



First Person-to-Person Exchange, between the Japan & US Chapters

October 2011

On October 20th a delegation of 23 members of the Japanese Chapter of the IARF arrived in Washington, D.C. There they visited All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church. Shortly after the bombing of Hiroshima in 1945, the minister the **Rev. A. Powell Davies** called on his congregation to provide assistance to the survivors. Large quantities of goods were sent to the school children of that devastated city. In return the children sent more than forty drawings to the church. They remained there until last Spring when the current minister, the **Rev. Rob Hardies** returned the originals to Hiroshima. The group members expressed their thanks to him and the congregation and viewed reproductions of the drawings. After touring the city, the group moved on to the Universalist National Memorial Church to meet IARF supporters and to hear **Mrs. Sueko Hada**, a survivor of the nuclear blast tell of her experiences. Also, they met **Ms. Shizumi Manale**, who is making a film of the story.

On Saturday, Oct. 22nd the group moved to Boston where the members were greeted by the **Rev. Eric Cherry**, Director of the UUA Office of International Resources. They toured the headquarters of the Association and **President Morales** greeted them along with members of the UUA Board, staff members of the International Office and eleven members of the Boston Chapter of the IARF. Gifts were exchanged followed by a luncheon and personal introductions.



the group at Dana Greeley's grave

The following day Sunday, Oct. 23rd., **Richard Kellaway** and **Doris Hunter** led the Japanese delegation to the grave sites of **Dr. Dana Greeley** in Concord, Massachusetts and **Dr. Natalie Gulbrandsen** in Beverly, Massachusetts.

Prayers were given, the delegation leader, the **Rev. Norio Sakai** from Rissho Kosei-Kai honouring their dedication to interfaith understanding and cooperation. Flowers were placed on their graves in tribute of the lasting friendship between the Japan Chapter of the IARF and the Unitarian Universalist Association as well as the US Chapter of the IARF.

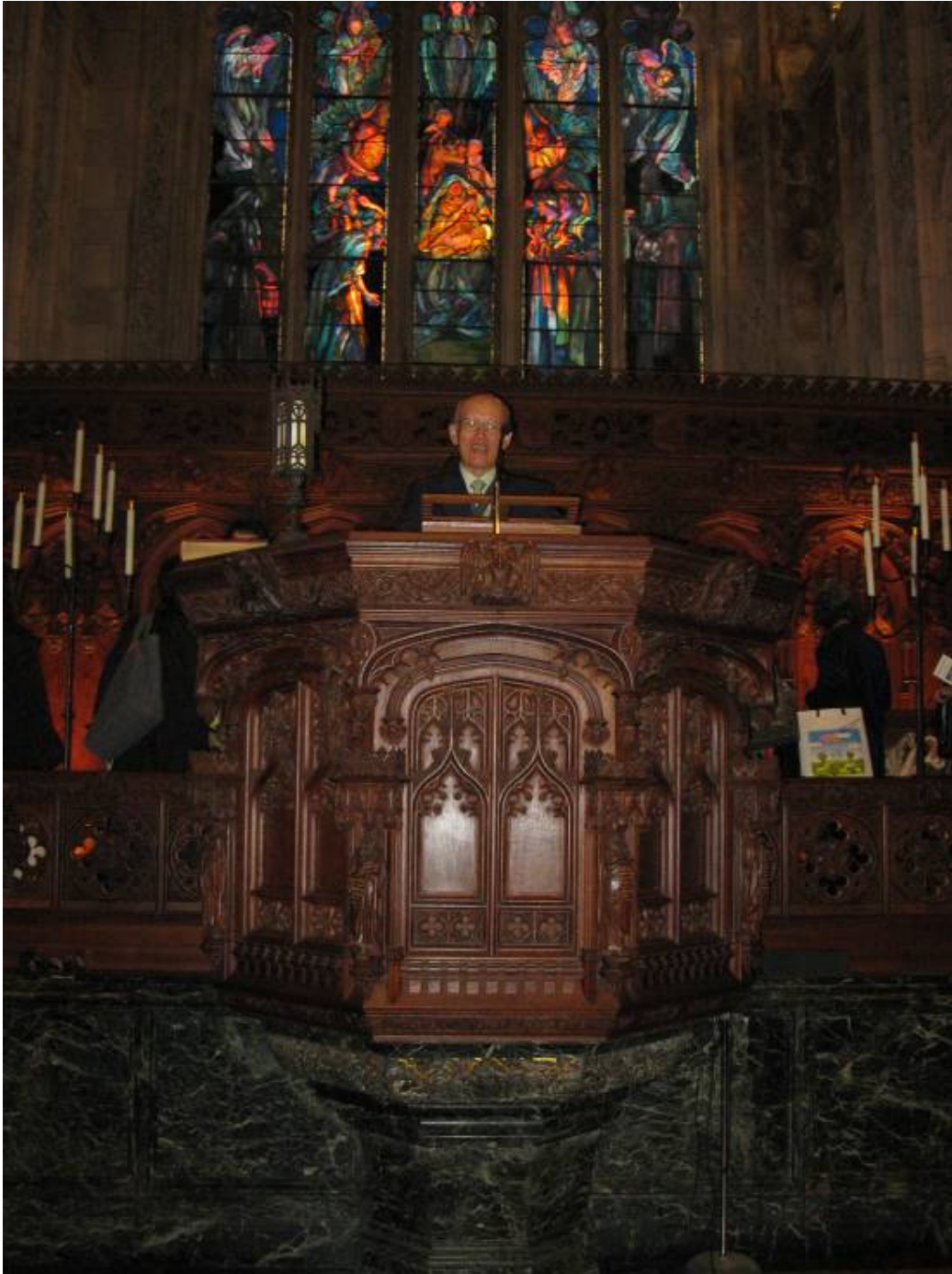
What a beautiful tribute to Dr. Greeley and Dr. Gulbrandsen, and also to the continuing interfaith friendships promoted by the IARF. The group was then welcomed by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Beverly, Massachusetts. Greetings were exchanged between their minister, the **Rev. Kelly Asprooth-Jackson**, and the Rev. Sakai followed by a luncheon arranged by the congregation.



the group at Natalie Gulbrandsen's grave

The group moved to Fairhaven, Massachusetts, in the afternoon. There they visited the home and museum of **John Manjiro**, the first Japanese to live in the United States. In the 1840's he was rescued by William Whitfield, Captain of a Fairhaven whaling ship. Whitfield brought him home to live, since any contact with foreigners was then a sentence to death. Manjiro attended the Unitarian church, and became educated about American technical knowledge, an enormous contribution when he eventually returned to Japan. So important is he in the modern history of Japan that the home was visited by the current Emperor when he was still Crown Prince.

After touring the Unitarian church and museum, the group met with local IARF supporters, and celebrated these events at a local restaurant. This part of the visit was arranged by the **Rev. Ann Fox**, minister of the Unitarian Church in Fairhaven, and **Jean Kellaway**.



Rev. Sakai in the pulpit at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Fairhaven

Leadership in planning the overall tour was provided by **Yuji Inokuma** in Japan and the Rev. Richard Kellaway in the U. S. A return visit to Japan for the fall of 2012 is being discussed.

Report submitted by Richard Kellaway & Doris Hunter

More photos can be [seen here](#).