

James J. Lynn
“Rajarsi Janakananda”
in
Kansas City

“The balanced life of Mr. Lynn may serve as an inspiration for all men! Conscientiously discharging the duties of his worldly life, Mr. Lynn yet found time daily for deep meditation on God. The successful businessman became an illumined Kriya Yogi.”

Paramahansa Yogananda

Kansas City Meditation Group of SRF
3801 Gillham Road, P.O. Box 7053
Kansas City, MO 64113
816.799.5544
E-mail: coordinator@kcmeditation.com
Web: www.kcmeditation.com



The scriptures of India say that when a great master comes to the world with a God-ordained mission for the upliftment of humanity, he brings with him advanced disciples from past incarnations to assist his work. In a talk in 1942, Paramahansaji referred to this, saying: "A great saint in India used to cry, 'O my dear ones, where are you? Wherever you are, come to me.' And one by one they came as his disciples in this life. So it is with these close disciples around me: I knew them before... When I heard the name of Mr. Lynn I knew that I had known him before. I knew that such a one would be sent to me."

In a 1932 letter to ashram residents at Self-Realization Fellowship headquarters in Los Angeles, Paramahansaji wrote: "Lecture campaign work at Kansas City and meeting some of the most spiritual Yogoda students there has been one of the greatest happinesses of my life." Such was Rajarsi's receptivity that in that first meeting, in January 1932, the Guru was able to transmit to him the experience of Samadhi, ecstatic union with God. In a lecture in 1933, Paramahansaji said: "A wealthy Kansas City man, the first day we met, touched Christ Consciousness. His soul was ripe. When he received the Kriya technique he said, 'Life boils within my spine. That is the technique I have been seeking. I have found God.' He meditated six hours with me the first day."

Rajarsi Janakananda – A Great Western Yogi

Contributions to the Community

In addition to his spiritual and financial contributions to Self-Realization Fellowship, Rajarsi also contributed greatly to the Kansas City community. He had no desire to be remembered and made no effort to receive recognition for his contributions. He gave selflessly and was active in the community in which he lived.

Some of his contributions to the community included:

- A donation of 15 acres of land to the city, which became part of Swope Park.
- In 1943 he donated the Epperson House to the University of Missouri Kansas City.
- In the early 1950s Mr. Lynn sold the eastern part of his property to the new Research Medical Center for well below market value.
- In 1969, at his wife's death, donations were made in his memory to University of Missouri Kansas City; Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor of Kansas City and Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration of Kansas City. Other donations included Youth for Christ Organization and Church of the Nazarene.

Some of his activities included:

- He had a 100 acre estate between Sixty-third Street, Meyer Boulevard and Paseo and Prospect. There he had a nine-hole private golf-course, a forest, orchards and vineyards. He loved the outdoors.
- His home included an elaborate system of lighting which was ahead of it's time and included the ability to light his practice golf course.
- He was a banker and large stockholder of the Union National Bank as well as being a member of its board of directors.
- He was a director of the Kansas City Southern Railroad and the Peoples Trust Company.
- He served on the Kansas City park board and was a member of the Kansas City Club, the Kansas City Athletic Club, Mission Hills Country Club, Blue Hills Country Club, Automobile Club and the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity



3801 Gillham Rd, Kansas City, MO 64111

Pilgrim Chapel – Kansas City Meditation Group Meeting Place

1. Head **north** on **Gillham Rd** toward **E 38 St**
About 2 mins go 0.5 mi
total 0.5 mi
2. Continue onto **E Gillham Plaza** go 0.2 mi
total 0.7 mi
3. Turn **right** at **E Linwood Blvd**
Destination will be on the left
About 1 min go 0.3 mi
total 1.0 mi

Total: 1.0 mi – about 4 mins



900 E Linwood Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64109

Athenaeum Auditorium (Where Yogananda Spoke)

4. Head **west** on **E Linwood Blvd** toward **Campbell St**
About 1 min go 0.3 mi
total 0.3 mi
5. Turn **left** at **E Gillham Plaza**
About 1 min go 0.2 mi
total 0.5 mi
6. Continue onto **Gillham Rd**
About 4 mins go 1.1 mi
total 1.6 mi
7. Slight **left** to stay on **Gillham Rd**
About 2 mins go 0.5 mi
total 2.1 mi
8. Turn **left** at **E 45th St** go 0.1 mi
total 2.2 mi
9. Turn **right** at the 2nd cross street onto **Troost Ave**
Destination will be on the left
About 8 mins go 3.0 mi
total 5.1 mi

