

SAVE THE DATE!

Invite your Friends!

Friends of *Ramana's Garden*

presents

a **Musical Fundraiser**



Friday, July 16 at 7PM

at Adventure Theater in Historic Glen Echo Park,

7300 MacArthur Boulevard Glen Echo, MD 20812

Meet Dr. Prabhavati Dwaba (founder of Ramana's Garden)

at a staged reading of a unique new musical play

Ramana's Garden

based on the true stories of children living at Ramana's Garden,
a home for abandoned, destitute, and abused children who are given food,
shelter, education, and love so they may bloom in a world that once seemed hopeless,

featuring an Indian-flavored score (with a live Indian band)

Script & Lyrics by Kathleen Carroll & Joan Cushing

Music by Joan Cushing

Directed by Lynn Sharp Spears

Tickets: \$25. Can't come but wish to donate? Go to www.ramanas.org and click on "Donate Now."

RSVP: kathy@kathleencarroll.com

Why the Ramana's Garden Musical?

In Calcutta, 1970, an old man sat on the sidewalk with a newborn twin on each leg. The babies looked like wrinkled old men themselves as he fed them with a strange curved bottle with a nipple at each end – and begged for rupees.

I was young, horrified and overwhelmed by all the suffering I saw. I gave and gave to the beggars – ragged rail-thin children, blind people, cripples, starving babies -- until I realized, at the rate I was giving, I wouldn't have enough to get home. So I closed off my heart and my pocketbook.

Fast forward thirty-four years. Dr Prabhavati Dwabha came to Willow Street Yoga Center in Takoma Park. Suzie Hurley, its owner, had met Prabhavati in India at Ramana's Garden, a home for destitute children, and experienced firsthand the remarkable changes its founder Prabhavati, an American by birth, has made in these children's lives. At Ramana's Garden the children are radiantly healthy and happy and are receiving the highest quality of education, enabling them to contribute to their country, its people, and the environment.

When I met Prabhavati and learned of her work with children, who without her could be like the unfortunates I saw on the streets of Calcutta, the place in my heart I had kept closed all these years popped open. I went home and cried and cried for all the pain I had been holding at bay about the suffering in the world and in gratitude for one small way to help relieve it. A group of us formed a non-profit charity, Friends of Ramana's Garden, to support the continued care and education of these beautiful children.

But I wanted to do something else too, to delve into that conundrum many of us experience when we walk past the homeless person on the grate. Joan Cushing, my friend from high school, who has written musicals that play all over the USA and in London, agreed to take this on. Together we wrote a script and Joan created the music about Ramana's Garden based on real-life stories of its children. The musical addresses the reluctance people have in getting involved and, ultimately, the healing that comes from finding a way to give. In the play – and in real life – the children of Ramana's Garden give even more than they receive.

On July 16th at 7 PM at Adventure Theater in Glen Echo Park there will be an opportunity to meet Prabhavati and experience the story, songs, and Indian-flavored music of the Ramana's Garden Musical at a staged reading with a live band. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to support the children of Ramana's Garden. Please come and bring everyone you know who might find this worthwhile. We are also looking for sponsors and volunteers. Email me at kathy@kathleencarroll.com or call 202-723-2233. If you can't come, consider giving a donation to Ramana's Garden through the website at www.ramanas.org (click "Donate Now"). No amount is too small.

— Kathy Carroll