

# REACH

Religious Education Association Clearing House

July-August-September 2003

## 2003 REA and APRRE Celebration of REA's Centennial Anniversary

November 7-9, 2003

*The Religious Education Association and the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education join together to celebrate the REA's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

### 2003 Meeting Program Theme:

#### **E**mbracing the Past, Envisioning the Future: Religious Education in an Age of Transition.

In this time of world tension and conflict in Iraq we are more aware than ever that many individuals, communities, and societies are in some form in transition. Such times call for discerning hearts informed by good religious education. Our 2003 annual meeting seems couched in a special time of transition. The year 2003 sees the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Religious Education Association and modern professional religious education. Our deliberation about merging the REA and APRRE is creating conversation about how we view theory and practice in the various contexts of our work. The early years of this new millennium are already marked by violent conflicts that tap into the human religious imagination and the new dynamics of globalization. Our 2003 meeting provides an important opportunity at this point in history for assessment, visioning and celebration.

Particular attention will be given to celebrating the In November of 2003, the Religious Education Association and the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education will jointly celebrate the REA's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our shared theme will be "Embracing the Past, Envisioning the Future: Religious Education in an Age of Transition."

As we embrace the past 100 years of the study and practice of religious education, we will seek to identify and understand significant transitions in the field and how these influence our engagement of the future contributions that the Religious Education Association has made to this work.

As we envision the future, we will explore how the beginning of a new millennium, marked by ready global communication and the migration of peoples, calls us to a new religious literacy. Many of us have as our heritage a predominantly Eurocentric understanding of our faith traditions. We are invited today to become more conversant with religio-cultures from around the globe. Whereas in the past we may have tended as religious educators to minimize what was different among the great faith traditions, today we are coming to realize that without an understanding of our differences we may miss the truths that we have to offer to one another. We may also judge others wrongly because of our ignorance. Among the questions we may ask are: What does it mean to be religiously literate today? How have the assumptions about the distinctiveness of religions changed since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century? What values or truths do our faith traditions have to offer for the good of all humanity? How do we as religious educators situate ourselves as we move into the third millennium?

Questions and comments about the theme may be directed to the Vice President of the REA and President-Elect of APRRE, Lorna Bowman: [lbowman@uwo.ca](mailto:lbowman@uwo.ca)

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**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

REA members may download the common REA-APRRE registration form online either on the REA or APRRE website as follows:

REA website: <http://www.religiouseducation.net>

APRRE website: <http://www.mtso.edu/aprre>

REA members will be able to indicate membership by checking the REA member box and registration will not be complete until a check or money order is sent to the common REA/APRRE Registration site as follows: REA Centennial Anniversary Celebration, C/O Dr. Randy Litchfield, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, 3081 Columbus Pike, P.O. Box 8004, Delaware, OH 43015 USA. **A hardcopy of the registration form will be sent to you by mail.**

Registration fees in US dollars:

REA member	\$115
International member	\$ 95
Emeritus/Emerita member	\$ 75
Full-time Student member	\$ 75
Non-member	\$165

A \$10 late registration fee will be added to registrations postmarked after October 1, 2003.

Registration can be canceled with full refund on or before October 15, 2003. Refunds for cancellations between October 15 and October 27 will have \$40 withheld (a copy of the Proceedings will be mailed via US mail). After October 27, 2003 cancellations will not receive a refund.

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

This year's meeting is a very special one because (a) we are meeting with APRRE, (b) the REA is celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and (c) we may be enacting a joint reorganization. In developing the schedule, we have worked to honor the centennial needs of the REA and to minimize competition between the programming needs of both organizations. Doing so leads to a very full schedule and adaptations to some of APRRE's usual meeting patterns. Credit for the symposia is due James Michael Lee and Barney Kathan, who serve on the REA planning committee.

