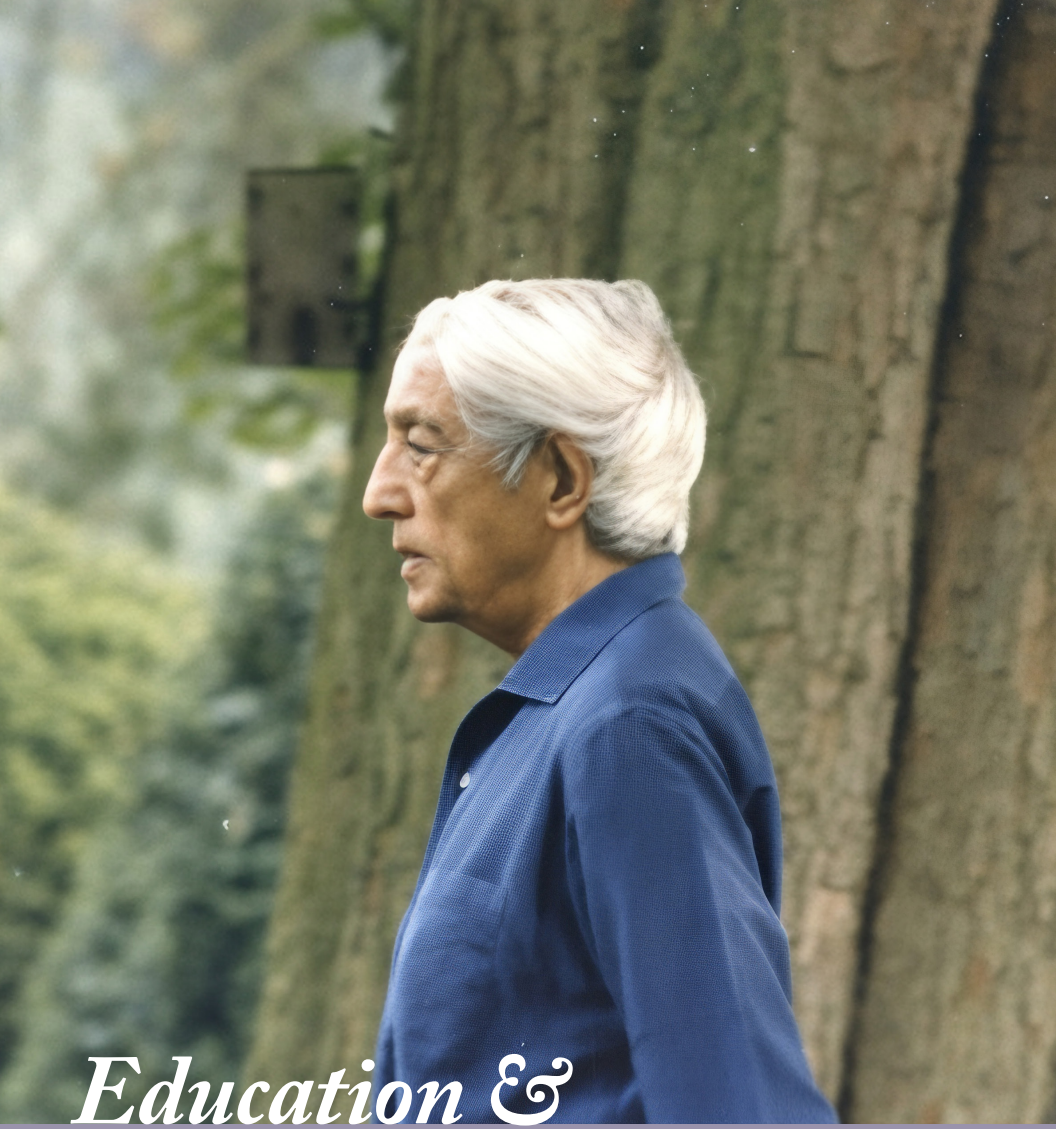

Education & The Significance of Life

KFA ANNUAL GATHERING

MAY 2-3, 2026

SATURDAY, May 2

8:30 - 9:30AM	The Grove	**Krishnamurti Audio**
9:30 - 10:00AM	Main House	**Morning Tea / Coffee**
10:00 - 10:25AM	Student Center	**Welcome and Overview / Music** *with Francisco Mazza (KFA Executive Director) and Karolina Kalo (Pianist)*
10:30 - 11:50AM	Student Center	**The Significance of True Learning in Our Lives** *with Mary Kelley*
12:00 - 1:15PM	Main House	**Lunch**
1:30 - 2:30PM	Student Center	**Conditioning and the Individual** *with Connie Jones*
2:40 - 3:00PM	Student Center	**Piano Concert** *with Karolina Kalo*
1:45 - 2:45PM	Main House	**School Tour: 50 Years of Oak Grove School** *with Joel Keeler (Director of Advancement)s*
3:15 - 4:30PM	Student Center	**An Inquiry into The Nature of Self** *with Pathik Wadhwa*
3:15 - 4:30PM	HS Math Classroom	**Workshop: Being A Light To Oneself** *with Andy Gilman*
4:30 - 5:15PM	Main House	**Social Time with Tea / Coffee**

Dialogues

1:45 - 3:15PM	Reflective Classroom	**Dialogue** *with John Duncan*
3:15 - 4:30PM	Reflective Classroom	**Dialogue** *with Richard Waxberg and Deborah Kerner*

* Note about the dialogue program: 15 people maximum. Pre-register at the information booth prior to the dialogue.

