

# The Sambodh Society, Inc.

A Non-Profit Religious Organization for the Teaching of Vedanta and Meditation

January 31, 2009



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## Sambodh Center for Human Excellence Letter to Swamiji's Devotees and Friends of Sambodh Society

### Dear Friends and Members of Sambodh:

This has been a busy year for the Sambodh Society in America. Sambodh Aranya, the new ashram in Michigan, has begun to fulfill its purpose within the Mission of the Sambodh Centre for Human Excellence. Swami Bodhananda has been able to use this building as a center for scriptural teaching, meditation instruction, and encouraging social service. The generosity and good will of all the people who contributed to create this beautiful facility is bearing fruit.

The ashram has become a **center for scriptural study** as Swamiji leads people in analyses of various texts. This past summer we have explored the *Yoga Sutras* and the *Bhagavad Gita*, and will shortly begin a series on the theme of Dharma (righteousness). **Swamiji travels** out from this home base to deliver talks on the Upanishads at temples in this area, and around the country. **Scholars within the local community** have also shared their appreciation for the wisdom of the *Gita* and the *Ramayana* in talks at the Sunday services. In October, there was a day-long program on the *Gita* and November began with a weekend devoted to chanting mantras.

All of **Swamiji's talks are being recorded** so that they can be made available to our extended Sambodh community. And that illustrates a great **benefit of having this ashram**. Here we have a centralized location for not only hearing, but also



recording, Swamiji's wisdom. This knowledge can then be reviewed for further contemplation and **shared with people all over** the country through compact disks and (soon) web downloads.

Swamiji helps people deepen their meditation practice in meetings on Tuesday evenings and the building also provides a quiet **haven for meditation** on most mornings. Recently we learned that rain on the skylights is conducive to a quiet mind.

**Social service and application of Vedantic wisdom to daily life** are themes for the winter Sunday Services here at SCHE. Meanwhile, we are **reaching out to the Indian college students** to offer support as they try to find a balance between study, work-life and spirituality. Last year we hosted an interfaith discussion of peace in personal, communal, and global life. This summer we hope to have a **children's summer camp**. Watch for email announcements.

Another innovation for 2009 will come from the **new website we are designing**. In fact, we are already using the **new URL: [www.sambodh.us](http://www.sambodh.us)**. This site will make it easier to keep track of Sambodh USA events. It will also become a venue for accessing Swami Bodhananda's teachings. We hope to facilitate members of the Sambodh Society **ability to download lectures and mantra recordings** from the website, and buy books on-line too. The new website will become a new locus of community, a way to bridge the miles that separate people with shared interests. Eventually, study groups will be able to set up short-term chat rooms in order to discuss texts that they are reading together.

In 2009 we are also planning to change the time frame in which our Annual **Rudrabhishekam and Chandi Homa** occur, offering the sacred yajna on **May 16-17, 2009** instead of the Fall of the year. We plan to expand rather than hurry through these meaningful and important rituals we conduct.



Spring brings wonderful dogwood trees surrounding Shiva's abode along with the chirping of birds. We hope you'll join us for the Annual Yajna in May 2009.

Then, from **October 1-4, 2009**, SCHE is sponsoring a special seminar on **Hindu Dharma for the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century**. We hope that many of you will become involved in helping us plan, develop, and carry out this event. With your support the seminar is bound to be a success. The seminar will focus upon **eight themes and pillars of Hinduism**, identified by His Holiness Swami Bodhananda Saraswati on the basis of his observations and discussions with Hindu scholars, parents, grandparents, and youth living in America. These are: 1) *Sanatana Dharma*; 2) *Varnashrama Dharma*; 3) *Karma Siddhanta* and Reincarnation; 4) Hindu Rituals and Temple Worship in the Modern Era; 5) *Gurus*, Teachings and *Ashrams*; 6) Scriptures and their Interpretations; 7) Caste Conflict and Coalition in Hindu Society amidst the Specter of Conversion; 8) A Hindu-Framework for Interfaith and Science-Spirituality Dialogues. Innovative thinkers and scholars are being invited to discuss these topics **with an eye to the unique problems of Indo-Americans** and how Hindu families residing in America and subsequent generations of Hindus may be helped in their daily struggle to **communicate our practices and cultural values to our Hindu children**.

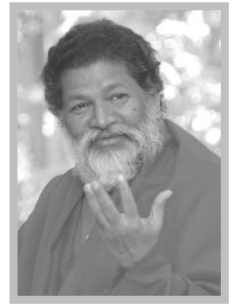


Children's Program at the SCHE Inauguration

All of this is possible because of the people who believe in the Sambodh mission, people who believe **Vedanta and meditation** are important to life. That is the purpose of Sambodh Aranya. Your contributions maintain this facility where Swami Bodhananda lives and teaches. You make it possible to **record and disseminate these teachings**. We hope that this year you will consider making a monthly contribution to support this mission. One of the **challenges for SCHE** is the necessity of a steady income to meet the monthly expenses of the ashram building. The new website will make it easy to set up an automatic donation plan.

We've added **PayPal to our website** to facilitate both continuous giving and donations for events and Special Occasions – like birthdays, graduations, prayers for loved-ones or for one's self, attending a retreat or purchasing a book.

**Continuous monthly donations of \$20, \$30, \$50 or \$100** would really help us with our monthly operating expenses as well as the scope of Swamiji's mission.



The ashram's **per day operating cost is \$65**. We'd love to have just **70 people who are willing to offer \$70 a month**. Please help us satisfy our goal.

We dream of **building a ramp** that flows from the east side of SCHE to facilitate handicap members' easy access to the lower level. And we think about **improving the grounds**, adding topsoil and growing grass surrounding Shiva. These are just some of the smaller projects we have in mind. The grander development into an actual **retreat center** is one of our more lofty ideals.

But any amount you donate to Sambodh furthers Swamiji's mission and helps maintain this center for Vedanta study and spiritual growth.

**We are grateful** for your attending our programs, helping in the planning, covering Swamiji's travel expenses, for the many varieties of your support of Swami Bodhananda's mission and his ashram, helping him help all of us by bringing the message of Vedanta to devotees and friends like yourself all across America.

## Hari Om Tat Sat!

If you are willing to help us with your donation to assist in covering our monthly operating expenses, please return the enclosed form with your donation check by regular mail, or and sign on for a PayPal continuous giving plan of either \$10, \$20, \$30, \$50 or \$100 per month by going to <http://www.sambodh.us/pledge/support.html>, on our Sambodh website. For a one-time offering see the yellow **"Donate"** button at the very bottom of the same webpage.

**Thank you and wishing you all the blessings of health, happiness and prosperity.**

The Sambodh Society, Inc. and  
Sambodh Center for Human Excellence



~ *Serving Truth and Humanity* ~  
**The Sambodh Society, Inc., Trustees  
and SCHE Board Members**