



Yasodhara Ashram
YOGA RETREAT & STUDY CENTRE

2017
ANNUAL REPORT

A YEAR OF
VICTORY



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2017 WAS A YEAR OF VICTORY!

Three years after the original Temple burned, it has been replaced with a beautiful new Temple of Light for now and next generations. Through your generosity we once again have a sacred space symbolizing peace and unity, reminiscent of the original yet brilliantly unique. Thank you to all who helped through your abundant donations of more than one million dollars over the past three years, through your emotional and spiritual support, and through the skill of those designing and building.



In 2017 the Ashram continued programming in two directions: reaching out—with teachers traveling as far away as Australia and Europe as well as across Canada; and staying local—with a deepening link to our surrounding school and community. Courses offered at the Ashram ranged from the second annual Decelerator,

a program that brings change-makers together to explore personal and professional concerns to our first Reconciliation weekend led by Indigenous Elders. And we offered a variety of Yasodhara Yoga programming—from weekend courses and retreats to our in-depth three-month Yoga Development Course.

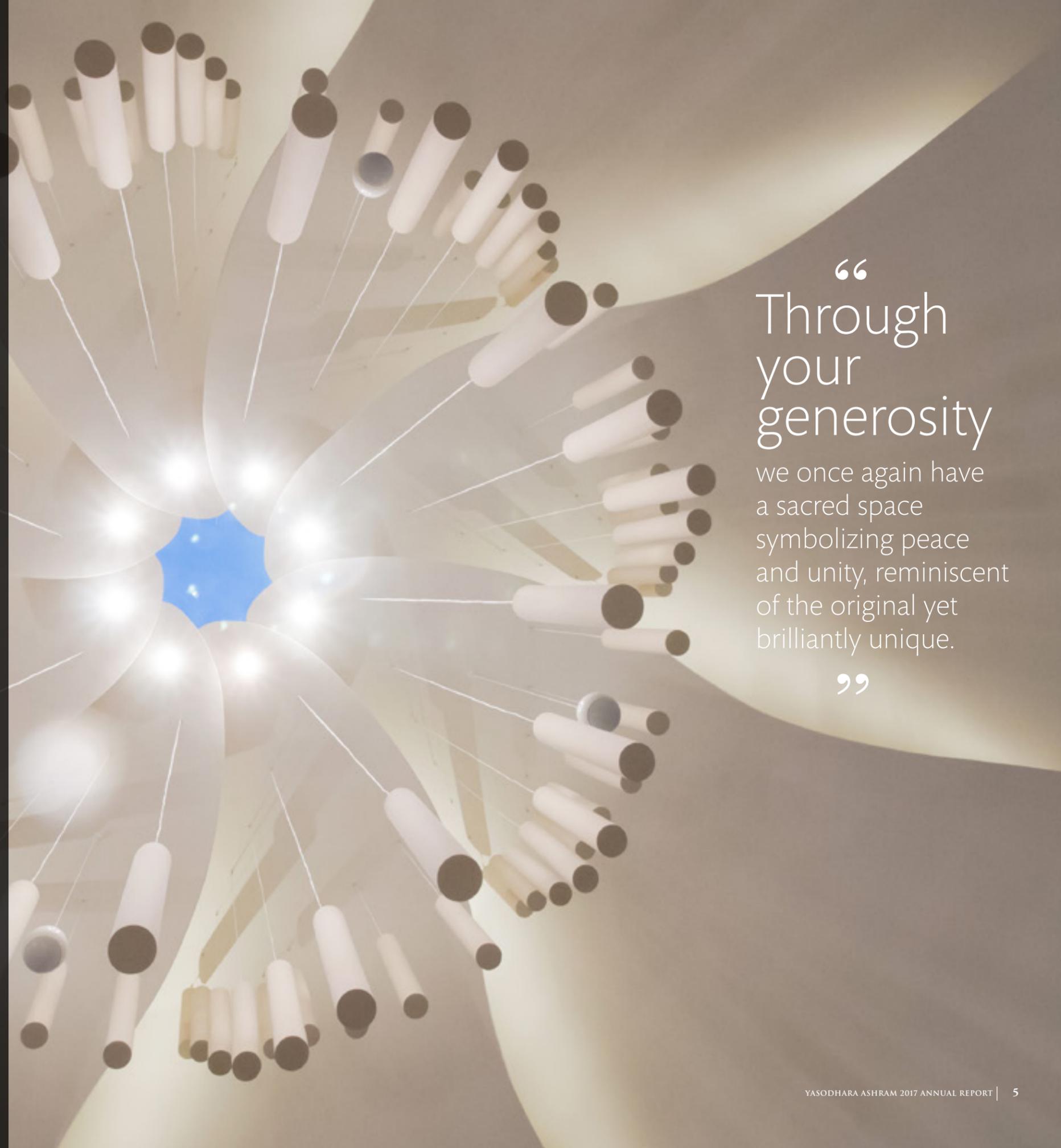
Internally we engaged in dialogue to create a foundation of understanding of our own needs as residents, from eldership to lineage. We launched into more in-depth planning, looking at the Ashram as a village—how to grow and how best to honour the legacy of the land. And we experimented with what organizational structure works best—asking how do we adapt and integrate? We continue to learn, to observe with patience, to stretch beyond old limits while sheltering what is precious at the centre.

