



Clear Light Community News



June 2010 • Vol. 8

"Live God!"

—Yogacharya Oliver

*"The very act of living for God alone is in itself a sermon to the world,
eloquent beyond the finest oratory."*

— Paramahansa Yogananda, The Second Coming of Christ

Dear Ones... Members and friends of Golden Lotus and Song of the Morning Ranch,

Example speaks louder than words. When the first house went up in the Clear Light Community--that of George and MaryAnn Johnston--suddenly the dream of establishing one of Master's World Brotherhood Colonies on the property of Golden Lotus, Inc. at Song of the Morning Ranch became an incontrovertible fact. Years of planning, hours and hours of meetings and endless talking did not have the impact of that one house. Now we all KNEW that the project was for real, and everything else would follow.

What did follow was more houses, each one occupied by individuals who understood the meaning of putting God first in their lives. Why else would anyone leave their friends, connections and city of residence to establish themselves so far away, like the hermits of old? In fact, if you ask any resident of the Clear Light Community, our forest home is NOT remote. It is located in the heart of God, the real Center of it all. Look out your window, and you can catch a glimpse of Him most any day. Reach out and take His hand--so easy from where we are perched. If perchance your fingers slip a bit from His grasp, a Sunday Service and Fellowship Dinner at the Retreat will bring the contact right back.

Bottom line for residents in the Clear Light Community is God alone, and from that consciousness, all the activities and classes

and plans and committees and glorious scenes for the future of theatres and universities and self-sufficiency and ecology and gardens and world responsibility take their life.

Many talk of God. Few live Him. That exquisite experience can be yours. Whether as a resident or a guest ---

WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY!

**Clear Light Community
Management Company, Inc.**

*"We are bonded together
in Master's Love"*

Pictures are from Yogacharya Oliver's personal collection of sacred memories of Master.



Master, surrounded by devoted disciples Dr. Lewis,
Rajarsi Janakananda, Yogacharya Oliver, and others.

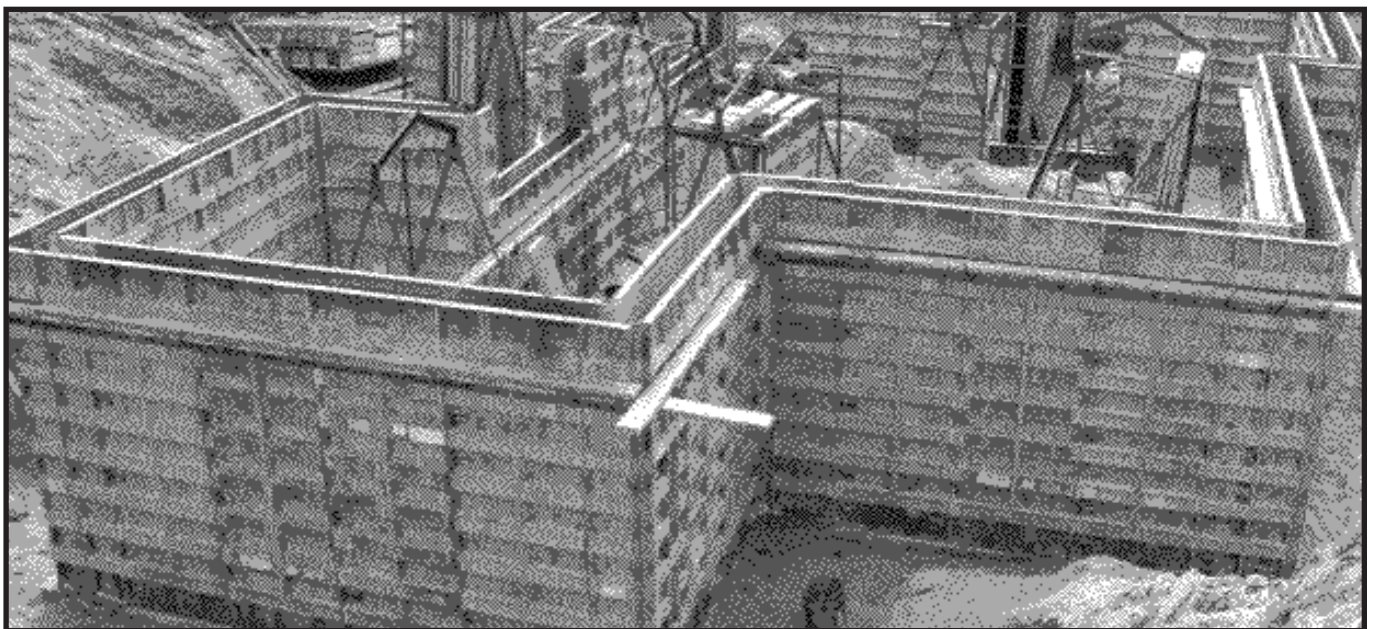
A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CONTRIBUTORS OF CLEAR LIGHT COMMUNITY NEWS.
Clear Light Community Management Company, Inc., Operated by disciples of Paramahansa Yogananda



