

Foundation Focus

The newsletter of the Krishnamurti Foundation of America and Oak Grove School

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September 2005

BRINGING UP CHILDREN: A DIALOGUE WITH KRISHNAMURTI

He was a young man with two children and he wanted to talk about bringing them up. "I am utterly dissatisfied," he said, "with the present system of education, but I can't afford to send my children to a good modern school, if there is one. My wife, too, wants to bring them up rightly."

When whole masses of children are educated together, the level of education cannot be high.

It must inevitably tend to standardize thought, opinion, and action, which is what the more powerful states demand. The citizen then becomes a cog in the machinery of the state, with all its appalling consequences. When the state and organized religion go hand in hand, the parents become a more important factor in the education of their children, but they are not prepared to take on this responsibility. Some might but they have to contend not only with public opinion, the radio, the newspaper, the cinema, etc., but also with their own relations. So, the children have very little chance unless the parents are extremely aware and capable.

The problem is not how to bring up the children, but how to reeducate the parents. They must voluntarily become aware of their relationship to the world, and of their private thoughts and actions: how, by their thoughts and actions, they create a world of strife, confusion, and antagonism; how, by their lust, ill will, and ignorance, they bring about vast misery and suffering.

"I'm willing," he explained, "and even trying to break through the barriers of everyday existence, away from the stupidities of life, but my responsibilities prevent me from taking the long journey. The fact is, it's extremely difficult to break through the clutches of the world, for I too want some of the things of the world. What's more, my wife isn't very helpful—not that I'm complaining—she might say the same of me."

We are on a long journey, and we undertake responsibilities. One might walk far ahead of the other. To whom are you responsible—the one who's behind you or that towards which you are journeying? If you are truly responsible to that which is eternal, then in that search, on that journey, the separative division of the 'me' and the 'mine' begins to be broken down, and there is greater love and understanding, deeper gentleness and forgiveness. Existence is strife and pain until the end of the journey, but there's an ecstasy, a freedom from desire, as one "approaches" the end, the infinite.

"But, what am I to do in the meantime?" he asked.

There is no "meantime." Your wife, your means of livelihood, the education of your children—all these constitute the burden of your journey. You cannot put them off, any more than you can put off your private thoughts-feelings. You must understand them, for they are part of yourself and, in understanding yourself, you will understand them. To educate another, you must reeducate yourself, a strenuous task. But, without self-knowledge, there is no understanding. Through self-awareness the infinite is discovered—in everything else there is confusion and strife. One must seek the permanent, the timeless, in the impermanent, in time.

"I came here to find out how to educate my children, he said, "and you have given me a far greater problem."

In understanding the greater, the lesser ceases.

— "Ending the Past," from unpublished material in the Archives
by J. Krishnamurti

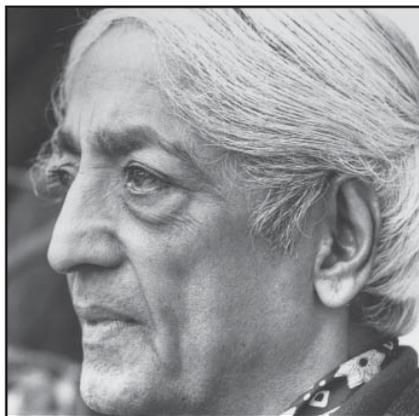


Photo: Mark Edwards



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FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

How Do The Teachings Impact You?

We are often asked that question by people who call in, write, e-mail, or visit Ojai who either have just discovered the teachings or have been grappling with them for decades and are confused by many questions.

So often the new reader of a Krishnamurti book says in effect they have some understanding of the teachings because they had been looking for a long time and at last have found a serious voice they could comprehend. Or, someone will say that the teachings are too intellectual, too complicated, or that they get confused by Krishnamurti's language.

These are real questions: how do the teachings impact us and how do I understand what Krishnamurti is saying? What I have discovered for myself is that understanding Krishnamurti requires some work, some study. That work is the observation of what he said or wrote as I see it in my life. The impact is simply of becoming aware of what was previously unseen, unknown, or ignored. That, for me, is a tremendous waking up.

“Initially we can have some intellectual understanding of the teachings, but the point comes when the default to the intellect drops away.”

