

Clear Light Community

May 2021

Vol. 17

“Brotherhood is an ideal better understood by example than precept. A small harmonious group inspires other ideal communities over the earth.” – Paramahansa Yogananda

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

How does a World Brotherhood Colony start? How do like-minded high-thinking souls come together in community? And where does the inspiration and spiritual guidance come from?

For the Clear Light Community, our beginning and foundation is deeply rooted in the relationship of our founder, Yogacharya Oliver Black and his Master, Paramahansa Yogananda. After meeting Paramahansa Yogananda, Mr. Black became a devotee and left his world of industry to become a Self Realization Fellowship lay minister. For many years, Mr. Black held SRF Sunday services at the Detroit Institute of Arts, attracting people from all over to his services as well as to fellowship gatherings afterwards in the Institute's café. Many of these people became devotees as well and developed deep ties with Yogacharya and each other.

In 1970 Mr. Black, following guidelines he had been given by Paramahansa Yogananda, opened a Yoga Retreat of Excellence in Northern Michigan that he named Song of the Morning Ranch to allow devotees to experience God in the pristine woods. Not surprisingly, many of those who had attended the DIA services were

among those who followed Mr. Black to Song of the Morning, either as retreat staff or members. Of course, new people were attracted to come up as well. Daily evening meditations and SRF Sunday services were the anchor of the activities at the Ranch. Evening meals and Sunday dinners gave people plenty of chances for fellowship and the feeling of community continued.

From the very beginning of the Retreat, it was also understood that Paramahansa Yogananda had asked Mr. Black to develop a World Brotherhood Colony. Although Yogacharya left his body in 1989, he had instilled this idea among the members of Song of the Morning and left this project as a request in his Will. This group of longtime members, many of them going back to the DIA days, were inspired to work together with Bob Raymer, who was the Spiritual Director of the Ranch at the time, to bring the Clear Light Community into being in 2000.

Our history, which began with Master's instructions to Yogacharya and was brought into reality by like-minded, high-thinking souls, is continuing with new people coming here, building their homes and becoming part of our World Brotherhood Colony.



*To those who wish to visit, or to join with us in this spiritual adventure,
we offer a heartfelt WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY!*

Operated by Disciples of Paramahansa Yogananda



From California, Texas, Arizona, Milwaukee, and Michigan. Community members plan their future together in the spiritual atmosphere of Song of the Morning Ranch.

LESSEE ZOOM MEETING

by Sue Bella

It was exciting to see the faces of our beloved community members on Zoom, both folks who already have a home here and those who have dreams of building and living here in months and years to come. We all share one thing, a love for this beautiful place that has such a unique and special energy.

Mike and I have been in our house for about two years now. Even though it was not a time of the current pandemic, we still had our challenges with timing in the factory and local contractors who would complete the job once it was delivered. It was probably a year longer than we had originally thought. So, patience is definitely needed now more than ever. That being said, it was wonderful to hear the enthusiasm and see the smiles on the faces of those who will soon be a part of our community. You will all bring much needed new ideas and energy to this wonderful retreat. Many of you have skills and expertise that we surely can use to grow SOM to an even more vibrant environment.

We are attracting seekers of all ages, especially young people, so vital to our growth and well-being. Now that we are getting fiber-optic service, this will enhance the possibilities for communication and work options for our residents. So, we have smiles on our faces for the wonderful people who already live and work here, and all of you who are to come in the near future. Let's pray that this time of pandemic will soon be in our rear-view mirror and we can move forward full-steam ahead.

Blessing to All,
Sue Bella



Clear Light Community

SOMCommunity.com

Facebook: facebook.com/RanchCommunity

Live online chanting, plus a Yogacharya

Meditation every Thursday at 1 p.m. Eastern Time

MANAGER'S REPORT

By Richard Armour

These last years have shown an increase in lots leased and homes being built. Over the past two years leased lots in the Clear Light Community went from 31 lots to 36 lots, with a total of 51 people belonging to the Circle of Community Development, membership of which allows one to lease a lot. The next few years will bring many capable yogis into residence in the Clear Light Community. They come from Meditation Groups across North America - California, Hawaii, Texas, Arizona, Florida, Detroit, Toronto, Milwaukee, Chicago, Lansing – inspired by Paramahansa Yogananda's ideal of World Brotherhood Colonies. "A vortex of spiritual energy," Yogacharya would call it. They bring with them devotion, willingness, and tremendous skills. The next few years will bring a surge of progress in fulfilling the extensive plans laid out in our zoning plans for Song of the Morning Ranch.

