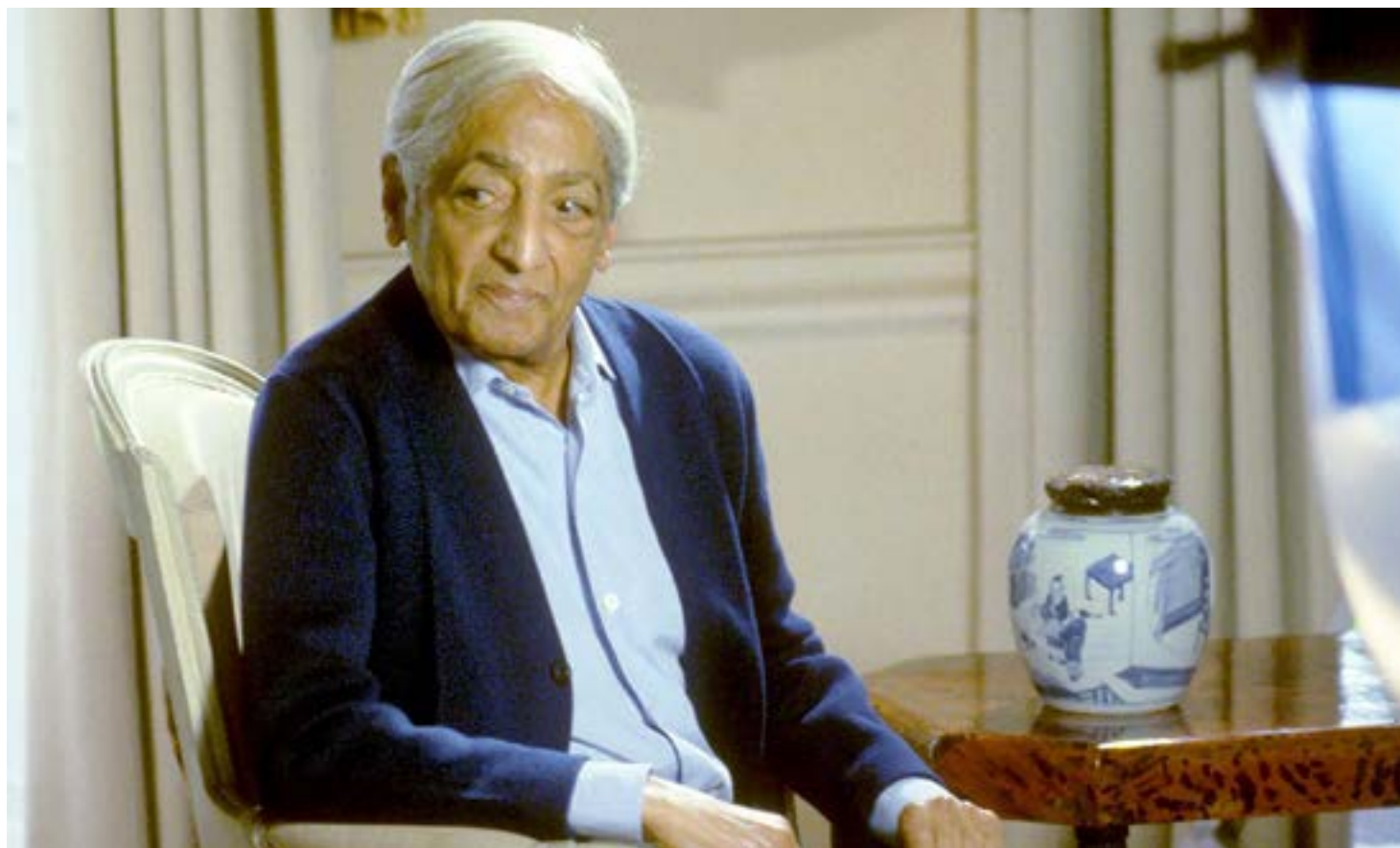


Foundation Focus

KRISHNAMURTI FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

*including Oak Grove School and
the Krishnamurti Center*



We are human beings whatever country we belong to. We are human beings facing a very dangerous world, facing a great deal of uncertainty, confusion. And when the mind is confused, we seek some kind of authority as a means of security. So, we are first going to consider, if you will, what is happening here.

