Can we together think the absolute need of a good society? The society is what we are, society doesn’t come into being mysteriously, it is not created by god; man has created this society with all the wars and all that is going on. We don’t have to go into all the horrible details of it. And that society is what we are, what each human being is. That is fairly obvious. That is, we create the society with all its divisions, with its conflicts, with its terror, with its inequality, and so on and so on, because in ourselves we are that, which is: in our relationship with each other we are that. We may be fairly tolerant, fairly affectionate in private relationships; even that’s rather doubtful, but with regard to the rest of the human beings we are not. Which is again fairly obvious when you read the newspapers, magazines, and actually see what is going on.

So good society can only come into being, not in the future but now, when we human beings have established right relationship between ourselves. Is that possible? Not at some future date but actually in the present, in our daily life, could we bring about a relationship that is essentially good? Good being without domination, without personal interest, without personal vanity, ambition and so on. So that there is a relationship between each other which is based essentially on – if I may use the word and I hope you won’t mind – love. Is that possible?

– J. Krishnamurti | Talk 1, Brockwood Park, 25 August 1979
Executive Director

One of the challenges that the Foundations face is to present the more radical aspects of Krishnamurti’s work as there is an irresistible pull to reduce the teachings to inspirational quotes and easily digestible slogans. This is almost inevitable since we don’t know what to do with statements such as: *Don’t take time to end sorrow; all inner and outer authority leads to corruption; you are not an individual; society is what you are.* The teachings have integrity in themselves, and it requires some rigor to prevent our minds from cherry picking what we like, and rejecting what we don’t like.

We have embarked on a new project called the K Portal. This online venue will make text, audio and video recordings accessible through themes and quotations, and it will have social media features such as commenting and sharing. We aim to launch this portal in the coming months.

The K Portal will also have a selection of online courses for individuals with varying levels of familiarity with the teachings. These range from scholarly modules to courses for newcomers. Video material is currently being produced for some of these courses. One of these will include interviews of people who worked with Krishnamurti, alternating with edited themes from his teachings.

This November we are concluding the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the KFA with an exhibition of Krishnamurti’s life and work in the local museum here in Ojai. Also, we’ll celebrate Krishnamurti’s 125th birthday in May next year. The four International Krishnamurti Foundations are using the occasion of these anniversaries to plan various activities and draw awareness to Krishnamurti’s teachings and their infinite depth.

Jaap Sluijter
Executive Director

Head of School

Often, people visit Oak Grove School for the first time and share a feeling of peacefulness, of oneness, of familiarity. I have. Some describe this feeling as sacred – immeasurable.

Certainly, this is a place where the human-made buildings look as though they have grown out of the ground, “so as not to be an imposition to the land.” Certainly, this is a place where the children are seen and known, a place where adults and children ask meaningful questions together and individually without the limits of an answer. Certainly, this is a place where functional knowledge is celebrated and delved into deeply, while simultaneously, knowledge of oneself, the knowledge within, is explored. But is this place sacred?

Is it a trick of awareness to see or feel this, or another place, as sacred or not sacred?

On a clear, blue-skied, temperate day, the sound of children laughing, a soaring red-tailed hawk above our heads, surrounded by whole-hearted and devoted adults, the majestic oaks standing competently amongst us, one might feel as if this place is sacred.


Jaap Sluijter
Head of School

Jaap

Jodi Grass
Executive Director

Jodi Grass
Head of School
A yearlong observance, 2019-2020, of the 125th anniversary of his birth in south India on May 12, 1895, will be an opportunity to introduce several new young generations world-wide to the teachings of a spiritual giant devoid of myth, legend, tradition, and controversy, whom *Time* magazine called “One of the five saints of the 20th Century”.

His childhood was unremarkable except for being fatefully discovered on a beach at the Bay of Bengal in 1910 by someone who saw his potential as a great being with no ego. As a young man, 1910-1929, Krishnamurti lived with good friends and patrons in the International Theosophical Society preparing to assume the mantle of a great avatar in the “lineage of compassion” as foretold by seers eons before he was born. With respect and without malice Krishnamurti gave up all that was predicted and prepared for him and in 1929 with a small suitcase and some rupees in his pocket left a world of privilege and promise to fulfill his purpose for living, “to set man absolutely and unconditionally (psychologically) free”.

