Foundation Focus

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

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J. Krishnamurti at the Pepper Tree Retreat, formerly known as Arya Vihara

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Communication technology continues to morph into an extension of our lives in visible and imperceptible ways. Modern technology allows immediate, often impulsive, personal expression that can have unexpected and imperceivable consequences. Cameras are omnipresent; they track our movements; they are in our hands to instantly publish our minute-to-minute autobiographies. Our devices allow us to transport distant professional contacts, friends, and family into our immediate personal space. The technological world is literally at our fingertips. Technology can bring us together in profound and important ways, but equally important to consider is its ability to separate or to distract us.

How does the world of technology connect to the “real world” we are living in, in the here and now? How does technology impact the individual’s psychological and physical health? What place does technology have in a Krishnamurti school? Having someone look down at or talk on their phone while in a physically close social situation can be awkward and isolating. What are we missing when we scroll through our social media rather than noticing and engaging with the humans around us or observing the life happening just outside the window?

At Oak Grove, we ask parents to be aware of the potential consequences of exposing young children to media. We request that parents practice restraint when using technology in front of children and while they are on or around our campus. We ask our older students to put their phones away and turn them off during school hours, to reserve computers and personal handheld devices as a tool for learning. We ask our staff to practice awareness around the use of cellphones while walking through campus and to resist bringing computers and personal handheld devices to meetings when it is not necessary.

As the world of technology continues to rapidly evolve, we must continue to explore its impact on our living world. This past year, we engaged in dialogues, deep inquiry, brought in expert guest speakers and formed a committee of parents, students and staff to continue this exploration around technology as it relates to human ecology.

Jaap Sluijter
Executive Director

Jodi Grass
Head of School
This is an excerpt from a conversation between Krishnamurti and the foundation’s trustees in Ojai, 1977. This conversation is part of a book titled **The Perfume of the Teachings**. The Man from Seattle is an example of somebody who would come to visit the center. Krishnamurti used this example to explore the function and intention of the centers after his death.

Krishnamurti: What will you do with the center if K is not here any more? We have agreed, all of us, that there must be a place for discussion, a place to meet, a place where people can come, be quiet, discuss, rest, not be involved in all the noise of the world. Will you provide all that? In India, Brockwood, here and Canada. You are responsible for this. You have undertaken it; you are all responsible.

Questioner: What happens after us?

K: You have to find young people. It is important to have young people in the Foundations. Keep the ball rolling, otherwise it dies. So, can you provide this thing?

I come from Seattle. There you are, a group of you at the centre. I am fairly intelligent; don’t treat me like an immature businessman or an immature traveller, seeking and shopping. I have come; I want you to discuss with me. I want to go into a dialogue deeply about fear. Not therapeutically—I want to end fear. I see the importance of that. By coming here, by talking with you, I hope to end it. And also at the same time I want to have a place where I can rest, be quiet. Out of that quietness something may happen to me, being there, discussing, and in the quiet room by myself, suddenly I may have an insight into the whole thing.

Please, what will you do?

...  

K: Krishnamurti is not there. You are responsible. You are responsible to help me end fear. I come very determined. I am very ardent, businesslike about it. I do not want to play around. I have been to several other cranky places and they play with me. I do not want to play with it any more. I have come here with a very deep intention of ending my fear, ending fear in myself. And when I come, first I want quiet. I want to feel that around me everything is quiet, people are not quarrelling amongst themselves, being jealous, and so on. I want that. I want a place where I can go out into the garden, sit quietly under a tree. But when I meet you all at the centre, I want tension created so that you drive me to understand it. You drive me, help me, put me in a corner, bring about a crisis in my life.

My intention is to be free of fear. How will you deal with it? Will you say, ‘Sorry, I can’t help you to end fear, but we can have a dialogue about it. I have not ended my fear; therefore let’s go into it, both of us, feel the urgency of ending fear, so we will help each other to end fear’? Would you say that? So there is no authority. I have not ended my fear; you have not ended my fear. By coming together, sitting quietly, discussing, having a dialogue very, very deeply every day or every other day, we may help each other to dissolve it. If you did that, I would come.

Then you have something. Then I know I am dealing with honest people, not a phoney crowd. And I come here. At the end of three weeks I must be out of it. So my urgency will make you urgent also. It will create an urgency in you.
Our New Bookstore

We recently revised our online store and we would like to invite you to have a look.

