“Relationship is the mirror in which we see ourselves as we are. All life is a movement in relationship. There is no living thing on earth that is not related to something or other. Even the hermit that abandons the world and goes into some lonely spot is related to the past, is related to those who are around him. There is no escape from relationship. And in that relationship, which is the mirror in which we can see ourselves, in that relationship we can discover what we are: our reactions, our prejudices, our fears, depressions, anxieties, loneliness, sorrow, pain, grief. And we can also discover whether we love, or there is no such thing as love. So we are together, if you will, if you are serious enough to examine this question of relationship, because that is the basis of life. That is the only thing we have with each other. And if we cannot find the right relationship, if we live our own particular narrow life apart from my wife, husband, and so on, that isolated existence brings about its own destruction. So relationship is the most extraordinarily important thing in life. If we do not understand that relationship, we cannot possibly create a new society.”

Krishnamurti – 2nd Public Talk in Madras, 1982

Photo courtesy M.A. Hamid
A key aspect of the Krishnamurti Foundation’s mission is to continue posing questions regarding the root cause(s) of the human condition such as sorrow and conflict into individual and societal deliberation. In the urgency to try to solve the various immediate “crises of the day” at a global or personal level, we might risk overlooking the endeavor to probe into the more fundamental, underlying reason(s) that give rise to these various crises.

Krishnamurti suggested that the root cause might reside in the very structure of our individual consciousness itself; the movement to seek security in a group identity, the urge to follow ideals, the desire for psychological progress, the attachment to the sense of being a separate self, etc. What will it take to redirect the focus from seeking immediate solutions to looming crises, to enquiring into and examining the underlying configuration from where these crises originate and impact the human condition?

Over the last few years the KFA has focused on educational activities by producing and promoting publications for formal education (schools and universities) and creating informal educational opportunities at our Center in Ojai, such as our residential student program for college-age individuals and various other activities. We specifically reach out to administrators, teachers and students at educational institutions in an effort to promote the relevance of creating and fostering an environment of questioning and probing into questions such as “who or what am I” and exploring the underlying structure of our human condition. We seek to emphasize the importance of such exploration in an authentic and living way that circumvents the trap of intellectualism.

Over the first weekend in May of this year (May 4-6) we will again host our annual Explorations Conference. This year’s program, titled “The Mirror of Relationship,” will seek to examine carefully, enquire deeply, and understand fully the various facets and dimensions of relationship at the individual and societal level. Over the following weekend (May 12-13) we will host our Annual May Gathering. This year’s gathering, titled “Insights Into Education,” will feature several educators from the various Krishnamurti Schools across the world and other speakers.

Jaap Sluijter
Executive Director

Jodi Grass
Head of School

Have you spent time at Oak Grove School? Have you walked in the Lost Meadow, sat quietly in the Oak Grove, or taken a stroll over the saddle? Our students and teachers do regularly. In many ways the expansiveness of our campus mirrors the openness and discovery reflected in the school’s emphasis on inquiry. There is nearly one acre per student. Even with the campus full of teachers, students, and staff, one can hear the wind through the trees, the chirping of birds, and the soft echo of children laughing.

How can one accurately capture the enormity of life happening all at once on the campus? A glimpse: students explore the technique of dot and pull while sculpting clay without cookie cutters or models. A class sits quietly giving their full attention to observing a tree. There is a pre-calculus lesson, where the teacher proclaims, “What is my mistake?” Her students excitedly decipher the error in the formula she has written on the whiteboard. A group of 5th graders “paint a picture with words” as they describe sceneries, being careful not to repeat words, while using correct spelling. During a Newton’s Second Law F=Ma physics lab, the teacher exclaims, “Test it yourself! Don’t trust anyone else’s conclusion!” On the playground two kindergarteners argue about the problems versus the virtues of playing “winning and losing games.” The teacher gives space for each child to articulate his/her point of view without shaming or agreeing with either “side” of the dispute.

