

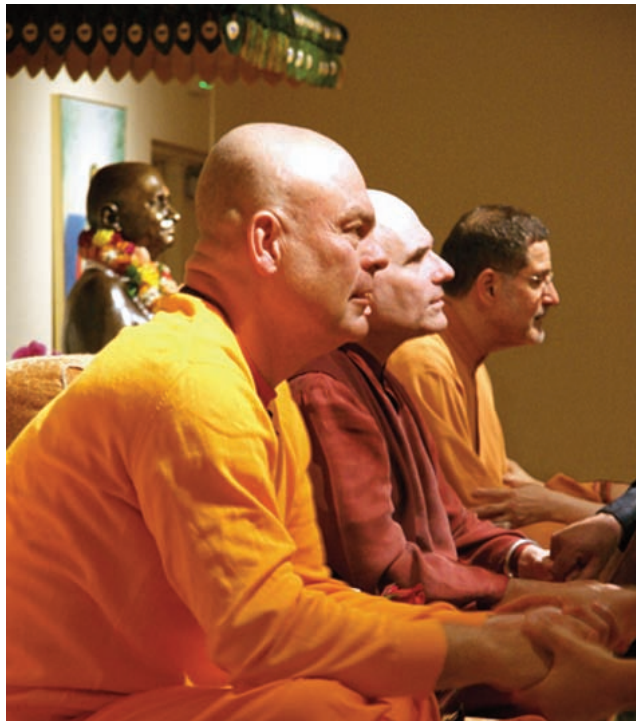
# Friends of Nityananda Institute

2006  
Year End  
Report

## THE 3 GURUS

It seemed that we hardly had time to catch our breath between the retreat and the next event: The 3 Gurus. The 3 Gurus program is a collaboration between Swami Chetanananda, Swami Shankarananda of Shiva Ashram in Melbourne, Australia, and Master Charles Cannon of Synchronicity in Charlottesville, Virginia. This was the third year in a row these teachers have gathered together.

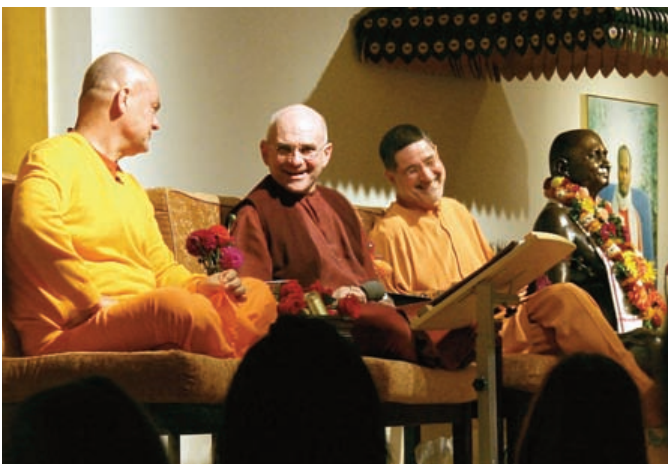
Last year, the program was held in Santa Monica, and the year before in Melbourne, Australia. The Portland 3 Gurus program was held from September 18 through the 24th. We were happy to share the company of Master Charles Cannon and Swami Shankarananda and several of their students for almost two weeks.



The 3 Gurus is unusual in featuring three teachers from the same lineage who have developed different techniques of meditation and approaches to spiritual practice. The premise for the program is that by being exposed to three different perspectives on meditation, a person can find what resonates most strongly with them.

Before formal 3 Gurus program began, there were some promotional events. Swamiji and Swami Shankarananda were interviewed on two local radio stations: KBOO and KISN. On KISN, the DJ/interviewer was none other than the Institute's own Paul Rosen. In both interviews, the questions were focused so that listeners would get to know the gurus as individuals, what brought them to their spiritual path, and what their lives as teachers were like. Footage from the DVD of the Santa Monica sessions was aired on a local cable channel, and there were clips from all three teachers posted on the internet at the YouTube site.

All three teachers made an appearance at New Renaissance Bookstore for talks and a book signing on the Saturday before the programs began.



## THE 3 GURUS cont.

There was a capacity crowd (over 65 people) at the New Renaissance meeting space. After the talks, everyone moved over to the bookstore for the book signing.

The 3 Gurus program began with five evening sessions, Monday through Friday nights. About 225 people each night attended the evening programs. The format for the evenings varied. Some featured talks by the gurus, and others were question and answer sessions. The gurus gave darshan afterward. Every night was lively as well as inspiring, and all three teachers enjoyed themselves and each other very much.

Saturday and Sunday were a meditation intensive, with each teacher taking a turn being the presenter for a one hour talk, followed by meditation and shaktipat. Swami Shankarananda began on Saturday morning and Master Charles gave the Saturday afternoon session. Swamiji was featured on

Sunday morning, and Sunday afternoon included questions and answers and darshan with all three gurus. It is most unusual to receive empowerments from three different teachers in a single weekend, and the power of it was remarkable.

The event was a financial as well as an energetic success, and Howard Boster received a well-deserved ovation from the audience for his work in planning and organizing the event.