Did you know that there are over 80 titles of Krishnamurti books published? There is a great diversity in this collection. Several are edited transcripts of talks he gave at various places around the world and to different groups of people, like *The Collected Works*. Others are from manuscripts of what he wrote, like *Commentaries on Living* and *Krishnamurti’s Notebook*. And some are publications of direct dictaphone recordings, like *Krishnamurti to Himself*.

Purchasing books from our online store is also a great way to support the foundation.

*Visit store.kfa.org*

New International Website

A new version of jkrishnamurti.org was recently released. The revamped website is an exhaustive repository of the teachings in text, audio and video format, including several new informative features and links to worldwide activities.

A joint effort of the international Krishnamurti Foundations, this is a unique initiative to make the teachings of J. Krishnamurti freely available and to guarantee authenticity.

*Visit jkrishnamurti.org*
The garden around Pine Cottage, Krishnaji’s home when he was in California, was a thin strip of landscaping that separated the newly-remodeled house from the surrounding mature orange trees. Krishnaji had planted these orange trees to the west of the house during World War II, when he could not travel and give public talks.

The remodeling of Pine Cottage was completed in 1978, and work began to select and plant the garden area. Krishnaji was very keen on gardening. He participated in trips to the nurseries to pick the plants, and he helped to plant and water them, as his time allowed.

Every time Krishnamurti returned to Ojai from his travels, he made sure to walk around the whole garden as soon as possible, to see how the plants had grown and to offer suggestions.

Roses were his favorite flower, and scented red roses in particular. Two areas were set aside for roses, one at the top of the front walkway, another on the far side of the house. The pairs of tall, thin Italian cypress trees on either side of the driveway as you approach Pine Cottage were Krishnaji’s idea. They were planted to remind him of his stays in Italy, where they are frequently planted in avenues.

Several of the plantings at Pine Cottage were potted specimens from Mary Zimbalist’s home in Malibu, which were brought up to Ojai. These included the camellias planted outside the office on the north side of the house, and the Cape honeysuckle hedge screen to the east. Of course, the most important element of the Pine Cottage garden is the California pepper tree that had been a young tree in 1922 when Krishnaji experienced some sort of spiritual expansion while he was sitting next to it. The pepper tree fell over in a storm in 1998, but its roots sprouted to grow back to the tree size that you see today.

The trustees of the KFA decided earlier this year to designate a specific area around Pine Cottage as Krishnaji’s heritage landscape. The garden there will be kept the same as it was during Krishnaji’s lifetime, as it has been for forty years, so that visitors long into the future will be able to see the plants that he helped to select and plant. When a particular plant dies, it will be replaced by another specimen of the same variety, so that Krishnaji’s horticultural legacy will be preserved. In case of long term drought, some changes may be made to the plantings.

In the last days of his life in February 1986, which were spent at Pine Cottage, Krishnaji was taken down to the peppertree, where he spent some time alone. He also asked the Pine Cottage gardener what the plans were for an open area to the east, demonstrating that his vision for the garden continued into the future.
Recurring Events at KEC

Weekly Dialogue
Every Tuesday, 7:00-8:30 PM
This free weekly dialogue event consists of a brief introductory presentation of Krishnamurti material – text, audio or video – followed by dialogue exploring the questions raised.

Monthly Video / Dialogue:
Looking, Listening, and Shared Inquiry
4th Saturday of every month, 6:00-10:00 PM
This free program starts with a video of Krishnamurti, then seeks to explore the topic of the video via the medium of dialogue.

NEW Saturday Dialogue:
1st, 2nd & 3rd Saturday of every month, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
The intention of these dialogues is to give guests to the KEC, both new and old, one more way to engage with the teachings, perhaps for the first time, in relationship with each other.

Monthly Presentation:
Introduction to J. Krishnamurti’s Work and Life
1st Sunday of every month, 10:30 AM -12:00 PM
Monthly introduction to the life and work of Krishnamurti, with KFA librarian Michael Krohnen. Free event, pre-register at (805) 646-2390.

Weekend Retreats
Weekend Retreats are for people eager to inquire into fundamental questions in an atmosphere of togetherness and openness. These events are suitable for those already acquainted with the teachings as well as those new to them. The events start on Friday evening and end on Sunday afternoon.