Thursday, November 6, 2003

TBA Lutheran Christian Education Professors Meeting  
TBA REA Board Meeting

Friday, November 7, 2003

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	APRRE Executive Committee & other requested pre-meetings
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Registration/Hospitality
1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Denominational/Particular Religious Tradition Meetings
3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	Opening Plenary
4:40 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.	Task Forces
6:30 p.m.	Banquet: Begins with inter-religious worship elements, Bobbie Nelson; presentation of the William Rainey Harper Award; Keynote by Martin Marty

Saturday, November 8, 2003

8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Symposium: "Honoring the Religious Education Tapestry, Part I: Religious Education in the Multi-Faith Community" - Don Russo, Convener
9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Research Interest Groups (RIGS), Colloquia and Resourcing Workshops [see below]
11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Symposium: "Honoring the Religious Education Tapestry, Part II: Religious Education in the Multicultural Community" - Mary Elizabeth Moore, Convener
12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Men's & Women's Luncheons
2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Symposium: "The Future of the Journal" - Theodore Brelsford, Convener RIGs, Colloquia & Resourcing Workshops [see below]
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	REA business meeting Sessions for participants who are not REA members
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	APRRE business meeting
5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Reception
OPEN EVENING	

Sunday, November 9, 2003

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	RIGs, Colloquia & Resourcing Workshops [see below]
9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Symposium: Embracing the Past, Embracing the Future" - Stephen Schmidt, Convener
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon	APRRE Presidential Presentation- Lorna Bowman

Closing Ritual (Intended for all registrants)

**HOSPITALITY**

On Friday during registration there will be a light snack and punch available in the registration/exhibit area.

**BANQUET CELEBRATION**

There will be special features during the Friday evening banquet celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the REA. The program includes the debut of a song written by Brian Wren for the REA's centennial, the awarding of the William Rainey Harper Award, and a keynote address by Martin Marty. The cost of the banquet is included in the registration fee.

**RECEPTION**

At 5:30 p.m. on Saturday following the business meetings of the REA and APRRE, there will be a reception for all registrants before people head out into the city. The reception will include one complementary drink (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) and cheese with crackers and breads. Additional drinks may be purchased.

**RESEARCH INTEREST GROUPS (RIGs),  
COLLOQUIA (COL), & WORKSHOPS (W)****Saturday, November 8, 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.****Block One**

- Diane E. Shallue-- Passing on the Faith through Intergenerational Approach (W)  
Lynne Westfield-- Just a Little Talk With Jesus: Prayer as Hospitality (COL)  
John Elias-- Catholics in the Religious Education Association (RIG)  
Paulette Isaac-- The Future of Adult Education in the Urban African American Church (RIG)  
Mark King-- The Roman Catholic Dilemma: Educating for a Mature Faith Identity (RIG)  
Deam Blevins-- Virtual Publications or Virtually Publishing? The Opportunities and Challenges of On-Line Publishing in Religious Education (RIG)  
Karen-Marie Yust-- The Cultivation of Spiritual Knowledge and Wisdom (RIG)  
Mario O. D'Souza, Leona M. English and Leon Chartrand-- A 10-Year Retrospective of Religious Education: An Interfaith Journal of Spirituality, Growth, and Transformation (RIG)  
Dent C. Davis-- Encounter with God: Pedagogical Implications of the Human Experience of Spirit for Religious Education of Adults in the Church (RIG)  
Miriam K. Martin-- Lex Orandi Lex Credendi: The Women's Liturgical Movement and Implications for Religious Education (RIG)  
Russell Hatch-- Training for Consumerism: Education as Enrichment (RIG)

**Saturday, November 8, 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.****Block Two**

- Anne S. Wimberly--Teaching and Learning Across Boundaries (RW)  
Catherine P. Zeph--Furthering the Integration of Adult Religious Education and Spirituality (COL)  
Kieran Scott-- The Moribund Field of Religious Education: Its Wake and Our Work (RIG)  
Thomas E. Leuze-- How Have We Reckoned with the Barthians: A Response to H. Shelton Smith (RIG)  
Nam Soon Song-- Self-Cultivation as a Way of Christian Education: Exploring Jesus as a Learner (RIG)  
Rebecca L. Davis--Bright Hope for Tomorrow: The Bipolar Relationality of Personal and Social Transformation (RIG)  
Barbara J. Fleischer--From Individual to Corporate Praxis: A Systematic Re-imagining of Religious Education (RIG)  
Kathy L. Dawson--Christian Religious Graduate Education in the Present (RIG)  
Jack L. Seymour--Theology: The Clue to Religious Education? (RIG)  
Sandra Sonhyang Kim-- Asian Theological Concept of Relatedness and its Implications on Religious Education (RIG)  
Brett Webb-Mitchell-- Trading Spaces, Changing Lives: Contextual Religious Education (RIG)  
Siebren Miedema--Religious Education Today: Between James and Durkheim in Dialogue with Charles Taylor (RIG)