SUNDAY, May 3

8:30 - 9:30AM	The Grove	**Krishnamurti Audio**
9:30 -10:00AM	Main House	**Morning Tea / Coffee**
10:00 - 10:25AM	Student Center	**Welcome and Recap / Music** *with Maxi Kogoi (Krishnamurti Center Director) and Karolina Kalo (Pianist)*
10:30 - 11:50AM	Student Center	**Thought and Observation** *with David Moody*
10:30 - 11:50AM	HS Math Classroom	**Workshop: Poetry and Krishnamurti** *with Karen Hesli*
12:00 - 1:30PM	Main House	**Lunch**
1:30 - 2:50PM	Student Center	**Intelligence, Goodness and The School** *with Siddhartha Menon*
1:45 - 2:45PM	Main House	**School Tour: 50 Years of Oak Grove School** *with Jodi Grass (Head of School)*
3:00 - 4:10PM	Student Center	**The Living Experiment: 50 Years of Oak Grove School** *with Jodi Grass, Meredy Beson Rice, and Karen Hesli*
4:20 - 5:00PM	Student Center	**A Commentary and Discussion of KFA's Core Mission** *with Cory Fisher and Pathik Wadhwa*

Dialogues

10:30 - 11:50AM	Reflective Classroom	**Dialogue** *with Richard Waxberg and Deborah Kerner*
1:30 - 2:50PM	HS Math Classroom	**Dialogue** *with John Duncan*
3:00 - 4:10PM	HS Math Classroom	**Dialogue** *with Rowan Lommel*

* Note about the dialogue program: 12 people maximum. Pre-register at the information booth prior to the dialogue.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Saturday, May 2

10:00 am

Welcome and Overview of the Day / Music

with Francisco Mazza (KFA executive director) & Karolina Kalo (pianist) at the Student Center

Francisco Mazza is the Executive Director of the Krishnamurti Foundation of America. Originally from Argentina, where he studied psychology and marketing, he became connected to Krishnamurti's work over twenty years ago at Brockwood Park School in England, where he lived as a residential student. He later joined the staff of the Krishnamurti Foundation Trust, managing the translation and subtitling of Krishnamurti's video recordings across multiple languages.

After moving to Ojai, he has served the Foundation in a wide range of roles—from archives and digital content to marketing initiatives, including the launch of The Immeasurable platform—before becoming Development Director, Center Director, and now Executive Director.

For him, Krishnamurti's work is an ongoing inquiry into whether the mind can meet life without the filter of its own assumptions—a question that remains as relevant in organizational stewardship as it is in personal observation.

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Karolina Kalo is a Los Angeles-based concert pianist, recording artist, and multi-genre composer whose artistry spans classical and contemporary realms. Through both tradition and experimentation, she creates music that serves as a vessel for presence, healing, and the unfolding of inner worlds, bridging centuries-old practices with forward-thinking soundscapes.

For many years she performed under her classical music name, Karolina Rojahn, establishing herself as a leading interpreter of contemporary music. She premiered more than one hundred new works and recorded forty four albums of solo and chamber repertoire on labels such as Naxos, Navona, Ravello.

Now composing and performing under the name Karolina Kalo, she brings her classical foundation into a new creative realm of neo-classical and ambient music. Her interdisciplinary practice often includes collaborations with visual artists and dancers curating immersive and ethereal soundscapes that serve as a conduit to a deeper communion with self. A central focus of Karolina's creative practice is Cor Karoli - her musical duo that focuses on exploring intersections between neo-classical and electronic music by blending seemingly distant musical styles into an innovative cross-genre sound. Their debut album "Becoming" premiered in the fall of 2025.

Karolina is a graduate of Boston Conservatory at Berklee, where she earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Piano Performance as a full-scholarship recipient.

10:30 am

Discovering the Significance of True Learning in Our Lives

Presentation by Mary Kelley (Director of the High School) at the Student Center

This presentation will give an overview of many of the various themes explored in Krishnamurti's 1953 seminal publication, Education and the Significance of Life, such as: freedom from ignorance, unconditional love which alone can observe "what is", the flowering of goodness and intelligence, and learning to "read the book of oneself". Having dedicated her life to education both as a profession and as a reflective form of meditation, the presenter will share her passion for the study of K's incomparable Teachings, and she looks forward to sharing some of her own insights into the essence of real education and its wonderful capacity to flower in our personal every-day lives. More than anything, this presentation will serve to suggest what true education is not and leave those who are deeply interested in the subject primed to find out for themselves what vital significance true learning may have in their own lives.

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Mary Kelley attributes her call to the teaching profession to her reading of Krishnamurti's Education and the Significance of Life (1953), which she first encountered in her formative teenage years. She still feels daily inspired by what K proposes true learning to be, as a life-long experience of discovery over and above one limited to accumulating mere knowledge, skills, and

experience. Mary considers it a wonderful blessing to have served as an elementary and middle school teacher at Oak Grove School for the past ten years, and now is both honored and humbled to be called to a new role as Director of the High School, where opportunities abound to see herself, her colleagues, and the students together with fresh eyes and an open-learning mind.

