

We Are KRI

By Amrit Singh Khalsa

Leveraging the Wisdom of the Whole for the Good of the Whole

Sat Naam! I am so very honored to have taken over from the retiring Tarn Taran Singh as the Executive Director for Teacher Trainings here at KRI. Since starting in July I've very much enjoyed meeting and speaking to many trainers in the Aquarian Trainer Academy. There are several big projects affecting teacher training to make you aware of. We are in the process of making major revisions to both the Level 1 and Level 2 programs, exploring big improvements to how trainers develop and demonstrate their skills and experience, and in support of all of this we are greatly expanding the communication around, and participation in, how decisions related to teacher training are made.

We are calling the program revision projects "Level 1 Redux" and "Level 2 Redux." Both involve examinations of the entire program, including:

- Re-writing parts of the manuals
- New exams
- Best Practices around many of the presentation areas
- Updated kriyas and meditations in the Aquarian Teacher yoga manual, and
- Compilation of online support materials for both trainers and students.

Defining what it means to be a trainer, how one becomes a trainer, and how one maintains their status as a trainer all fall into what we call Professional Development. As any of you in the Aquarian Trainer Academy know, we do have a LOT of detailed processes in this area already. Over the next year or so, we will be looking at many aspects of professional development, such as:

- Simplifying how you qualify to be a Level 2 trainer
- Redefining how mentorship work and what it means to be a mentor
- Making entry into, and movement through, the Academy based more on demonstrated skills and experience rather than prescribed actions or elapsed time. (So instead of saying that you must do this or that, or wait this much time, we'd mostly just say that you have to demonstrate X, Y, and Z capabilities). This will mean that there will probably be multiple "pathways" through the academy, making it more flexible to diverse situations without compromising the quality or integrity of the trainers.
- Ongoing requirements, such as CEUs, for everyone, including lead trainers, and
- Reimagining the confidential evaluations so that they support our culture of continuous learning and improvement, as individual trainers and organizationally as a global school.

KRI has always run in a collaborative manner, with volunteers from all over the world participating in various working groups and committees, and a group called the Teacher Training Executive Council (TTEC) meeting twice a year to set policies. With over 750 members in the Aquarian Trainer Academy, we need a more inclusive, transparent, and global way to discuss issues and make decisions. For example, we can't have a handful of well-intentioned trainers make major changes to the Level 1 program and then just tell everyone else, "ok, here's your new program." People need to be included and have their voices heard!

Towards this, we are setting up new avenues for all members of the Academy to participate and have their voices heard in decision making. One of these avenues is an online discussion forum called Sutra. There are many lively discussions already happening there around the Level 1 Redux project, how to bring Kundalini Yoga to underserved communities, the best way to distribute the videos used in our Level 2 courses, and many, many more. There are existing discussion threads (including several in Spanish), and anyone can start their own about any topic related to teacher training that is important to them. If you are a trainer and aren't yet using Sutra, please check it out! For technical support, please email amrit@kriteachings.org.

Another way we're opening up the decision making process is to set up regional advisory TTEC meetings around the world. Rather than insisting that interested people travel to New Mexico, USA to discuss policy questions, we will have in-person meetings in North America, South America, Asia, and Europe that will be open to any trainer who wants to attend. The outcomes of these regional meetings will flow into the global TTEC meeting, with representatives from each region participating as well. At first, these meetings will be part of the Trainers Forums, but over time will evolve into their own, stand alone, gatherings.

These efforts are experiments that we will try out and modify and adapt to continue to improve our experience of group consciousness. To thrive in the Aquarian Age, we must find how to leverage the wisdom of the whole for the good of the whole. Together we will find the ways to work collaboratively so that our Aquarian Teacher programs can adapt quickly to face the changes and challenges of the coming world, while never losing the authenticity and purity of Yogi Bhajan's teachings.

I am excited to be serving the Legacy of Yogi Bhajan in this way, and I look forward to working with more of you in the future. If you have any comments or questions about anything teacher training related, please email me at amrit@kriteachings.org.