Seventy five years ago a friend wrote to Krishnamurti saying, “You seem surprised that people do not understand you but I should be far more surprised if they did! After all, you are upsetting everything in which they have ever believed—knocking out their foundations and putting in its place a nebulous abstraction. You speak of what you yourself say is indescribable—and not to be understood till discovered for oneself. . . You are advocating a

complete destruction of the ego in order to achieve something about which you can know nothing until you achieve it!” This is the paradox of the teachings: They are incomprehensible until lived or seen for oneself and yet they have to be understood to be lived.

Krishnamurti himself gives the clue to jumping out of the paradox with, “If the motive is to follow the teachings of K. then you are totally taking the wrong direction. But if you come here with a motive to understand and talk over together to solve the problems not according to me, but observing yourself totally, then that motive will disappear and you will understand yourself.”

Initially we can have some intellectual understanding of the teachings but the point comes when the default to the intellect drops away, when that understanding or insight affects us deeply,

and we are on our own without recourse to the words and constructs that are the teachings. That to which the teachings point becomes our own life and we live out what was being pointed at.

But the question remains of how do we access the teachings? Reading a book or listening or watching a tape gives the first exposure. As we discover, repeated reading or viewing or listening not only deepens the familiarity but it increases the complexity as we see the interrelatedness of seemingly disparate aspects of life (i.e.: death is related to time, is related to fear, is related to the ego). The understanding comes in the observation of ourselves as well as in the logic of the teachings.



Another questioner asked Krishnamurti, “After having listened eagerly to you for so many years, we find ourselves exactly where we were. Is this all we can expect?” To this Krishnamurti said, “The difficulty in this problem is that we want a result to convince ourselves that we have progressed, that we have been transformed. We want to know that we have arrived. . . But as I have said before, there is no arriving, there is only the movement of learning—and that is the beauty of life. . . There is no place at which to arrive: there is just this movement of learning which becomes painful only when there is accumulation. A mind that listens with complete attention will never look for a result, because it is constantly unfolding; like a river, it is always in movement. Such a mind is totally unconscious of its own activity, in the sense that there is no perpetuation of a self, of a ‘me’ that is seeking to achieve an end.”

We approach the teachings by considering them a mirror of life; and looking into that mirror requires simple looking at whatever it reflects, looking into that constantly unfolding movement. You don't ask the mirror to be different, or to do anything other than reflect. Similarly Krishnamurti said, “. . . The teachings are not the Truth, but they contain the Truth.” “I am not asking you to follow my teachings, for if you desire to understand truth you cannot follow anyone; if you desire to understand truth you must stand entirely alone.”

Perhaps another question is, “How does the discovery of the truth about yourself impact you?”

— R.E. Mark Lee, Executive Director

Footnotes:

¹ Lutyens, Mary Krishnamurti: His Life and Death. A letter dated September, 1932 from Lady Emily Lutyens to J. Krishnamurti.

² Krishnamurti, J. July 28, 1977, 2nd Public Dialogue Saanen, Switzerland

³ Krishnamurti, J. Can Humanity Change? Pp 167-168. Shambhala Publications

⁴ Krishnamurti, J. December 29, 1933, 1st Public Talk Adyar, India

TWO-DAY GATHERING SET FOR APRIL 29 & 30, 2006

For 2006, the Annual Gathering will be a two-day program over the weekend of April 29 and 30. The KFA will only be making a modest charge for optional meals. The rest of the program is free.

In addition to the traditional dialogue groups, screenings and video/audio replays, there will be special events and special guests. Each year, the Krishnamurti foundations in England, India and Spain conduct an international trustees meeting to review the major commitments of the foundations. They will discuss how to expand the momentum for global dissemination, which has been increasing during the past few years. It's Ojai's turn to host this meeting, and we are pleased that many of our visiting trustees will be

staying on to meet with our friends and supporters at the Gathering.

Program elements for the two-day Gathering are still being developed, but will include a brand-new Archive Exhibit. Visitors will be able to view a collection of Krishnamurti photos, texts, and other items that are part of the KFA's collection. The exhibit includes multi-media, digital presentations and demonstrations of our increasing ability to use the internet to share Krishnamurti's work.

We hope you will take this opportunity to visit with us, talk to our trustees, and see for yourselves how and what we are doing here in Ojai.

You can see a calendar of KFA and Oak Grove events on page 7.

