

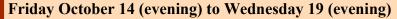
NEWSLETTER OF THE YOGA ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA | EST. 1976

YOGA BRIDGE

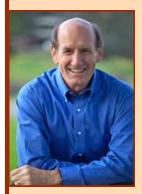
CONNECTING MIND & BODY ■



Please reserve the date to join us in 2022:







Richard Miller

No Mirror to Polish

A special retreat live streamed to your home space

"Why talk of attaining and not attaining.

Let erroneous thinking perish. Then nothing remains to seek or
prevent happiness from arising in every moment."

—Huang Po, 9th Century

Meditation does not entail journeying to another abode or realizing some higher spiritual self.

It entails realizing that there is no mirror that needs polishing to awaken as our essential nature. Here, suffering eases and unconditioned joy, peace, love, and equanimity blossom. This is the way of love. This is the way of enlightenment.

This is the path of harmony.

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Price TBA. If interested in participating, please register your name at: https://yoga.ca/product-category/workshops-classes/ We shall notify you of any updates.

For more information contact Anita (780) 432-7152 or sielecki@hotmail.com

Richard Miller is a world-renowned spiritual teacher, author, yogic scholar, researcher and clinical psychologist who has blended the non-dual teachings of Yoga, Tantra, Advaita, Taoism, and Buddhism with Western psychology and neuroscience.

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YOGA BRIDGE WINTER 2022



YAA DONATION **PROGRAM**

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Donors receive an official Income Tax with the Canada Revenue Agency. The YAA is a registered Charity Receipt for tax purposes.

DONATION MONEY **HOW IS YOUR**

Donations fund YAA Yoga Outreach **USED?**

emotionally or socially challenged underprivileged, and physically, **Programs:** schools, prisons, the Albertans who do not have easy access to yoga opportunities.

online (yoga.ca) contributions are greatly appreciated. Your cheque, cash or

IT'S A WIN-WIN! THANK YOU!

I awoke and saw that life was service I acted and behold, service was joy." "I slept and dreamt that life was joy. STRATION DESIGNED BY FREEPICK.COM

> The Yoga Association of Alberta is a non-profit organization offering yoga activities to the public for the purpose of providing self-development opportunities to Albertans through its own activities and Support is provided to members and local groups through with groups practising all recognized yoga disciplines

- Providing information about yoga activities in Alberta. Publication of a regular newsletter, Yoga Bridge. Promoting and maintaining high standards of yoga instruction through a teacher training and certification program.
- Organizing workshops, retreats and other activities independently and in co-operation with individuals and yoga communities throughout the province. Serving marginalized populations including prisons, street youth, women's shelters, seniors and rural communities through an Outreach Karma Yoga Program.

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The YAA editorial board reserves the right to copy-edit and condense all articles being published. Any substantive changes will be made in consultation with the author and in view of publication deadlines. Those wishing to submit articles should consult the YAA Newsletter Submitsion Guidelines for Contributors at yogaca. All submissions, whether solicited or not, are reviewed according to these guidelines, whether solicited or not, are reviewed according to these guidelines. We do not include promotional information in published articles. The YAA is in no way responsible for advertisements or calendar entries that are submitted but not included in the newsletter.

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CIRCULATION: 1,600

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		[
Size	Width x Height	B/W	Colour
Eighth Page	2.875" x 1.75"	\$75	\$110
Quarter Page	2.875" x 3.625"	\$100	\$140
Half Page	6" x 3.625"	\$130	\$200
Full Page	6" x 7.5"	\$200	\$300

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Advertising Deadlines (3 issues/year):

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Article Submission Deadline: Consult with

yogabridgenewsletter@telus.net

Newsletter circulation is approximately one month after

YOGA BRIDGE

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

YAA Yoga Bridge

By Dave Downing, Volunteer Editor In Service

the ripples of his influence have extended? 50+ years of practicing yoga. And through the who influenced thousands of students during his current YAA President, leader of the long-running teachings of those students, who knows how far out all. He was also a beloved international teacher for many of us, he was like a father figure to us mentor and long-time guide on the path of yoga Deepening your Practice Retreats, Teacher Trainer, in the YAA since its inception in the 1970's. As McAmmond left us suddenly. David was involved founding members. On September 29 2021, David been a death in the YAA family of one of our ormally, we present an array of articles this newsletter. However, there has on various yoga-related topics in

contemplate who and what is important to us. And which is perhaps fittingly part of the Winter 2022 of his close friends; numerous other tributes will be who made a difference. we might reflect on those teachers in our own lives to know and study with David (myself included), for those of us who didn't have the good fortune inward, reflect on the cycle of earthly existence and by the failing light and colder temperatures to turn newsletter. Winter is a season when we are inclined Meeting that David presided over as our President includes the minutes of the last Annual General and that is a work in progress. This issue also published on an on-line page on the YAA website, This issue includes tributes to David from some

element of life. And below the ice, streams flow and you with inspiration about that most essential state; the book review by Liam Perdue may provide of everything tends toward a slow and measured of new life lies beneath the ice and snow. The breath Winter is a quiet, dormant time, but the promise

> about the feminine magic of water. lakes breathe, and Felicia Ochs has written a poem

board) promise that editing will be light for short YAA homepage (https://yoga.ca/newsletter/) for those Bridge editorial provides guidelines. If you want submissions unless there are ethical or advertorial the essence of karma yoga. We (I and the editorial telus.net). You never know who you can help; that's Please send your submissions to me (yaanews@ are also invited; please see the guidelines on the to remain anonymous, that's fine. Longer articles of prose, poety or images. The Winter 2021 Yoga the form of short (about 250 words) submissions that we shared our experiences with Covid-19 in mental and spiritual challenges in the same way move you to share your experiences with physical that some readers might find interesting. It might I have included a short submission on page 11 we've done this before in the Fall 2021 newsletter. It involves the mutual support we can extend to like to plant an idea for the Spring 2022 newsletter Looking toward the season of renewal, I would

Spence tells me that Donalee Campbell will be YAA in whatever role she chooses to fill service. She will remain an invaluable asset to the thanks with gratitude to Debbie for decades of Donalee, and I'm sure I speak for all when I say for the last 12 years) gave her the edge. Welcome, YAA Teacher Training and Certification Program knowledge of the YAA culture (she coordinated the Donalee's background, dedication and extensive excellent qualifications. It was a tough choice, but were over 20 applicants for the position, all with Executive Director on December 15, 2021. There relieving her, assuming the mantle of YAA's THIS JUST IN!! (November 22, 2021). Debbie

BOOK REVIEW

Breath: The New Science of a Lost Art

by Liam Perdue

by James Nestor. Riverhead Books. NY. 2020. Reviewed by Liam Perdue. Breath: The New Science of a Lost Art

Nestor describes how he and his fellow awful ways. In his book "Breath", James previously healthy man in various and how much that diet affected the life of a "Supersize Me" was an amazing look at foods from the golden arch franchise. personal experiment of eating only Teveral years ago a young in jeopardy by filming his documentary maker put himself

were only allowed to breathe through their mouths experiment at Stanford University in which they for a period of 11 days! similar risks by actually paying to take part in an pulmonaut (=breath explorer) Anders Olsson took

to follow the book description of their voluntary straight or even smell, all returned to normal. suffering. I was hooked on finding out everything changes to their well being. It was spellbinding men suffered severe and potentially dangerous increasing across modern society. is harmful and unnatural but appears to be Nestor's conclusion is that mouth breathing dizziness, constant discomfort, inability to think through the nose, their apnea, low blood pressure, Within two days of returning to natural breathing health that we are able to influence. Spoiler Alert! breathing is the most important aspect of our in the desire to personally understand why proper else that these risk-taking explorers experienced In the relatively short-lived experiment both

side composed of scroll-like spongy bone called of the nose that explains why it is the safest way to breathe. The upper nose has three ridges on each There is a specific design within the architecture



incoming air over a much larger surface side of the nose to respond by opening area, rather like following a maze is turbinates. These effectively guide all reduce the flow of prana. (nadi shodhanam) as a method to boost or is the basis of alternate-nostril-breathing available for the air to pass through. This or closing the actual amount of space As well, the spongy tissue allows each onger than walking in a straight line.

Nestor states that: "To breathe is to But more than that, in his book

largely been ignored by mainstream science. of historical pioneers of breath study that have chemoreceptors in the brain. We learn about dozens system, stimulate immune response and reset the body with oxygen, hack the autonomic nervous expand the lungs, develop the diaphragm, flood central chapters of the book focus on techniques to Respiration is, at its core, reciprocation". The five absorb ourselves in what surrounds us...

extremely interesting to read the "hidden history" own respiratory systems. of those curious humans who investigated their more completely understand breath research. It is of the techniques that Nestor explored in order to of this volume focuses in some detail on several to follow up on his interests. The second section Nestor has immense curiosity and the resources

to one great secret of life he had learned from the the 1830's documenting Native American life on the nose Amerindians he painted: to always breathe through respiratory problems and attributed his longevity Breath of Life, told his own story of recovery from the Great Plains, is a prime example. His book, *The* George Catlin, the American painter who spent

> method uses this stress to create positive change. and, in a unique approach, that is how the Buteyko a whole world of possibilities. As a result of his As we know, holding the breath can create anxiety breath was an excellent way to create habit change. balance of carbon dioxide is in maintaining good research we now know how important the proper that too little carbon dioxide was a problem opened carbon dioxide levels into a better balance. The fact teach the suffering how to breathe less and bring different people and develop his own therapy to 2nd World War. He believed that the sickest people doctor in the Soviet Union who was active after the he came to the conclusion that putting stress on the health. After years of research and experimentatior he treated were breathing "too much". Eventually We hear about Konstantin Buteyko, a medical

Check him out and be entertained... breathing will initiate all kinds of positive changes coach who has plenty of ideas about how better sensation - "the iceman" Wim Hof - a bold Dutch investigated is taught by a current YouTube new method of training. Another system Nestor breathing in aerobic sports, broke into an entirely who taught athletes to perform without mouth John Douillard, a chiropractor in Denver,

useful but are not mentioned in this book. One a couple of breathing "hacks" that I have found that were mentioned earlier. complete irrigation of those crucial turbinate areas in one side and out the opposite side, it provides a and stuffy nasal passages. Because the water goes and a touch of salt can do wonders to clear blocked pot (mine is plastic) filled with pure warm water but no need to waste your money! A simple neti currently an expensive medical version available of them is the regular use of a neti pot*. There is From a traditional yogic perspective there are

gently lifts the nasal passages to allow more air NFL football. I started to notice that some of these this was a product called "Breathe Right" which athletes had what appeared to be a band-aid across ust above the flare. Upon investigation I found that the lower part of the nose, on the cartilaginous part The other hack I discovered while watching

> it can really help. The product is available at most pharmacies and the original has been knocked off in cheaper versions that work as well as the flow. Good news - it works!! During allergy season

to master in one lifetime. mind which is now brimming with all the potential questions, many of them generated by all the ideas communicate through a translator. Nestor has pilgrimage, this time to Brazil, to meet a wellpossibilities—perhaps far too many for one person he has been exposed to and to his own inquiring circle as Nestor gets to meet the yogi but has to known yogi, Luiz DeRose. There is a sense of full As the book winds down Nestor makes another

ourselves daily: "The key...to any breathing practice of (human) potential." His response doesn't mean breathing has to offer." maintain flexibility, and slowly absorb what rooted in ancient yoga is to learn to be patient, us a perspective that all of us can use and remind created for healthy seekers to climb the next rung magical thinking about the yoga practices. "They Master DeRose tried to disabuse Nestor of any body-mind. The final words of the interview give previously been lost and restore well-being to the that yoga can never be used to rehabilitate what has were never designed to cure problems. They were Well, what actually happened in that encounter?

actually practice and enjoy your very own beautiful taking it all for granted; to begin or continue to becoming intimate with breathing, rather than inspire you to take seriously the challenge of takers in another part of this world—or it might than another entertaining book about some risk Well, that depends. It could mean nothing more What does all of this mean for you, dear reader?

canuckhoza@gmail.com central importance to a vital life. He can be reached at remains curious about its simplicity, complexity, and Liam Perdue has been breathing since birth and

available for purchase from the YAA at http:// www.yoga.ca/yaa-store Neti pots (plastic and ceramic) and neti salt are

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YOGA BRIDGE

AGM MINUTES 2021

45th AGM Reports



by Debbie Spence, Donalee Campbell & Dave Downing

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT 2020 PREPARED BY DEBBIE SPENCE

nce upon a time, an old, dying man had four sons who were always fighting and competing with each other. He worried about them and wanted to teach them a lesson. He prepared a bundle of sticks and asked his sons to come to him. Once they had gathered together, the old man asked them, "Can you break these sticks?" The first son tried very hard to break the bundle but nothing happened. He finally gave up. Then it was the second son's turn to try his luck. He thought it would be an easy task and picked up the bundle of sticks. He tried his best to break them but nothing happened. Next, the third son tried to break the bundle of sticks, but he couldn't do it either. Meanwhile, the fourth son had the idea to take one stick at a time from the bundle and easily broke them all! The father smiled at his sons and said, "Children, do you understand what happened? It is always easy to break the sticks one by one. But when they are bundled together, none of you could break them. In the same way, you four brothers should always support each other and work together. You will be stronger and safer." The four brothers realised what their father was trying to teach them and let go of all their enmity towards each other and learnt that there is strength in unity.

