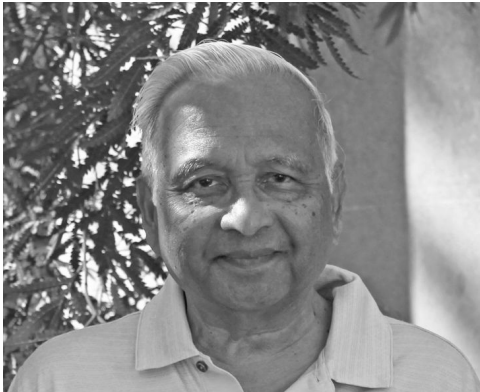




Krotona is an international center inspired by a vision of the oneness of all life and dedicated to the spiritual awakening of the human family.

## Krotona's New Resident Head Ananya Sri Ram Rajan

In January of this year, Krotona saw a change in its leadership. After twelve years of devoted service, Guru Prasad stepped down as vice-president and resident head, passing the baton to Elena Dovalsantos who was unanimously elected by the Krotona board.



A student of Theosophy most of his life, Guru visited and attended programs at Krotona since the mid-1990s. He started serving Krotona as the board treasurer, a position he continues to hold 26 years later. In 2010 he was appointed resident head after Shirley Nicholson stepped down. Working a full-time job while simultaneously holding his Krotona office, he and his wife Vimala would travel back and forth from their home on the East Coast, staying at Krotona for as long as six weeks. In October of 2014, the couple moved to live here permanently. Guru now oversees the maintenance department while continuing as treasurer.

Aside from the many administrative duties required, the resident head also serves as the vice-president of the Krotona board and is responsible to discharge the duties of the president who may live elsewhere. (Currently, our

president is Linda Oliveira who lives and works in Australia.) As resident head, Guru oversaw several key projects at Krotona. A major one was providing a stable water supply for Krotona through the Casitas Water District emergency connection with significant support and assistance from Cor Overweg. (See *Krotonian* Spring 2022.) This project took a number of years to complete and was a great accomplishment given that Krotona's water is supplied through a well. During the summer months, electrical power is sometimes cut due to power shortages or to decrease the chance of fires in the surrounding areas. There are also power interruptions during storms or electrical line damage due to downed trees. These used to leave residents without water for days at a time. The emergency supply line is used when such situations happen.



At the December Krotona night, Elena was presented with a comical "boss lady" gift as a way to show our support and to welcome her to her new position. As some may know, Elena is a third-generation theosophist and hails from an active Theosophical family in the Philippines. She joined

the TS at the age of twelve after meeting Geoffrey and Sandra Hodson as a young girl in Manila. Years later she helped with the production and publishing of the Hodson books. An international lecturer and author, Elena and her husband Pablo Minniti have been living and

volunteering at Krotona since 2011.

We thank Guru for his tireless dedication to Krotona and look forward to supporting Elena as she gets her feet wet (literally due to the heavy rains we have been having) in her new role. ■

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## Krotona's New Resident, Sue Prescott Idarmis Rodríguez

Krotona welcomes Sue Prescott, who moved here last fall, from Seattle, Washington. After attending and teaching workshops at Krotona, she decided to apply to live in its spiritual community. Sue will be volunteering at the School. Her main work will be cataloging and digitizing the vast collection of audio/visual material, a much-needed endeavor, and providing support to the School during programs.

Sue was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and her parents moved to Everett, a city north of Seattle, when she was a little girl. They were very open philosophically, which helped her to take in and understand spiritual concepts, particularly the teachings of Theosophy. Theosophy gave her an understanding of Jesus as she learned about the Masters of the Wisdom behind the founding of the Theosophical Society (TS). These Masters



teach about the unity of all that live, brotherly love, and other spiritual principles.

After high school, Sue attended the University of Wisconsin and got a Master's degree in Social Work, with the goal to become a mental health therapist. She had an internship at an agency called Family Counseling

Service and was hired there after her schooling was completed. A major event that introduced her to the TS was Dora Kunz's workshop on "Therapeutic Touch for Counselors." It was during that time in the early 80s that she became a member of the TS.

