

If you're having trouble viewing this email, you may [see it online](#).

Share This:    



Newsletter - Dec 2012

December at the Ashram - Future Visions

We wish you a joyous holiday season! Light and blessings from all of us at the Ashram.



Upcoming Ashram Courses

[12 Days of Light](#)

December 21 - January 1

[Yoga Development Course](#)

January 8 - April 8

[Hatha Yoga
Teacher Certification](#)

April 9 - 19

Discover
Yasodhara Ashram's
50th Anniversary
courses & retreats

[2013 calendar now online!](#)



Featured book:



In our November and December planning/budgeting months we asked our group of Karma Yogis and residents, what do you think will be happening by 2020? Our responses ranged from shifts in social media and global economic impacts to environmental concerns. We imagined the growing commercialization of yoga as well as increased medical acceptance; more intentional communities and also more individual isolation through information overload.

What do we want to happen at the Ashram by 2020? We saw the Ashram remaining a vibrant community welcoming people of all ages and backgrounds to the transformative power of yoga, holding sacred ground, developing education, health and wellness aspects, alternative energy sources and a strong online presence.

Â



Mantra Initiation
by Swami Sivananda Radha
& Swami Radhananda

www.radhananda.org



**Radha Centres
and Teachers**

Canada

[Calgary, AB](#)
[Comox Valley, BC](#)
[Cranbrook, BC](#)
[Edmonton, AB](#)
[Haida Gwaii, BC](#)
[Halifax, NS](#)
[Hornby Island, BC](#)
[Kelowna, BC](#)
[Lethbridge, AB](#)
[Montreal, QC](#)
[Nanaimo, BC](#)
[Orangeville, ON](#)
[Ottawa, ON](#)
[Penetanguishene, ON](#)
[Penticton, BC](#)
[Peterborough, ON](#)
[Toronto Area, ON](#)
[Vancouver, BC](#)
[Victoria, BC](#)

USA



For 2013, we mapped out our working areas, grouping ourselves into hubs such as Teaching, Celebration, Welcome Centre, Infrastructure and Lands - with many of us overlapping to create a bubbling, interdependent whole.

Each area brainstormed ideas, with the budget adding reality to our vision. Now we are deciding priorities for 2013, directed by five themes:

- Growing people
- Celebrating
- Being a model for sustainable living
- Caring for our inheritance
- Developing organizational effectiveness

We'll keep you informed of upcoming changes, but you can count on a new website by spring of 2013, including a Virtual Resource Room for teachers and students; some renewed accommodation for families; music and dance throughout the year with concerts from professional friends. And a continued support of the very dynamic process of each individual's unique spiritual evolution.Â

Please join us in 2013 as the Ashram continues to expand and accommodate change! In the meantime, visit our temporary [homepage](#) for a sense of the website's direction - richer media content, more detailed information, and a new look.

The Practice of Co-operation, Swami Radhananda

[Bay Area, CA](#)
[Santa Fe, New Mexico](#)
[Spokane, WA](#)

Worldwide
[Auckland, NZ](#)
[Canterbury, UK](#)
[Caudet, FR](#)
[Europe](#)
[Isle of Wight, UK](#)
[Wollongong, AU](#)



Excerpt from Satsang, November 25, 2000.

In this Satsang talk from November 25, 2000, Swami Radhananda talks about the qualities of growth and evolution: a willingness to cooperate, to offer work in harmony, clarity through the teachings, and commitment.

Swami Radhananda's questions capture the same dynamic energy we experienced during the Ashram's planning and budgeting process, propelling us forward toward our 50th Anniversary.

[Watch the video](#)



Photo of the month

[Make this photo my desktop image](#)

Keeping the Vision Alive



Thank you to all who have committed to Keeping the Vision Alive!

Every donation makes a difference and honours Swami Radha's dedication to Yasodhara Ashram - to this enduring and evolving centre of Light - to this vibrant community that holds the sacred space for our individual and unique journey to spiritual and personal evolution.

The Ashram thrives in an economy of generosity, be it the offering of a Light Practice or making a financial contribution.Â No matter the size of your gift and however you choose to support the Ashram, your contribution is essential to keeping Swami Radha's vision alive.

Here are some examples of how various gift levels can help Keep the Vision Alive:

- \$35 - covers the cost of a karma yogi for a day
- \$150 - purchases art supplies for our 50th Celebration
- \$200 - enhances the beauty of the Ashram for our 50th Anniversary (lavender field, signage, lots of flowers!)
- \$500 - supports design and printing of new Temple & Music Songbooks
- \$2,000 - creates a children's garden
- \$3,750 - offers a bursary for a young adult for the YDC
- \$5,000 - allows us to take a next step in exploring alternative energy sources
- \$10,000 - helps complete the renovation of a room in Parvati (for families & greater accessibility)

Please select the method of contribution most convenient for you:

[Contribute Online](#)



- [Set up a monthly giving schedule](#)
- [Mail your cheque](#) to the Ashram
- [Call](#) with your credit card details to make your donation by phone (1-800-661-8711)
- Or let us know how we may facilitate your donation: yashram@yasodhara.org or 1-800-661-8711

Thank you to everyone who has already made a donation!

