

|| Jai Karunamayi ||

MAHA HOMA-SACRED FIRE CEREMONY

SUNDAY, JUNE 9 from 9 AM – 2 PM

at ANANDA ASHRAM / YOGA SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.

13 Sapphire Road, Monroe, NY 10950

NOTE: Parking at Sapphire Elementary School, [159 Harriman Heights Road](#), Monroe, NY

Free event. RAIN OR SHINE! Open to people of all faiths and paths. Sponsorships and donations welcome. Profits support Amma's free schools in India.

The Homa will be held at idyllic Ananda Ashram, a yoga retreat and spiritual educational center located just over one hour northwest of New York City. Sacred fire ceremonies have been performed for millennia to promote universal and individual peace and healing. Benefits extend to all those who participate and to our entire world family and the environment.

Please plan on coming early, preferably by 8.45 a.m. The fire ceremony will be conducted under a large, open-air tent. A light lunch will be served after the ceremony. Come prepared to sit outdoors for an extended period of time. Be sure to protect yourself from the weather as well as insects. Bring hats, blankets, cushions, folding chairs, water bottles, insect repellents, sun screens, umbrellas and raincoats, as needed. Those coming by car may wish to bring their own chairs or extra chairs to share with others. A limited number of chairs are provided. Please give priority to seniors and people with health issues.

There will be at least three havan kundas/homa pits. Amma will perform the Homa herself in the main havan kunda. **Everyone may attend the Homa free of charge and receive the powerful blessings of the Homa. Sponsors who wish to perform the Homa themselves in one of the adjacent fire pits may do so by donating \$1008 or more.** This is first come first served and there is limited space so please let us know right away if you plan to participate directly in the Homa.

Additionally, there are **several other sponsorship levels** offered to those who would like to receive various specially blessed prasadam for their participation. All donations will go towards Amma's free schools. Please go to the SMVA website www.smvatrust.org to read about the free educational opportunities being offered to empower the children of this impoverished region of Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Transportation

• **Charter bus** round trip from Midtown Manhattan - By Coach USA - Sunday, June 9
Travel in the comfort of our own luxury charter bus to Ananda Ashram.

Sign up online to ensure a seat, or at the Welcome Table during Individual Blessings Day. Seats are limited. **Tickets \$35 roundtrip (no 1-way sales).**

First come first served. Credit Card and cash transactions only.

• Departing from the corner of 8th Ave at 31st St. (south side of 31st), near Penn Station.

Arrive at 6:45 AM for processing.

*** Please be early/punctual – bus can only stop for 3-5 minutes for pickup.***

• Plan extra time to make the bus, because trains/subways run slower on Sundays.

Bring bus ticket receipt for boarding.

Departure at 7:15 AM SHARP

• **Return:** Departing from Ananda Ashram for NYC at **4:45 PM SHARP.**

Gather at 4:30 PM for processing. • Please be punctual. Bus will leave promptly. No refunds. The bus company charges extra if we run over!! We cannot stay a minute later than the allotted time for departure.

NOTE: If you do not plan to return by bus, please inform the bus monitors on the bus going up. This is very important!! Please be responsible about this.

• **Tickets sales**

– Online through 12 AM midnight, June 5th

– At NYC programs: Individual Blessings–Thursday, June 6 and Friday 7, if space is still available. Go to Welcome Table, Credit card and cash transactions only.

– At departure site if there are remaining tickets – go to bus at 6:45 AM. Come early. Bring \$35 cash, exact change. **First come first served. Only 55 seats.**

• **Public bus**

• Visit www.shortlinebus.com or phone [800 631 8405](tel:8006318405) for bus schedules to and from Monroe. Tickets can be purchased in advance online. When booking, select route to Monroe Village, NY and call local taxi, Uber or Lyft for ride to Ashram.

• Shortline Bus ticket sales – 2nd Floor of North Building, Port Authority, 41st St. and 8th Ave., Manhattan.

Limited bus service to Monroe is available on weekends. For your convenience we recommend you reserve transportation on our private charter bus (details above).

