

The Lighthouse Beacon

A publication for Lighthouse Center members and friends
Lighthouse Center, Inc. is a non-profit spiritual development center founded by Chetana Catherine Florida

Make a Commitment to Yourself

Gurudev Shree Chitrabhanuji



It is the best day. The present day is the best day, not yesterday or tomorrow. Yesterday is a dead past, a canceled check. If you want to keep it, keep it. Tomorrow is a fantasy, it may happen or not. But today is the best day, because we are alive. Alive to make what we want to make. Alive to have a choice: to make the day or mar the day. It's your choice. How to make the day is in your hand. This is the teaching of Mahavir. He does not teach you to depend on anyone—no props. You stand on yourself, your Atma. A building that stands on props has no security, it is supported by props.

This human life is the best gift we have, not money, power, position, name or fame. Realize what you are. Say, "I am alive, I am life, I can do what I want to." It is a beautiful Saturday; instead of going here and there, you are here at the Lighthouse by 10:00 am. Who made you come here? No God, no guru, you. You decided to come here. So you could find out who you are. Others have told you what you are not, they've told you that you are a sinner. So you go on carrying this load on your head your whole life. Or they may have told you that you are handsome or beautiful, or ugly, an ugly duckling or cute as a rabbit. All different names for who you are, but no one has addressed you, the living life, the Atma that you really are.

In the olden days there was a narrow road with two people coming in two chariots from opposite directions. One had the belief that the person that gives way is weak, and the other person is strong, and he thought, "I don't give way to fools." But the other person, who was initiated on the spiritual path, thought, "I always give way to fools." The person who calls you a fool is a fool within. When

Continued on page 4...

Inside

LHC Welcome	2
Upcoming Events	3
President's Message	6
Vegan Recipe Corner	7
Board of Directors	7
Lighthouse Calendar	8
Classified Ads	9
LHC Website Redesign	10
Astrology Award to LHC Member	11



Volume 80
Summer
June - August 2018



Our Mission

We are committed to inner peace and peace in the world, as we practice meditation and Ahinsa toward ourselves and others. We respect other points of view and strive to live in harmony with nature and all living beings. This is the greatest opportunity for spiritual growth and enlightenment.

Our Philosophy

We believe ... in the Divine Consciousness within everyone.

We believe ... in Ahinsa, nonviolence, in all of our thoughts, words, and actions, including the practice of a vegan lifestyle.

We believe ... that the Truth has many aspects, and we respect other points of view.

We believe ... in acting as examples of humanity, as we express our love and compassion and Ahinsa.

We believe ... that in doing our meditations and spiritual practices, we begin to successfully live at peace within ourselves and in the world.

revised 2005

The Lighthouse Center

The Lighthouse Center, Inc., located at 740 East Shore Dr. in Whitmore Lake, Michigan, is an interfaith meditation center founded in 1979 by Chetena Catherine Florida. It was incorporated in 1989 as a nonprofit organization, and currently has over 300 members.

Mailing address

P.O. Box 645
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189
Phone: 734-417-5804

For More Information

Visit us on the web:
www.lighthousecenterinc.org

The Beacon Newsletter Staff:

Editor: Nirmala Nancy Hanke
Layout/Design: Rohit Richard Smoot

Many quotes used come from: <http://www.brainyquote.com/>

Everyone is Welcome

The Lighthouse Center community is a diverse group of individuals with a common goal of practicing Ahinsa (nonviolence).

Everyone is Welcome

You do not have to be a member to join us for classes and meditations.

Sponsorship

The Lighthouse Center depends on its members and friends to sustain it with their generous donations of money, time and talent.

Membership

If you do choose to become a member, pledges in any amount are gratefully accepted.

Getting Involved

The Lighthouse (open to all members and friends), a Board of Directors, and a Director of Operations to collectively develop our various goals and manage the daily operations of our center.

Assisting in running the center and helping out in different functions is a wonderful way to make a difference and develop new friendships.

E-mail List and Mailing List

Get on the electronic and/or postal mailing list by filling out the form in the back of this publication, to get updates on classes and events.

