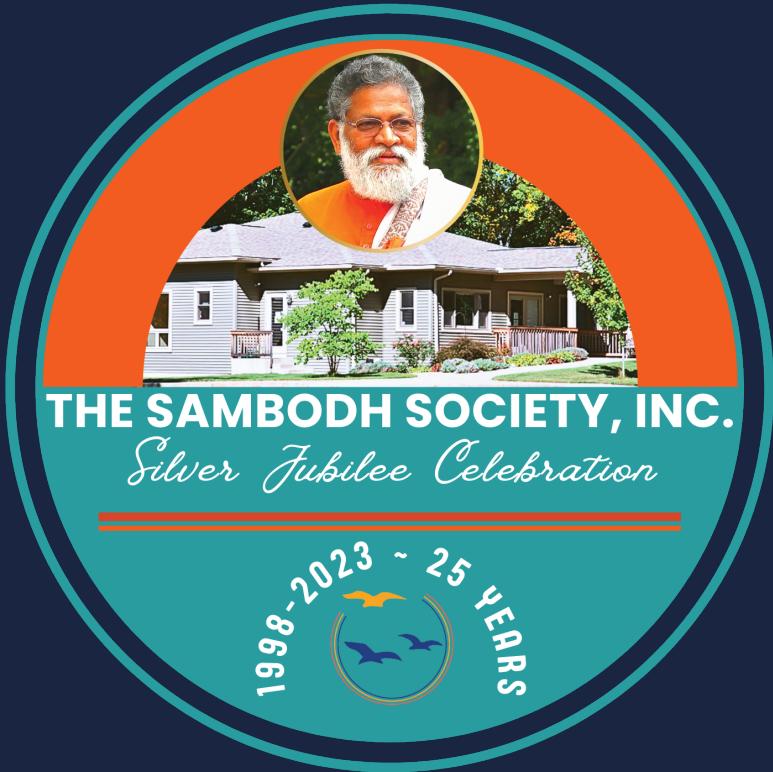


SHIVAM

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF
THE SAMBODH SOCIETY, INC.



3 DAYS • AUGUST 4-5-6, 2023

THE SAMBODH SOCIETY, INC.
6363 N 24th St., Kalamazoo, MI 49004
(269) 492-0544 • thesambodhsociety@gmail.com



Who We Are

Sambodh Society is a learning, practicing, and teaching Advaita community that is open to diverse wisdom traditions of the world. We believe in the essential goodness, freedom, beauty and blissful nature of all living beings and promote an environment-friendly, close to nature, non-violent, minimalist and inclusive lifestyle. We know that to exist is to coexist. To instill this vision of oneness, we expose our members, as truth seekers, to sacred Hindu texts like the *Upanishads*, *Bhagavad Gita*, *Brahma Sutras* and *Yoga Sutras*. We encourage daily practice of yoga, mantra chanting, and meditation. Our members are motivated to actively and creatively engage in community life—family, professional, corporate, and global. We believe that only by active engagement in the community can we grow in maturity and realize our full potential.

Our motto is “Detached Engagement”. Our inspiration is to find happiness in altruistic work—to work happily and not for happiness. The Sambodh Society, Inc. founded in 1998 is a registered non-profit religious and spiritual organization in the USA dedicated to the vision and teachings of our Guru Swami Bodhananda Sarasvati who travels across the United States, Canada, Europe, and India spreading the message of Advaita Vedanta, Yoga and Meditation. The Society engages in both spiritual and social service in North America. The Sambodh Center for Human Excellence, at 6363 N 24 St. Kalamazoo, the headquarters of the Sambodh Society, is situated in a thirty-three-acre forest, called ‘Sambodh Aranya’, the ‘Forest of Enlightenment’. Brahmachari Advait Chaitanya, the resident acharya, offers regular online and in-person classes for the local community at the Sambodh Center. Bodhananda Vedic Institute, an affiliate of the Sambodh Society, has been successfully offering a year-long Ayurveda course for serious students of Holistic Health. The Shiva Shakti Shrine at the center attracts hundreds of devotees from far and wide. We believe that Advaita Vedanta, Yoga and Ayurveda are the three disciplines for a healthy, happy, fulfilling, and well-balanced life.

We are happy to announce the Silver Jubilee celebrations of The Sambodh Society on August 4-5-6, 2023. It is an occasion for all of us to come together and share our experiences of the past and aspirations for the future.

