



Self-Realization Fellowship

Founded in 1920 by Paramahansa Yogananda

VOLUNTARY LEAGUE APPEAL Spring 2011

Dear Friends,

Our guru, Paramahansa Yogananda, once said to the close disciples who served him personally: "When I am no longer in the body, this organization will be my body. As you have helped me, and served this form while I am here, so serve this organization."

Each of us who has been touched by these teachings has the opportunity to help our Guru's "body"—the Self-Realization Fellowship organization that he dedicated his life to build—continue to flourish as the channel of his living spirit and blessings. While the most powerful way is to meditate deeply, love God, and share his love with others, your financial support is also essential.

We would be grateful for your help in meeting the expenses for urgent repairs to two buildings that were blessed by Paramahansaji's presence and that figure importantly in his mission:

- **Windmill Chapel at SRF Lake Shrine:** The roof of the Windmill Chapel recently suffered damage from heavy rains. External woodwork also must be restored or replaced because of exposure to the elements and natural deterioration. We hope to begin work in the next few months, and simultaneously will examine this nearly seventy year-old building to assess what other work is needed for preservation. With your assistance, we can meet the expected cost of \$100,000 for the urgent repairs and for the assessment, while keeping open to the public this landmark of our Guru's life which has been permanently blessed by his experiences of God-communion there.
- **Monks' Postulant Ashram in Encinitas:** During the initial phase of their monastic lives, Self-Realization Fellowship monks reside in a building on the Encinitas Ashram Center grounds that was purchased by SRF at Paramahansaji's request in 1939. The building is now about 100 years old, and, not surprisingly, the original cast-iron plumbing system is failing. Several leaks in recent years have damaged the chapel, library, and other rooms on the first floor. A new plumbing system is needed and is expected to cost at least \$200,000 over the next one to two years. Your help in maintaining this cherished home for the spiritual training of our young monks would be deeply appreciated.

Your contribution to the Voluntary League Appeal also will help us continue to further Paramahansaji's mission in various other ways, including, for example:

- Providing individualized spiritual counsel by letter, by telephone, and in person.
- Guiding and administering SRF temples, centers, and meditation groups around the world. (In 2010, SRF added thirty new meditation groups in cities on four continents, and in the year ahead we are planning to send monastics to visit centers and groups in a dozen countries.)

SRI MRINALINI MATA, PRESIDENT

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: 3880 SAN RAFAEL AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90065-3219

TEL: (323) 225-2471 • FAX: (323) 225-5088 • www.yogananda-srf.org

IN INDIA: YOGODA SATSANGA SOCIETY OF INDIA

- Disseminating our Guru's liberating teachings to the world in numerous languages through books, audio-video recordings, and the SRF website (www.Yogananda-SRF.org).
- Maintaining in perpetuity the beautiful ashrams and shrines where our Guru lived and fostered his Kriya Yoga path. These are revered as sacred places of pilgrimage for the thousands who visit each year.

We are deeply grateful for whatever you are able to contribute—whether financially or through your prayers and positive thoughts.

We also want to take this opportunity to express how deeply we were touched by your tremendous outpouring of love and support since the passing of Sri Daya Mata, our beloved president and *sanghamata* for more than five decades. In response to the wish of many who were not able to attend the public memorial service, we were very happy to be able to share the recorded video footage of this sacred event on a specially created YouTube channel. (See link on the home page of the SRF website, www.Yogananda-SRF.org).

Thousands of people have visited the site to watch the video, which was filmed and produced by SRF monks and employed lay members. Your donations played a vital part in this achievement—helping to fund our audio-video productions as well as the maintenance and continued development of our web activities (the latter costs about \$120,000 annually). These are just two examples of the numerous behind-the-scenes expenses for which we rely on your help to make possible the many services we offer to our SRF world family.

Our new president and *sanghamata*, Sri Mrinalini Mata, once observed, “The growth of Master's work these many years is because of those in his spiritual family—the monastic community as well as the many devoted householder disciples—who have dedicated their lives toward becoming living examples of Guruji's teachings and his spirit.”

To all of you who have embraced this sacred cause as your own, we offer our abiding gratitude for your goodwill, material support, and, above all, your valiant efforts to reflect Guru's teachings and spirit in your lives.

In divine friendship,



SELF-REALIZATION FELLOWSHIP
Mother Center