

Self-Realization Fellowship

Self-Realization Fellowship is an international nonprofit society founded by Paramahansa Yogananda in 1920 to introduce to truth-seekers of all races, cultures, and creeds scientific techniques of meditation for attaining direct personal experience of God. For further information about Paramahansa Yogananda's teachings, you are welcome to inquire at the Visitors' Center, or you may write, call, or fax us at: Self-Realization Fellowship, 3880 San Rafael Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90065-3219 • Phone: (323) 225-2471 • Fax: (323) 225-5088 • www.yogananda-srf.org.

These grounds are open year-round for your enjoyment. They are maintained through the generosity of those who wish to show their appreciation for the peace and serenity found here. Donations from friends and visitors help us to preserve this unusual setting for the inspiration of the many who visit every year from all parts of the world. (All donations to Self-Realization Fellowship are tax-deductible.)



Lake Shrine Visitors' Guide

*We are happy to have you as a
guest at the
Self-Realization Fellowship Lake
Shrine.*

Since its opening to the public in 1950 by Paramahansa Yogananda, the Lake Shrine has inspired thousands of visitors each year, many of whom return again and again to refresh mind and spirit in the peace that pervades this beautiful sanctuary.

The ten-acre site is a natural amphitheater. The spring-fed lake has an average depth of fifteen feet. Its waters are inhabited by numerous varieties of colorful fish.

Court of Religions

In the Court of Religions (to your left as you enter the Lake Shrine grounds) each of the five principal religions of the world is represented by a monument that bears its symbol: a Cross for Christianity, a Star of David for Judaism, a Wheel of the Law for Buddhism, a Star and Crescent for Islam, and the Sanskrit character Aum for Hinduism. The Court of Religions was suggested by Paramahansa Yogananda. "We must recognize the unity of mankind," he said, "remembering that we are all made in the image of God. There must be world brotherhood if we are to be able to practice the true art of living. This shrine is dedicated to all religions that all may feel the unity of a common faith in the Fatherhood of God." He pointed out that while dogmas may differ, the goal of every religion is the same — direct experience of God. And in that universal experience one beholds the underlying harmony of all religious faiths and

understands the divine kinship that unites all people as God's children.

Windmill Chapel



The picturesque chapel is an authentic reproduction of a 16th-century Dutch windmill. This three-story building was on the grounds when the Lake Shrine was acquired. Before the new temple was constructed, all services were held here; the chapel was enlarged twice over the years to accommodate increasing attendance. With exceptions for special services, the Windmill Chapel is now open to the public Tuesday to Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Golden Lotus Archway

Across the lake from the Windmill Chapel is the Golden Lotus Archway, which was designed by Paramahansa Yogananda and unveiled at the dedication of the Lake Shrine on August 20, 1950. Goodwin J. Knight, then lieutenant governor of California, assisted in the dedication service. The large lotuses atop the archway are constructed of copper and covered with a golden finish. In In-

Self-Realization Fellowship Lake Shrine
17190 Sunset Boulevard
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272-3001
Telephone: (310) 454-4114 www.lakeshrine.org
Temple: 17080 Sunset Boulevard

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. • Sunday, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. • Closed Mondays, holidays, and occasionally on Saturdays
• Grounds may close during rainy weather. Call for information.

Inspirational services: Sunday, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. • Thursday, 8:00 p.m.

Meditation services: Sunday, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. (Energization Exercises at 6:10 p.m.) • Friday, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. (Energization Exercises at 7:10 p.m.)

Windmill Chapel open: Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. • Sunday 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. • Closed occasionally for special services

Parking: Available during visiting hours and 45 minutes prior to services

Lake Shrine Retreat
Telephone: (310) 459-4740
Email: lsreservations@yogananda-srf.org

For other Self-Realization Fellowship temples, centers, and retreats visit www.yogananda-srf.org or call (323) 225-2471.



dia the stately lotus flower is a symbol of divine unfoldment—the awakening of the soul to its infinite potential.

