To those who studied at RIMYI in the 1970s

Dear Iyengar Yogi,

I’m Julia Pedersen, a Certified Teacher in Sydney, Australia. I first went to Pune in 1976. Over the next few years my husband and I took 250 black and white photos and 80 color slides at R.I.M.Y.I. I rediscovered these pictures after Guruji died, had them scanned to preserve them, and posted most on Facebook. Many people, finding them evocative of that early era, suggested they be made into a book.

Please help me do that! Help bring to life the R.I.M.Y.I. of those days by answering the questions below, or writing about your experiences in your own words, send what you’ve written back, by Oct. 31. Richard Jonas, a Certified Teacher and writer in New York, has agreed to help with the project. All proceeds will go to further Guruji’s work in Bellur.

\* Your name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\* City, state and country \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\* Approximate dates of your visits to Pune \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\* What anecdotes and reminiscences can you share about Guruji? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

About Geetaji or Prashantji? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\* What are your most vivid memories of R.I.M.Y.I. in those days? To make these as compelling as possible, describe the sights, the sounds, the emotions – be detailed and specific. For instance, instead of remembering that Guruji was demanding, recall his amazing adjustments to you in the class. Instead of saying that he was humorous, recall the way he joked with you or another student. What was it that made his classes so unique? What was it like to be in those small classes so full of his intensity, genius and penetrating insight?

Try to recall moments which are vital … vibrant … as alive as the photos. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\* What words come to my mind when you look at these photos and your own “mind photos” of these times? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\* What is your favorite memory of class? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What memory of that time always makes you laugh, even now? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\* What is the story you’ve told everyone about those days?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\* What were classes like for you in the early days? Share your first impressions, and how they changed over time. Please make your reminiscences about the 1970s and what it was like then.

We enclose some photos; check my Facebook page to see the complete Guruji & RIMYI 70s album and stir your memories.

If you know anyone who was in Pune in the 70s, please pass this request on. ALL REPLIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCT. 31. I am going to Pune soon and promised Geetaji I would have a rough copy of the book then.

Thank you for joining us in this joyous work of remembering a time and place when Iyengar Yoga was taking shape. We believe this will be a lovely gift for our world-wide Iyengar community -- especially for those who didn’t get to meet Guruji in 70s, or at all. By submitting this form and your reminiscences, you grant permission to have them reproduced and edited. We promise not to change what you’ve written, but will edit, shorten and paraphrase as necessary.

With sincere appreciation, and Namaste,

Julia Pedersen

Send your replies to:

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or my postal address:

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