"In many lives I heard Thy gentle Whisper, "Come Home," ...
– Paramahansa Yogananda, Whispers from Eternity



The newly constructed home of Sam and Linda Gabby on Arjuna Trail.



The soon to be completed home of Steve Sandner on Golden Lotus Trail.

Managers Report

by Richard Armour

"Hold your will steadily to your purpose."

– Paramahansa Yogananda

Dear Members:

Our main focus at present is threefold. First, we will keep improving our infrastructure, our roads, our paths, and our utilities. To this end, we purchased a large truck this winter that has the capability of sanding and grading the community and retreat roads. We feel that we are now well equipped to deal with snow or ice and have safe well-maintained roads as we expand. Also last year we bought an "Oliver" tractor with a mowing deck to improve the appearance of roads and ditches during the summer and fall seasons.

Secondly, we are preparing a site for a maintenance building. This will be multifunctional. It will have a room where lessees can meet with builders, architects, etc. , an area for fire fighting equipment, and an area for vehicle and equipment storage and maintenance. We have recently met with the Vanderbilt Fire Department and will be receiving their assistance in improving our fire prevention practices. We will support those planning to build a home in every way possible, and are especially pleased with the exciting new advance of the formation of the Clear Light Community Leaseholder's Association. This will facilitate communication and participation of lessees in the community and retreat life. Last year, CLCMC had developed a fenced in site for a community garden and has brought electricity and a well to the site. The Leaseholder's Association has taken on developing the garden, and it is inspiring to see the expertise and effort they are putting into it, as well as the fun they are having working together for a common goal.

Thirdly, we will support the growth of the community as an adjunct to the Retreat. Yogacharya Oliver used to say that he foresaw thousands coming and going to the Retreat. He also said you can only accomplish something big if you have many members working together. At Self-Realization Fellowship Lake Shrine in Los Angeles, there are 500 SRF volunteers assisting the monastics in the retreat and meditation gardens. When our Clear Light Community is complete and we have a couple of hundred residents, we will have the capability of pioneering in many areas. As Yogacharya said, *"We are all gathered together, following Master's Teachings. We have come to the end of our searching! May we continue working together for the furtherance of the cause of Master's Work."*



Symbolic of things to come, the new community garden, with the help of avid gardener John Pfluecke, grew this broccolli head in 2009. He was so busy building his house that he planted it and forgot it.

Association Report

by Mary Ann Johnston

FORMATION OF THE CLEAR LIGHT COMMUNITY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

At the urging of legal counsel back in the fall of 2009, Articles of Incorporation for the Clear Light Community Homeowners Association were filed with the Michigan Dept. of Labor & Economic Growth on November 09, 2009. The purpose, as stated in the Article, for which the association was organized is: *"To promote and protect the interests of the lessees of lots within the Clear Light Community developed by Golden Lotus, Inc. and located in Vanderbilt, Michigan."*

The boards of directors of Clear Light Community Management (CLCMC), invited Sam Gabby, Mary Ann Johnston, Kaye Thomas-Hogan and Sudha Narang to serve on the Association board. Sam Gabby is heading the association as president, and Mary Ann Johnston as secretary. However, all lessees of lots in the community are members of this association and are welcome to attend meetings and play an active role in projects. These board members were selected primarily because they have already built homes on the property, or are leasing lots and live nearby.

In discussions with Clear Light Community board members in early January, and then through interaction at the CLMC board meeting on 2/27/10, the Association was encouraged to pursue whatever projects it felt were in the best interests of the community.

As their first project, the Association chose to develop an organic garden, located next to Ian Wylie's home. With a tremendous amount of planning and effort, the Association board members and other interested lease holders including George and Maryann Johnston, Linda and Sam Gabby, Ian Wylie, Tom Walker and Anne and John Pfluecke and Kaye and Ray Thomas-Hogan took part in one or more of the following: Traveled to Traverse City to take an eight week farming class, visited Hoop Houses, and consulted with the local MSU Extension office and other professionals.