• **Local taxi** in Monroe from Shortline Bus Terminal, 70 Millpond Parkway, Monroe to Ananda Ashram, 13 Sapphire Road, Monroe, NY 10950.

Beam's Taxi, phone [845 783 4444](tel:8457834444). 24-hour daily service, taxi \$10 / minivan \$15 to ashram.

Village Taxi, phone [845 783 6112](tel:8457836112). Service Sun 7 AM -10PM, taxi \$10.

Uber and Lyft ride services are both also available in the area, now.

• **By Car.** Easily accessible. For directions see www.anandaashram.org

Parking – IMPORTANT!!

It is important to follow all parking and no parking signs posted at the Ashram, as well as these directions. Please do not double park. There is no street parking on Sapphire Road outside the Ashram or on village roads. ***That is a tow away zone! We regret that cars parked on the village roads may be towed at the owner's expense. Only service vehicles and cars of ashram overnight guests, handicapped or elderly guests or ashram staff are permitted to enter the grounds on Homa day. The driveway entrance/exit near the Homa site will not be accessible. Thank you for your cooperation!

Parking at Sapphire Elementary School [159 Harriman Heights Road, Harriman, NY](#)

***All cars must park in Sapphire Elementary School's parking lot, which is within easy walking distance. NOTE THAT THE PARKING COMES UP ON YOUR RIGHT BEFORE YOU TURN INTO SAPPHIRE ROAD!

Parking Directions at Sapphire Elementary School, [159 Harriman Heights Road](#)

1. Drive up Harriman Heights Road. Near the top of the hill, a few hundred feet before reaching Sapphire Road, Sapphire Elementary School will be on the right. (The entrance also has a sign for Harriman Learning Center.)

2. Turn right into the Sapphire Elementary School driveway.

3. Bear right within the school driveway and park 'toe-in' (not parallel to curb) to fill the spaces on the right side of the lot. Additional parking is available in back of the school.

4. Do **not park in the section to the left of the driveway entrance circle. That area is reserved for the Homa's NYC charter bus.

Walking Directions from Sapphire Elementary School to Homa at Ananda Ashram

1. Go to the end of the School driveway and turn right onto Harriman Heights Road.

2. Continue to walk .1 (1/10th) mile. Turn left onto Sapphire Road.

3. Continue .05 mile on Sapphire Road, then enter the first driveway on the left. Event signage will be posted.

4. Follow the large U-shaped main driveway, passing various internal 'sub'-driveways that branch off to other ashram buildings.

5. Continuing around the main driveway to the opposite side of the 'U,' you will find the large, white Main House. The Homa site is on the lawn in front of the house. Welcome!

If you are arriving by cab, please have the driver let you off on Sapphire Road at the first driveway on your left and follow the driveway to the large white house and white tent around the U of the main driveway.

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed throughout Amma's New York event weekend, beginning early Friday, June 7, and extending through Sunday evening, June 9. There will be a variety of site setup, maintenance, dissemble and clean up needs.

Volunteers are also needed at the end of May at Ananda Ashram for digging and preparing the homa kundas. This is a blessed opportunity to participate in the homas through service/seva.

If you can kindly help with these or other seva opportunities, please contact Radha at radha@babatrust.org as soon as possible.

Ashram overnight guest accommodations may be available for a limited number of serious volunteers for the homa kunda build and/or homa weekend at Ananda Ashram. Please contact Radha asap if you can help.

Accommodations

- Ananda Ashram / Yoga Society of New York

Overnight accommodations are available directly through the Ashram. Reserve in advance by calling the reception office, 845 782 5575. If the line is busy, leave a message, mentioning 'Amma's Homa' and your phone number. There are separate weekend and weekday rates. For general information, see www.anandaashram.org/

- Hampton Inn, 60 Center Drive, Central Valley, NY. (3 miles from Ananda), phone 845 782 9600 or see www.hilton.com/search/hp/us/ny/central_valley/0/0/0/0/0/20?WT.srch=1/.

- America's Best Value Inn, 139 NY-32, Central Valley, NY 10917. (3.5 miles from Ananda), phone 845 928 2266