WEEKLY**◆Sunday Candlelight Meditation and Healing**

6-7:15pm every Sunday. All are welcome for a candlelight meditation. Reiki healers are available for healing during meditation.

BI-WEEKLY**◆Friday Intensive Meditation**

7:30pm-10:00pm the first and third Friday of the month. Doors open at 7:00 pm. Meditation lasts approximately 2 ½ hours, during which time individuals may quietly enter and exit the sanctuary. It is suggested, because of past experiences, that one already be a mantra meditator.

MONTHLY**◆Sunday Board Meeting**

9:30am-12:30pm the fourth Sunday of the month. NOTE: Occasionally, due to holidays and travel commitments, the Board meets earlier in the month, so please call **Prachi Patricia Thiel** (734) 417-5804 to verify exact date and time.

◆Learn To Meditate Meets on the second Saturday every month from 4:00-6:30 pm. Learn how meditation works and try it out! Or come for a refresher- all meditators are welcome. Given by Nirmala Nancy Hanke. Cost \$35, \$25 for students or \$15 to repeat. Contact Prachi to register 734-417-5804 or cprachi17@gmail.com.

◆Healing Night Second Thursday of every month, gather 7:00 pm, meditate 7:30 pm, Reiki healing 8:00 pm to 9:00. Love Donation.

◆Mandala Coloring Group: Third Sunday, 4:00-5:30. Mandalas and markers provided, or bring your own. Love Donation.

*Upcoming Lighthouse Events***JUNE**

Book Club: Finish *The Surrender Experiment* by Michael Singer. Wednesday, June 6-13, 7:30-9:00pm. Rental fee to the Center \$35.00.

Learn to Meditate: Saturday, June 9, 4:00-6:30 pm, given by Nirmala. Cost: \$35.00., \$25.00 for students, \$15.00 to repeat. Call Prachi to register 734-417-5804, cprachi17@gmail.com.

Healing Night: Thursday, June 14, meditate 7:30, Reiki healing 8:00-9:00, with Lighthouse Reiki practitioners. Open to the public. Love donation.

Movie: Parmahansa Yogananda's *AWAKE*, a documentary. Showing at the Center Wednesday, June 20th, 7:30-9:30. Cost \$5.00 (Center room rental).

Book Club: *Autobiography of a Yogi* by Parmahansa Yogananda. Ten weeks (50pg/wk) beginning June 27. 7:30pm - 9:00pm Cost: \$70.00 (Center rental)

Workshop: *Metta Meditation and Its Energetics* with Karlta Zarley, RN, CHTP. Saturday, June 23, 2:00-4:00 pm. Learn about the personal and universal value of Metta Meditation, what it is, how to do it and how the energetics of it manifest in the world and in our hearts. We will practice this meditation at the end of the workshop. Cost: \$30. Contact: Prachi Thiel – 734.417.5804 – cprachi17@gmail.com

Board Meeting: Sunday, June 24, meditate 9:30 am, meet 10-12:30. All Lighthouse members and friends invited.

JULY

Book Club: *Autobiography of a Yogi* by Parmahansa Yogananda. Ten weeks (50pg/wk) beginning June 27. 7:30pm - 9:00pm Cost: \$70.00 (Center rental)

Healing Night: Thursday, July 12, meditate 7:30, Reiki healing 8:00-9:00, with Lighthouse Reiki practitioners. Open to the public. Love donation.

Learn to Meditate: Saturday, July 14, 4:00-6:30 pm, given by Nirmala.

Workshop: *Healing from Blame, Shame and Guilt* with Karlta Zarley, RN, CHTP. Saturday, July 28 1:00-3:00 pm. Come learn how these are used in society and why, and then learn to release yourself from their influence so that you can be Free at Heart. Cost: \$30. Register with Prachi Thiel – 734.417.5804 – cprachi17@gmail.com

Board Meeting: Sunday, July 22, meditate 9:30 am, meet 10-12:30. All Lighthouse members and friends invited.