In 2000 Sue wrote *Realizing the Self Within*, from which she has given talks at the Seattle and Portland, Oregon, lodges of the TS. She is now a national speaker for the TS in America, where she gives talks via zoom around the country. ■

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## Latest Library News Susan Johnson

The Krotona Library welcomed Marleen Thaler, a PhD fellow from the University of Vienna, Department of Religious Studies, who came to do research for her thesis "Kundalini Re-imagined. The Metamorphosis of a Tantric Concept Within Alternative Religion and Transpersonal Psychology." ■





*The first staff members of Krotona, Ojai. L. to R. Sarah Mayes, Mathilde Saizon, Maude O. Kimball, Marie Poutz, Mary Goldy, Billy Mayes, Eugene Munson, Mattie Munson.*

Next year the Krotona Institute of Theosophy will be commemorating its centenary in the Ojai Valley and exciting plans are in the works to celebrate its fruitful history, its promising future, and honor its contribution to a better understanding of our true relationship with each other and with all of creation. For a clear view of what Krotona means to so many people, take a look at the masthead on the front page of this newsletter. There you will find the following vision statement: *"Krotona is an international center inspired by a vision of the oneness of all life and dedicated to the spiritual awakening of the human family."*

Rooted in Krotona's vision is the Indian principle of *ahimsa* or harmlessness, an awakened approach to living that calls for non-violence in all of its forms, whether in deed, speech or thought. This peaceful vision also includes a vegetarian lifestyle, causing no harm to animals or exploitation of the Earth. *Ahimsa* is a truly compassionate way of being in the world, but it is very difficult for any human being to actually live it. Perhaps only the great sages have fully understood the inner depths of compassion. Yet it is this transformative possibility that has guided Krotona's existence since its original establishment as a spiritual center in Hollywood in 1912. In 1924 Krotona was relocated to Ojai and it is 100 years in Ojai that the celebration will focus on.

The idea of a theosophical center and spiritual sanctuary in Southern California was conceived by Albert P. Warrington and others in 1910. He led the effort to establish the first location of Krotona in Hollywood, named after the famous Pythagorean center, Crotona, of ancient Italy. A decade later Hollywood was growing so rapidly and the movie business was so pervasive it was decided that Krotona needed a new home where spiritual inquiry could be nurtured and sustained in a more peaceful environment.

In 1922 Warrington visited Ojai with J. Krishnamurti. They were looking for a serene setting with a mild climate that could be a permanent home for Krishnamurti and his brother, Nityananda. They all fell in love with the Ojai Valley and both Krishnamurti and Krotona found new homes in different parts of Ojai. In 1924 Krotona's Hollywood property was sold and the community's home was moved to Ojai.

In future newsletters, there will be more about the unique history of Krotona, along with the celebratory events that are being planned by Krotona's Centennial Committee. It's going to be a memorable tribute so please stay tuned. ■

## Krotona Welcomes Anastasia and Tim Doug Borgatti

This fall, Anastasia Katsikaris, Tim Strickland, and their two cats, Zoe and Ragnar, moved into house 18 to become part of the Krotona community. Anastasia and Tim have been partners for twelve years. As all of the Krotona residents perform weekly volunteer services for the community, Anastasia currently manages the Kern Guesthouse while assisting Tim who volunteers with Krotona's maintenance projects. Before moving to Krotona, the couple rehabilitated two homes, and did the same with house 18. Anastasia specializes in the historic renovation of older homes. Tim has been a contractor and handyman since 1992 and is currently in charge of Krotona's



capital projects, including the reconstruction of the maintenance building tower, which is a historic building in Ojai.

Anastasia was born in Washington DC and at age 15 moved to Santa Barbara to join her older sister after their mother died. She holds a BA in writing from the UCSB college of creative studies, is a graduate of the Kerala Ayurveda Academy, and a certified yoga teacher. She is also a Vedic Astrologer and has been reading Tarot for the last forty-four years. Anastasia worked as an accountant for the County of Santa Barbara and as an administrator for the City of Santa Barbara's IT department. She is a lifelong student of the occult and became involved with Theosophy and Freemasonry at Krotona after visiting India in 2014.

