers who visit four cities in exploration of each of the four Dharma traditions – Delhi for Jainism, Amritsar for Sikhism, Sarnath for Buddhism, and Varanasi for Hinduism.

On the pages which follow are:

- The UTT-US Program Guide for 2022, held June 20 through 24.
- The UTTI Program Guide for 2022, held July 6 through 29.



UTTI participants in 2022

UTT US WORKSHOP 2022
Understanding Diversity & Inclusion: Exploring Four Indic Traditions & Cultures of India

“Education does not call anything new into being, but it is the means by which the sleeping essence is awakened.” Vinoba Bhave (Disciple, friend, confidant, and spiritual successor to M.K. Gandhi)

DESCRIPTION:

As we continue to deal with any number of challenges from climate change, a global pandemic, and political tensions throughout the country and the world, it is important to slow down, take a moment, and learn more about ourselves and the world we inhabit. At its very core, this workshop provides you with an opportunity to stop, learn something new, and consider its implications. Understanding diversity and inclusion is more than a trendy politically correct phrase, it is essential for civic engagement within the family, communities, and the world. In this 6-day workshop (including site visits), we explore the core teachings, practices, and traditions of the four religious traditions indigenous to India: Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism. Along with learning about these religions and cultures of India, you will have the opportunity to focus on best pedagogical strategies to enable you to utilize the content in your various teaching settings.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Upon successful completion of this workshop, you will have the opportunity to:
- Identify and explain core teachings and practices of those living in traditions within Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism (i.e.: key vocabulary, primary beliefs, rituals, cultural practices, rhythms of daily life, cultural aspects— music and the arts etc.).
 - Explore how to bundle cross-curricular content and standards as a framework for lesson objectives and assessments related to one or more of the four indic traditions.
 - Identify the best pedagogical strategies to utilize the content of the workshop in your various settings.
 - Imagine ways the information learned in this workshop can be utilized in a wide variety of educational settings (inside and outside the classroom, as administrators, counselors, teachers, etc.).
 - Critically reflect upon your current worldview and consider how this workshop contributes to your understanding of religions as internally diverse, dynamic, and embedded in culture.



Workshop Zoom Registration Link

Please register for this workshop in advance of the first meeting:

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/90323147353>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information and the zoom link for joining the workshop. The same zoom link is used throughout the week.

Google Classroom <https://classroom.google.com/c/NDg0MDc0MTYzMjk1?cjc=vlbz2zn>

This is where resources, recordings, and questions will be housed for this workshop. Please follow the instructions below the schedule so you have access to the Google Classroom. If you have questions, please contact Kelly, UTT US Assistant Director: kmoriley@gmail.com

Workshop Schedule

Time PT MT CT ET	Day 1: Monday, June 20
Morning - 2.5 hrs PT 7:00a - 9:30a MT 8:00a - 10:30a CT 9:00a - 11:30a ET 10:00a - 12:30p	(M1) 10:00 – 10:30 Welcome and Introductions UTT US Regional Coordinators Team & Uberoi Board (M2) 10:30 – 11:10 Frameworks for K-12 Religious Literacy Kelly O’Riley (M3) 11:10 – 11:50 Says Who? Contested Identities & Practices in Indic Religions Steven Ramey (M4) 11:50 – 12:30 Cultural Humility and Religious Traditions Swasti Bhattacharyya
LUNCH - 12:30-1:00	
Afternoon - 2 hrs PT 10:00a - 12:00p MT 11:00a - 1:00p CT 12:00p - 2:00p ET 1:00p - 3:00p	(M5) 1:00 – 1:55 Hinduism Overview Mugdha Yeolekar (M6) 1:55 – 2:50 Buddhism Overview Ellen Posman (M7) 2:50 – 3:00 Wrap-up Reflection



(Buddhist Priest sitting under the Bodhi tree in Bodhgaya India. Photo credit: Swasti)

Time PT MT CT ET	Day 2: Tuesday, June 21
Morning - 2.5 hrs PT 7:00a - 9:30a MT 8:00a - 10:30a CT 9:00a - 11:30a ET 10:00a - 12:30p	<p>(T1) 10:00 – 10:20 Morning Mindfulness Xianfeng Shi</p> <p>(T2) 10:20 – 11:15 Jainism Overview Ellen Posman</p> <p>(T3) 11:15 – 12:10 Sikhism Overview Mugdha Yeolekar</p> <p>(T4) 12:10 – 12:30 Priming the Pedagogical Pump Katie Mahowski Mylroie</p>
LUNCH - 12:30-1:00	
Afternoon - 2 hrs PT 10:00a - 12:00p MT 11:00a - 1:00p CT 12:00p - 2:00p ET 1:00p - 3:00p	<p>(T5) 1:00 – 1:30 Hindu Storyteller Lisa Rahangdale</p> <p>(T6) 1:30 – 2:50 Teaching Indic Traditions Shivi Chandra</p> <p>(T7) 2:50 – 3:00 Wrap-up Reflection</p>



(Hindu Priests conducting a Fire ritual in Haridwar, India. Photo credit, Swasti)

Time PT MT CT ET	Day 3: Wednesday, June 22
Morning - 2.5 hrs PT 7:00a - 9:30a MT 8:00a - 10:30a CT 9:00a - 11:30a ET 10:00a - 12:30p	<p>(W1) 10:00 – 10:20 Morning Mindfulness Paula Dashiell</p> <p>(W2) 10:20 – 11:00 Live Cultural Performance Arati Kundalkar</p> <p>(W3) 11:00 – 12:00 Rangoli Art Session Manikyavalli Rao</p> <p>(W4) 12:00 – 12:30 Religion, Sustainable Development, and Global Competence Lisa McAllister</p>
LUNCH - 12:30-1:00	
Afternoon - 2 hrs PT 10:00a - 12:00p MT 11:00a - 1:00p CT 12:00p - 2:00p ET 1:00p - 3:00p	<p>(W5) 1:00 – 1:30 Jain Storyteller Surabhi Shah</p> <p>(W6) 1:30 – 2:45 Living Traditions Panel #1 Bhante Kusala - Buddhist Vandan Sadhak - Hindu Samani Chaitanya Pragya - Jain Nikky Guninder Singh - Sikh</p> <p>(W7) 2:45 – 3:00 Wrap-up Reflection</p>