1:30 pm

Conditioning and the Individual

Presentation by Connie Jones at the Student Center

Krishnamurti emphasizes the importance and pervasiveness of conditioning, from genetic predispositions, through culture, religion, language, personal history and education. Why does he stress the importance of observing our conditioning and its perennial companion identification? What can we discover about the ways in which these processes shape perception as well as cognition, i.e., seeing as well as thought?

Many questions arise regarding conditioning and its impact on consciousness. How can we examine conditioning through awareness and attention so that we actually perceive and understand the structure of conditioning itself—how it operates, what effects it produces, and how it serves to mold a sense of self that eventually seeks freedom from these effects? Can we rise above examination of the myriad contents of conditioning to see its function in the psyche? These inquiries will be at the heart of our considerations of conditioning.

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Constance A. Jones, Ph.D. is a sociologist of religion who has pursued a long interest in the cultures and religions of the East as well as the adoption of Hindu and Buddhist beliefs and practices in the West. She researches spiritual teachers as well as new religious movements around the world.

She was a post-doctoral fellow at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, and a Fulbright Scholar at the Krishnamurti Research Centre and Banares Hindu University, Varanasi, India.

Her publications include Encyclopedia of Hinduism (with J. Ryan), Facts-on-File; G.I. Gurdjieff e la sua eredita, Elle-di-ci Press; and Krishnamurti: Self-Inquiry, Awakening, and Transformation, Cambridge University Press.

She teaches courses in: J. Krishnamurti; Bohemian Dialogue and Inquiry; Self-Inquiry; and Introduction to Eastern Systems of Contemplation, Self, Society, and Transformation.

1:45 pm

Dialogue

with John Duncan in the Reflective Classroom

The dialogues offer a space for the inquiry into fundamental questions of human existence, attempting to move from intellectual analysis to direct perception. Participants are invited to explore some of the topics addressed during the Gathering weekend from the perspective of Krishnamurti's teachings, such as education and learning, conditioning, the nature of the self and of thought, intelligence and self-knowledge. They often begin with a passage, video, or audio clip to initiate shared, honest investigation. Facilitated in a spirit of affection and deep listening, the dialogues encourage individuals to suspend judgment and move past preconceived notions in order to see "what is" together.

—

John has been involved with the Krishnamurti Foundation for several decades. After first seeing Krishnamurti speak in 1984, he attended the first dialogue retreats and May Gatherings beginning in 1986. Following many personal retreats in Ojai, he moved there in the late 1990s and began working for the KFA. He was proofreading for Krishnamurti Publications at a time when many books were being put back into print, including the entire Collected Works, which deepened his interaction with the teachings. Working in the Krishnamurti Library and facilitating countless dialogues has rounded out his education into what Krishnamurti has shared with us. He is working on a book based on what he has learned with the working title: Fragmentation, Meditation and Freedom: All you need to know to allow the unknown. He also plans to move to New York where he will share his music, which has also manifested through what he has learned these many years. Other than that he is just another nobody, living, loving and learning.

Maximum of 12 participants. Please sign up at the information booth.

1:45 pm

Tea & Oak Grove School Tour - 50 Years of Learning

at the Main House

Take a leisurely walk around campus with with Joel Keeler (Director of Advancement at OGS) , as she shares about the school through the lens of a 50-year retrospective. Visit classrooms and gathering spaces while engaging in a conversation about the intent of the school.

Maximum of 25 participants. Please sign up at the information booth.

Location: Main House Living Room

2:40 pm

Piano Concert

Performance by Karolina Kalo at the Student Center

Karolina Kalo is a Los Angeles-based concert pianist, recording artist, and multi-genre composer whose artistry spans classical and contemporary realms. Through both tradition and experimentation, she creates music that serves as a vessel for presence, healing, and the unfolding of inner worlds, bridging centuries-old practices with forward-thinking soundscapes.

For many years she performed under her classical music name, Karolina Rojahn, establishing herself as a leading interpreter of contemporary music. She premiered more than one hundred new works and recorded forty four albums of solo and chamber repertoire on labels such as Naxos, Navona, Ravello.

Now composing and performing under the name Karolina Kalo, she brings her classical foundation into a new creative realm of neo-classical and ambient music. Her interdisciplinary practice often includes collaborations with visual artists and dancers curating immersive and ethereal soundscapes that serve as a conduit to a deeper communion with self. A central focus of Karolina's creative practice is Cor Karoli - her musical duo that focuses on exploring intersections between neo-classical and electronic music by blending seemingly distant musical styles into an innovative cross-genre sound. Their debut album "Becoming" premiered in the fall of 2025.

Karolina is a graduate of Boston Conservatory at Berklee, where she earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Piano Performance.

3:15 pm

"The Observer Is the Observed": A First-Principles Inquiry into the Nature of the Self

Presentation by Pathik Wadhwa at the Student Center

We live with a persistent sense of being a self—a center from which we think, feel, and act—and often with a familiar undercurrent of effort, conflict, and the feeling that something is not quite right, that we could or should be otherwise. These are usually taken to be inherent features of being human. But what if both the sense of self and the conflict that accompanies it are not as they appear, and instead arise from how experience itself is constructed?

