



Shaftsbury Hollow Retreat
OF SELF-REALIZATION FELLOWSHIP



“Every person needs a retreat, a dynamo of silence where he may go for the exclusive purpose of being recharged by the Infinite.” -Paramahansa Yogananda

Shaftsbury Hollow Retreat Newsletter

Expressing Our Gratitude

Dear devotees and friends, greetings and warm wishes to you all! We'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you, and to share updates about our Guru's beautiful Vermont sanctuary, Shaftsbury Hollow Retreat of SRF. It has been a busy and blessed year of activity and progress at Shaftsbury! We are very thankful to have hosted so many of you at retreats and meditation services over the past year. It has been a blessing to have devotees from near and far visit both for retreats and to volunteer their skills for projects on the grounds and buildings.

Highlights from 2024

2024 was highlighted by many events at Shaftsbury, including a monastic-led retreat and several small group retreats hosted by devotees from Amherst, Boston, New Jersey, New York, and Shaftsbury. And thanks to the support of our regional SRF members and friends, through both prayers and donations, we were able to complete much-needed renovations to the retreat building.



In September, Brother Keshavananda and Brahmachari Daniel led an inspiring weekend retreat for over forty attendees. The program included group meditations, kirtan chanting, inspirational talks, vegetarian meals, as well as time for quiet reflection and enjoying the outdoors. In July, our Convocation Retreat was attended by twenty-two devotees, who joined online events from the SRF Worldwide Convocation.

*“I really enjoyed the meditations in the chapel. This place is truly blessed with Gurujī's spirit. Truly beautiful place.”
L.C., retreat attendee from New York*

*“One of the most serene and peaceful places I have ever visited. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”
A.B., retreat attendee from Pennsylvania*



Weathered dormer and window



Repaired dormer and new window

Completed and Upcoming Projects

2024 saw the completion of the long awaited roof and dormer project. Thanks to generous monetary donations from devotees, we were able to cover the entire cost of ten new windows, new roof shingles over the main house, and re-siding all external dormer walls on the third floor. Donated volunteer labor also made this project come in under budget.

In 2025, we plan to upgrade the chapel speaker system and continue renovations in the main building. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please mail a check to the address below, payable to Self-Realization Fellowship Church, and write "Shaftsbury Hollow Retreat" on the memo line.

Shaftsbury Hollow Retreat
631 Tinkham Road
North Bennington, Vermont 05257

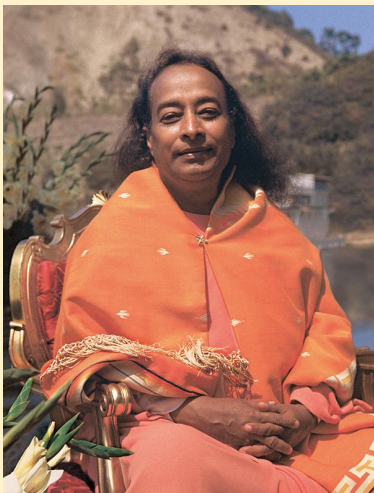
Monastic-led Retreat in May 2025!

We are happy to announce that our next monastic-led retreat will take place from May 16-18, 2025. Registration details will be sent out next year to our retreat email list.

Would you like to host a Small Group Retreat at Shaftsbury?

If your SRF meditation group or circle would like to come on retreat at Shaftsbury, please contact us at shaftsburyhollowretreat@gmail.com. We also offer online information sessions for SRF members who want to learn how to organize a retreat. Here is a comment from a recent small group retreat attendee:

"I am so thankful for the opportunity to participate in this retreat. I'm thankful for the new friends I made, and that we have this beautiful location at Shaftsbury where we can meet. I look forward to the next time that I can come."



"Learn to carry all the conditions of happiness within yourself by meditating and attuning your consciousness to the ever-existing, ever-conscious, ever-new Joy, which is God."

– Paramahansa Yogananda

Donations we receive in response to this appeal will be deposited into our local Shaftsbury Retreat bank account to be used for the projects mentioned above, and may also be used to cover any other maintenance expenses associated with the Retreat, or other SRF-approved purposes.

Recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, Self-Realization Fellowship is a public charity under federal law and a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation under the Revenue Taxation Code of the State of California.

www.shaftsburyretreat-srf.org