



Highlights of the upcoming November meeting
Details for Chicago
News in our field
and more inside

The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice...

From our program chair and vice president, Mai-Anh Le Tran.

The aphorism is familiar and potent, and its own historical arc is also long. However, whether we bend toward the legacies of 19th-century abolitionists like Unitarian minister Theodore Parker or 20th-century Civil Rights leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr. for attribution, we are in effect appealing to age-old wisdom for fortitude to sustain long-range vision in trying times.

The trials and tribulations of world affairs continue, but alongside them are “small gains” (Hong Kong’s “Occupy Central with Love and Peace” movement) and “tacit victories” (the US High Court’s ruling on marriage equality) that boost collective courage to hope for a more just, less violent future. In the midst of it all, religions continue to offer occasions that remind communities how we ought to be together—Eid al-Adha, Yom Kimpur, Navrati...

Cognizant of our place in these greater arcs, we members of REA count down to November 7th, when the 111th Annual Meeting of REA:APPRRE will commence in Oak Brook/Chicago. Please follow details and updates on the conference website (www.religiouseducation.net/rea2014) and on REA’s Facebook page. Stellar conference papers have come in, and are now available on the website for reading in advance.

Interesting things are happening behind-the-scenes to bring our conference to life in a month's time. An "Art and Ritual Team"—led by Courtney Goto, Yolanda Smith, Tamar Wasoian, Barbara Javore, with musical offerings from Luke Bobo—has been working hard at designing moments of intervention by art and ritual in the flow of the program. Two groups of eight presenters are working to exchange papers ahead of time so that they can facilitate "roundtable" discussions on their work during the Saturday afternoon breakout times (see T 2.1 and T 2.2 under "Breakouts"). Over 15 participants have agreed to serve as facilitators for our "World Café" plenary on Friday afternoon. Task Forces will be reminded to reboot their tasks—and at least one new one is forming under the leadership of Sarah Tauber and Jennifer Mosher, with an emphasis on inter-religious anti-violence pedagogies. Panelists are gearing up, moderators and helpers are being recruited, Mary Hess and Lucinda Huffaker are working hard at publicity and connections.

Most exciting is a report that we are presently "breaking the record" with registration for this year's Annual Meeting. We hope that registration numbers will not plateau after a certain point. Please encourage and invite broadly—the strength of the conference is contingent upon the scholarship and conversations that we each bring.

Writing on the intergenerational hauntings of trauma produced by war's "alchemy of violence," sociologist Grace M. Cho invokes the exercise of "dream work"—the relentless pursuit of "what which has been violently repressed or made to disappear." The ongoing events of our world suggest that there exist insidious public pedagogies that debilitate moral and religious imagination. Perhaps November 7th is when we will gather to query how religious educators can actively teach "dream work."

See you in Oak Brook/Chicago!

Mai-Anh Le Tran
Program Chair

Leaders in our field, leading organizations

Earlier this fall we celebrated with Dr. Mary Hinton, a long time member of our association and recent REA Board Member, as she was inaugurated as the 15th President of the College of Saint Benedict, in St. Joseph, MN.

Did you know that other members of our guild have served as presidents and deans? We have informally started compiling a list, which includes Craig Dykstra as the Director of the Religion Division at Lilly Endowment, Malcolm Warford, President of Bangor Seminary, Jack Seymour, Dean at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, Charles Foster as Director of the Clergy Education Project at the Carnegie Foundation and Associate Dean of Faculty Development at Candler School of Theology,



Mary Boys as Dean at Union Seminary in New York, Mary Elizabeth Moore as Dean at Boston University's School of Theology, and so on.

Have you provided academic leadership in some way? Let us know! We are hoping to raise the visibility of our field by noting all of the leaders who are rooted in our discipline.

Remembering Maria Harris, and *Teaching for Imagination*

In beginning to prepare for the November 6-8, 2015 REA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Harold (Bud) Horell is looking for people who would be willing to share memories of discussing teaching and the religious imagination with Maria Harris, or experiences of being inspired by or using Maria's book *Teaching and Religious Imagination*. If he can find enough people who are willing to share their remembrances of Maria and her work, he will do short video interviews with them at the 2014 Annual Meeting in Chicago, and then use the videos to prepare a tribute to Maria that will be part of the 2015 Annual Meeting in Atlanta. Please contact Bud if you're willing to share a memory or experience with him while you're in Chicago, horell@fordham.edu.

Be aware of hotel and registration deadlines

The special hotel rates for our conference hotel end on October 17th — please be sure the hotel knows that you are registering as part of the REA annual meeting. Pre-registration for the meeting itself ends on October 31st. Be warned that registration and hotel fees increase dramatically after these deadlines. Information about travel to and from the airport will also be available on the meeting website.

Prepare for Chicago — read the papers in advance!

A crucial element of our collegial practice is to come to the annual meeting having read the Research Interest Group papers in advance. This year we also have posted outlines of Workshop and Colloquia sessions at the meeting page (www.religiouseducation.net/rea2014/schedule/breakouts). Reading in advance means that we can jump directly into engaged conversation, which has been a hallmark of our work together.