Beginning from first principles—drawing on logical reasoning and contemporary understanding of the brain's construction of experience—this presentation examines how the brain does not simply mirror the world but actively constructs neural representations of it — the process Krishnamurti called thought — including a model of the organism itself: the felt sense of a unified, continuously persisting "I." While this construction serves essential adaptive functions, it is not experienced as a model but as an actually existing entity. The misapprehension is this: what is in fact a moment-to-moment construction arising wholly from experience and memory presents itself as an independently enduring subject. The presentation derives precisely how this misapprehension arises, and shows why it necessarily produces a fundamental form of conflict — the movement to become other than what is. This movement is incoherent at its root, and efforts to resolve it from within the same structure not only fail but instead sustain and amplify it.

Finally, it considers what remains possible when it is seen — through thought's complete examination of its own limits, what Krishnamurti meant by negation — that no act originating within this structure can bring it to an end, and whether the cessation of this movement opens onto something of a fundamentally different order — a question the presentation holds open rather than forecloses.

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Pathik Wadhwa, M.D., Ph.D., was born and raised in India and has spent most of his adult life in Southern California, where he lives with his wife, Meha, and their dogs. He is, by profession, a physician-scientist and serves as a Chancellor's Professor at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine, where he founded and directs the UC Irvine Development, Health

and Disease Research Program. This transdisciplinary initiative focuses on the origins of human conditioning during the earliest phase of life—from conception to birth—and specifically on the role of maternal-placental-fetal stress-related processes during this period in shaping key structural and functional features of a wide range of physical and mental health outcomes across the entire lifespan.

Alongside his scientific career, Pathik has had a longstanding engagement with the work of J. Krishnamurti, both as a personal pursuit and through formal association with K schools and foundations, drawn by questions about the nature of mind, perception, and the sense of self. For him, scientific research and exploration of K's work are not distinct interests but expressions of a single underlying investigation into the origins, nature, and consequences of conditioning. Drawing on his examination of conditioning's biological architecture, his inquiry centers on a fundamental question: whether there can be a clear perception into the underlying causal structure of that which, for most of us, feels more palpably real than anything else we experience—our felt sense of being a separate, continuously persisting self—and whether such perception can dissolve the misapprehension that this self is an independent entity standing apart from the very experiences that constitute it—what K encapsulated in his central insight: *"the observer is the observed."*

3:15 pm

Dialogue

with Richard Waxberg and Deborah Kerner in the Reflective Classroom

The dialogues offer a space for the inquiry into fundamental questions of human existence, attempting to move from intellectual analysis to direct perception. Participants are invited to explore some of the topics addressed during the Gathering weekend from the perspective of Krishnamurti's teachings, such as education and learning, conditioning, the nature of the self and of thought, intelligence and self-knowledge. They often begin with a passage, video, or audio clip to initiate shared, honest investigation. Facilitated in a spirit of affection and deep listening, the dialogues encourage individuals to suspend judgment and move past preconceived notions in order to see "what is" together.

—

Richard Waxberg and Deborah Kerner create and facilitate two 8-day Intensive Retreats each year for the Krishnamurti Center in Ojai with a radical approach to dialogue that allows participants to penetrate the core of Krishnamurti's life-changing insights, including a shift from a thought-based consciousness to the intuitive dimension of 'listening and seeing'. They emphasize 'stepping out of time' and the birth of a new mind.

Maximum of 25 participants. Please sign up at the information booth.

3:15 pm

Exploring the Practices of Being a Light to Oneself - Philosophy, Religion, Creation, and the Learning Community

Workshop by Andy Gilman in the HS Math Classroom

Being a light, or a lamp, to oneself has many interpretations. Some read the advice as eschewing all established practices and trusting an internal feeling to guide your actions and beliefs. Others believe that a singular focus and internalization of a body of essential law to guide you is what is called for. Some will question the validity of all guides, even denying the confidence in any knowledge at all. Participants in this session will explore short passages from Krishnamurti, along with several religious and philosophical traditions, from both the east and the west, to investigate the possibilities a thoughtful, curious, and cooperative learning community can offer. Working together, the group will wrestle with the notions of internal guides, the various modes practitioners have employed, and the joys and cautions that can be gleaned from them.

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Andy Gilman was raised in Ojai. He teaches high school English and History at Oak Grove School part time, and is the current Mayor of Ojai. In addition, Andy is the director of the Agora Foundation, which offers great books seminars, teacher training, and Ojai Chautauqua panels promoting civil discourse in the community. He loves to garden, hike, cook, play music, read, draw, and enjoy our valley with his wife Kate. He has three adult children, and one three-year-old grandchild.

Maximum of 25 participants. Please sign up at the information booth.

4:30 pm

Social Time / Tea and Coffee
at the Main House

Join us for some informal social time together at the end of the day!

Sunday, May 3

10:00 am

Welcome, Recap and Overview of the Day / Music

with Maxi Kogoi (Krishnamurti Center Director) & Karolina Kalo (pianist) at the Student Center

Maxi Kogoi comes from a German-Italian family and completed his high school years at Brockwook Park School in the mid-80s. He attended college in the US and earned a BA in Anthropology, then pursued further studies in Political Science in Germany. When the opportunity to return to the States presented itself, he eventually found his way to Ojai which he has been calling home for 20 years. He has been working in education administration in various capacities for two decades and has recently joined the KFA as the Krishnamurti Center Director. He continues to delve into Krishnamurti's teachings and has found Integral Theory to be an interesting contribution to the understanding of the world at large.