As one observes the country going through a great confusion, great uncertainty, there is chaos; people have no direction. But unfortunately, we are conditioned—when we are confused, uncertain, insecure—to try and find a solution in the past, go back to our old traditions. This is what is happening throughout the world. There are the fundamentalists who accept the Bible as their authority, the fundamentalists of Islam who look to the Koran. There are the fundamentalists who look to Marx. So when we are uncertain, confused, greatly disturbed, we look to some kind of authority, some kind of book, to the past, to find a direction... [A]ll the leaders, all the gurus, all the so called saints have not helped humanity, because we are actually what we are at the moment.

J. Krishnamurti - *continues on page 6*

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HEAD OF SCHOOL

CENTER DIRECTOR

Can our minds, which encompass the intricate neurocognitive and affective functioning of our brains, adequately meet the profound questions posed by Krishnamurti?

In Krishnamurti's own words, *"We are human beings facing a very dangerous world, confronting significant uncertainty and confusion."* As we observe the chaos and disarray afflicting our societies, we are compelled to address the underlying causes of our collective unrest. Krishnamurti asserts that the outer turmoil is a reflection of inner turmoil and suggests that true insight can only be attained through radical rejection of all forms of authority, including both external authorities such as gurus and experts, and internal authorities such as prior belief structures.

To ensure that the Krishnamurti Foundation and Center can continue to serve as a place for such radical questions and questioning, now as well as into the foreseeable future, we have established several restricted funds. These funds aim to preserve the historical Center campus, provide Center-based scholarships for young people and scholars, and maintain the Krishnamurti Oak Grove—where he gave talks for over 60 years and what now is part of Ojai's rich heritage. For more information on how you can help us grow these funds, please contact giving@kfa.org.

In what ways do we, as educators, understand the relationship between leisure and learning? What is meant by pure observation? How am I inhibiting the learning of others? These were questions teachers explored while sitting comfortably in Pine Cottage before the start of the spring semester. We were discussing one of Krishnamurti's Letters to the Schools, dated December 1, 1978. We met away from campus to push our perspectives beyond functional concerns, to delve more deeply into the intent of our school.

Collectively, we devote hundreds of hours and dozens of days to professional development throughout the year. Some topics include early literacy, teaching differentiation, artificial intelligence, restorative justice, learning assessments, technical updates, and more. We also devote significant time to learning within an atmosphere of ease as we engage in generative conversations, exploring the teachings of the founder, and delving deeply into topics relevant to living and learning.

Learning at Oak Grove is for each of us – students, parents, faculty, staff, and board members. In addition to the implicit environment of inquiry and curiosity embedded within the culture of the school, we provide explicit opportunities for us adults to continue learning throughout the year. "There is no end to learning."



Jaap Sluiter
Executive Director



Jodi Grass
Head of School

Nestled in Ojai's East End, the Krishnamurti Retreat offers serenity with its farmhouse dating back to 1910 and its 1950s cottage, set amidst orange groves and olive orchards. This haven provides six rooms for guests seeking immersion in Krishnamurti's teachings. Our vegetarian, alcohol-free, and smoke-free environment offers a space for quiet reflection and natural beauty.

For those interested in self-exploration, consider our Midweek Personal Study Retreat, which offers discounted rates from Monday to Friday, subject to room availability. Guests are encouraged to utilize the resources at Pine Cottage, including the Library, quiet room, and video room. We also invite you to enjoy the campus' natural beauty and participate in our weekly dialogues and programs. These explore universal themes and profound questions in a spirit of seriousness and togetherness, without asserting authority.

Krishnamurti urged, *"In a retreat, do not plunge into something else; do not take some book and be absorbed in new knowledge... Have a complete break with the past and see what happens. Do it, and you will see delight. You will see vast expanses of love, understanding, and freedom. When your heart is open, then reality can come."*

Book your stay at the Krishnamurti Retreat by calling (805) 646-4773 or emailing us at retreat@kfa.org.



Francisco Mazza
Center Director

KFA May Gathering 2024

THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

We invite you to register for our May Gathering, May 4-5, 2024. This event is free of charge.

Join us for the KFA Annual May Gathering at Oak Grove School in Ojai. This gathering is an opportunity for people from all over the world to come together and listen to engaging speakers, participate in meaningful discussions, attend workshops, and take in the natural beauty of our campus. Choose from different programs on topics such as consciousness and education, or engage with teachers from our schools and scholars of Krishnamurti's teachings who share their understanding. This gathering will also be streamed live through our website.



