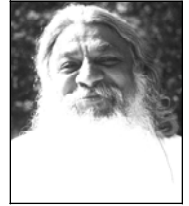


Sri Sri Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj 2006 Tour Issue



Hello, Brothers and Sisters,

Once again it is getting to be time for Sri Swamiji to come to us and, as I write this and think of him and you, I feel a sigh of relief come over me.

To see him again and to meet with you during the tour are some of my most cherished blessings.

I want to tell you two stories:

One Hassidic Rabbi asked his pupils how they could tell when night had ended and day had begun, for that is the time for certain Holy prayers.

"Is it," proposed one student, "when you can see an animal in the distance and tell whether it is a sheep or a dog?"

"No," answered the Rabbi.

"Is it when you can clearly see the lines on your own palms?"

"Is it when you can look at a tree in the distance and see if it is a fig or a pear tree?"

"No," answered the Rabbi each time.

"Then when is it?" the pupils demanded.

The Rabbi answered, "It is when you can look on the face of any man or woman and see that they are your sister and brother. Until then, it is night."

The next story is from a while back when a devotee came to Sri Swamiji and told him that a number of years ago he had received a spiritual name from another Master. Sri Swamiji asked what it was. The devotee said "Sanatana Dharma," which means Eternal Truth. Sri Swamiji got very very quiet and serious and said that the devotee must always remember that "everyone is Sanatana Dharma."

We are in a very privileged situation. As devotees of Sri Swamiji, and because of the Love and Blessings he gives us, we can much more easily look on each other and see that we are all brothers and sisters and that we are all Sanatana Dharma. And we can be there for each other and for all others also, as Sri Swamiji is.

And now comes the tour when we can see each other and, most importantly, see Sri Swamiji.

Of course the tour costs lots and lots of money and we are a small group of people, so please dig deep and send your financial support. Every donation helps, large and small.



Each year it is a miracle that we raise enough money to pay for the tour and keep Ganesh Place going. You are the makers of that miracle. And once again, we are all depending on one another to make it happen. And I know that we will.

I look forward to seeing you again this year and being with you as Sri Swamiji showers us with his Love and Blessings.

All my love and gratitude,

Marty



ATTENTION:

PLEASE SEND YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS TO GANESHPLACE@HOTMAIL.COM TO RECEIVE TIMELY UPDATES ON THE 2006 TOUR.



(PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT NECESSARY PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE BY EMAILING GANESHPLACE@HOTMAIL.COM, CALLING CAROL 919-878-4663 OR PAULA 919-866-0690)



This year, as in years past, Sri Swamiji's North American Tour will end with a week-long retreat. Everyone who has been blessed with the opportunity to spend a full week with Sri Swamiji will confirm that it's a "life-changing" experience. This year will be particularly special, since it's the first time the retreat will be held at Ganesh Place—Sri Swamiji's ashram in Durham, North Carolina—where he completed one year of *tapas* from August 2001 to August 2002.

Ganesh Place is a tangibly spiritual location. Many people feel the peaceful silence as soon as they enter the five-acre property. Nestled in the woods, it is alive with deer, foxes, birds, and butterflies. Inside the meditation hall, Sri Swamiji's powerful energy surrounds you.

The daily program begins with morning meditation and bhajans with Sri Swamiji, and includes time for *seva*, service, and an afternoon rest period. An evening program of meditation and bhajans with Sri Swamiji is usually followed by a general question-and-answer period. Everyone also has the opportunity to schedule individual time with Sri Swamiji and Mri-

ganka Gupta, his interpreter, to seek guidance on personal matters. (Ganesh Place: 919-402-8445).

Roommates Database:

Lodging information for the retreat is included on the tour schedule pages. Discounted rates have been negotiated with nearby Homewood Suites. To identify roommates who may wish to share expenses, email ganeshtable@hotmail.com with your name, phone number, and email address. You will be added to the roommates database. By return email, you will be sent a list of other devotees seeking roommates, and then can contact them directly to discuss possible arrangements. If you don't have email access, contact Carol at 919-878-4663. Reservations should be made under one name. Discounted room rates are guaranteed until July 26. Additional hotels and campgrounds are listed on the website www.shivabalayogiguru.org under Ganesh Place.