Moral: When you work together, you are stronger. Unity is a form of Strength.

And so it was, that 45 years ago, pioneer yogis in Alberta understood this truth and united together, regardless of their diverse yoga lineages, training or traditions. David McAmmond reflects that, "Back in the 60s and 70s, if you were doing yoga, you were a member of the YAA." There were 70 members total!

The same lesson of "strength in unity" applies to the YAA today. There are tens of thousands of yogis in Alberta, practicing in more than 35 different traditions and styles of yoga, many of whom can trace their roots back to those original YAA pioneer teachers. The YAA has the unique distinction of being the first and currently the only umbrella Yoga Association in Canada and is the envy of many teachers in other provinces. Let's continue to work together to keep the YAA's legacy alive. Unity is Strength.

This year, of course, no report would be complete without acknowledging the effect COVID-19 has had on the yoga industry provincially and worldwide. Once everything was shut down in mid-March, it wasn't long before ZOOM literally ZOOMED into our lives. Now most yoga teachers, including many in their 70s and 80s, have pivoted their voga classes onto an online platform and are quite comfortable teaching this way! The YAA helped out by purchasing Zoom licenses at a significant discount for teachers and offering a Free introductory and Advanced workshop on Zoom usage taught by Donalee Campbell that has been viewed by over 130 YAA members. Feedback has been positive with most YAA events being held online.

However, even with online platforms, when we asked teachers in a recent survey, "Do you believe that COVID-19 had a permanent impact on your yoga teaching? Your livelihood?" 80% reported permanent impact on their teaching opportunities – some have lost yoga jobs permanently and have had to change careers. Over 90% of respondents had reduced income in 2020 compared to 2019. It will take some time to recover from these devastating losses.

YAA STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1: MAINTAIN AND FURTHER OUTREACH PROGRAMS: MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARGINALIZED ALBERTANS Outreach programs at Remand Centres, CANDORA, Seniors centres, schools, etc. were put on hold. We applied for grants so that once things open up we are ready to relaunch. The YAA was successful in securing over \$80,000 in grant money. Thanks to Nancy Hong, David McAmmond, Anita Sielecki & Felicia Ochs for their input. The YAA thanks those who donated a total of over \$3,500 this year. If you wish to donate, Official Income Tax receipts are provided.

YAA STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2: PROMOTE THE YAA: MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION

At Dec 31, 2020: there were 1,200 YAA members in 111 Alberta cities/towns plus over 400 first time members. This was an 11% increase from 2017. City of Edmonton Wellness for Staff online event in October 2020 and May 2021 connected with over 500 employees.

Social Media: The YAA continues to push our existence on all social media platforms. If anyone has suggestions or would like to be involved, please let the office know. yogaab@telus.net

YAA STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3: BE AN EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION: CONSIDER HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY AND INCREASE FUNDING, TIGHTEN BUDGET

- The YAA has gratefully received operating grants from the AB government Ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women for over 30 years. This money is used to run the association (partially pay for salaries, buy hardware, office cost, etc.). A VERY big thank you to all teachers who completed the Directory survey for our reports. Applied and received Federal Government Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy.
- We experienced a 12% increase in sales as people bought props for home practice. Office hours: Mondays and Thursday 9:30-2pm for in-person sales, or your orders can be mailed to you.
- Used books fundraiser: Books at 50% list price can be purchased from the office store or mailed.

- Run your workshops through YAA: In this scenario the YAA takes care of all aspects of organization, registration and marketing, and provides the Zoom platform. After expenses, the net income is split 70:30 between Teachers and the YAA. Several teachers have found this to be a win:win arrangement! Let us know if you are interested.
- E-transfers save the YAA between \$1,500 and \$2,000/year in credit card charges. Thank you!
- Long and short-term investments are important to create reserve for the Association to cover unforeseen events. Surveys of non-profits indicate that lack of funds was one of 5 #1 concerns moving forward. The YAA Executive in its wisdom has chosen to keep a positive balance for just such occasions as COVID 19.
- Some comments from YAA teachers:
- I appreciate the support that the YAA has offered during this [COVID] time to the AB yoga community.
- The YAA has been providing solid foundations in training for beginning and established teachers for many years. I still appreciate the expertise, enthusiasm and depth of what is offered through senior YAA teachers and programs; unique in North America for high standards and flexible programming.
- The YAA is dedicated to providing opportunities to Albertans who have little to no exposure to the health & wellness benefits yoga provides.
- Funders: Please continue to support YAA. In times
 of stress, it provides comfort, encouragement and
 solace.YAA provides great support to yoga teachers
 and provides great workshops/training and an
 informative newsletter to yoga teachers in Alberta
 and beyond.

TTP & CERTIFICATION ~ PREPARED BY DONALEE CAMPBELL

YAA STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4: MAINTAIN & FURTHER TEACHER TRAINING & CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

Teacher Training and Certification Program: Committee Members: Rachel Foster*, Neil

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Haggard*, Karen Hamdon, Teddy Hyndman, Mary LeBlanc, Beth McCann, Judi Mirus, Tammy Richard*, Anita Sielecki. (Ann Waschuk has stepped down from the Committee – much appreciation for Ann's many years of service and dedication.) *New members.

TTP: This year has been a very difficult one due to Covid. The Saturday Classes and Teaching Skills Workshops are still being offered online via Zoom and have been well attended.

The TTP is now a 200-Hour format at the Initial Certification Level, making it more in line with current industry standards and streamlining the evaluation of Equivalency Certification. 100 hours of weekly classes with a mentor are still expected but are not required for certification.

YAA Certified Teachers retain the same high standards of training and upgrading and will still be encouraged to continue to work towards the 500-hour and other Advanced Training Levels.

Certification: The YAA worked with ToolePeet Insurance to ensure that online classes were covered.

Teachers from across the province and beyond have been attending the Saturday Classes & Teaching Skills Workshops for upgrading purposes, and the feedback has been very positive, encouraging us to continue this online option when in-person classes resume.

"Not simply an asana experience, but rather a class to build our scope of practice in what we offer students by way of better understanding of anatomy, safety, preparing the body and exploring the benefits of expanding practice to meet our students where they are." Deirdre, Lethbridge.

To date, the YAA has 234 Certified Teachers: 82 (300h); 37 (500h); 28 (Intermediate); 87 (Senior). Of these 66 have Permanent Certification. As well, we are pleased to congratulate 12 new Initial Certified Teachers who have completed their requirements since May 2020. From the YAA-TTP: Colleen Dibden, Hana Jilek, Thomas Kamm, and Belinda Mack. Through Equivalency Certification: Beth Brookwell, Dani Checknita, Kenzie Checknita, Donna Duong, Darria Hirsekorn, Rebecca Hung, Terri Jones, and Marthe Murphy.

EDITOR'S REPORT PREPARED BY DAVE DOWNING, VOLUNTEER EDITOR, YOGA BRIDGE

I undertook this position as karma yoga and although I receive an honorarium for my work from YAA, I donate it back to YAA or to another charity.

The editorial board members include Anita Sielecki, Judi Mirus, Kim Fraser and Debbie Spence. As a group, we work together to suggest edits that help our contributors to present their ideas in the best way possible.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR:

Peer-reviewed articles: 21 in 2020; 10 to May, 2021

Revision of article submission guidelines.

A compendium of articles from 2010 to 2020 was included in the Winter 2021 issue and illustrates the depth and breadth of our members' knowledge and understanding.

Since about 2019, we have had a couple of themes that we have been addressing.

Learning about asanas is a series written by senior YAA certified teachers.

Honouring our teachers is a series that highlights those teachers with decades of experience teaching yoga in Alberta and elsewhere who have made a significant contribution.

Covid-19's arrival in early 2020 has inspired a few articles on how people deal with the pandemic. Direction forward: possibly a venture into an advertorial format to defray publication costs and increase revenue. This was implemented by Mosaic Magazine by Connie Brisson and consisted of an article on one page and an advertisement concerning the subject of the article on the facing page; the idea was that the advertiser could write an article on a particular aspect of natural health care and provide information on how to access a product or service on the facing page. This might be worth discussing in a board meeting.

As is our custom, the YAA sponsored a FREEto-members workshop, this year with YAA Certified Senior Teacher, David Wilson. We hope to see YOU next year on ZOOM on April 30, 2022. embers will enjoy a FREE workshop with Sandra Sammartino! Ad p. 27.

COVID PERSPECTIVES

An Iron Will Is Sometimes Not Enough

by Dave Downing

Note: This is not to be taken as medical advice. Neither I nor my partner are medical professionals. If you have similar symptoms, they may be caused by something else. Consult a health practitioner.

y partner has had an experience that I thought might be interesting to share with our readers. For years, she dealt with low energy – feelings of continual fatigue, mild to moderate depression at times, a sense of hopelessness and a foggy, distracted mind were some of the symptoms. She has tried many things, believing that this was a mind-body issue. She has a dedicated restorative yoga practice, meditates daily, is aware of how food influences her physically and mentally, takes standard supplements, visits alternate health care professionals regularly and uses herbal massage oil and aromatherapy. While all of these helped for a few hours or days and gave her the strength and momentum to keep going,

her condition of low energy invariably returned.

It seems that what she experienced was indeed a mind-body issue, but one that was not obvious and that both conventional and alternative medical professionals couldn't readily identify. In late August 2021, her acupuncturist recommended that she visit the pharmacist downstairs. He asked a few questions about her symptoms, her supplements, and her blood iron (ferritin) levels. Based on her responses, he recommended a 10-day course

of high-potency fast acting iron supplements, then a follow-up blood test and a three month course of high potency iron supplements followed again by a blood test.

Within a couple of days of starting the highpotency supplements, she noticed a positive change in energy and outlook. Two months after starting this regimen, we've both noticed a sustained change. Her symptoms and her initial blood test results were consistent with iron deficiency. Killip et al. (2007) report that iron deficiency occurs in about four percent of women between 12 and 49 years old and up to 40 percent of vegans between 19 and 50 (she follows a mostly vegetarian diet).