For the next five decades (1929-1986) Krishnamurti spoke directly to millions of people via public talks, on radio, television, and with interviews, dialogues, discussions; and he reached countless others through books, pamphlets, audio and video recordings. He founded six schools in India, one in England, and one in California, USA.

In the current era where technology has overtaken and flattened culture, and where information has replaced wisdom, Krishnamurti’s teachings stand out as a voice of profound intelligence and compassion. His was a voice to awaken people rather than to lead them or guide them anywhere. His own words written in 1980 capture his uncompromising objective: “The core of Krishnamurti’s teachings is contained in the statement he made in 1929 when he said “Truth is a pathless land.” Man cannot come to it through any organization, through any creed, through any dogma, priest, or ritual, not through any philosophy or psychological technique. He has to find it through the mirror of relationship, through the understanding of the contents of his own mind, through observation, and not through intellectual analysis or introspective dissection…” Human relationships as the ground of care and loving understanding are under threat today as never before and need renewed attention and concern.

History will perhaps label Krishnamurti primarily as a psychologist or as an educator. He claimed that serious change in the human condition is not from the accumulation of information but the awakening of intelligence via the arts of looking, listening, and learning.

It is time we revisit the teachings by reading or listening to a single talk, or by meditating. It is our responsibility as serious people to keep the teachings alive; and it is the work of the Foundations Krishnamurti founded to preserve and protect the teachings as vital and relevant.
To watch the complete presentation visit: theimmeasurable.org/kperspective

Freedom from the Known: The Krishnamurti Perspective

CORY FISHER

We hosted a very interesting Explorations Conference this year at the Krishnamurti Center on the theme of Freedom from the Known. The intent of the conference is to bring together individuals from different disciplines to delve into the questions raised by Krishnamurti, from different angles and in new ways. It features a series of formal presentations and discussion sessions, with ample opportunities for informal exchanges. This is a short excerpt from the presentation given by Cory Fisher who is the Archivist and Publications Director of the KFA:

“It seems that, ultimately, the question of freedom from the known is in a class of questions different than most questions that we ask. It is not a question of who or what we think we should be, but it is a question of the very structure of what we are and how that interacts with the world. In that sense, it is a very different question than it may appear to be initially.

Along with the scientific and philosophical components to this question, hopefully, there is another component that is more intimate to us. There is something about this question—and I think that’s why we’re all here—that is important to us in our daily lives. There is a reality to this question that goes beyond philosophizing about how one should live, but on the ground, in daily life, what is the activity of our lives.”

To watch the complete presentation visit: theimmeasurable.org/kperspective

Residential Student Program

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR JANUARY 2020

The KFA’s Residential Student Program is currently accepting applications for six-month to one-year residential work-study commitments beginning in January of 2020. The program provides a unique opportunity to live on the Foundation’s idyllic and quiet grounds, while working to support the KFA in a variety of ways, including facilities maintenance, providing breakfast for Pepper Tree Retreat guests, and cooking lunch for Foundation staff. Residents also participate in several theme-weekend workshops; in-depth study intensive programs; weekly dialogues with staff and community members; and engage in self-directed study with access to the Pine Cottage Library.

The Foundation has limited resources in terms of staff, so we are looking for candidates comfortable being self-sufficient, self-directed, and proactive in bringing up and working through typical issues that occur when living, working, and deeply inquiring together.

For more information visit kfa.org/rsp
"One wonders if one stripped oneself of the status, the glamour of titles, the furniture, the dead memories, what actually would be left. If one has capacity, that cannot be minimised. However, if such capacity is used to achieve position, power, status, then the mischief begins. The capacity is exploited for money, position, status. If one has no capacity, one may even then have status through money, family, hereditary or social circumstances. All this is vulgarity. We are part of it. What makes us so vulgar, so common and cheap? This ugliness is directly proportionate to the amount of status. Everyone gaping at this endless procession is us. The onlooker who gapes creates the status which he admires, so does the queen in the golden carriage. Both are equally vulgar.