The Sambodh Board of Trustees invite all members of the Sambodh family to this exciting and exhilarating Silver Jubilee celebration. Hope to see you in the first weekend of August at Kalamazoo, MI.



Three Days of Celebration

DAY 1: FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 2023

Vedic Rituals

9AM–6PM: Ekadasa Rudrabhishekam, Ganesha Homa, Chandi Homa, Mahalakshmi Homa, Dhanvantari Homa, Sudarshana Homa, and Navagraha Homa

7PM–8PM: Cultural Program

DAY 2: SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2023

Advaita Vedanta and Contemporary Life Challenges Seminar

9AM–6PM: Seminar with three 45-minute talks and a 45-minute panel discussion on the following themes:

1. *Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Work and Humans*
2. *Environment and the Future of Life on the Planet*
3. *Interfaith Dialogue and the Future of Global Peace*

7PM–8PM: Cultural Program

DAY 3: SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023

Yoga Vedanta Ayurveda Festival

9AM–4PM: Yoga demonstration by master yogis, Vedanta meditations, Ayurveda consultations and lectures/panel discussions on the holistic approach to diet, exercise, personal and community health and wellbeing.

4–6PM: Honoring Our Community

7PM–8PM: Cultural Program

DAY 1: FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 2023 • 9AM–6PM

Vedic Rituals

Connect with Gods and the Organizing Principle of the Universe

We humans are part of this diverse and mysterious Universe governed by Gods and Goddesses. There is an organizing principle called *dharma*, or *ritam*, that holds the world together in a meaningful way. To lead a healthy, fulfilling, and successful life we have to plug into this *dharma* order and receive the blessings of Gods and Goddesses. Without such blessings our efforts remain frustrated and fruitless. What is generally seen is that, in spite of all our efforts, we are still unsuccessful, unhappy, and unfulfilled. The Vedic Rishis, in their meditative states, discovered mantras and rituals to commune with the Cosmic Male and Female energies that will valorize our efforts and energize our varied enterprises to total success and fulfillment—“*yajnartham karma*”—“May work be done as an offering to God”, exhorts the Bhagavad Gita. From *yajna* comes prosperity and peace. Those who seek happiness, health, success, recognition, and power perform these Vedic rituals accompanied by powerful mantras and incantations so that goddesses of wealth, knowledge and success smile and shower their blessings on them. To manifest these blessings, Sambodh will be organizing the following rituals:



Ekadasa Rudrabhishekam

The most important ritual in the Vedic tradition. Propitiating Rudra/Shiva by offering abhisheka to the Shiva Linga along with chanting eleven repetitions of *namakam* and *chamakam*. Rudra protects us from all evil forces and grants health, happiness, and peace.

DONATION: \$1,000



Chandi Homam

To propitiate the Universal Mother, Shakti, the consort of Shiva, for developing willpower, knowledge power and action power. Shakti awakens the latent spiritual energies in the devotee for success in life.

DONATION: \$1,000



Ganesha Homam

For success in all our endeavors, removing obstacles in work and business and for countering malevolent planetary influences.

DONATION: \$250

DAY 1: FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 2023 • 9AM–6PM

Vedic Rituals

Sponsor and Receive the Blessings



Mahalakshmi Homam

To attract wealth and gain prosperity and fulfillment in business and professional life.

DONATION: \$500



Dhanvantari Homam

To develop immunity, ward off diseases, and secure total health.

DONATION: \$250



Sudarsana Homam

To ward off evil eyes, to overcome jealousy, and to vanquish enemies and negative thoughts within and around us.

DONATION: \$500



Navagraha Homam

Performed for the benefit of warding off malevolent planetary positions in one's life, to remove *Kali dosha* and *Shani dosha*, obviate effects of bad karmas, and attract positive energy, wealth, and good will.

DONATION: \$500

Shodasha Stambha Sthapanam

For psychological and material stability in life and protection of family and the family values.

DONATION: \$101 EACH (16 TOTAL)

Annadanam Donation

The sacred act of offering food—the meals we will offer to all our guests during the three days of celebration.

DONATION: \$2,000 (1 DAY) OR \$6,000 (3 DAYS)

Please mail checks to reach us by August 1, 2023.
Donations to The Sambodh Society, Inc. are tax deductible.