The new Temple stands as a manifestation of our vision—a reminder that we can find what is true and clear and essential in ourselves even in an often polarized and ever-accelerating world. We invite you to join us!

2018 will be the Year of Invitation.

Swami Lalitananda

SWAMI LALITANANDA
PRESIDENT, YASODHARA ASHRAM SOCIETY



“
Through
your
generosity

we once again have a sacred space symbolizing peace and unity, reminiscent of the original yet brilliantly unique.

”

ABOUT

YASODHARA ASHRAM

YASODHARA ASHRAM IS A YOGA RETREAT AND STUDY CENTRE FOUNDED IN 1963 IN KOOTENAY BAY, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

As a Canadian charity and active learning centre, our purpose is to stimulate open intellectual and spiritual enquiry, supporting the potential of transformation in each person. We offer a wide range of programs year-round, helping people to evolve and lead fulfilling lives. We are also a residential community where we practice living what we teach.

Locally the Ashram has been an integral part of the East Shore community of Kootenay Lake for more than 50 years. We volunteer on community boards, the fire department, first responders and at the local school, and we make donations toward services such as the ambulance and school lunch program. We offer meeting space and invite our neighbours to educational and social events. We hire locally and support local farmers.

Globally we reach out through travel and offering workshops internationally. We invite schools and like-minded organizations to join us for sustainability tours and work-study programs. We participate in conferences and share what we learn with other groups. 🌿



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

THE ASHRAM OFFERS a range of courses and retreats varying in length from day visits to the three-month Yoga Development Course (YDC), Yoga Teacher Certification, Service & Study programs, the Young Adult Program and the Learning Residency program.

COURSES

Our courses emphasize self-discovery through reflection and practice in everyday life. Our teachings help people build a strong foundation of character—the inner work necessary to face life's challenges and adapt to change.



2017 Highlights | This year more new guests than ever came to our introductory Taste of the Ashram program to experience a Hatha Yoga class, lunch and tour of the grounds, with an increasing number choosing to stay overnight.

12
returning teachers
participated in the
Teacher Service
Program.



“Each time I enter into Ashram life I feel more confident in what I have to offer. Part of this comes from knowing myself better, and part comes from knowing that we are all working together to create a welcoming and encouraging environment.”

“I come back to the Ashram regularly to be in community with others who are dedicated to aligning themselves with their evolution. It's a rare and precious gift.”

With our focus on the Temple completion, we offered many previously successful programs, including our three-month Yoga Development Course and four 10 Days of Yoga courses, along with a few new ones, including Seeing the Sacred: Video Workshop. A weekend program, “Perspective of Love & Healing, reconciliation with Indigenous Elders”—was a deep and meaningful gathering that attracted many locals as well as Ashram residents. The highlight of our summer was the first Temple Celebration (in a not-quite-finished Temple), with five days of creative preparations and workshops followed by a weekend of festive activities. A highlight was viewing the Temple from a decorated barge on the lake. The Annual Family Retreat in July was fully booked, and we saw more families coming throughout the year for their own personal family retreats.

TEACHER SERVICE PROGRAM

We value our Yasodhara Yoga teachers and encourage them to continue to return to the Ashram for renewal. Our Teacher Service Program offers an opportunity to self-design a program—usually ranging from two weeks to two months—and financial contribution that fits each person's needs and circumstances.

2017 Highlights | Twelve of our teachers journeyed to the Ashram for extended stays to help support the day-to-day Karma Yoga needs including teaching courses and leading retreats. Visiting teachers participated in a weekly reflection class with other teachers and had time each day for personal reflection and renewal.

SERVICE & STUDY (KARMA YOGA)

Our one-month Service & Study Program welcomes participants of all ages interested in experiencing life in a spiritual community. The focus is on Karma Yoga, the yoga of action, that supports participants in learning how to work, how to work together and how to understand themselves in relation to others. This program integrates the Young Adult Program for 18-30 year olds, helping them gain confidence so they can create the life they want to live.