Throughout these observations, one recognizes a consistent lightheartedness between teachers and students; a rigorous level of academic engagement with integrated differentiation; the use of reflective language; teachers asking students to take a stretch break or to take deep breaths (square breaths, yoga breaths, belly breaths...); to take turns speaking; and to listen with their whole bodies. These teachers are highly skilled educators, able to engage students around functional knowledge while also allowing for a deeper exploration into truth, self, and the unknown.

With gratitude for your support of this revolutionary place,

Jodi Grass
Head of School

Jaap Sluijter
Executive Director
Michael Krohnen, Krishnamurti’s former chef, didn’t evacuate and stayed at the Krishnamurti Center while the Thomas Fire was burning very close to the campus. This is his eye-witness account:

The fire started near Santa Paula, about 8 miles east from where we are located, shortly after sunset. It rapidly expanded, both eastward toward Santa Paula and Ventura, and along the upper Ojai Valley.

The ferocity and speed of the winds were phenomenal - 60 or more miles an hour. It didn’t take long to see that this was a major crisis situation, and so residents were advised to evacuate. There were only a few guests and some staff and helpers on the property, and all of them decided to evacuate. I remained on location, in order to monitor the situation, but had packed the car with necessities, ready to leave if it became too dangerous.

Behind the recently constructed ‘Events Pavilion’ there is a spot that affords a good perspective toward the east and south. I went to that location every few hours to check on the progress of the fire. During the first few hours there were huge and dense smoke clouds advancing in our direction; flames were less visible. But what was frightening and shocking was the ferocity and speed of the wind. I had never experienced winds of that strength; and they persisted all through the night and most of the following day.

One fortunate circumstance was that the forecast of continued hurricane-strength winds for Tuesday evening did not materialize. Even so, by Wednesday the fire had come dangerously close to the KEC property: half a mile away it had burned part of a hillside, but the house on it, part of Thacher School, was miraculously saved by fire-fighters. I could watch the whole event.

So far, none of our structures had been damaged; nor was the Oak Grove School campus affected. But reports of the fire destroying hundreds of structures in Ventura and other locations were truly frightening. Heavy smoke and ashes filled the air, but toward evening the winds seemed calm. In a situation like this, one was reminded of Krishnamurti’s suggestion to treat fear like a precious jewel. Keep observing carefully and don’t react. So I stayed mostly indoors, checking on the current situation every so often. When I went out on McAndrew Road around 9 p.m. and walked toward Thacher School to the north, I was horrified to discover that the whole northern sky was red. All of the Los Padres National Forest mountain range was aflame: from the western reaches of Nordhoff Range, to Chief Peak, Twin Peaks and Horn Canyon - it was one line of flames dancing into the sky.

I was watching this, standing on the barranca overpass. It was a most amazing spectacle, the enormous force of nature displaying itself. I was reminded of what Krishnamurti had said about watching quietly; about action occurring at a time of crisis:

“\textit{The house is on fire, the world is on fire, burning, destroying itself, and there must be action. And that action does not depend on your ideas about the fire, on the size of the bucket, or what you will do. You act to put out that fire.}”

The firemen were very successful in protecting the buildings of the Thacher School, and thus we also were quite safe. In fact, most of the Ojai Valley remained unharmed.

The fire, named “Thomas Fire”, continued to spread for the next days and weeks: to Carpinteria, to Montecito and Santa Barbara, and into the Rose Valley back-country. It has now become the largest-ever wildfire in California’s history.
The Need for Dialogue

Javier Gomez Rodriguez | Zeenat Patel

The Study Center in Ojai is a center for dialogue. Krishnamurti’s vision was to have places around the world with an atmosphere of reflection and inquiry into the Teachings. The heart of the center is located in Pine Cottage, the house where Krishnamurti lived for most of his life and where he passed away in 1986. One of the main activities at the Center is dialogue, something of vital importance for the future health of our culture and the very survival of humanity.

This is an excerpt by Javier Gomez Rodriguez, former Brockwood Park School student and staff member, on the importance of dialogue:

Dialogue functions as a microcosm of the larger culture, of the relationship of individual and society. There is no specific goal or direction, no imposed consensus or attempt to avoid conflict. As people participate in the creation of a common pool of meaning, a shared content of consciousness emerges which allows for a high level of creativity and insight. This brings about a sense of ‘koinonia,’ ‘communion’ or impersonal fellowship.