Teacher Education Program
Starting with the questions that we grapple with in our daily lives as educators, this 7-day program, offered each July, builds on the insights participants come to from their own

Events Calendar 2018-19
Krishnamurti Educational Center | Oak Grove School

November | December | January

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

Weekend Retreat w/ Michael Mendizza
Fundamental Challenges
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 Winter Showcase
Friday December 7, 7:00 - 9:00PM
Free Event

In-Depth Study Program w/ Jackie McInley
An Exploration of Conflict in Relationship
Monday January 14 - Friday January 18

Weekend Retreat w/ Cory Fisher
Silent Retreat
Friday January 25 - Sunday January 27

February | March | April

Yoga & Inquiry Retreat w/ Francesca Michelle Gold
Whole Body Listening
Friday February 22 - Sunday February 24

India Night at Oak Grove School
Friday March 1, 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Free Event

KEC Events
Program fees include lunch and dinner, room fees include breakfast.
kfa.org | (805) 646-4773

OGS Events
School events take place on Oak Grove campus:
220 W. Lomita Ave., Ojai, CA.
oakgroveschool.org | (805) 646-8236

Annual May Gathering
We invite you to our Annual Gathering at the KEC. Friends both local and from around the world come to listen to speakers, participate in discussions and dialogues, attend workshops, and connect with friends old and new.
Several talks and workshops occur at the same time, offering participants a rich variety of activities from which to choose.
The program takes place on Saturday and Sunday, with lunch available for purchase both days at the KEC campus. No charge to attend, no reservation necessary.

Explorations Conference
This event features a series of formal presentations and discussion sessions, centered around a specific theme with ample opportunities for additional informal exchanges.
The Conference will bring together individuals across various disciplines who share an interest in exploring together.

Study-Intensive Retreats
These unique 7-day programs are designed to provide an opportunity for a deeply immersive study of the life-changing teachings of J. Krishnamurti, within a nurturing atmosphere of encouragement, affection and support. During these programs, participants enter into
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of encouragement, affection and support.
Free Event

Explorations into Insight
Friday March 15 - Friday March 22
Self-inquiry and Self-transformation
A talk by Ravi Ravindra
Saturday March 30, 7:30-9:00

Study Intensive w/ Zeenat Patel
The Chaos of Consciousness and the Creation of Order
Sunday April 7 - Sunday April 14

Explorations Conference
Friday April 26 - Sunday April 28

May | June | July

May Gathering
Saturday May 4 - Sunday May 5
Free Event

Oak Grove High School Spring Showcase
Friday May 17, 7:00PM - 9:00PM
Free Event

Oak Grove High School Graduation
Wednesday June 5
Free Event

Oak Grove Alumni Gathering
Saturday June 8
Free Event

In Depth Study Program w/ Mukesh Gupta
A Journey of Self-Inquiry: Is There a Completely Different Way of Living?
Monday June 10 - Friday June 14

Explorations into Freedom w/ Richard Waxberg & Deborah Kerner
Sunday June 16 - Sunday June 23

Teacher Education Program w/ Gopal Krishnamurti & Sunsong Clark
Sunday July 21 - Sunday July 28

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 have noticed a quickly growing interest in Krishnamurti 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 kfa.org/newsletter-sign-up-form to sign up.
Annual Appeal - October 2018
Bulletin - November 2018
Foundation Focus - February 2019
Spring Appeal - March 2019

Inward looking and shared inquiry during the program. We shift from seeking answers to finding key questions that transform the way we see (and respond to) our educational challenges. By uncovering the underlying 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 32 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.
I have always believed that nothing in nature lives for itself. Rivers don’t drink their own water. Trees don’t eat their own fruit. The sun doesn’t shine for itself. Living for each other is the rule of nature. Same for humans—people may speak a different language, have a different skin color, live a different lifestyle, but we are all a part of nature. We live for our families, for our friends, and for people we meet. We live for one another.”

-Nathan Wu
class of 2018

As the 2017–18 school year came to an end, so did the transition to many things—the completion of a grade, the advancement from one program to the next, the excitement of an Ojai summer and time with friends and family. For our seniors, this transition is particularly poignant as in this culture, completion of high school marks the symbolic end of childhood. Our class of 2018 consisted of ten students. The nine who applied to four-year colleges and universities have collectively been accepted into 37 schools. This is an average of four acceptances per student. This average is not unusual for Oak Grove seniors. The schools include public universities and colleges, independent and public liberal arts colleges, and specialized art schools. While this is impressive, and we joyfully celebrate this accomplishment with our students, it is also important to know that it is not our objective to have all of our graduates go directly from high school to a four-year college.