Saturday, November 8, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

**Block Three**

[NOTE: Concurrent with the REA business meeting-- intended for people who are not REA members]

- Fred D. Smith-- A Pilot Study in Hope and Despair (COL)  
Mai-Anh Le Tran--The Stories We Live By: Cultural and Religious Scripts in the Life Narratives of Vietnamese American Women (COL)

**Sunday, November 9, 8:00 - 9:15 a.m.****Block Four**

- Jane Alice Gober-- Pedagogy of Play: Speaking of Adult Christian Religious Education as Play (COL)  
W. Alan Smith-- The Lexington 'Heresy Trial': William Clayton Bower and the Progressive School (RIG)  
Lucinda Nolan-- Seeing What is Not There Yet: Entelechy, Sophia Lyon Fahs and Religious Education (RIG)  
Claire Smith-- God's Neighborhood--Where Strangers Become Friends. . and Family: A Guyanaese <etaphor for Christian Education (RIG)  
Kathleen O'Gorman--Religious Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (RIG)  
Margaret Ann Crain--Conversation Partners for our Future: Taking Cues from the Past (RIG)  
Alex Sinclair-- From Practice to Theory: The Hermeneutics of Bibliodrama in the Classroom (RIG)  
Linda L. Baratte-- Religious Education in the Prophetic Voice: The Pedagogy of Eileen Egan (RIG)  
Boyung Lee-- Who Cares?-- A Post-colonial Feminist Critique of Caring-Self and Multiculturalism (RIG)  
Gabriel Moran-- Religious Education and International Ethics (RIG)  
Mark S. Markuly--Literacy of the Heart: Finding a Language for the Affective Dimension of Religious Education (RIG)  
Bert Roebben-- Resilient Leadership and the Search for Meaning in Young Adult Ministry (RIG)

**2003 MEETING HOTEL**

Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza Hotel  
350 North Orleans Street  
Chicago, Illinois  
November 7-9, 2003

The hotel is in downtown Chicago in the River North area, "the New Chicago," and has great views of the city. There are a good number of restaurants, bars, galleries, and other cultural attractions within several blocks. An airport shuttle stops at the hotel twice per hour (15 minutes past the hour and 15 minutes to the hour) beginning at 5:15 a.m. until 10:15 p.m. The hotel is very close to commuter trains. References on the hotel have been excellent.

The guest room rate is US \$125 per night for both single and double occupancy. While this is a higher rate than recent years, it is actually a very good rate for a downtown location at this busy time of year. A downtown location was deemed important for this special meeting. REA will attempt to find ways to offer some assistance for those encountering hardship because of the higher rate. Also, some effort will be made to assist people in finding others with whom to share a room.

The reservation cut-off date will be October 16, 2003. Following this cut-off date, guestrooms are subject to availability and the hotel's prevailing room rates.

You may find out more about the hotel on the web at: <http://www.holidayinnchicago.com>

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME**

Taylor and Francis is in the process of forwarding REA membership renewal notices by mail to present REA members. If you have not received the form or have questions about membership, please notify Craig Pacelli directly at Taylor and Francis: (215) 625-8900 or 1-800-354-1420, extension 241.

Taylor and Francis is developing a web link which will allow membership renewals to be made on the web by accessing the home page of Taylor and Francis:

[www.tandf.co.uk](http://www.tandf.co.uk)

After accessing the home page, click onto the *Religious Education* Journal icon. Under the journal home page, you will find an REA membership link. Both PDF and html formats will be available.

**REA-APRRE JOINT REORGANIZATION REPORT**

Members of the joint REA-APRRE reorganization committee received comments on the March draft of the reorganization proposal and have prepared a "final" document to distribute for votes. Both the REA Board and the APRRE

Executive Committee voted in June to approve the design and to present it to the general membership for a vote. The mail ballot vote by the membership is being delayed to allow some legal details to be reviewed and to coincide with a time when more members will be in their offices. Originally the ballot was to have been completed by early July. The revised plan is to distribute the ballot the second half of August with returns due early in September. A hard copy of the proposal will be distributed with the ballot; however, the final reorganization design document (dated 5/23/03) is already available on the REA website.

