THE MISSION

The Krishnamurti Foundation of America shall advance public understanding and realization of human potential by means of the study of the teachings of J. Krishnamurti, to be accomplished by:

- Promoting and assisting in the dissemination of said teachings to members of the general public throughout the world.
- Establishing, organizing and holding classes, lectures, courses, schools, seminars and study groups for the exploration of such teachings.
- Publishing and associating in the publication of papers, periodicals, pamphlets, books, tape recordings and recordings of all other kinds promulgating said teachings.
- Providing facilities for the study of said teachings.
- Other charitable, scientific or educational purposes that meet the requirements for exemption provided by Section 214 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

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Dear Friends,

Krishnamurti stated that the root cause of the present social, economic, political and environmental chaos resides within our own psyche or consciousness. He further suggested that this realization can bring about a sense of urgency for fundamental change. However, this sense of urgency and the energy and vitality that accompanies it is dissipated when the concern is with gradual change or self-improvement, which seems counter-intuitive. Krishnamurti went on to suggest that the drive for self-improvement is yet another way of escaping or moving away from the truth or fact of the matter (of the root cause of disorder). Krishnamurti addressed this issue of the urgency of change in a discussion in Malibu, California, which was published in our most recent Bulletin #94.

In March of this year we saw the temporary closing of our Pepper Tree Retreat in Ojai, that has since reopened with a detailed plan and measures in place to mitigate the risk of COVID-19. The retreat continues to serve as a much-needed oasis for those seeking a peaceful and quiet place for reflection and inquiry. Our educational project with residential students continues, with three of them currently living on the property and engaged in a deep study of the teachings.

The pandemic has required us to make many changes in the way we relate. Our on-site, in-person programs have moved online. For years we have been working on developing and offering online courses. We are now in the final stages of creating an online platform which will allow people from all over the world to come together to study and engage with Krishnamurti’s teachings.

This past spring a close friend of the Foundation passed away. It was his wish that his estate and property, together with an endowment, be used to create a new center. The intent of this center, set in a beautiful location in Northern California, is to create a focal point for people to study the teachings, interact, and engage in dialogue.

This has been a year of many changes, some of which have limited the scope of our activities, whereas others have expanded it. On behalf of the trustees and staff of the Foundation I would like to most sincerely thank each and every one of our donors for recognizing and supporting the vital importance of this work for current and future generations.

With my warmest regards,
He considered the time he spent with Krishnamurti and the countless talks he attended to be a turning point in his life. He asked that all he had acquired in his life go to the “greatest good”— and for Jim this “greatest good” was best exemplified by the work and life of Krishnamurti. The Foundation has received the gift of his estate to continue this work and honor his bequest establishing a center in the Bay Area at his beautiful residence in Occidental. The following is an interview with Jim that took place in the great hall of this estate, only a few months before he passed away. This interview was conducted by Jaap Sluijter.

JAAP: What stood out for me today was when you started talking about when you had your meeting with Krishnamurti—which was not really an interview but more a kind of sitting together and exploring things. Would you be willing to recapitulate that?

JIM: So, a few years before the talk I had with Krishnamurti, I had had a kind of classic kundalini experience in which the mind for a while was wiped clean of thinking, and everything was immediate and fresh. But I didn’t feel, as I looked at it after several years, that I was understanding anything any better than I had before. So I began to wonder if it was really very different from just taking a drug trip.

I brought that up to Krishnamurti. I talked briefly about it; I didn’t want to dwell on the details. And he nodded a few times for many things that I had said. Then he said, “Sir, when you walk along a garden path, you see something beautiful; nonetheless, you don’t spend your life there.”

I said, “I have started thinking that these extraordinary energies that I had felt maybe had a more proper expression in the realm of healing. I’d seen from other experiments I had done that I had some capacity to help people in that way.” So I talked about that briefly.