For more information visit kfa.org/gathering

In-Person & Online Programs

2024

- **The Elimination of Fear**
ONLINE PROGRAM
Monday, January 8 - Friday, January 12
- **Silent Retreat**
IN-PERSON PROGRAM
Friday, January 26 - Sunday, January 28
- **Yoga + Inquiry: Love & Loneliness**
IN-PERSON PROGRAM
Friday, February 9 - Sunday, February 11
- **What Is Intelligence?**
ONLINE PROGRAM
Monday, February 12 - Friday, February 16
- **On Meditation**
IN-PERSON PROGRAM
Friday, March 8 - Sunday, March 10
- **Action Not of Our Own**
ONLINE PROGRAM
Monday, March 18 - Friday, March 22
- **Is Control an Illusion?**
IN-PERSON PROGRAM
Monday, March 25 - Friday, March 29
- **Yoga + Inquiry: On Self-Knowing**
IN-PERSON PROGRAM
Friday, April 5 - Sunday, April 7
- **La Soledad (Loneliness)**
ONLINE PROGRAM | SPANISH
Monday, April 8 - Friday, April 12
- **The Urgency of Change**
IN-PERSON PROGRAM
Friday, April 12 - Sunday, April 14
- **May Gathering**
IN-PERSON & ONLINE PROGRAM
Saturday, May 4 - Sunday, May 5
- **A Glimpse Into Total Freedom**
IN-PERSON PROGRAM
Sunday, June 16 - Sunday, June 23
- **Silent Retreat**
IN-PERSON PROGRAM
Friday, July 26 - Sunday, January 28
- **Weekend Dialogue: TBD**
IN-PERSON PROGRAM
Friday, August 9 - Sunday, August 11
- **In-Depth Program: TBD**
ONLINE PROGRAM
Monday, September 16 - Friday, September 20
- **Silent Retreat**
IN-PERSON PROGRAM
Friday, September 20 - Sunday, September 22
- **On Death**
ONLINE PROGRAM
Monday, October 7 - Friday, October 11
- **Death and Rebirth Beyond Time**
IN-PERSON PROGRAM
Sunday, October 13 - Sunday, October 20
- **Weekend Dialogue: TBD**
IN-PERSON PROGRAM
Friday, November 1 - Sunday, November 3
- **Yoga + Inquiry: TBD**
IN-PERSON PROGRAM
Friday, November 8 - Sunday, November 10
- **In-Depth Program: TBD**
ONLINE PROGRAM
Monday, November 25 - Friday, November 29

Michael Krohnen

KAREN HESLI, ON BEHALF OF KFA TRUSTEES



On December 19th, 2023, the KFA, the international sister foundations, and friends near and far lost a friend., Michael Krohnen. Michael's astute presence and unwavering enthusiasm for K's teachings were recognized by those who came to know him.

During his long tenure of 47 years at the KFA, Michael developed several 'true vocations' (from the Latin 'voce,' meaning 'voice or calling'). Beginning in 1975, his first was as Krishnamurti's personal chef. Michael graciously hosted impeccably beautiful luncheons for K, friends, and guests at Arya Vihara for a decade until 1986. During this same time, Michael was the Food Service Director at the Oak Grove School, preparing vegetarian meals for students, residents, and staff.

What emerged next along Michael's vocational journey was to document the colorful daily interactions and conversations with K- in and out of the kitchen and during and after lunch.



From an outpouring of recollections and meticulous journals, the circumference of Michael's calling curved from cooking to writing. The 350-page book, *The Kitchen Chronicles, 1001 Lunches with Krishnamurti*, was published in 1997 and has been translated into four languages. Relatedly, Michael has been a prolific writer of poetry, and thanks to friends' recent

support, a book of Michael's poems and drawings, *Journeys of the Mind, 33 Poems to J. Krishnamurti*, was published and celebrated with Michael, fortuitously, nine days before he passed.