AUGUST

Book Club: *Autobiography of a Yogi* by Parmahansa Yogananda. Ten weeks (50pg/wk) beginning June 27. 7:30pm - 9:00pm Cost: \$70.00 (Center rental)

Healing Night: Thursday, August 9, meditate 7:30, Reiki healing 8:00-9:00, with Lighthouse Reiki practitioners. Open to the public. Love donation.

Learn to Meditate: Saturday, August 11, 4:00-6:30 pm, given by Nirmala.

Picnic: Saturday, August 25, 3:00-6:00 at the Center. Vegan potluck, games, drumming circle, and more!

Board Meeting: Sunday, August 26, meditate 9:00 am, meet 9:30-noon. All Lighthouse members and friends invited.

Continued from front page...Make a Commitment to Yourself

someone is not aware of himself, he blames others. The word “fool” came in his mind, not yours. There’s no need to argue with fools. Holding hate, revenge, and bad feelings only harms us. It is sad to carry negative vibrations of a relationship when it is over. One may be divorced but still married to the bad feelings, the negative vibrations. Instead recite “Namo arihantanum”, I bow down to myself, I can overcome my inner enemies.

One can be brave and tough in front of others, but inside be very weak. We succumb to our negative feelings. You can see a newborn baby, so beautiful in the crib. What happened? We lost our smile along the way. We need jokes to make us smile. When you are one with your Atma, you are happy, content, peaceful. When you are not, you are sad, angry, jealous. If you hold onto the negative energy, it will consume you, you become more unhappy, tense, uncomfortable. The negative energy burns you more. Enemy and friend are the same person. A man once bought a diamond ring for his wife, now they don’t get along. Misunderstanding, anger, jealousy got in the way.

This teaching is very fresh. It is today, not yesterday, not tomorrow. It is now or never. You have to make your commitment very strong: I will meditate. Making this commitment is like chewing gum day and night, eventually it will settle in your neurons. The bad things we try to forget and cannot, the good things we cannot remember—this is the longevity of negativity. I remember when I was a monk I knew a mother who was very old and about to go. She had four sons. They invited me to come see her. I told her, “Mother, you have to forgive everyone, first yourself, then everyone.” But she did not like her youngest son, who had married a woman from another belief. She had told him years ago, “I don’t want to see your face, because you don’t respect my opinion.” Still on her dying bed she would not forgive her son, she kept holding onto her negative feelings.

Everyone is here according to karma. No one belongs to anyone else. No possessiveness. You belong to the universe. Your body is not yours. Your memory is not yours. There was a very important man, a president of a large company, whose neurons were no longer working, and he didn’t know where the bathroom was anymore. Once you know that “I am Atma” you allow people to

be, with no hate, no dislike, no judgment. If you don’t try to hold onto people, they will stay with you. Control is controlling, it cannot control, it does not work. The first forgiveness is with yourself. If you do not realize yourself, your Atma, you will not believe in yourself.

One of my friends is a Roman Catholic priest. We meet to talk, and one day we were discussing, what is sin? Sin is the denial of Divinity in yourself. We are living because of that Divinity. When Divinity leaves the body, we die. Mahavir was a simple person. But he had realized, “I am Atma” twenty seven births before. Man can become superman, when Atma becomes Paramatma. Seeing a statue of Mahavir is an inspiration: he overcame his attachments, his ego, and his Atma became Paramatma. When you realize yourself completely, your Atma becomes Paramatma. That is why I say, “Namaste” to you, I am saluting the Divine within you. When you realize that the Divine is within you, you will never put yourself down. The biggest sin is to put yourself down. When you go to see the President, don’t put yourself down. Without you he would be a beggar, for you have the vote. You can honor someone else, but don’t put yourself down. And make no comparisons, Seeing a very rich man, you might say, “I am nothing in front of you.” But why make yourself small? Continuously we are comparing. We bend over backward for the poor, we bend forward to the rich. Denial of divinity is sin. We have denial for so many years. Our conditions do not easily leave us. We go home and start comparing again.