He didn’t talk a lot in the whole interview; he merely nodded, said yes or no. Occasionally, he made flights into extended verbal expression. And in this case, he said, “Sir, in regard to these occult phenomena and healing and transmission—”

He just touched on a few common things, and he then said, “You don’t have to listen to what I say. After all, only a fool gives advice. And yet, might I say, sir, with respect to these matters of healing, energy exchange, all these activities—and again, you don’t have to listen to what I say, and yet if I might, sir, be so bold as to say in regard to these matters:

I can’t begin to tell you how much you’ve already injured yourself—a terrible harm you had done. So, might I say, sir, in respect to these matters: DON’T!”

Then he said, “You understand what I said?” I said, “I certainly heard you.” He said, “Because, sir, what is important is to find out if you’re one of those with whom love wishes to dwell.”

JAAP: If you were one of those with whom love wishes to dwell.

JIM: “Because, sir, if that can happen, then without intention, without motive, wherever you go, whatever you do, then what needs to take place will take place, and you become a vision for all.”

JAAP: So, how did you understand what Krishnamurti was saying?

JIM: I understood exactly what he said to me.

The full interview will be released soon at podcast.theimmeasurable.org
Those who have previously visited the place may be surprised by the recent changes. The orange and avocado groves which once dominated the land, have been cut back by over two thirds, due to drought, disease and age. They have been replaced by a charming array of drought-resistant trees: 220 olives, 80 pomegranates, 45 pixie oranges, and 10 yu-yu dates, besides various sage bushes and other heat-tolerant plants.

The first driveway has been beautified by a row of small rocks, with flowering plants, beneath the remaining line of orange trees.

Toward the end of it, just before the two towering cypress trees on either side, there is a path winding up the slope, leading to the Herb Garden and the Pavilion. On its left, there is the newest artistic addition: amidst blossoming flowers and small cacti, one can marvel at a female bronze sculpture on a rock base created by sculptor Richard Kislov.

Further up one reaches the wood-fenced medicinal herb garden with its astonishing display of plants used for medical purposes. Right across from it is the pavilion, which currently showcases The Mind of Krishnamurti exhibition – an impressive large panel display of photos, quotes, and chronology of Krishnamurti’s life and work. From up here, one has a marvelous view of the whole valley.

At the very end of the driveway, one steps on to a short walkway of flat rocks that go past the famous old Pepper tree, which fell down in 1998, with miraculous new strong branches and blossoming growth. And then there is the magnificent Pine Cottage, where Krishnamurti lived on and off from 1922 until he passed away in 1986. After Mary Zimbalist, who was K’s hostess and companion, died in 2008, it became the Library and Study Center. As such it fulfills many functions, but unfortunately it remains closed to the public because of the corona-virus pandemic.

The two-story Annex right across from Pine Cottage is part of the Pepper Tree Retreat, with several guest rooms.

All of this surrounded by a variety of large trees. The beauty of nature and life is displayed here with modest magnificence; and the abiding vibrations of its great resident are beyond words.
This August the KFA released *Unconditionally Free: the Life and Insights of J. Krishnamurti*. This is the first Krishnamurti book of its kind. Following the span of Krishnamurti’s life, the book is organized around a full-color timeline of major events in his life along with concurrent world events. The book’s design was inspired by the exhibition *The Mind of Krishnamurti*, on display at the KFA and featured online.

The book was designed and compiled by Michael Mendizza. In October, Michael facilitated a webinar that took participants through the book over the course of five sessions for an in-depth study of the materials. The book is available online exclusively through the KFA book store at kfa.org/unconditionally.
The Krishnamurti Foundation of America has recently instituted some changes to our business structure. We have created two KFA-managed limited liability companies (LLCs) to conduct the operations of the trust – the Oak Grove School LLC for the school, and the Krishnamurti Center LLC for all activities other than the school, such as the archives, publications, library, retreat, programs, etc. This new business structure is expected to increase the efficiency of our work and also to provide greater asset and liability protection. Our business office is working on instituting separate accounting systems for each of these LLCs, and our financial reporting has been updated to reflect these changes, as is evident in the FY21 first quarterly reports. The KFA trust will continue to maintain accounts related to our assets, investments, donations, legal and general administrative matters, whereas accounts related to the operations of the school and the center will be maintained within the respective LLCs.