A native of California, Tim was born in Hollywood and has lived in both California and Hawaii. He has two children, Kyra and Tim Jr., and three grandchildren. He holds a Sociology degree from Ventura College, but surfing the waves of the Californian and Hawaiian beaches is his passion. He loves to ride his bike throughout the Ojai area as well. A practicing Buddhist for the last twelve years, Tim also has a daily yoga practice. His extensive background and experience in building and construction work will be a valuable service for Krotona. The underlying principles of Theosophy resonate deeply with Tim and he believes he was called to live in the Krotona community. ■

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## Quest Bookshop Back to Normal Carol Nicholson

The bookshop is back to its regular hours of Wednesday - Saturday 12 - 5 pm and Sunday from 1-5 pm. It has been a long and difficult time for all of us and we are still being watchful of the number of COVID cases to keep our volunteers, residents, and customers safe. Meanwhile, we have received a large donation of pertinent used books which are priced to sell! We also have new books, statues, and other gifts available. We hope to see you soon! ■





Our annual **TS Members Intensive**, held January 27 – February 3, explored *The Mahatmas and the Path of Discipleship*, with 40 students participating onsite and 53 on Zoom. Registrants beyond the TSA included students from Brazil, Argentina, Spain, Portugal, and Australia. Vic Hao Chin, Jr, past President of both the TS in the Philippines and the Indo-Pacific Federation, introduced the seminar on Zoom with “The Work of the Masters.” Pablo Sender then presented five interactive sessions over the week on key aspects of the occult path.

The Intensive each year includes activities of the **Partners in Theosophy** initiative, begun in Krotona in 2009 with funding from the Kern Foundation. The program encourages TS members who have the Society’s interest and growth at heart and are willing to work for it at local, regional, and national levels. During these past 14 years, the program has been based on members’ design and completion of individual service projects, working with mentors in their area of interest. Seven members shared progress on their projects: Justin Tanksley, **Work with the Young Adult Theosophists in America (YATA)**; Seth Edwards, Online Course of Theosophy: **Light on the Path**; Willie Garner, **Work with the Atlanta Study Center** and Florida Federation; Pyarvin Abbasova, **Theosophical Parenting**; Jayne Fleener, **Education for Transcendence**; Rosa Sophia Godshall, **Sensing the Body in Meditation**; Susanne Hoepfl-Wellenhofer, Online School

of Theosophy Course: **Pioneers of the Theosophical Movement**.

The Partners program is now being restructured to offer a more focused education: preparation for TS members to become more skillful leaders and workers in the Society. The training takes place through a three-year online course hosted by the Online School of Theosophy (OST). The self-training course provides pre-recorded lectures by the program’s mentors, as well as resource videos, audios, and writings. In addition to partnering with a senior student, members will also be able to attend a monthly group online meeting with one of the several mentors for additional inquiry and support, and to attend Krotona’s annual one-week members’ intensive on scholarship. Interested members may contact Pablo Sender, Director, Partners in Theosophy (pablosender@gmail.com).

### **Upcoming Spring Classes**

([www.krotonainstitute.org](http://www.krotonainstitute.org) for details)

Ravi Ravindra, **The Necessary Journey of Self-Transformation**, March 14 – 30. Eleven weekday morning sessions over three weeks, onsite and Zoom.

Martin Leiderman, **Taimni’s 15 Points of the Occult Philosophy**, April 21 – 23. Four sessions over the weekend, Friday evening – Sunday noon, onsite and Zoom.

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Continued from page 5

Cynthia Overweg, **Reclaiming the Sacred Feminine: A Transforming Power**, April 25 – 27. Tuesday – Thursday mornings, onsite and Zoom .

Cynthia Overweg, **Embracing the Empowered Feminine**, Weekend Retreat, April 28 – 30. Four sessions, Friday evening – Sunday noon. Onsite only.