Why are we caught in this stream? Why do we take part in this? The audience is as much responsible for the spectacle as the people strutting on the stage. We are the actors and the audience. When we object to the show of status, it is not that we repudiate status but rather that we attach importance to it; we would like to be there on the stage ourselves—'or at least my son...’ We read all this and perhaps smile ironically or bitterly, reflecting on the vanity of the spectacle, but we watch the procession. Why can't we, when we look at it, really laugh and throw it all aside? To throw it all aside we must throw it all aside within ourselves, not only outside.

That is why one leaves the world and become a monk or sannyasi. But there too there is peculiar status, position and illusion. The society makes the sannyasi and the sannyasi is the reaction to society. There too is the vulgarity and the parade. Would there be a monk if there were no recognition of the monk? Is this accolade of recognition any different from the recognition of the generals? We are all in this game and why are we playing it? Is it the utter inward poverty, the total insufficiency in ourselves, which neither book nor priests nor gods nor any audience can ever fill? Neither your friend nor your wife can fill it. Is it that we are afraid of living with the past, with death?

How we waste our life! In the procession or out of the procession we are always of it, as long as this aching void remains. This is what makes us vulgar, frightened, and so we become attached and depend. And the whole strife of the procession goes on whether you are in it or admiring from the grandstand. To leave it all is to be free of this emptiness. If you try to leave it or determine to leave it you cannot, for it is yourself. You are of it, so you cannot do anything about it. The negation of this vulgarity which is yourself is freedom from this emptiness. This negation is the act of complete inaction with regard to emptiness.”

– J. Krishnamurti

To pre-order the book online visit store.kfa.org/quietmind
Events Calendar 2019/2020
KRISHNAMURTI EDUCATIONAL CENTER | OAK GROVE SCHOOL

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.

Saturday Dialogue:
1st, 2nd, 3rd & 5th 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 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.

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.
More Information Online: kfa.org/recurring

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.

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

August / September / October

Weekend Retreat w/ Karen Hesli
Krishnamurti Education and Poetry
Friday, September 27 - Sunday, September 29

Weekend retreat w/ Amanda Lezra & Liam O’Mara
Opposition–On Freedom and Fixation
Friday, October 4 - Sunday, October 6

Explorations into Freedom Intensive w/ Richard Waxberg & Deborah Kerner
Death and Rebirth Beyond Time
Sunday, October 13 - Sunday, October 20

November / December / January

In-Depth Study Program w/ Jackie McInley
Is There a Radically Different Way of Learning?
Monday, November 11 - Friday, November 15

Oak Grove School Open House and All-School Showcase
Saturday, November 16, 1:00-4:00 pm
Free Event

Oak Grove School Alumni Gathering
Friday, November 29, 4:00-6:00 pm

Weekend Retreat w/ Jackie McInley
Learning about Ourselves in Observation
Friday, December 6 - Sunday, December 8

Oak Grove School High School Showcase
Friday, December 6, 7:00-9:00 pm
Free Event

In-Depth Study Program w/ Jackie McInley
What is Love?
Monday, January 13 - Friday, January 17

Weekend Retreat w/ Cory Fisher
Silent Retreat
Friday, January 24 - Sunday, January 26

KEC Events
KEC Events Program fees, with the exception of In-Depth Program fees, include lunch and dinner. Room fees include breakfast.
kfa.org | (805) 646-4773

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

Annual May Gathering
We invite you to our Annual Gathering held at Oak Grove School. 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 Oak Grove School. 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.

In-Depth Study Programs
These programs offer a unique opportunity for guests to have both unstructured mornings providing time for reflection, spontaneous dialogue and simple enjoyment of the surrounding natural beauty, and afternoon sessions providing a more structured forum for
February / March / April

**In-Depth Study Program w/ Dan Kilpatrick**
Monday, 3 February - Friday, 7 February

**India Night at Oak Grove School**
Friday, February 28, 7:00-9:00 pm
Free Event

**Chinese Dialogue Program w/ Jinglin Yu & Kang Wei**
_Explorations into Insight_
Friday, 20 March - Friday, 27 March 2020

