The Sambodh Center for Human Excellence

a project of

The Sambodh Society, Inc.



The Sambodh Society, Inc.

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Sambodh Center for Human Excellence (SCHE)

Established in 1998, the Sambodh Society has been working steadily towards the goal of creating a center and its U.S. headquarters. In 2000, The Sambodh Society acquired 32 acres of rolling woodlands on the outskirts of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Swamiji gave the forest its name, "Sambodh Aranya," meaning "The Forest of Enlightenment." Swamiji also proposed the name for the center to be developed there, "Sambodh Center for Human Excellence" (SCHE). In 2003, with contributions coming in from devotees across the United States, the property mortgage was completely paid, setting the conditions for SCHE's next stage of development.



North Elevation

Architect: *Howard L. Overbeek*

Sambodh Center for Human Excellence: Headquarters of The Sambodh Society, Inc.

During November 2004 a group of dedicated committee members began working with an architect to design the building for SCHE. Two years later, again in November, The Sambodh Society, Inc. secured a mortgage for the project and construction began. The facility includes a Sanctuary for Teaching-Meditation Hall, Swamiji's quarters, a Kitchen, Library, Office and a Multi-Purpose Room useful for Yoga, Aikido, Tai Chi, Children's activities and other functions.

In the quiet woodlands of Kalamazoo, MI, Sambodh Center for Human Excellence (SCHE) is quietly emerging as a major facility in the United States for the teaching of Vedanta, Meditation, Ayurveda and Yoga fostered by the Dharmic vision: the unity of all, and the unity of all spiritual paths. SCHE serves as the headquarters of The Sambodh Society, Inc. and is maintained by devotees, donors and friends.

Under the inspired leadership of Swami Bodhananda, Sambodh Society and SCHE aspire to nurture a community of spiritual seekers who 1) work selflessly for the spiritual uplift of humanity; 2) learn from the best of both Eastern and Western traditions; and, 3) are steeped in Vedanta, a vision which sees the world as one family and that all paths lead to the same Truth.

What SCHE is All About!

Gather ~ Retreat ~ Listen ~ Meditate ~ Reflect



Study ~ Dialogue ~ Decide ~ Plan ~ Detach



Self- Discipline ~ Engage ~ Volunteer ~ Serve ~ Realize



Walk ~ Observe ~ Learn ~ Create ~ Celebrate



Guide ~ Practice ~ Give & Receive ~ Worship ~ Bless



The Sambodh Society, Inc.

The Sambodh Society is a non-profit religious organization dedicated to the teaching of **Vedanta** and Meditation. The Society engages in spiritual, social service and teaching activities across North America. Its Spiritual Director, ***Swami Bodhananda Saraswati***, of New Delhi, India, founded our organization in 1997 during his first visit to the United States. The Society and SCHE function in close coordination with Sambodh Foundation, the umbrella organization for several ashrams and charity organizations in India, under Swami Bodhananda's leadership.



Swami Bodhananda: Teaching at a Spiritual Retreat

What is Vedanta?

Vedanta is the ancient philosophical wisdom of India and the basis of Hinduism. Its principles and values can be found in the ancient scriptures of India: the *Bhagavad Gita*, 10 *Upanishads*, and the *Brahma Sutras*. This wisdom has been passed down through a living teacher-student lineage for more than 5,000 years, and comes to us directly from this long line of *rishis* (sages) through Swami Bodhananda Saraswati.

Swami Bodhananda Saraswati

is the Spiritual Director and Founder of The Sambodh Society, Inc. and the Sambodh Center for Human Excellence. He is a modern *rishi* and master of Vedanta belonging to the *Saraswati* lineage—one of ten *sannyasa* (renunciant) orders established in the 8th-century by Adi Sankaracharya, the renowned Indian philosopher and exponent of Advaita Vedanta. Swamiji has been teaching Vedanta for 25 years and has established a number of centers in both north and south India.



HIS HOLINESS
SWAMI BODHANANDA SARASWATI
Spiritual Director and Founder
of the Sambodh Society, Inc. and the
Sambodh Center for Human Excellence

In 1997 Swamiji began his spiritual mission in Europe and America. He is the author of several books on Vedanta, meditation and spiritual unfoldment. Swamiji is an engaging speaker with a lively humor and a keen sense of observation. He has the unique capability to make the ancient wisdom of Vedanta accessible and applicable to the modern individual's needs and interests. Through his teaching and his love for life and humanity, Swamiji inspires others to their fullest capacity.

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SCHE Activities & Programs

Teaching Retreats & Seminars
Classes in Vedanta & Sanskrit
Spiritual Study Groups
Peace & Solitude
Meditation
Chanting
Kirtan
Yoga & Aikido
Sunday Services
Satsang and Pujas
Meditative Trail Walks
Spiritual Music & Dance
Annual Maha Rudrabhishekam
Spring Seva Projects & Trail Blazing



Sambodh & SCHE Festival Days

Interfaith Day. For celebration, meditation and chanting from all traditions to bring in the New Year! January 1.