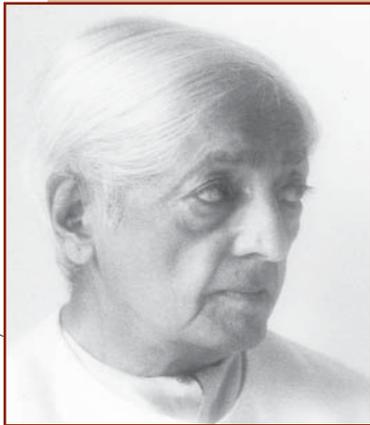


Photo: Mary Zimbalist

REACHING FURTHER THROUGH PUBLICATIONS AND THE INTERNET

Thanks to donor support, the past year has enabled a noticeable surge in the KFA's ability to reach a global audience for Krishnamurti's work. Here are just a few of the new developments:

Going Global: Foreign Rights

There is renewed interest in Krishnamurti's work around the world. Recent and pending contracts in foreign languages include Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Spanish and Thai — a total of 20 books in all.

KPA's Distribution Hits All Time High

Biblio is the company that handles distribution for KPA (Krishnamurti Publications of America). Their year-end report for 2004 shows a 50% increase over 2003, and 2005 promises to be our best ever. To take a look at the catalog of books, CDs, DVDs, video and audio tapes, go to www.kfa.org and click on "bookstore."

International Teachings Website Makes Krishnamurti's Teachings Free and Downloadable

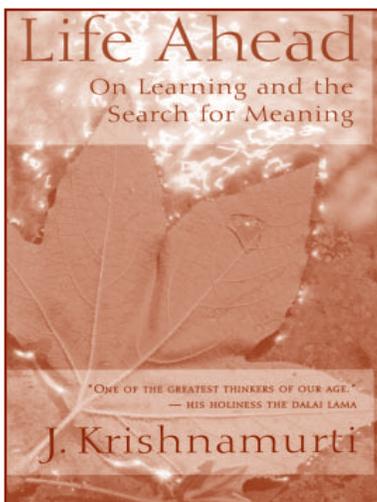
Krishnamurti's work is now just a click away for everyone who uses the internet. Web users can access the site for a **Daily K Quote**, watch, listen and read a **specific talk**, or **download a monthly book chapter**. Video clips are extracts only, but will soon be full-length. To use the site, go to www.jkrishnamurti.org.

The website was designed in collaboration with the foundations in England and India, with the express purpose of giving the public access to video and audio streaming, plus text of Krishnamurti's talks. Audio and video is prepared from sources in the Krishnamurti Foundation archives. The preparation of streaming content will be greatly facilitated by the **new Global Digital Archive of Krishnamurti's work**—an estimated 100 terabyte digital repository of audio, video, images and text for which the KFA is currently trying to raise funds.

For donors who are attracted by the International Teachings project, KFA needs an additional \$10,000 to complete the equipment upgrades needed to handle increased volume, to provide true full-screen video playback, and to establish mirror websites around the world to make the site truly global. Donations will also help pay for the work of subtitling the videos into foreign languages.

VISIT THE NEW INTERNATIONAL TEACHINGS WEBSITE
AT
WWW.JKRISHNAMURTI.ORG

FROM KRISHNAMURTI PUBLICATIONS OF AMERICA



Life Ahead: On Learning and the Search for Meaning

In this new edition, Krishnamurti uncovers the basic function of education and lays bare for our examination some of our most automatic assumptions of how to work with our children and ourselves. Learning how to think, understanding freedom and discipline, discovering the truth of things — these are just a few of the provocative topics covered in the book.

To order this, or browse more titles, go to www.kfa.org and click on "bookstore" or call 1-866-552-6651

OAK GROVE SCHOOL UNDERTAKES NEW INITIATIVES

The school's administration, faculty and staff have spent the past 18 months digging deeper into what it means to be a "K" school. As he made clear during his lifetime, Krishnamurti did not want to be regarded as an authority on education, but challenged the entire school population to explore together what right education might be.