The following pages provide financial statements for the KFA organization as a whole, as well as specific details for the Foundation and the Krishnamurti Educational Center. Details for Oak Grove School may be found at oakgroveschool.org/ar

As can be seen in these financial statements, the financial state of the Krishnamurti Foundation of America is healthy. Efforts to raise unrestricted funds for KFA continue to improve.
This report is based on financials for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2020. Note: We created this report before the auditors completed the audit; therefore, some numbers could change.

### Income

**Earned Income**
- Publications: $120,590
- Educational Center: $37,693
- Pepper Tree Retreat: $164,473
- Tuition & Boarding: $3,646,900.00
- Supplemental Fees: $220,125.00
- Miscellaneous: $418,646.33
- Total Earned Income: $4,608,428

**Contributed Income**
- Unrestricted Donations: $663,142
- Restricted Donations: $265,625
- EIDL Grant: $10,000
- Bequests: $4,086,583
- Total Contributed Income: $5,025,351

**Total Income**
- $9,633,779

### Expenses

**Salaries and Wages**
- $1,321,806

**General and Administrative**
- $3,000,044

**Maintenance**
- $216,961

**Publications**
- $13,862

**Educational Center**
- $37,774

**Pepper Tree Retreat**
- $70,434

**Financial Aid Expenses**
- $626,748

**Classroom Expenses**
- $94,924

**Other Program Expense**
- $108,888

**Fund Development and Marketing**
- $331,469

**Other Investment Expense**
- $71,801

**Total Expenses**
- $6,298,698

**Use of Reserves and Investments**
- $3,954,169

**Total Expenses and Reserves**
- $10,252,868

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### Income

**Earned Income**
- $391,691

**Contributed Income**
- $4,416,026

**Other Investment Income**
- $202,122

**Total Income**
- $5,009,839

**Contributed Income Breakdown**
- Unrestricted Donations: $276,506
- Restricted Donations: $42,938
- EIDL Grant: $10,000
- Bequests: $4,086,583
- Total Contributed Income: $4,416,026

**Total Expenses**
- $3,954,169

**Total Expenses and Reserves**
- $5,009,839
WE WELCOME CARL TOLBERT TO OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES. HE WORKED AND LIVED AT BROCKWOOD PARK SCHOOL WHEN KRISHNAMURTI WAS ALIVE. THIS IS A RECOUNT OF HIS EXPERIENCE:

After graduation in 1973, I decided to take some time off and explore the world. While hitchhiking up the coast on my way to Big Sur I saw Ojai on a map and realized I had seen this place connected to the Krishnamurti Foundation.

I walked into the Foundation office and met Erna Lilliefelt. That relationship led to meeting Alan Hooker and then working at the Ranch House where I learned the culinary arts. After work we would sit in the teahouse and Alan would tell me stories about his relationship with K and what it was like to serve as a Trustee at the K Foundation. One spring day Alan invited the Trustees to a special lunch at the Ranch House. Mary Zimbalist and Michael Lilliefelt. That relationship led to meeting Alan Hooker and working at the Ranch House where I learned the culinary arts.

In 1977, Alan decided there should be food at the K talks in Ojai. He asked if I would come out from England to do the cooking at the restaurant and bring the food up to the Oak Grove after the talks. He wanted to feed 500 people. I needed an assistant and selected Alasdair Coyne who had been working in the Brockwood gardens and is still working for the Foundation today.

On leaving Brockwood, my intention was to find some basic good work that would allow me the freedom and natural environment to reflect on the teachings. Being an entrepreneur came easy and I proceeded to work in a number of small businesses and lived a simple life.

Alan then sat me down and said that my next step was to go to Brockwood Park in England. Everything I had learned about vegetarian cooking would make me an asset to the school. I volunteered at The Gatherings in 1974 and for the next four years I was staff at Brockwood Park. We had The Gatherings in the fall where K spoke to the public in a large tent near where the Adult Center is now. There would be regular talks with K, staff and students, three times a week. This would go on until K left for India in November. In the late spring after the Ojai talks, K would return to Brockwood to hold talks with the school and staff until the end of the school year.