Michael was a long-standing, beloved, and reliable anchor on the KFA staff; he edited KFA publications, managed the K Retreat, lectured at gatherings, seminars and other special events, and traveled extensively to share programs and study the teachings within the international K foundations. Michael's final vocation emerged as librarian* with an asterisk! Make no mistake about it, Michael was a librarian whose heart held the 'book of life,' tending more to the visitors than to the shelves of books.



Since 2008, Michael's distinguished, welcoming voice filled the entryway at Pine Cottage as he greeted thousands of guests. Talking with and touring visitors around the campus in his inimitably graceful style, he was in the prime of his elderhood as both an avid listener and storyteller. Michael's spirit of inquiry, goodwill, and laughter fostered conversation and connection with people the world over, a true gift for our times.

It is impossible to encapsulate the regard and appreciation that KFA trustees and staff have for Michael's dedicated gifts of service to the organization. In honor of Michael, the following excerpt from *Krishnamurti to Himself* has been selected:

'As one looked at that dead leaf with all its beauty and color, maybe one would very deeply comprehend, be aware of, what one's own death must be, not at the very end but at the very beginning. Death isn't some horrific thing, something to be avoided, something to be postponed, but rather something to be with day in and day out. And out of that comes an extraordinary sense of immensity.'
 – Krishnamurti, 1984

This is a poem from *Journeys of the Mind: Thirty-Three Poems to J. Krishnamurti*:

Inner Landscape

You have to climb the mountain
 which is you yourself:
 leave behind the habitations,
 the civilized arrangements of home and road.

Invade the hidden untamed wilderness
 which has been there in silence
 from the beginning of time,
 closer at hand than perhaps the hand itself,

Waiting patiently, beyond and without time,
 for time to run out;
 or for the unexpected, unsought onslaught
 of that innermost force:

The light which shone on the very first day,
 and is shining still
 on the mountain-range, yet unexplored,
 which is you yourself.

Michael Krohnen

Ojai, California, September 2017

Michael's book *Journeys of the Mind: Thirty-Three Poems to J. Krishnamurti* can be purchased at [lulu.com](https://www.lulu.com) by clicking the Bookstore button and typing in either Michael's name or the book title.

The Future of Humanity

J. KRISHNAMURTI



Text continues from the front cover:

“So, what is the root cause of all this confusion? Because when one can find the cause then we can end it. A cause has an end. Right? I hope we are following each other. So we are asking what is the cause or causes of this confusion, this lack of integrity, this sense of desperate degeneration. What is the root of all this? Most of us play with symptoms. We say it is the overpopulation, bad governments, right throughout the world it is the same – lack of leadership, lack of morality. These are all symptoms. But one never asks what is the cause of all this. And when you begin to enquire into the cause of it, each one of us will give different opinions. The more learned you are, the greater assertion of the cause or causes. But we are not very learned people. We are ordinary people. We are laymen. We are not very bright, nor very intelligent. But we are caught in this, in this great turmoil that exists in the world, and here, there are wars. Every nation, every group is preparing for war. I wonder if you are aware of all this. Every country, specially the industrial countries, are supplying armaments to the rest of the world. The other day in London on television, an industrialist was being interviewed and the industrialist said, ‘We send abroad 80 percent of our armaments and 20 percent we keep’. This is happening in all the industrial countries. And nobody says why do we have to have war, why do we have to kill each other, murder each other. They are talking about stopping nuclear war but not ending all wars.

Why have human beings reduced themselves to this condition? Please, this is very important to ask. Why do we have to kill other people, for what? For your nation, for your particular group? The idea of war is a great historical process which we have accepted and it has become a great reality. But the root of it is, we live in an illusion, illusion that our country must be protected. What is your country? Please ask these questions! What are you protecting – your house, your home, your ideas, your bank account? When the whole world is degenerating, going to pieces and we are not inquiring into fundamental causes.

So we are going together as two friends – please bear this in mind – as two friends who are not against each other, who are friendly, who have certain affection for each other and are facing this problem, which is: why have we human beings become what we are – confused, uncertain, following any leader that comes along, country breaking up, fragmentation going on – the Sikhs, the Muslims, the Hindus and so on. What is the cause of this? Are you waiting for the speaker to tell you or is your mind, your brain, active enough to enquire, not depend on the speaker to tell you? We will talk it over together, which means your mind, your brain, must be as active as that of the speaker. And it can only be active if you are not saying: I am a Hindu, Buddhist, whatever it is. We are free to enquire. Enquiry means first looking at what is actually going on, not a theory of what is going on, actually observing with your heart, with your mind, with your capacity, with your energy to look.