Total: 5.1 mi – about 16 mins



6901 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO 64131

Rajarsi Crypt

10. Head **north** on **Troost Ave** toward **E 68 St/E 68th St**
About 1 min go 0.7 mi
total 0.7 mi
11. Turn **right** at **E 63rd St**
About 2 mins go 0.7 mi
total 1.5 mi
12. Turn **right** at **Brooklyn Ave**
Destination will be on the right go 0.2 mi
total 1.7 mi

Total: 1.7 mi – about 3 mins



6440 Brooklyn Ave, Kansas City, MO 64132

Lynn Home

13. Head **north** on **Brooklyn Ave** toward **E 63rd St**
go 0.2 mi
total 0.2 mi
14. Turn **left** at **E 63rd St**
About 2 mins go 0.7 mi
total 0.9 mi
15. Turn **right** at **Troost Ave**
About 2 mins go 1.0 mi
total 1.9 mi
16. Turn **left** at **E 55th St**
About 1 min go 0.2 mi
total 2.1 mi

17. Turn **right** at **Holmes St**
About 1 min go 0.3 mi
total 2.4 mi



5200 Cherry St, Kansas City, MO 64110

Epperson House

18. Turn **left** at **E 52nd St**
Destination will be on the right go 0.1 mi
total 2.6 mi

Total: 2.6 mi – about 7 mins



6400 Lewis Road in Swope Park –15 acres of land was donated by James J. Lynn to the city to become part of Swope Park.

Research Medical Center - 2316 E. Meyer Blvd., Kansas City, MO – In the early 1950's Mr. Lynn sold the eastern part of his property for the research center.



Nazarene World Headquarters - 6401 Paseo – In the same timeframe Mr. Lynn sold the western third of his estate to the Nazarene Church.



Sertoma International and Foundation – 1912 E. Meyer Blvd. – Within a year of his passing, the Lynn family mansion burned to the ground. James J. Lynn’s widow built this smaller mansion to the south of the original home. After her passing in 1968 the home was acquired by Sertoma International and Foundation, a service organization which is there today. It is believed that the building sits in the middle of what had been Rajarsi’s private 9-hole golf course.

Prayer Tree - Behind Sertoma International is a pine tree that Sertoma officials call the Prayer Tree. In the past, Sertoma witnessed prayer services being held around this tree. This tree may have been on Rajarsi's private golf course. Perhaps SRF monastics or those that knew him personally made trips to this location in memory.



WELCOME TO KANSAS CITY!

It was in Kansas City that James J. Lynn met his Guru, Paramahansa Yogananda in 1932. Mr. Lynn, or Saint Lynn as Yogananda often called him, was to become one of his foremost disciples and throughout his lifetime his business endeavors and financial success allowed him to play an instrumental role in placing Self-Realization Fellowship on a sound financial footing. He lived and worked in Kansas City for most of his life, and his body is entombed at Forest Hill Cemetery in Kansas City.

This booklet is intended to guide you in your pilgrimage to the sites associated with Rajarsi Janakananda and Paramahansa Yogananda. We hope that you will find it helpful as you follow in the footsteps of these blessed souls.