This year this exploration is leading to some important new initiatives — programs that the school is undertaking or developing to carry forward the depth of its inquiry in such a way that others can participate. Here are some brief descriptions:

ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT: WALKING THE TALK

"FOOTPRINTS" - a new program deepening Oak Grove's commitment to the environment. The Footprints program includes bringing a deeper focus to the science curriculum by incorporating an environmental science component. Students from 4th to 12th grade will study the local watershed and its eco-system, using streams, rivers and lakes as their outdoor laboratory. New faculty member and environmental consultant Sara Benjamin will be facilitating the course. Sara brings a Masters in Marine Geology to the job. She says, "My goal is to get the students out into the field literally. We all live in a watershed, whoever we are. By studying the environment hands-on and learning how we use and abuse it, Oak Grove students will be equipped to live in and contribute to a deeply challenged world when they graduate in a few years time." High school students will participate in "Stream Team," a volunteer program which monitors local waterways for nitrates and other contaminants, measures waterflow, and catalogues invasive flora and fauna.

EDUCATING TEACHERS

Oak Grove's commitment to relationship as the active environment for learning extends to teachers as well as students, and also to parents. As one parent put it: "(Because of Oak Grove) we know how to have a dialogue and look beneath the surface when something arises. It's changed us as a family. Not only are our children receiving a solid foundation in an exploratory approach to learning and relationships, but we've received that too. We've learned that along with them. It's been a remarkable thing for our family."

Oak Grove is in the planning stages of creating a **Teacher's Summer Workshop**. This will be a three-week summer residential program for new or existing teachers who wish to learn more about Oak Grove's approach to education. The Workshop is planned to launch in the summer of 2006, funding permitting. Long range plans include a summer conference for educators on a regional or national basis, in which Oak Grove can facilitate a broad forum of exploration and discussion of emerging teaching and learning issues that transcend the traditional educational framework. Krishnamurti's works on education will form the basis for inquiry.



Ojai Valley photo: Friedrich Grohe

GREENING THE CAMPUS

With its natural wood buildings amidst meadows and trees, Oak Grove was constructed from the start to blend with its surroundings. Environmental consultant Sara Benjamin will be developing a series of recommendations for how Oak Grove can continue to enhance its eco-friendly campus. The school recently installed its own well, drawing water from an underground aquifer to water the playing fields and gardens. The grass stays green, and the excess water drains back down into the water table to loop back around again, a use of natural resources that is in keeping with Oak Grove’s wish to move towards sustainability and renewable energy.

Other works planned for this year include a demonstration garden of native plants, located outside the High School facility, which will include benches, pools, local flora, walkways and solar lighting. Taking advantage of southern California’s climate, the garden will function as an indoor-outdoor classroom for much of the year, or just a quiet place for busy teenagers. Rain catchment barrels are already in place, the organic vegetable garden supplies produce for the hot vegetarian lunch program, and the fallen oak trees from last winter’s storms have been crafted into play structures for the lower school. We look forward to sharing a detailed development plan for Sustainable Oak Grove later this year.

THE MIRROR OF RELATIONSHIP: FIRST GLIMPSES

Oak Grove’s Early Childhood Learning program is expanding to include a new program called **Where Relationship Begins**. Structured for parents and newborns, the course will give parents the opportunity to check in with other families and participate in group discussions. The facilitators are child development specialist Marsha McKeon and Oak Grove’s Adrienne Hoskins, the coordinator of the Early Childhood Learning program. Dr. McKeon will also lead a discussion group for Oak Grove faculty who will be observers in the program. Teachers will have an opportunity to inquire into such issues as love, trust, and communication. Krishnamurti’s extensive teachings on observation, inquiry and learning are a resource for this and all of Oak Grove’s programs.

NEW AND OLD ALUMNI

June 2005 on the campus of Oak Grove School saw the graduation of 14 accomplished, articulate and amazing individuals from the High School. These young people have big plans for their immediate futures – some will travel, some will stay around the southern California area and begin careers, and others will move on to higher educational opportunities. If they attend colleges or universities, they will be studying and learning at such excellent institutions as Sarah Lawrence, Loyola, the California Institute of the Arts, Baylor University, Wellesley, California State University and other state universities in Colorado, Oregon, and New York. We wish them all manner of good things as they journey onward!

The alumni from previous years also gathered for a reunion celebrating Oak Grove’s 30th year. They had time to catch up with each other, play music together, reconnect with Oak Grove’s special ambience, and welcome their newest members.