Today is the best day, the day to make a commitment, not to me, but to yourself. Take advantage of the classes here at the Lighthouse. The teaching is so clear, so clean. There is no dogma, no putting others down, no comparing with others, but believing in yourself. I am so happy that so many of you are initiated and have made so much progress. I see it in your eyes, where you have been and where you are. When you close your eyes, see who is inside, that invisible Light that you are. Light bulbs and other gadgets are useful because of the electricity carried inside. In the same way we are all useful because of our Atma. If we don’t pay attention to Atma, what have we gained from the beautiful day? You have made this center an oasis. Whatever you do, you have deposited for your future. With one seed come a thousand blossoms. Your consciousness becomes your prosperity.

Every day in the morning I put my foot on the ground and say to myself, "Today is the best day, this is the day that I am alive." Every day make a commitment to yourself. Even when there is a little cloud, say to yourself, "It's half sunny". The glass is not half empty, it's half full. The emptiness or fullness is within you. How we look at life makes the difference. Try to see in your family what good qualities they have.

There was a lady who had married and divorced seven or eight times. She changed people, but her choice was the same. A lion, a donkey and a fox went together for hunting. When the hunt was done, the lion told the fox. "Make equal shares for the three of us." So the fox made three equal shares. The lion choked the fox and he died. Then the lion told the donkey, "Now you make equal shares". So the donkey took a little for himself and left the rest for the lion. The lion was surprised and said, "Donkey, you are smart. Where did you learn this?" The donkey said, "I learned from the fox". The donkey learned from experience, but many times we don't. We go through bad experiences, but don't learn. We think we have sinned. But there is no sin, there is consequence. If you put a finger in a socket, you get a shock. This is not a sin, it is a consequence. You learn from it. Let each mistake be a stepping stone to go upward. Acknowledge the mistake and learn from it.

So my friends. It is a beautiful day. And it is up to you. Your day is up to you, it is your choice. Say to yourself, "I am pure, I am sure." Listen to the inner voice, your Atma. Do not compare yourself to others or put yourself down. Make a commitment to yourself. Accept your Divinity.

Namaste,
Chitrabhanuji
Given at the Lighthouse Center, Inc.
19 August 2007



DailyOM

SELF-DETERMINATION

by Madisyn Taylor

*Before making a decision, release
your fear of making a wrong decision*

Our lives are defined by the decisions we make each day. When we choose one option over another, whether we are selecting a restaurant or considering a cross-country move, we shape our lives. The decision-making process can be empowering, allowing us to enjoy the benefits of self-determination. Yet it can also be a source of anxiety because decisions force us to face the possibility of dissatisfaction and inner conflict. As a result, many of us opt to avoid making decisions by allowing others to make them for us. We consequently turn our power over to spouses, relatives, friends, and colleagues, granting them the stewardship of our lives that is ours by right. Though the decisions we must make are often difficult, we grow more self-sufficient and secure each time we trust ourselves enough to choose.

Ultimately, only you can know how the options before you will impact your daily life and your long-term well-being. Within you lies the power to competently weigh the advantages and disadvantages of each selection. Even if you feel incapable of making a decision, your inner wisdom and your intuitive mind will give you sound counsel if you have faith in yourself. Before making your choice, release your fear of wrong decisions.

When your choices are your own, you will be more likely to accept and be satisfied with the outcome of those choices. Your decisions will be a pure reflection of your desires, your creativity, your awareness, and your power. Since you understand that you must live with and take responsibility for your decisions, you will likely exercise great care when coming to conclusions. As you learn to make informed and autonomous choices, you will gain the freedom to consciously direct the flow of your life without interference.

Please visit: <http://dailyom.com/cgi-bin/display/articledisplay.cgi?aid=63834>

President's Message

Living in the Moment

We all enjoy watching young children as they romp about and explore everything from a blade of grass to the stars in the night sky. And we sometimes wish we could be like them, freed of our adult constraints and concerns: memories of the past that can weigh us down, worries about what the future might hold. Or think of the newborn baby, awake, alert, taking in the whole new world she has just emerged into. Such receptivity and engagement with all that is, moment to moment.