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Karolina Kalo is a Los Angeles-based concert pianist, recording artist, and multi-genre composer whose artistry spans classical and contemporary realms. Through both tradition and experimentation, she creates music that serves as a vessel for presence, healing, and the unfolding of inner worlds, bridging centuries-old practices with forward-thinking soundscapes.

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innovative cross-genre sound. Their debut album “Becoming” premiered in the fall of 2025.

Karolina is a graduate of Boston Conservatory at Berklee, where she earned both her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Piano Performance as a full-scholarship recipient.

10:30 am

Thought and Observation

Presentation by David Moody at the Student Center

Although Krishnamurti’s teaching embraces the whole of life and relationship, he gives special attention to thought and the thinking process, and how they interact with observation. His insights are revolutionary -- highly original and deeply penetrating into the origins of the human predicament. This talk reviews some of the key elements of his point of view, including copious quotations from his talks and written work. The discussion provides the foundation for understanding his profound contribution to the field of education as well as the basic intention of his schools.

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David Edmund Moody, PhD, is the author of three books about Krishnamurti. His most recent book is Krishnamurti in America: New Perspectives on the Man and his Message. This biography examines the whole of Krishnamurti’s life and work, with special attention to the crucial events in the United States that have been neglected or overlooked by previous biographers. These events include the unusual and challenging circumstances leading to the formation of the Krishnamurti Foundation of America. David worked closely with Krishnamurti during the early years of the Oak Grove School, where he served as teacher, educational director, and director, from 1975 to 1987. He took his PhD in educational psychology (UCLA, 1991) with a research focus on the role of insight in students’ understanding of concepts in the sciences. Further information about David and his work is available at davidedmundmoody.com.

10:30 am

Dialogue

with Richard Waxberg and Deborah Kerner in the Reflective Classroom

The dialogues offer a space for the inquiry into fundamental questions of human existence, attempting to move from intellectual analysis to direct perception. Participants are invited to explore some of the topics addressed during the Gathering weekend from the perspective of Krishnamurti's teachings, such as education and learning, conditioning, the nature of the self and of thought, intelligence and self-knowledge. They often begin with a passage, video, or audio clip to initiate shared, honest investigation. Facilitated in a spirit of affection and deep listening, the dialogues encourage individuals to suspend judgment and move past preconceived notions in order to see "what is" together.

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Maximum of 12 participants. Please sign up at the information booth.

10:30 am

Poetry and Krishnamurti

Workshop with Karen Hesli in the HS Math Classroom

Like water bubbling up from the earth, this poetry workshop springs from nature and from an abiding inclination to listen, to observe, and to notice. Just as Oak Grove students, parents and teachers are invited to engage with the 'whole of life', we will share the lyrical dance and fluid nature of poetry as an alive, moving, breathing, non stagnant state of inquiry. After a lifetime in education, poetry has become an essential component of my day to day life, along with slowing down to witness and decode the existential confusions of current living. I have culled

some favorites from my poetry library related to these 'educational' themes: conditioning, flowering in goodness, listening, learning, self-understanding and relationship and I cherish hearing new voices reading and responding to them. Feel welcome to share one of your old favorites with us.

As Mary Oliver said, "when you step inside a poem, you may become cooled and refreshed, less yourself than part of everything." Our intention during this interactive window is to enjoy the beauty of well-used language as it may reveal a spring you had not noticed or you'd forgotten. Poems that we will read together may invoke awareness, unleash a question or replace the pressure or routine of life with the unexpected.

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Karen's Bio: After teaching in Minneapolis Public Schools for 10 years, I had grown weary of the large classes and entrenched systems of grades, testing, rewards and punishments and began to imagine that a vibrant and happier learning environment was possible... As things go, within a few months of becoming acquainted with Krishnamurti's writings on education, I had moved to Ojai to teach at Oak Grove School! The campus itself was a breath of fresh air, along with its stunningly expansive and revolutionary full page intention about the art of learning and listening. The shared experience of inquiry among the parents, staff and children became a source for never-ending discovery and renewal not just related to what it means to be educated, but what it means to be alive. Working at Oak Grove has been a gift of a lifetime, a gift that continues since 'retiring' in 2018. The mysterious 'curriculum of life' keeps presenting itself in new forms. One of these forms has been to compile the poems that have been markedly significant to students, parents and/or teachers (and/or written by them) during these decades. During this 1-2 hour workshop we'll read aloud some of these poems, reflect, discuss, and perhaps write/share some of our own.

Maximum of 25 participants. Please sign up at the information booth.

1:30 pm

"You do not have to be good:" Intelligence, Goodness and The School

Presentation by Siddhartha Menon at the Student Center

What is intelligence? How is it related to goodness? Should education be concerned with nurturing both? What are the consequences of their not being nurtured? How does Krishnamurti look at these questions?

