

Brahma Kumaris Florida Service News-Feb. 2015

News from the Florida BK Meditation Centers.

Ocala:

1. February 7th: 8th Annual Tri-County Veterans Health Fair- over 1000 people from the community attended the fair

Guest speaker, Donna Edwards (Student of Ocala Center) spoke on "Meditation for Veterans" for 8-10 people

BK Ocala Center had a vendor table with information about classes in Ocala, Gainesville, and The Villages

1. February 12 and 26: BK Meditation classes at Unity Church in The Villages: (classes on 2nd and 4th Thursday monthly)

First class had 13 souls- Started foundation course- very positive feedback

Second class scheduled for Feb 26th

1. Meetings to arrange ongoing classes in The Villages: Sr. Anne met with members of the Villages board in charge of clubs and other villages contacts to discuss possibilities of regular classes in the Villages proper: According to Villages rules, there needs to be a Villages resident as the contact person who would be responsible for the room, etc on the Villages end. They are now discussing who would like to step up and be the contact person for the class



Hollywood

Hollywood Library

Thursday, February 5, Hillcrest Country Club: We experimented with a new program format and the response of the 92 present was

favorable. Guitar music by Ken, a library meditation student for about

5 years, signaled to the guests that this was going to be a special night.... that we have "pulled out all stops." A session of QI GONG with Halima, our in-house QI GONG Master, laid the foundation for 6 yogis to speak short, live commentaries. (Kevin, Ganga, Alek, Ed, Meredith, and Rosa) We had 3 yogis on stage at a time and while the second grouping of 3 came up on stage, Mindy McGee sang "Wind Beneath My Wings." Here is a link to view a 3 min YouTube with many photos to give you the flavor of the evening..."SHARE THE LOVE."



Valentine's Day

Tuesday, February 10, Elahe Mehrel, shared a ray of love and forgiveness with 33 souls at the Hollywood Library meditation. She has been on our calendar around Valentine's Day for many years and we always look forward to her unique, very effective style of communication.

"The Power of Soul Consciousness and Intention,"

Saturday, February 21 at Hollywood Library "The Power of Soul Consciousness and Intention," presented by BKs Ed, Marjorie, and Rosa for 45 souls. Although we have had weekly classes at this library for 8 1/2 years, this was the very first time that we hosted a Saturday program. We found it good to vary times and offerings. We were so pleased with this turnout that we have already booked the room for the "Love & Forgiveness" workshop with Marianne Weiss on March 28



ArtsPark Meditation

Sunday, February 22 ArtsPark meditation with BK Meredith, Alek, Marco, and Br. Kevin. For the first time Loni, one of our 60 + participants at the Hollywood Library, Loni led us in a hatha yoga session. She owns a Yoga/Reiki Center in Downtown Hollywood which is walking distance to the park. As an aside, she told us that

her diverse spiritual path began 8 years ago upon her moving here from South America. She participated in Shiela and Gita's evening meditation at the Hollywood Library--who knew it would wind up like this: full circle!

Meditative Walk

Saturday, February 28, Anne Colb Nature Park: Meditative Walk with Ed.

Special Advertising by ArtsPark

Special Advertising provided by ArtsPark at no cost to us. We are very blessed to be included in the ArtsPark calendar which is distributed thru e-mails as well as in local newspapers and ads which they pay for and sponsor, including the HOLLYWOOD GAZZETTE calendar of events on a monthly basis--free of charge to us. Below is a sample of the calendar notation and a summary of free park events...Notice our event at the bottom right.