Then there are the animals and all of nature to consider. Our favorite pets, and the wild animals we watch on National Geographic, are by their very nature living in the moment. Guided by instinct and an awareness of the moment, perhaps nothing more. And the sentient energy pulsing through all of plant life, from the microscopic algae to the tallest, oldest tree. "All life wants to live", says Gurudev. We humans perhaps most of all want to live, but how? Can we learn to let go of all the trappings of our mind, so that we can live free, breathe easy?

Jill Bolte Taylor was able to experience life without the trappings, when she suffered a stroke. She writes about it in My Stroke of Insight:

When I lost my left hemisphere and its language centers, I also lost the clock that would break my moments into consecutive brief instances...I shifted from the doing-consciousness of my left brain to the being-consciousness of my right brain. I morphed from feeling small and isolated to feeling enormous and expansive. I was not capable of of deliberating about past or future-related ideas because those cells were incapacitated. All I could perceive was right here, right now, and it was beautiful...My left hemisphere had been trained to perceive myself as a solid, separate from others. Now, released from that restrictive circuitry, my right hemisphere relished in its attachment to the eternal flow. I was no longer isolated and alone. My soul was as big as the universe and frolicked with glee in a boundless sea. (p. 71)

We don't have to suffer a stroke to have an experience like Jill Bolte Taylor's. As meditators we know that we are slowly, slowly finding our way to less and less attachment to our mental baggage. With each meditation we move more and more from doing-consciousness to being-consciousness. Letting go of our ego constraints and opening more and more to what is before us.

No rush to judgment, no expectations, no assumptions, no projections, no analysis. Just being in the moment. Babies and young children, animals and all of nature. We too can recapture that ability to be in the moment. We can become wide-eyed again, filled with wonder and joy in a "boundless sea" of oneness with the universe. Letting go, living in the moment, right here, right now.

Namaste,

Nirmala



VEGAN RECIPE CORNER**Lighthouse Board of Directors****President**

Nancy Hanke
734.645.2188
nirmala.hanke@gmail.com

Vice President

Patricia Thiel
734.417.5804
cprachi17@gmail.com

Secretary

Victoria Naumann Smoot
216.228.2245
vpeltz@gmail.com

Treasurer

Richard Smoot
734.389.5014
smootlips@gmail.com

Members at Large:

Tom Lisk
810.229.6365
tosk@comcast.net

Ed Mooney
734.883.9820
edm_msu@yahoo.com

Creamy Coconut Pudding

DELICIOUSLY GUMMY!

(Serves 4 - 6)

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup basmati rice
- 1¹/₄ cups water
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 1/2 cup coconut creamer
- 3/4 cup turbinado brown sugar
- 1/4 tsp cardamom seeds + pinch of cardamom power
- 1 drop rose essence
- 1/4 cup finely chopped pistachios

**METHOD**

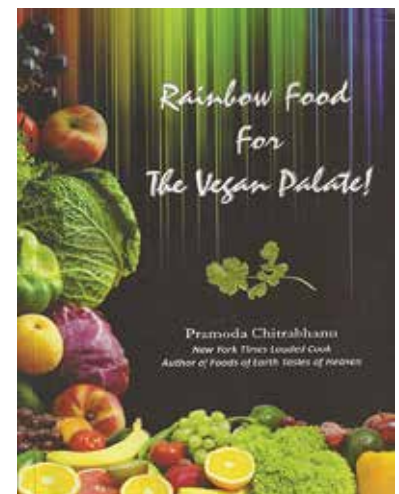
1. Combine rice and water in a medium, thick-bottomed saucepan.
2. Cook on low heat until rice is done, about 25 minutes.
3. Add coconut milk, creamer, and brown sugar.
4. Mix thoroughly and cook on medium-low heat for about 10 minutes.
5. Add cardamom seeds and power and continue cooking until the mixture becomes thick; about 10 more minutes.
6. Remove from heat and add rose essence.
7. Serve warm or chilled. Garnish with chopped pistachios.