We had thought that iron deficiency could be a contributing factor, and some of the supplements she was taking previously were daily maintenance doses of iron. But these were evidently not sufficient. Now she says that she hasn't had this level of energy and enthusiasm towards work and

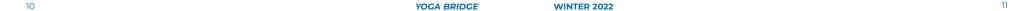
towards life in general for at least 10 years. We are both grateful to the health care professionals who helped her to find a solution.

Reference cited Killip, S, J.M.Bennett, M.D.Chambers. 2007. Iron Deficiency Anemia. Am.Fam. Physician 75(5):671-678. https:// www.aafp.org/afp/2007/0301/ p671.html

p671.html

Dave Downing is volunteer editor of the Yoga Bridge. He can be reached

at yaanews@telus.net.



DAVID MCAMMOND IN MEMORIAM

"Grandfather of Canadian Yoga David McAmmond: Feb 7, 1944 - Sept 29, 2021

By Lonnie DeSorcy

A tribute to David McAmmond. February 7, 1944 - September 29, 2021

on September 29, 2021. He was the YAA President at the time of his passing - one of its founding utobiography, recollections of David from others with whom he taught for years and a biography nembers with over 50 years of practice and service to the yoga community. The tribute includes his available on the YAA website yoga.ca. The few articles of this issue are a tribute to David McAmmond who passed away suddenly pared by one of his long-time students and originally published in the $Yoga\ Bridge$ in the Spring, issue. It is reprinted below. The numerous notes, emails and photographs from other students wil

whether to make a significant life shift. a teacher training program and I was deciding feel for the place. The fledgling studio was offering morning in 1998 and my mission was to get a for-profit yoga facility. It was a sunny Sunday timidly entered The Yoga Studio, Calgary's first

summer, I had never been to a dedicated "yoga Education. Other than a brief course over a been through Parks and Recreation and Continuing I was nervous. Most of my yoga training had

like a guided encounter or laboratory. even from highly-structured Iyengar classes – more different from today's fast-paced vinyasa flow and was markedly relaxed. The class was noticeably student's exploration. He didn't use ritual and demonstrating, explaining and assisting each encouraging playfulness, yet was masterful in From the start, David had a no-nonsense way of president of the Yoga Association of Alberta (YAA) McAmmond, co-owner of the studio and current The teacher that morning was David

and intelligently escorted yoga experience. He has David's offerings remains one of a humble, kind over these last 20 years, the essential quality of Although I have noticed his teaching change

> "nothing special from no one in particular." unpretentious ideals, characterizing his teaching as

reputation preceded him in their experiences, too. California. When he heard that my colleague and said David had seen it all and referred to him as interviewed hundreds of people in the industry, David. I have heard from many others that David's I lived in Calgary, he asked whether we knew Yoga Therapy and Research in Pacific Grove, "the Grandfather of Canadian Yoga." Yoga commentator Matthew Remski, who has fellow participant at the 2013 Symposium for international hot-yoga franchise chain, was a felt far and wide. Ted Grand, co-founder of an His influence on yoga practice has been

recently, Vietnam. Colombia, parts of Latin America and, most indirectly into the United States, Mexico, India, David's teaching has reached directly and

years. He told me that the questions - "Who am While the idea of āsana didn't really appeal to him, TM produced a small booklet on yoga postures. I?" and "Why am I here?" – catapulted him into David has immersed himself in yoga for almost 60 he was captivated once he tried it. He also credits Transcendental Meditation (TM) in the early 1960s Having celebrated his 75th birthday on Feb. 7,

> Royal College. straight A's at Mount concentration to the drop-out to scoring point where he went his previously poor from being a high school TM with developing

return to Yasodhara over, Malcolm had to 10-week course was yoga world. Before the was well-versed in the lineage teacher who Pasternak, a Sivananda course with Malcolm enrolled in his first yoga Around 1963, David

unknown number of weeks. for him with the help of only a class plan for an David, he asked his student to substitute teach Having recognized a propensity for yoga asana in Ashram at Kootenay Bay, B.C., for family reasons.

training David started to practise and teach yoga in his basement before he had completed a formal yoga Encouraged by surviving the experience,

system while also taking any opportunity to different traditions. laughingly speculates that she may have wanted practise and learn from visiting teachers from continued to practise following the Sivananda but David's focus was spiritual liberation, so he him to sign up for her teacher training program, Khattab, also encouraged him to teach. He Another of David's early teachers, Friedel

a number of groups on retreat to their Galliano Carruthers, who brought Iyengar yoga to Western Island property through the 1970s. to patient health. The genius of the Carruthers' incorporating yoga as part of a preventive approach Canada. Dr. Carruthers was hailed as a pioneer in were Maureen and her physician husband, Bruce therapeutic focus wasn't lost on David, who took Figuring prominently in David's training



"forest"

Sivananda over the "tree"

Choosing

perspective the Iyengar

viewpoint

one a close-

other a more his aptitude, expansive, viewpoint; the up, detailed better suited point of view less-specific because it

truth and enlightenment. David's enduring interest was and continues to be

intelligent conclusions. that we need to ask questions and come to our own agree with things being done a certain way because his curiosity about how things work. He doesn't hey always have been done that way. He believes If there's anything constant about David, it is

a great friend and mentor and spent seven years under her tutelage. Vipassana and Abhidhamma, David discovered artist and lay Buddhist nun to teach Theravadan Dhammadinna, an Austrian-born swimmer, When the YAA brought in Anagarika

in the 1980 Yoga Journal Teacher Directory along with was also mentioned. and Elaine Ryder-Cook. The Integral Yoga Centre Hilda Pezarro, Shirley Johannessen, Liz McLeod He was one of only five Alberta teachers listed

studio viable until it closed in 1987 and the office funnelled enough money into the YAA to make the and take \$15-per-hour pay in return. The strategy space to donate all proceeds to the association the Calgary teachers who used a dedicated YAA nired as a part-time administrator and convinced volunteers couldn't do all the work. David was By 1983, the YAA had grown so much that

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David was also involved with a 1988 trail-blazing article in the Yoga Journal by Calgary teacher

Erin Murphy, having taken photos to accompany the therapeutic sequence given to Murphy by B.K.S. Iyengar after she collapsed while in India. She later discovered she had a form of congenital emphysema. Until that point, there had been very few credible therapeutic yoga routines.

David was also an entrepreneur. In 1990, he contracted with yoga prop company Halfmoon Yoga Product's supplier and started to retail mats and other yoga props through his new company, YogaMat.com, or Body-Mind Workouts.

Iyengar teacher-trainer Cynthia Palahniuk assisted David – her first mentor – for many years in teacher training programs and, later, with therapeutic initiatives. Besides his vast knowledge, Cynthia was impressed with his compassion, humour and an ability to both remember and share stories to illustrate his points. She fondly recalls that regardless of an individual's experience, David could always meet them where they were to provide meaningful insights and practical guidance.

David and Margot Kitchen, now a leading Canadian Iyengar teacher, began to host and teach students at residential yoga retreats in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

At one point, they considered teaching a similar retreat in India and decided David should acquaint himself with Indian yoga and culture with a trip to India. While both he and Margot taught Iyengar yoga, David felt his learning style and Iyengar's teaching style wouldn't mix. Meanwhile, Margot had met S.V. Karandikar (Dr. K), who was Iyengar's yoga student and on-call doctor for over a decade, on a previous trip to India and had taken some

photos of him guiding practice. She showed David the pictures and wheels were set in motion for him to visit Dr. K.

When David arrived at Kabir Baug in 1995, he was surprised to learn that Dr. K was running a yoga-therapy facility with more than 1,000 patients and 150 volunteer teachers. David's latent interest in therapeutics now stared him in the face. After taking an X-ray of the reversed cervical curve in David's spine, Dr. K prescribed a simple, but effective practice called "rope jacket" that not only brought relief, but transformed David's understanding of yoga.

True to his nature, David astutely recognized a couple of years later that his North American students needed more systematic instruction than he and Margot had received at Dr. K's institute and sensed the brilliance of a background player at Kabir Baug – Dr. Nivedita Pingle. Nivedita observed that David is a common binding force among a variety of yogis and that he "is a very non-demanding teacher" while also holding "the position like that of a guru in traditional setups. ... a true yogi who has stayed free of the trappings of the revered position he is held in. He also has a very understated side of humour to him."

During this period, David experienced a cardiac event. With the help of his partner, Tu,

he re-evaluated his teaching schedule and passed his yoga prop business to his daughter, Ananda. He briefly made an effort to take his version of Dr. K.'s therapeutic yoga for cardiac conditions program to the medical



community, but realized it wasn't taking root.

Nevertheless, interest was growing elsewhere. Alongside the Canadians, a handful of Mexican yoga teachers attended David and Margot's Puerto Vallarta retreats. In time, David was offering restorative yoga teacher training in Mexico City. One of the Mexican yoginis was Dakini, whose husband is musician, conductor, former Buddhist monk and meditation teacher Kavindu (Alejandro Velasco). David and Kavindu realized they shared an insatiable curiosity about how things work, especially in meditation.

Meanwhile, YAA past-president Anita Sielecki collaborated with David to publish a manual called A Practical Guide: Yoga Therapy for Backs based on a compilation of the material they developed during the Mexican teacher trainings. Anita also invited Kavindu to co-teach a four-day meditation and yoga retreat with David at Riverlodge near Stony Plain in October 2010. The retreat, now five days long at the Providence Centre, has become an annual event that has enriched many students since its inception.

David's current focus is incorporating concepts of focal, scanning and global awareness in the burgeoning field of neuroscience into meditation and $\bar{a}sana$. He inspired Kavindu to include many of these topics in his teaching of meditation.

A few years ago, David travelled to Bogota, Colombia, invited by Diana Jaramillo, a Colombian yoga teacher who attended the Mexican teacher trainings. She remains a close friend and recently was part of a group that accompanied David to Vietnam. They noticed some teaching reminiscent of North American āsana practice 25 years ago and many people suffering from maladies that could benefit from a therapeutic approach. David will be gauging the feasibility of yoga offerings in Vietnam in the coming months.

David has been a pioneer over the years. He lets life unfold without trying to manage it unduly, holds space for people and brings them together, and is super intelligent, but doesn't fall prey to wanting the typical accolades or honours. He is looking for Truth!

Lonnie DeSorcy is a YAA-certified Senior Teacher, IAYT-certified yoga therapist (C-IAYT) as well as a trained spiritual director. She offers yoga instruction and therapy primarily in private sessions, intimate classes and workshops in Calgary and via Skype or Zoom Meeting. Lonnie's email is Lonnie@YogInsight.com

"Huuuge"

By Ana Marti, Mexico

any people have illuminated my life.
Today I will remember the light of David
McAmmond, an exceptional being with
whom I felt safe, secure, full of love and joy. He was
one of those beings who knew how to bring out the
best in me.

He taught me a different way of seeing, practicing and teaching yoga. A different way to see and feel the world.

For our daily lives, his teachings are immense (*Huuuge*!!, as he would say); they are a treasure. He taught me to decide and work towards and for what is right; to center my attention on what interests me and not get into talks, judgments, criticism, things that do not serve us.... to focus my energy; to bring contentment, laughter and joy into my life. He demonstrated with his lifestyle the importance of humility, simplicity and straightforwardness. Of how to build community, be supportive and appreciate each person.

Thank you David for being in the group of those who have polished me; for being so present and for being my teacher and my guide. You are in my heart all the time. I love you.

Ana Marti was a certified yoga teacher when she attended David's first training in Therapeutic Yoga at the YogaEspacio Studio in Mexico City. She participated in all of his following courses and eventually became part of the team of "David's trainees" who continue to offer training in Therapeutic Yoga in Mexico City and beyond.



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DAVID MCAMMOND IN MEMORIAM

Memories of David McAmmond

By Margot Kitchen

There do I start? My memories span several decades, with much love and laughter.