12 Days of Light
December 21 - January 1



Now is the time to step out from the pressure of the holidays and honour the Light in the tranquil and beautiful setting of Yasodhara Ashram. Join us at any point from the Winter Solstice to the New Year, as we celebrate the gifts of the year and enjoy the peace of the season. Take yoga classes and workshops, join others in Karma Yoga. Sing, dance and reflect. A precious time of devotion and renewal. [Join us in celebrating!](#)

Elaine Pace: A Different Way of Being at the Ashram



“Go deeper with your writing,” I was told by my literary advisor. “Plunge the

depths like never before.” So I headed to the Ashram in late September for an extended stay of two months. My purpose: to write my first book on relinquishment, love and living the life I am meant to live.

I needed a healthy, supportive and sacred environment and the Ashram opened its doors to me. I moved into Creek Cabin where my late sister, Swami Radhakrishnananda, lived last year. She had introduced me to the Ashram 33 years ago.

My experience has been amazing. With the balance between Karma Yoga and writing, I have flourished. I recently said "yes" to the inner promptings to remain here longer to complete my work.

The Ashram's new website will include info about our *Artistic and Professional Renewal Retreats* designed for people like Elaine, who want to enjoy the Ashram atmosphere and combine Karma Yoga with an artistic, professional or personal project! [Check back soon.](#)

Inspired Gifts



During this holiday season, you can choose from an inspired collection of books, audio, video and e books at timeless.org - beautiful books to inspire learning. Or give a spiritual gift by offering the Divine Light Invocation or chanting a mantra for someone in need. By expanding the ways we give, we put the ideals of selfless service into action. In the yogic tradition, giving without seeking anything in return lies at the core of Karma Yoga.

Here is what Swami Radha has to say about giving: “You can give a

gift without having anybody know where it comes from; that is a small beginning. Or give your time, your talents or your skills with the full intention of helping someone else. Then you are giving with a pure heart, a pure mind.”

Gifts can come in many forms. This holiday season why not make it your practice to give wholeheartedly?

Rays of Light - News at a Glance

- **A Model for Sustainable Living:** The Ashram continues to evolve as A Model for Sustainable Living by linking ecological, economic, social and spiritual aspects of life. Read more about the Ashram's [Path to a Lighter Carbon Footprint](#) - the journey to achieving Carbon Neutrality and stay tuned for further details on the Ashram's 2020 Renewable Energy Plan.
- **Guenevere Neufeld at TEDx SelfDesign High School:** Guenevere, a vibrant young adult who has lived at Yasodhara Ashram for over two years, spoke at TEDx SelfDesign High's 3rd annual event in Nelson, BC on Saturday, November 19th - [view the video](#). The theme for the day was “What Youth Need To Thrive”, and Guenevere's talk was entitled “Clarity in the Midst of Illusion.”

What is TEDx? In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, [TED](#) has created a program called TEDx - a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience.

- **Yoga International:** In their most current issue, Yoga International writer Anna Dubrovsky profiles: Indra Devi, Swami Sivananda Radha, Liliás Folan, and Geeta Iyengar. The article is titled “Loving Gratitude” and Swami Radha's profile is called, “The Spiritual Emissary”.

Dubrovsky writes: *"Yoga as we practice it today would not be possible without the vision and determination of four women who forever altered the yoga landscape for us all."*

The Winter 2012-13 Yoga International issue is now in stores.

- **It's not too late!** To join the group of like-minded people that will come together on January the 8th for the three-month Yoga Development Course. Each member of this group will explore questions of meaning, identification and ideals, and learn powerful tools for transformation. What kind of person do you want to be? Join us for the YDC in 2013 - the year we celebrate Yasodhara Ashram's 50th Anniversary. Contact [Swami Samayananda](#).



Yasodhara Ashram Society
Box 9 527 Walker's Landing Road
Kootenay Bay, BC
VoB 1X0

Phone: 250-227-9224
Toll-free: 1-800-661-8711

www.yasodhara.org

In Canada:



In the United States:



Box 9 527 Walker's Landing Road | Kootenay Bay, BC V0B 1X0 CA

This email was sent to **dan@yasodhara.org**. To ensure that you continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book or safe list.

[manage](#) your preferences | [opt out](#) using **TrueRemove™**

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