Through the generosity of those involved the Association purchased a hoop house which will extend our growing season, hired Ivan Witt to break up the hard pan under six inches of sandy "soil" with his chisel plow, bought a drip irrigation system, fabric ground cover, cover crop seeds, worm dirt, "Dairy Do" and chicken manures, and seeds. Jack Middleton, a retired extension agent, designed and assisted us in building the hoop house in a few hours in typical Northern Michigan spring weather-blowing cold wind, rain and maybe a snow flake or two.

You are welcome to meander to the garden and check it out, and if you would like to pull a few weeds, that would be highly appreciated.



John Pfluecke, Sam Gabby and Jack Middleton stand in front of the completed hoop house



"My Heart's Aflame, My Soul's Afire"

...but give us Fire Safety for our homes and retreat.

Fire Safety was very much on Yogacharya Oliver's mind. At one time, we had a Fire Department at Song of the Morning Ranch, and organized an Association of local Fire Departments that met monthly at the different fire stations in the area. Former kitchen staff members remember one such meeting held in our lower domes. While the various departments were in their meeting, we spotted smoke pouring out of the wheelhouse. One staff member ran down to the domes to notify the firemen, while others grabbed buckets and kettles of water and ran to the wheel house. The buckets arrived first. When fire personnel arrived and ran down the wheel house stairs to discover the source of the smoke, thankfully it was a broken radiator hose of the generator. However, the incident reminded us of a technique Yogacharya would occasionally use to get things happening -- create an emergency!

The Clear Light Community Board has been looking into fire safety in preparation for the possible reestablishment of the Golden Lotus Fire Department at Song of the Morning Ranch. Board members Richard and Carol Armour, Tom Walker and John Pfluecke have been visiting and speaking with local fire departments and the appropriate officials in the DNRE to see how best to go about it, and work in cooperation with these organizations. The DNRE is responsible for forest fires, and has equipment stationed at their nearby forest headquarters. However, we were informed that more local personnel trained in forest fire fighting would be welcomed if these individuals were properly trained and could meet endurance requirements. For structure fires, we are served by the Vanderbilt Fire Department. Both the Vanderbilt Fire Chief and the DNRE official responsible for our fire safety are planning a visit to the community and retreat. Both expressed the importance of knowing their way around the property should they need to respond to a fire call here.

Tom Walker was trained as a fire fighter while on staff at the Retreat. He was a member of the original Golden Lotus Fire Department, and has been an active member of the Gaylord Fire Department for 28 years. Tom will be in charge of the future department. He and Alan Frank, another former Retreat staff member with professional forest fire fighting background, will be presenting a "fire safety" workshop at our annual Community Meeting July 10, important to anyone planning to build a home in the community.

We have identified both Clear Light residents and local workers who are willing to be trained in structure and forest fire response. Although we are just beginning to organize this effort, already excellent opportunities for equipment and grants as well as suggestions to enhance our fire safety have come forward. We will be presenting these as they develop. For further information, attend our July 10 meeting, or any of the Clear Light Board meetings throughout the year. And may all our fires be in our hearts.

If you dream of joining the Community...

If you dream of joining the Community, do you have your lot yet? With 28 lots leased and 7 houses already on the property, the Community is well under way. Don't miss your chance to have the right to build your home or personal retreat on the sacred grounds of Song of the Morning Ranch. Your love, devotion, and presence on the property will help us move forward in developing all the various aspects of Master's and Yogacharya's plans for the Community and Retreat.

Not everyone needs an entire lot. Architect Paul Gordon is looking into zoning requirements for quadruplex units. His design, published in the last newsletter, would cost approximately \$110,000 per unit to build, is sensitively designed for privacy with a parking area and a private deck, and would make a wonderful retreat for members who prefer the lower maintenance and expense of condo living, or who maintain a primary residence elsewhere. The Butterfly duplex, pictured on the following page, is approximately \$175,000 per unit on a slab, including architectural fees. Two of Paul's designs are already in the Community, and their beauty symbolizes the higher purpose of our Yoga Retreat of Excellence. Well-built modular, deltec, and other homes are also in the Community--beautiful homes to fit many budgets.

When two or four members share a lot, total cost is divided in half or in quarters. For a down payment of \$250 for a quadruplex, or of \$500 for a duplex, a member can join in on one of our low interest payment schedules, and own his lease before he knows it, paying as little as, for example, \$50.45 per month as one of four lessees in a quadruplex or \$100.91 as one of two lessees in a duplex on the ten year low interest payment plan. Many who joined the original plan are only a year and a half away from completing payment. Their faith in Master and this noble project is what has given us the funds to make it a reality, and we look forward to seeing their homes go up and the particular joy of having them live among us.