These are the concerns that underlie this presentation. Drawing primarily on Krishnamurti's distinctive insights and, by way of supplement and contrast, on poems by DH Lawrence and Mary Oliver, the presentation will also reflect briefly on the place of nature and silence in the schools. Implicitly it will take into account the earlier sessions at the Gathering in an attempt to tie together some of the strands of the overall theme: education and the significance of life.

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Siddhartha Menon is a trustee of the KFI, a former principal of Rishi Valley School, and former director of the Rajghat Education Centre. He is currently based at the Valley School in Bangalore. He is also an alumnus of Rishi Valley School and has been working in the Krishnamurti schools for more than thirty years. He has published six collections of poetry and is an avid runner.

1:30 pm

Dialogue

with John Duncan in the Reflective Classroom

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John has been involved with the Krishnamurti Foundation for several decades. After first seeing Krishnamurti speak in 1984, he attended the first dialogue retreats and May Gatherings beginning in 1986. Following many personal retreats in Ojai, he moved there in the late 1990s and began working for the KFA. He was proofreading for Krishnamurti Publications at a time when many books were being put back into print, including the entire Collected Works, which deepened his interaction with the teachings. Working in the Krishnamurti Library and facilitating countless dialogues has rounded out his education into what Krishnamurti has shared with us. He is working on a book based on what he has learned with the working title: Fragmentation, Meditation and Freedom: All you need to know to allow the unknown. He also plans to move to New York where he will share his music, which has also manifested through what he has learned these many years. Other than that he is just another nobody, living, loving and learning.

Maximum of 12 participants. Please sign up at the information booth.

1:45 pm

Tea & Oak Grove School Tour - 50 Years of Learning

at the Main House

Take a leisurely walk around campus with the Head of School, Jodi Grass, as she shares about the school through the lens of a 50-year retrospective. Visit classrooms and gathering spaces while engaging in a conversation about the intent of the school.

3:00 pm

The Living Experiment: 50 Years of Oak Grove School

Presentation by Jodi Grass, Meredy Benson Rice, and Karen Hesli at the Student Center

In the context of this year's theme, Education and the Significance of Life, this panel brings together Karen Hesli, Meredy Benson Rice, and Jodi Grass in a shared inquiry into the school as a living laboratory or experiment. Collectively, their experience serving as Director or Head of Oak Grove spans decades, offering a longitudinal perspective on the unfolding of the school's intent.

Rather than presenting a fixed model of the school and its history, this session will aim to explore the ongoing, sometimes uncertain nature of such a living learning organism called 'school'; we'll reflect together about some of the common and persistent educational conundrums and mythologies facing all schools, and those that perhaps pertain uniquely to K schools. The panel will invite participants to explore what it means to create an educational environment where learning is not separate from living, where the classroom and campus are alive with observation, relationship, and self-understanding.

Here are some questions to ponder before we get together:

What does it mean to educate in a way that is not driven by conditioning, comparison, or outcome?

What are the hindrances that divert or prevent a meaningful quality of inquiry?

What are some lived examples where both adults and students learn together, moment to moment, in the significance of life itself?

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Jodi Grass has worked at Oak Grove School and the Krishnamurti Foundation of America in different capacities since 2005. Currently, Jodi is in her ninth year as Head of School. In her words, "I don't feel as though I 'work' at Oak Grove. I spend my days here out of a deep devotion to the Intent of the school as originally shared by Krishnamurti in 1975." Before Oak Grove, Jodi worked for several nonprofits, community organizations, K-12 schools, and a community college. She has also served on the boards of three nonprofit organizations and two schools over the past 34 years. Jodi has taught students of all ages through community education agencies that provided compensatory content to public schools. Just before joining Oak Grove in 2005, Jodi was the Executive Director of a nonprofit organization that provided support for NGOs in developing nations.

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Meredy Benson Rice has been a member of the Oak Grove School Community since 1991. She was drawn to Ojai from her native Canada and UK by her interest in Krishnamurti and Oak Grove School specifically. Over the last 35 years, she has held various positions in the school including parent, teacher, HS Director, Head of School, Director of Teaching & Learning, and now serves the school by coaching teachers in their ever-present commitment to continuous growth. She has a

deep love of the school and continues to be inspired by its mission to "offer a place where the whole community can inquire together into the perennial questions of humankind". She holds an MA in Educational Leadership (Columbia) as well as a BA in English Literature (University of Sussex), a B.Ed. in Education/Teaching (York University, Toronto), and a post-graduate Certificate in Evidence-based Coaching (Fielding University). She is also the author of three published novels for young readers.

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Karen's Bio: After teaching in Minneapolis Public Schools for 10 years, I had grown weary of the large classes and entrenched systems of grades, testing, rewards and punishments and began to imagine that a vibrant and happier learning environment was possible... As things go, within a few months of becoming acquainted with Krishnamurti's writings on education, I had moved to Ojai to teach at Oak Grove School! The campus itself was a breath of fresh air, along with its stunningly expansive and revolutionary full page intention about the art of learning and listening. The shared experience of inquiry among the parents, staff and children became a source for never-ending discovery and renewal not just related to what it means to be educated, but what it means to be alive. Working at Oak Grove has been a gift of a lifetime, a gift that continues since 'retiring' in 2018.