Shivaratri. A day recognizing Lord Shiva, the Deity of *sannyasins* and *yogis* occurring in February or March

Spring Equinox. The traditional Earth Day, recognizing our respect for ecology and Mother Earth. March 21/22.

Sambodh Day. Honoring Swamiji's and celebrating his initiation into *sannyas* on April 4.

Sri Sankaracharya Day. Celebrating his birth and honoring his contribution to classical Vedanta: April-May.

Guru Purnima. Recognizing Veda Vyasa, compiler of the *Vedas*, honoring the guru-sisya tradition. July-August.

Annual Maha Rudrabhishekam. A traditional Hindu ritual worshipping Lord Shiva. August – 1st weekend

Ganesh Chaturti. honoring Ganesh, the main Deity installed in all of Swamiji's Indian *ashrams*. September.

Gita Jayanti. The Day Lord Krishna gave the *Bhagavad Gita* to Arjuna, the Pandava prince and hero. December.

Volunteerism Welcome

We would like your help—in whatever way *you* would like to volunteer! Please contact us and let us know how you can help out: with an activity, a service, a talent or skill, with your time, professional expertise, materials or equipment. We gratefully receive the gift of your service.



SCHE Board Member: Jega Jeganathan

Directions to SCHE

6363 North 24th Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49004

From I-94 in Kalamazoo, take Exit 80 (Sprinkle Road) and proceed north about 6 miles. until you reach the intersection of Sprinkle and "G" Avenue. (A stop light is located at that point.). Make a left onto "G" Avenue and drive about 1/4th mile until you reach 24th Street. Turn right onto 24th Street and continue on 24th Street for about 1¾ miles. *Please drive slowly* on this section as children often play in the road. The entrance to the property is on the west (left) side of the road, midway between the start of the unpaved portion of 24th Street and the cul-de-sac. You'll find parking along the looped driveway and the SCHE to the right. The Main Entrance to SCHE is on the East.

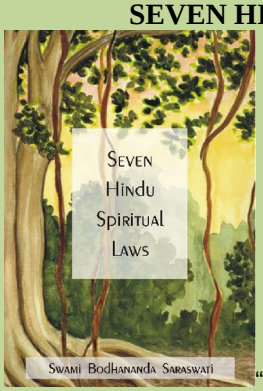


The Shiva Lingam and Gazebo (added in 2003)

SCHE is easily accessed from Chicago, Detroit off of I-94, and from Grand Rapids and Indiana off of Hwy 131.

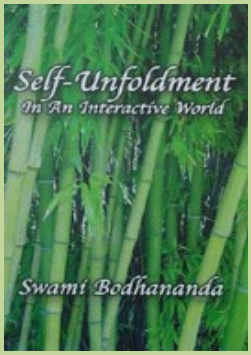
Sambodh Publications

SEVEN HINDU SPIRITUAL LAWS



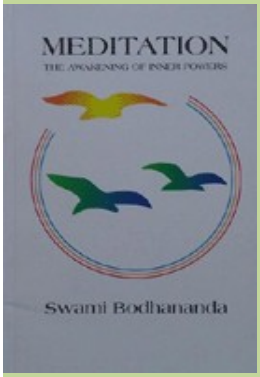
"Hinduism offers the world seven unique spiritual Truths: Brahman; Maya; Dharma, Karma; Yoga; Yajna, and Leela, Synthe-sizing 7000 years of India's wisdom tradition. Swami Bodhananda eloquently ex-plains these core concepts for both the Hindu and yoga-hindu reader Know and apply these laws and live harmoniously."

SELF UNFOLDMENT IN AN INTERACTIVE WORLD



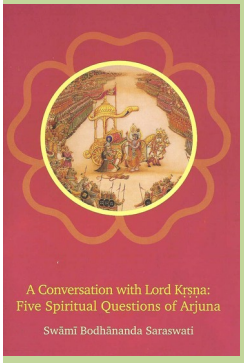
"The paradox of modern life is that we live in unprecedented levels of comfort, and yet we are unhappy! *Self-Unfoldment* provides a manual for those who want to make a quail-tative difference to the world in which they live and work, for those who "want the kind of happiness that is contin-uous and stable, happiness that we have no fear of losing."

MEDITATION: THE AWAKENING OF INNER POWERS



"Meditation is not opposed to activity; it is not opposed to thought, but becomes the nourishment for our thinking and activities. Activity and meditation infuse energy into one another and create a wholeness of experience. To realize God as the oneness of existence, we have to meditate. Ultimately medita-tion is total love for *everything*."

FIVE SPIRITUAL QUESTIONS OF ARJUNA



Arjuna confronts the Lord Krishna with five spiritual questions on the "battlefield" of life. As relevant today for the spiritual seeker as they were 1000s of years ago.. Swamiji illumines Lord Krishna's answers which provide both solace and wisdom for our personal struggles in a demanding and relentlessly changing world

Available through our Website ~ www.sambodh.us