I first met David in 1975 just after I arrived in Calgary from Montreal. We were attending an Iyengar workshop given by Glen Moyer and then subsequently a workshop with Felicity Green. A group of us banded together to study and learn from each other. There were no training programmes in Canada at that point. We would meet in Erin Murphy's basement once a week and would take turns leading the class while everyone shared insights. There's one particularly funny incident that makes me laugh out loud even now!



Margot Kitchen adjusting David

I'll set the scene: there were six of us, David being the only man, in *Prasarita Padottanusana* (Wide-Legged Standing Forward Bend). Hilda Pezzaro was leading the class and calling instructions to work with the breath. At this point the meter reader came down the stairs. It must have been quite a sight with many bottoms in the air. Hilda called "breathe through the vagina!" – to

which a small male voice, from close to the floor replied "But I don't have one!" With that, the meter man turned and fled up the stairs without even reading the meter! Only yogis would understand and appreciate that story.

In 1978 my husband David and I were transferred to Toronto, not to return to Calgary until 1982. This is when David McAmmond and I started giving workshops together. He was a talented, insightful, patient, warm, humble teacher with a killer sense of humour that could diffuse any difficult situation. I loved working with David; he was very free, we worked well together, he loosened me up and I helped him with organizational details. He told wonderful stories to illustrate life lessons and taught me how valuable this type of instruction is.

Our weekend workshops expanded into week long retreats at Casa Dulce Vida in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico City and Guadalajara. I lost count of how many we taught together, but we explored so much! We'd pick a book and on the plane we'd start bandying about ideas that flowed like water – it was fun! With our combined and diverse experiences in asana, meditation, pranayama, philosophy, we had much to share and our retreats were always full. Two weeks before he died we had floated the idea of doing one more retreat for people "our age".

David introduced me to Vipassana meditation and his teacher Anagarika Dhammadinna. We attended a silent retreat in Calgary. On Day 4 we were doing our walking meditation in the garden. My mind was screaming; I looked over to see David walking serenely and in that moment I was so angry with him!! Later I told him my feelings and he burst out laughing and said "if you could only have peeked into my mind!" He became very involved in Vipassana and I became immersed in

lyengar Yoga, going to study at the lyengar Institute in Pune, India.

On one of my trips to India I volunteered at Kabir Baug with Dr. Karandikar (Dr. K.), a doctor and student of Mr. Iyengar. I brought back many pictures of my time there and David was so intrigued he began going to India to study with Dr. K. and that was the beginning of his therapeutic work. He was a master with tractions and various supports to help students. He also, years later, developed teacher training in therapeutic yoga and wrote a book (*Yoga for Backs*). David demonstrated in many ways that he was a yogi with multiple talents.

He was also talented with a camera. When Guruji (B.K.S. Iyengar) came to Edmonton in 1990 David filmed the whole convention. With Heather Malek as producer, and me in front of the camera, we made two one-hour long video recordings and four television programmes, one of which earned a Canadian cable television award. David never wanted to go to the Iyengar Institute, saying that from behind a camera he felt was close enough to this amazing man.

Geeta lyengar came to Vancouver in 2008 to teach a convention of 450 students. At one point she called David to the stage and asked him to do *Vrksasana* (Tree pose). "Now teach them!" David looked out at the sea of students and couldn't speak and turned to Geetaji saying quietly "This is my worst nightmare!". She replied to the group of



accomplished and famous American teachers in the front row "Look! He's doing better than all of you!" Geetaji saw David on levels the rest of us at that point couldn't see. She understood his stage fright and whispered as he left the stage "don't worry, you'll be a great teacher"—and she was right.



David and I wrote a teacher training manual for our retreats in Mexico. Even early on he was talented with a computer. He also was a tremendous help when I was studying for my senior lyengar certification and became a model for some of the pictures I sent to Guruji.

In his quietness, David gave so much. I remember being in the hospital with a crushed tibial plateau. I'd been waiting for three days to be operated on because there had been a horrible motor vehicle accident that occupied all the orthopaedic surgeons; I was on morphine and totally miserable. David was such a comfort, sitting quietly by the bed, holding the kidney basin for me to vomit and offering comfort just by his presence.

I asked a couple of the early students from the Mexican retreats to give me some of their memories. This came from Judith Kilbourne:

"This David, about whom we chatted today, had some quiet and wonderful qualities within and surrounding him. In my case I was attending my very first retreat and these many years later I can share with you how overawed I was by the whole process and event! I was rarely away from

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gifted and lovely people, many of whom have on. When I go there, I hope that someone here will subsequently become close friends. He heard and my shyness and loneliness within a crowd of very me. He nodded gently as he heard me expressing a walk with him - I remember it was a highlight to of the week while eating breakfast on the stunning way over my head! Early morning at the beginning situation which, as a newbie or freshman, felt was that meant so much." recall and remember an important moment in time impressive to me. I'm sad to hear David has moved advised. His sensitivity and listening skills were so serenity. When we spoke he asked if I would take but surrounded by an aura of peace, quiet and this lovely man to stand beside me, not speaking, feeling it immensely. Lo and behold along came patio, overlooking Puerto Vallarta, I was alone and my Bill and recall missing him so very much in a

David became a beloved therapeutic yoga teacher trainer in Mexico. He also travelled to Colombia and Vietnam, continued leading retreats in Alberta and became president of the Yoga Association of Alberta. Others will have more to say in this tribute on those parts of his very rich life.

Quote from Geeta Iyengar: "Gaining maturity in yoga practice involves learning to respect the paths that other people are on and acknowledging their merits, maybe even acknowledging that your own path is lacking in some area where another one excels."

David and I understood this and our paths diverged but we never lost respect for each other.

From Kahlil Gibran (The Prophet) on Friendship: 'And when you part from your friend, you grieve not; For that which you love most in him may be clearer in his absence, as the mountain to the climber is clearer from the plain.'

I miss my dear friend. We drove each other nuts, and also loved each other very much. One of the Iyengar teachers posted this Buddha quote today: "One of the best gifts you can give someone, is thanking them for being part of your life."

Thank you David, for making my life on this plane richer for knowing you.

With gratitude, Margot Kitchen

Margot Kitchen is a senior teacher in Calgary with the Yoga Association of Alberta and a senior Iyengar instructor with IYAC/ACYI. She can be reached at margotkitchen@shaw.ca

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AND IN DAVID'S OWN WORDS...

Autobiography

By David McAmmond

ears ago I was on a search when I discovered yoga. A search for the meaning of existence on earth.

First I read philosophy and psychology. Then I meditated. Asana wasn't appealing but when a discovered, the experience was spectacular. I thought of LSD. After a few months of asana the mental high went away. I continued with pranayama, meditation, chanting, and doing asana as before but it all felt dead. Then I was really curious. My search changed and became more intense. Deeper pranayama, longer meditation, better alignment and extreme poses. There were highs but never the rush of the first love with yoga.

For over forty years I have continued to search, to understand the change that took place. I have realized that my love of yoga was the same as any other long-term love. Hot, intense and fiery in the beginning. Cooler, calmer but committed later. As with all love affairs the dopamine changes to oxytocin.

What about that nagging question regarding the meaning of life? It has been asked through the history of mankind. Perhaps it is an imponderable question.

Where am I now?

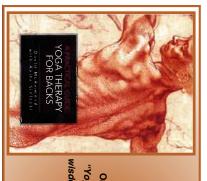
Whatever poses I am doing or teaching, awareness proves to be the most significant part

- Awareness of the physical sensations the pose is creating
- Awareness of the emotion which may be connected with the pose
- Awareness of the stories we tell ourselves when practicing

Practicing with awareness brings one into the present moment and opens the door to self-knowledge and the possibility of transformation.

Maintain equanimity, Stay connected, Accept change.

~ Extracted from David McAmmond's website yogainfo.ca



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by David McAmmond / Anita Sielecki

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So to speak.....;)" K.H. Edmonton

THANK YOU DAVID! We will miss you.

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DAVID MCAMMOND IN MEMORIAM

Kavindu Remembers David

By Kavindu

completely changed my life. David confirmed, a workshop at our Yoga Espacio Studio. We enriched both of us and became a joint creation validated and enriched with his own experiences we were so in tune with each other. This meeting connected on the spot. We talked for hours about students. From him I learned to look each person playful, soft, and always connected spirit with his therapeutic yoga, and the nervous system, but his absorbed not only his vast knowledge of the body, workshops at Yoga Espacio, in Mexico, where I years I was his translator in the Therapeutic Yoga mutual appreciation unfolded thereafter. For some belonging to neither of us. An unconditional before with a man: a constant exchange that Thus began a friendship like I´d seldom had and knowledge what I was living in meditation. yoga and especially meditation, discovering that Linvitation by my partner Dakini to teach met David McAmmond around 2006 at my house in Mexico; he stayed with us on the

After a few moments he looked at me and said: "No

need for a program, let's play it by ear. When you session, topic by topic, almost minute by minute. looked at me with a question mark in his eyes. to talk about the dynamics and the program. He retreat, at River Lodge, I asked him to get together gently with his light touch. Before starting the alongside him, but David always empowered me in Edmonton. I felt honored and nervous to teach

I showed him what I had prepared, session by

eye to eye again, together bow. with a silent hands with each participant session, to connect And, at the end of the their experience. always validating completely for them, with each one, to be class, to connect beginning of each in the eye at the

meditation workshop invited me to teach a he and Anita Sielecki

In September 2010

of partnership I enjoyed for many years of shared to dance with him. I took it where he left us in in the eye." And indeed, from that day I learned your turn I'll tell you. We'll just look at each other retreats with him think it's my turn you tell me and when I think it's the free flow exchange, an awesome experience yoga, he took it where I left us in meditation. The themes developed seamlessly, becoming richer in

I asked him what he thought, and if there At the end of the first retreat we did together,

recommended to me to workshops became and gradually my advice immediately, People learn better like make it fun and light. your teaching, and That will humanize voice, "Tell stories. his soft unpretentious more people benefiting more human and real, that." I adopted his improve. He told me in was anything he more fun and light..



Kavindu, Anita Sielecki & David McAmmond



David McAmmond July 7, 2021

me, I'm going there soon, I'll have some made for beautiful fine smooth cotton jackets, one green, size. Next time we met he presented me with two you." Then he asked me for a shirt for the right wonderful tailor in Vietnam who makes them for style shirts and jackets. He told me: "I have this One day I told him that I really liked his oriental

> And sure, I'll have that ice cream with him in my were: "Buy me an ice cream next time I see you". weeks before he passed away. His last words to me are invited." I talked to him on the phone a couple retreat in Mexico, as a student." I said, "Done, you you?." He told me, "Invite me to your December I want to give you something, what can I give operation in June of this year I said to him, "David, and complicity. After his recent open-heart but above all many delicious moments ot triendship chocolates, clothes, meals, hospitality in his house, gave me many gifts every time we met: books, one black, perfect size. Throughout the years he

com/maestros/meditacion/ Meditation and Mindful Movement retreats with David. " Kavindu has been visiting Alberta each year to co-teach book "Mindfulness, la Meditación de Conciencia Plena important yoga centres in Mexico City and author of the Meditation Program in Yoga Espacio, one of the most **Kavindu** (Alejandro Velasco) is the Director of the More information can be found at: www.yogaespacio.



Save the date to join us next year:

Tresence and Warmth

vith Kavindu (Alejandro Velasco



Wednesday August 3 to Sunday August 7, 2022

Providence Renewal Centre, 3005-119 Street, Edmonton or via Zoom (Depending on Covid situation and ease of travelling across borders)

Presence and Warmth are two aspects of one same state of consciousness that activates deep inner stillness and a sense of safety.