Rev. Jim Burklo, **Nurturing the Natural Spirituality of Youth**, May 5 – 6. Friday evening onsite and Zoom, Saturday morning and after-

noon, onsite only.

Enrique Reig, **Analisis detallado de algunas de las Cartas de los Maestros**, May 21 -23. Fin de semana en espanol, onsite and Zoom.

### Fall 2023 (in the works)

Third Biennial Forum, October 26 – 29. Thursday – Sunday *The Secret Doctrine* First Volume, Stanzas IV, V

**One and Many: Celestial Hierarchies, the Wonders of Awakening** ■

## Of Note

Krotona welcomes **José Luis López Loé** as a new full-time staff member in the maintenance department. Jose has lived in the Ojai Valley for



the last eleven years, and worked for the maintenance department of the Krishnamurti Oak Grove School for the last ten. He resides in Oxnard with his wife and two children, Luisdonaldo and Neyda, who work in the Ojai Westridge supermarket. He was initially attracted to the peaceful energy of the Ojai Valley and now is enchanted with the beauty of Krotona.

In November, on the eve of Thanksgiving, **Will and Madeleine Tuttle** stopped at Krotona before embarking on a lecture tour across the US. The couple provided an enchanting musical evening of piano and flute playing to residents and local neighbors. ■

### **The Krotonian**

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Editorial Committee: Douglas Borgatti, Cynthia Overweg, Idarmis Rodrigues (editor), Ananya Sri Ram Rajan (editor), Rochelle Voirol (layout /design)

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**Krotona Institute of Theosophy:** Linda Oliveira, President; Elena Dovalsantos, Executive Vice President

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Dear Friends,

Greetings from Krotona! It is the most beautiful time of the year here and there is some excitement in the air. The mountains are snow capped, the grounds are green, and the wildflowers are in bloom following the rainiest season in a decade. Mother Nature is restoring the balance after several years of drought. But in keeping with the cyclic nature of life, things come and go, Nature gives, and Nature takes away.

The rains brought down several trees whose roots had become weakened by the drought. The worst damage was to the roof of the Library's veranda: part of it was crushed by a large fallen pine tree. For many, the veranda is a favorite sitting area to meditate during sunrise or on a full moon night, or for just gazing at the mountains. Another tree fell on the porch roof of one of the houses. Some basements were flooded and the foundation of one structure collapsed. The roofs of our aging library, hall, and bookshop also suffered leaks. There has been much to contend with.



On the bright side, this year in March marked Krotona's 110th anniversary since its incorporation in Hollywood. In April next year we will celebrate Krotona's 100th year in Ojai and we have a Centennial Committee that is planning for the big event. We will be releasing details of the celebration program in due course and hope many of you can join us.

We are gradually improving the Kern Guest House to provide visitors a more comfortable stay. Our main hall acoustics and sound system will be improved with the help of some generous benefactors. The old water tower, an Ojai historical building designed in 1924 by the famous architect Robert Stacy-Judd, will be getting much needed structural reinforcement. The Krotona School building has gotten a new roof and quieter heating/air conditioning system. The library's old heat pump was also replaced. All of these have been made possible by the open heartedness of the Friends of Krotona, and we are grateful. Your love for Krotona is helping us save it for its next 100 years. Together we are keeping it going for all who love serenity, beauty, and the spiritual upliftment of humanity. Thank you for your ongoing support!

*Elena Dovalsantos*

Elena Dovalsantos  
Resident Head

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Krotona Institute of Theosophy

*The Krotonian*

2 Krotona Street

Ojai CA 93023-3901

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*You must light the Soul, in order that the  
Teacher may see it.*

*Annie Besant*



As a Theosophical community, Krotona:

1. Nurtures living in harmony and compassion with self, others, and nature.
2. Inspires spiritual transformation through an earnest quest for Truth and living the ageless wisdom, Theosophy.
3. Offers a peaceful, welcoming environment to encourage a life of self-inquiry, study, meditation, and selfless service.