**Evening Talk w/ Ravi Ravindra**
_Being and Doing_
Sunday, March 29, 7:30-9:00 pm

**Yoga & Inquiry w/ Francesca**
_Examining Relationship with the Psychological Self_
Friday, April 3 - Sunday, April 5

**Explorations Conference**
Friday, April 24 - Sunday, April 26

May / June / July

**Annual May Gathering**
Saturday, May 2 - Sunday, May 3

**In-depth Study Program with Mukesh Gupta**
Friday, May 29 - Sunday, May 31

**Oak Grove High School Graduation**
Wednesday June 3, 6:30pm
Free Event

**Yoga & Inquiry Retreat w/ Rowan Lommel**
Friday, June 5 - Sunday, June 7

**Explorations into Freedom Intensive w/ Richard Waxberg & Deborah Kerner**
_A Glimpse Into Total Freedom_
Sunday, June 14 - Sunday, June 21

**Teacher Education Program w/ Gopal Krishnamurthy and Sunsong Clark**
_Re-envisioning Education, and the Craft of Teaching and Learning_
Saturday, July 19 - Sunday, July 26

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 middle school, and progressive college-preparatory high school programs.

Alumni Gathering
Reconnect with Oak Grove friends and family the day after Thanksgiving. Current and former students, families, and staff are invited.

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!

India Night
For the past 33 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 Graduation
What are the benefits of a Krishnamurti education? Hear directly from the graduating Oak Grove seniors at this annual celebration.

Explorations into Freedom Intensive
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 & 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.

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.

Communication Calendar
Monthly Email - news, events, quotes, publications and more.
Visit kfa.org/news to sign up.

Foundation Focus - February 2019
Spring Appeal - March 2019
Annual Appeal - October 2019
Bulletin - November 2019
The spaciousness to ask both practical and perennial questions is an essential part of the Oak Grove educational program. Through academic inquiry (Socratic, scientific, normative, conceptual, etc.), dialogue, Council, as well as reflective practices, students and teachers explore questions about the world outside and within. The student newspaper, *The Oak Grove Times*, is a place students may give form to such inquiry — a public forum. Students choose an area of focus and are supported to develop questions, a clear direction, and to establish a detailed research plan (focus groups, data, etc.). The adults engaged in this process serve as mentors, sounding boards, and advisors. Often the relationship among the subject of an article, the student, and the advisors becomes a transformational opportunity to look at their conditioning, biases, and assumptions.

In the fall of 2017, Sanaya Danhanukar, then a junior at Oak Grove, authored an article titled “Who is God?” In it, she writes:

“What created this galaxy that we exist in? We have all heard about the Big Bang Theory, but what caused the Big Bang? This remains a mystery to us all. What would happen if one fell into a black hole? There are some things that even science cannot give us explanations for, without leaving behind questionable doubt. The argument is that this mystery makes it clear that there is a God who is responsible for the creation of life and our world, as we see it today. In times of difficulty and despair, God has answered prayers. While atheists may argue that there is nothing to prove the existence of God, a counter-argument made by believers is that while there may not be concrete evidence to prove the existence of God, there is also no evidence to prove that God doesn’t exist. These arguments are a valid justification for why these people hold the belief that they do.”
In December of 2018, Cassius Calzini, an Oak Grove student for the past nine years, published a piece about the school’s grounds and questioned the need for recent changes to the campus:

Meditative walks in the oak grove and playing in the lost meadow are experiences that have enhanced my time at Oak Grove School. Now, being a ninth grader, I am looking at my school, and I’m noticing a change: I am feeling a great pressure from society for schools to prepare their students for the outside world in a way that doesn’t allow individuality and personal growth. At Oak Grove School we focus on the individual, not just academically, but as a whole. In return, people graduate from our school as truly amazing human beings, carrying on the impact of what Oak Grove has taught them throughout their lives. I worry that the pressure to conform to society could cause us to lose the unique opportunities provided by our school that allow children to explore themselves, and the freedom to inquire and ask questions.”

In the most recent edition, May 2019, sophomore Nayeli Tirado questioned our biases around immigration, while senior Lewis Lu shared his own cultural conditioning bias as a Chinese citizen against seeing Tibet as a sovereign nation, and student Earl Marvin explored the depths of ethnocentrism with his poem titled “Fascism.”

To delve deeply into a question can confront our beliefs and leave us feeling unsettled under any circumstance, but to then publish that process requires a significant level of vulnerability. This is the power of the published word.