(Jain Temple in New Delhi, India. Photo credit: Swasti)

Time PT MT CT ET	Day 4: Thursday, June 23
<p>Morning - 2.5 hrs PT 7:00a - 9:30a MT 8:00a - 10:30a CT 9:00a - 11:30a ET 10:00a - 12:30p</p>	<p>(Th1) 10:00 – 10:20 Morning Mindfulness Xianfeng Shi</p> <p>(Th2) 10:20 – 11:35 Living Traditions Panel #2 Harshali Pawar - Hindu Rita Morbia - Jain Sehaj Sethi - Sikh Matt Spurlin - Buddhist</p> <p>(Th3) 11:35 – 11:55 Local & Global: Multicultural Community Bridge Surobhi Mehrotra and Becky Corr</p> <p>(Th4) 11:55 – 12:30 Pedagogy Breakout Groups</p>
<p>LUNCH - 12:30-1:00</p>	
<p>Afternoon - 2 hrs PT 10:00a - 12:00p MT 11:00a - 1:00p CT 12:00p - 2:00p ET 1:00p - 3:00p</p>	<p>(Th5) 1:00 – 1:30 Buddhist Storyteller Louise Omoto Kessel</p> <p>(Th6) 1:30 – 2:00 The Power of Storytelling Louise Omoto Kessel</p> <p>(Th7) 2:00 – 2:45 Pedagogy Breakout Groups</p> <p>(Th8) 2:45 – 3:00 Wrap-up Reflection</p>



(Sikh reading of the Guru Granth Sahib in Amritsar, India. Photo credit: Swasti)

Time PT MT CT ET	Day 5: Friday, June 24
<p>Morning - 2.5 hrs PT 7:00a - 9:30a MT 8:00a - 10:30a CT 9:00a - 11:30a ET 10:00a - 12:30p</p>	<p>(F1) 10:00 – 10:20 Morning Mindfulness Paula Dashiell</p> <p>(F2) 10:20 – 10:50 Reviewing questions & providing some answers! Ramdas Lamb</p> <p>(F3) 10:50 – 12:05 Living Traditions Panel #3 Hetali Lodaya - Jain Ishveer Kaur - Sikhism Tanaji Sakpal & Kranti Chavan - Buddhist Tahil Sharma - Hindu</p> <p>(F4) 12:05 – 12:30 Uberoi Teach Training - India (UTTI) UTTI Alumni</p>
LUNCH - 12:30-1:00	
<p>Afternoon - 2 hrs PT 10:00a - 12:00p MT 11:00a - 1:00p CT 12:00p - 2:00p ET 1:00p - 3:00p</p>	<p>(F5) 1:00 – 1:30 Sikh Storyteller Maneet Khera</p> <p>(F6) 1:30 – 2:00 Breakout Groups</p> <p>(F7) 2:00 – 2:30 Closing Ceremony: 3 Sets of Words 1. Vinoba Bhave’s words 2. UTT US 2022 words 3. Four tradition’s words <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ridam Singh Bhatia (Sikh) • Abhaya Alurkar (Buddhist & Hindu) • Kiaan & Kaveer Bohra (Jain) </p> <p>(F8) 2:30 – 3:00 Program Evaluation</p>

Additional Workshop Information

Google Classroom has been created to coincide with this program.

- Click [here](#) to enter the UTT US 2022 Google Classroom.
- If you already have a Gmail account, use that email address to register with the Google Classroom code **vlbz2zn** (all lower case). *Only an @gmail.com email address will work.*
- If you do not have a Gmail account, you will need to create one before you can register for the class. Click [here](#) for more information on how to create a Gmail account, then follow the directions above to register for the class.
- If you have questions regarding anything to do with the Google Classroom, please contact Kelly O’Riley (kmoriley@gmail.com).

The following are/will be in the Google Classroom as the workshop progresses:

- **Discussion Forums:** For those who would like to extend their content knowledge even further, we have posted various *optional* readings in Google Classroom (see: Teaching about Religion, Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism). Please feel free to tailor your reading to your specific professional interests and needs.
 - ★ *We strongly encourage those who have not previously received training in K-12 religious literacy to complete the readings assigned under “Teaching about Religion.” These readings detail the pedagogical backbone of our program.*
- **Wrap-Up Reflections:** At the end of every day, we ask that each of you take a few minutes to reflect upon what you learned and experienced that day in the workshop. Please complete the “Wrap-Up Reflection” questions posted each day in Google Classroom.
- **Session Recordings:** These will all be available after the program in Google Classroom (see: Session Recordings).

Zoom Etiquette and Agreements

- Use your professional judgment to take breaks as necessary. All sessions will be recorded.
- Please make sure to mute your microphone unless you intend to be heard.
- If possible, please turn on your camera. This is especially important during the breakout sessions.

Presenter Information

(In alphabetical order)

Abhaya Alurkar (F7)

Mugdha.yeolekar@gmail.com

Abhaya is a middle-schooler who enjoys learning vocal music and playing softball.

Ridam Singh Bhatia (F7)

ridam.bhatia@gmail.com

Ridam Singh Bhatia is 12 years old and a rising seventh-grader. He lives in Cerritos, California, and recently graduated from Gonsalves Elementary. He also has been learning about Sikhism & the Punjabi language for the last five years now. His hobbies include reading a good book, building a Lego, playing on Nintendo switch, or pretty much anything to do with technology. He enjoys a variety of foods, especially spicy Indian food.

Kiaan & Kaveer Bohra (F7)

Ashita resides in Los Angeles with her two boys Kiaan (9) & Kaveer(6), and is a graduate of CSUF with a degree in English Literature. The boys are active in school and sports. Ashita is in the jewelry industry, with her husband and enjoys the creative and art aspects of life. She was raised with both Hindu and Jain values. Though as a family we are more spiritual versus religious, we feel it is important for our kids to have the values and knowledge of their heritage. I am deeply interested in cultivating this knowledge for our boys. In our free time as a family we enjoy hikes, travels, reading and playing games or just cuddling!