3:00 pm

Dialogue

with Rowan Lommel in the HS Math Classroom

The dialogues offer a space for the inquiry into fundamental questions of human existence, attempting to move from intellectual analysis to direct perception. Participants are invited to explore some of the topics addressed during the Gathering weekend from the perspective of Krishnamurti's teachings, such as education and learning, conditioning, the nature of the self and of thought, intelligence and self-knowledge. They often begin with a passage, video, or audio clip to initiate shared, honest investigation. Facilitated in a spirit of affection and deep listening, the dialogues encourage

individuals to suspend judgment and move past preconceived notions in order to see "what is" together.

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Rowan Lommel, PsyD is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and a Certified Yoga Therapist living in Ojai. She grew up in the Krishnamurti schools, and has been working on and off for the Krishnamurti Foundation since she was a teenager. She is a professor in the Clinical Psychology program at Antioch University.

Maximum of 25 participants. Please sign up at the information booth.

4:20 pm

Exposure, Engagement, and Exploration: The Role of the KFA with KFA Staff and Trustees at the Student Center

What is a foundation dedicated to Krishnamurti's work actually in a position to do — and where does its reach necessarily end? This final session of the gathering will take up those questions directly.

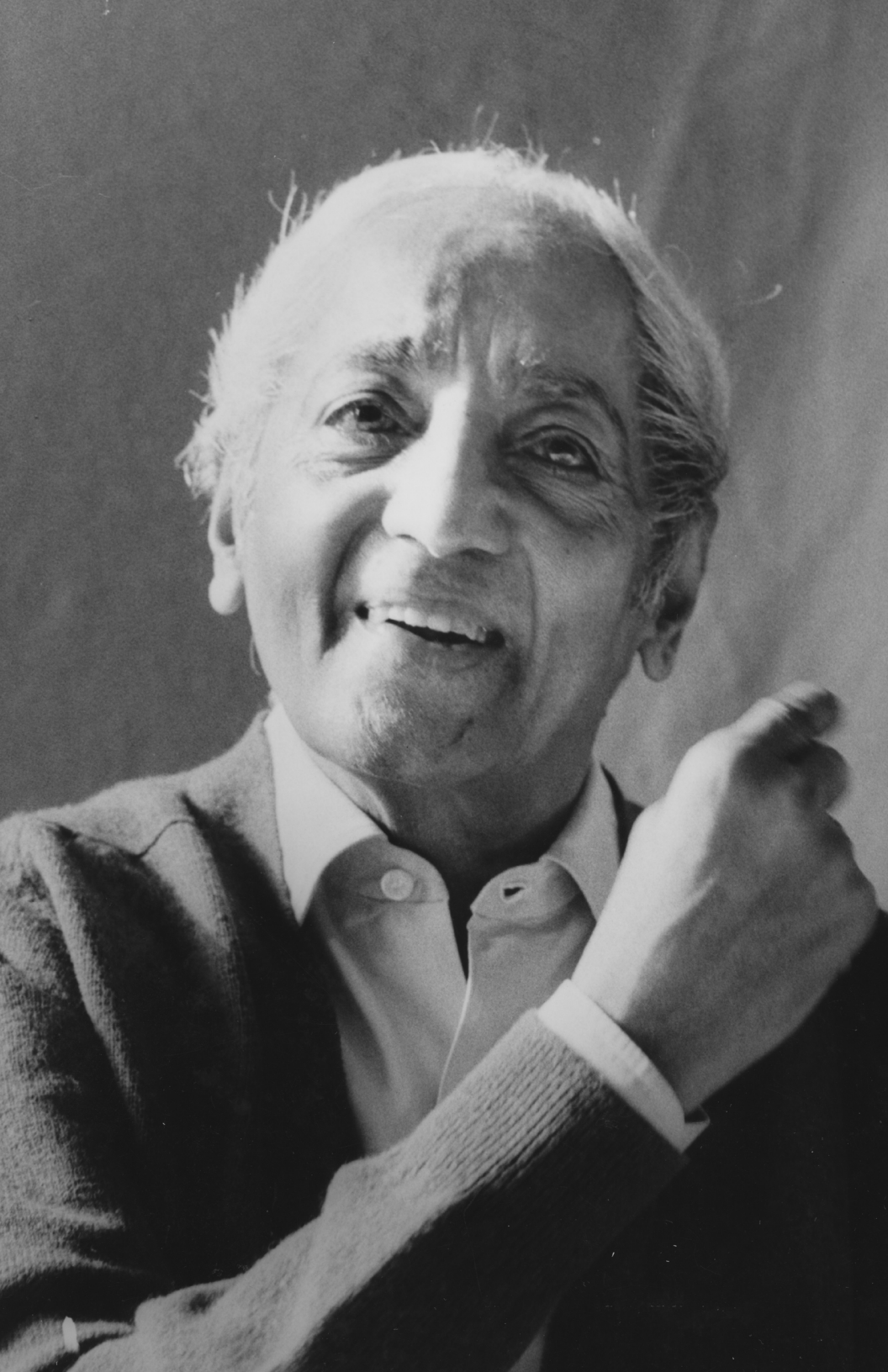
The KFA has developed a framework built around three distinct dimensions of the core mission of dissemination: exposure, engagement, and exploration. Exposure is actual encounter with the teachings in their authentic form — not mere availability, but contact. Engagement is observable participation: dialogue, study groups, retreats, the annual gathering, and the range of programs the Foundation can offer, support, and assess. Exploration is the inward movement of observation and inquiry to which Krishnamurti pointed — and it lies entirely outside institutional reach. It cannot be produced, guided, or measured by any organization. We view the KFA's role as ensuring access and supporting engagement, while holding clearly that exploration belongs wholly to the individual. No institution can reach across that boundary — nor should it try.