Dialogue is a conversation between equals. Any controlling authority will tend to hinder the free play of thought and the sharing of delicate feelings. Hierarchy and manipulation have no place in dialogue, and neither have conviction and persuasion, though some facilitation may be necessary. Dialogue is not a panacea. Not everyone will find it useful nor will it be useful in all contexts. The spirit of dialogue is one of free play, a collective dance of the mind that becomes a continuing adventure opening the way to significant and creative change.

…

Dr. Zeenat Patel will facilitate a weeklong program of dialogue and exploration together with Satish Telegar, PhD, at the Krishnamurti Center in Ojai. This is her view on dialogue:

What dialogue is not is a space for debate or presenting a particular point of view. To position oneself for debate, or to hold a specific point of view, is to create conflict. Instead, dialogue creates space. In dialogue, everything is subject to further examination without any authority. Dialogue brings about an insight into the nature of the thought process itself. We become aware of our own conditioning, cultivated by our individual backgrounds.

Central to dialogue is listening. In listening there is no resistance; there is no separation. Thus, listening lays the groundwork for a new relationship to others.

One of the central assumptions we tend to operate under is that we each have an individual consciousness. Krishnamurti has suggested that there is no such thing as individual consciousness, but rather that all consciousness is collective. This is a core insight that can emerge in dialogue, with revolutionary implications for our lives. This crucial insight, which sees the separate individual as false, also gives a clear perception into the predominance of thought in our lives.

The Study Center in Ojai
Is a Center for Dialogue

A keen awareness of the limitations of thought aids the awakening of intelligence. When we realize that the concept of the individual is fallacious, we begin to see the limitations of the known. It is the openness to the unknown that allows a person to explore deeper into the process of living and to better observe, listen, and live life with affection and love.

Visit kfa.org/chaos-consciousness-order

“There is, I think, a great deal of difference between communication and communion. In communication there is a sharing of ideas through words, pleasant or unpleasant, through symbols, through gestures; and ideas can be translated ideologically, or interpreted according to one’s own peculiarities, idiosyncrasies and background.

But in communion I think there is something quite different taking place. In communion there is no sharing or interpretation of ideas. You may or may not be communicating through words, but you are directly in relationship with that which you are observing; and you are communing with your own mind, with your own heart.”

Krishnamurti – 3rd Public Talk in Saanen, 1964
The Mirror of Relationship

Explorations Conference 2018

We are pleased to announce that this year’s Explorations Conference will be held from Friday, May 4, through Sunday, May 6, 2018, at the Krishnamurti Center in Ojai, California.

The conference will address the theme of “relationship” and “the mirror of relationship,” with a focus on the problem of conflict in human relationship. Various dimensions of this theme will be examined from a range of perspectives that span not only Krishnamurti’s body of work, but also those from contemporary evolutionary and developmental neuroscience, psychology, sociology, anthropology and philosophy. The intent of featuring these different and often divergent perspectives is to sharpen our understanding of the content and principles guiding these viewpoints and their boundary conditions, in order to precipitate unexpected connections as well as the possibility of a more unified and coherent set of insights.

Some key questions that will be explored include the following: What do the terms “relationship” and “mirror of relationship” mean or imply? What is it that motivates our interest in examining the issue of relationship? What, broadly, are the origins, workings and functions of relationship? How might we approach the problem of conflict in relationship at the individual and societal level?

The program will feature formal presentations by four or five speakers from different disciplines, question and answer sessions, and panel discussions. There also will be opportunities for informal conversations and dialogues, but no formal group dialogues.

4-6 May, 2018
Visit kfa.org/conference

Insights Into Education

May Gathering 2018

We invite you to our Annual Gathering, May 12 and 13, 2018, taking place at the Krishnamurti Center in Ojai. Friends both local and from around the world come to listen to speakers, participate in discussions and dialogues, attend workshops, and spend time with friends old and new. This event is free of charge.

