

Clear Light Community News

Dear Friends,

April 2003 • Vol. 2

It is encouraging to know that so many people are making plans to live in the new Clear Light Community. Working together, we can make it a "community of excellence" and a very special place in which to live a fulfilling life.

Living in the community will provide a golden opportunity to be with people who want to meditate together and to honor the lives of Paramahansa Yogananda and Yogacharya Oliver Black.

As a member of the community, you will also have many opportunities to be of service to others. It will be a rewarding life-style, one that reflects the best in selfless values and attitudes.

As troubled times continue in our world, the Clear Light Community will be *the* place to be if problems arise in the more populated areas. It will then become a sanctuary for both body and soul.

May God and the Masters richly bless you as you make your plans for the future.

In Master's Eternal Love,



Bob Raymer

President of Golden Lotus
and Spiritual Director of Song of the Morning

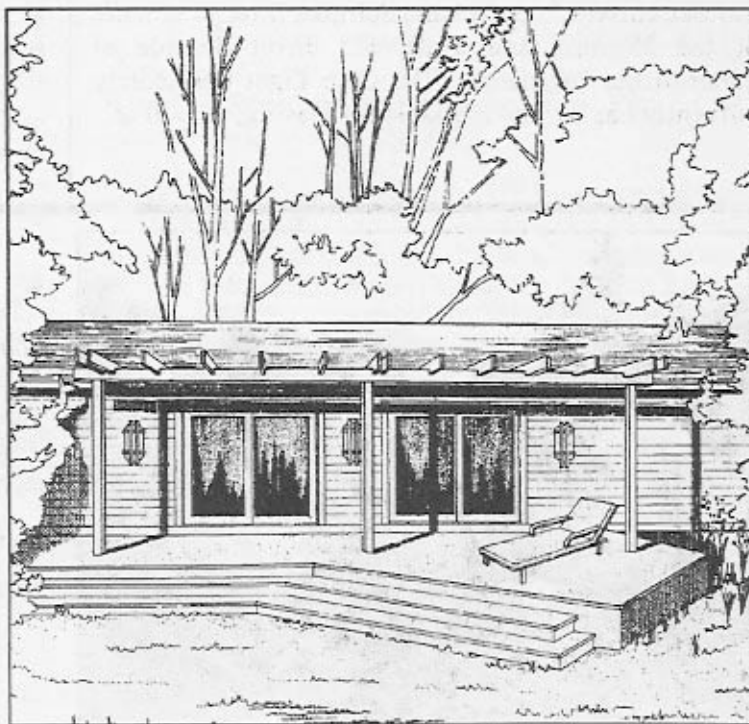
HOME FOR SALE

Choosing a lot, choosing a house, building.....is it too much, when all you want is to live, meditate, and participate at our beloved "Yoga Retreat of Excellence?" A right turn off Tranquility Trail onto Golden Lotus Trail in the Clear Light Community may bring you quickly to a solution.

Lot# 27, a beautiful wooded lot just around the bend, has on it, and available for sale a 1,560 square foot home with three bedrooms and two baths. The master bedroom has a large bathroom with a shower and bathtub. The large living room is equipped with a fireplace. The kitchen has a breakfast area and a stove. The home is cedar sided and is on a concrete foundation. The home will have 100 amp service, a gas heating system and two small decks.

The Clear Light Community Management Company is offering this house for sale with the leased lot for \$90,000. This price includes the entire \$21,900 total cost for leasing a lot in the Clear Light Community.

Is this your future home? For further information or a tour of the home, please contact Joe Golarz at 989-983-4107.



Is this your future home?

***While small minded men cry "impossible!",
the pathfinders of this world calmly pursue their goals,
and prove that the impossible was, instead, inevitable."***

— Paramahansa Yogananda

Dear Members,

The Clear Light Community existed first as the visionary prototype of our Master Paramahansa Yogananda-- "the Yogoda World City."

He said, "The idea in creating the proposed Yogoda World City is to offer the war torn, industrially selfish, politically hidebound nations of the earth a glimpse of a perfect divine city...Swami Yogananda, with the help of a few exalted souls, is going to make a supreme effort to do something practical in establishing such a city."

In later years, he instructed one of these "exalted souls," Yogacharya Oliver, to establish a "retreat away from the city" where a "World Brotherhood Colony" could be established.