Contribution to the Sri Shivabalayogi Charitable Trust

Please accept my donation for the 2006 Tour.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

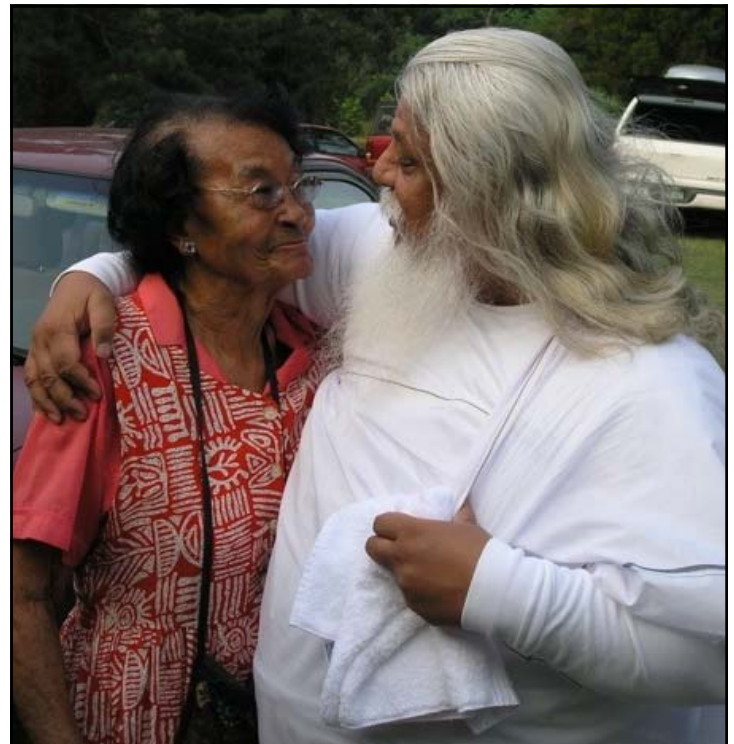
Phone _____

I would like to make a monthly pledge of \$ _____.

I would like to donate \$ _____ at this time.

THANK YOU!

Send to: Martin Soloman, 313 Woodhaven Road,
Chapel Hill, NC 27514



Call for Newsletter Submissions

We would like to include personal stories, experiences and/or realizations from devotees in our future newsletters. Please email your submissions to Marijo Makufka at mmakufka@guilford.edu or snail mail to 349 Edgewood Church Road, Mebane, NC 27302.



2006 North American Tour - Meditation Programs

July 6 - September 16



Washington, DC Area	July 6-9
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DC Area Contact: Vishwa 703-757-0298
gyan_gyani@hotmail.com

<p>Sri Siva Vishnu Temple Education Room 6905 Cipriano Road Lanham, MD 310-552-3335 www.ssvt.org</p>	<p>Thursday, July 6 6:00 pm</p> <p>Friday, July 7 6:00 pm</p>
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<p>Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia 8900 Little River Turnpike Fairfax, VA 22031 703-323-0880 www.jccnv.org</p>	<p>Saturday, July 8 2:00 pm</p> <p>Sunday, July 9 3:00 pm</p>
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New Jersey / Philadelphia, PA	July 13-16
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<p>All Saint's Episcopal Church 6301 Crescentville Road (end of Cheltenham Road) Philadelphia, PA Contact: Andrea 215-635-3731 267-625-8161 Directions: janamallis@aol.com</p>	<p>Thursday, July 13 7:15 pm</p> <p>Friday, July 14 7:15 pm</p>
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<p>Manmohan & Upasana Bryant Ringoes, NJ 08551 908-806-8648 atmaf@yaho.com</p>	<p>Saturday, July 15 7:00 pm</p> <p>Sunday, July 16 3:00 pm</p>
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Chicago, IL	July 20-22
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<p>The Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago 10915 Lemont Avenue Lemont, IL Contact: Geetha 708-345-5535 omshakti1@aol.com</p>	<p>Thursday, July 20 Friday, July 21 7:00 pm</p>
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<p>DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church 45535 Old Naperville Road Naperville, IL 60563 630-505-9408 www.duuc.org Contacts: Maggie/Ted 815-254-9583 Patricia 708-380-7696</p>	<p>Saturday, July 22 7:00 pm</p>
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Fairfield, Iowa	July 25-27
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Contact: Sally Moburg 641-233-1025
mannasal@aol.com