We live in an illusion, the illusion that our country must be protected. What is your country? Please ask these questions! What are you protecting – your house, your home, your ideas, your bank account?

Now, what is the cause of it? Is it that we have looked to others to help us? We have looked to political leaders, religious leaders, economic leaders with their particular ideas, with their particular systems, so that you are always depending on others to guide you, to tell you what to do. Is that the root cause of this? Or do you blame the environment? You understand my question? Do you blame the environment, that is the government, no proper leader, no righteous guru? That is all the environment, something outside of you. Is that the cause of this which means that you have relied entirely on authority – authority of tradition, authority of books, authority of leaders, gurus and so on? So when you depend, you gradually become weak. You become feeble. You are incapable of thinking clearly, because you depend. This is a fact. Newspapers tell you what to think. All the meetings that you attend, they discourse, instruct. So self-reliance, the sense of responsibility for oneself, not depending on another, that may be the root cause of this, that we have become irresponsible because we depend. You understand the fact of this?

I am not, the speaker is not asserting a thing. He doesn't want you to follow. He is not your guru. He is not your leader but you and I, the speaker who wants to show a different way of living. Not that you must accept it, but enquire, put your mind and heart into this to find out why we have become what we are, so utterly selfish, utterly self-concerned, and in that state of mind and brain you ask what is the root cause of all this. You are incapable of inquiring, finding out, because our conditioning is to depend, to be directed, to be told what to do, what to believe. This is a fact, isn't it?

So, is it possible to be a light to oneself and not depend on a single person? Of course you depend on the milkman, on the postman, on the policeman who keeps order at a crossroad. You depend on a surgeon, on a doctor. But inwardly, psychologically, to think clearly for oneself, to observe one's own reactions and responses and ask if one can be

completely a light to oneself. You understand what that means, to be a light to oneself, not self-confidence, not self-reliance. Self-confidence is a part of selfishness. It is part of egotism. But to be a light to oneself which requires great freedom, a very clear brain, not a conditioned brain. We will go into, look how the activity of the brain, what is the relationship of brain to the mind. We will go into all that presently. But one must be very active, not merely intellectually, which is verbally, active with one's ideas. I do not, the speaker does not mean that. To have an active brain, to challenge, to question, to doubt. That means to have energy. But when you depend on others you lose energy. That is what is happening.”



Oak Grove School

WILL HORNBLOWER, DEAN OF STUDIES

EXAMINING ASSESSMENT PRACTICES AT OAK GROVE

Throughout the year, our teachers and staff have explicit opportunities to become students again as they engage in professional learning. For our winter in-service, we had sessions on differentiation for a diverse classroom, parent communication, generative artificial intelligence, and assessment practices, amongst other topics. For our session on assessment, 3rd-12th grade teachers had the opportunity to reflect on their own teaching practices and to examine their assumptions about assessment.

At Oak Grove, we are deeply committed to the “Art of Relationship,” the lens through which students and

adults on campus see themselves and the way they relate to the community. We are also deeply invested in the idea that everyone is a learner on campus. To that end, in our inquiry into assessment practices, we asked our teachers to engage in the same learning routines and practices that we ask of our students. This included examining assumptions, biases, and conditioning around the topic of testing and assessment. We also engaged in metacognition by completing a self-assessment and reflection on our own testing practices. Finally, we set goals to help us grow and keep our focus on our individual growth in this area.



Here are some goals that our teachers set:

- I will make my learning objectives more visible in the classroom so the students are aware of what they are supposed to know, understand, and do.
- I will be more timely and specific with my feedback on assignments and allow more opportunities for revision.
- I will use more rubrics on assignments so that it is clear what students are being assessed on.
- I will collect more student feedback to inform and adjust my teaching practices.
- I want my students to understand that other learning demonstrations, such as projects and essays, are just as important measurements of learning as a traditional test.

Professional development is one way that Oak Grove teachers delve into the enduring themes around education, about which Krishnamurti spoke. By examining our practices and relationships, we will continue to grow as a center for learning.

To understand myself, I must understand relationship. So, relationship is a mirror in which I can see myself. That mirror can either be distorted, or it can be “as is,” reflecting that which is. But most of us see in relationship, in that mirror, things we would rather see; we do not see what is.