At present, we are focusing on improving the roads to support the increase in heavy equipment associated with an increase in building. We have added storage space to our maintenance building. Thank you to the estates of Tom Walker and Steve Weisenthal for the donation of tools for the maintenance building.

This summer, our electric utility, Great Lakes Energy, is bringing fiber optic cable to Song of the Morning Ranch. The plan is to hook up the existing homes by summer of 2021. We have used ZOOM meetings to share information and support with new lessees and those about to build.

Over the past year community members repaired the well in the Community Garden and rerouted the approach trail to the Sri Yuktेश्वar Shrine for a gentle incline. A flood collapsed several feet of the bluff in front of the Lahiri Mahasaya Shrine, wiping out the trail and leaving only six feet of distance from the bluff to the Shrine. Sue Bella, Tom Wright, Mike Wanger and Richard Armour built a new trail up the hill to the Shrine and put up a safety rail.

Overseeing the building of a house can be daunting. Call us at 989-983-9136 if we can help with your questions pertaining to zoning regulations, building costs, availability of financing, or housing options.

One goal in the near future is to have a construction firm made up primarily of our own members. It would be a step in self-reliance, provide some employment, and add the comfort of working with a known builder.

BLESSINGS ABOUND

By Tom Brown

Community Day, June 20, 2020 was a day for celebration, even if the job at hand was to clear weeds and do a little clean up. Members of the Clear Light Community, staff from the retreat, and friends of the Song of the Morning from the community around the retreat came together to help with the cleanup. With shovels, rakes and other gardening equipment in hand, the weeds in God's Garden did not stand a chance.

The retreat has consistently followed the COVID-19 precautions and directives. Many events across the country have been impacted by the pandemic. At present we are now one year into the COVID-19 pandemic. Looking back, after only three months of living with the COVID-19 guidelines many of us were experiencing a little COVID-itis. We were longing to see friends and family. After three months, the pandemic restrictions were eased enough, so that with social distancing and other sensible precautions, we could again join together in small groups.

It was a warm afternoon of karma yoga. The light snacks, water and juice were greatly appreciated. The real celebration was not with pulling weeds, but in being able to again see dear friends. A celebration of friendship, relationships and a day of coming together. What a perfect way to beautify God's Garden, a place of tranquility, peace and reflection.

In early fall, Tom Wright, Joe Sturmer and Jack Slater designed and built the new banner for many religions in God's Garden.

In spite of a pandemic and in spite of the turmoil in the country, we learned that the blessings of friendship, love and a commitment to listen to the Masters can help us through turbulent times. We also learned that blessings, both big and small, still abound.

CLEAR LIGHT COMMUNITY LEASING INFORMATION

**For Information about leasing a lot in the Clear Light Community
or a tour of the community, please contact
Richard or Carol Armour at: 989-983-9136**

OUR CSA AND RETREAT GARDEN

By Justine Markey

In the summer of 2020, Song of the Morning and the Clear Light Community collaborated in the spirit of selfless service, sustainability, and simple living to implement new initiatives that have expanded the retreat's organic garden to new horizons!

In the wake of the pandemic, the retreat center was forced to partially close which meant that financial viability for our garden was severely hampered. A proposal was made by staff to create a Community Supported Agriculture (or CSA) pilot program. The goal of this program was to bring in funds for the garden while giving the local community an opportunity to receive fresh, organic produce grown right here on the land. Community Supported Agriculture consists of a community of individuals who pledge support to a farm operation allowing the farmland to become, either legally or spiritually, the community's farm. CSAs are mutually beneficial with the growers and consumers sharing the risks and benefits of food production. Participants receive fresh, organic produce during the harvest months, and by joining they help financially support the farm, or in our case, the retreat center's garden!

Right away community members stepped forward to participate, several giving larger donations to help cover additional needs for the garden such as for compost, seeds and mulch. Projects were given life through the time and support of the Clear Light Community in collaboration with our dedicated team of staff. It seems that at some point during the summer, everyone on the property was connected to a garden project!

Through this support, the retreat garden was able to:

- Expand our no-till beds, which required many hours of dedicated work
- We were able to purchase and keep bees, which provided an important element to overall vitality of the garden.
- The hoop house was repaired and enclosed completely allowing it to function properly and extend our growing season.
- Weeds were managed and suppressed with new mulching practices (and the dedication of many hands!)
- And most of all, nine families and the retreat staff were able to enjoy organic, fresh produce for over four months!