2017 Highlights | Forty-seven people attended the One-Month Program in 2017. We also enjoyed people staying on, ranging from one month to one year. One of our One-Month Program participants stayed on to take the YDC in 2018 and is now part of the kitchen staff. In 2017 we awarded more than \$15,000 in course and program bursaries.

We are continually refining and clarifying our offering in the light of experience and feedback.

During 2017 we learned more about responding to situations requiring psychological support. Several years ago we started an internal psychological response team and contracted with a local therapist for consultations and for counselling with program participants as needed. This year we found we needed and used this service well.



47
people attended
the One-Month
Program.

7
Learning Residency
Program
participants stayed
from 4 to 9 months.

More than
\$15,000
awarded in course
and program
bursaries.

LEARNING RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Learning Residencies at Yasodhara Ashram are spiritual and career/life development opportunities. Learning Residents are provided room and board, workshops and classes; and they learn skills ranging from preserving food to woodworking to organic gardening techniques.

2017 Highlights | 2017 was the fifth year of our Learning Residency Program. Seven participants ranging in age from 18 to 40 stayed from four to nine months, learning and working in the areas of Hospitality, Kitchen, Shop, Food Systems, Garden, Preserving Kitchen and Infrastructure. Every year we have graduates of the program who keep coming back to the Ashram. They provide leadership and a skilled, committed presence. The multiyear involvement through a start in the Learning Resident Program benefits the Ashram and deepens each person's expertise, helping them develop skills that are transferable when they leave. →



**BUILDING COMMUNITY—
REACHING OUT**

The Ashram participates in the local and regional Kootenay Lake community, while also sending teachers across Canada and internationally to offer programs.

2017 Highlights | Our “Teachers on Tour” outreach program extended to Australia, as well as to many locations in Europe and Canada as senior teachers offered workshops to almost 600 people. In Australia—on our first return visit in a number of years—one of our senior teachers led a wide range of programs from weekend retreats to a short workshop with high school women, to a public evening talk. Our European offerings extended from Britain to Portugal and Germany to Hungary. In Canada, we offered many workshops in the eastern and western provinces. Overall, more than 200 people new to our teachings attended.



Teachers presented workshops and talks in Canada, Europe and Australia.

+600
students attended workshops.



200
were new to the teachings.

Outreach is important for a number of reasons: as a support to our Yasodhara Yoga teachers throughout the world, as a way of introducing Swami Radha’s teachings to a wider audience, and as an income-generating stream.

Closer to home, we continued to deepen our connection with the local Crawford Bay School. A number of our teachers, including the younger generation, offered mindfulness sessions to students in the classroom. This year, we also welcomed class visits to the Ashram where students enjoyed hatha classes, tours and activities associated with our sustainability focus.

In addition to our longstanding involvement with such community endeavours as the Chamber of Commerce, Fire Department, Ambulance Auxiliary, Friends of Kootenay Lake Society and Community Connections, we actively supported two new initiatives related to tourism. Ashram representatives contributed to an initiative called Building East Shore Tourism (BEST) as well as to the Creston Kootenay Lake Tourism Advisory Committee. As a longstanding institution in this region, we take seriously our contributions to economic development as well.

**BUILDING COMMUNITY—
INVITING IN**

Yasodhara Ashram welcomes many perspectives and is eager to work with others who have similar aims of promoting peace, environmental action and understanding among diverse traditions.

2017 Highlights | Our annual Strawberry Social in June provided the perfect opportunity to acknowledge and thank the contractors and suppliers—many whom were local—who were building our Temple of Light. More than 400 people attended, with standing-room only during the presentations. As always, our friends and neighbours enjoyed the strawberries and cream, and the time to visit.



↑
25%
increase in drop-in guests.



+400
people attended the Strawberry Social.

+1,500
people dropped in to see the Ashram.

The Taste of the Ashram program, with daytime and overnight stay options, drew more people than ever in 2017. Significantly, drop-in guests increased by more than 25 percent during the summer months, with 1,000 visitors in June, July and August. Over the full year, more than 1,500 visited; the Temple construction was a primary draw. Visitors came from a wide range of places of origin, with the majority coming from Nelson and area. They and summer residents of the East Shore came and brought friends and relatives from further afield.