DISSEMINATING KRISHNAMURTI'S TEACHINGS

Last fiscal year, we asked for help with specific projects; and we got a wonderful response, especially to our Spring Challenge Appeal. We send our **thanks to all the donors** who contributed last fiscal year. They were able to designate their gifts to whichever part of the KFA's operations was meaningful to them, and to see it matched by the Challenge Grant. **Between March and the end of our fiscal year on June 30th, donors contributed more than \$100,000, qualifying for the match of an equal amount.**

Finding the balance between programs and spending

This is the quintessential dilemma for non-profits – to find the right balance between funding and programs. The KFA still has a way to go before it can breathe easy. The past few years have seen a concerted effort to cut expenses in order to cope with an accumulated operating deficit. This has meant some difficult decisions, postponing projects with great potential to bring K's teachings to a greater audience, and painful cutbacks in staffing.

OUR PLANS FOR 2005-2006

We are now at the point where costs are beginning to be contained even as we find new and less expensive ways to grow. Should you choose to renew your donation this year, here's a quick look at some of the programs your gifts will support:



International Teachings website provides free access

The increased use of the internet is providing a tremendous surge in the number of people who can access the teachings. To take a look at our latest innovation, go to www.jkrishnamurti.org. More than 1,500 people a day click into Krishnamurti via the website. The project needs \$10,000 to purchase equipment that will enhance video and audio streaming, and allow the Foundations to establish "mirror" websites around the world to bounce our capacity to disseminate Krishnamurti even further.

Global Digital Archive will be a conduit for unpublished teachings

Did you know that less than half of Krishnamurti's body of work has been published in book form? Digitization will preserve the content of precious video and audio recordings that are in danger of deterioration, and will also include all of Krishnamurti's handwritten notes, photographs, stenographer notes of early talks, and more. We're very pleased to report that we have received an in-kind donation of most of the equipment needed to establish the digital archive, which will be a collaboration between all the Foundations and physically located in Ojai. The KFA hopes to raise \$100,000 this first year for the necessary labor to begin the transfer of all video and photographic material, and to catalog the collection properly in a searchable and professional archive database.

Complete Teachings Project will be a gift around the world

A digital archive is the first step in sharing a virtual treasury of teachings. Once digitized, untranscribed video and audio recordings can be represented as text, finding their way eventually to the Complete Teachings Project. The collection will be donated at no charge to libraries, museum, public archives and universities around the world. This year, \$50,000 is needed to pay for the work of transcription verification, light editing, and the first volumes slated for production.

University Student Summer Program set to expand

After a great start this past summer with just six students, the summer study program hopes to expand to 12 participants next summer.

The program is structured to offer students a 50% scholarship, so donors play a vital part in helping the program succeed. Students live together in Oak Grove's dormitory, view a Krishnamurti video and hold group dialogues in the mornings on campus, and spend time at the KFA Library and Archives building, researching the teachings. The course is carefully structured to meet the criteria for college credit, applicable at the discretion of department faculty. By working directly with college professors who recommend participants, and by staying in relationship with the program's alumni, the KFA will ensure that Krishnamurti's works will have an increasing presence in the academic community.

Oak Grove School Teacher's Workshop to launch in 2006

Education was vitally important to Krishnamurti (see our newsletter book selection, *Life Ahead: On Learning and the Search for Meaning*, p. 3). Oak Grove teachers face the daily challenge of inquiring into their own process and meeting the needs of their students in a way that reflects the intention of the founder. Plans are being developed to share this process with other interested teachers. A residential summer workshop will be structured for discussion, exploration of the teachings, and a look at what works and what doesn't when teachers let go of the conventional props for getting through the day in the classroom. Funding of \$25,000 will help this new program launch, which will also be structured for accreditation.

EXPANDING OUR REACH AND SERVICES

Donations are a vital part of program strength. Donors receive a selection from Krishnamurti Publications of America as a way of expressing our thanks for donor support; and as a way of sharing the incredible variety of the teachings. Look for our annual appeal, arriving in mailboxes in October.

If you wish to make a designated gift to any of the programs mentioned above, or if you have questions, please contact Development Director Jackie Saunders at 805-646-2726, X. 16, or email her at giving@kfa.org.

Calendar of Events

KFA Introductory Presentations

**Bay Area: Sunday, November 6th at 2:30 p.m.
The Firehouse in Fort Mason Center**

AND

**Los Angeles Area: Sunday, November 13th
at 2:30 p.m., Western Justice Center in Pasadena**

Refreshments, a short film, and remarks by Mark Lee, Executive Director of the KFA. These presentations are part of an ongoing series presenting video recordings of Krishnamurti and information about the activities of the Foundation. Suitable for first time or returning guests. Space is limited. Register on line at www.kfa.org "introductory programs", or call 805-646-2726, Ext. 10.