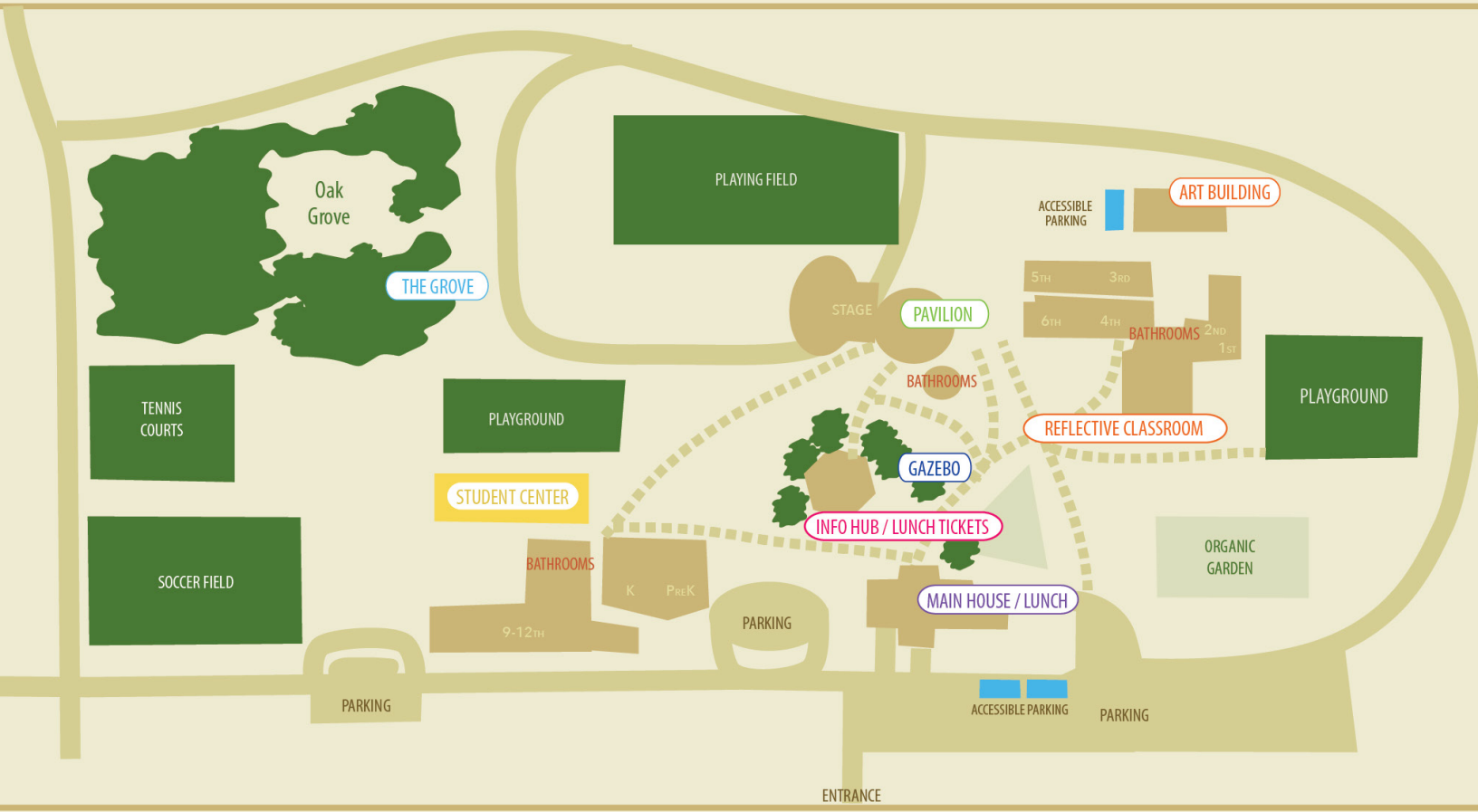
This is not an abstract exercise. Using this framework, the KFA is actively reviewing its programs and expects to refine and, where necessary, revise what it does — and does not do — in alignment with this understanding. We will present this approach and invite questions and open discussion.

GET INVOLVED

kfa.org/contact-us

Online Courses | Resident Scholar Program | Volunteering
Other Opportunities




Oak Grove
THE GROVE
PLAYING FIELD
ACCESSIBLE PARKING
ART BUILDING
STAGE
PAVILION
5TH
3RD
6TH
4TH
BATHROOMS
2ND
1ST
BATHROOMS
PLAYGROUND
TENNIS COURTS
PLAYGROUND
REFLECTIVE CLASSROOM
GAZEBO
STUDENT CENTER
INFO HUB / LUNCH TICKETS
ORGANIC GARDEN
SOCCER FIELD
BATHROOMS
K
PREK
9-12TH
PARKING
MAIN HOUSE / LUNCH
ACCESSIBLE PARKING
PARKING
PARKING
ENTRANCE