Use of our one-year-old Bring a Friend discount increased substantially, to more than 110 people. Our promotional focus on the 10 Days of Yoga program successfully attracted 48 participants during the year. →

“
 Being an independent artist full time is wonderful—it’s my life’s work and it’s hard and good. But I need time when I can step out of the rigor of that world—out of the busyness and the demands of my life—and be able to rest deeply.
 ”



Raine Hamilton
 Musician, songwriter and performer

**ARTIST & PROFESSIONAL RETREATS—
 NURTURING CREATIVE POTENTIAL**

The Artist and Professional retreats offer a beautiful, focused and spacious environment to relax, be nourished—nurturing creative potential and new ways of approaching life. Over 40 artist and professional guests have benefitted from these retreats since they were first offered five years ago.

2017 Highlights | The Artist and Professional guests who came to the Ashram this year included writers, musicians, visual artists and organizational leaders. Many give back through offering Lunch & Learns, which have been inspiring for everyone.

Professional Retreat guest Brenna Atnikov indicated that her professional retreat was a journey from burnout to discovering a more life-sustaining approach to her life and work.

Groups 2017 Highlights | The word is out that the Ashram is an amazing place to hold a group retreat or event. This year brought yoga groups, educational, multi-faith, professional, health practitioners and artists. Public events included music, dance and First Nations storytelling.

A highlight from 2017 included a return visit from Corazon Youth Choir in the fall for their annual “Getting to Know One Another” retreat. Their visit ended with an exquisite vocal offering in the Temple by the choir and vocal sopranos, Ananta.



Anusha Fernando

Returning groups are booking their retreats a year ahead to ensure the Ashram can accommodate them. 2017 brought many local groups including Hospice, teachers for Professional Development days, an Intercultural Studies group piloting a new program for the province, Waldorf exchange students and teachers, United Church ministers and choirs.

A gathering of over 400 people came together in the fall to celebrate the life of local teacher, Alvin Dunic, in the Temple of Light. We also experienced wonderful devotional and contemporary dance performances from Anusha Fernando and Slava Doval and her young dancers. →



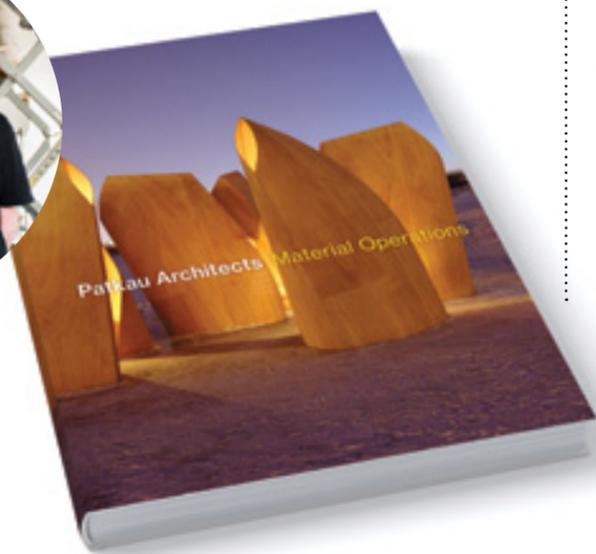
Global Intercultural Studies Group

COMMUNICATIONS

Our communications efforts in 2017 focused on clearly showing people the many ways they can enter into the Ashram. In addition, progress on the Temple of Light construction was an emphasis, internally and externally.

2017 Highlights | We updated our highway signs to a more readable typeface and to be more welcoming. In addition, we developed new directional and building signage for the Ashram property. Even sandwich boards received an update, with a vibrant new design and reusable frames.

A videographer stayed at the Ashram for the year to fully document Temple construction. Short video updates highlighted our bimonthly newsletters, website and social media posts. Many audiences have enjoyed viewing a 20-minute video created with quotes from varied people involved in or inspired by the construction project.



Fulfilling a long-held plan, we installed a mural titled Sacred Luminous Space that highlights the history of the Temple from Swami Radha's original vision to the first Temple manifestation, to the fire in 2014 and the completion of the new design. Visitors enjoy viewing the mural in Mandala House.

We also created a short video for the Kootenay Lake Ferry, inviting people to the Ashram and the Temple. A redesign of our day visitor postcard gave it double-duty to inform people about the Taste of the Ashram and drop-in programs, as well as the Temple of Light. Media coverage included articles in the regional ARTiculate magazine and Yoga Scotland, a video with Swami Lalitananda about Temple completion with Kootenay Business TV, articles in the regional Mainstreet and Valley Voice newspapers, CBC radio and others. Patkau Architects also highlighted the Temple in interviews about their work. Their newest book, *Material Operations* published in 2017, features the Temple of Light as the current culmination of their research department.

We continued to enhance our social media presence through Instagram and Facebook.