Make checks payable to:
The Sambodh Society, Inc.
6363 N 24th St., Kalamazoo, MI 49004

DAY 2: SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2023 • 9AM–4PM

Seminar

Advaita Vedanta and Contemporary Life Challenges — Talks and Panel Discussions

1. Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Work and Humans

AI is increasingly applied in all aspects of human life—in factories, offices, homes, travel and transport, entertainment, hospitals, academia, research, policing, defense and war. Corporations, governments, political parties and charities are using AI power to snoop on private information and influence individual tastes, choices and behavior in shopping, policing, elections and philanthropy. Criminals and terrorists are using Internet space to peddle their nefarious ideologies and spurious products. As in the case with any technology, AI has beneficial as well as malevolent applications. As AI becomes more sophisticated and its applications more pervasive, humans will be replaced by machines from more and more jobs and there is fear of mass unemployment, accumulation of wealth in a few elites and large swaths of populations lost to drugs, depression, destitution, and violence. On the other hand, we can expect better, faster, efficient and inexpensive delivery of governance, health and educational services, banking, policing and justice. What will be the future of people and their wellbeing in an AI dominated world and who will be the winners and losers is the million-dollar question that will be addressed and debated in this session.

SPONSOR: \$1,000

2. Environment and the Future of Life on the Planet

The last five hundred years of relentless economic development powered by science, technology and mass production and distribution have lifted a large number of people from the jaws of crushing poverty. Average life expectancy has increased, quality of living improved, child mortality decreased, infectious diseases like malaria, smallpox and polio have been completely wiped out. We are able to feed, clothe and house 8 billion souls on this planet. But the downside of development is becoming starker and more ominous. Depleted natural resources like fossil fuel, fresh water, fertile soil on the one side and polluted rivers, contaminated ocean beds, endangered biodiversity, melting glaciers, punctured ozone layers, nuclear and E-waste on the other—all due to extensive use of non-degradable plastic, fertilizers and pesticides—the list goes on and on. Soon the planet can become inhospitable. Where do we draw the line between the imperative of development and impending environmental catastrophe is the looming question that this session will debate and shed light on.

SPONSOR: \$1,000

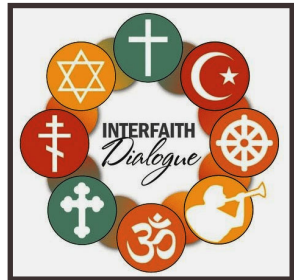
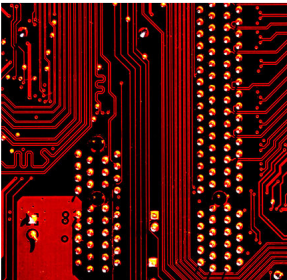
Seminar

3. Interfaith Dialogue and the Future of Global Peace

Peace is paramount in a world armed to the teeth with nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. People fight for control of scarce resources. This fight is camouflaged in the name of ethnicity, religion, language, nationality, ideology, elections, sports, etc. After World War I and World War II, it was the Cold War and then the ‘economic war’, and presently a new ‘cold/hot war’ is brewing between the status quo power (America) and the revisionist power (China). The destructive power of non-state actors, like Al Qaeda and rogue states like N. Korea, are side-shows in this mad dance of organized violence. Under the shadow of nuclear weapons, a World War III is unthinkable and is to be avoided at any cost. Most wars were waged in the name of religions and ideologies. Religion, based on faith, is the antithesis of reason; the former divides and the latter unites. Faith is rigid, reason is flexible. Faith runs blind-folded, reason with open eyes. Faith gives no option, while reason provides choices. Every individual, group, and community have their own faith, which makes them apprehensive and suspicious of dissimilar others.

Diversity of faiths and beliefs are healthy and are to be encouraged, provided that we learn to communicate and exchange ideas, concepts and beliefs and values on a nonviolent platform. There is miscommunication between faiths, ideologies, specialists, rulers and ruled, parents and children, and the saga goes on, like Babel’s Tower. The challenge is to cultivate a culture of respectful dialogue, without smothering differences, in a spirit of ‘unity in diversity’, which is very important for the future of peace. What is needed is faith/belief moderated by reason and common purpose. What we face today is a stark choice between peaceful coexistence or total annihilation. Choosing conversation rather than conversion is a choice between a ‘salad bowl’ versus a ‘melting pot’.

