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HARBHAJAN SINGH KHALSA

BUILT A GLOBAL KUNDALINI MOVEMENT

Harbhajan Singh Khalsa (1929-2004), widely known as Yogi Bhaajan, introduced Kundalini Yoga to North America after arriving in 1968. In 1969, he founded the Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization (3HO) in Los Angeles, inspiring thousands to embrace yoga, meditation, and Sikh-inspired spiritual practices. He also established the Kundalini Research Institute to train teachers and preserve his teachings. His influence on modern yoga remains significant, though his legacy has been deeply contested by posthumous allegations of abuse that prompted a reassessment of his movement.

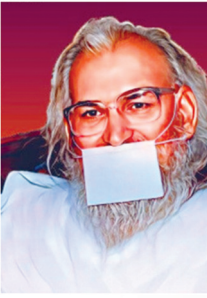


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ACHARYA SUSHIL MUNI

FATHER OF JAINISM IN AMERICA

Sushil Kumar Muni (1926-1994) was a Sthanakvasi Jain teacher, monk, and Acharya (instructor in religious matters). Defying the injunction against Jain monks using mechanical means to travel, he travelled and taught extensively, spreading the message of non-violence and self-awareness across the globe. He founded many ashrams and centres in both the East and West, establishing the International Mahavira Jain Mission in 1983 in Blairstown, New Jersey to manage Siddhachalam, his primary ashram in North America. This made Kumar one of the founding fathers of American Jainism] with Siddhachalam regarded as the first Tirtha (site of pilgrimage) outside India.



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EBOO PATEL

UNITING FAITHS, INSPIRING FUTURES

Eboo Patel has become one of America's foremost champions of interfaith dialogue and religious pluralism. The Gujarati Indian-American Ismaili Muslim founded Interfaith America (formerly Interfaith Youth Core), a pioneering organization dedicated to fostering cooperation among people of different faiths. A Rhodes Scholar and adviser to President Barack Obama's Faith-Based Advisory Council, Patel also helped shape the White House Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge. His influential books, including Acts of Faith and Sacred Ground, have inspired a new generation of interfaith leaders.



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PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA

THE FATHER OF YOGA IN THE WEST

Paramahansa Yogananda was among the first Indian spiritual masters to bring yoga and meditation to mainstream America. After arriving in 1920, he founded the Self-Realization Fellowship, establishing its international headquarters in Los Angeles in 1925. Through his teachings on Kriya Yoga, meditation, and God-realization, he inspired millions worldwide. His spiritual classic, Autobiography of a Yogi, remains one of the most influential books on Eastern philosophy, shaping generations of seekers and global spiritual leaders.





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RAJAN ZED

BRINGING HINDU PRAYERS TO AMERICA'S HALLS OF POWER

Rajan Zed made history in 2007 as the first Hindu chaplain to deliver the opening prayer in the U.S. Senate, introducing Vedic chants, including the Gayatri Mantra, to the nation's highest legislative chamber. President of the Universal Society of Hinduism, he has since delivered a record 312 Hindu invocations in legislative bodies across 44 U.S. states and Canada, including the U.S. House of Representatives and a second Senate prayer in 2024, advancing interfaith understanding and Hindu representation.