Some of our students choose to pursue a personal passion directly after Oak Grove. Sophia Grunder (2013) has made her lifelong dream of being an artisan chocolatier a reality. Today, Sophia co-owns and operates the exquisite Ex Voto Chocolates in Ventura. Some Oak Grove graduates choose to defer their college acceptances and take a gap year, like Emilie Del Signore (2017), who has spent this past year traveling through the American Southwest and western Europe. During the summer Emilie will trek across Zavkhan, Mongolia, before beginning her studies at Syracuse University in the fall of 2018. We also have several students who chose to attend one of California’s excellent local community colleges to complete their general education requirements while staying closer to home, saving money, and perhaps pursuing other passions. Dane Wilson (2014) spent several years with the US Sailing Olympic Development Program before heading to San Diego State University.

Oak Grove High School has a challenging college preparatory scope and sequence curriculum not because we think all students should go directly from high school to a four-year university, but because we want every student to have the choice of going directly to a university if that is what is right for them. More importantly, we want our students to be well educated with a solid and well-rounded academic foundation for whatever they choose to do in life.
The following is adapted from a speech given by Laurie Cornell this past February at a school function. The topic was “The Timelessness of Understanding.” Laurie is the incoming Director of the Early Childhood Program. Over the past five years, Laurie has served Oak Grove in the roles of Preschool Teacher, Admissions Associate, High School Volleyball Coach and High School Backpacking Chaperone. Laurie is also parent to Clay (3rd grade) and Miller (6th grade).

What is the timelessness of understanding? I was pretty sure I had little idea when I agreed to give this speech. I read and reread what Krishnamurti had to say about the timelessness of understanding, which made me think about the different hats I wear at Oak Grove, how they allow me the opportunity to be in relationship with children at every level of the school, from our youngest 3-year-olds to our graduating seniors. The more I reflected, the more I began to see how the timelessness of understanding is something simple and really part of everything we do here at Oak Grove.

The timelessness of understanding is the 3-year-old balancing on rocks along the path, weaving in and out of tall grass shoots, tumbling, adjusting and jumping to the next rock. It is the 5-year-old who swings across the monkey bars and climbs to sit on top, perched like a bird, watching friends, calling out, sitting still and quiet. It is the 2nd grader who sees the leaves beneath the oak tree move and crouches low to catch a lizard, noticing the animal’s speed, feeling all ten fingers, being both patient and quick. It is the 5th grader who sits in Council at the end of the school day together with peers, listening, sharing and trusting.

I reflected on these simple moments, how profound such moments can be, how meaningful, how necessary, and how grateful I am to witness them. I thought about my role in these moments, as an educator. How can I stop time? How do I honor the moment, allow what is happening and be mindful not to push students to the “next” thing? It is not always easy to hold the kind of space that values the moment, but as I consider it within the social context of our fast-paced world, the more I see the need for the timelessness of understanding.

Krishnamurti says: “The solution of our difficulties depends not on machines and the inventions of a few great scientists but on how we regard life.” How we regard life? This is essential! Young children seem to have timelessness down pretty well, reminding us that opening a snack container is hard work and tying a shoelace takes time...a lot of time...the kind of time that can be maddening, especially when we are trying to get somewhere else. In a very physical sense, the 10th grade backpacking trip represents this notion, putting one foot in front of the other, mile after mile, often through tears, doubt and perseverance. It is stepping away from technology and the comforts of home to be with yourself in nature, to know and understand yourself in a different way. As I watch my boys grow up in a school that maintains space for a sense of timelessness and a high regard for all of life, I feel a sense of contentment.
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. This is an excerpt of a presentation by James Horvath, a current residential student, reflecting on this year’s program:

Being here has given me the opportunity to learn in relationship with so many wonderful people. To me, relationship is possibly the most difficult thing of all. Since I arrived here, I’ve been looking as much as I can into the real meaning of relationship. This place has given me the time and space to look into my own tendencies which are engulfed in the general human consciousness. How do I react to other people? How do I depend on others? How much do I really understand about another person? Can I really listen to someone without any judgment, without any motive? When I look at another human being, am I seeing myself?

These questions come up when I’m working, when I’m alone, when we’re all sitting around the dinner table at night, and practically anytime throughout the day. As Resident Students, we have the opportunity to explore and learn in relationship through several ‘formal’ dialogues which take place throughout the week. Each dialogue may take on a slightly different topic and format and involve different people, but the basic premise is the same. We sit in a circle with the intention of learning together, thinking together, and examining our personal and collective biases. It requires a great deal of patience, affection, and hesitation. Dialogue can be extremely frustrating at times and incredibly liberating as well. It demands a great deal of perseverance and a willingness to look within oneself.