This year we are also experimenting with a number of innovative plenary sessions, including a few off site visits. Please make sure that you are prepared for the trips you have registered for. Comfortable shoes, for instance, are very appropriate.

Please help us spread the word on the meeting! You can get free PDFs of flyers at the program website: www.religiouseducation.net/rea2014/flyers.

Searching for volunteers — and projectors — for Chicago



Do you like to take candid photographs? Or tweet live meetings? We are looking for a handful of members who can help us to share the energy and excitement of our meeting with the wider world. We would like to organize in advance of the meeting, so drop Mary Hess, our networking coordinator, an email if you are able to help us to do this (mhess@luthersem.edu).

We are also looking for students who might like to sign up for shifts as volunteers during the meeting. We need help with registration, with working the book exhibits, with shepherding people on field trips, and so on. We have a limited number of fee waivers we can offer if you know of people — perhaps masters' level students? — who would like to join us for the meeting, and are willing to volunteer for a shift during it.

Finally, we are still looking for people who are willing to bring along projectors to the meeting. We are offering \$50 off your conference fees if you bring along a projector and allow it to be used for others' presentations. Email Lucinda if you can help us in this way (reaapprre@msn.com).

Let us know about memorials and retirements

Do you know REA members who are retiring and who should be recognized at this year's conference? Do you know REA members who have died during the last year and who should be remembered at the conference? If so, please contact Virginia Lee, recording secretary (virginia.lee@garrett.edu).

Business meeting materials available online

Remember that the agenda and biographies of our nominees for election this year will be placed online at the website, just shortly before the annual meeting. In an effort to save the cost of printing and duplication, we will be putting as many of these materials as we can online. It is important that members seek out and read that information prior to the business meeting.

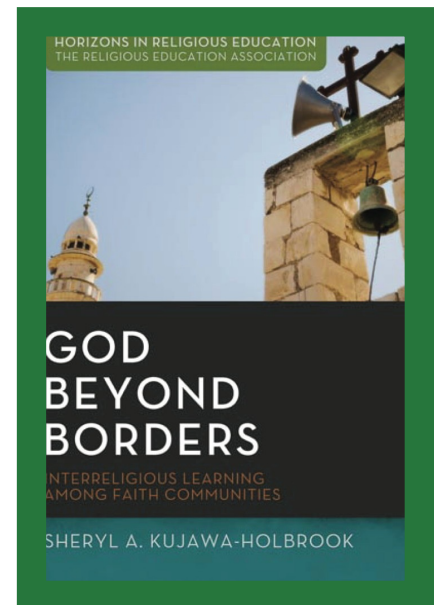
Bring your books for the exhibits

Book publishers are no longer able to be as generous as in the past, in attending our meetings. But we will still have a book exhibit available, and our online bookstore. Bring along a copy of each of your books, and we will happily make them available for people to consider. You should also ask your publisher about conference discounts, many publishers are willing to create flyers which offer such discounts.

Join us at AAR in San Diego

As budgets tighten and finding funding to travel becomes ever more difficult, we have heard from several members who are no longer able to come to our annual meetings every year, but who must (for institutional reasons) attend the American Academy of Religion meeting. While we work on the long term challenge of finding supportive funding, we are hoping to create room for you to stay in touch with our association at the annual AAR meetings.

This year our special session at AAR is scheduled for Saturday, November 22 from 6:30 - 8:00 PM. It will focus on the first book in our new Horizons series, *God Beyond Borders: Interreligious Learning and Global Possibilities*. Harold (Bud) Horell from Fordham University will preside at the session.



The session will feature a panel discussion with the author — Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook — and scholars Marianne Moyaert (VU University Amsterdam), Najeeba Syeed-Miller (Claremont School of Theology), and Mary Elizabeth Moore (Boston University). The panelists — international, inter-professional, inter-disciplinary — are border-crossers and bridge-builders who have contributed significantly to scholarship on religious plurality, interreligious dialogue, teaching religious diversity, conflict resolution, justice and reconciliation.

We anticipate that questions such as: how can people of differing religious traditions learn from one another? what within each religious tradition inspires its congregations to build interfaith cooperation? how can communities work together to bring the wisdom of religious traditions into public discussions of socio-moral issues? will be discussed. Bring a friend who has not yet encountered REA to the session!

Journal submission process changes

As of October 15, 2014 persons wanting to submit articles for peer review for *Religious Education* should submit via www.tandfonline.com. The journal is switching to an online submission process called “editorial manager.” Instructions will appear on the *Religious Education* site at www.tandfonline.com. The editors of the journal believe this new process will streamline submission, review of manuscripts, and the process from acceptance or revision to publication.

New membership processes rolling out

We are moving our membership management from Taylor & Francis to a system managed by REA staff. You will still receive the journal *Religious Education* with your membership, but we hope that we will be able to provide more effective membership management and communication.

We will let you know more information about how to check your profile on the new system starting with our November meeting.



eREACH is a newsletter of the Religious Education Association, an Association of Professors, Practitioners, and Researchers in Religious Education.

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