



“One of the primary lessons to be learned on earth, as exemplified by God, is to every day share at least a little of your earthly possessions with worthy persons, or, better still, needy Divine Causes.”

Paramhansa Yogananda,  
*How to Give Gifts, Inner Culture Magazine, April, 1936*

## Dear Friends,

The beginning of a new year is the time for renewing important and heartfelt commitments. The clouds of uncertainty which encircle our planet are but an opportunity to tangibly express our faith, courage, and commitment to serve as instruments of God's Light and Peace in the world.

We are revisiting the form and practice of membership in the Ananda Portland Sangha. Through our united fellowship we increase our capacity for the light and consciousness of this path to enter into the world. It has become increasingly clear that membership is a significant tool for the growth of spiritual awareness in our times. **Membership provides the financial support and individual participation that allows Ananda to continue and expand the services it provides in the Portland area.**

Membership in Ananda Portland Sangha is a commitment to furthering your growth in Self-realization through satsang (fellowship with other truth-seekers), study, sadhana (spiritual practice), and self-offering. Your participation helps define Ananda. Each member is encouraged to: serve for three or more hours per month, in some capacity that suits them; attend Ananda services and events as possible; participate in classes; and provide financial support as they are inspired and able. Real growth occurs through participation. All of these involvements strengthen members as channels for the consciousness and light of this path.

All truth-seekers are welcome to help co-create the future of Ananda Portland. In this invitation we have outlined different ways in which you can contribute. Your energy, personal commitment and financial support are vital to nourish this aspiration. Together we can accomplish great things that no one of us could do on our own.

We invite you to take a few minutes to review your level of personal commitment to, and financial support of, Ananda Portland Sangha for the year 2011. Please pray about your level of giving and make your commitment as you feel it in your heart. We are asking for you to make a commitment this month to allow us to make a realistic budget for our work in the coming year. **More than 65% of the ministry is currently supported by your generous tithes and pledges.**

## In divine friendship & gratitude,

Daiva and Gangamata,  
for Your Ananda Portland Leadership Team

## Membership Levels

Please read the information regarding membership carefully and pray for guidance in your response.

### ● Friend of Ananda Portland

A Friend of Ananda Portland is glad that Ananda Portland exists and appreciates the service it provides to the world. A Friend participates, donates and serves as he is able and inspired. *Friends are welcome to become members of Ananda Portland at any time.*

### ● Exploring Member of Ananda Portland

An Exploring Member participates and serves as able and inspired and pledges financial support of \$50 per person per month. *Exploring Members receive a 10% member discount on most Ananda Portland events and classes.*

### ● Contributing Member of Ananda Portland

A Contributing Member participates in Ananda events regularly, serves a minimum of 3 hours a month in some capacity and pledges financial support of \$100 per person, per month. *Contributing Members receive a 25% discount on most Ananda Portland events and classes. \* Classes designated as "core" to the development of a personal spiritual practice or sadhana are free to Contributing Members. \*\**

#### ● Seva Member

For those unable to pledge financial support at the Contributing level of membership, but who are sincerely committed to Ananda Portland as their primary source of inspiration and would like to offer a commitment of energy and time in support of Ananda, an exchange of seva (service) for the Contributing level of membership can be arranged by contacting the spiritual directors.

### ● Supporting Member of Ananda Portland

A Supporting Member participates in Ananda events regularly, serves a minimum of 3 hours a month in some capacity and pledges financial support of \$200 per person, per month. *Supporting Members are able to attend most Ananda Portland events and classes on a donation basis. \* Classes designated as "core" to the development of a personal spiritual practice or sadhana are free to Supporting members. \*\**

### ● Sustaining Member of Ananda Portland

A Sustaining Member participates in Ananda events regularly, serves a minimum of 3 hours a month in some capacity and pledges financial support of \$350 per person, per month. *Sustaining Members are able to attend most Ananda Portland events and classes free. \**

### ● Rajarshi Member of Ananda Portland

A Rajarshi member participates in Ananda events regularly, serves a minimum of 3 hours a month in some capacity and pledges financial support of \$1000 or more per person, per month. *Rajarshi Members are able to attend all Ananda events and classes free (without exception).*

\* Excludes AYT, MTT, EFLTT, Offsite Retreats, Fundraisers, Material costs for courses.

\*\* Core classes include Meditation I, Meditation II, Yoga Postures, repeats of Art and Science of Raja Yoga I, and classes offered at Ananda Nights at New Renaissance Bookshop.

## **Tithing in relation to Membership**

Tithing a percentage of your income to the source of your divine inspiration is a spiritual practice encouraged by all true teachers, including Paramhansa Yogananda and Nayaswami Kriyananda. The minimum monthly pledge amounts outlined here would include any monthly tithes you choose, but do not include periodic donations to Sunday Services, events, fundraising, or class costs. For more information on tithing as a spiritual practice contact Lorna at the Sangha office.

## **Membership Details**

Membership in Ananda Sangha of Portland is a personal choice and not a requirement for participation. We welcome all truth seekers as divine friends and seek to serve all who are inspired by the universal teachings expressed through Ananda.

All levels of Membership include ongoing communication from the Ananda Portland Sangha Office, plus invitations to activities, events, inspirational offerings and opportunities specific to that level. In addition, all members are automatically enrolled as members in the Ananda Sangha Worldwide.

Should your circumstances change, contact us at any time to review and revise your level of participation.