Global Meditation For World Peace

Sunday, Feb 22, 5pm-6:30pm

Our outer world is a reflection of what lies within our collective inner worlds. By directing our thoughts in specific, positive ways, we have the potential to guide the world towards becoming a more loving place. 954.962.7447

Meditate @ 8 Phone Meditation Line

On-going--please help us promote throughout the USA and join us, too

(712) 775-7031, Meeting ID: 660 469 256 #

The conference line is free for this short 8pm (New York Time) call; however, it is a long-distance number (these days most people have unlimited long-distance telephone service so it's absolutely free). LINEUP of Meditators Giving Commentary: Sundays will be conducted by various BKs; Mondays by Juanita in OH, Tuesdays by Deborah in N. Florida, Wednesdays by Ed in Miami, and Thursdays by Gregg in TX. Kindly encourage your contacts to come on the line to sample meditation and prepare for a restful night's sleep. It is aimed for beginners as a "sample" but the participation of BKs is most welcome.

Upcoming

Saturday, March 7, 5 or 6pm (TBA): Meditation at Peace Place in Miramar. Special celebration of BK Chan's 85th birthday with meditation, wisdom, and song by BK Matthew. When asked what type of party she would like to have for this special occasion, she replied she wanted a meditation with friends and family. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our Royal and Loyal "QUEEN MOTHER."**

Sun., March 8, 6pm: Meditation at ArtsPark--note the change of time back to 6pm. (we reset the clocks on March 8!) We are blessed to have BK Matthew of Oxford Retreat Center with us.

Sat., March 28, 1 -4 pm: Hollywood Library--"Love and Forgiveness" with BK Marianne. Come and Invite Friends.

Naples

Library Service: In January we started a new meditation group in the library where we have been serving for over 1 year now. The group is growing and this time we had 100 souls attending.

The next new group for March is already filled to the max. Baba's service is taking the rivers to the ocean!

A New York radio /TV station asked us to do an interview with the Author Isabel Merians, spending her winters in Naples. It will be broadcasted world wide via You Tube.

Each Saturday we are offering "Pathways to Higher Consciousness!"

Monday: Meditation class for the Government employees.

Tuesday evening: Meditation for everyone!

Every Wednesday 1 hour silence for world peace

Thursday: We started a new group in February : Being Yourself , Mike George.

Margate

Sister Hansa's shared experiences of her Visit to London

It was truly a wonder to witness how Dadi overpowers and goes beyond the bondages of the body and transforms the atmosphere and everyone around her. I felt a bit ashamed of myself as I saw how a small pain in my heel of my feet was affecting me but here it is, Dadi goes beyond any pain that her body gives her. This is truly amazing to experience in person and cannot be captured 100% on the webcast. You just have to be there live to experience. The magic of Baba's power is being revealed through Dadi for the world to see. The experience in London has its own speciality.

Raksha Bandhan celebrations

This year's Raksha Bandhan celebrations was special. A special program was held on Valentine's day. This program captured both the rejuvenation and power of Raksha Bandhan as well as to spread the power of love and unity of Valentine day to the entire world. Baba's flag was hoisted outside of the center facing the busy Atlantic Boulevard so that those travelling in their cars could see. Baba's flag should be hoisted everywhere without fear. The celebration was filled with happiness and dancing on this auspicious birthday of our Supreme Father, Shiv Baba. On the actual day of shiv Ratri, Amritvela, Bhog offering and class were held the Center.



First Hindi speaking class

The first class for Introductory course in Raja Yoga started at the center this month. Brother Bhanu conducted the first session in Hindi to an all Hindi speaking group of students. Sister Shubangi also sat in to the course as a trainer in preparation for giving the course in the near future.

Bhatti at student's home

In an effort to serve friends and family members at student's residence, there will be a series of outreach meditations at various venues during the year. The first such program was held at Sister Shubangi's new residence in Coconut Creek. It was a very powerful gathering and all who enjoyed the pure love and simple of the gathering.

Prison service

In the month of March we expect to start some service at the prisons.

Orlando

We did several programs in Orlando. Every Thursday 5,12,19,26 th of February

1.DETOX THE MIND.

2.IPIP x 3 sessions

There was good response and it was well received.

3. Shivratri program at Gainesville for Indian community.

North Port

Sister Leonor warmly welcomed us to her house for four nights of meditation and sharing. It was facilitated by BK Rosa from Miami, who used to live there.