<p>Sri Devi Mandir Temple 800 W. Burlington Avenue Fairfield, Iowa 52556</p>	<p>Tuesday-Thursday July 25, 26, 27 7:00 pm</p>
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Evergreen/Denver/Boulder, CO	July 31-Aug 4
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Contacts: Pola 303-504-6067 / Wade 403-829-6997 / Adela 303-319-GURU

<p>United Methodist Church of Evergreen 3757 South Ponderosa Drive Evergreen, CO 80439 www.evergreenumc.org</p>	<p>Monday, July 31 Tuesday, Aug 1 7:00 pm</p>
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<p>Pola Lubarov Residence Denver, CO 80222</p>	<p>Thursday, Aug 3 7:00 pm</p>
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<p>First United Methodist Church of Boulder Labyrinth Room 1421 Spruce Street Boulder, CO 80302 www.fumcboulder.org</p>	<p>Friday, Aug 4 7:00 pm</p>
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CANADA	August 7-19
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Canada Contact: Robby 905-567-6397

<p>Healing Homa: <i>Celebration of Sri Swamiji's Tapas</i> J.C. Saddington Park, 53 Lake Street (Mississauga Rd S & Lakeshore Blvd)</p>	<p>Monday, Aug 7 9:00 am</p>
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<p>Sri Nagapooshani Mandir 610 Coronation Drive, Scarborough (Morningside Rd & Lawrence Ave) Contact: P.S. Kandaswamy Gurukkal 416-412-1289</p>	<p>Friday, Aug 11 7:00 pm</p>
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<p>Hanuman Mandir 190 Milvan Drive, Toronto (Milvan Dr & Finch Ave) Contact: Pundit Brahmarine Sharma 416-748-9977</p>	<p>Thursday, Aug 10 Saturday, Aug 12 7:00 pm</p>
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2006 North American Tour - Meditation Programs

July 6 - September 16



Canada (cont.)	August 7-19
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Satya Jyoti Mandir 6731 Columbus Rd, Mississauga (Derry Rd E & Columbus Rd) Contact: Janki Prasad 905-564-6723	Wednesday, August 16 7:00 pm
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Shri Krishna Mandir 130 Westmore Drive, Unit #15 Etobicoke (Westmore Dr & Finch Ave) Contact: Pundit Mahindra 416-674-0415	Thursday, August 17 Friday, August 18 7:00 pm
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NORTH CAROLINA	August 25-Sept 16
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Asheville, NC	August 25-27
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**Contacts: Ellen 828-645-7920 (after 6 pm) /
 Judy 828-713-5364**

Namaste Yoga & Healing Center 57 Broadway Asheville, NC 28801 828-253-6985 www.namasteasheville.com	Friday, August 25 Saturday, August 26 7:00 pm
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Unity Center 2041 Old Fanning Bridge Road Fletcher, NC 28732 Contact: Jana 828-891-8700 www.unitync.net	Sunday, August 27 6:30 pm
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Durham Area	August 30-Sept 16
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Ganesh Place Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj Ashram 4724 Ganesh Place Durham, NC 27705 919-402-8445 Contact: Marty 919-929-0462 www.shivabalayogiguru.org	Wednesday, Aug 30 7:00 pm
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Watersong Peace Chamber Saxapahaw, NC Contact: David 336-376-9000 periwinkleton@bellsouth.net www.watersong.peacechamber.com	Thursday, Aug 31 7:00 pm
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Durham Area (cont.)	August 30-Sept 16
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Ganesh Place Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj Ashram 3-DAY HOMA (Ancient Yogic Fire Ceremony)	Saturday-Monday Sept 2, 3, 4 8:30 am
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Meditation Program	Wednesday, Sept 6 7:00 pm
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GANESH PLACE RETREAT	September 9-16 noon—noon
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Daily Programs