Shivi Chandra (T6)

Shivi Chandra presently leads curriculum strategy at a global technology nonprofit focusing on digital education. Previously, she's explored the challenges of access to quality information for and about marginalized populations as an evaluation professional, consultant, and civic educator at MIT, Hanover Research, and the National Science Foundation. She is a graduate of international education policy at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, as well as international studies at Johns Hopkins University, and she has been involved with the Uberoi Fellowship for many years as a volunteer trainer, evaluator, and facilitator.

Kranti Chavan (F3)

kchavanhome@gmail.com

She lives in beautiful Michigan and works as an Occupational Therapist. She was born in a Buddhist family and grew up in India. Her childhood was influenced by Babasaheb Ambedkar (chief architect of the Indian Constitution) and Mahatma Jotiba Phule's contribution to society. She also learned about Buddhism, Hinduism, and Sikhism, however, her understanding is growing in Buddhism as she learns from Tipitaka (Buddhist Manual).

Becky Corr (Th3)

Becky Corr is a Team Lead for Language, Culture, & Equity in Douglas County School District. In that role, she brings families, communities, and schools together for the success of Douglas County kids. Her work also includes leading the professional development pathways and course development for professional learning for our department. She is a coach and mentor to teachers across the district. She has been a national trainer for the AFT professional learning and was part of a team that wrote the course, ELL 101. Becky has been a featured contributor to the website, Colorín Colorado, and contributed to Larry Ferlazzo's EdWeek column. She lives in Parker, Colorado, with her incredible husband, Rex, and their two big- hearted sons.

Paula Dashiell (W1 & F1)

prdashiell@mac.com

Paula first became interested in meditation nearly 20 years ago through her yoga practice. She has been practicing Buddhist meditation since 2003, with guidance primarily from teachers in the Theravada tradition. She is interested in and inspired by eco-dharma, the intersection between Buddhist practice and ecological concerns. Joanna Macy and Roshi Joan Halifax have been particularly influential teachers in that regard. Paula completed the Dedicated Practitioner (DPP) and Advanced Practitioner (APD) programs at Spirit Rock Meditation Center and has experience with numerous 7-10 day meditation retreats. She currently manages an online, peer-led sangha within InsightLA in Los Angeles. Paula's professional life, prior to her retirement, included many years as an elementary school teacher, a university lecturer, and as the head of an independent elementary school.

Ven. Bhante Kusala (W6)

kusalahamuduruwo@gmail.com

Bhante Kusala is a Buddhist monk from Sri Lanka. Born in 1987, he entered monastic life at the age of 16 and did his studies in Sri Lanka, Italy, and at Harvard University in the USA. He has done some research on mindfulness, served as a spiritual care person in hospitals in the US, and taught at universities as a lecturer in Pali. Bhante Kusala helps children, youth, and adults with their spiritual counseling needs. He currently is a resident Buddhist monk at the West End Buddhist Temple in Mississauga, Canada.

Ishveer Kaur (F3)

Ishveer Kaur is a current junior at Hofstra University pursuing a B.S. in Neuroscience. She has been practicing Sikhism for as long as she can remember and is very passionate about spreading her knowledge and experience of her journey of discovering what it means to be Sikh. She started practicing the religion due to being born in a family that practiced it, however through her own introspection and desire to find meaning in life she now follows this wonderful religion out of her own volition. Ishveer is at the forefront of human rights initiatives through countless hours of volunteering for a myriad of nonprofits and she loves to teach children at her temple Sikh history. In the future, Ishveer wishes to continue her advocacy for all forms of human rights in greater ways.

Louise Omoto Kessel (Th 5 & 6)

storytellerlouiseok@gmail.com

Louise Omoto Kessel has been a professional storyteller since 1981. She is Japanese/Buddhist on her mothers side and Russian Jewish on her fathers side and enjoys exploring both of those traditions through story. Louise enjoys leading storytelling workshops for educators and for people from specific religious and cultural communities. She has found storytelling has a powerful ability to bridge understanding between people of different backgrounds and viewpoints.

Maneet Khara (F5)

Maneet is an English literature graduate and is currently pursuing a digital marketing certificate. She moved to the USA about 4 years ago from India. She has grown up as a Sikh-Hindu but does not identify as a religious person. She is of the opinion that religious teachings are only guidance for life, and should never be taken to the word and that it should help people accept, nurture, dignify and support life. Her story narrates the warrior saga of Baba Deep Singh -- one of the most revered Sikhs who talks about all of this. She also chose it because as a kid, she thought he was a superhero (she still thinks he's one and could easily beat any avenger).

Arati Kundalkar (W2)

Arati Kundalkar is an immensely talented vocalist of the current generation. Today She is recognised as one of the torch bearers of 'Kirana Gharana'. She started her initial lessons in music from veteran vocalist of Kirana Gharana, Late Smt. Leelatai Gharpure, at the tender age of nine. Thereafter she pursued to learn the style in depth from the living legend of Kirana Gharana Swaryogini Padmabhushan Dr. Prabha Atre. Besides Khyal-music, Arati studied the intricacies of semi-classical music forms such as Thumari, Dadra, Ghazal from Dr. Prabha Atre & Dr. Sanjeev Shende. She also received guidance from Harmonium maestro and musicologist Dr. Arawind Thatte. Blessed with a melodious and deep soulful voice which has been groomed over the years, she is an expert in presenting classical, semi classical, and devotional compositions with equal intensity in her concerts.

Arati completed an M.A. in music from S.N.D.T. University. She is a rank holder of the university and has been awarded the prestigious 'Gaan Heera' Puraskar. She is also a Sangeet Visharad in Hindustani music from Gandharva Mahavidyalaya. She is a graded artiste of AIR for classical vocal and light music. Arati has performed in many music conferences all over India and abroad. Her performances have been well appreciated and acknowledged by veteran musicians like Ganhira Hirabai Badodekar, Pt. Bhimsen Joshi, Pt. Firoz Dastur, Smt. Malini Rajurkar, Pt. Rajan Sajan Mishra, Pt. Ulhas Kashalkar, Dr. Alka Deo Marulkar, Smt. Padma Talwalkar, Pt. Mukul Shivputra, Smt. Arati Ankalikar, Smt. Devaki Pandit. Her vocal support for her Guru Dr. Prabha Atre at the Sawai Gandharva Sangeet Mahotsav has been well received. Arati is empanelled artiste on prestigious I.C.C.R (Indian Council for Cultural Relation) list. Arati has been training students in Hindustani Classical Music and Semi Classical music for the last 10 years. She also teaches music online. She is on the panel Kalavardhini (M.E. Society) as a Guru and Mentor of College of Performing Arts.