SPONSOR: \$1,000



DAY 3: SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023 • 9AM–4PM

Yoga Vedanta Ayurveda Festival

*Yoga Demonstration, Vedanta Meditations,
Ayurveda Consultations and Discussions*

Vedanta gives the life philosophy or the holistic world-view—that ‘the whole of existence is one intricate and interconnected web, *Indrajal*’—‘to exist is to coexist.’ Love, sharing, self-discipline, and mutual respect based on knowledge are values to be promoted amongst people of all ages. **Yoga** is the discipline of body-mind-spirit integration, dynamically interacting with the world of mind-boggling changes, so as to actualize individual potential in work and relationships while pursuing self-set goals. **Ayurveda** is a healing modality based on the holistic approach to life. It empowers individuals to heal themselves with minimal and non-invasive therapeutic methods.

Together these three disciplines address the spiritual, psychological, and physical needs and the wellbeing of individuals. Society and organizations/corporations are constituted of individuals—when individuals change organizations also change. To quote Gandhi, “Be the change that you want to see in the world.”

SPONSOR: \$3,000



DAY 3: SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023 • 4–6PM

Honoring Our Community

Looking Forward: Sambodh Road Map for the Next 25 Years

Lessons Learned From the Past and Aspirations for the Future

Reminiscence

Richard Harring; Chandrakant and Loknath Varma; Frank Jamison; Manorama Agerwala; Marino Deperalta; Om Jolly; Shyamala Nair; Shyam Lall; Sibi Kottaram; Sundar Hattangadi; Tom Hansen; Usha Aswath

Guru Pada Puja

Honoring Founding Members of the Society

Nancy Falk, Ruth Small, Uma Deperalta, Vivek Subramanian

Honoring Major Donors

Chitra and Azhwarsamy Jeganathan; Geeta and Tilak Agerwala; Kamala and Gopal Singh; Nigol Koulajian; Puja and Rajive Chadha; Rashmi and Girish Juneja; Richard Harring; Sharad Dabral; Usha and Rajgopal; Ruth and Tom Small; Shobha and Sanath Kumar



Honoring Our Community

Honoring Local Organizers

Aparna and Avinash Jadhav; Chandra Prabha; Dr. Jaishree Jagirdar; Gargi and Sanjay Mazumdar; Geetha and Krishna Swamy; Gita and Ramaswamy; Jyoti and Venkata Raju; Madhu and Prem Gandhi; Nalini Rau and Seshi Murthy; Prabha and Kannan; Ramdai Singh and Satruhan Sukdeo; Rukma and Vikram Joshi; Rupali and Dinesh Pardasani; Sarla and Hira Suri; Sarla and Suresh Puri; Sashi and Ashok Kumar; Satya and Gopi Sundaram; Savita and Ramesh Garg; Savitha and Murali Nanjangud; Sharad Dabral; Shobha and Gaurav Bhatnagar; Shuchi and Gaurav Sharma; Susheela Raghavan; Swarna Shah; Tanu and Praveen Tyle; Tanushri and Nishith Mathur; Tejal and Sanjeev Shah; Usha and Sudhakar Kulkarni; Usha and Vinod Kapur; Vera Mehta

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Honoring Vedic and Yoga Gurus

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Honoring Media Development Lead

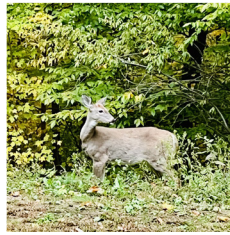
Sangeetha Menon

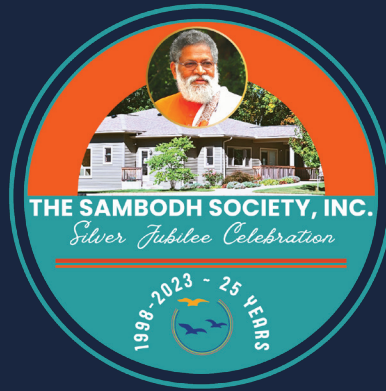
Honoring a True Friend and Patron

Kumud and Anil Patel; Nagamala Anand; Nalini Mahadevan; Raman Anantaraman; Ron Foster; Vashu and Keyur Patel

"I worship Sambodharanya Shiva by serving my Guru and volunteering for Sambodh which is dedicated to human flourish and common good."

— SAMBODHI





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Azhwarsamy Jeganathan, Secretary | Uma Deperalta, Treasurer
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