— J. Krishnamurti
Banaras, 5th Public Talk, 20th February, 1949

Publications

CORY FISHER



Krishnamurti Foundation Publications is a global initiative of the Krishnamurti foundations located in America, England, Spain, and India whose purpose is to disseminate the works of Krishnamurti through collaboration with translators, publishers, and various committees around the world. Krishnamurti has been translated into over 60 languages, with new translations completed yearly.

In October 2023, we completed our annual visit to the renowned Frankfurt Book Fair, one of the world's largest gatherings for professionals in the literary industry. This international event brings together writers, publishers, printers, distributors, and book designers from across the globe. Additionally, this fair opens its doors

to the general public for two days, and this year drew in over 100,000 people.

During the fair, we had the privilege of reconnecting with our valued partners and forging new relationships with enthusiastic publishers eager to include Krishnamurti's works in their catalogs. Over the five days of the fair, we

engaged in discussions with more than 25 publishers. They provided valuable insights into their respective regional book markets and expressed a keen interest in translating and publishing Krishnamurti's books in languages not yet represented.

This coming summer, we are delighted to return to the Beijing International Book Fair (BIBF) for the first time since 2019. BIBF is a wonderful opportunity for us to meet with our growing list of committed publishers and agents in China and neighboring regions.

Archives

CORY FISHER

The preservation of Krishnamurti's teachings is one of the primary goals of the Foundation. The following are a few initiatives of the archive for this year, aimed at preserving and ensuring that Krishnamurti's teachings are available in their original and undistorted form for many generations to come.

In 2023, the KFA Archive dedicated significant effort to the establishment of our new Archives Server. This server serves as the central repository for our extensive digital collection of the international archives and houses a comprehensive database containing records for each unique archive item. These records include information on

each item's location, contents, and the type of media it represents.

The Archives Server plays a pivotal role in the preservation efforts conducted by international foundations. We are pleased to announce that this new equipment is fully operational, subject to continuous monitoring and updates to ensure the highest level of security. Access is limited to a select group of trained archivists and technicians tasked with the continued preservation and cataloging of the digital collections, as well as maintenance of the server and database.

With the new server up and running, the KFA is now taking an additional

step forward in the preservation of its extensive digital archive collection by developing a new on-site backup server. This initiative represents a proactive approach to safeguarding the invaluable digital records of Krishnamurti's teachings and works. The on-site server will act as an additional layer of security, ensuring that the digital contents are not only stored in a safe physical location but are also readily accessible for restoration in case of data loss from primary sources. This enhancement in data protection is a testament to the KFA's commitment to maintaining the integrity and availability of Krishnamurti's profound legacy for future generations.

STAFF TRANSITION A Note from Cory Fisher

In August 2013, I joined the Krishnamurti Foundation of America as a Residential Scholar, dedicating a year to retreat from daily life to explore life's deeper questions. During this time, I worked with the Publications team and maintained the campus orange orchards. After the residential program, I became a KFA staff member, working as an archivist and continued assisting with Publications.

Over the years, I have grown to oversee the rights management of Krishnamurti's work and continued as the director of the Archives.

With mixed emotions, I'm stepping away from my KFA roles to pursue my passion for art and production. The KFA and its wonderful staff will always hold a

special place in my heart, and I anticipate staying involved in different capacities.



I am delighted to announce that Kristy Lee will succeed me in my responsibilities at the KFA, and we are actively collaborating to ensure a smooth transition.

Kristy is an invaluable member of the team, contributing her expertise in

various capacities, first at Oak Grove School and then at the Krishnamurti Center. Her primary focus for the past 6 years has been managing the Krishnamurti Retreat and coordinating the various programs offered by the KFA, both in person and online, reaching our global community of supporters.

Before her tenure at the KFA, Kristy managed the Publications and Archives department during her time at the Krishnamurti Foundation Trust in England. Her extensive experience, coupled with her unwavering dedication, positions her as the ideal candidate to assume these responsibilities. With Kristy at the helm, I am confident that the KFA will continue to uphold its mission of preserving and disseminating Krishnamurti's profound work to the best of our abilities.



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Foundation Focus

Winter/Spring 2024

KRISHNAMURTI FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

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