From: *Rainbow Food for the Vegan Palate*, Pramoda Chitrabhanu,
Jain Meditation Center, New York, NY, 2015. Page 198.

Copies of this book are available at the Lighthouse Center, Inc,
Whitmore Lake, MI and through the website:

<http://lighthousecenterinc.org/media/rainbow-food-for-the-vegan-palate/>





Lighthouse Center Calendar

June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Intensive Meditation 7:30 PM	2
3 6 - 7:15pm Candlelight	4	5	6 Book Club <i>The Surrender Experiment</i> 7:30pm	7	8	9 Learn to Meditate 4-6:30pm
10 6 - 7:15pm Candlelight	11	12	13 Book Club <i>The Surrender Experiment</i> 7:30pm	14 Healing Night 7:30pm - 9:00pm	15 Intensive Meditation 7:30 PM	16
17 Mandala Coloring Group 4 - 5:30pm 6 - 7:15pm Candlelight	18	19	20 Movie: <i>AWAKE</i> by P. Yogananda 7:30pm - 9:30pm	21	22	23 Workshop: Metta Meditation and It's Energetics 2:00pm - 4:00
24 Board Meeting 9:30-12:30 6 - 7:15pm Candlelight	25	26	27 Book Club <i>Autobiography of a Yogi</i> 7:30pm	28	29	30

July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 6 - 7:15pm Candlelight	2	3	4 Book Club <i>Autobiography of a Yogi</i> 7:30pm	5	6 Intensive Meditation 7:30 PM	7
8 6 - 7:15pm Candlelight	9	10	11 Book Club <i>Autobiography of a Yogi</i> 7:30pm	12 Healing Night 7:30pm - 9:00pm	13	14 Learn to Meditate 4 - 6:30pm
15 Mandala Coloring Group 4 - 5:30pm 6 - 7:15pm Candlelight	16	17	18 Book Club <i>Autobiography of a Yogi</i> 7:30pm	19	20 Intensive Meditation 7:30 PM	21
22 Board Meeting 9:30 am - 12:30pm 6 - 7:15pm Candlelight	23	24	25 Book Club <i>Autobiography of a Yogi</i> 7:30pm	26	27	28 Workshop: Healing the Blame, Shame, and Guilt 1:00pm - 3:00pm
29 6 - 7:15pm Candlelight	30	31				





Lighthouse Center Calendar

August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Book Club <i>Autobiography of a Yogi</i> 7:30pm	2	3 Intensive Meditation 7:30 PM	4
5 6-7:15 pm Candlelight	6	7	8 Book Club <i>Autobiography of a Yogi</i> 7:30pm	9 Healing Night 7:30pm - 9:00pm	10	11 Learn to Meditate 4-6:30pm
12 6-7:15 pm Candlelight	13	14	15 Book Club <i>Autobiography of a Yogi</i> 7:30pm	16	17 Intensive Meditation 7:30 PM	18
19 Mandala Coloring Group 4 - 5:30pm 6-7:15 pm Candlelight	20	21	22 Book Club <i>Autobiography of a Yogi</i> 7:30pm	23	24	25 Annual Picnic at LHC Center 3:00pm - 6:00pm
26 Board Meeting 9:30 am 6-7:15 pm Candlelight	27	28	29 Book Club <i>Autobiography of a Yogi</i> 7:30pm	30	31	



Classified Advertisements

Nancy Nirmala Hanke, M.D.
Psychiatry
Psychotherapy & Healing

815 East Five Mile Road
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189

(734) 645-2188

LECTURES
CLASSES
PARTIES

By Appointment Only

Prachi
(Pra-chee)

SPIRITUAL READINGS • COUNSELING
REIKI - 3rd Degree

734-417-5804
WHITMORE LAKE, MI 48189

Patricia Thiel



Psst....pass it on!

fran coys
SALON & SPA
www.francoysalon.com

\$20 off*
Your 1st Visit!

Referred to: Becky

Referred by: Becky

*Certain conditions may apply. Offer can not be combined with any other offer and is subject to change without notice. This card is valid for a one time service discount for both referral guest and referring guest, must be used with specified service provider. Not applicable for retail purchases.