To this end, in 1970 Yogacharya Oliver founded Song of the Morning Ranch, located on 800 pristine acres surrounded by thousands of acres of state forest. A life-long minister of Self-Realization Fellowship of Los Angeles, California, Yogacharya Oliver dedicated his life to fulfilling his Master's wishes. He instructed his Board of Directors in his last will and testament to establish the World Brotherhood Colony.

This instruction was carried out under Bob Raymer, current President and Spiritual Director of Song of the Morning and a devoted direct disciple of Paramahansa Yogananda. The Clear Light Community currently has 34 lots available for leasing, as well as

another 32 lots that are being developed in Phase II of the project.

The pioneers of the project - those members who have already leased their lots - provided the financing to bring in roads, street signs, surveying, and electric power. Because of the Clear Light Community, the retreat was for the first time in its existence connected to the electric power grid in the year 2000.

However, much work remains to be done. Phone lines, both for the community and the retreat, the surveying and opening of Phase II, are next on the agenda.

To provide the funds needed to complete the community infrastructure this year, we are looking for 25 members who are willing to join with us and lease their lot in the Clear Light Community. Total cost remains \$21,900 per lease. This includes \$1,000 membership in the Community, \$5,000 lease price, and \$15,900 leasehold improvement costs. Leases are for 50 years, renewable at no cost. They may be passed on to heirs or sold to approved members.

A new, no-interest payment plan is being offered until September 30, 2003 to make it easy for members to lease this year. Once the remaining infrastructure of the community is in place, houses will go up quickly, and the real community -- like-minded people living in peace, harmony and love -- will begin.

Then, all of us together will be those "pathfinders" who will create that "perfect divine city" envisioned by Master. Will you be one?



Bob, Sandi and Tom

The Clear light Community came into existence under Bob Raymer, seen here with two devotees, Sandi Jones and her husband Tom Walker. Sandi has brought many people to Yoga and to Song of the Morning through the Hatha Yoga and meditation classes she teaches in the surrounding Northern Michigan community. Tom is a member of the Clear Light Community Management Company board.

***What will your role be in Master's,
Yogacharya's and Bob's dream?***

ANNOUNCING

No interest payment plan available until September 30, 2003

**For a limited time you may lease your lot in the
Clear Light Community on a new *no-interest* payment plan.**

This opportunity is being offered now to provide funds to bring in phone lines this year, as well as to move ahead with roads, surveying, and zoning necessary to open Phase II and honor our commitment to those who have already leased there.

***The offer will be available to the first 25 members,
or until September 30, 2003, whichever comes first.***

A lot may be chosen in Phase I of the community, or you may get in line for lot choice in Phase II. Lot choice in both Phases is strictly on a first-come first-serve basis. No exceptions. Those choosing lots in Phase I of the community will, at closing, receive a Leasehold Owners Policy from Lawyers Title Insurance Corporation showing title to the leasehold estate and a legal description, which is filed with Otsego County. Those choosing lots in Phase II, while getting in line for a lot choice, will not be able to close on the lots until we complete the surveying, roads and final zoning necessary to open Phase II. Your loans will help us complete the work quickly.

Two options are offered. You may make a down payment of \$4,000 and then monthly payments of \$186.45 for 8 years. Or, you may make a down payment of \$2000 with monthly payments of \$207.30 for eight years.

If you are able to make the higher down or full payment of the lot this will help us greatly in moving ahead. Total cost to lease is \$21,900.

Those taking advantage of this plan may choose their lot now. However, they must finish paying for the lot before their home can be built on it. Nonpayment of loan will result in rescission of lease.

Five members have already committed to leasing a lot on this plan. That leaves only 20 more opportunities, if this is the way you would like to lease.

By leasing and becoming a part of the World Brotherhood Colony, you will become a family member in Golden Lotus retreat life on your own little piece of Paradise.

It is our joy to make this exceptional plan available to you. ***Copies of the lease, rules and regulations, a disclosure statement and membership form, as well as further information are available from Richard or Carol Armour at 989-732-1092.***

Those who have leased, those who are thinking of leasing, and those who care about the progress of our Yoga Retreat are invited to come to the Saturday, May 17 Member meeting (see back page). We will discuss our future as a community where, with like-minded people, we will pursue our path toward God-Realization together.