A lucid embrace of these two qualities unveils the most subtle, basic and deep aspects of our humanity Presence opens the gates to a spacious awareness. Warmth arises from our biological instinct of love. and it can lead to a radical acceptance of ourselves.

The retreat will have a strong emphasis on meditation

Anita Sielecki will lead Mindful Movement practices to facilitate somatic integration

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Dec 3, 2022

Apprentice Style Mentorship

philosophy components. not correspond to previous years' listings. All classes will contain asana, pranayama, meditation, and date. The YAA-TTP has recently completed a curriculum reorganization. Note that class numbers may **Start anytime!** The sequence of classes repeats every two years and new students may join in on any

SCHEDULE

Classes & workshops below are currently being offered in-person at the Percy Page Centre in Edmonton (subject to teacher & provincial health protocols), with the option to join remotely from **anywhere in** the YAA website (yoga.ca) for the most up-to-date information. **Canada** via Zoom (livestreamed only – no recordings available). Please check the Yoga Events page of

Core Curriculum Classes

Saturdays, 9:30am-3:30pm

May 14, 2022 Feb 12, 2022 Dec 11, 2021 Sep 17, 2022 Apr 23, 2022 Nov 19, 2022 Jun 4, 2022 Jan 22, 2022 Room #8, 3rd Floor, Percy Page Centre, 11759 Groat Rd, Edmonton OR livestream via Zoom Pranayama & Meditation Overview; Sutras Pada 2&3 w/ David Wilson** Surya Namaskar; Tantra & Mantra w/ Teddy Hyndman*: Backbends; Gunas and Koshas Inversions; Subtle Body Anatomy w/ Teddy Hyndman** Shoulder/Arm Focus; Bhagavad Gita w/ Karen Hamdon** Twists; Niyamas w/ Karen Hamdon** Standing Balances; Yamas w/ Marcia Langenberg** Forward Bends; 8 Limbs of Yoga Overview w/ Teddy Hyndman

Teaching Skills Workshops

Special Concerns & Limitations; Sutras Pada 4 w/ Marcia Langenberg**

Friday 7-9pm, Saturday & Sunday 9am-4:30pm

Room #8, 3rd Floor, Percy Page Centre, 11759 Groat Rd, Edmonton OR livestream via Zoom Mar 25-27, 2022 Spring Teaching Skills w/ Beth McCann** Oct 21-23 Fall Teaching Skills w/ Donalee Campbell*

requirements for the YAA Teacher Training Program, Recertification and/or all Advanced Training Levels. We offer YAA Equivalency Certification to established teachers with credit for previous trainings. Teachers and teachers-in-training are welcome to attend these classes & workshops to fulfil ugrading

We invite your questions. For more information email cert@yoga.ca or visit yoga.ca

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DAVID MCAMMOND IN MEMORIAM

In the McAmmond Tradition:

A practice and a story...Always a Story!!

By Anita Sielecki

nd let's start with the story:

When I arrived in Edmonton to take

a position at the University of Alberta in 1976, I searched for a yoga class to continue my practice. It was not an easy task as yoga classes were not as readily available then. I had no local friends and I did not dare asking my co-workers for fear they would classify me as weird, Joining a research lab as a recruit from abroad, I had to prove that I was a serious scientist. In those days, Yoga was not an accepted part of that world.

I persevered and found an evening class running in a church basement. Not too long after, I discovered a yoga club run by a small group of volunteer participants who met after regular working hours in one of the Business buildings of the University. We had to move all the furniture out of the way, do our yoga practice, and then return the room to the way it was so that our passage would go

Back in the 70's, the yoga community in the city was rather small and when teachers from out of town would visit, most of us would attend. I met Teddy Hyndman, who was to become my dear friend and teacher; she made me aware of the newly formed Yoga Association of Alberta and of course I joined.

in day we we have the in an area of the interest of the intere

David teaching Triangle Pose using wall and floor

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Through newsletters (editions that were pretty basic compared to our current Yoga Bridge) we learned when and where visiting teachers would be offering their classes and workshops.

That is how I learned of the yoga events that Friedel Katthab was organizing. David had participated in some workshops taught by her. She was one of the senior teachers who encouraged David to start teaching. David was living in Calgary and she would invite him regularly to teach weekend workshops in Edmonton. I attended my first one in the early 1980s. At first I was shocked, not being used to the lightness he brought to the classes with his verbose stories and his politically incorrect jokes (which I mostly never got, and I suspect it was not only because of my deficient English.) But once he got into the practices, I was messmerized by the clarity of his concise explanations and the beauty and elegance

with which he moved in and out of the poses whenever he would demonstrate what we were about to do. I knew right away I wanted to learn more from this teacher and from then on I rarely missed his workshops

David taught in the Jyengar tradition and he would never introduce meditation in his regular *Hatlut* Yoga classes. I later learned

that his original path started with a dedicated training in Transcendental Meditation (TM) and later in *Vipassana*. Although he seldom taught meditation workshops, when he did his simple and precise instructions revealed his deep personal knowledge of and commitment to meditation.

same after that experience. I wanted all my yoga stream and and I got the opportunity to learn from volunteering to organize four or five of her retreats and teacher and they wanted more. Soon I was my friends to travel that far. So with absolutely no friends to experience this teacher. But she lived B.C. with Sandra Sammartino. Life was never the area west of Edmonton.. per year at River Lodge, a peaceful centre in a rura yoga friends approved of my choice of teachings retreat in Edmonton with Sandra. It worked... My previous experience, and still with a full time job, in the Vancouver area and I could not convince them,. I attended a week long retreat in Tofino, many amazing and inspiring teachers. Among I took the big step of organizing a long weekend As the years passed yoga became more main

and to assert that I was "meditating" sounded experience in organizing retreats while I continued didn't think about before I said it: standing around him. Once they moved on, I to some story David was telling to a few people the mid-morning break I found myself listening happened on June 2000. It was advertised as a extremely useful later on. I continued to attend time, all the skills I was developing would prove too pretentious. Although I didn't realize it at the established a meditation practice-- I called it just to learn, began teaching yoga myself and turned towards David and asked him a question I were socializing with each other a bit more and at his usual relaxed style. By Sunday morning people Restorative workshop and David was teaching in him to town. The one retreat I remember vividly David's workshops whenever Friedel would bring "sitting" because I was not sure I was doing it right During the following decade I gained much

"I do not understand why you do this all the time...
You teach asana in such an exquisite way that you bring
people to a very still and internal reflective state where



Anita, Sandra Sammartino and David: AGM 2019

they are absolutely ripe to just stay there and dive into meditation... And then you crack a joke and get them out of it."

I do not know whether David was shocked at what he heard, but I was certainly shocked and embarrassed for what I had just said and the energy behind it. It took David a few seconds to recover and with his typical curious, calm tone he asked: "And how would you propose to do it?"

appearing genuinely interested. So I took a deep move us freely between the different practices interspersed with the asana; how Sandra would appropriate. But David was still there, open and had affected all participants. learned from how the way Sandra was teaching including meditation. I kept describing what I had background it would be so natural to introduce it within themselves; how with his great meditation allows participants to go deeper in the practice and because staying all together in the same place him about how I preferred retreats to workshops breath to regain some courage and started telling that what I had said and the way I said it were respectful with my teachers. I did not think I have always been very appreciative and

He listened carefully, he may have even smiled, but I remember vividly his reply, "Well... If you would be willing to organize one of those retreats, I would be willing to give it a try."

And we did! We had our first retreat at River Lodge a few months later. All I had learned over the

YOGA BRIDGE 25



years putting together so many retreats for Sandra came in handy. I used the same daily schedule and organization as I had developed for her retreats. I could tell the transition between meditation and asana felt a bit bumpy for David at the beginning. And although not on the schedule, David's stories and jokes always found the way to filter in. Participants loved it and asked for more; perhaps even the opportunity to do teacher training and go deeper. The "Deepening our Practice" series of retreats were born. Twenty years later, we were still doing them at a regular pace of five per year, with an additional summer meditation and mindful movement retreat with David's dear friend Kavindu.

curriculum and he was free to explore with us David perfect his teaching, explore the therapeutic generosity of spirit. his classes, workshops, and retreats could feel his skilled, intuitive, and giving teacher. Participants in him down in the preceding weeks. David was a whatever path his insatiable curiosity had taken series, was that he did not have to follow a set enjoyed most about the "Deepening our Practice" was exploring with his receptive students. What he practices and above all, rejoice in sharing all he that would validate his own asana and meditation excitement and curiosity for other related subjects understanding of the neurosciences, regain his principles he was learning from his mentor in India, Dr. Karandikar, deepen his studies and During these twenty some years I watched

I looked after the organization and all the details. That was not his strong point and he was grateful for such collaboration. I could make suggestions because we were comfortable sharing our individual research and findings and I knew what was in his mind at the time of an upcoming retreat or presentation. Our shared love for **Yoga** ("with a capital Y", as Sandra would often say to emphasize the inclusion of ALL Eight Limbs), for really understanding what is going on our bodyminds, how everything works and the desire to dive deeper, brought aliveness and passion into our lives. In the process, our friendship, mutual respect and trust deepened.

We had both lived long enough to know that such friendships are very rare. That guided us to appreciate and nurture it with great care. I shall miss our almost daily chast and deep explorations

I shall miss him dearly...

Anita Sielecki is a senior teacher with the Yoga Association of Alberta. She can be reached at sielecki@ hotmail.com



David McAmmond

26

YAA AGM and Workshop with SANDRA SAMMARTINO April 30, 2022 On Zoom



AGM: 12:00-2pm: 46th YAA Annual General Meeting, Executive (Board)

Elections - President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer
Workshop: 2:15 - 3:45 pm: Yoga and Toning w/ Sandra Sammartino. Through

Yoga and Toning Sandra will help you get in touch with your innermost being, and release tension and blocked emotions to become more open, present and at peace.

FREE for those who attend AGM

ee: Current paid membership. Pay membership at yoga.ca

Pre-Register: yoga.ca/yaa-store to receive zoom link

Info: YAA (780) 427 8776

self. Sandra is a co-founder of the Americhallenges and move closer to the true creates a flow of energy (Prana) through and has been using Toning, in her Yoga many others. change Yoga has brought to herself and model the healing transformation and young Sandra wishes to share and role with accompanying videos. At 78 years YogaFiction:YogaTruth eBooks 1, 2 and 3; Outreach and the author of three eBooks can Yoga Alliance; the founder of Yoga fidence and the courage to overcome the body that facilitates creativity, conthe body. The release of these blockages stress and emotional trauma, held in practice and teaching, to release deep Eleanor Leatham in the early 1980's; Sandra studied Toning extensively with



YOGA BRIDGE **WINTER 2022** 27

LEARNING ABOUT ASANA

And Then a Practice...

Mobilization of Shoulder Joints and Upper Back

by David McAmmond and Anita Sielecki

This shoulder mobilization sequence was one of David's favorites. Actually, we did it all together on the Sunday morning of our last retreat on September 24 to 26, three days before his passing. I remember him joking about it while rolling our mats, claiming that we were doing it because his shoulders felt tight...

(This sequence can be found in our Yoga Therapy for Backs book, pgs 233-236)

placing a lift, such as a tightly rolled mat or blanket, under the spine in the region of the mid back and head encourages the expansion of the upper chest and lifts the shoulder blades off the floor, thus allowing for more freedom in their movement during protraction/retraction.

The support should feel comfortable to the

The support should feel comfortable to the lower back. If a thick mat is used, it could be only partially rolled or a block placed under the sacrum to lift it somewhat and make sure the lower back is at ease.

Figure 1A shows a side view of the described arrangement. Notice the placement of the roll just below T12, at the bottom edge of the back ribs, making sure that the lumbar area is not compressed and it can relax towards the ground.

The knees are kept bent, to also ensure protection of the lower back.