Many of the staff and some of the older students would then work their way across the continent to Saanen. That is where I first met Michael Krohnen. Alan was preparing for him to come to Ojai to work with the new school that was being built. In the years that followed I helped Michael in the kitchen in Atira Vihar on several occasions. Sharing a chalet in the Alps, listening to K, and taking long walks by the river was one of the more special times of my life. David Bohm would come to Brockwood most weekends in the spring and fall when K was there. He would lead small group discussions with anyone who was interested. A very special opportunity.

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My name is Vincent Hernandez. I am 23 years old and originally from France. I have been a residential student at the Krishnamurti Center in Ojai for 5 months. I discovered spirituality at the age of 19 after reading Eckhart Tolle’s books The Power of Now and A New Earth. Then, through Eckhart’s recommended book list I read Freedom From the Known by Krishnamurti, Be As You Are by Ramana Maharshi, I Am That by Nisargadatta Maharaj, and the Tao Te Ching by Lao-Tzu. I then explored Buddhism and the Dzogchen teachings. During that time I became more and more interested in formal meditation/ mindfulness and living the nonduality teachings.

There are many mindfulness definitions. The UCLA definition is paying attention to present moment experiences with openness, curiosity, and a willingness to be with what is.

This definition is fairly related to what K is pointing towards. Mindfulness puts emphasis on the help of an anchor like the breath, sounds, or body sensations in order to stabilize the mind. Later on, the notion of natural awareness or presence without an anchor is introduced, which is closer to what K is pointing towards. However, K’s teachings are more challenging than mindfulness as he does not give any specific practice. He even points towards the limit of practice as it can imply a sort of doing that is fragmentary.

K points towards an attention in which the attendant is not. “The observer is the observed,” is the insight that is missed in more general mindfulness teachings.

When K talks about meditation, he uses different pointers and some seem more profound and challenging than others. A simple one is to live with what is. A more challenging one is that meditation is to be totally attentive and do nothing: to be the universe, to live out of time, to live in the unfolding of the new. Meditation is when the meditator is not. He is pointing towards a state of being which is constant in all activities throughout the day. Reading and listening to him is therefore a challenge to live in this timeless insight which comes only by letting go of the ‘me’, the center, the doer, the controller.

My own practice is therefore to live like that to the best of my ability, even though that’s the wrong way to put it. This insight cannot be created by will, yet taking time to sit and rest in spacious awareness and letting everything happen on its own is helpful. Sitting can be like being a Tesla at an electric station which is charging and then is ready to flow, so sitting helps me to live from this sense of spaciousness.

Living here is very powerful. There is very good energy and the facility is perfect for studying K’s teachings. When I arrived here, I first read a couple of K’s books: The First and Last Freedom, A Door Open For Everyone, and Always Awakening. After this reading period, I used the video projector in the library to watch Krishnamurti’s most appreciated dialogues with Alan Anderson, Papul Jayakar, and David Bohm. The way I absorb the teachings is to listen very attentively and then walk around in nature and take time to sit abiding in awareness. I am more of a silent person.
THE KRISHNAMURTI CENTER HAS STARTED DEVELOPING ONLINE PROGRAMS THIS YEAR, IN RESPONSE TO THE TIMES THAT WE ARE LIVING. THE MAY GATHERING 2020 WAS THE FIRST ONLINE-ONLY EVENT, FOLLOWED BY DIFFERENT SEMINARS AND WEBINARS.

In August the foundation hosted an online program called Krishnamurti and His Teachings, meant to be an introductory overview of his work. The seminar was the first of its kind from the KFA, launched in response to the rapid changes and restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The foundation’s in-person events, like retreats and dialogues, have been cancelled until further notice, but what hasn’t changed is our need to gather and inquire together.

I found it difficult to see how these changes would materialize into reality. I wasn’t sure what to expect from an online seminar and I was skeptical. How could the liveliness of dialogue and in-person interaction be captured online? I started the seminar with these doubts, perhaps setting myself up for feeling disconnected. I even had mixed feelings about it after the first day, but my resistance to the online format quickly faded away.