As our "Vortex of Spiritual Energy" continues to grow, so will its attractive power to those who love God and live to know Him. We are doing everything we can to make being a part of it possible to you. For further information, a copy of the lease, or a personal tour of the available lots, please contact Carol or Richard Armour at 989-983-9136.

CLEAR LIGHT COMMUNITY LEASING INFORMATION

The Clear Light community Management Company is continuing its offer of a low-interest payment plan to aid those who wish to lease a lot and build their home in the Clear Light Community at Song of the Morning Ranch. The plan offers four payment options at 3% interest: Total Amount Financed: \$20,900.

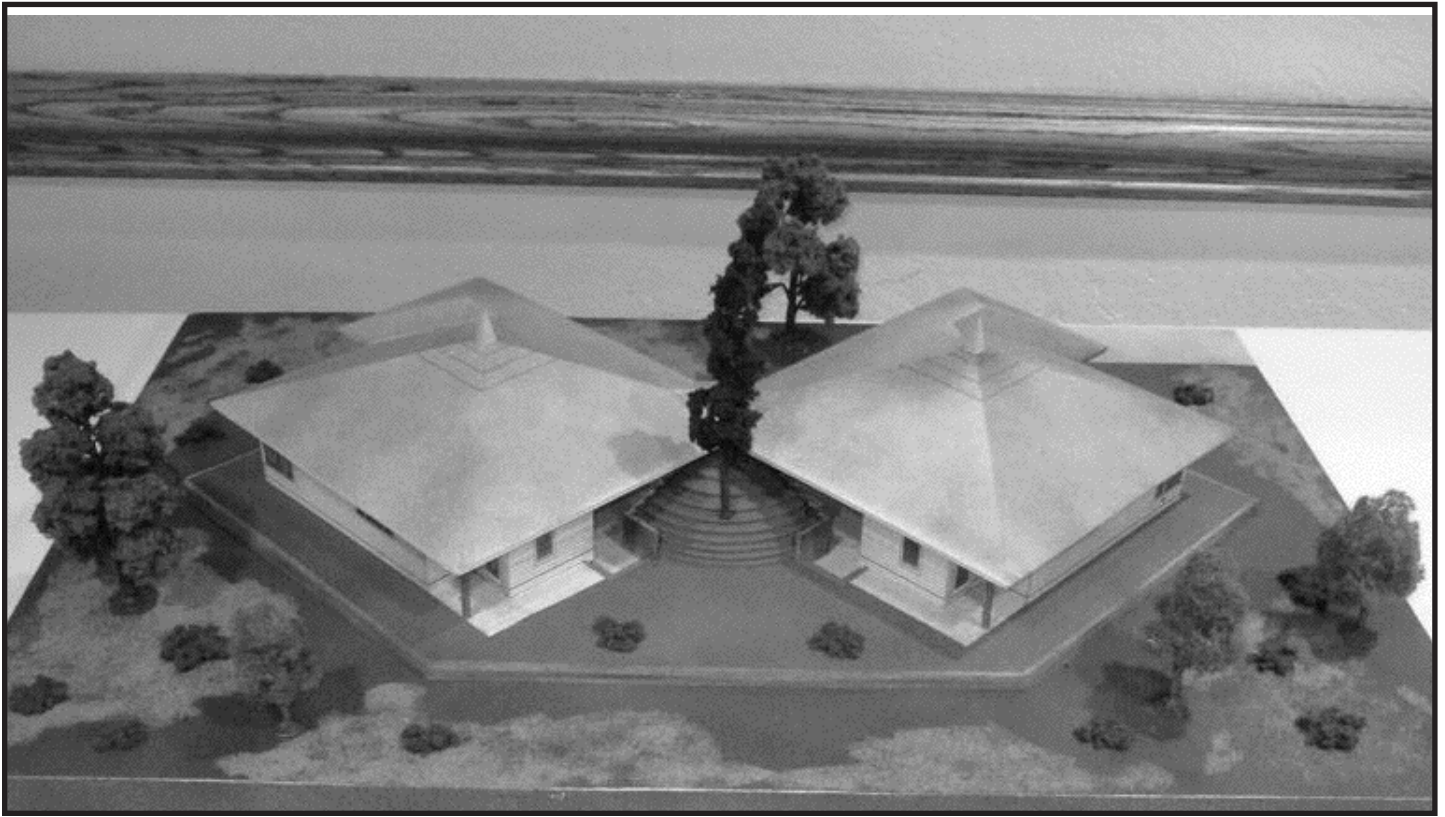
- Three-year Plan: \$607.80 per month • Seven-year Plan: \$ 276.16 per month
- Five-year Plan: \$375.55 per month • Ten Year Plan: \$201.81 per month