The forehead should be at the same level or higher than the chin to ensure that there is no strain or compression in the cervical spine. If the forehead is lower it will be necessary to place a lift (block or folded blanket) under the top part of the roll, in the area beneath the head.

a) Head Rolls: Figures 1A and B are different views of the same posture. Arms are folded over the chest, each hand reaching towards the opposite shoulder blade. This hugging position automatically broadens (protracts) the scapula and upper and middle back. The head is then rotated very slowly and gently from side to side to further release the neck muscles.





b) Shoulder Blade Release: The arms are now extended towards the ceiling, palms facing each other. On an inhalation one arm at a time reaches up, dragging with it the shoulder blade and releasing those muscles on the exhalation and continuing the routine by alternating sides (Figures 2A and 2B).



movements is important because the inability to coorexperienced on the other side. Continue with smooth arms and shoulder blades and allow the lower arms ment. Start the rotational movement from the upper and 4B, the shoulders will accompany the moveof the scapula is often a factor in rotator cutt injury dinate the movement of the arms with the movement oppositional rotation of the arms requires a finer conand uninterrupted rotations alternating sides. This tion of rotation so that the same stretch/release is position, and with an exhalation continue the direcand beyond. On an inhalation return to the starting palm faces first forward, then towards the ceiling arm rotates in the opposite direction so that the hand structure. The arms rotate so that the palm of one and hands to follow with integrity, as an almost solid floor in opposite directions as shown in Figures 4A blades are not stuck, when the arms rotate along the nection between brain and body. The practice of these hand faces backwards and beyond while the other d) Alternate shoulder rotations: If the shoulder

c) Arm Extensions: Start with both arms extended upward as for the Shoulder Blade Release (Figures 2). On an exhalation both arms move in opposite directions towards the floor as shown in Figure 3A, then return toward the ceiling on an inhalation and continue this movement alternating sides (Figure 3B) This sequence facilitates the simultaneous upward and downward mobility of the shoulder blades. The centered positioning of the roll under the spine facilitates their displacement.



28 YOGA BRIDGE **WINTER 2022**

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YAA Senior Teacher Showcase

FREE for all YAA Members! Join today! Get to know Alberta's Best Teachers!

- Two classes per month on Zoom with a variety of YAA **Senior Certified Teachers.**
- Livestream zoom link emailed to registrants and posted at yoga.ca/events.

Recorded classes available for a limited time.
Register now at 780-427-8776 or yoga.ca/yaa-store.
UPCOMING:
Dec 1, 15/21 Barb Hagen Jan 3, 17/22 Alison Irwin
Feb 1, 15/22 Rachel Foster Mar 2, 16/22 David Wilson



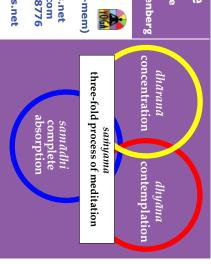


30 YOGA BRIDGE

YAA Senior & RJ Antze Certified Teachers Barb Hagen • Marcia Langenberg Desikachar Lineage

- March 12, 2022
- 9:30 am 1:30 pm
- **Location TBA**
- \$60 members (\$70 non-mem) Information:
- Marcia: langenbe@telus.net
- Barb: bhagen5@icloud.com Register: YAA 780-427-8776 Etransfer: yogaab@telus.net Online: yoga.ca

"This is meditation: to give the mind its best possible form." ~TKV Desikachar, In Search of Mind



IFE ANATOM t's FUNctional

with Sherry Ogg, BGS, GCFP, RMT

For Yoga Teachers & Students Anatomy Training: Online (\$49); Correspondence (\$75);

Live (TBA: micromoves.com/therapists.asp)



· Yoga Teachers: Fulfils 15 Recertification Hours Yoga Students: Fulfils 15 hour YAA-TTP

requirements

micromoves.com/therapists.asp is now under Credits / CC tab info@micromoves.com

CHAIR YOGA

leacher Iraining

Yoga Teacher With Colleen Dibden, 500 HR Yoga Alliance Certified



expertise in this specialized area of practice Fulfills 15 hours of Yoga Alliance CEUs This 2 day Training is for Yoga Teachers interested in gaining knowledge and

Location: Prana Yoga Studio, Edmonton Dates: March 11 & 12, 2022 Cost: \$249+GST

For more information and to register visit: http://www.pranayogastudio.ca



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SAVE THE DATES: YAA EVENTS

Know Your Yoga Body Ad p. 34.

Start Anytime. Five 3-hr video modules of anatomy and physiology w/ Paula Carnegie Fehr**. Certificate of Completion/TTP credit if optional assignment is completed.

2021-22 Senior Teacher Showcase Ad p. 30.

FREE for all YAA members. Twice Monthly online classes with YAA Senior** Teachers. Get to know Alberta's best teachers. Dec 1&15: Barb Hagen**; Jan 3&17: Alison Irwin**, Feb 1&15: Rachel Foster**; Mar 2&16: David Wilson**.

YAA-TTP Classes in 2021 & 2022 Ad p. 22-23.

In-person &/or Zoom**. 2021: Dec 11; 2022: Jan 22, Feb 12, Apr 23, May 14 and more.

Mentor with highly qualified YAA Certified Senior teachers. Learn at your own pace, tailor to your schedule and "pay as you go". Start

Deepening Our Practice

Dec 3-5/21, Jan 28-30/22, Apr 1-3/22, Jun 17-19/22. A gathering of friends organized by Anita Sielecki**. A peaceful and supportive retreat allowing you to connect with the Alberta yoga community and yourself.

Desikachar Lineage Workshop Ad p. 31.

March 12 & October 29 Workshops taught by YAA Senior Teachers Marcia Langenberg** and Barb Hagen** in the tradition of T.K.V. Desikachar. All levels welcome. Zoom platform and/or in-Person.



2022 Teaching Skills Workshops Ad p. 23. March 25-27 w/ Beth McCann** & October

21-23 w/ Donalee Campbell**. Students & teachers welcome. Learn the art of teaching yoga or refine your teaching skills.

2022 AGM Ad p. 27.

April 30, 2022. Board Elections and a FREE workshop w/ a YAA Senior Certified Teacher, Sandra Sammartino** (B.C.) for YAA Members. Noon-3:30pm. Please pre-register: yoga.ca/yaa-store/ or 780-427-8776. You will receive the Zoom Link.

Meditation w/ Kavindu** Ad p. 21.

August 3-7, 2022. If you are looking for peace, love and contentment, learning to be "present" at a workshop with Kavindu will help you find yourself.

Rest w/ Richard Miller** Ad p. 2.

October 14-19, 2022. A life-transformative retreat w/ internationally renowned teacher reichard Miller** (USA) at the "No Mirror to Polish-A Livestream Retreat". Check website (yoga.ca/yaa-store) for updates. The 2021 Online workshop event was exceptional. Not to be missed. You won't be disappointed.

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN FORMAT OR CANCELLATION DUE TO COVID.

REGISTER: yoga.ca/yaa-store/

** Denotes Senior YAA Certified Teacher.

INFORMATION & TO REGISTER: 780-427-8776 OR YOGA.CA



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Krista Power E-RYT500, YAA600, YACEP, AFLCA

KNOW YOUR YOGA BODY

Five - 3-hour video modules of Anatomy & Physiology w/ YAA Senior Teacher Paula Carnegie Fehr

- \$150 (\$200 for Certificate of Completion requirement.) to fulfil the 15-hr YAA-TTP anatomy if an optional assignment is submitted
- Start anytime. Students & Teachers.
- Information: Paula:
- hiddenmessages.ca@gmail.com; Register: 780-427-8776
- yoga.ca/yaa-store/



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Yoga Teacher Trainings 2022

200hr Immersion

alternating wknds, Strathmore, Sept 10-Dec 18 near Calgary at Tullamore Retreat, July 1-17 200hr Weekends

Once a week online via Zoom + 5 day 200hr Hybrid Training

Immersion at Tullamore Retreat, Feb 5 - Sep 23



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300hr Upgrade to RYT500 at Tullamore Retreat near Calgary

Mar 16-27 and Aug 14-25, 2022



into@soyayoga.com

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Annual YOGA RETREAT June 3-5 Ananda Yoga lineage of Parahamsa Yogananda in Sorrento, BC with Nayaswami **Gyandev McCord** Teaching Excellence since 1995. Author of Spiritual Celebrate our 27th Yoga

Anniversary of bringing Authentic Yoga Teachings into today's world.

Registration opens Jan 1,

2022 \$325+gst

SOYA 403-710-4294

YOGA BRIDGE

SISTER WATER - a poem by Felicia Ochs

Elemental as the fire and welcomed by the land

With time and patience, she softens the rough and sharp edges of the rock

Soft, singular drips

Dea, mist, frost presenting changing herself in a reconciled state of surrender When the winds of the world are strong and restless,

She offers a down pouring of love, light and laughter to settle the change

She has the enchanting quality of receptivity

A sister to all, she parts to allow what is, in

Pausing, sensing, experiencing impermanence and then, quietly resuming form

The rock is hit, chipped, shattered

She is mindlessly polluted by the consumption of our times. Sister's open hand takes the violence of war, closes, opens and surfaces the rust of a weapon

Her friendships with the cattails, reeds and sand of the shoreline purify her as they share stories of other times when they were seen and called by name

She pools in low places, seeking to be leveled

Pausing for a time

Then, she wanders left and right through the valley:

She is at once deep and shallow, grey, green, white and blue.

At times, muddied and at other times clear as the present moment

Her greatest strength is the ability to mirror others.

To reflect them back to themselves whether they are tall standing people,

four-legged, two-legged, those who crawl below or fly high above mother earth

Grandmother moon's 28 sacred days of teachings stir up waves of emotions some choppy and destructive, and others soft and rhythmic.

She knows these teachings, and yet each time she hears them, they are new to her present

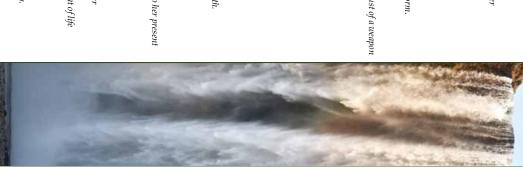
and this gentle reminder surfaces a clearer reflection than the day before On the darkest of nights, Grandmother calls her to breathe

This is when she is strongest, steadiest and sustained by the vibrant heartbeat of life The world around her mistakenly cries out, "Only here. Only now. The wintertime, the pronouncement of grief in so many, is her only container

that is protected deep below her frozen surface Listen closely to the lake

Press up against its surface and stay

Sister's youthful giggles underneath are preparing for the gift of another day



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pcoming Events

Teachers** (or equivalent). ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO COVID. ** denotes YAA Intermediate or Senior Teacher Status; E=Edmonton & Area; events here and also on the YAA website; YAA Advanced Training Levels C=Calgary & Area O=Online; YAA Members: No charge to advertise your require that upgrading hours be taught by YAA Intermediate or Senior

NOVEMBER 2021

Start the YAA TTP anytime! Ad p 22-23.

- Nov 26 E Candlelight Yin & Healing Sounds Within #302, 8135-102 St. 780-450-9642. w/ Marcus & Corinne. 7-8pm. \$35.Yoga
- Nov 27 Workman. 9-noon. \$60. Info@lisaworkman. Science. Physiology 101 w/Lisa O Introduction to Yoga and Exercise
- Nov 28 E 3 hr Hatha Training w/Gerda Krebs**
 12:30-3:30pm. \$50 (Yft members \$45).
 780-416-4211; info@yogafortoday.ca; ogatortoday.ca

DECEMBER 2021

- Dec 1 & 15 O YAA Senior Teachers** Showcase yoga.ca/yaa-store. Ad p. 30. available in between classes. Reg.: the registration receipt and recordings Teachers. Zoom link will be noted on members with a variety of YAA Senior Teachers! Twice/month FREE for all YAA lrwin**. Get to know Alberta's Best Series. Wednesdays 8-9pm with Alison
- Dec 3-5 Sun 3:30pm. 0-\$255 Sliding Scale. E/O YAA Deepening our Practice: Sielecki** 780-432-7152. at yoga.ca/yaa-store.lnfo.: Anita online via Zoom. Details will be posted Providence Renewal Centre or live A Gathering of Friends: Fri 6:30pm-
- Dec 3 E/O Monthly Meditation w/Rebecca Hung. 7pm-8pm. \$18.Yoga Within #302, 8135-102 780-450-9642. yogawithin.ca.