Responses to an online survey completed by 350 newsletter recipients, helped us plan our 2018 program calendar and are informing the redesign of our website planned for 2018. 🌿

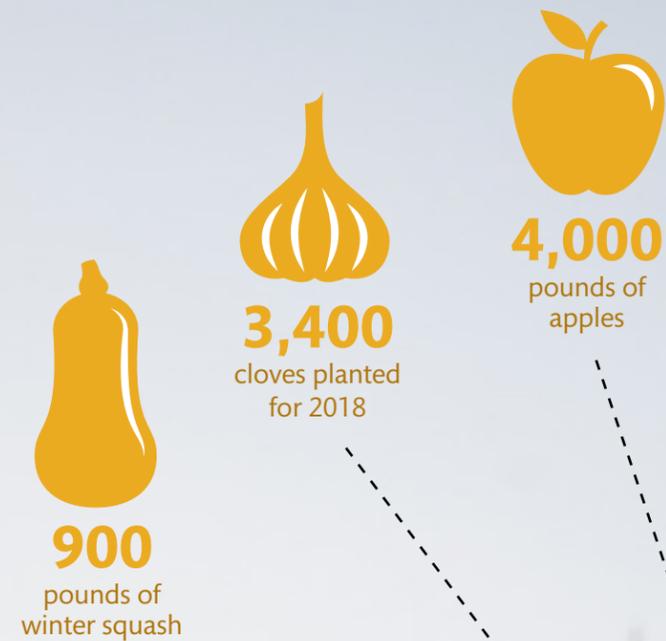
SUSTAINABILITY / RESILIENCE

OVER THE PAST 54 YEARS Yasodhara Ashram has evolved toward becoming a model community for sustainable living, making decisions that support a healthy future. A past winner of the FortisBC Power-Sense Conservation Excellence Award and Tourism BC's Environmentally Responsible Tourism Award, the Ashram recently signed onto the Renewable Energy Kootenays initiative, committing to 100% renewable energy by 2035. Environmental action is an important part of our social responsibility, a practice of the yogic principle of *ahimsa* (non-injury).

FOOD FLOW

2017 Highlights | Our Food Flow system includes the growing, procurement, processing, preserving, cooking and eating what we prepare.

The Ashram kitchen team created over 62,000 individual meals in 2017! Ashram menus were based on what is available seasonally from our garden, and from the surrounding area. We truly have a farm-to-table philosophy and seek to promote self-sufficiency and sustainability in ourselves and in the local community. Procurement from local farms, gardens and producers remains an important way for the Ashram to promote a wider sustainability in the local community, while allowing us to eat the freshest, most nutritious food possible. As always the Ashram menus include options that cater to wide variety of dietary needs and preferences: gluten-free, dairy-free, vegan, soy-free and nightshade-free among many other considerations. →





We had a bumper crop of apples this season—over 4,000 lbs. Garlic self-sufficiency continues and we planted an extra 1,000 cloves for 2018, bringing our total to over 3,400 cloves. The garden produced over 900 lbs. of winter squash to help sustain us through the winter. This year we further refined our use of the hoophouse and row covers to extend our growing season into the winter months. Kale, a staple of our diet, was available from the garden both later in the fall and earlier in the spring than ever before, allowing us to ease our dependency on increasingly unpredictable California crops.

A new compost shed was built this year that will serve us well into the future and allow us to better use our compost to our garden's advantage.

With increased growing comes an increased need for preserving. The Preserving Kitchen experimented with many new ways to utilize the scapes, a high value crop, that all that extra garlic produces. Garlic scape fermented pickles and kimchi proved very successful. It was an exceptional year for the Ashram grapes, and grape juice added to apple juice produced as a by-product of saucing has helped to stretch that valuable resource. The Preserving Kitchen produced varied herbal tea blends gathered, dried, packaged and sold in the Gift Store for more than \$1,000.



+\$1,000
of Ashram
tea sold.



+62,000
created by the
Ashram kitchen.

This year the Temple construction added an extra dimension to the kitchen. We provided breakfast, lunch and some dinners to the various crews that built the new Temple of Light. Providing a sense of camaraderie between the workers and the Ashram, these meals were also outside of our usual diet and sometimes seemed like running a whole separate kitchen within the Ashram. An extra emphasis on animal protein and larger portion sizes increased the kitchen budget in 2017, but it saved in per diem costs to construction and helped to include these workers in the Ashram community.

The Food Flow program at the Ashram runs smoothly and efficiently due to the dedication of many individuals, professional staff and Karma Yogis alike and we thank them all—kitchen, garden, orchard and Preserving Kitchen—for their nourishing work.

INFRASTRUCTURE

2017 Highlights | Our infrastructure focus in 2017 continued to be the construction of the new Temple of Light, and by the end of the year the major building phase was completed, with a number of finishing touches and smaller issues to adjust, adapt and figure out over the following months.