All daily programs at Ganesh Place Full Retreat \$200
 (incl one meal; does not incl lodging) \$25/day

PLEASE CONFIRM ANTICIPATED ATTENDANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE by email (ganeshplace@hotmail.com) or phone (Carol 919-878-4663; Paula 919-866-0690).

Lodging

Individuals are responsible for directly booking and reserving their own lodging with personal credit cards. Mention Ganesh Place Retreat when making reservations to receive discount rates.

Discount rates have been negotiated at:

Homewood Suites by Hilton—Durham-Chapel Hill

3600 Mt. Moriah Road
 Durham, NC 27707
 919-401-0610
 www.raleighhotelsdirect.com/HomewoodDurham

Room rate: \$111.87/night incl. tax (up to 4 persons/room)
Discount price valid until July 26.

Each suite includes 1 BR w/2 double beds or 1 king, LR w/ sleeper sofa, fully equipped kitchen w/refrigerator, coffee-maker, microwave oven. Discount price includes complimentary hot breakfast every morning (6:30-9:30 am) and evening light buffet Monday-Thursday (not necessarily vegetarian, but w/salad and/or veggies).
 Check-In: 3:00 pm - Check-Out: 12:00 pm

How Suite It Is

Several individual houses/apartments (1 & 2 BR) are also available for rent by the week in the Chapel Hill/Durham area with rates around \$90/night + tax. Virtual tours are available on the website www.howsuiteitis.com
 Contact: Nina 919-923-6787

Other nearby hotels and campgrounds are listed on the website www.shivabalayogiguru.org under Ganesh Place.



“God helps those who help themselves.” Delusion. Cause and Effect. Toughness. Compassion. These are a few of the teachings I received from a true Master, Sri Sri Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj.

While on the 2005 Tour, I was blessed to receive direction from and observe Sri Swamiji as he helped any and all who came to him. I wondered if Sri Swamiji ever thought, “How do you expect me to plead an intercession to God on your behalf when you won’t help yourself?”

After a program one evening, a potluck dinner was offered. A gentleman came to Sri Swamiji and requested assistance with his digestive problems. Immediately after receiving Sri Swamiji’s *darshan*, the gentleman went to the buffet line and filled his plate with foods guaranteed to cause him pain, eschewing foods that would soothe his stomach. Sri Swamiji was bewildered.



One time Sri Swamiji said, “A person came to me today to request help with their money troubles. I don’t understand. If you make \$100 and you spend \$100, no problem. If you make \$100 and you spend \$200, big problems!”

The bottom line is that as much as we would like Sri Swamiji to wave a magic wand and make everything easy, he’s not gonna do it. No way. Forget it. That is being tough.

Of course, that toughness comes at a tremendous price. While with Sri Swamiji, I caught only a glimpse of what he saw: people deluding themselves, thinking they are separate from the results of their thoughts, words, and actions. Although they are suffering, they don’t grasp the wondrous Law of Cause and Effect. Seeing people he loves in pain causes Sri Swamiji pain. He aches for all of us who **needlessly** wallow in suffering. It would be easy for him to wave that magic wand...but he doesn’t.

If Sri Swamiji waved the wand at our every whim, if he satisfied our every desire without us putting any effort into our own happiness, where would that get us? Absolutely nowhere. If we genuinely believe in reincarnation, if we believe that the purpose of life is to prepare for what happens after physical death, we don’t want our spiritual advancement stunted by wand waving. Which is more compassionate on Sri Swamiji’s part? Should he give us the “indolence of affluence” mentally, emotionally and physically? Or should he wake us up so we can accept his gift of meditation, a sure path to spiritual advancement?

