



Yogi Sarveshwarananda Giri

Born in Paris, France in 1959 in a family of traveling teachers, David Vachon grew up in various parts of the world such as Europe, South America and Northern Africa.

Education

- B.A. in English Literature at Grenoble III University in Grenoble, France (1980).
- M.A. in Information and Communication from the CELSA (Sorbonne University) in Paris, France (1982).
- B.Sc. in acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine in San Francisco, CA, U.S.A. (1990).
- Degrees in massage, health education, and Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) in San Francisco, CA, U.S.A. (1990).
- Certificates in Thai massage therapy in Chiangmai, Thailand (1994 and 2010)

Professional Career

- Bilingual copywriter at “Young and Rubicam” ad agency in Paris, France (1982).
- Copy chief at “Avon Overseas” European headquarters in London, U.K. (1984-86).
- Freelance translator, interpreter, and director in the holistic health and medical fields in San Francisco, CA, U.S.A. (1989-1993).
- Private practice in acupuncture, massage, and nutrition in San Francisco, CA, U.S.A. (1989-1993).
- Faculty member of the “National Holistic Institute” (NHI) in San Francisco, CA, U.S.A. (1990-93).
- Staff acupuncturist at the pioneering “Quan Yin Clinic” serving people with AIDS in San Francisco, CA, U.S.A. (1991-93).

Spiritual Training

- Took initiation from his spiritual preceptor, Paramahansa Hariharananda, the last God-realized Kriya Yoga master in the lineage of Swami Shriyukteshwar in California (1988).
- A six-month spiritual pilgrimage all over India prompted him to renounce the world (1993-94).
- Was accepted as a brahmachari (novice) in his master’s “Kriya Yoga Ashram” (monastery) at first in San Antonio, Texas, then in Miami, Florida, (1994-1997).
- Ordained as a swami (renunciate monk) in the Giri monastic order, receiving the name “Sarveshwarananda” (a Sanskrit name meaning “Divine Joy in Everything”) in Vienna, Austria—the first Western monk-teacher of Kriya Yoga in this lineage (1997-2009).
- Served as his master’s monastic personal attendant in Miami, Florida and Vienna, Austria (1997-2002).
- After his master’s demise in December 2002, went into silent seclusion for two years in a remote hut in the Himalayas in India (2003-2004).
- Renounced his monastic vows, continuing his service as a householder Yogacharya and priest now known as Yogi Sarveshwarananda Giri (2009-present).

Social and Educational Service

- Founded and chaired the “Immune Power Foundation” in San Francisco, California: a non-profit educational organization dedicated to teaching physical, psychological and spiritual self-healing techniques to people living with AIDS or chronic immune system disorders (1990-93).
- Founded the “Ark of Love” in São Paulo, Brazil: a volunteer organization providing spiritual, emotional and material support to street children in Latin America (2001-present).
- Founded the “Hariharananda Mission” in Haridwar, India: a tax-exempt non-profit organization running the “Children’s Academy of Joy” for poor children and widows in the Himalayas (2004-present).
- Founded and presides the “Hariharananda Mission West” in Aspen, Colorado: a tax-exempt non-profit organization dedicated to the dissemination of Kriya Yoga and raising funds and awareness for holistic education for the poor (2006-present).
- Founded the “Sri Hariharananda Charitable Trust in Haridwar, India: a tax-exempt non-profit organization running Matri Chhaya (“The Grace of the Mother”) a mini-village for abandoned children, poor widows, and senior citizens (2007-present).
- Co-founded with Rajarshi Raghabananda the “Hariharananda Kriya Yoga Mission-Banabira” in Western Orissa, India: a non-profit organization managing an ashram and various charitable projects (2008-present).

Research and Publications

- Conducted research in acupuncture and psycho-neuro-immunology, with publication in several magazines and peer-reviewed journals (1988-1994).
- Creator of a number of websites, most of them grouped under the www.art-of-peace.org umbrella (1995-present).
- Editor of “Soul Culture Magazine” (print and web version) founded by Paramahansa Hariharananda (1995-2002)
- Editor of numerous books and articles by Paramahansa Hariharananda (1994-2002) and Rajarshi Raghabananda (2007-present).
- Author of numerous articles and books on Kriya Yoga and various other spiritual and social topics (1998-present).
- Producer, composer and interpreter of several music CDs and instructional DVDs (2001-present).

Professional Affiliations

- Registered Yoga Teacher (500 hours) with the Yoga Alliance (2010-present).