We have chosen an educational theme this year, Insights Into Education, the same as the title of the recently published book by Stephen Smith. The focus of this Gathering is to have speakers and dialogues aiming at exploring education in a wide context.

What Krishnamurti proposes is a different approach to learning altogether, one that distinguishes itself radically from what we normally understand by that term: the accumulation of knowledge, with its application and testing. For, by thus narrowing down our understanding to the pragmatic and the measurable, we forfeit the opportunity to probe deeply and to awaken intelligence in our students and ourselves.

What is meant by intelligence in this context is not the capacity to memorize and measure, but that subtler ability to see the whole which comes alive in a human being when he/she sees the limits of the measurable. To awaken this intelligence is the goal of education.

May 12-13, 2018
Visit kfa.org/gathering
## February / March / April

**Yoga + Inquiry Retreat w/ Francesca Michelle Gold**  
*Listening to the Unknown: Embodied Self-Knowledge*  
Friday March 2 - Sunday March 4

**India Night at Oak Grove School**  
Friday March 2, 7:00 - 9:00 pm  
Free Event

**Exploration into Insight**  
*Weeklong Dialogue Program for Chinese Speakers*  
Friday March 17 - Friday March 23

**Evening Talk w/Ravi Ravindra**  
*Knowing and Unknowing*  
Saturday March 24, 7:30 - 9:00 pm

**Study Intensive w/ Zeenat Patel & Satish Telegar**  
*The Chaos of Consciousness and the Creation of Order*  
Sunday April 8 - Sunday April 15

## May / June / July

**Explorations Conference**  
*Mirror of Relationship*  
Friday May 4 - Sunday May 6

**Oak Grove High School Showcase**  
Friday May 11, 7:00 - 9:00 pm  
Free Event

**Annual May Gathering**  
*Insights into Education*  
Saturday May 12 - Sunday May 13

**Oak Grove High School Graduation**  
Wednesday June 6, 6:30 pm  
Free Event

**Oak Grove School Alumni Gathering**  
Saturday June 9, 12 - 2:00 pm  
Free Event, at Azu Restaurant in Ojai

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Free Event, at Azu Restaurant in Ojai
values of teaching and learning, we re-envision school, classroom and other learning environments. In re-orienting the act of teaching to one of learning, we awaken the craft of teaching.

India Night
For the past 31 years, Oak Grove seniors have spent the end of December and the majority of January visiting sister schools in India as well as traveling to cities and rural communities. Students present their experience during this evening of community and inspiration.

High School Showcase
The event features music performances by Oak Grove’s high school, as well as the student paintings, photographs, installations, videos, and ceramics. Be a part of this celebration!

High School Graduation
What are the benefits of a Krishnamurti education? Hear directly from the graduating Oak Grove seniors at this annual celebration.

Alumni Gathering
Reconnect with Oak Grove friends and family for this summer kick-off event. Current and former students, families, and staff are invited.

Open House and All-School Showcase
Tour our expansive campus, explore the classrooms, talk with the teachers, and enjoy a complementary locally-sourced, gourmet vegetarian lunch. Learn more about our play-based preschool, relationship-focused elementary, experiential junior high, and progressive college-preparatory high school programs.

August / September / October

Yoga + Inquiry w/ Rowan Lommel
Friday August 10 - Sunday August 12

In-Depth Study Intensive w/ Dan Kilpatrick
Can Science Capture Aliveness?
Monday September 10 - Friday September 14

Explorations into Freedom w/ Richard Waxberg & Deborah Kerner
Death and Birth Beyond Time
Sunday October 14 - Saturday October 20

November / December

Oak Grove School Open House and All-School Showcase
Saturday November 3, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Free Event

Weekend Retreat w/ Eric Hassett
Beyond the You and the Me: An Open Ended Inquiry into Relationship
Friday November 16 - Sunday November 18

Weekend Retreat w/ Jackie McInley
Testing Out the Teachings
Friday December 7 - Sunday December 9

Oak Grove High School Showcase
Friday December 7, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Free Event

Explorations into Freedom Intensives
This 7-day intensive program, offered twice each year, is a new approach to working with Krishnamurti’s teaching that emphasizes the transformational potential of direct seeing and listening. Through shared interactive dialogue, participants are encouraged to go beyond pre-conceived ideas in order to explore the potential of setting into motion dynamic, fresh perceptions, an ‘aliveness’ that can flush out previously unexamined resistances, fears and contradictions. This work will help to realize the possibility of sensing the energy of love that is beyond the conditioned mind.