Most of the revisions in the final design are relatively minor with one exception. The implementation plan (Section 9) is substantially different in the 5/23/03 design and will warrant close review by everyone. The implementation timing reflects a longer, two-step process. During the 2004 calendar year the REA and APRRE would remain as two separate organizations with a shared administrator. After approval of new by-laws and any other necessary legal documents during the 2003 annual meetings, the joint reorganization would take effect in January of 2005. These revisions ease pressures on administrative logistics and allow for an additional point of collective discernment in November 2004 while keeping the process moving forward.

The joint reorganization committee wishes to thank APRRE and REA members for the time, energy and care that they put into responses and discussions regarding the various drafts of the reorganization proposal. Taking this process seriously demonstrates a form of love for important institutions that influence the field of religious education.

Special thanks also go to the members of the joint reorganization committee who have worked diligently on reorganization designs and sought to discern a wise course for our collective future. Members of the committee include REA representatives: Anne Streaty Wimberly, Barbara Anne Keely, Theodore Brelsford, and Ronald Cram; and APRRE representatives: Jack Seymour, Tom Walters, Lorna Bowman, and Randy Litchfield.

If you wish to vote on the REA-APRRE reorganization mail ballot in August/September 2003, you will need to have your dues paid for the 2003-04 membership year. Only current members will be eligible to vote.

**JOURNAL EDITOR SEARCH**

The REA has initiated a search for an editor of the journal, *Religious Education*, to carry on the work of the current editor, Theodore Brelsford, effective January 2005, with a few months prior to the end of the 2004 calendar year for overlapping experience. Anyone who is interested in this position as well as those wishing to recommend someone for the position may contact Dr. Anne Wimberly. A search committee will be formed prior to the November 2003 meeting.

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**SPECIAL FEATURES**

**REACHnotes**

- North American Interfaith Network NAIN Connect '03, hosted by the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio, will take place August 9 - 12, 2003 in Columbus, Ohio. The theme of the conference is "Journeys of Faith, Freedom, and Justice. The North American Interfaith Network (NAIN) seeks to affirm humanity's diverse and historic spiritual resources and bring these to bear on contemporary global, national, regional and local issues. The conference in August builds on the recognition that "in these troubled times, interfaith dialogue and cooperation are needed as never before." More information may be found on the following website:  
<http://www.nain.org/info/Connect2003.htm>
- The 17<sup>th</sup> Australian International Education Conference, October 21-24, 2003, will be held in Melbourne, Australia. The conference will focus on ways in which institutions, education organizations, state and national governments can address the challenge of managing the continuing rise in the global demand for international higher education. Of particular interest are the questions to be addressed in the Curriculum, Learning and Products stream of the conference: How do we ensure that an internationalized curriculum offers value to all students? If there is to be a huge increase in the numbers of international students on campus, what steps do we need to take now to ensure that the quintessential character of education is retained and that the education offered is an authentic cultural experience, both in and out of the classroom? What are the challenges of a culturally diverse classroom and how are institutions meeting these challenges?

Should the curriculum change to meet the growing diversity of students? Are market forces driving curriculum development? Are new learning products required as the student population expands and diversifies? How are institutions handling assessment issues? What are the new developments in the international recognition of qualifications? For more information, access the following website:

[www.idp.com/17aiec](http://www.idp.com/17aiec)

- Remember and register for the REA-APRRE Meeting, November 7-9, 2003 in Chicago, Illinois.  
[See above information]
- The American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 22-25, 2003 in Atlanta, Georgia. Information about the meeting may be found on the following website:  
[www.aarweb.org/annualmeet](http://www.aarweb.org/annualmeet)
- The International Conference on Open and Online Learning will take place December 7-13, 2003 at the University of Mauritius. Of particular interest are approaches and methodologies for technology-enhanced learning to improve access to quality education; anthropocentric and socio-constructive approaches to technology-enhanced learning; creative and reflective approaches to technology enhanced learning to support cultural diversity, creativity and reflectivity; and intersection and synergies between virtual and traditional communities networks. More information may be found on the following address:[icool2003@uom.ac.mu](mailto:icool2003@uom.ac.mu)
- The Ecumenical Youth Conference, Ecumenical Youth and Young Adult Social Justice Encounter- Building Ecumenical Spaces, will take place in Prague, Czech Republic from July 8 - 14, 2004. Further information is found on the following website:  
<http://www.enyaorg.cz/pprogramme2003/program2003.html>

