



Ananda Sacramento



Season's Greetings

To you and your loved ones from Ananda Sangha Sacramento

Dear Ananda Sangha Family,

This Christmas your Sacramento Mandir Staff collectively decided to send out a Christmas Email Card. It seemed a timely idea as there is so much we wanted to share, celebrate and be grateful for in this Holy Season. It inspired us all to reflect upon the beautiful family of souls who make up Ananda Sacramento and we hope that you get a taste of this same Divine Inspiration.

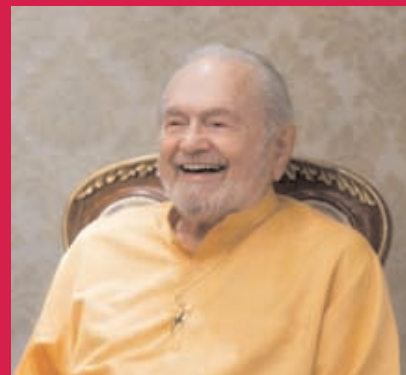
May the Christ Light make clear your path to realization and inner freedom and awaken within you new hope, new effort, expanded love, and the resounding desire for God Alone.

In Divine Friendship, Ananta and Maria



We're 10 years older than we thought!

We had considered our beginnings to be 1978 with the establishment of our first ashram on Boone Lane. However, recently Swami Kriyananda said to us that the year 1968 was



our true beginning as it was that year that he began regularly teaching classes in Sacramento and Rancho Cordova to earn money to support Ananda's beginnings at the meditation retreat.

Success

Thanks to the crystal clear atunement of the entire congregation with our goal of raising \$100,000 in 18 months, we actually surpassed our goal and raised \$117,800 to put toward the mortgage of our Mandir.



As Instruments of Master's Light
We Embrace Prosperity for the Infinite Source
To Fund His great work

Skylights!



Because of your amazing generosity during the Instruments of Master's Light Campaign we went ahead with the long awaited skylights! Beautiful natural light now fills our mandir.

These high-tech lights open to improve air flow during the warm summer months as well as have shades to block the hot summer sun - all at the touch of a remote.

Changes on Ananda Lane

As part of an overall upgrade to Coloma Road, Ananda Community received a much needed sidewalk in front of the community and a smoother entry into the driveway.



The Babaji Garden, too received a facelift with the installation of smaller ponds with happier fountains.



Sunday Services Online



Did you ever feel that you wanted to hear that talk again? Or couldn't make it on Sunday but find yourself missing the inspiration? This year we have made the audio portion of Sunday Services available online. Sunday Services Online



Fun Raiser Auction

Our first ever Fun-Raiser Auction was a huge success. More than 180 goods and services were donated. The bidding was spirited and generous with more than \$15,000 ultimately raised for the Instruments of Master's Light Campaign.



Joyathon



Once again our annual Joyathon/Fun Day was wildly successful raising more than \$11,000 for the Instruments of Master's Light Campaign. There was lots of activity with people walking, running, bike riding...children racing up and down the lane on bikes, trikes, scooters and feet...craft projects for both children and adults. And during the entire event, the joyous music of Swami Kriyananda filled the air.

Lotus Cafe Meals



Lotus Cafe continues to be a place where gurubhais gather together to share meals and satsang. Residents and their guests have the opportunity to meet at least 3 times a week and frequently more often to prepare and eat delicious vegetarian meals. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Paramhansa

Yogananda's rules of health through vegetarian meals as well as to serve the greater community.

Seva Corp

Seva Saturday is held in the community on the second Saturday of each month, from 9 am to noon. It continues to be a great opportunity to practice selfless, cooperative qualities in a real way. Each Seva Saturday we have accomplished one or more different projects, such as removing the ivy on the pool fence so that the grapes can grow, weeding at the mandir and community, removing blackberry brambles from Dakshina, planting flowers, raking leaves, etc. There is great joy in serving with friends and gurubhais in the service of Yogananda's work. And, of course, the community is made ever more beautiful.



Saint Francis Concert



Tuning into the life and spirit of St. Francis through story and music is such a joy that we've done it 4 years running. His divine joy, despite circumstance, hardship and poverty, continue to inspire and comfort our hearts with devotion, humility, sweetness and love for God. Our dear friends, Bhagavati & Ramesha lift our choir to their highest potential making this a joyfulling inspiring evening year after year.

Christmas Sunday Service

For the past few years we have held our Christmas Pagaent on the Sunday before Christmas during Sunday Service. This has been a delightful addition to the holiday festivities with so many people joining together to honor the Christ child.

Please join us on December 21 at 10 am as we welcome the Christ Child.



Truly, There is no Place Like Ananda



Two groups of Ananda pilgrims visited this year, one from India which included pilgrims from all over India and one from Europe which included pilgrims from Germany, Croatia, Spain, Portugal, Britain, and Italy.

No words can describe the scope and breath of Master's work in America through Ananda and when they see and experience it for the first time they are wonder struck and deeply inspired. Imagine it! Here they are in a foreign country feeling totally at home and feeling that this is the opportunity of a lifetime! Others feel "charged" to take this ideal and recreate it in their homeland. For the first time they are seeing what is really possible. One visitor who was actually part of Ananda's beginnings in Sacramento was simply amazed when he visited the Mandir. He exclaimed, "this is what we talked about, this is exactly what we'd always wanted and Master has given us this!" Truly, there is nothing like Ananda.

These are just a few of the wonderful ways that Master is working through all of us to bring us closer to spirit and joy in this life. We wish you all the joys of the holiday season and pray that Christ Consciousness be born in each of your hearts this Christmas.

In Divine Friendship
Ananta, Maria, Matt, Sue, Alice & Priyadarshini