## Your monthly pledge to Ananda Portland supports:

- 15+ opportunities for group meditation each week throughout the Portland area
- Weekly Sunday Services and Sunday School
- Music Ministry including a choir and musicians, ongoing training in music as a vehicle for attunement, kirtans, performances at special events and weekly at Service
- 50+ Meditation Classes per year
- 200+ classes in Yoga Postures per year
- Many classes and presentations in Yoga philosophy and Spiritualizing Life
- Professional training for Teachers in Education for Life, Ananda Yoga, and Meditation
- Living Wisdom School (pre-K-6)
- Worldwide Healing Prayer Ministry
- The Ananda Portland Temple and Teaching Center
- Ministry services: weddings, baptisms, astral ascensions, funerals, spiritual counseling and support, hospital visitation, parish nursing services, private meditations and prayers Family Council and support
- Alternative living choices, including: health, diet, green living, permaculture, vedic astrology
- Holiday celebrations and Commemorations
- Lifelong Learning in the Self-realization teachings of Paramhansa Yogananda
- Kriya Yoga preparation and initiation, review and ongoing Ananda Kriyaban support, including monthly Kriyaban meditations
- Support for deepening involvement in the Ananda Sadhaka and Sevaka Orders
- Ongoing support and education for the Nayaswami Renunciate Order
- Coordination with Ananda Communities and Services worldwide
- Ongoing connection with Swami Kriyananda and his activities
- In keeping with the law of tithing, Ananda Portland tithes to Ananda's worldwide ministry
- Ongoing operation of Ananda Community of Portland and Living Joy Center
- Ongoing development and support of Ananda meditation groups in the Portland area.

## Now & the Future

In 2011, expansion seems to be the continuing theme. The broader the base of Ananda, the more people can be touched and involved. The last few years have seen a consolidation of our current resources and services – remodeling and updating all our facilities – plus development in our Teacher Training programs, opening new meditation groups, and supporting greater understanding and experience of our current members.

This year, the Living Wisdom School is planning to open the Living Wisely Store. We expect to increase and strengthen our fledgling meditation groups. And, it seems time to become earnest about adding a rural community as part of Ananda Portland. Yogananda spoke frequently and long about the need to develop rural communities which are able to incorporate the many aspects of daily life – where residents can live, work, learn, worship and serve in one place, while living in harmony with the rhythms of nature and growing in Self-realization. (The existing community serves wonderfully; this would simply add another dimension to Ananda Portland.)

## Ananda Portland Statement of Purpose and Philosophy

### The Way of Ananda Sanghis\*

- We believe in a single, blissful, eternal consciousness, Satchidanandam, which pervades the entire universe, unifying it and all creatures in a bond of mutual service. This blissful consciousness is the underlying reality of all existence; it precedes the very manifestation of the universe.
- We believe that man's highest duty is to realize himself as an expression of all-pervading Satchidanandam.
  - a) We embrace the way to this Self-realization through the inner silence, above all, of daily communion with the infinite Self.
  - b) We embrace, for ourselves, the need to embody this realization in our own lives by daily performing at least one specific, conscious, personally selected act of service to our fellow beings.
  - c) We embrace — again, for ourselves, since we seek not to impose our understanding on others — the need to honor all, whether friends or self-named foes, as manifestations of the eternal Satchidanandam, and to see them as our brothers and sisters in that Supreme Consciousness which is variously called God, Ishwara, Allah, or Jehovah. We recognize all names for that Supreme Being as designating our one, common Progenitor.
  - d) We embrace the need to give back to our Supreme Source by offering up every ego-attachment and self-limiting identity in daily acts of service to others.
- We seek never to convert anyone to our specific cause except, in love, to inspire all with the desire to reclaim the bliss of their own being.
- We seek fellowship with others willing to join hands with us in this loving labor for universal upliftment. Thus, by our united efforts, our hope is to share inspiration with ever-increasing effectiveness.
- We recognize that, whether or not others join us consciously in this labor, all human beings, each one individually, serve the Eternal Purpose, doing so by the simple act of seeking, whether ignorantly or wisely, the bliss of their own being. We condemn no one, therefore, for ideas he may hold that are different from our own, but embrace all as fellow seekers of Ultimate Bliss.

# Ananda Portland Membership

Thank you for the opportunity to share in the teachings of Paramhansa Yogananda and his direct disciple, Nayaswami Kriyananda, and the chance to participate in being a channel for divine light into the world through the work of Ananda Portland. I choose to participate as a:

Friend of Ananda Portland

- Exploring Member of Ananda Portland (\$50 per month pledge)
- Contributing Member of Ananda Portland (\$100 per month pledge)
- I would like to discuss the Seva option for Contributing Membership
- Supporting Member of Ananda Portland (\$200 per month pledge)
- Sustaining Member of Ananda Portland (\$350 per month pledge)
- Rajarshi Member of Ananda Portland (\$1000 per month pledge)

I understand that the membership pledge amounts as outlined are the minimum for each option. I choose to tithe as part of my spiritual practice and my tithe amount will be \$\_\_\_\_\_per month.

Enclosed is the amount \$\_\_\_\_\_as my February 2011 pledge.

Enclosed is the amount \$\_\_\_\_\_as my annual 2011 pledge.

Please use my credit card for my monthly pledge or tithe of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Card type and number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security # \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

## Contact Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*You will be contacted by Ananda Portland for confirmation.*

## Note to Ananda Portland

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