

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings of Peace from *Satchidananda Ashram-Yogaville*, we are a spiritual community nestled along the James River, adjacent to in Blue Ridge Mts.

- The James as you may know, is Virginia's largest river and its largest tributary to the Chesapeake Bay
 - Approximately 3 million Virginians live in the 10,000 square mile James River watershed
 - And the James River is largest roosting area on the eastern seaboard for Bald eagles. Supports commerce & recreation.

Close to this mighty river, sits our Ashram's **organic garden**. An easy walking distance away, resides the beautiful **LOTUS – Light Of Truth Universal Shrine** - an interfaith temple offering a place of prayer and meditation for people of all faiths. On the upper level of the shrine are beautifully, hand-carved, wooden alters to each of the 10 major faiths of the world. In addition, there is an alter to lesser known –or less populated- faiths. And finally there is even an alter for faiths yet to come. So in this shrine, whatever your religious, spiritual or philosophical beliefs, you can feel at home.

Those who live in *Yogaville* – around 300 – spring from a wide range of different backgrounds and nationalities, and we have come together to live the simple yet profound teachings **Integral Yoga** as taught by our founder, *Sri Swami Satchidananda*.

Those who come to visit and attend programs, **Teacher Trainings** or take **retreats**, come from all over this country, and around the world to study, meditate and find a place of refuge from the noise, pace and oft times - pollution of heavily populated areas. So peace, quite, clean air and water are vital to the services we offer at SA-Y.

But we are not the only community who's health, happiness, homes and sanctuaries are threatened by the Atlantic Coast pipeline. & C.S.

- Our neighbors in **Union Hill**, a historic Black community founded by descendants of freed slaves also threatened. In the words of Pastor Paul Wilson, "Union Hill is in the ground-zero zone of Dominion's dangerous compressor station. This project would propel fracked gas through our community, leaving us with toxic emissions, pounding noise, & danger of explosions."
- Other groups vulnerable to dangers of the ACP are our Native Am. Brs & Sis. The ACP pipeline cross the territories of four native tribes.
- From friends & families in the West Virginia's mountains, through Virginia neighborhoods like Nelson county, to the North Carolina shore line and beyond, many are being put in harm's way.
- When several of Dominion's representatives visited the Ashram, greeted them warmly, fed them from the bounty of the organic garden, delighted with deliciously baked, vegan donuts, & took them hiking throughout the Ashram property.
- We spoke of the possibility of the company building a solar powered station in this area instead of a fossil fuel one. Unfortunately there was no interest.
- The employees at Dominion Power are not bad people. I believe that many think what they are about to build will be of great benefit to America. And I also believe, if there was a great need, and no other means of providing power in this country, many of us would be willing to make some sacrifices. However, as others have/will soon cshow, these pipelines are not motivated by need, instead by greed..
- *Swami Satchidananda* taught us that God will always fulfill our needs, but not our greed. **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** "**inter-related structure of reality.**" ... "*We are all tied together in a single garment of destiny... an inescapable network of mutuality.... Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly....*'.

Swami Prayananda
S.P. Spiritual Development