Dr. Ramdas Lamb (F2)

ramdas@hawaii.edu

Dr. Lamb was a Hindu monk in India from 1969 to 1978. He then returned to the U.S. to study Asian religious traditions from an academic perspective. He earned his Ph.D. in 1991 and since that time has been teaching about the world's religious traditions at the University of Hawai'i. While his introductory courses cover all the major traditions, his research and writing, along with his other courses, focus primarily on the Indic Traditions of India, especially on the historical development and the contemporary practices of ascetic, monasticism, and devotionalism.

Hetali Lodaya (F3)

hetalilodaya@gmail.com

Hetali Lodaya is a law clerk for a judge in Detroit and a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and School of Education. Prior to graduate school, she worked at a startup that taught entrepreneurship education programs for K-12 students. She is interested generally in the intersection of civil rights law, policy, and public education work, and the ways in which we can make our public school systems work better for all students and teachers. She is also heavily involved in her national religious youth organization, Young Jains of America, and has been a teacher for Jain religious classes for about a decade. She enjoys learning about other religions, faith traditions, and philosophies, and believes we are all stronger when we can recognize and learn from the wisdom others hold.

Maisie Luo

See below

Dr. Lisa McAllister (W4)

lmcallister@fullerton.edu

Lisa McAllister received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from UC Santa Barbara and is the Regional Director for the California Global Education Project (CGEP) at CSU Fullerton. CGEP designs and leads quality professional learning that inspires and supports PK-12 educators from across the disciplines to prepare all youth to be globally competent, engaged members of our interconnected and changing world.

Katie Mahowski Mylroie (T4)

See below

Surabhi Mehrotra (Th3)

sue@unite2uplift.org

Ms. Surabhi Mehrotra is the Founder and Executive Director of Unite2Uplift Inc., a community-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to assisting underserved students and youth through work/life preparedness workshops, scholarships, and basic supplies support. Surabhi was raised in India in a household where education was considered life-changing and powerful; Surabhi obtained her Master's degree in Botany and completed her Master of Business Administration in Human Resources. Surabhi has lived and worked in India, Canada, and United States, and along with her Human resources career with various international corporate organizations, she has been actively involved in multiple community programs to empower through education. Surabhi credits this experience with enriching her global perspective and helping cultivate the skill of "perspective-taking". During her collegiate and corporate career, she accessed invaluable experiences and knowledge and she wants to extend the same opportunity to the youth in Denver metro region through Unite2Uplift. With her own personal encounter with hardships, challenging circumstances, and understanding of the importance of education, it is her desire to take part and strive for a change!

Rita Morbia (Th2)

Rita Morbia (she/her) grew up in the Jain tradition and currently lives on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnabeg peoples, also known as Ottawa (Canada). She has worked for the past two decades for Inter Pares, a feminist social justice organization, including as its Executive Director. She is married with two teenage daughters who constantly challenge and inspire her.

Harshali Pawar (Th2)

pharshali277@gmail.com

Harshali is a student at Northeastern University who is currently completing her Master's in Regulatory Affairs. Harshali was born in a hindu family at Mumbai, India. She is still practicing her religion being across oceans by offering daily prayers, visiting the Shri Mahalakshmi Temple once a month & following her principles in life. A few important principles in her life are honesty, simplicity and hard work. Harshali's favorite past times are riding her bike as it makes her feel closer to the nature, and painting.

Dr. Ellen Posman (M6 & T2)

See below

Dr. Samani Chaitanya Pragya (W6)

Cpragiya@fiu.edu

Dr Samani Chaitanya Pragya offers courses that supports Jain Studies Programs of Florida International University, the first of its kind in North America. She is Professor in her home institution, Jain Vishva Bharati Institute, a "Deemed University" at Ladnun. She has also been the Founding Director of Bhagawan Mahavira International Research Center. She has organized many national and international conferences on Jain philosophy in India and abroad. She has published more than five books and more than 35 research papers in

various journals. Her research interest includes, Jainology and Comparative Philosophy and Religion. She researches primarily in Jainism, secondarily in Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism and Western Philosophy: Classical, Modern, and Post-modern thinkers. Within and between these traditions she focuses on the history, epistemology, ethics, conflict theories, violence, and non-violence studies. She is interested in the scientific and social innovative studies and research in the field of Jainism and works on various projects related to such studies. She also works on conflict resolution theories and, non-violence and peace studies. She offers programs in ‘Studies in Jain Religious Classics’, ‘Science and Jain Philosophy’, ‘Training in Non-violence’, ‘Preksha Meditation, Yoga and Therapy’ and ‘Learning Sanskrit and Prakrit Language and Literature’. She has been an advisor of Preksha Meditation Club at FIU and conducting scientific research on Effect of Preksha Meditation on Academic Performance and Mental Health since 2010 to 2013 and 2019 onward.

Dr. Lisa Rahangdale (T5)

Dr. Rahangdale is a Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Associate Dean for Admissions and the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. She became involved in storytelling while volunteering with the 5 Faiths project at the Ackland Art Museum in Chapel Hill, NC while she was a medical student more than 20 years ago. She continues to participate in storytelling activities with children in the local Indian-American community. She lives in Chapel Hill with her husband, 3 kids, and 2 dogs.

Dr. Steven Ramey (M3)

steven.ramey@ua.edu

Steven Ramey is a professor and the graduate director in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Alabama. His research has focused on the discourse surrounding religions of Asia, especially India, and the ways people construct and debate the practices and ideas associated with a religion. He has written *Hindu, Sufi, or Sikh* (Palgrave 2008) and coedited *Fabricating Difference* (Equinox 2017) and *Hinduism in 5 Minutes* (Equinox forthcoming), among other publications.