The photovoltaic system at the Temple is now operational, generating electricity to offset the Temple demand. It is a small amount over the winter but quite substantial in the summer months. This installation was seen as a pilot project and we are monitoring it closely to determine how we might expand this kind of technology to further reduce our electrical bills. During the drilling for the geothermal heating in the Temple, we had the luck to hit an aquifer in one of the holes, which has now given us an additional source of water for irrigation and firefighting. We were delighted with the image of tapping into an underground source of water, like the Saraswati of our lineage, symbolized as a river of inspiration. We are also very happy to have access to a new water source.



Photovoltaic system at the Temple is now fully operational.



Addition of a new aquifer for irrigation and firefighting.

Leading up to our planning time in the late fall, we engaged in an overview of our land use and future priorities for development at the Ashram. Our aim is to protect and enhance the land, infrastructure and legacy we have inherited. One of the central ideas is to focus future development around a village green area, in the zone between the Guest Lodge, Mandala House, Main House and the Preserving Kitchen. Clustering new development means we can more efficiently use the services already in place, and create a vital, people-oriented space at the centre of the Ashram.

In the Repair & Maintenance area, we continue to care for and upgrade our buildings, roads and utilities, with a focus on documenting history and procedures for a transparent transfer of knowledge as the community evolves. 🌿



TEMPLE OF LIGHT

The Temple of Light was a vision of the Ashram's founder, Swami Radha, who dreamed of a space where people from all traditions were welcome and could find understanding beyond images or doctrines. The first Temple, completed in 1992, was tragically destroyed by fire in 2014. Now the Temple has risen once again as a symbol of hope, peace and unity. The innovative design makes it an architectural masterpiece—a lotus-like flower held in the natural beauty of lake and forest, inviting us to find the source of love and Light within.



THIS IS THE YEAR the Temple construction was completed, with just a few finishing touches and the landscaping remaining.

2017 Highlights | Through the very cold and snowy winter of 2017, we were fascinated to watch as the Temple took shape, with the precisely prefabricated pieces lifted higher and higher. Once the outer shell was formed, the workers moved to the interior and received shelter from the elements. Construction continued throughout the spring and summer with roofing, insulation, installation of mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems, glass installation, millwork, drywall, painting, drilling for geothermal, flooring, acoustic, lighting, earthmoving, rockwall building, cleaning. And finally... entering and bringing life to the Temple.

In preparation for the Temple celebration in early August, construction paused for a week and we did a massive cleaning to transform the construction site into the sacred space that was starting to emerge. The celebration was joyful, creative and memorable.

In October we received the occupancy permit. Satsangs and special events have since returned home to the Temple. Every evening we send Light to the prayer list through chanting and meditation. The first event held in the newly completed Temple was a memorial for a beloved local school teacher. Filled to overflowing, the Temple graciously held everyone close in this heartfelt gathering. It was a statement that the Temple is here for our surrounding community as well as for Ashram residents and visitors from around the world. We hope many people both near and far can experience the power of this sanctuary.

For communication purposes we were pleased to have the progress of the Temple recorded on video and a 20-minute documentary produced.

We look forward to 2018. Landscaping will start in the spring, and the official Grand Opening will be held at the Annual Strawberry Social in June. In August 2018 we will gather for a Temple Dedication weekend so that everyone who contributed in so many ways, and anyone attracted to this sacred space, can experience this vision of hope. 🌸

DONOR GENEROSITY

“
I SPENT THREE MONTHS
 at the Ashram 13 years ago when I was pregnant with my first child. I learnt the Divine Light mantra and to this day I still say it every single day. Now all three of my children say it before bed. This place is such a blessing in my life.

“
I AM DONATING
 in gratitude for the heartfelt work you do and the helpful practices I have received.

2017 Highlights | Since the fire in 2014, our donors, including some of our suppliers, have contributed over \$1 million to support the completion of our stunning new Temple. This generosity reflects how much people need a strong symbol for hope and unity in the world. Our spring campaign—“Help Us Finish the Temple” – sparked donor enthusiasm and surpassed our fundraising goals. Our gratitude to all, including the nearly 100 monthly donors giving to our General Fund, which helps sustain the Ashram on an ongoing basis.

This year the Ashram also gratefully received \$6,500 in grants allowing us to hire summer student help, support our annual community Strawberry Social and provide travel for workshop leaders. Thank you to the Nelson & District Credit Union and Columbia Basin Trust.

