

Residential Practicum
An Experiment in Living

Dear Basic Course Graduates and Friends,

This letter is from three people George Bennett, Walter Goodwin and Elan Sicroff, who have a strong feeling that it is time to offer people an opportunity to participate in a long-term experience of the work, along the lines of the courses offered at Sherborne and Claymont. To explore the potential, and to see if others had a similar feeling combined with the wish to work together, an invitation was sent out to people across the U.S. and Europe. To our surprise, a group of about 30 people responded and gathered in Massachusetts in April 2005. After a weekend of working together, generating a monad and visualizing through the Expanded Present Moment, the group affirmed the wish to work together on a nine-month Residential Practicum beginning September 2006.

The Practicum is intended to serve an international group of participants, with a foundation in the work of G. I. Gurdjieff and John G. Bennett and open to other spiritual traditions. So far, the following steps have been taken:

The Massachusetts Group, Miller's River Educational Cooperative, Inc., has committed to making the physical site ready. (See attached letter.)

- The JG Bennett Foundation, Inc., a 501c3, has agreed to participate in fund-raising and sponsoring the Practicum, and to host a web page to disseminate information.
- The Bainbridge/Seattle Group and others have agreed to come to Massachusetts to help with the practical work of site development.
- Candidate participants have been identified in England, Italy, Germany, South America, Dominican Republic, Alaska and elsewhere in the United States.
- A fundraising group has been established, including Jerry Toporovsky, Debra Strick and Sarah Barton.
- Elan Sicroff has committed to performances of the Gurdjieff music in East Coast communities and colleges to publicize the effort and attract potential candidates.
- We three have taken on development and delivery of the curriculum. In discussion with a number of others, some of whom have expressed an interest in helping to take responsibility for running the event. We certainly hope and expect to have others involved in the day-to-day running of the practicum, and see this as a co-operative project on every level.

The idea is gaining energy and momentum. We very much need your help to make this work. The most pressing matter is raising funds. The practical work on the site will require raising about \$600,000. An upfront amount of \$30,000 is required by 30 September for renovation of certain facilities this fall. We also seek your help in identifying potential candidates for the fall 06 course.

What is needed:

1. Please make a tax-deductible contribution, payable to the JG Bennett Foundation and mailed to:

JGBF Residential Practicum Fund
c/o Bob Gerber, Treasurer
157 Riverside Avenue
Westport, CT 06880

2. Your email and phone information, and that of your network of friends who might be interested in participating.

3. Your questions and good wishes. Please contact any of us.

With good wishes from,

George Bennett: geoanab@gis.net
Elan Sicroff: esicroff@gis.net
Walter Goodwin: goodwinfam1@msn.com