Manikyavalli Rao (W3)

raovalli.g@gmail.com

Mrs. Manikyavalli Rao is a multi-disciplinary artist who lives in Torrance. She has a master’s degree in Sociology. Mrs. Rao is a resourceful and imaginative teaching professional who has 30 years of experience in teaching core subjects and specializing in developing appropriate curricula and a positive classroom environment to ensure cognitive, personal, social, and academic growth. She has a flair for instilling a natural, fun creative process, encouraging each student to succeed in their personal creative goals. Mrs. Rao includes art history into her curriculum in her online teaching art lessons for all age groups, from kids to adults. Mrs. Rao is also an avid crafter, who makes jewelry, personalized gifts, clutches, and more. You can find her creations for sale on Etsy.com, ManikyaValliDesigns.

Sid R. Rundle (F4)

sidrrundle@gmail.com

Sid has spent his entire professional career as a middle school educator and advocate. For more than a decade he was the principal of a large comprehensive middle school south of the Denver Metro area. More recently Sid took an executive cabinet position as the policy and governance officer for Douglas County Schools' Special Education services. Prior to taking on various school leadership positions, Sid spent most of his teaching career as a special education teacher and literacy specialist.

Vandan Sadhak (W6)

rvandan21@gmail.com

Sadhak Vandan (Vandan Ranpurwala) trained traditionally at the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Sarangpur for six years, acquiring a BA (śāstrī) and MA (ācārya) in Sanskrit. He specialized

in the Prasthānatrayī (the study of the Upaniṣads, Brahma Sūtras, and Bhagavad Gītā) and the Svāminārāyaṇa commentary (bhāṣya). He has studied Jyotiṣa (Indian Astrology) texts, Nyāya (Indian Logic) texts including Tarkasamgrahaḥ and Nyāya-Siddhānta-Muktāvalī, and kāvya texts. Along with studying other vernacular literature, he also taught classes on these texts. During his years in Sarangpur, he enjoyed proximity to the training center of swamis, learning the ideals of a swami's life and aspiring to embody them. He enjoys being a student and strives to live by the credo of his Guru, Pramukh Swami Maharaj - "In the joy of others lies our own." In his free time, Vandan enjoys memorizing and pondering Sanskrit verses, learning new languages, and exploring diverse philosophical and religious perspectives. After a year as a Hindu Monastic Fellow at Harvard, he will continue his journey as a swami in Sarangpur.

Tanaji Sakpal (F3)

tsakpal@yahoo.com

Mr. Sakpal is a Sr Project Manager with over 40 years of experience in the IT industry with 25+ years in Project Management. Currently IT Program Manager at FORD Motors, MI

- Education: Master of Science from Bombay University 1980, Financial Management 1990
- Religion: Buddhism
- Religious work:
 - Lead to establish Buddhist Vihara in 1988 at Nadgaon, Mahad, Raigad District, Maharashtra, India
 - Moved to the US in 2001 from India.
 - Part of AANA foundation for last 15 years
 - Active member of AANA in volunteering & supporting various projects of education, flood relief, etc.
 - Coordination and participation in annual Buddha and Dr. BR Ambedkar birth anniversary programs
 - Attended VIPASSANA 10 days course in Michigan and practice daily meditation.

Sehaj Sethi (Th2)

ssethi2@lion.lmu.edu

Sehaj is a Woman and Gender Studies Major and a Film and Television Minor. She is set to graduate from Loyola Marymount University in December. She loves to spend time with her friends and explore new places.

Surabhi Shah (W5)

surabhiwalker@gmail.com

Surabhi Shah tells stories from India and around the world. Surabhi was raised in Canada and it was during summers back in India that she heard the many everyday stories that typically make their way into everyday conversations in India, whether at the family meal, or on the way to the temple with her grandmother or while haggling with a street vendor. Surabhi is particularly fond of sharing Jain stories which the Jain monks and nuns use in their sermons (vyakhyān) to keep the faithful alert, engaged and amused. She also performs songs from India fused with other musical styles in the band, Project Mastana.

Tahil Sharma (F3)

tsharma@uri.org

Tahil Sharma is an interfaith activist based in Los Angeles who was born to a Hindu father and a Sikh mother. Following the Oak Creek, WI shooting of a Sikh temple in 2012, Tahil became involved in efforts for interfaith literacy and social justice and has been doing this work passionately for the past ten years. Tahil works as the Regional Coordinator for North America at the United Religions Initiative, the world's largest network of interfaith, grassroots organizations. He also serves as one of three Interfaith Ministers in Residence for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, as a Board Member of Sadhana: A Coalition of Progressive Hindus, and as a member of the Racial Justice & Religion Commission of the Aspen Institute's Inclusive America Project. He is also a contributing author to books including Co-Human Harmony: Using Our Shared Humanity To Bridge Divides, Hindu Approaches to Spiritual Care: Chaplaincy in Theory and Practice, and Acting on Faith: Stories of Courage, Activism, and Hope Across Religions.

Ven. Xianfeng Shi (T1 & Th1)

jlsxianfeng@gmail.com

Ven Xianfeng is a Buddhist nun (bhiksuni) from mainland China. Her tradition is Mahayana Buddhism, or Han /:hun/ Buddhism. Since joining the monastic community in China, she received her Master of Divinity from Harvard, and she will be starting her doctorate work in Religion at Boston University this Fall. She is interested in studying contemporary Buddhist communities and their practices in a globalized context. She aspires to become a scholar-Buddhist to explore appropriate ways to bring the Buddhist teachings into the world and contribute to peace.

Dr. Nikky-Guninder Kaur Singh (W6)

Nikky-Guninder Kaur Singh is the Crawford Professor and chairperson of Religious Studies at Colby College. Dr. Nikky has published extensively in the field of Sikh Studies. Her latest books include *Poems from the Guru Granth Sahib* (Harvard University Press, 2022), *The First Sikh: Life and Legacy of Guru Nanak* (Penguin, 2019), *Hymns of the Sikh Gurus* (Penguin, 2019), *Of Sacred and Secular Desire: An Anthology of Lyrical Writings from the Punjab* (IB Tauris 2012). She has published over a hundred articles and chapters.