Dec 5 **E Family Yoga** w/ Cynthia Stobbe. 1:30-2:15pm: Yoga Within #302, 8135-102 St. 780-450-9642. yogawithin.ca

- Dec 11 yoga.ca/yaa-store. Ad p. 23. 9:30am-3:30pm. \$80. ONLINE livestream via Zoom. Reg.: YAA 780-427-8776 or of Yoga Overview w/Teddy Hyndman* Upgrading: Forward Bends; 8 Limbs O YAA Core Curriculum Class - TTP &
- Dec 18 C Yoga Nidra Evening w/Mantrini Mikuska 7:30-9 pm. 403-809-1402; Harmony Yoga Pilates. harmonystudio@protonmail.com.
- Dec 18 com. Workman. 9-noon. \$60. Info@lisaworkman Science. Biomechanics 101 w/Lisa O Introduction to Yoga & Exercise
- Dec 19 yogafortoday.ca; yogafortoday.ca. Yoga for Today 780-416-4211; info@ **E 3** hr Hatha Training w/Gerda Krebs** 12:30-3:30pm. \$50 (Yft members \$45).
- Dec 19 780-450-9642. yogawithin.ca. 2:15pm: Yoga Within #302, 8135-102 St E Family Yoga w/ Cynthia Stobbe. 1:30-

Dec 19

Dec 24-Jan1 C 8 Days of Yoga! 8 unique daily themed com/pvrid/or 403-457-4070. practices for the Holidays. Calgary lyengar Yoga. Reg/details: calgaryiyengaryoga

8135-102 St. 780-450-9642. yogawithin.ca. 6:30pm-8:30pm. \$30. Yoga Within #302 E/O Winter Solstice w/ Satwinder Sran

Dec 24 yogafortoday.ca; yogafortoday.ca Person & On Zoom w/Janet Lockau. Light Yin Class: 9:15-10:30am. Light E Christmas Eve Candle Classes In Yoga for Today 780-416-4211; info@ Hatha: 11-12:30pm. \$20 (\$18 seniors)

JANUARY 2022

Start the YAA TTP anytime! Ad p 22-23.

- Jan 2 Yoga Within #302, 8135-102 St. 780-450-9642. Please watch our website for details: yogawithin.ca. E/O Free Yoga Day. 8:30am-1:30pm
- Jan 2-31 watch at www.yogawithin.ca for details E/O Yoga Quest. \$75/month. Yoga Withir #302, 8135-102 St. 780-450-9642. Please
- Jan 3-7 E 5 Day Kundalini Clinic. Yoga for yogafortoday.ca Today 780-416-4211; info@yogafortoday
- Jan 3 & 17 O YAA Senior Teachers** Showcase Series. Mondays 8-9pm w/ Barb Hagen**
 (St. AB). Get to know Alberta's Best yoga.ca/yaa-store. Ad p. 30. available in between classes. Reg.: the registration receipt and recordings members with a variety of YAA Senior Teachers. Zoom link will be noted on Teachers! Twice/month FREE for all YAA
- Jan 6-Feb 24 **E Trauma Informed Yoga** w/ Jeremy Bell 8135-102 St. 780-450-9642. yogawithin.ca hurs. 6pm-7:15pm.Yoga Within #302
- Jan 7 E/O Monthly Meditation w/ Rebecca Hung. 7-8pm. \$18. Yoga Within #302, 8135. 102 \$102 St. 780-450-9642. yogawithin.ca
- Jan 9 E Family Yoga w/ Cynthia Stobbe. 1:30-780-450-9642. www.yogawithin.ca 2:15pm: Yoga Within #302, 8135-102 St
- Jan 9-15 8135-102 St. 780-450-9642. yogawithin.ca O Week long Meditation w/ Rebecca Hung. 8:30pm-9pm. Yoga Within #302.
- Jan 14 Frances Gagnon, Barb Hagen & Darlene Klassen. Yoga fundraiser for a Senior fund E Creating Space for the New Year w/ administered by the St. Albert Seniors
- themed items. Coffee/tea & camaraderie at end. Red Willow Place, 7 Tache St., St stalbertseniors.ca/social/special-events/ sound & asanas. Silent auction w/ yoga-Association. 1-3pm. \$25. Yoga flows, AB Pre-reg. (780)459-0433, ext. 0. Info
- Jan 15-16 O Principles and Practices of Livestreamed via Zoom. irest.org/events and maintaining a personal practice. foundations of prāṇāyāma for yoga therapy, meditation, and for developing Pranayama w/ Richard Miller**. The

- Jan15&Jan22 E/O Trauma Informed Teacher Training ca; yogafortoday.ca Today 780-416-4211. info@yogafortoday. \$349 (\$249 early bird to Dec 3). Yoga for Part 1 & Part 2 w/Jenn Cardosa. 9-11am.
- Jan 16. 403-457-4070. details: calgaryiyengaryoga.com/pvrid/or Fleising. Calgary lyengar Yoga. Reg/ C Tools for Good Balance w/ Usher
- Jan 22 3:30pm. \$80. Room #8, 3rd Floor, Percy yoga.ca/yaa-store. Ad p. 23. Page Centre, 11759 Groat Rd. OR Upgrading: Standing Balances; Yamas w/ Marcia Langenberg**. 9;30am-E/O YAA Core Curriculum Class - TTP & livestream via Zoom. YAA 780-427-8776
- Jan 22. pvrid/ or 403-457-4070 C Happy Hips & Healthy Lower Back lyengar Yoga. calgaryiyengaryoga.com/ **Workshop** w/ Sharoni Fixler. Calgary
- Jan 23 yogafortoday.ca; yogafortoday.ca **E Advancing with Yoga** w/Gerda Krebs** Yoga for Today 780-416-4211; info@
- Jan25-Dec6 O Breathing for Life: The Principles, Foundations and Practice of Pranayama w/ Richard Miller**. One Tuesday a month for 12 months; 3-5pm MST. Livestreamed via Zoom. irest.org/events/
- Jan 28-30 E/O YAA Deepening our Practice product-category/workshops-classes/ Centre or live online); check yoga.ca/ Meditation, Therapeutic & Restorative Practices. Fr 6:30pm-Sun 3:30pm. for updates. Info.: Anita Sielecki ** 780 Retreats: A Gathering of Friends. Asana Location TBA (Providence Renewal
- Jan 29-Feb 13 E Reiki Level 1 Training w/ Rebecca yogawithin.ca. #302, 8135-102 \$102 St. 780-450-9642. Hung. 7:00pm-8:00pm. \$300. Yoga Within

FEBRUARY 2022

Feb 1 & 15 O YAA Senior Teachers** Showcase yoga.ca/yaa-store. Ad p. 30. available in between classes. Reg.: the registration receipt and recordings members with a variety of YAA Senior Teachers. Zoom link will be noted on Get to know Alberta's Best Teachers! Twice/month FREE for all YAA Series. Tuesdays with Rachel Foster*

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YOGA BRIDGE **WINTER 2022**

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- Feb 4 102 St. 780-450-9642. yogawithin.ca . Hung. 7-8pm. \$18.Yoga Within #302, 8135-E/O Monthly Meditation w/ Rebecca
- Feb5-Sep24 C/O Online & Immersion RYT 200 Hour soyayoga.com, info@soyayoga Ad p. 34. recorded for missed sessions.\$3200+gst. Early reg. save \$300. Becky 403-710-4294, immersion near Calgary at end. Classes yoga. Online Sat. 9-2pm MT, One week Yoga Teacher Training w/SOYA. Classical
- E Family Yoga w/ Cynthia Stobbe. 1:30-780-450-9642. yogawithin.ca . Yoga Within #302, 8135-102 St
- Feb 12 - TTP & Upgrading: Twists; Niyamas w/ Karen Hamdon**. 9:30am-3:30pm. \$80. Room #8, 3rd Floor, Percy Page Centre, store. Ad p. 23. Zoom. YAA 780-427-8776. yoga.ca/yaa-11759 Groat Rd. OR livestream via E/O Feb 12 YAA Core Curriculum Class
- Feb 13 E 3 hr Hatha Training w/Gerda Krebs** 12:30-3:30pm. \$50 (Yft members \$45). yogafortoday.ca; yogafortoday.ca Yoga for Today 780-416-4211; info@
- Feb27-Mar5 Restoration, Recuperation & 457-4070. calgaryiyengaryoga.com/pvri and/or 403-Sharoni Fixler in Puerto Vallarta. Reg Foundations Retreat w/ Ty Chandler &

Start the YAA TTP anytime! Ad p 22-23.

- Mar 1 YAA Deadline for Initial Certification approval. Email cert@yoga.ca. & Recertification applications for May
- Mar 2, 16 O YAA Senior Teachers** Showcase members with a variety of YAA Senior Get to know Alberta's Best Teachers! yoga.ca/yaa-store. Ad p. 30. available in between classes. Reg.: the registration receipt and recordings Teachers. Zoom link will be noted on Twice/month FREE for all YAA Series. Tuesdays with David Wilson**
- Mar 4 Hung. 7pm-8pm. \$18. Yoga Within #302, 8135-102 St. 780-450-9642. yogawithin.ca E/O Monthly Meditation w/ Rebecca
- Mar 6-12 details: calgaryiyengaryoga.com/pvri and/ Sharoni Fixler in Puerto Vallarta. Reg/ Level 2,3,4 Retreat w/Ty Chandler &

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- Mar 11-12. E Chair Yoga Teacher Training w/ Colleen Dibden. Friday 5-9:pm. Sat. 8:am-5:pm. Ad p. 31. cl.dibden@gmail.com; pranayogastudio.ca Prana Yoga Studio. \$249+gst. Info.
- Mar 12 3767. Reg. yoga.ca/yaa-store. Ap p.31. Info. Barb 780-991-4153; Marcia 780-436-9:30am-1:30pm. \$60mem/\$70non-mem (complete absorption). Loc'n TBA. dhyānam (contemplation), samādhi process): dhāraṇā (concentration) Sūtras III.1-4: samyama (three-fold Barb Hagen** & Marcia Langenberg* YAA Yoga in the Desikachar Lineage w/
- Mar 12-13 E Pain Care Yoga: The Art and Science yogafortoday.ca 780-416-4211; info@yogafortoday.ca; w/Terri Jones. 9-4:00pm. \$275 (early bird \$250 prior to Feb 15). Yoga for Today
- Mar 13 E 3 hr Hatha Training w/Gerda Krebs** yogafortoday.ca; yogafortoday.ca Yoga for Today 780-416-4211; info@ 12:30-3:30pm. \$50 (Yft members \$45).
- Mar16-27&Aug14-25 C Immersion RYT 300 Hour soyayoga.com, info@soyayoga.com Ad p. full or half program. Accommodations/ meals extra. Info: Becky 403-710-4294, Retreat Centre. Teacher Refresher ½ price gst - Early reg. save \$300. Tullamore both needed for certification. \$4195 + Teacher Trainer. Begin in either module, teaching skills toward becoming a Yoga Okanagan Yoga Academy. Advance your Professional Upgrade to RYT500 Yoga Teacher Training in 2 Modules w/ South
- Mar 18-20 E Kids Yoga Teacher Training w/ Rita into@yogafortoday.ca; yogafortoday.ca Maltais. Yoga for Today 780-416-4211;
- Mar 25-27 Workshop w/Beth McCann**. Fri 7-9pm Sat/Sun 9am-5pm. \$225. Room #8, 3rd E/O YAA TTP Spring Teaching Skills YAA 780-427-8776 or yoga.ca/yaa-store Rd, OR livestream via Zoom. Register Floor, Percy Page Centre, 11759 Groat