Tampa

In God's Heart - Seeing With Love

Public Shivratri Program

The Tampa Center held a combination Shivratri and Valentines Day program in which participants were invited to experience pure silence between themselves and God and to listen to the soft, sweet whisper of true love. In this very special space, souls were able to experience creative



expressions of eternal and immortal love through reflective silence, and a lecture on the true meaning of Shivratri.



BK Shivratri Program

The Tampa family came together to celebrate Shivratri with flag hoisting and cake cutting ceremonies. Shiv Baba's flags were waved with much zeal and enthusiasm as music and a delicious breakfast completed this joyous event.



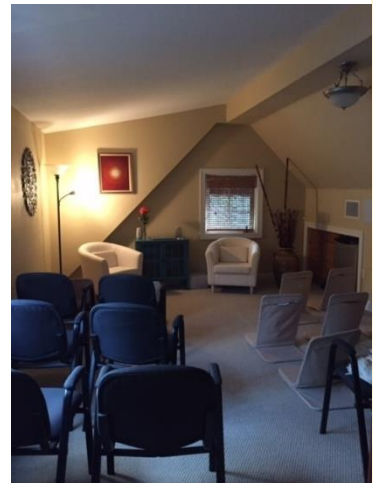
Seeing with Spiritual Vision

February 19th Spanish Program

In this cozy and intimate Spanish program, jewels of Raja Yoga foundations were shared and discussed. The participants felt very comfortable in sharing their thoughts, ideas, and personal stories as they learned how to bring more spirituality into their daily lives.

New Service in St. Petersburg

Baba has inspired us to do more outreach and take a step of courage. In an effort to find libraries in the St. Petersburg area where we could provide workshops, lectures and classes, we received a list of locations to consider. As drama has it, our dear Bob Towler, who has been connected with us in Tampa for 3 years, was asked where he thought the best location would be. His response "my place". Bob has wanted to have us in St. Pete for some time to serve the community and he was inspired to use the available space next to his home for something that brings benefit to others. An empty room above the garage, inclusive of bathroom and shower has now been equipped with chairs, floor chairs, lighting and Baba's picture. We have begun a weekly public program at this location which we have affectionately called "the Peace Spot"





Library Service

Not only in St. Pete, but on the Tampa side, in Hillsborough County, enthusiasm has been flourishing within the Tampa family, to reach out into the community. We picked a library in the New Tampa area where several of Baba's children live to see if programs and classes could be arranged there. Through several communications, we met the director of programs for Hillsborough County. She asked "do you only want to do programs at one library?" As if the drama was again asking us "that's it?" She encouraged us to work with her and be set up in the library database after an application and interview process. In this way, once approved, we can be contacted or request programs at any library within the county. Prepared with an A+ reference letter by Roz from the Hollywood Center and a similar reference letter by the University of Tampa in hand, we attended the interview. We are delighted to announce that we have been approved and are waiting to hear back from the various libraries to set up programming. Wah Baba Wah!

Miami

To and From the Land of Honey

Br. Elon is back.

Sisters Meredith, Luz Marina and Rosa and Br. Dev will be on their way.

WaddyBhen has already arrived for Dadi's celebration in Madhuban.

Where's Waddy been?

Before leaving for Madhuban she visited Mohini Bhen before her surgery.

Sister Shireen's Service in Miami

Over 60 people in Miami enjoyed getting to spend a 1/2 day retreat with Sister Shireen on Saturday, February 7. The theme of the workshop which took place at Jade Ocean Condominium was Be Your Own Hero. Throughout this experiential workshop, Shireen gave insight and practical guidance into how we can take become spiritual heroes, taking the journey out of the ordinary and into the extraordinary. The participants included people who work at Perry Ellis, Royal Caribbean and other companies who are coming to the regular meditation classes being offered at these businesses.



Sister Shireen also shared with the Miami BK's a summary of her workshop on her book on Sunday after breakfast. We all enjoyed her visit to Miami very much.

Upcoming

Mathew from GRC arrives on March 3 and will be in Miami until March 23. Contact Miami center for scheduled programs.