She has served on the editorial board of several journals including the *History of Religions*, the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Sikh Formations*, and *CrossCurrents*. Dr. Nikky-Guninder is the Vice-President, Phi Beta Kappa, Beta Chapter of Maine. She has received many awards for her scholarly works, and is delighted that the City of Fresno proclaimed March 26 as “Dr. Nikky-Guninder Kaur Singh” Day.

Dr. Matthew Spurlin (Th2)

spurlml@hotmail.com

Matt Spurlin, Ph.D., has taught for over 20 years in Japan, India, and Colorado. He has taught English language acquisition to students of all ages, high school English and social studies, as well as research writing, Buddhist philosophy, and educational philosophy at the undergraduate and graduate levels. His dissertation explores agency within the curricular decision-making process among teacher educators. He is currently an English teacher at Boulder High School and an adjunct professor in the Social Foundations of Education department at the University of Northern Colorado--Greeley. His current research involves iconography as a form of trauma-informed teaching. However, he spends most of his time learning valuable lessons from his two daughters, Charley and Addie.

Dr. Mugdha Yeolekar (M5 & T3)

See below



UTTI

Uberoi Teacher Training in India

July 6 – 29, 2022

Guidelines, Itinerary, and Application Link

The Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies serves to “raise awareness of Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism and to promote understanding and peace among diverse peoples of the world.” With that mission in mind, two of the Foundation’s most significant programs each year are:

- 1) **UTT-US (Uberoi Teacher Training in the US):** a one-week on-line training session for 60 or more middle and high school educators and administrators, held each June as an introduction to the four Dharma traditions indigenous to India – Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism – and more broadly, to India as a whole through the prism of those four traditions
- 2) **UTTI (Uberoi Teacher Training in India):** a three-week, in-country experience for 15 to 20 middle and high school educators and/or administrators, as well as several professors and/or PhD candidates, held each July in India, as a more extensive introduction to the Dharma traditions than that which is covered by UTT-US.

Along with a broader grant-making program, UTT-US and UTTI are vital means by which the Uberoi Foundation seeks to accomplish its mission.

Application are being accepted from school middle and high teachers, administrators, graduate students, post-doctoral students, and professors who teach World Religions. This is an opportunity for educators to gain first-hand knowledge of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. Priority may be given to applicants who have completed UTT-US, the Uberoi Teacher Training in the U.S., although having done so is not a requirement.

UTTI Program

UTTI Program Director: Christopher Key Chapple, Doshi Professor, Loyola Marymount University

UTTI Faculty: Ramdas Lamb, Professor, University of Hawaii
Swasti Bhattacharyya, Professor, Harvard Divinity School

UTTI begins with arrival to India’s capital, New Delhi, on the evening of Wednesday, July 6, 2022 (or the wee hours of the morning of July 7). On Thursday, July 7, participants may rest and acclimate to the change in time zone, or they may take an optional one-day trip arranged by UTTI to the Taj Mahal for a cost of \$100.

While in Delhi, participants will stay on the campus of Chhoti Dada Bari, a Jain temple. After three days of rest, acclimation, basic orientation, and a city tour in Delhi including the Gandhi Museum, participants will travel by train to Amritsar, Punjab, the site of the Golden Temple, to examine Sikhism. They will stay on the campus and receive instruction from professors of Guru Nanak Dev University. From there, the participants will fly near to the city of Sarnath where the Buddha delivered his first sermon. Participants will visit the famous Stupa, the museums, and temples that represent Buddhism in its Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana forms, while staying at the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies. Thereafter, the participants will travel by bus to the ancient city of Varanasi/Banaras/Kashi, the city of lights, on the banks of the Ganga River in the state of Uttar Pradesh. They will examine Hinduism at Banaras Hindu University while staying at the Haifa Guest House, experiencing the river at sunrise and at sunset and visiting temples and scholars. By plane, participants will then travel to Pune, Maharashtra, to examine Jainism, known for its teachings on nonviolence. They will reside at Naval Veerayatan, visit Jain temples and historic sites, and meet with Jain teachers. Finally, participants will travel by bus to Mumbai for departing flights back to the United States from BOM on the evening of Friday, July 29. Overall, participants should anticipate a three-week experience that is not intended to be religious, but rather, deeply educational and experiential.

The daily schedule will generally include 90 minutes of formal study with UTTI professors, followed by 90 minutes of scheduled sessions with the host institution's leadership and teachers, typically in the morning. Afternoons generally will be devoted to field visits and time for reading, reflection, writing, and if applicable, the preparation of lesson plans according to the needs of each educator. At the end of the UTTI program, participants will convene for one day to make formal presentations to the board of the Uberoi Foundation. Participants will receive a certificate of their participation and, as documentation for those educators who may subsequently want to apply for continuing educational credit, a description of the educational experience will also be provided.

Application Process

Interested persons are welcome to apply by submitting the information requested in the **attached link**:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScv1KH6un-ard12xhqNv5Y2XAGgs-A-2-xrtf2HyRfXgy1RTA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Applications are due by 5 pm MT on March 10, 2022.

Notification of acceptance will be announced by April 1, 2022.

Personal Airfare, India Visa, and Travel Insurance

Participants are required to cover four expenses related to their participation in UTTI:

1. **e-Visa:** By no later than one month prior to the departure date, Participants will need to obtain an e-visa from India via the internet at <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>. The cost is roughly \$100.
2. **Roundtrip airfare to/from India:** Each participant is responsible for making his or her own airline reservations and for covering the cost of airfare to and from India, specifically:
 - a. To **Delhi** (DEL), for arrival on Wednesday, July 6 (or the early morning of Thursday, July 7). Alternatively, they may arrive on Tuesday, July 5, and take part in an optional trip to the Taj Mahal (for an additional cost to the participant of \$135 for overnight accommodation on July 5 and the day excursion)
 - b. From **Mumbai** (BOM), for departure to the U.S. on Friday, July 29 (with flight departures scheduled no earlier than 7 pm, and quite likely in the wee hours of the morning on July 30)

Depending upon the U.S. city of origin, the cost of coach airfare to Delhi and from Mumbai is likely to be between \$1,500 and \$2,000. Separate from the UTTI program and at their own arrangement and expense, participants may arrive to India prior to the UTTI program on July 6 and/or stay beyond it on July 29, if they choose to do so. Participants accepted for the program are asked to share their travel itineraries with UTTI as soon as their flights are reserved.