Song of the Morning's garden has blossomed into a place of community building. This is especially meaningful during the pandemic since the spaciousness and fresh air of the garden means staff and community members can safely come together to tend the soil, weed, harvest, and improve the garden in ways that will be of benefit for years to come.





A cornucopia of veggies from the Retreat garden.



Jane O'Brien holding a prize zuchinni



Mike Wanger getting a workout in the garden.

**Anne VanWitsen
at the entrance door
to the
Retreat Garden.**



CLEAR LIGHT COMMUNITY DAY

“Growing the Future”

Saturday June 19, 2021

Zoom at 11 am EDT
In Person Garden Project 1 pm EDT

Gather together, those of you who share high ideals.
- Paramahansa Yogananda

We're growing! In the midst of a pandemic, Clear Light Community is seeing a “building boom” as well as an increase in the number of people interested in joining us in our Haven of Safety. To address the issue of getting a house built, our morning session will feature a woman from a local company that could become a new source of modular homes. She has toured the Community and indicated that she believes she can work with us. She will give a presentation about the homes they offer. Richard Armour, our project manager, will also be on hand to share information he has been gathering about possible home sources, contractors, etc. Our afternoon session, which will be on the property, will involve a hands-on growing project somewhere on the Retreat property.

Last year quite a few people showed up to do a wonderful job on God's Garden and we hope this year we can continue the momentum. The exact project will be announced closer to Community Day. Oh, and snacks will be served!

Please join us either way and you will see how Clear Light Community is Growing the Future! Check in on our website for updates: songofthemorningcommunity.com or SOMCommunity.com.



The first in-person event during the pandemic, volunteers enjoy planting and planning in God's Garden.

RESIDENT'S CORNER

Birding at Song of the Morning

by Mike Wanger

Birds. What is it about them that fascinates me so? It must be in my DNA. I've always loved the Great Outdoors, and the challenge of identifying the myriad of species -- often by a mere chip note or a quick blur of flight -- adds a measure of exhilaration. After doing my morning practice, I often head out onto the Ranch property and beyond for a couple of hours. Other than an occasional vehicle or airplane, I rarely encounter sounds of humanity. The inner quiet from my meditation continues as I wander alone in God's great cathedral. Though I've been at it almost daily for years, each day usually brings new excitement and discoveries.

Our feathered friends are always with us, especially from Spring through Fall. Birding in any wooded area can be challenging, especially for a novice, as many species might only be heard due to thick cover or the canopy height. Though they may be faint, calls and songs are usually there if we but stand and listen for a minute or two. I recommend that beginners start by accompanying someone with experience, each time focusing on two or three new species.

I went out this cold February morning and had a banner day -- thirteen species, with a Crow being new for the year. By late Fall, most species have fled south for food. Those locals who remain gravitate towards the Armour smorgasbord -- Carol and Richard have been putting out seed daily for years, and breakfast can be quite a commotion! The rest of the year, with luck one can observe 25-45 species in a day, each so beautiful and unique! Like several million enthusiasts worldwide, I use Cornell University's eBird website to record and categorize my observations. Cornell uses this mass of data to analyze bird numbers and movement with an eye towards saving the



Ruffed Grouse



Red-breasted Nuthatch



Snow Bunting

Their app tracks my distance and time, and I count as I go. My 4,000+ trips are all catalogued in eBird; likewise I can see (and compete with!) my peers for high species counts and unique sightings, plus find current and historical observations anywhere in the world.

Then there are photos, which take the challenge up yet another notch. To get a sharp image of a bird requires patience, skill, and luck. Included here are photos taken in February: Snow Bunting, Ruffed Grouse, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Maybe I'll see you out there one of these days!



The Clear Light Community: Our Journey of Discovery

by Ellen and Jack Slater

When Jack and I were asked to write an article about our experiences in finding and then becoming members of the Clear Light Community, I wondered where to begin the telling of this tale. The event that formed in my mind's eye, as the appropriate starting point, occurred approximately thirty-three years ago. Jack and I had met a few months prior and were in the early stages of developing a deep and lasting friendship. On my way to Sedona from the San Francisco Bay area, Jack suggested I drop by his home in the Santa Cruz mountains for a visit. One cool November evening, as we were sitting in his living room being warmed by a comforting fire in the fireplace, something astounding occurred. Simultaneously, Divine Mother blessed us both with a momentary lifting of the veils of Maya, during which our future together during this lifetime was spread out for us to see. The specifics and actual details were blurred, only to be discovered as we put one foot in front of the other moving forward on the path Divine Mother laid out before us. However, a few things were certain. There is nothing more important to each of us than our continued spiritual growth and discovery. We came together to support each other as we move forward with our individual quests for spiritual Truth. As we approached the end of these earthly incarnations, our journeys of exploration would accelerate; our knowledge, understanding and wisdom would expand; and we would find ourselves in an environment conducive to realizing the Truth of our Selves with like-minded, supportive Truth-seeking souls.