418 South Wagner Road Ann Arbor, MI 48103 734-665-7207

New Website For The Center

Congratulations Lighthouse Center, Inc.! On your new website, which launched on Sunday, June 10, 2018. The technical part of developing a website is done in front of the computer; creating a website is a team effort. We know that everything is interconnected: the bringing forth of your new site was built by the team of the Board of Directors and myself.

We spent several months in development. First reviewing the basic design – colors, fonts, how things would be placed on the page. The editors wrote copy and edited it over and over. Truth be told this is the biggest challenge for me as I've already placed the information and then must go back and correct what was there before. But, the Board wanted it to be the best it could be for you, and I've survived.

Then the final development was proofread, edited and reviewed. Tom Lisk worked on the calendar. Nirmala and Vijaya did the editing. There were photos offered of the center and they are beautiful. Everyone contributed in some manner. I attended a couple of board meetings where we spent time reviewing the design, with the Board giving their input.

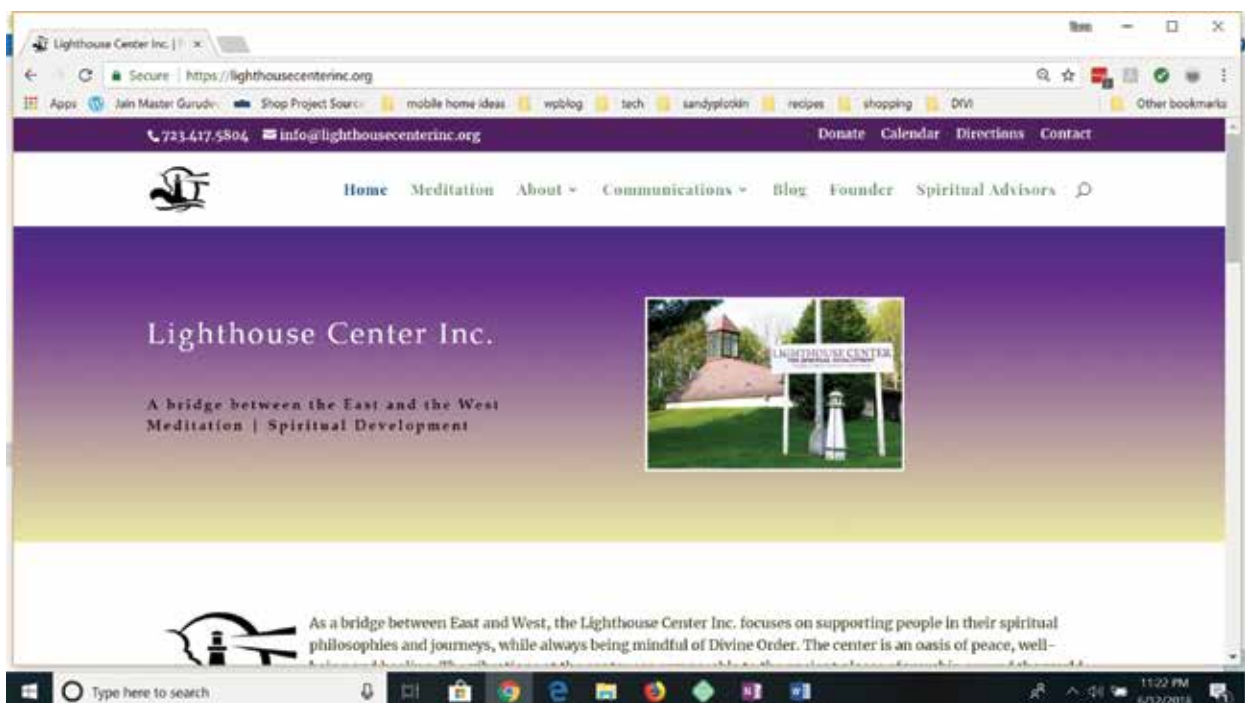
What a day when everyone agreed that the new website was ready to publish! Launched to spend its life out in the virtual world, offering the spiritual teachings of the Lighthouse Center, guided by Gurudev Shree Chitrabhanuji and Pramodaji Chitrabhanu.