Total cost to lease a lot in the Clear Light Community is \$21,900. This includes \$1000 membership, \$5000 actual lease cost, 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. Heirs who wish to reside in the Community must also be approved as members. Because there are a limited number of lots, only one lot may be leased per family. Lease holders are subject to the rules and regulations distributed with the lease, as well as all zoning and legal restrictions of local, state, and national government. Yearly association dues are \$75, or \$200 once the house is built. Leaseholders are responsible for property taxes on their lot and house. House plans must be approved by the architectural committee of the Clear Light Board before building.

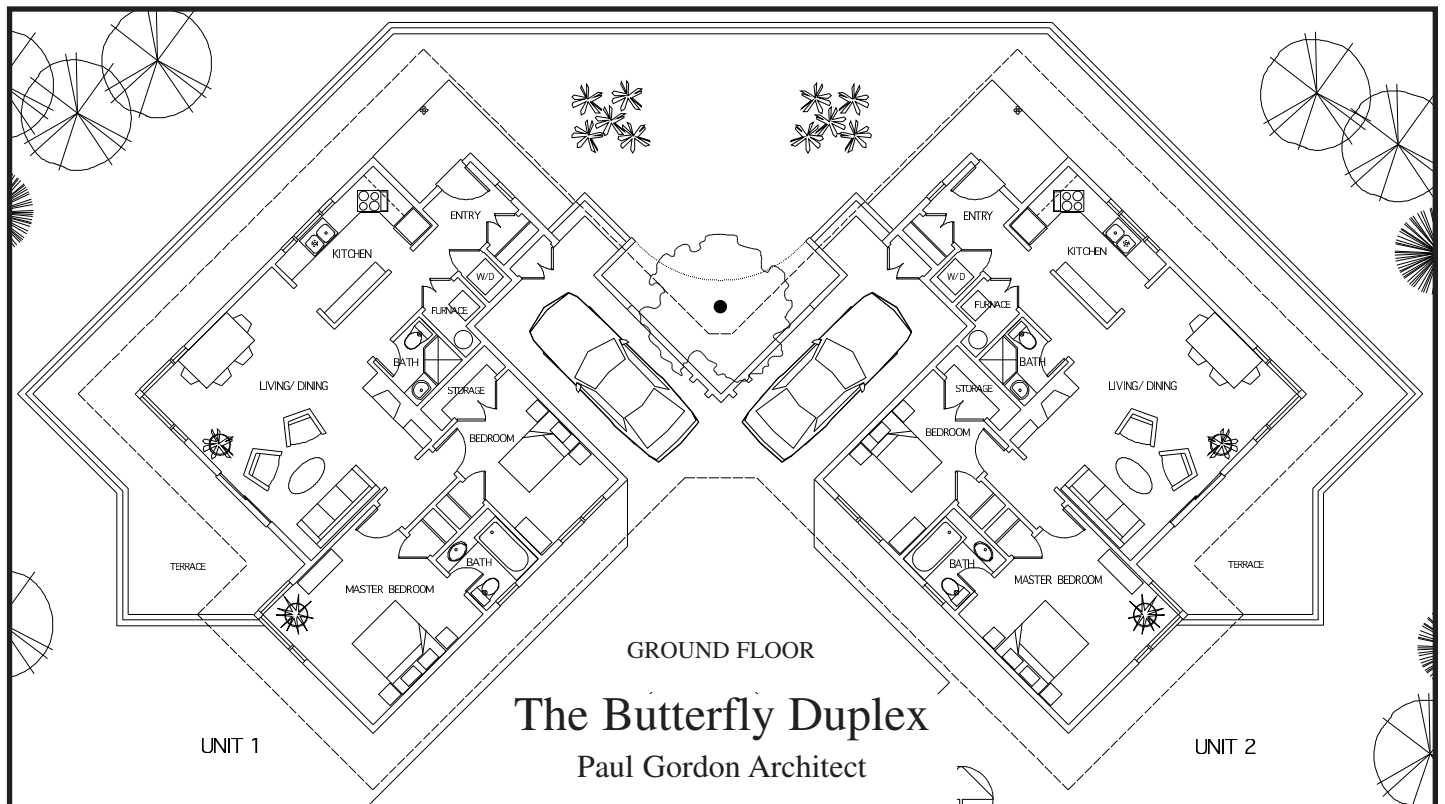
Here are the steps to leasing a lot on the new Payment Plan:

1. Submit your Membership Application available with the lease.
2. Pay \$1000. Membership in the Circle of Community Development.
3. Choose one of the four payment schedules for the total balance due of \$20,900.
4. It is preferred to arrange for automatic monthly direct deposit of payment.

You must choose your lot from lots available in order to close on your lease. Lots will be chosen in payment order: First come, first serve. Lots must be completely paid in full before building can begin.



Each unit is 1,050 square ft.



ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

Saturday, July 10, 2010

11:00 a.m.

As more members devote their skills and areas of expertise to developing our Community, many opportunities arise to take part in a project of particular interest to you.

Everyone is invited to attend our Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 10 beginning at 11 a.m. at Song of the Morning Ranch. The meeting will feature group and break-out sessions, as well as a tour of our latest homes in the Community.

Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Community Update

2. Fire Safety for Your Home

Trained firefighter's Tom Walker and Alan Frank will lead us in a practical session focused on our particular needs as a forested community. Demonstrations will include use of fire extinguishers and how to plan a firesafe environment in and around your home.

3. Break-out Sessions

COMMUNITY ORGANIC GARDENING

If learning more about organic gardening with that "yoga retreat of excellence" touch is your passion, this session is for you. Many community members have devoted hours of attending classes and developing our community garden. Join Sam and Linda Gabby, John Pfluecke, MaryAnn Johnston, and Tom Walker in a session that will include a tour of the garden, explanation of how it is organized to serve those who wish to participate, and how you can be a part of it.

FILMING THE COMMUNITY

Marilyn Beker, international award winning film writer/director and the Senior Professor of Screenwriting at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles is undertaking a video project centered on our Community. Join her by contributing your ideas and insights toward the creation of a meaningful film.

4. Tour of new houses in the Community

Our newest residents have graciously invited you to tour their newly completed homes in the Clear Light Community. The tour will end in the flower garden of first residents George and MaryAnn Johnston, where refreshments will be served.

THE COMMUNITY IS FOR EVERYONE, WHETHER YOU PLAN TO LIVE HERE OR NOT. COME AND BE A PART IN THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF MASTER'S DREAM OF A WORLD BROTHERHOOD COLONY AT SONG OF THE MORNING RANCH.

CLEAR LIGHT RESIDENTS

Yogi Outpost in the Desert

By Dorothy (Piercefield)
Stingley, Scottsdale, AZ



I love my visits to the Ranch, my dear friends, the emails from the Golden Lotus Yoga Teachers and updates and plans for Song of the Morning. I write the checks with gratitude that connect me to the Clearlight Community with my investment in a lot. However, my days are filled with scenes of Saguaro cactus, not stately pines and a rich householder's life.

Recently I was reading notes from 1979 made on the pages of my little blue SRF Spiritual Diary for April 14 and 15:

April 14 (Saturday) 3-hour meditation.

(I was living on staff at Song of the Morning)
Easter Sunday I wrote: "...after our evening musical program, during our kirtan, this quote came to mind. And this prayer, as it has in times past, became my prayer:

April 15

I was kneeling in prayer in the chapel –I was thinking of something that was coming into my life which filled me with apprehension. I knew it was not the will of God that I should be saved from the experience. Even at that moment it was moving toward me. Suddenly God told me the prayer He would listen to, and I said quickly: "*Change no circumstance of my life, change me*"

–Sister Gyanamata, "Self-Realization Magazine."

This prayer speaks to me today. I am thinking of something that is imminent in my life; the loss of a beloved granddaughter who is suffering with a degenerative disease. Even at this moment her death is moving toward her, our family and her mother. I am so grateful for this prayer that God gave to Sister Gyanamata: "change no circumstance of my life, change me!"

I am willing to be changed. I surrender my fear to God. I am grateful for each day. I love and support my daughter and her daughter. I am more patient, less 'in control' and listening for God's guidance.

My love encouragement to you across the miles.

Dorothy

WHAT'S COOKING?