Yoga and Inquiry Retreats
Participants explore the connection between mind, body and life, through yoga and dialogue. This is an opportunity to examine Krishnamurti’s work through a fresh lens as one engages the body and brings the full self into inquiry.

Chinese Dialogue Program
We’re pleased to, once again, offer a dialogue program in Chinese! We have noticed a quickly growing interest in Krishnamurti’s work in China, and decided to offer this program to create an opportunity for Chinese speakers to come to Ojai and explore together. All discussions and presentations will be held in Chinese, or translated.

Communication Calendar
Monthly Email - news, events, quotes, publications and more.
Visit www.kfa.org/signup to sign up.
Annual Appeal - October 2017
Bulletin - November 2017
Foundation Focus - February 2018
Spring Appeal - March 2018
Oak Grove School

The Arts of Living and Learning expresses several overarching themes reflected in our school’s culture, curriculum, classroom practices, and natural environment. Please enjoy this glimpse of how these arts are woven through the different grade levels.

the art of

Caring & Relationships

self • others • local & global communities
environmental stewardship

Early childhood is a time when intelligence, heart, and a sturdy sense of self are nurtured. The Early Childhood Program approaches children as competent, capable beings, emphasizing social-emotional learning, peaceful conflict resolution skills, and an integrated anti-bias perspective.

Through relationship children are supported in their growing capacity to listen to other points of view and to communicate needs, feelings, and ideas. Children develop tools to resolve conflicts independently and peacefully.

the art of

Engagement

attention • self-direction • self-motivation • self-regulation learning
how one learns • examining one’s own thinking

Oak Grove’s Junior High School honors the delicate yet sometimes challenging transition from childhood to adolescence. The core academic program is balanced with a rich array of extracurricular opportunities— outdoor exploration (forest, water and glacier), vocal and instrumental music, fine and practical arts, performance, horticulture, community service, and physical education.
Driven by their wonder and curiosity, Elementary students are asked to take the time to question deeply. With teacher-as-coach, students learn to research, discern facts from opinions, create presentations, and share their discoveries. Collaborative problem-solving is emphasized each day, across content areas, and students learn to rely on one another to find solutions to complex problems.

The essentials of academic investigation are steeped in collaboration and teamwork, creativity and imagination, critical thinking and problem solving.

Oak Grove’s High School balances a rigorous college-prep program with an understanding of oneself and an emphasis on our shared responsibility to the greater world. The engaging curriculum incorporates functional knowledge with self-reflective disciplines. Project-based learning and small, discussion-based classes provide opportunities to explore topics deeply. At all levels students are encouraged to explore their unique voices, and express themselves creatively.
This annual program is an immersive weeklong retreat, held this year from July 22 to 29 at the Krishnamurti Center. Starting with questions that arise in the context of education and learning, the program builds on insights from participants’ own deep looking and shared inquiry. Demian Carmona, a previous participant and current school and university teacher, shares his reflections:

For eight days, we had the opportunity to explore beyond our personal experience and training, discovering new ways of being teachers or parents. We questioned our ideas of the teacher as an authority figure who has academic knowledge, but little relationship with the child. We saw that our negative judgments of children actually block us from important learning opportunities.

We realized that if we truly observed, we would see that many students are able to survive in the classroom culture by learning to follow the game of the “system”, pleasing their teachers and parents, but feeling empty at the end of the day. We noticed that there is very little real learning. We also explored beyond our assumptions and beliefs, particularly about the goal of education being to train children to find good jobs. What is a good job? Should we have other goals? Why do we compete?