Houseboat and Landing

At the houseboat landing, Paramahansa Yogananda often sat in prayer and meditation for hours, deeply communing with God. From here you can see, on the hillside across the water, a life-size statue of Christ, below which a waterfall flows into the lake. The double-deck houseboat moored near the landing was transported from Lake Mead to the Lake Shrine in the 1940s. Paramahansa Yogananda occasionally used the houseboat during the Lake Shrine's development, while personally supervising the construction, planting, and other work necessary to create the magnificent living shrine he envisioned on this site.

Further down the path, just before arriving at the Gandhi World Peace Memorial, you will see a beautiful statue of Bhagavan Krishna overlooking the lake.

Gandhi World Peace Memorial

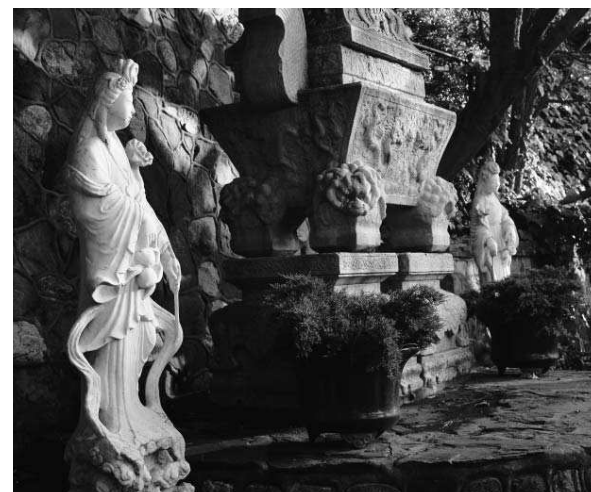
Behind the Golden Lotus Archway, in a “wall-less temple” open to the sky, is the Gandhi World Peace Memorial. A brass coffer containing a portion of Mahatma Gandhi's ashes was enshrined in this stone sarcophagus at the dedication of the Lake Shrine. (In his *Autobiography of a Yogi*, Paramahansa Yogananda describes a visit in 1935 to Gandhi's ashram in Wardha, India. At Gandhi's request, he instructed the Mahatma in the spiritual science of Kriya Yoga.)

On either side of the Gandhi Memorial is a marble statue of Kwan Yin, the Goddess of Mercy (the Chinese representation of God in the aspect of Divine Mother).

Museum/Gift Shop

The museum presents an inspiring portrait of Paramahansa Yogananda's life and work, and houses a fascinating collection of unusual artifacts and rare objects given to him by grateful students and friends during his travels in many lands.

A gift shop in the museum building offers a selection of arts and crafts from India, as well as books and recordings by and about Paramahansa Yogananda and his teachings.



Sunken Gardens

In the Sunken Gardens bordering the museum is a quiet grotto. Enshrined here amid tropical plants is a representation of the Madonna and Child.

Follow the path from the Sunken Gardens, and you will find yourself back at the entrance to the Lake Shrine. We hope that you will return often to enjoy the beauty and tranquility of this spiritual sanctuary created by Paramahansa Yogananda.

Temple



Shortly before his passing, Paramahansa Yogananda expressed a deeply felt wish that one day a temple and retreat be constructed at the Lake Shrine. In 1996, that dream was realized with the opening of a 58-foot high, 4,000-square-foot hill-top temple, which overlooks the lake to the East and the Pacific Ocean to the West.

The temple incorporates a blend of Eastern and Western architectural styles. Crowned with a golden lotus, the domed octagonal building features intricate decorative work in concrete, stained glass, wood, and ceramic tile, much of it crafted by hand. In addition to the striking sanctuary, which seats 400, the temple complex includes a large video-equipped special-events hall, a book-

room, and Sunday school classrooms.

Lecture and meditation services are conducted by the monks who reside at the Lake Shrine. There are Sunday school classes for children aged three and older, and a video-equipped parents-and-infants room for those with younger children. (Please refer to the back of this leaflet for times of services.)

Lake Shrine Retreat

The Retreat is open throughout the year, Tuesday through Sunday, for Self-Realization members and friends who wish to come for a period of spiritual renewal. The retreat programs include daily meditation, classes on the teachings of Paramahansa Yogananda, and other activities. Although the programs are structured primarily for those familiar with these teachings, anyone interested is welcome to visit www.lakeshrine.org, call the Retreat Office at (310) 459-4740, or email lsretreat@yogananda-srf.org.