Years passed and our lives together as householders commanded our attention. Schooling, careers, householder responsibilities, the challenges of relationship and marriage and the ongoing desire to be of service to others tugged at and rerouted our focus. Obstacles, challenges and the ongoing effects of karma manifested and had to be addressed. Through it all God's guidance was ever-present and untold blessings were bestowed. I was led and Jack was reintroduced to the teachings of Paramahansa Yogananda and Self-Realization Fellowship. Becoming devotees of Master refocused our spiritual mandate and accelerated the forward motion of our spiritual endeavors. But, as is often the case, our spiritual paths twisted and turned and our levels of devotion waxed and waned.

Just over four years ago, while operating a complementary healthcare practice that we had created at Master's behest, another detail of Divine Mother's plan came into focus. I was sitting outside on a pleasant Sunday afternoon, reading some of Master's works. Suddenly, in a flash of intuition, I knew that the time had come to close that practice and redirect our attention to our semi-neglected spiritual journey. Within moments of my realization, Jack walked outside to where I was sitting and said, "We need to talk."

While I was outside experiencing my epiphany, Jack was sitting in the house reading and the word, SIMPLIFY, came into his awareness. He actually heard the word spoken in his head. It did not take much follow-up discussion for us to determine our next step. The following day, we went into our clinic and began the process of dismantling our business. The next several months were spent working out the details and finishing up with each of our patients. The process of simplifying our lives had begun. Without the endless responsibilities of self-employment and careers, an opportunity was created for the exploration and discovery of what it meant to live fully God-centered, God-directed lives. Vivid memories of that long ago experience with Divine Mother came flooding back and we became aware that it was time to delve into the specifics and details that had been blurred so long ago. It became painfully clear that living in the consciousness and energy of Central Texas no longer supported our efforts to live simply and keep God in the forefront of lives. Since there was nothing tying us to this area of the country, we began investigating other areas and different lifestyles. This allowed us to determine the pros and cons of various locations/options and develop a sense of what felt right for moving forward. Our final local adventure took us out into the country between Austin and Houston. We drove for two hours to a farm where we could purchase free range, pastured eggs. The location of this farm was incredibly remote. Getting out of the car, the first thing we noticed was the quiet peacefulness of the area. It was amazing! Neither of us had ever felt anything like it. Driving home, Jack and I talked about the experience and were able to begin honing the final determinants of our next step. That farm was incredibly peaceful and remote and it was extremely isolated. We realized that at this point in our lives, while it is critical that we live in quiet peacefulness, it is equally important that we live with like-minded, spiritually-driven folks who will participate with us in an exchange of support and friendship while working toward a higher purpose.

Later, Jack and I discussed Master's commentary on a particularly meaningful verse in God Talks With Arjuna: The Bhagavad Gita (p. 468) in which the four ashrams or shelters through which we must pass during our lives are described. The third ashram, vanaprastha, or the "forest-hermitage" state of life addresses retirement and contemplation. This is the time for withdrawing from worldly pursuits and returning to the forest hermitage to seek fuller communion with God and spiritual training from the guru. This perfectly describes where we are in our lives currently and what we see unfolding for our future. I told Jack that, inspired by this verse, I had a vision of what I wanted for us regarding where and how we would live.

Our Journey of Discovery continued...

I shared that I saw us living on a beautiful parcel of land that was about an acre in size. This parcel of land was part of a larger, wooded piece of land that was probably about 500-ish acres in size and was in a very remote location where it was allowed to maintain its natural beauty. At this point in my life, I could not be solely responsible for the overall 500 acres but I wanted to have access to it so that all it had to offer could be enjoyed, respected and preserved. In addition to providing a physical location where we could follow Master's and Divine Mother's guidance, which has been driving us to develop our ever-deepening, all-encompassing devotion, this was a place where we could live in community with others who are like-minded and share our spiritual values.