By Marilyn Beker



Thirty seven years ago, Yogacharya encouraged the women on the Ranch staff to come up with a cookbook that would reflect the wonders of what was then Ranch cooking. In those days, we made our own Yogurt and served three sit-down meals a day. There was no buffet line and everything was geared to gourmet tastes.

Under the guidance of Deborah Carlson, we did put a cookbook together and Yogacharya asked me to edit it. Unfortunately, life got in the way and even though the cookbook was nearly finished, it was never published. *Now, years later, the time has come!*

As I announced last summer, I'm in the process of re-editing the cookbook to modernize it and make it even better. It will be called *'THE YOGI GOURMET'* and will feature new and more modern vegetarian recipes that are upscale and elegant and that will reflect the high standards of excellence Yogacharya set for us all.

It will include nutritional analysis (by Nutritionist and community member Eileen Guilford) as well as illustrations, quotes from Yogacharya, and Yogananda and even some hatha yoga notes. And as Yogacharya wanted, it will be printed on washable paper. (As usual, he was ahead of his time and it wasn't readily available in those days. It is now!)

I especially need entrees and would ask you to concentrate on those but I will also accept soups, desserts and appetizers too if they are spectacular.

So if any of you have some favorite recipes that are original (you can use things from cookbooks etc ONLY if you've augmented them and made them your own), please send them to me at mbekerom@ca.rr.com.

Please make sure that they have been tried and true and are on the gourmet side.

Once I receive them, the recipes will be tested to make sure they are easy to understand and fairly uncomplicated to make. I'll be in touch with you if I have questions.

The cookbook will be one of our first community-based projects to raise money for the Ranch and more community projects and to create a greater public awareness of what we're all about. That's why it needs to be fantastic and I'm sure if we all lend our energy to it, it will be!

I look forward to input from all you great cooks out there. I know that together we can come up with something spectacular and truly "out of this world".

In Divine Friendship,
Marilyn Beker

Where There is a Will, There is a Way

by Ray and Kaye Thomas-Hogan

"If you want a home, and the mind says, 'You simpleton, you can't afford a house,' you must make your will stronger. When the 'can't' disappears from your mind, divine power comes. A home will not be dropped down to you from heaven; you have to pour forth will power continuously through constructive actions. When you persist, refusing to accept failure, the object of will must materialize. When you continuously work that will through your thoughts and activities, what you are wishing for has to come about. Even though there is nothing in the world to conform to your wish, when your will persists, the desired result will somehow manifest."

~ Paramahansa Yogananda

We read this quite a short while ago in Yogananda's book *"Where There Is Light."* And funny, shortly after reading this we got an SRF Magazine with a CD in the mail on guess what topic: *"Will Power."* So, since we don't have to be hit over the head with a 2x4, we've made some positive steps to put our will into action. We have a lot in Phase II and know that we will be there in our house as soon as we can. Until then, we are living as if we are already there.

As Yogananda says, *"Whatever you want to do, think about it until you are lost in that idea. Think, think, think, and make plans. Then take a little time; don't jump into anything at once. Take a step, and then think more. Something within tells you what to do. Do it, and think some more. Some further guidance will come. By learning to go deep within, you will connect your consciousness with the superconsciousness of the soul, so that with infinite will power, patience, and intuition you can grow those idea-seeds of success."*

With all the positive energy going on at the Ranch and within the Community it is exciting to see the progress. The new Clear Light Community Association is a great new way to get involved if you already have a house there or if you have a lot in the Community. One of our goals is to promote a community bond through working on various projects together such as the new organic garden with the processing, preserving, and storing of the harvest, beautification of the shrines, creating walking paths with benches, and organizing social and recreational events. If you have any suggestions contact the association and get involved. It's the World-Brotherhood community that Yogananda and Yogacharya envisioned.

The first new project the association is undertaking is the organic garden working towards being self-sustaining. The people working on the garden are not letting any grass grow under their feet (pardon the pun), that's for sure. We've had several meetings and much has been done to get the garden growing. Anyone interested from the community can come work on the garden and reap the multiple benefits of working together (which always makes it seem like fun instead of work), friendship and of course fresh organic food come harvest time.

Yogananda says: *"Life should be chiefly service. Without that ideal, the intelligence that God has given you is not reaching out toward its goal. When in service you forget the little self, you will feel the big Self of Spirit."*

We feel that working together and living together in harmony will be the strength and stability of the Community and the Ranch. All that positive energy reaches out to the entire planet. come join us.



Discounted Lot Available

A community member is selling their leasehold interest at a discounted rate.