You need to share it, talk about it, and be proud of having a connection with our Center of people who dedicate themselves to creating a better world.

What did I learn during this process? Always that it is about teamwork, supporting one another, and having PATIENCE in the process (not my best, but I'm working on it).

I'm sending Light and Love and offering this gift to the Center because in my heart I know that this spiritual path is filled with people who offer their Light to the world, and we know this struggling world needs it.

Loving Light,
Sohum Tana Dean
Website Design and Development



“I Want to Thank the Academy...”

Richard (Rohit) Smoot

As most of you may know, I’m the Treasurer for the Lighthouse Center. Yet many of you may not know that by trade and training I’m a professional astrologer and have been one for forty-seven years. As a professional, I go to many conferences as a lecturer, trainer, or in organizing a conference.

Victoria Smoot (Vijaya) is also a professional astrologer and we recently returned from a 10-day conference at the Chicago Marriott on the Miracle Mile. The United Astrology Conference (UAC) is the largest astrology conference in the world. Hosted by four major astrology organizations, UAC is only staged every four to six years due to its size and complexity. Some 1,700 astrologers from 30 countries attended this conference of 270 lectures and 150 speakers.

The highlight of the event is the banquet and the Marion D. March Regulus Award presentations. Much like the “Oscars”, the Regulus Award is named for the fixed star, Regulus, described by the ancients of Persia (3,000 BC) as the “King Star” and is known for its regal nature. This award is given in five categories and the UAC committee finds what they believe are the top five candidates in each category. The nominees are then voted on by nearly 3,000 astrologers, worldwide. Like the Academy Awards, an accounting firm tabulated the votes.

I was selected as a nominee in the “Community Service” category and like all 25 award nominees in all the categories we had to write a 100-word biography of our contribution to Astrology. I wrote the following:

Richard has been a certified professional astrologer for 45 years and has a Social Work degree and a Public Administration graduate degree. In 17 years of direct assistance to astrologers and organizations, his focus has been to promote Astrology and guide astrologers to their highest professional level. In ISAR, he is the Operations Manager, Consulting Skills Chair, and publisher of the ISAR International Astrologer. For NCGR, he is an examiner for all certification exam levels and publishes their journals. For OPA he serves as a group leader. He owned and operated AstroDatabank before turning it over to Astro.com.

With a banquet room of 1,000 people, each category and nominees were displayed on two large screens. It happened so fast, I was not expecting it, *my name was called*. Everyone stood up and clapped and yelled. Did I have an acceptance speech? No. In fact, this Aries was speechless. Making it to the stage, I must have said something short and good, because people clapped again and no music played to get me off the stage.

Those that were nominated with me and in all the categories are people who have done and are doing an enormous amount of work for Astrology’s body of knowledge. Awards are strange, we have a winner, but the others are not losers. Yet, I’m thrilled and honored to have been selected by my peers for this prestigious award.



**Directions to:
THE LIGHTHOUSE CENTER
740 East Shore Drive
Whitmore Lake, MI**

Lighthouse Hotline (734) 417-5084

FROM I-94, US-23 AND ANN ARBOR

Exit US-23N at Exit 50 (6 Mile Road), but do not turn left or right, just go straight and follow Main Street into Whitmore Lake (past middle school on left). At the traffic light at East Shore Drive, turn right. Follow East Shore Drive approximately 1.2 miles and the Lighthouse Center will be on the right. *(Driveway is marked with sign and four vertical reflectors.)*

FROM I-96, US-23 AND BRIGHTON

Exit US-23S at Exit 53. Turn left. This street becomes southbound Main Street. Follow Main Street through Whitmore Lake. At the traffic light at East Shore Drive, turn left. Follow East Shore Drive approximately 1.2 miles and the Lighthouse Center will be on the right. *(Driveway is marked with sign and four vertical reflectors.)*

Lighthouse Center, Inc.
P.O. Box 645
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189