Golden Lotus Yoga Teachers Workshop and Annual Meeting



Calling all Golden Lotus Yoga Teachers! Gather for a summer event of renewal and rejuvenation on Saturday, July 21. Begin with morning meditation and warm-up postures, have brunch and chat with old friends, practice Hatha Yoga postures, and help to make decisions at our Annual Meeting. A presentation of easy modifications of yoga postures for the older and challenged student will be included. Come for fellowship, learning and creating an organizational future that serves us all. "May we work together with great energy."

No charge for Golden Lotus teachers. Registration required for this event and for meals and accommodations.

CAN YOU LIVE IN THE CITY AND BE HEALTHY? *by Don Handyside*

To answer this question let's look at what produces health. Each cell in the body is a tiny battery. The positive pole is energetically fed by oxygen. The negative pole is fed by photon energy from the sun stored in food. We are really sustained by oxygen and light. The importance of oxygen was recently underscored by a long-term study with thousands of people in Framingham MA. The study showed that the most accurate predictor of longevity is lung capacity. Now, consider the fact that in some cities the oxygen level is 35% lower than in the country, and ask yourself if being deprived of adequate oxygen seven days a week, twenty four hours a day could have an effect on your level of health and vitality.

In the Yoga Sutras, the Sage Pantanjali said that from pranayama, pratyahara, dharana, dhyana and samadhi will all happen spontaneously. That is to say as life force in the body begins to flow it will naturally internalize, concentrate, produce spontaneous meditation and eventually lead to samadi. It can truly be said that health and spiritual development are directly related to energy flow. As yogis we know for sure that energy does not flow when we are tense and stressed. Now, think of the level of stress and tension in the city and ask yourself if city life is conducive to physical or spiritual well being. Also, ask yourself if, in view of world events, the level of stress in the cities is likely to go up or down in the future.

Like most people who knew Yogacharya, I was inspired by the level of health and vitality he was able to achieve and maintain even into his nineties. I was also intrigued when he said that people of this century would have significantly longer lifespans. As I've looked at what it takes to produce an exceptional level of health, one thing has become apparent. While nutrition and exercise are necessary, if you are to be truly healthy, you need to live in an environment that is conducive to health. As this fact became obvious, I made the decision to begin to build a home at the Ranch by the summer of '04.

All this makes perfect sense you may say, but you can't leave the city just yet. Well take heart my friend, imagine how much easier you will breath and how much more relaxed you would be just knowing that you have your very own place on the Ranch to build your new life far away from the chaos of the city. And just think that this can happen by simply picking a lot and paying a small down payment with very reasonable monthly payments.

Ask yourself what would it be worth to live in a place where you could achieve optimal health and the kind of vitality that could increase your lifespan and hasten your progress in yoga. If you do ask yourself this question, I believe you will make the same choice I did. My only suggestion to you is not to hesitate, lots are going fast.

LIFE IN THE CLEAR LIGHT COMMUNITY *by George Johnston*

*In the warm embrace of nature,
I find my own true self.
Dwelling in eternal love,
The earth, the sky, the stars,
and I are one.*

If you want to live a simple life, close to nature, in a setting conducive to spiritual growth, think about moving here when you feel the time is right. Life here is a healing for body and soul. Lots of healthy outdoor projects to keep a retiree active, and a person with a job in touch with nature. Where else could you find a vegetarian restaurant, staffed by devotees, just a short invigorating walk through the woods from home? No messing with automobiles on crowded highways. Instead, as much peace, beauty, and fresh air as you are willing to absorb. Everyday, I look out into the deep forest with a heart full of thanks for the blessings of a natural life, so hard to come by in this fast-paced world of over six billion inhabitants.

I came here mainly to live in a healthy environment and be able to regularly attend group meditations with others who are connected to Yogananda. Also, communing with nature and living in the rhythms and peace of nature are deeply fulfilling to me. When I moved to this area in August of 1996, I lived a short drive from the Ranch, but now that Mary Ann and I are living in the community, it's fun to be able to walk to group meditations or to the Main House, and I know I can easily get there whenever she needs the car to visit family.

If any of you are on the fence, wondering if you would be happy here, I can only say that it's a rare blessing to live a contemplative life in a forest community with like-minded friends. If you are not attached to city life or a restless way of living, this might be the perfect place for you.