We met everyday in the afternoon for five consecutive days, discussing topics like listening, simplicity, and the art of living. Instead of gathered together in the library, we inquired together on a live virtual Zoom conference. It was like a normal KFA retreat but with screens in between us. On the last day, many of us exchanged email addresses and warm wishes. We began the seminar as strangers, but left feeling like friends. Something special had clearly happened. For me, inquiring together and sharing space lead to experiencing interconnectedness and moments of insight. I felt a profound shift and a clearer picture of my own illusions; my grip on my tightly held beliefs and conclusions was loosened.

While virtual meetings lack elements that are only possible during in-person events (like sharing meals together or the experience of being on the property), there are also many things that make it uniquely positive in its own right. Many attendees expressed a relief in knowing they could participate in something like this from the comfort of their own homes. Some participants had never been to Ojai or couldn’t afford a trip all the way out here. I think it’s important to note that something else has emerged: a different way to connect with people that also touches on accessibility. The covid restrictions, although challenging to navigate, have indirectly addressed this issue on some level. I’m looking forward to seeing what more good things will come from these adaptations.

Leah Luong is a friend of the KFA. She has been helping us with marketing and social media.
ON MARCH 16, 2020, AFTER AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF THOUGHT AND INPUT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AND FOLLOWING THE ADVICE OF SEVERAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS, OUR ENTIRE SCHOOL MOVED TO “REMOTE” OR “DISTANCE” LEARNING.

Like people around the world, we quickly began to learn about the spread of a novel coronavirus, newly named COVID-19. We also learned new terminology like “physical distancing,” and “synchronous learning.” There were more questions than answers. Our community of students, parents, teachers, and staff worked tirelessly to connect and educate the students, to create synchronous and asynchronous lessons, package materials to be sent home, and offer support phone/zoom calls. As time went on, the questions morphed into, “How can we return to campus during a pandemic?” and “Can we be safe on campus?”

Although the preparations for bringing students back on campus were formidable, Oak Grove is uniquely positioned to have made the necessary adjustments to move all of our classrooms outdoors. Since so much of our learning was already taking place outdoors on our 150-acre campus, this transformation was less arduous than it might be somewhere else.

We may not understand the massive changes and suffering around us, but we can become sensitive to what is and what the moment is asking of us.

DISTANCE LEARNING
by Jodi Grass, Head of School

THE END IS THE BEGINNING
by Jodi Grass and Adrienne Hoskins

It is with profound gratitude that we say good-bye to Carole Sylvester-Gray and Darcy Gray, as they retired from Oak Grove in June, 2020. Their stories parallel that of our beloved school, with details that may surprise readers!

As a young man of 23 attempting to make sense of what appeared to be a very chaotic world, Darcy came across “Beginnings of Learning” by Krishnamurti. In that book, K suggested that one consider looking at thought as a tool and that, like any tool, thought has a right purpose and may not be well suited for some uses. This for Darcy was a significant insight, as all he’d ever heard assumed that we take our thought process for granted as true. A few years later, in 1978, just three years after its founding, he found himself at what was then called Arya Vihara talking with Mark Lee about joining the school.

Meanwhile, when Carole was in high school she read “The Only Revolution” by, as she says, a fellow named Krishnamurti who lived in a place called Ojai. She had no idea that many years later, in 1981, she would move to Ojai, that her daughter Tina would join the school at age seven, and that she would spend her career at Oak Grove.

Read the full story and other topics in the Oak Grove School Annual Report: oakgroveschool.org/ar
MESSAGE

Around the authority of a person or an ideology co-operation becomes meaningless and leads to various forms of conflict. All of us are working together in a spirit of real co-operation in which there is no authority: it is our interest in the teachings which brings us together and helps us to work together. So the authority of a central directive ceases; each of us is important and we all help each other.

To make this possible the Krishnamurti Foundation is the new organisation without the psychological belonging and dependence which most organisations bring about. This is very important to bear in mind in all the work we are doing together. Co-operation is necessary but the ugly and brutal side of organisation has no part in what we are trying to do. There is a great deal to be done which has not been done in the past.

We must meet together at least once a year to talk things over as friends, expose our problems and resolve them. Organisation does not draw us together, rather we are drawn together as human beings to resolve our human problems.

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THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO SUSTAIN THIS IMPORTANT WORK.

KRISHNAMURTI FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

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