The next day Tom Wright called Jack. Tom and Jack, who have been close friends for almost fifty years, met while they both were firefighters in Wayne County, Michigan. During the conversation, after Jack shared with Tom where we were in our exploration for our next step, Tom told Jack about Yogacharya Oliver Black, Song of the Morning Retreat, that he had leased a piece of property in the community and that Jack and I needed to check it out. Jack replied that he would think about it but, at this point in our lives, we are striving to follow Divine guidance. Tom's priceless reply was that possibly this was Divine guidance coming through him. (It is interesting to note that, months later, while the three of us were together at Song of the Morning, Tom shared that he made that call to Jack because he was led to do so "out of the blue.") Never having heard of Yogacharya Oliver Black or Song of the Morning, I needed to perform my due diligence. By the time I finished my searches and investigation, and shared what I had found with Jack, I was overwhelmed, exhilarated and certain that this was our next step. The Clear Light Community in Song of the Morning Ranch was the physical location of our spiritual home and the physical manifestation of the vision of our future provided by Divine Mother decades earlier. I could hardly wait for Jack to call Tom to find out who we needed to call to determine the steps to be taken to make living in the Clear Light Community a reality.

Jack made the initial contact with Carol and Richard Armour. After sending the required paperwork to us, Carol conducted an extensive, thorough review of the paperwork, application details and the process for moving forward by telephone. During the same call, Richard reviewed some of the important logistical details for picking out, improving and building on a lot. Because of the ongoing pandemic, the folks responsible for evaluating our application and conducting our interviews graciously developed alternative opportunities for interacting with us. Via remote technology, we were warmly welcomed by each person with whom we had contact and, although the benefits and blessings of living on this sacred land, within this

outstanding forest refuge, surrounded by other devotees walking back to God by following Master's teachings, were extolled, the realities of living remotely in Northern Lower Michigan (including the long, hard winters) were addressed. It was important to the board members that we had a realistic idea of what we would be getting involved with by becoming members. Throughout the process, I kept thinking to myself that I hoped and prayed we would be accepted and approved for membership because I knew this was our next step and that, somehow, I would be moving to the Ranch no matter what!

Fortunately, our membership was approved and we are so humbled and honored to have been accepted as community members. After hearing the news, Jack and I made plans to travel to Song of the Morning. Dorothy Stingley graciously invited us to stay in her unoccupied home and then she extended the invitation and allowed us to remain there for four months. To say that that was an opportunity of a lifetime is an understatement! Dorothy's home was originally built and inhabited by Mary Ann and George Johnston and it was the first home built in the Clear Light Community. When Mary Ann and George moved from the Ranch to be closer to family, Dorothy and her husband, Wayne, purchased the home from them.

Being able to live in the energy of such esteemed, long-term, devoted members of the community was an experience that defies description. The time we spent touring the property with Carol and then discussing the details of building with Richard; completing all of the paperwork and activities required for officially becoming leaseholders; living simply in the Clear Light Community; picking out our lot with the guidance of Yogacharya, Master and Divine Mother; walking the quiet, beautiful, undisturbed, healing grounds; marveling at the height of the trees in the forest; watching and listening to the ever-flowing river and seeing the reflections of both the sun and moon in its mirrored waters; visiting the sacred shrines and contemplating the gifts, blessings and sacrifices of the Gurus; meeting, getting to know and often sharing Sunday Dinner with inspiring community members, including the extraordinary members of the staff; listening to stories and reminiscences about Yogacharya, Bob Raymer and Master; meditating with others in the profound energy of the Lodge and participating in Sunday Service in person; watching the antics of the varied wildlife (the Sandhill Cranes are exquisite) as well as the community pets; working toward a common purpose to maintain the community and support its growth from a place of selfless devotion with like-minded souls; and feeling the peace, solitude, safety and divinity that infuses and encompasses the entire property were deeply moving, transforming experiences and a dream come true. Spending such concentrated time in the Ranch's high spiritual energy also provided the opportunity to discover, address and clear issues, habits, patterns and destructive thoughts and energies from lifetimes long gone and lifelong experiences.

Our Journey of Discovery continued...

Finally, our time at the Ranch was coming to an end. The worldwide coronavirus pandemic was still raging and we needed to get back to our neglected Texas property while travel was still relatively safe and not too difficult. The joy in knowing that we were lifetime members of such a sacred endeavor and had invested in the community and its vision for the future, an investment that would, ultimately, draw us back to the community as fulltime, life-long residents was tempered by the sadness we felt when leaving our true, forever, spiritual home for some unknown period of time. For me, leaving was especially painful because for the first time in my life, I have a place to call home.