Visitors on their way to George and Mary Ann's

CLEAR LIGHT RESIDENTS

COME HOME by Irmgard Kurtz

The many years ago in the days of childhood I used to play 'til evening shadows fall' then winding down the old familiar pathway, I used to hear my Mother call at set of sun...

*"Come home, come home it's supertime,
the shadows lengthen fast;
Come home, come home it's supertime
- we're going home at last!"*

This long-forgotten song resurfaced in my mind the day I was asked to write a little article for the Clear Light Community News...and it kept singing inside me for days on end.

Yogacharya used to tell us how the Masters of old would take their disciples into the forest and teach them wisdom and understanding...And he would say, "Some will come and look, and leave - but those who will stay, the Masters can help and teach, until they finally walk back into God together!" And even though Yogacharya is no longer physically present with us, He has left us this beautiful and blessed land, the Song of the Morning Ranch, with only two stipulations in His Last Will and Testament:

"...It is my deepest interest and desire that the Song of the Morning Ranch continue in existence for the purpose of furthering the Teachings of Paramahansa Yogananda and the Self-Realization Fellowship of Los Angeles, California, together with the establishment of the World Brotherhood Colony as I have directed."

We may think at times that he has left us rudderless, but He has emblazoned Master's Teachings in our hearts; and the lands of the retreat that are set aside for the purpose of building the Brotherhood Colony are calling us home.

The years are slipping by, and it seems as though the Lord is calling all those who have ever been helped by Yogacharya, who have ever been inspired by him, all those who loved him, and love him still: "Come home!" Help to continue this beloved Retreat, help to build Yogacharya's dream of the World Brotherhood Colony - Come home!

Some months ago I had a very vivid dream; I was with Yogacharya at the Boathouse. He took my hand and we walked from the boathouse across the lake onto the other side, where the colony layout is.

We walked along and there were about four or five houses there that one could see. One looked especially good to me, it had shutters on the windows, and window-boxes with flowers, as well as a flower garden in front of the house. I really took a liking to that particular house, and we just stood and looked down the road. The colony houses and the streets were very beautiful; and later when I tried to find the place that looked closest to the lot where the house with the green shutter stood, it became apparent that it was located on the corner of Mukunda Trail and Yogacharya Way!

Last year Carol Armour helped me plant a little lilac bush on one corner of "my" leased lot, and on the other corner we planted a little pine tree. In my mind's eye the house on Lot #6 is slowly taking shape - in the ethers it is already built, and looks lovely.

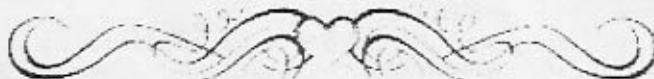
How often did Yogacharya say that the Ranch will be a haven of safety, besides being a place of relaxation and spiritual refreshment. With the current world situation we all might need this safety net sooner than we thought, or anticipated.

The Ranch beckons to those who are living in the larger cities, like an island, or oasis of peace, a Light in the forest. By helping to build the community we will be able to walk this holy land on a daily basis, meditating together, and helping to anchor the Light. --We are his children, the legacy of his life's work and dream that, he set out to fulfill at his Master's behest.

Will you not come and be part of this great cosmic work of Light and goodness in the world - located in the midst of our Retreat - the Song of the Morning Ranch?

Then I heard Yogacharya's voice saying, *"What is needed is a Higher vision of the Golden Temple - Tell them to come home!"*

Will you not come?



*Once we were strangers,
but when we love God we became brothers and sisters.
That Divine relationship is the strongest of bonds.*
— Paramahansa Yogananda

Manifesting the Vision

Community Meeting
Saturday, May 17, 2003
11:00 a.m.

Please join us as we share exciting news and information about our community and engage in a dialogue about the future direction of the Ranch.

Tours of both Phase I and Phase II will be available, including a walk of the new road recently opened in the Phase II area. Project Manager, Architect, first residents, and leaseholders in various stages of building will all be on hand to answer questions.

The community is all of us together. If you are a leaseholder, are considering taking advantage of the payment plan, or simply want to be a part of it all as our community becomes a reality, please join us.

Echoes of Eternity

TAPE 6, "WHY OUR LOVED ONES DIE" IS NOW AVAILABLE



Thousands were brought to the teachings of yoga through the SRF Meditation Services held by Yogacharya Oliver at the Detroit Institute of Arts between the years of 1951 and 1975.

Cassette Tapes are \$10 each. — S & H Included

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