APRIL 2022

- Apr 1-3 Sielecki** 780-432-7152. Practices. Fr 6:30pm-Sun 3:30pm. E/O YAA Deepening our Practice ca/yaa-store for updates. Info.: Anita Centre or live online); check yoga Location TBA (Providence Renewal Retreats: A Gathering of Friends. Asana, Meditation, Therapeutic & Restorative
- Apr 23 yoga.ca/yaa-store. Ad p. 23. E/O YAA Core Curriculum Class - TTP Percy Page Centre, 11759 Groat Rd. OR livestream via Zoom. YAA 780-427-8776. 9:30am-3:30pm.\$80. Room #8, 3rd Floor Bhagavad Gita w/ Karen Hamdon* & Upgrading: Shoulder/Arm Focus;
- Apr 30 Yoga and Toning" with SANDRA SAMMARTINO**(B.C.) for YAA members. O YAA AGM on Zoom. Elections & Free Workshop: "Releasing Stress Through Ad p. 27. Community! Register yoga.ca/yaa-store 12-3:45pm. Join the Alberta Yoga

MAY 2022

May 14 Koshas. 9:30am-3:30pm. \$80. Room #8, 3rd Floor, Percy Page Centre, 11759 E/O YAA Core Curriculum Class - TTP Groat Rd. OR livestream via Zoom. YAA & Upgrading: Backbends; Gunas & 780-427-8776. yoga.ca/yaa-store Ad p.

JUNE 2022

Start the YAA TTP anytime! Ad p 22-23.

- Jun 3-5 403-710-4294, soyayoga.com, info@soyayoga.com Ad p. 34. Celebration. Spiritual Yoga taught by SOYA Annual Retreat 27th Anniversary Yoga Academy @Sorrento, BC. Info: Becky McCord from the Ananda Yoga special guest Nayaswami Gyandev (Yogananda) tradition w/ South Okanagan
- Jun 4 \$80. Room #8, 3rd Floor, Percy Page variations; Ujjayi; Tantra/Mantra w/ Teddy Hyndman**. 9:30am-3:30pm. E/O YAA Core Curriculum Class - TTP via Zoom. YAA 780-427-8776. yoga.ca/ Centre, 11759 Groat Rd. OR livestream & Upgrading: Surya Namaskar and

- Jun 10-12 E The Alchemy of Emotions: The Yogic info@yogafortoday.ca; yogafortoday.ca Douglas. Fri 6:30-8:30pm. Sat/Sun 1-5pm Practice of Rasa On Zoom w/Anne \$250 (\$225 before May 1). 780-416-4211
- Jun 17-19 E/O YAA Deepening our Practice Slelecki** 780-432-7152. ca/yaa-store for updates. Info.: Anita Centre or live online); check yoga. Meditation, Therapeutic & Restorative Practices. Fr 6:30pm-Sun 3:30pm. Retreats: A Gathering of Friends. Asana ocation TBA (Providence Renewal

- Jul 1 yoga.ca. and Recertification applications for YAA Deadline for Initial Certification
- July 1-17 extra. Becky 403-710-4294, soyayoga.com Refresher ½ price. Accommodations/meals \$3200+gst. Early reg. save \$300. At C Immersion RYT 200 Hour Yoga September approval. Email to cert@ info@soyayoga.com Ad p. 34. **Teacher Training** w/ South Okanagan Yoga Academy. Classical yoga program. Tullamore Retreat Ctre nr Calgary, Teacher

AUGUST 2022

Aug 3-7 432-7152; sielecki@hotmail.com. Ad p.21 check: yoga.ca/yaa-store. Anita 780-Renewal Centre or live online); updates Sun 1pm. Location TBA (Providence Mindfulness Meditation & Gentle Yoga Retreat w/Kavindu (Mexico) Wed. 3pm-E/O YAA Presence & Warmth: A

SEPTEMBER 2022

Start the YAA TTP anytime! Ad p 22-23.

Sept10-Dec18 Weekend RYT 200 Hour Yoga Teacher

com, info@soyayoga.com price. Info: Becky 403-710-4294. soyayoga Strathmore, AB. Teacher Refresher 1/2 reg. save \$300. Held at Becky Stone Yoga Sun every 2nd wknd. \$3200 + gst - Early Academy. Classical yoga program Sat/ Training w/ South Okanagan Yoga

YOGA BRIDGE **WINTER 2022** 39

Sep 17 Groat Rd. OR livestream via Zoom. YAA E/O YAA Core Curriculum Class - TTP 780-427-8776. yoga.ca/yaa-store. #8, 3rd Floor, Percy Page Centre, 11759 Hyndman**. 9:30am-3:30pm. \$80. Room & Subtle Body Anatomy w/ Teddy & Upgrading: Inversions; Bhastrika

OCTOBER 2022

Start the YAA TTP anytime! Ad p 22-23.

Oct 14-19 O YAA No Mirror to Polish, a Live Streaming Retreat w/ Richard Miller** 7152 for info. Ad p 2. workshops-classes/ or Anita (780) 432-(USA) yoga.ca/product-category/

Oct 21-23 Workshop w/ Donalee Campbell**. Friday 7-9pm, Sat&Sun 9am-4:30pm. E/O YAA TTP Spring Teaching Skills 127-8776 or yoga.ca. Ad p. 23. livestream via Zoom. Register YAA 780-Centre, 11759 Groat Rd, Edmonton OR \$225. Room #8, 3 rd Floor, Percy Page

Oct 29 of the Mind. Loc. TBA. 9:30am-1:30pm. E/O in the Desikachar Lineage w/ Barb yoga.ca/yaa-store. or YAA 780-427-8776. Ad p 31. 991-4153, Marcia 780-436-3767. Reg.: \$60/mem, \$70/nonmem. Info. Barb 780 Hagen** & Marcia Langenberg**. Nature

NOVEMBER 2022

Nov 1 approval. Email to cert@yoga.ca. Recertification applications for January YAA Deadline for Initial Certification and

Nov 19 E/O YAA Core Curriculum Class - TTP 780-427-8776. Ad p. 23. Groat Rd. OR livestream via Zoom. YAA #8, 3rd Floor, Percy Page Centre, 11759 Wilson**. 9:30am-3:30pm. \$80. Room Overview; Sutras Pada 2 w/ David & Upgrading: Pranayama & Meditation

DECEMBER 2022

Dec 3 11759 Groat Rd, OR livestream via Zoom. Register YAA 780-427-8776 or E/O YAA Core Curriculum Class - TTP Room #8, 3rd Floor, Percy Page Centre, Sutras Pada 4**. 9:30am-3:30pm. \$80 Limitations w/ Marcia Langenberg** & Upgrading: Special Concerns &

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FEES & CANCELLATION POLICY YAA WORKSHOP & CLASSES:

received within two weeks prior to any YAA event. Cancellations: There are no refunds for cancellations another participant is not permitted. Transfers: Transfer of your registration payment to payment may only be held for 7 calendar days. classes, retreats, etc. Phone registration without YAA office is required for all YAA workshops, TTP Registration: Registration with full payment to the

can only be evaluated after conclusion of the event. refund depending on the overall event budget, which due to unforeseen emergencies, MAY qualify for a Cancellation due to illness (with a doctor's note,) or fund if your space can be filled by another registrant event, in which case you MAY qualify for an 80% reare received more than two weeks prior to the YAA Cancellation fees will apply when cancellations



LARGE: \$78.00 +15 - \$75 each; 11" wide x28"long

STRONG · STYLISH · UNIQUE OVAL DESIGN MADE IN ALBERTA BY THE YAA! **BOASTING ABOUT BOLSTERS**



- Hand-made, unique design
- Multiple uses / applications Locally made and sourced
- Supports a personal yoga practice or for studio use
- Highly functional zipper-free, using round-style bolsters oval-shaped bolster stays in place securely instead of rolling away, which can be a problem when
- Body can naturally mould around its oval shape, allowing for a gentle, even stretch
- Two durable covers: inner & outer
- Variety of colours and patterns
- Sturdy handle making it easy to pick up
- after years of use and also adds a Inclusion of a stabilizing inner core to the bolster. comfortable, therapeutic firmness keeps the padding in place even



- 9" x 28" long **MEDIUM:** \$70.00 +15 - \$67 each;
- SMALL: \$50.00 round, travel 6"
- wide x 22" long



YOGA BRIDGE **WINTER 2022** 4

PROPS AND MORE





PRICES ON PAGE 43 & ONLINE yoga.ca
TEXT IN "BLUE" = props made in Alberta or Canada

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YOGA BRIDGE

ğ.

PURCHASE PROPS AT OFFICE OR ONLINE AT voga.ca

YOGA / PEDICURE SANDALS (toe-separators) S - XL NEW AND USED YOGA BOOKS, CDS, DVDs, POSTERS AVAILABLE IN STORE	WILSON METHOD MYOFACIAL YOGA BALLS (4 sizes included)	TONGUE CLEANERS: copper	7' x 1" (\$8); 7' x 1.5" (\$11); 9' x 1" (\$10); 9' x 1.5 (\$13)"	STRAPS: single thickness, India-slide buckle, white, black, blue; 20 or more @50	SANDBAGS (10 lb): assorted fabrics Hand Made AB	NETI SALT (8 or 10 oz)	NETI POTS: plastic and ceramic	Half Moon XWide and XLong Grey	Zensation EcoMat: recyclable, compostable, cushioned	Manduka [©] & Jade Hot Yoga Towels	Manduka [©] Superlite Travel	79"	extra wide		Tapas [©] : Travel, 68" or 74"; 23.	MATS & CARRIERS	Crescent Shaped Cushions (Zafu): washable cover	Back-Jack Chair: adjustable, supports back, washable cover	Wood Bench with folding legs: and-made AB	MEDITATION	MAGNETIC HEALING JEWELRY: necklaces, bracelets, earrings	MAGNESIUM: bath salt or spray; subtle energy.	JOY-A-TOES: soothing and healing stretch for your feet and toes (S, L)	EYEBAGS: flaxseed, unscented, with washable cover, hand-made AB	CHAKRA BANNERS: white background	BOOK: Yoga Therapy for Backs by David McAmmond & Anita Sielecki	Small Round: 6" diameter x 22" long	Medium Oval: 9" diameter x 28" long, members: 15 or more @\$67.00)	Large Oval: 11" diameter x 28" long, members: 15 or more @\$75.00)	BOLSTERS: Washable cover. Hand-made Alberta with core. Assorted fabrics/colours.	Wood Blocks: 3" x 4.5" x 9". Made in Alberta	Black Foam Bricks: 4" x 6" x 9", 20 or more @ \$13.50	Lightweight Grey or Black Blocks: 2" x 8" x 12", 20 or more @ \$11.50	Chipped Green Foam Block: Sorry no longer available from manufacturer.	BLOCKS: Made in AB or BC	Indian Blankets: white, cotton	BLANKETS Prices include GST \$\$	On CIVEINE AT Youard
47 ORE	85	5-	8-13.	.50	22	5/10	20/24	40	39	25/35	59	112/119	137/166	59/88/95	23/31/36		73	71-	39		5/24	35	31	15	32	38	50	70	78	olours.	22	14	12	irer.		47	GST \$\$	

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