“
YOUR NEW TEMPLE
 represents both a spiritual and architectural leap of faith. A brave vision. The Ashram has been an integral part of the East Shore Community and I’m happy to provide a small measure of support towards its future blossoming.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

FOUNDED BY SWAMI SIVANANDA RADHA, a Western woman who studied in India in the mid 1950s, Yasodhara Ashram was the first ashram established in Canada. Swami Radha was asked by her teacher to live on faith without income when she returned to Canada. Out of her dedication and courage, the Ashram grew into the flourishing centre it is today.

Swami Radha is also a role model for other women and established a lineage of women leaders. Swami Radhananda, president of Yasodhara Ashram Society from 1993 through 2014, continues as spiritual director. Swami Lalitananda became president of the Society in 2014.

Yasodhara Ashram Society has been a Canadian charity since 1963.



SWAMI SIVANANDA RADHA
 FOUNDER, YASODHARA ASHRAM



SWAMI RADHANANDA
 SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR



SWAMI LALITANANDA
 PRESIDENT

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Swami Lalitananda
 PRESIDENT

Swami Samayananda
 VICE-PRESIDENT

Alicia Pace
 SECRETARY/TREASURER

Rebecca Dale
 DIRECTOR

Paris Marshall Smith
 DIRECTOR

2017 Highlights |

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Over the year, Swami Radhananda gave initiations into deeper spiritual commitments to three dedicated, long-term students of the work. She also consulted with the Board to offer guidance.

YASODHARA ASHRAM SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

With several Board directors living at the Ashram while others live offsite, we experimented with the loose structure of an externally-directed Board aware of the Ashram in relation to current trends in the world, and an internal Board tracking more closely the Ashram trends. In our Board meetings we continued to monitor the overall functioning and health of the Society, including the spiritual lineage, as well as to look ahead at succession, and financial and human resources sustainability. The construction of the new Temple drew down our resources and offers us the challenge of creatively generating new income. 🌸

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

OVER ITS 54-YEAR HISTORY, Yasodhara Ashram has operated on the principle of renunciation and generosity—buying what we need when we need it, without overconsumption. We make our programs financially accessible—offering payment plans, course discounts, bursaries, scholarships and honoraria. Donations help support youth, elders and people on limited incomes to access the Ashram teachings and community.



\$2,061,751
invested on the
new Temple.



289
new guests stayed
at the Ashram.



55
people on average
stay at the Ashram
on any given time
over the year.



\$52,874
on improvements
to Ashram buildings.

2017 Highlights | Our financial focus in 2017 continued to be on finishing the Temple of Light while maintaining healthy finances for core operations.

We directed our energy to fundraising and tightened our belts on expenses, postponing expenditures where possible. In 2017 we received revenues from the combination of courses, residency fees, Karma Yoga programs and investments.

This year we hosted 289 new guests and 753 unique visitors to the Ashram. Unique visitors include swamis, residents, guests, karma yogis, staff and anyone who stayed at least one night. Many of those guests came to the ashram more than once. On average we have about 55 people living and studying at any given time over the year, with lows of 40 people per day in December and highs during the Family Retreat of about 120 people in July. We had 81 youth (18- 30) stay.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Assets

- Our biggest asset spend this year was our investment of \$2,061,751 on the new Temple.
- We spent \$52,874 on improvements to Ashram buildings but the lion's share of this amount was split into three projects: the new compost shed, the new well and water source near the Temple, and installation of some of the photovoltaics that will help offset Temple energy costs.
- We also invested in a scissor lift to help us finish and clean the interior of the Temple in the future.

BALANCE SHEET

As at December 31, 2017	2017	2016
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	346,353	655,655
Accounts receivable	69,198	71,679
Inventory	134,027	150,288
Work in process	385	2,471
	549,963	880,093
Investments	687,261	627,011
Capital assets	9,203,673	6,758,382
Total Assets	\$10,440,897	\$8,265,486
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	26,239	255,092
Deferred revenue	49,184	40,213
Deferred insurance proceeds	7,251	7,278
Security deposits	-	200
Total Liabilities	\$82,674	\$302,783
MEMBERS' EQUITY		
Restricted net assets—external	156,265	156,265
Restricted net assets—internal	527,178	466,943
Unrestricted net assets	471,107	580,025
Invested in capital assets	9,203,673	6,759,470
	10,358,223	7,962,703
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$10,440,897	\$8,265,486

Revenue

- Donations
 - We experienced another outstanding fundraising year for the Temple, raising \$330,872 from individual donors. Three donors were responsible for donating just under half of the total amount! The generosity of our community has been phenomenal.
 - We also received funds for the Temple Rebuild from the Friends of Radha Foundation (\$1,819,300) and ADHP (\$133,850) to ensure the Temple completion.
 - Individual donors also gave \$130,509 to general donations and included some specific gifts to the Young Adults, Sustainability and Elder Funds.
- We continue to develop our groups, outreach and event income streams; they are a good complement to our courses, Karma Yoga programs and teacher training.
- Resident/staff room and board payments totaled \$85,300.
- The Ashram Gift Store had a healthy year bringing in approximately \$10,000 more in sales than the previous year.
- We took advantage of the exchange rate between Canada and the US and converted funds that yielded revenue of \$31,435.