The 1700-mile trip back to Texas was grueling and the initial encounter with our long-held property was shocking. Although we have lived on this property for over twenty years, looking at it after experiencing the Ranch for four months made it seem foreign and unrecognizable. It took some time to reacclimate and come to terms with being back here.

"Simplify" has remained our guiding principle for all that needs to be accomplished prior to moving to the Clear Light Community. In addition to tackling all of the chores that need to be completed, Jack and I continue to discover the innumerable ways in which we were impacted and changed by our time at and experiences from the Song of the Morning Clear Light Community. Unexpected challenges have manifested one after another since our return and, while seemingly difficult, each one has been filled with purpose and blessings and is moving us ever-closer to the time when we can return to our true home and family. I am working on developing more patience and both of us are focusing on trusting that Yogacharya, Master and Divine Mother are taking care of the arrangements that need to be made in support of our journey and all will occur in Divine timing. Our job is to stay open to receiving the guidance they provide while continuing to focus our awareness on the constant presence of the Divine in each and every moment...and remembering to simplify.

Experiencing Song of the Morning Retreat, the Clear Light Community and all of the pioneering souls who have created and now support this Divinely-inspired community of excellence is a rare, blessed opportunity for those who are drawn to the spiritual path. If you have not yet had the opportunity to visit, I encourage you to consider the possibility. It could change your life!

HOME TO ME

by Tom Wright

Let me begin by introducing myself. My name is Tom Wright, I have been a follower of Paramahansa Yogananda for over 40 years. My first experience at Song of the Morning was just a couple of years ago. The Detroit SRF Center announced that a silent retreat was being planned at Song of the Morning ranch in Vanderbilt. Not knowing what to expect, I decided to come up and visit SOM before the group outing. Because I hadn't called and made a reservation, I was uncertain if I would actually be able to stay. Upon my arrival however, the staff were warm and welcoming and offered accommodations in the boat house.

That evening, Richard Armour reached out and invited me to participate in the evening meditation. It's difficult to articulate, but after the meditation I had an overwhelming sense of purpose, of needing to be here. Long story short, Song of the Morning felt like home to me.

Today, I have purchased a lot, and am in the process of building a permanent home here. Of course one problem when building a house is, where do you stay while you build. Fortunately out of nowhere (hmmm), Anne Wakenhut called and asked if I would be interested in renting her home at SOM. (Problem solved) As of this writing, I have been living part time at Song of the Morning going on six months now.

On one of my visits prior to moving here, several guests and staff were out at God's Garden working. A staff member (Shannon) mentioned the need for replacing the signs that represent the different world religions displayed in the garden. Hearing this I thought, I can do that. So I decided to make the signs that are in God's Garden today. With the help of God and Guru, I would like to replace the trail signs and do other small carpentry tasks that may come up here at the ranch. Immeasurable gratitude to God and Guru for the opportunity to live and serve at Song of the Morning. *Jai Guru*

***Where souls have communed with God there you will
find greater communion and response from God.
– Paramahansa Yogananda***

Yogacharya Speaks of The Future

“During this new age we are coming into you are going to find many, many surprises on the horizon for you. You’re going to find out, as you wait, look, and, listen, that the science of Yoga is going to sweep the whole planet, and most of the people of the world are going to come back into the science of Yoga. It has been done cycle after cycle and it’s just now beginning to do it again. All these various notions and divisions of religious activities will fall into one after a while. And not only that. There will be a basic religion for the whole world which will be the Yoga Philosophy.

As well, there will come in time a United States of the World, and we will have no conflicts between nation and nation, that’s ahead of us. We all become one great United States of the World.

And then we will have more time, I suppose – after we get through being so completely mixed up mentally – derangements about everything that is going on as it is today. It will give the mind a chance to become quiet and still. Then we can commune with each other regardless of race or creed or color or nationality.

Boundary lines will all be merged, all be withdrawn. You might have certain things like countries – states you might call it – that would be just like other states. But there’s only One.

Yoga will bring about a reorganization of the individual within. And when the individual changes, then the change comes in his community, in his state or country, and then it spreads out all over everywhere. But until the individuals are changed – or enough of them are changed to create a vortex of energy – then of course, it will continue in such a derangement as we know it today.” – SRF Minister Yogacharya J. Oliver Black



Yogacharya teaching below the Main House at the Ranch, early 70's

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