As a resident here, I’ve been distinctly able to see how the dialogues can hold together and fall apart, and how the topic of dialogue itself, ironically, can become a topic of controversy and personal bias. In the remaining year, I hope that we can look together at how we can create new fertile ground for inquiry and leave behind some of the stagnation which inevitably arises in groups and organizations.

I came here because I saw dialogue as one of the only ways to deal with the world’s biggest problems, practically all of which can be traced back to our fundamental lack of communication and self-awareness. Perhaps I was a little more naive back then and saw it as a magic potion. Now it’s becoming more clear that there is no magic potion. Dialogue itself is not a means to an end. The only thing I can do is continue to learn about the consciousness within me as it relates to the total human consciousness. I’m saying that not out of cynicism, but as a realization that the responsibility to build a better world is the same as the responsibility to understand myself, my own desires, habits, and prejudices.

I feel that one of the greatest and most important challenges I’m looking at is something Krishnamurti has sometimes referred to as ‘negative listening’. I’m not talking about pessimism. I’m talking about listening in which there is no good or bad, rejection or acceptance, condemnation or approval, denial or agreement, no evaluation, no judgment at all. The more I look into it, the more I realize how fundamental these traits are in human thought and how much they interfere with actual fulfillment. Modern education is built on assessment, and in a way so am I. To understand judgment and be free from it, not even judging judgment itself, seems like a huge demand. It is, but letting go brings its own liberation.

Life reveals itself when there is enough space, and I’m really grateful to be here at a place which gives me that space to explore. It’s critical that human beings, especially young people, are able to step outside and see the momentum of competition and acquisition in ourselves.

Visit kfa.org/rsp

James Horvath

Life Reveals Itself When There Is Space

James Horvath | Residential Student
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.

This summer, the Archive has undergone a series of upgrades to its security and climate control systems. Keeping the materials in the archive preserved requires dependable equipment and routine management. Having our systems well maintained is critical to the continued preservation of the teachings.

The Archive continues to work on digitizing and cataloguing materials, as well as welcoming scholars and others interested in research.

In regards to publications, the KFA has been focusing on Education as a primary theme of its book-releases and programs in the past few years. We have released four titles: The Unconditioning and Education Series (Vol.1 & 2), Insights into Education, and the Think on These Things syllabus. Our intention was to release these together as a set, focusing on education and Krishnamurti’s teachings from different angles.

The Unconditioning and Education series is a collection of talks between Krishnamurti, staff and parents held as a part of establishing Oak Grove School in Ojai, California. These books illustrate the discussions that went into building a school and the explorations of the significance of education.

Insights into Education is a collection of excerpts that were compiled as a manual for educators to use to approach fundamental questions of life with students and fellow educators.

The Think on These Things syllabus took this direction even further, and was a comprehensive course-plan built to fit into existing curriculums; to inject time for inquiry into these fundamental questions—a way to approach a more holistic educational endeavor.

The importance and urgency of attending to a new and holistic form of education is nicely summed up by Krishnamurti in his quote from Education and the Significance of Life:

> Education is at present concerned with outward efficiency, and it utterly disregards, or deliberately perverts, the inward nature of man; it develops only one part of him and leaves the rest to drag along as best it can. Our inner confusion, antagonism and fear ever overcome the outer structure of society, however nobly conceived and cunningly built. When there is not the right kind of education we destroy one another, and physical security for every individual is denied. To educate the student rightly is to help him to understand the total process of himself; for it is only when there is integration of the mind and heart in everyday action that there can be intelligence and inward transformation.

While offering information and technical training, education should above all encourage an integrated outlook on life; it should help the student to recognize and break down in himself all social distinctions and prejudices, and discourage the acquisitive pursuit of power and domination. It should encourage the right kind of self-observation and the experiencing of life as a whole, which is not to give significance to the part, to the “me” and the “mine,” but to help the mind to go above and beyond itself to discover the real.

It is the responsibility of all of us to attend to our institutions of education, and not only that, but to our deepest assumptions about one another and our role in the world. Each of us, in our own way, were influenced by our shared ideas about what it means to educate and be educated. The effects of education echo throughout every facet of our society.