**2003 QUARTERLY INTERFAITH CALENDAR**

- |      |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July |                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 9    | Martyrdom of Bab- Baha'i: Ali Mohammed was executed in 1850 by Persian political and religious powers. Observed by abstaining from commerce and work.                        |
| 11   | St. Benedict Day-Catholic Christian: Catholic Christian recognition of the father of The Benedictine Order. It was the first Order of the Western Church monastic tradition. |

- 13-15 Festival of Souls(Obon Festival)- Shinto: Japanese Buddhist festival to honor the dead. Involves lighting of bonfires, traditional meal, paper lanterns, folk dance.
- 24 Pioneer Day- Mormon Christian: Mormon observance of arrival of first settlers at Great Salt Lake, USA, on July 24, 1847.
- 25 St. James the Great Day- Christian: Christian recognition of the martyrdom of the Apostle James the Great in 44.c.e.

## August

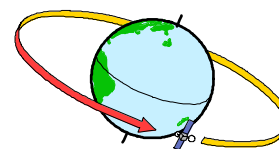
- 1 Lammass- Christian: Christian first fruits celebration observed by placing bread from first harvest on the altar.  
Fast in honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus- Orthodox Christian: Fourteen day fasting period in preparation for the celebration of the Great Feast of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary.
- 3 Ganesh Chaturhi- Hindu: A Hindu festival honoring the god of prosperity, prudence and success. Images of Ganesa are worshiped.
- 6 Transfiguration of Jesus-Christian: Commemoration of the experience on Mt. Tabor when Jesus' physical appearance became brilliant.
- 7 Tisha B'av- Jewish: A Jewish Day of fasting in remembrance of the destruction of the Temple in 516 b.c.e. and 70 c.e.
- 12 Raksha Bandhan- Hindu: Hindu festival honoring the loving ties between brothers and sisters in a family.
- 15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary- Catholic Christian: Observance commemorating the belief that the Blessed Virgin Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven at the end of her earthly life.  
Dormition of the Theotokos- Orthodox Christian: Observance of the death, burial, resurrection and transfer to heaven of the Virgin Mary.
- 20 Krishna Janmashtami- Hindu: Commemoration of the birth of Krishan, the 8<sup>th</sup> incarnation of god Vishnu.

## September

- 1 Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year- Orthodox Christian
- 8 Nativity of Mary, the Mother of God- Orthodox Christian: Celebration of the birth of the Virgin Mary.
- 14 Exaltation of the Life Creating Cross- Orthodox Christian: Celebration of the finding by St. Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine, of the Cross upon which Christ was crucified.
- 24 Lailat al Miraj & Israa'- Islam: Islamic observance of Mohammed's night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascension to heaven.

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- Oct.5 Navaratra Dashara- Hindu: Festival of the divine mother honoring Durga, wife of Shiva, and seeking her blessings. Also observed as a celebration recalling the days of Lord Krishna.
- 27-28 Rosh Hashanah- Jewish: Jewish New Year. A time of introspection, abstinence, prayer and penitence. The story of Abraham is read, the ram's horn is sounded, and special foods are prepared and shared.<sup>1</sup>



### INTERFAITH AND GLOBAL AWARENESS BOOKSHELF

- Berger, Peter L. And Huntington, Samuel P. Eds. *Many Globalizations: Cultural Diversity in the Contemporary World*. Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Forward, Martin. *Inter-religious Dialogue: A Short Introduction*. Oneworld Publication, 2001.
- Hart, David A. *Multifaith Britain: An Experiment in Common Worship*. O Books, 2002.
- Magonet, Jonathan. *Talking to the Other: Jewish Interfaith Dialogue with Christians and Muslims*. I.B. Tauris & Company, Ltd., 2003.
- Marty, Martin. *Politics, Religion, and the Common Good: Advancing a Distinctly American Conversation About Religion's Role in Our Shared Life*. Jossey-Bass, Publishers, 2000.
- Pinto, Henrique. *Foucault, Christianity and Interfaith Dialogue*, Routledge Studies in Religion, 2. Routledge 2003.

1. See: "Interfaith Calendar: Primary Sacred Times for World Religions," <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/2003.htm>