Oak Grove Special Friends Day

Wednesday, November 23rd at 10:00 a.m.

All friends, family, grandparents and supporters of Oak Grove are warmly invited to join us for a day of celebration on campus. Lunch, campus show-and-tell, photos and more.

To join us, send an email to: robingodfrey@oakgroveschool.com

Weekly Dialogues at the Krishnamurti Library

Dialogues: Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

All dialogues take place at the Krishnamurti Library, 1070 McAndrew Road in Ojai, California.

Self-study books and videos are available for use while at the Krishnamurti Library, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday.

SAVE THE DATE: KFA Spring Gathering

Saturday and Sunday, April 29th & 30th, 2006

A free event for the public. For more details, see page 3.

Krishnamurti Online

FREE
DOWNLOADABLE
SEARCHABLE
DAILY QUOTES
CHAPTERS OF THE MONTH
VIDEO STREAMING
MP3s

At www.jkrishnamurti.org

The new **International Teachings website** is already attracting interest (up to 1,500 visitors a day). Administered by the KFA, the website is a collaborative project of the KFA, the Krishnamurti Foundation Trust in England, and the Krishnamurti Foundation India. The mandate is to use the power of the internet to disseminate Krishnamurti's teachings to more and more people. Content is FREE and available in various formats. Funds are urgently needed to expand the project by creating "mirror" websites that will reach to the far corners of the globe. If you can help, contact giving@kfa.org.

"We have built a society which is violent and we, as human beings, are violent; the environment, the culture in which we live, is the product of our endeavour, of our struggle, of our pain, of our appalling brutalities. So the most important questions is: Is it possible to end this tremendous violence in oneself?"

"We are violent. Throughout existence, human beings have been violent and are violent. I want to find out, as a human being, how to transcend this violence, how to go beyond it. What am I to do? I see what violence has done in the world, how it has destroyed every form of relationship, how it has brought deep agony in oneself, misery – I see all that. And I say to myself, I want to live a really peaceful life in which there is a deep abundance of love – all the violence must go. Now what have I to do?"

— J. Krishnamurti

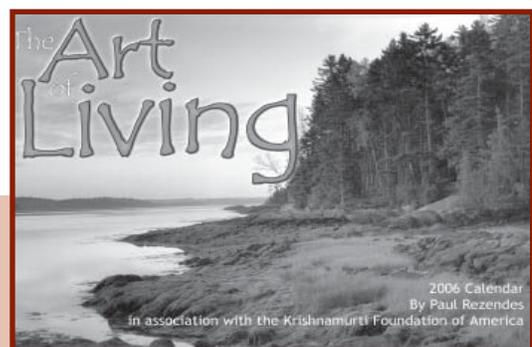
Excerpts from **Beyond Violence**, talks and discussions from the 1970s in Santa Monica, San Diego, London, Brockwood Park, Rome



Order Now

The Art of Living Calendar for 2006

This inspiring **full-color** calendar explores the philosophies of J. Krishnamurti through his writing and through photographs of the natural world by Paul Rezendes. Purchase for \$12.95 U.S. through the Krishnamurti Bookstore at www.kfa.org, or call toll free at 1-866-552-6651.



KFA

Krishnamurti Foundation of America



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www.kfa.org



OAK GROVE SCHOOL

is accredited by the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

For information on admissions,
contact Joy Maguire at:

220 W. Lomita Avenue, Ojai, CA 93023

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Retreat

The Krishnamurti Retreat is for people who would like to spend some quiet time to study Krishnamurti's teachings. Located just an hour and a half from Los Angeles, in the seclusion of Arya Vihara (meaning Noble Abode in Sanskrit) you can slow down and rest, or enjoy the many views and hiking trails of the Ojai Valley. The house was the dwelling of Krishnamurti at one time, and has now been remodeled with single and double rooms with private bathrooms. The modern Library & Archives building is just a two minute walk through the gardens and orchards. There you can browse the collection of Krishnamurti books, watch a video or DVD, or listen to an audio tape. The Retreat has a two-day minimum and a three-week maximum stay, and the cost per night, including a self-service breakfast, is \$55 for single and \$85 for double occupancy. Discounts are available for seniors and students.

For more information or for reservations, call 805-646-4773, email retreat@kfa.org, or go to the website at www.kfa.org and click on "retreat."