Purchaser would apply for membership to the Community, and pay the \$1,000 membership fee required of all leaseholders. They would then pay for the lease according to terms agreed upon with the lease owner.

Lot #34, located on Golden Lotus Trail, is a large lot with a variety of trees located near the Retreat and the new Community Garden Area.

It is available for \$17,900, a \$3,000 discount. The owners will also accept monthly payments as low as \$201 a month, depending on the payment option that fits your needs.

If you are interested, please contact Joyce or Roger Fitzgerald at 515-457-7986 for further information.

Glimpses of Yogacharya

HOW I MET MY MASTER

Master was travelling across country, when Divine Mother told Him to go to Detroit. He changed His ticket for a stopover in Detroit. When He got there, still not knowing Divine Mother's purpose, He went to a phone booth, opened up the phone book, and began running His finger down the pages of names. His finger stopped at the name of Maude Emerson. He called her, and found out that yoga study classes were being conducted in her home by a gentleman named Mr. J. Oliver Black. Master said, *"I want to meet that man!"*

Master took a room in the Book Cadillac hotel in Downtown Detroit, and Mr. Black went to visit Him there. When they saw each other, there was an instant recognition between them. They seemed anciently familiar. Mr. Black stayed with Master for a week, receiving many instructions, and hearing of past lives they had had together. Master told him that he had the ability to heal, and showed him several healing techniques. One of the techniques, He told him never to do in front of anyone.

Years later, while Mr. Black was conducting a Service in Lansing, Michigan, a woman came up to him suffering from severe migraine headaches, from which she could get no relief. He took her behind a screen that was in the room, and did this particular technique with her. She let out a cry of relief. The headache had left her, and she never had them again.



HOW YOGACHARYA GOT HIS TITLE

Master wrote many letters over the years to Mr. Black. One day, a letter came, asking him to accept the title *"Yogacharya,"* which means *"teacher of Yoga,"* or union with God. Mr. Black did not know how to respond to this, so he put the letter aside. Some time later, when the next SRF magazine came out, Mr. Black found that he was listed as *"Yogacharya."* Master had taken his silence as acceptance. He has been known lovingly as *"Yogacharya Oliver"* ever since.

A LETTER TO DAYA MATA

Song of the Morning Ranch was founded by Yogacharya Oliver at the behest of His Master, who asked him to found a "retreat away from the city" with a World Brotherhood Colony and Yoga University. Yogacharya incorporated the Retreat in 1970, and had many conversations with Daya Mata, the President of Self-Realization Fellowship, about ways to connect the two organizations. Here is an extract from one of the letters he sent her on the subject:



May 5, 1983

Dearest Daya Mata,

Thank you for your note of warm friendship and love. It is deeply appreciated.

We have discussed ways and means of bringing together Self-Realization Fellowship and Song of the Morning Ranch, for furthering the cause of Master's Teachings. I feel that the time has come that we should finalize this effort. Master said long ago, that there would be a time when we would be merged together, like being a sub-headquarters. These are his exact words. May we work together, while still living, for the realization of His wish.

Will you please suggest some means by which we could get together at which time we could accomplish what we both have talked about for a long time. May we work together with great energy. September 1st I will be 90 years old.

In divine friendship and love,

Yogacharya Oliver



A LETTER FROM MASTER

Although this letter was written to Yogacharya Oliver as he led the Detroit SRF Meditation Center 60 years ago, it speaks to us today as we progress in the development of the Clear Light Community at Song of the Morning Ranch.

April 21, 1950

Students of the Detroit Center
c/o J. Oliver Black
18094 Parkside
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Ones:

I send you greetings from my private retreat, where I am in strictest seclusion, devoting all my time to writing and meditation. I cannot reveal to you yet all the wonderful things that are in preparation, but I am furiously working fourteen hours a day, rushing to complete these projects that they may inspire, and increase the understanding of truth-hungry souls the world over. The response to the Autobiography of a Yogi shows how much these truths are needed.

I have been so happy that you all have carried on in a wonderful way throughout the years, living by Self-Realization teachings in the greatest way. You must all go on being examples that others may be helped and inspired by you. We are the pioneers. I have laid the groundwork, and I am counting on you all to carry on these living teachings by the examples of your lives, ever keeping the link of God and

gurus. My love and my blessings are ever with you, and if you follow the principles and the techniques of the Praecepta in your lives, and meditate deeply every day, you will know that I am ever with you in God.

Unceasing blessings,
Very sincerely yours,
P. Yogananda