How does Sri Swamiji encourage us to accept and practice his gift? In one sense, he uses a carrot-and-stick approach. On one hand, when we approach Sri Swamiji to grant us a boon, however small or large, he’ll suggest a course of action and, if we follow his instructions, things will change for us. Perhaps they don’t change in the way *we* envisioned, but they do so in a way that genuinely improves our lot as human beings.

On the other hand, when we allow our thoughts, words, or actions to be not of God or if we ask for that boon and then don’t follow Sri Swamiji’s instructions, Wham! Wham! Wham! Our suffering continues.

I speak from experience. Been there, done that, got the metaphorical t-shirt. Especially at the beginning of the tour, whenever my thoughts went to a “bad” place, particularly when I thought about another person’s “faults,” BAM! Sri Swamiji almost immediately caused something to happen to me that would (painfully) make me to look in the mirror, see what was going on and think, “Hmmm...”

At first it was pretty painful, emotionally-speaking. I didn’t learn as quickly as I would have liked. As the tour continued, it gradually got to the point where I could do nothing but laugh because I heard Sri Swamiji laughing in my mind. Sometimes, even now, just to let me know he’s keeping an eye on things, I’ll cause myself, say, a half-hour clean-up job over a small stupidity. I hear Sri Swamiji laughing like crazy as I make the connection between a previous thought and the present (minor) calamity. I shake my head ruefully and clean up after myself.

So, what, then, is the reason for this carrot-and-stick approach? Why is it that Sri Swamiji continues to shuffle around this mortal coil?

Sri Swamiji has achieved a spiritual feat that is possible for us all. He knows what awaits those who accept and practice his gift. Through incarnation after incarnation, Sri Swamiji has been a guide to those seeking spiritual advancement. We are all blessed to be living at the same time as this current incarnation because Sri Swamiji brings to us a special form of meditation that—if we practice it as instructed—will transform all aspects of our lives,

**Sri Sri Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj
Charitable Trust of North
Carolina**

4724 Ganesh Place
Durham, NC 27705

www.shivabalayogiguru.org

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Learning (continued)



leading to a very special end.

A song I like puts it this way:

“So often times it happens

That we live our lives in chains

And we never even know we have the key.”

Well, we not only have the key, but, thanks to Sri Swamiji, we know what the key is and we know how to use it.

Aum Shivabalayogi!

When Swamiji sees all the devotees, does he ask what caste you are, what religion you are, are you a Buddhist, a Hindu, a Christian, or Muslim? He doesn't ask any of that. All of us have different beliefs. You believe in Christ, another believes in Krishna, another in Shiva Shankara, another in Mohammed. Each one has faith, and you come to Swamiji with that faith. With your faith in Christ, Swamiji enhances that, and you will see Christ, another will see Shankara. Swamiji will help you reach that entity where your devotion lies.

—In the Footsteps of the Yogi



Fundraising at Ganesh Place



Ganesh Place Fundraisers (GPF) are renting space at the **Flea Market at the N.C. State Fairgrounds** from 9 am to 5 pm, Saturday, **September 23** and Sunday, **September 24** to raise funds for the **Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj Charitable Trust**. We already have a large collection of furniture, clothes, books and other items for sale. Please hold onto anything you, your friends or your family would like to donate. We need volunteers to transport sale items to the Fairgrounds (calling anyone with a truck!) and to work shifts during the September 23-24 weekend. If you're interested, please contact Jennifer at Tashner@hotmail.com or at 919-929-9327.

If anyone has ideas for future fundraising efforts for **GPF**, we would love to hear from you!



Please Support the 2006 Tour!



Sri Sri Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj
Charitable Trust of North Carolina
4724 Ganesh Place
Durham, NC 27705

The Sri Sri Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj Charitable Trust is a tax-exempt, non-profit, religious organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service and the North Carolina Department of Revenue as a public charity. Accordingly, contributions are deductible to the maximum extent permitted by law for income tax and estate tax purposes.