

Patricia Harris and her husband Jim Harris, disciples of Swami Aseshananda, began their association with the Portland center in 1972. Pat taught at the children's Sunday school for many years.

Written submission.

My husband and I are both disciples of Swami Aseshanandaji and associated with him beginning in 1972. Swami and I had a somewhat stormy relationship but that wasn't a negative thing. I attribute to him my better understanding of Christianity and a better understanding of spirituality, myself, and of life in general.

I don't know what I would have done without his input into our lives. We lived and breathed Vedanta and Swamiji for many years and felt a great loss at his passing. He had a remarkable effect on our children as well. One was a toddler and the other less than a year when we became involved. Swami's love for children was so apparent in his interaction with our kids and all the other children involved with Vedanta during those first ten years or so of our association. The Vedanta Sunday school was such a vital part of the kids' and my life as I was a Sunday school teacher for several years. I also had the privilege of working with some wonderful women through the Sunday school. Swami made that possible.

The same goes for helping with the women's antar yogas [a work and spiritual retreat for women].* To work so closely with other devotees and with Swami was such an amazing experience. I feel so blessed to have been associated with a man who truly lived the spiritual path! What a powerhouse he was!

Swami and my husband had such a special and spiritual relationship. Suffice it to say, Swami's effect on him was astounding!

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*[Editorial note: When asked to describe the antar yogas, Pat wrote: "The women's antar yogas were a weekend gathering of women for spiritual endeavors, work, and worship at the Scappoose retreat. We did work in the gardens, on trails, and at the various shrines. Anyone with kids could bring them. We had readings and noon worship; and there was usually a Saturday service that weekend, so we would get everything ready for it and the potluck. After the Saturday service we would have

pilgrimages to the various shrines. Each woman and her kids (if she had any) would be responsible for one shrine: cleaning it up, providing flowers for offering at it and providing a reading. They were wonderful experiences.”]