View all of the archived newspapers at oakgroveschool.org/student-newspaper
I was twelve when I was first introduced to Krishnamurti’s work. My mother took me to the Saanen dialogues in Switzerland. For three weeks, I observed circles of adults unpack the meaning of life; they paid extraordinary attention to language. Questions were rephrased; words were interrogated; precision was collectively demanded. The more specific the insight was, the more easily the group grasped it. Conversely, the less specific the insight was, the more likely the group was to enter into disagreement; i.e. conflict.

The very act of defining and pinpointing an experience has the capacity to change the experience itself. Saying that the sky is starry is different than saying that the horizon is embedded with one thousand gleaming jewels. Similarly, specificity in language extends into insight.

One of the most relevant themes Krishnamurti interrogates and explores is precisely the relationship between language and conflict.

In the second series of Commentaries on Living, Krishnamurti paraphrases the following statement from an audience member: “The conflict between thesis and antithesis is inevitable and necessary; it brings about synthesis, from which again there is a thesis with its corresponding antithesis, and so on. There is no end to conflict, and it is only through conflict that there can ever be any growth, any advance.”

Krishnamurti challenges this position:

“Does conflict bring about a comprehension of our problems? Does it lead to growth/advancement? It may bring about secondary improvements, but is not conflict in its very nature a factor of disintegration? Why do you insist that conflict is essential?”

This is the question we intend to explore in depth during our theme weekend during October 4th-6th, titled “Opposition.” We will examine the function and movement of conflict, its relationship to language, as well as the theses—the beliefs, assumptions, memories—that we have created about ourselves (and about others.)

You can’t heal a wound if you don’t know where it is. Therefore, a first step in self-understanding is exposure, located in specificity. Guilt is different than shame; depression isn’t devastation (even though depression can be devastating), and suffering cuts deeper than longing.

Paying attention to verbalization—how thoughts are formed, what the thoughts are, and how the thoughts are phrased—becomes revolutionary, as thinking feeds feeling and feeling fuels action.

Krishnamurti’s astute understanding of the self in relation to the other throughout his work—how the internal unavoidably manifests externally—is precisely what transfixed me in Saanen fourteen years ago. And now, amidst wars, natural disasters, brutal political divisions, and never-ending individual strife, conflict continues to feel essential and inevitable. Perhaps, if we practice the act of naming and exposing the fragments of our consciousness—our shames, our violences, our talents, our visions—we will gain clarity. And perhaps, out of that clarity, synthesis—the merging of opposites—becomes possible.

For more information about the program visit kfa.org/opposition
Over the past 18 months, the collection of Stenographers typescripts have been scanned into our digital collection for the first time (photo above). These typescripts are the only original record of the talks that were given in the early period before audio recording technologies were available.

During each talk, stenographers would record the talk live, which was then checked over for errors. After this was complete, the talk would be released as a verbatim report.

These notes themselves are beautiful objects. Far more nuanced and interesting than typical printed matter that we are used to. The pages and paper size was not regularized, so these notes vary quite a bit in size and feel. They are in good condition. Once the scanning project is complete, the notes will be re-housed in new acid free boxes and stored in the vault for continued preservation.

As another layer of preservational security for these records, we are considering having the complete collection stored on 16mm microfilm which could be accessed with magnification alone—doing away with the need for technological interface to access the information in the future.

Projects like these ensure we maintain the Krishnamurti’s original message for future generations to access.

Krishnamurti Foundation Publications is a global initiative of the Krishnamurti Foundations located in America, England, Spain, and India. The purpose of Krishnamurti Foundation Publications is the dissemination of the works of J. Krishnamurti through collaboration with translators, publishers, and various committees around the world. Krishnamurti has been translated into over 60 languages, with new translations being completed every year.

The Krishnamurti Bookstore now features the Collected Works in Hardcover, Paperback and Ebook editions. This collection contains Krishnamurti’s talks from around the world during the years 1933–1969. There are currently 17 volumes in this collectable series. Still underway is the re-edition of the beautiful full-color photography book One Thousand Suns which features the photos and an essay by Asit Chandmal. Asit passed away earlier this year. The KFA is honored to be releasing this book in his memory.

This August, the new Krishnamurti book titled “Can the Mind be Quiet?” will be released. You will soon be able to obtain this book on our KFA bookstore online, as well as many bookshops around the world. We are looking forward to featuring this title with our publishing partners for translation when we attend the upcoming Frankfurt Book Fair this October.