3. **Travel Insurance:** Each participant is required by the Uberoi Foundation to obtain travel insurance which includes Covid 19 treatment on-site in India, if needed, as well as medical evacuation coverage in the amount of \$200,000 or more. TravelInsurance.com is a handy website in which to compare travel insurance companies. For example, Trawick International has a policy listed on the site called Safe Travels Explorer Plus for \$102, which includes, among other benefits, in-country medical treatment for Covid 19, if needed. Prices vary depending upon several factors, including the age and U.S. state of the applicant.
4. **Covid 19 Vaccination, Protocols, and Testing:** **Each participant is required to be fully vaccinated against Covid 19**, including the booster shot, and to provide evidence of that vaccination status in the application. In addition, **he or she must abide by Covid 19 protocols** applicable in India and the state visited (such as mask wearing, social distancing as possible, etc.) and **undertake a Covid 19 test taken within four days of departure to India** (i.e., taken on July 1, 2, 3, 4 before flight departures on July 5), at his or her expense if a cost is incurred and submit third-party documentation to the Uberoi Foundation that the test result is negative. (Please note: Most at-home tests do not include third-party documentation, and therefore, are not acceptable. Failure to meet the test requirement will result in termination of participation in UTTI.) Finally, unless the U.S. government changes its policy, all participants will be required to provide to their departing airline proof of a negative test taken within 24 hours of departure back to the United States. The Uberoi Foundation will make arrangements for such testing and cover the expense involved, unless participants choose to stay in India beyond July 29.

Covered In-Country Expenses

During the UTI program, from the night of July 6 until the evening of July 29, the Uberoi Foundation will arrange for and cover all in-country expenses, including housing, meals, interior transportation by bus, plane, and train, and a Covid 19 test on the day before the July 29 return flight, if still required by the U.S. government in July of 2022.

Accommodations are based on double-occupancy (i.e., two participants of the same gender per room), and meals at the destination sites are vegetarian or vegan. In some destinations, it may be possible to request single occupancy for participants who make that request in advance, at additional cost to the participant. The accommodations as well as the meals are simple and basic, in-keeping with the solemnity and egalitarianism of the four traditions.

For those who have not travelled extensively, participants should anticipate an experience which requires stamina, resilience, and adaptability, as inevitably the three three-week session will encounter unavoidable delays and last-minute changes in schedule. Overall, participants should anticipate a three-week experience that is not intended to be religious, but rather, deeply intellectual and experiential.

Program Preparation

Participants are requested to participate as a group in two virtual sessions of preparation, held by Zoom teleconference, of one hour each, to be held on:

Sunday, May 15 at 6:00 pm MT

Sunday, June 12 at 6:00 pm MT

For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact the Uberoi Foundation by emailing Jim Polsfut, Executive Director, at JPolsfut@NASHosp.com.

July 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Delhi

Amritsar

Sarnath

Varanasi

Pune

Mumbai

UTTI July 6 – 29, 2022

Itinerary

Arrival: Wed, Jul 6
4 Overnights:
Jul 6, 7, 8, thru Sat night, Jul 9

Arrive at **Destination 1: Delhi** (pm of Wed July 6 or early am July 7)
 Overnight at **Chhoti Dada Bari**, a Jain temple
 Optional visit to Taj Mahal on Thurs July 7 at participant's expense (\$100)
 Rest/acclimation, orientation session, city tour, Gandhi Museum, school visit
 Evening reception on July 9 at the home of Uberoi board member Anu Bhatia

Travel: Sun, July 10
5 Overnights:
Sun Jul 10, 11, 12, 13 thru Thu night Jul 14

Travel by Shatabdi rail in the afternoon to **Destination 2: Amritsar**
 Overnight at **Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU)**
 Explore **Sikhism**

Travel: Fri July 15
5 Overnights:
Fri Jul 15, 16, 17, 18, thru Tue night July 19

Travel by air near to **Destination 3: Sarnath**
 Overnight at the **Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS)**
 Explore **Buddhism**
 Tour the Stupa and museum. Participate in early morning meditation and puja sessions at various temples... one Theravada, one Tibetan

Travel: Wed, July 20
4 Overnights:
Wed Jul 20, 21, 22, thru Sat night Jul 23

Travel by bus to **Destination 4: Varanasi/Banaras/Kashi**
 Overnight at **Haifa Guest House**
 Explore **Hinduism** at Banaras Hindu University (BHU)
 Morning visit at sunrise to Ganges; night visit for Aarthi; cultural events

Travel: Sun, July 24
5 Overnights:
Sun Jul 24, 25, 26, 27 thru Thu night Jul 28

Travel by plane to **Destination 5: Pune**
 Overnight at the **Naval Veerayatan**
 Explore **Jainism**, visiting Jain temples, new Museum of Jainism, and historic sites.
 Meet with munis and sadhyis. Participants make presentations to Uberoi trustees.

Travel: Fri July 29

Transfer by bus to **Destination 6: Mumbai**
 Covid 19 departure tests.
 City tour of Mumbai in the afternoon.
 Airline departures from BOM at 7 pm July 29 or later (into early am of July 30).

Section IV:

Annual Experts Meeting



Historic Summary of the 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 Dharma traditions – in one city and in one room, in order to share, collaborate, brainstorm, and engage. A brief recap of the Experts Meetings held since the Foundation’s inception appears 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 Dharma 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 Dharma 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 Dharma traditions as well as into



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

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*.

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 with reflections on the tragic attack brought upon the Sikh Gurdwara in Wisconsin



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

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 Dharma traditions and correcting distortions and inadequacies of Dharma 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 150th 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 Dharma traditions and the correcting of distortions about the Dharma traditions in U.S. textbooks.

