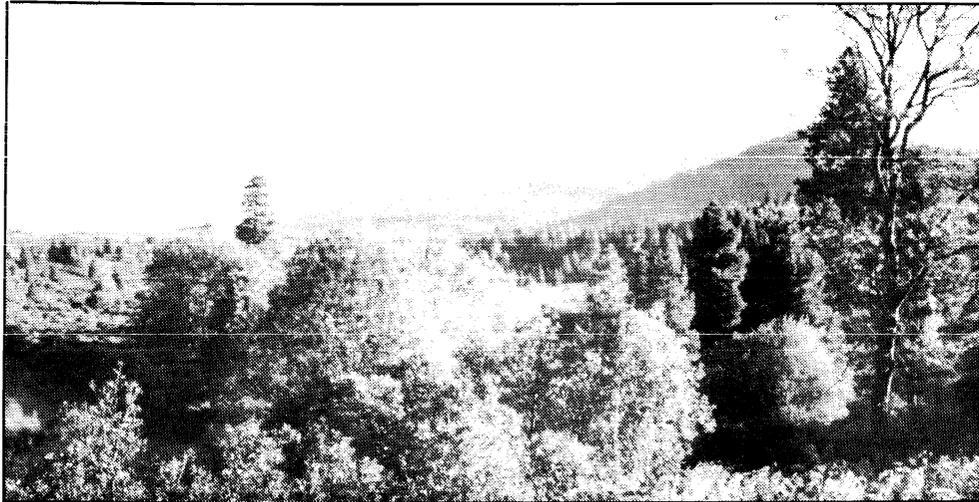


# THE SHASTA CENTER OF UNIVERSAL PEACE



Proposed site for the Shasta Center of Universal Peace, or Shasta CUP. Swami Vandana Jyothi says the center will be a place where various religious groups can gather to explore their similarities rather than their differences.

The vision of a center at Mt. Shasta dedicated to the promotion of individual and world peace is not new. Many spirited people dreamed of such a place and even walked the very acreage where it now appears the vision will become reality.

Located on 154 verdant acres at the base of Mt. Shasta just outside of town, snuggled up against National Forest on two sides, the Shasta Center of Universal Peace (the Shasta CUP) promises to attract a large number of spiritual tourists and students.

Dedicated to disseminating the teachings of the sages, saints and mystics of differing traditions, the Shasta CUP hopes to encourage not just a tolerance for other faiths but a heartfelt appreciation of the underlying unity among them. Another important element of the vision is to provide help to those seeking health and wellbeing. Without these, the task of realizing Spirit—no matter which path one embraces—is made much more difficult.

To achieve these aims, Swami Vandana Jyothi, president of the Shasta Center of Universal Peace, shared an ambitious dream to facilitate the creation of a unique teaching, pilgrimage and retreat/conference center.

She outlined plans which include construction of temples and support facilities—including landscaped meditation gardens and architecture appropriate to the different religions—to properly worship, cherish and distribute the images, scriptures and commentaries illuminating the core teachings of the major traditions, including but not exclusively Taoism, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam.

These Temples of the World's Religions will be maintained by practic-

ing ministers of the respective faiths who are qualified to conduct services and answer questions for visitors. Within each temple a small bookstore will present for sale related scriptures and gift items.

The conference and retreat center, set back from the temples, will host learned and respected teachers from various traditions. A central library, computer and audio-visual research center is included so students may compare texts and commentaries or dial up and view archival video footage of important spiritual events and personages.

Graduating seminary students from other schools will be invited to the Shasta CUP for "polishing" and an opportunity to discuss firsthand in a non-conversion atmosphere what masters of other traditions have revealed about God and Spirit.

Overnight guest facilities will be available for seekers who need a spiritual retreat and mental/emotional healing in the beautiful environment of Mt. Shasta. Sw. Vandana added, "Classes in bodywork and breathwork such as yoga and tai chi and classes in nutrition and health will also help Shasta CUP visitors maintain the growth and serenity it is prayed they will acquire here."

## World Access

For those who cannot come in person to the Shasta CUP, spiritual and health-oriented books as well as audio and video tapes will be available by mail. Another plan involves the use of international computer networks.

Shasta CUP staff will also travel to conduct regional conferences and seminars. It is hoped that these and similar programs will allow the principles and techniques for achieving universal peace

and loving brotherhood to reach people all over the world.

## From Vision to Reality

Sw. Vandana emphasized, "the people who find themselves living, praying and playing under the benign gaze of Mt. Shasta surely have found favor in God's eyes. I think it's because most of us intuitively understand that we are trustees rather than possessors, so to speak, of this sacred energy and space. It is with reverence, gratitude for our good fortune and a sense of divine duty that we embark on the Shasta CUP project to share this bounty of grace with our worldwide family.

"But we need help. Many people feel that Spirit has unequivocally dedicated this land as a permanent sanctuary for truthseekers who, without making a "stew" of these beautiful traditions, want to appreciate and worship the One Truth abiding in all of them.

"We joyfully, therefore, invite the leaders as well as the laymen and women of all the paths to join us at this time, in this place, to accomplish the resounding mandate of Spirit . . . to express Its unity in diversity. Spirit is convening the people, skill, energy—and even symbols!—to accomplish this heartfelt and sincere expression of its own Glory; to aid in this task, we are humbly but boldly seeking sponsors and benefactors—individuals, organizations and religions—to make tax deductible contributions to the Shasta Center of Universal Peace.

"The readers of Directions and publications like it are surely the vanguard of an evolving movement toward a universal loving acceptance of a common identity in Spirit. It is these people, Lightworkers all, who will seize this opportunity, appreciate it for what it is, and carry it to all our brothers and sisters. We can then jointly savor the victory of Light over darkness, love over hatred and brotherhood over fanaticism."