



The Inauguration of the Chateau du Yoga Sivananda • August 5 to 11, 2004

# WHAT'S NEW



## at the Sivananda

### Orleans

During the hottest week in France of the last half-century, a long-awaited and joyful event took place in the Forest of Orleans, just ninety minutes south of Paris—the inauguration of the first Sivananda Ashram in Europe.

On our arrival we were warmly welcomed by Swami Sivadasananda, and were immediately impressed by the changes we could see at the Ashram, especially by the stunning, newly-built asana platform in front of the Chateau. The ashram was bustling with life. A Teachers' Training Course had just started and we quickly tuned to the familiar atmosphere of a Sivananda Ashram, a balance of peace and dynamism, a potent mix for centering the mind.

One of the main events of the week was to be the inauguration of the new temple, and as with all guests we were magnetised in its presence. The priests were busy from morn till night with the many ceremonies necessary for the installation of the murtis of Ganesha, Krishna, and the Divine Mother.

The days were filled with activities, each a highlight in itself. Apart from the daily homas and pujas, we were witness to the official inauguration of the Ashram in the presence of the Vice-Ambassador of India; the initiation of five aspirants into brahmacharya and of two long-time staff members into sanniyas. We celebrated the

sixtieth birthday of Swami Durgananda in the traditional Indian manner with great joy and in the presence of Potti Swami and all the executive board members of the Sivananda organization. Swami Mahadevananda, Swami Swaroopananda and Swami Srinivasananda had come specially from Canada and the USA to give their blessings to the new Ashram.

In the evening, we were transported to higher spiritual realms by the magic of the Bhagavata Saptaha, a daily recital and commentary of the Srimad Bhagavatam accompanied by classical Indian chanting and music.

The energy increased each day, reaching its peak on the final day of the inauguration and the sixtieth birthday celebration of Swami Durgananda on August 11. It felt as though time had stopped. Heat, harmony, power, subtle presence, magic—all at the same time—an experience indelibly imprinted on the memory. It must have been a very special day for Swami Kailasananda who had put her heart and soul into the development of the Ashram and accompanied the project every step of the way.

The swamis, staff and karma yogis gave their full energy and more to make this week a highly memorable one in the history of the Sivananda organization.

We highly recommend that you visit the Ashram and take part in its energy. May it radiate positivity and peace to all for many generations to come.

— PAUL AND MARJORIE (STUDENTS OF THE SIVANANDA CENTRE IN PARIS)



### Bahamas

**New Shrines:** The ashram recently celebrated the installation of a murti of Vana Durga in a newly built shrine dedicated to the Divine Mother. Krishna Namboodri led the installation pujas, which culminated on February 14. We also welcomed murtis of Lord Krishna and Hanuman into another newly built shrine on the south wall of the main house. Nearby is a new shrine to Mother Mary. Puja at the shrines is conducted daily.

**Yoga in the Community:** The ashram has continued to take yoga to the local community by teaching every week at the Ranfurly Home for Children, a state-run orphanage in Nassau. Rev. Hepburn, a long-time friend of Swami Vishnu-devananda and the Ashram, runs a summer camp in Eluthera for under-privileged children from the Bahamas, where staff from the ashram come to teach. Over the summer, staff also taught weekly yoga classes at the juvenile reformatory school in Nassau, a prison for children ages 12-16.

# Centres around the world...

## Madrid after 11M Terrorist Attacks

Life in Madrid has been affected quite dramatically by the terrorism attack on the local trains on March 11th.

Gopala, the oldest teachers of the Centre, is a lawyer working in the Spanish General Council of the Judiciary. Three colleagues from his office were travelling in the train section that exploded. One was injured and the other two were helping the others to save their lives. They do not have words to explain the pain they feel about this massacre against humanity.

Sadasiva, a TTC graduate of TTC Spain 2002 and an active teacher of the Center was himself in one of the trains, which consisted of three sections, with one bomb in each section. Two bombs exploded, while the bomb in the section he was seated did not. When the explosions happened he was listening to Om Namah Sivaya Mantra Chanting on CD. Sadasiva says that he continued repeating the mantra throughout and that he felt it was the only thing which gave him strength during these tragical scenes of destruction and panic.

Since this "11M", security has been increased in many public areas of the city, but what has been more noticeable, is a strange silence in the streets of Madrid, which are usually filled with high pitch conversation and an extrovert mood. Attendance at the Center continued almost unchanged, students appreciating the oasis of peaceful vibrations.

In the light of such events and their probable increase in any part of the planet, Swamiji's peace mission through the Yoga Teachers' Training Courses worldwide is truly a great blessing. We hope that many more people will be able to join this great spiritual course some place in the world. Please visit [www.sivananda.org/ttceurope](http://www.sivananda.org/ttceurope), a newly updated site dedicated to promote the many facets of the TTC in many languages.



Shankara, Durga, Luis and Kanti Devi at the new affiliated Centre in Cordoba

## News from South America

Durga and Shankara opened a new affiliated center in Codoba, Argentina, a city located in the heart of the country with a population of over two million. Kanti Devi attended the inauguration at the end of February.

Another affiliated center started in March in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil with Subramanya and Annapoorna as directors. This will support our first Teachers' Training Course to be held in Brazil in January 2005, to be held in a famous resort area situated close to the ocean in the Atlantic Rain Forest.

## Yoga Ranch

There is a renewed energy at the Ranch. We need to upgrade our beloved but aging facilities and expand to accommodate new programs and more guests. At time of going to press, architectural plans are being drawn up for a new Sivananda Kutir which will house a new kitchen and a large yoga hall and dining hall, to be built on the site of the old Barn. The Sivananda Kutir will allow for us to hold more extensive programs during the winter months as well as during the Teachers' Training Courses and other major events. We plan to celebrate our 30th anniversary on Memorial Day weekend and have the official groundbreaking ceremony of the Sivananda Kutir on that day. In addition we will be installing a new Siva Temple during our 30th anniversary celebration on May 25. We hope you can join in the celebrations. If you would like to participate in the 2004 fundraising activities by contributing by donating money time or skills, send us an email at [yogaranch@sivananda.org](mailto:yogaranch@sivananda.org) or call us at the Ranch. You can also make online donations by visiting our website at [www.sivananda.org/ranch](http://www.sivananda.org/ranch).