2014: As Fall colors descended upon the valley of Boulder, Colorado, the Uberoi Foundation gathered in mid-September on the historic campus of Naropa University. The Foundation's annual Expert Meeting began with a special Friday evening event organized by the University of Colorado and Naropa University called the *Chogyam Trungpa Lecture*, sponsored by Uberoi. Dr. John Makransky, professor of Buddhism at Boston University, served passionately and inspirationally as the keynote speaker. On the Saturday and Sunday which followed, the Foundation then focused exclusively on its theme for the Experts Meeting in 2014 – ***Compassion in the Four Dharma Traditions***. A total of 21 speakers participated in the featured sessions, along with keynote speeches offered during meal times. Following the Experts Meeting, the Uberoi Foundation assembled and edited the papers delivered over the weekend into a book for subsequent publishing and dissemination.

2015: In the beginning of October of 2015, the Uberoi Foundation gathered once again for its annual Experts Meeting, this time in Tampa, Florida, on the campus of the University of South Florida. The Jijnnya Foundation co-sponsored the meeting, represented by its executive director, Dr. Gururaj Mutalik, among others from its network.

Uberoi Foundation Advisory Committee Chairman Dr. Yashwant Pathak was a most gracious host, as were Uberoi Vice Chairman Shri Parveen Setia and his wife, Smt. Mini Setia, who reside in southern Florida.

Dharma Education in the United States – Challenges and Opportunities served as the focus of the 2015 Experts Meeting, with many first-time participants taking part, and in so



Dr. Bal Ram Singh makes a point at the 2015 Experts Meeting in Tampa, Florida

doing, adding tremendous value. Those individuals included Dr. Vishwa Adluri from Hunter College in New York; Dr. Narinjan Kaur Khalsa from Loyola Marymount University; Dr. A.S. Pandya at Florida Atlantic University; Prof. Andrew Schelling from Naropa University; Mr. Matthew Spurlin, a PhD student at the University of Denver; Dr. Darshan Thakkar from Boston; Dr. Lavanya Vemsani from Shawnee State University; and Dr. Alice Wood from Bethune-Cookman University.

2016: On September 15, the Uberoi Foundation assembled in Montreal for its annual Expert Meeting in order to attend a special program of an Uberoi grantee, McGill University. Professor Arvind Sharma, faculty member of Religious Studies at McGill and a regular expert of the Uberoi Foundation, served as the lead organizer of the ***Third Global Conference on World's Religions since September 11: From Faith to Interfaith***. Co-sponsored by the Uberoi Foundation, the Conference called upon many prominent keynote speakers, including Deepak Chopra and Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. Following the Conference, members of the Uberoi Advisory Committee and of the Uberoi Grants Committee met in strategic planning sessions in order to review the programmatic priorities of the Uberoi Foundation and the implementation of those priorities through the Foundation's grantmaking process. A renewed commitment resulted with regard to the Foundation's focus on teacher training and textbook reform.

2017: Between September 29 and October 1, the Uberoi Foundation met in Denver in association with the Ved Nanda Center and the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver to focus on ***The Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability from the Perspectives of the Four Dharma Traditions***. Professors Rita Sherma, Veena Howard, Ramdas Lamb, Mugdha Yeolekar, Bal Ram Singh, Lavanya

Vemsani, Subhash Kak, Haragopal Parsa, and Appachanda Thimmaiah provided the Hindu perspective; Professors Claude D’Estree, Joan Policastri, and Matt Spurlin the Buddhist perspective; Professor Nirinjan Kaur Khas and Mr. Dilpreet Singh Jammu the Sikh perspective; and Professor Chris Chapple, Dr. Sulekh Jain, and Professor Yashwant Malaiya the Jain perspective. A most interesting dimension of the 2017 Experts Meeting was the offering of a perspective on the topic from the U.S. indigenous tradition, led by Lakota elder Grandmother Regina Brave, Lakota leader Doug Good Feather, Professor Andrew Reid, and Professor Yashwant Pathak.

2018: In Mid-October, the Uberoi Foundation met once again in Tampa, Florida, and on this occasion at the Patel College of Global Sustainability on the campus of the University of South Florida. Yashwant Pathak served as the chair and the host of the 2018 Annual Experts Meeting and the inauguration of a second decade of Experts Meetings, with this now as the eleventh in a series. Over a day and a half, a total of nine sessions took place on the topic of **Human Rights and Human Dignity: Rooted in the Four Dharma Traditions**, a theme developed thoroughly through the presentation of 28 separate abstracts.



The 2018 Experts Meeting began with prayers from each of the Dharmic traditions.



Final remarks in 2019 from out-going chair Ved Nanda.

2019: From October 11 through 13, the Uberoi Foundation met in its annual Experts Meeting, once again held in Denver. This year, the theme was **Health and Well-Being in the Four Dharma Traditions**. Its focus was simple – namely, what do the Dharma traditions reveal about how each person might live to his or her full potential? Wisdom was shared by accomplished and talented speakers from all over the country – from Florida to Hawaii and from Boston to Los Angeles.

2022: In late September, the Uberoi Foundation dedicated four days to meetings in California, first in Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) and then in Fresno at California State University - Fresno (CSU-Fresno). The 2022 Annual Experts Meeting focused on **Music, Dance, Theatre, and Cinema within the Dharma Traditions**, hosted by Professor Chris Chapple, Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology at LMU. AUM began this year with a viewing of the classic 1936 Marathi film *Sant Tukaram* based on the life of Tukaram (1608-1650). William Elison from UC Santa Barbara then spoke on religious themes in the cinema of India, followed by a discussion on Madhyamavyayoga of Bhasa (ca. 400 C.E.), organized by Professor Arnab Banerji of the Theatre Arts Department at LMU and video presentations from the Shakti Dance Company and Rangoli Dance Company. In addition, experts in attendance later broke into subgroups to provide strategic advice to the Foundation concerning its principal programs. Finally, in Fresno, the trustees and executive director of the Uberoi Foundation attended a two-day conference which it co-sponsored at CSU-Fresno entitled *The Highway to Healing: Understanding the Ocean of Oneness*, led by Uberoi expert Professor Veena Howard.



Saint Tukaram as portrayed by Vishnupant Pagnis in a 1936 film

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