



Self-Realization Fellowship

Voluntary League Appeal

FALL 2019

Dear Friend,

Your support of Self-Realization Fellowship helps make possible an inspiring array of activities that serve Paramahansa Yogananda's worldwide spiritual family. In this letter, we share some notable upcoming and ongoing projects.

SRF Celebrates 100 Years



In 2020, Self-Realization Fellowship will celebrate its 100th anniversary. It was in September 1920 that the unknown Swami Yogananda first set foot in the United States, having left his native India to begin his mission of disseminating Kriya Yoga. One hundred years later, the organization Paramahansa Yogananda founded to accomplish this task has members in more than 190 countries, while he is hailed as the father of Yoga in the West—truly an epic journey!

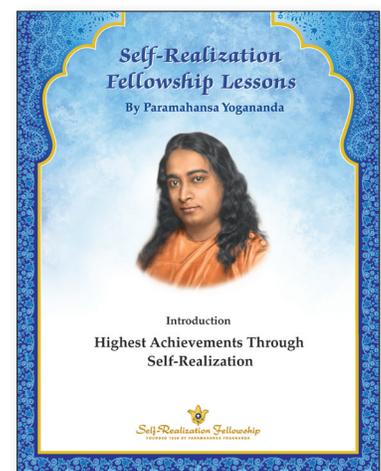
As our president, Brother Chidananda, announced during his livestreamed talk at this year's World Convocation, SRF will be celebrating its centennial in 2020 with many special activities. Highlights of the year will include a livestreamed event at the Mother Center on January 5th (Paramahansa Yogananda's birthday) to inaugurate the Centennial year; a Centennial-themed Convocation, July 26–August 1; and a weekend celebration in Boston, September 18–20, to commemorate the arrival of Paramahansa Yogananda in America. More details about these and other activities will be shared well in advance of their celebrations.

Your support of the Fall 2019 Voluntary League Appeal will help us cover expenses such as rentals of venues for special events, travel expenses, publicity, and the many other costs associated with honoring this truly momentous landmark—Yogananda bringing Kriya Yoga to the West, and from there to the whole world.

Translating the New Edition of the Self-Realization Fellowship Lessons

Because Paramahansa Yogananda's spiritual family is a global one, providing translations of his teachings is essential. This is especially true for the definitive version of the *SRF Lessons* (released earlier this year in English)—the vehicle our Guru envisioned for sharing the scientific techniques and deepest aspects of yoga on the widest possible scale.

The new edition of the *Lessons* represents the largest translation project SRF has ever undertaken. About 75 people are currently working on translating the *Lessons* into 11 languages, including French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish. Translations into additional languages will be started as soon as resources allow. Most translators are volunteers—SRF members who are joyously dedicating their free time to help make Paramahansaji's teachings available to fellow speakers of their mother tongues—and some are paid professionals who provide essential expertise.



In keeping with the all-embracing love of this world spiritual teacher, your generosity will allow us to spread our Guru's teachings in all lands.

Lake Shrine Shore Stabilization



Progress on the stabilization of the lakeshore at the SRF Lake Shrine continues apace. We first requested your help with this important project in the summer of 2018, when we informed you that shore erosion had severely undermined the walking path that rings the lake. Since then, much of the quarter mile of shoreline that is at risk has been reinforced and will be erosion-proof for many decades. (See photo showing one steep section below a walkway that was shored up by using terraces.)

In addition to finishing the repairs of the banks, we would like to replace a deteriorating wood deck at the water's edge with a more durable one made of stone and concrete and

accented with wrought iron railings. This will be an aesthetically pleasing solution that harmonizes with the beautiful natural setting. The cost of the next phase is estimated at \$175,000. With your help, we can ensure that many thousands of visitors each year can continue to experience the divine serenity and natural beauty of this spiritual oasis.

Other Ways Your Gift Will Help

Your support of the Voluntary League Appeal will also help SRF meet the manifold daily expenses of our Guru's international spiritual society—the maintenance of the shrines where he lived and communed with God, telecommunications costs, property and liability insurance, to name a few.

One pressing need is to replace over 300 outdated computers used by SRF monastics and the many dedicated employees and volunteers who serve alongside them. These computers are obsolete and will not support vital software that ensures the security of our network. Replacing these computers will cost more than \$300,000.

Your assistance will ensure that we can efficiently provide the numerous services offered to followers of this blessed path.

God Bless You for Giving

At our recent Convocation, Brother Chidananda reminded SRF devotees worldwide of the majestic promise given by Mahavatar Babaji when blessing Paramahansa Yogananda just prior to his historic journey to America 100 years ago: “Kriya Yoga, the scientific technique of God-realization, will ultimately spread in all lands, and aid in harmonizing the nations through man's personal, transcendental perception of the Infinite Father.” All of us at Paramahansaji's ashrams are profoundly touched by the spirit of *guru seva* (service to the Guru) that motivates you to help fulfill that divine mission through the organization our Guru founded at Babaji's behest. And at this time we ask for your continued support of Self-Realization Fellowship through a contribution to this Voluntary League Appeal. May your generosity and your prayers and goodwill toward this work return to you as an ever-deepening connection with the Divine and with the ever-living Gurus whose blessings and love are the heart of this worldwide spiritual family.

In divine friendship,

SELF-REALIZATION FELLOWSHIP
Mother Center

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Contributions in response to Self-Realization Fellowship's Fall 2019 Voluntary League Appeal are for the general support of SRF, which includes the purposes stated in this letter. As such, gifts shall be designated, and remain, unrestricted and can be utilized for purposes SRF determines. Donations received later than approximately twelve months after the mailing date will be credited to the most recent Voluntary League Appeal.

Self-Realization Fellowship is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service and the State of California as a tax-exempt organization. Accordingly, donations are tax deductible as permitted by law.