During this program we learned that our emotional reactions while we are teaching affect the learning process. Therefore we must know ourselves as a first step, and be aware of what is happening. Discovering the truth is sometimes uncomfortable because we know that it requires acceptance and probably deep changes.

Visit kfa.org/tep

Our Residential Student Program is a vibrant aspect of the Krishnamurti Educational Center in Ojai. For the past five years, we have welcomed young individuals who have felt called to reflect deeply upon the teachings. Rhett Walker reflects on why he applied to this year’s program:

In reflecting on why I applied for the program, I realize many reasons – the most immediate being that this past summer I moved back to the Ojai Valley after living in Washington, DC for the last nine years.

While in Washington, DC, I was drawn to groups working for social justice and culture change through activism, protesting, and community organizing. I was lucky enough to be in the right place to work with an organization which uses group dialogue with young men as a way to call attention to and understand traditional masculine conditioning. More recently, I took part in community and workplace organizing through a radical labor union.

The more I worked with activist groups, the more clear it became that although I aligned with their missions of creating new ways of living, the focus was almost always on changing others and the outward organization of society. As I began to study the teachings, it became apparent that I, and others involved in these organizations, struggle with the distorted thinking and confusion common to us all. This confusion would often cause contradictory action and conflict inside and outside of these groups, often sabotaging their goals.

The Residential Student program offers a rare opportunity to bring the teachings and self-inquiry into everyday life in an immersive way, while being of service to the KFA. When I came across a facebook post about the program, I felt an urgency to apply. I am very grateful that I will be able to live and work in a very special location with others who are passionate about the teachings and creating new ways of living.

Visit kfa.org/rsp
The Krishnamurti Archive is the repository of original material pertaining to the teachings of Krishnamurti. This includes handwritten manuscripts, letters, photographs, original audio and video recordings and related materials. Its mission is to preserve the teachings of Krishnamurti as they were written and spoken, without distortion or interpretation. The Krishnamurti Archive also exists to give scholars and others doing research access to original documents.

The work of the Archive in Ojai is running steadily, we have a few different digitization projects running concurrently, as well as the regular maintenance of the Archive and the digital Server. Our main digitization project—scanning the stenographers typescripts from the pre-audio talks—is about halfway complete. We are also beginning to work on digitizing the audio from the recordings of the First Generation materials, a series of interviews of those who lived and worked with Krishnamurti during his lifetime.

There’s lots of activity in the Publications department as well. Unconditioning and Education Volume 2 is now available at the KFA bookstore. This is the second and last volume in the series, and contains discussions by Krishnamurti with parents and teachers on the need for a radical approach to schooling and their intention to establish such a school in the Ojai Valley in California. The paperback edition is available now, and an ebook edition will be released soon. The first edition will be re-released early this year as a matching edition.

We are currently reviewing a manuscript for our next release, which will have a more aphoristic style, similar to The Book of Life and Meditations. The manuscript titled Thoughts on Living was once published in part by Penguin India as The Little Book on Living and has since been out of print.

We are also pleased to announce that the book Meditations will be available again this coming April through Shambhala. This classic title, originally published in 1979, is being re-released as a pocket-collector edition. We have been eager to see this title back in circulation as it has been out of print for many years. The book will be widely distributed, and will of course be available from the KFA bookstore.

We had an excellent visit to the Frankfurt book fair this past fall, and met with many of our publishing partners. The value of these annual visits to the book fair(s) cannot be overstated, it gives us an opportunity to gather feedback from our partners in various publishing markets, gauge interest in Krishnamurti, as well as follow trends across various markets.

Publishers around the world are still eager to have Krishnamurti in their catalog, and there is a strong interest to appeal to new audiences. Krishnamurti is a classic author with a steady readership that has accumulated since his days spent travelling and speaking. By developing new designs and market strategies, many publishers hope to highlight the evergreen relevance of Krishnamurti’s work for younger audiences. We are excited to work with publishers to find new ways to appeal to new and existing audiences.

Visit store.kfa.org
Foundation Focus

The Krishnamurti Foundation of America
including Oak Grove School and the Krishnamurti Educational Center