\$330,872
from individual donors.



\$10,000
more in sales at the Gift Store over the previous year.



\$21,435
decrease in overall expenses over the previous year.



\$4,774
increase in credit card processing fees.

Expenses

- Overall expenses in 2017 decreased by \$21,435 over the previous year not including spending on the Temple, building upgrades and equipment. Each area of the Ashram looked at what was truly necessary to spend and made prudent decisions on behalf of the whole.
- Some shifts in our expenses this year:
 - Human Resources increased by \$19,280 which was lower than budgeted but expenditures in HR have risen each year for several years, reflecting the changing nature of how the Ashram is supported and subsequently staffed.
 - Internet charges decreased by \$8,668 due to securing a better plan and upgrades to our community internet provider.
 - Credit card and processing fees increased for a second year in a row and were up by \$4,774. While these fees are part of doing business, we are actively looking at ways to reduce these costs.
 - We had a significant increase in electricity costs—paying a total of \$64,612—roughly \$14,000 higher than last year. We think this is due in part to Temple construction, but we know that power costs will continue to increase as per the world trend, and we have to remain vigilant in our renewable energy efforts. 🌿

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

As at December 31, 2017

2017

2016

REVENUE

Sales	109,991	105,649
Cost of goods sold	(63,356)	(60,756)
Gross margin	46,635	44,893
Course fees—Ashram	126,399	140,609
Course fees—YDC & Teacher Training	97,146	90,044
Donations	2,545,032	1,676,692
Investment income	16,516	17,393
Memberships and miscellaneous	16,280	7,735
Property income	42,857	48,203
Retreats and residency	506,429	448,766
Ashram forests—related	-	950
Total Revenue	\$3,397,293	\$2,475,285

EXPENSES

Advertising, marketing and fundraising	13,997	24,341
Audio, video and archiving	69	20
Bad debts	2,133	1,675
Bank charges and exchange	(28,416)	9,036
Credit card fees	24,467	19,693
Donations and gifts	8,275	5,474
Farm and grounds	12,125	14,271
Food service	161,665	148,519
Household supplies	21,082	23,930
Human resources	451,039	431,759
In-house design and production	12,685	21,220
Insurance and registration	7,859	8,725
Office and miscellaneous	22,193	25,221
Outreach expenses	12,546	11,860
Professional and consultant fees	84,596	87,672
Repairs and maintenance	66,793	71,543
Royalties	514	1,788
Telephone	12,582	13,689
Travel and living costs	11,620	10,639
Utilities	68,423	53,995
Vehicles	22,500	25,111
Total Expenses	\$988,747	\$1,010,181
Excess of revenue over expenses before other items	\$2,408,546	\$1,465,103
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	22,271	29,328
Unrealized currency gain or loss	(35,297)	15,200
Write-off capital assets	-	(7,122)
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$2,395,520	\$1,502,510

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

IN THE COMING YEARS we will be watching the response to the Temple's symbolic message of Light and peace. Who is interested in this message? And what actions can we take together?

We see that our teachings are even more relevant today. With the accelerated pace of technology, changing cultures and turbulent times, we offer a way for people to connect with their own minds and hearts. At the core of the Ashram is the lineage—an invisible power like a sacred river that manifests as love, respect and learning—and that carries the work forward. We trust in this flow, but we are also aware of the need to adapt, experiment and seek help. As the elders in our group continue to receive the benefits of being caretakers of the Ashram, we are also supporting future leaders by inviting their knowledge and abilities to blossom. We are focusing on mentorship at all levels.

Looking ahead at the different streams of the Ashram, we are asking what can be maximized and what can become more efficient? Previously 100% volunteer-run, the Ashram now has a substantial Human Resources budget with a focus on local hiring. There are also demands for infrastructure improvements to old systems, and a continued interest in expanding renewable energy projects. Now that the Temple is built, we are setting new priorities and we will continue to explore how to do much with little, how to increase resources of helpers and income, and where to let go. 🌿

“
We are inviting
you to help!

We are inviting selfless service—for a short term or a lifetime. Come work, collaborate, think, learn and plan. Together our enthusiasm, commitment and care will keep the Light shining into the future.

”



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