In divine friendship,

Kansas City Meditation Group of SRF

Other Sites

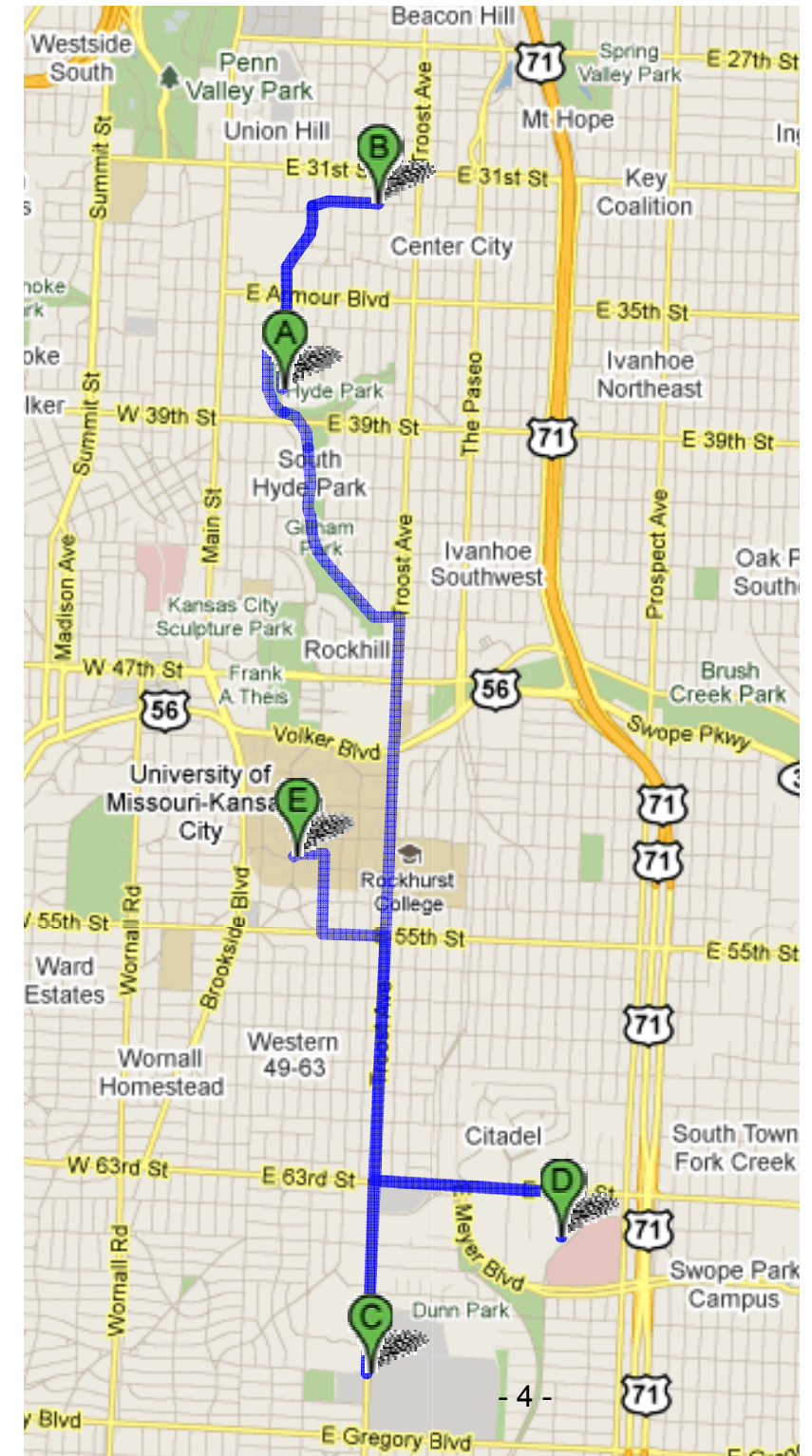


R.A. Long Building – James J. Lynn’s company office – 928 Grand Ave., Kansas City, MO (northwest corner of Tenth and Grand Avenue).

Universal Underwriters Insurance Company (UUI) – 5115 Oak Street, Kansas City, MO. UUI was formed in 1922 with Mr. Lynn as owner, to insure auto dealerships nationwide.



Lynn’s nephew, Eugene Lynn and business associates dedicated the building to the memory of James J. Lynn in 1960. His likeness appeared in a plaque in the entryway. The building is now part of the UMKC campus and is the Administrative Center.



Athenaeum Auditorium **900 E. Linwood, Kansas City, MO**



In January 1932, Paramahansa Yogananda spoke at the Athenaeum Auditorium for thirteen nights. James J. Lynn attended these lectures, and it was here that he first met his Guru.

Paramahansa Yogananda later bestowed on him the spiritual title and name of Rajarsi Janakananda and said that Rajarsi was a siddha yogi (a perfected being). The Guru said that Rajarsi advanced quickly because he knew how to listen. Rajarsi became SRF's President when Paramahansa Yogananda passed in 1952 until the time of his passing in 1955.



Epperson House **5200 Cherry, Kansas City, MO**

Mr. Epperson was greatly impressed with young Lynn, who bought Epperson Underwriting Company from him when Mr. Epperson wished to retire. Epperson Underwriting insured a nation-wide empire of lumber yards started by R. A. Long of Kansas City. This business became Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance, which is still a part of the Lynn Insurance Group.

U.S. Epperson left his mansion to James J. Lynn in his will. James Lynn donated it to the University of Missouri at Kansas City (UMKC) in 1943. This was during the years of World War II when space was needed to house Naval Cadets at the University.



The front gateway, which still stands today, is located at 1800 E. Meyer Blvd. The fence surrounded the 100 acre property. This back gate, located at 6440 Brooklyn Ave. is about 100 yards east of where the main house stood.



Front gate and fence.



Left: This line of cut trees marks the driveway in front of the old Lynn mansion.

Below: Back gate.



Swami Yogananda's Lecture Schedule

First Series: 8 Soul-Stirring Free Lectures

Sunday	January 10, 1932	Everlasting Youth
Monday	January 11, 1932	How to Get What You Need (New Law of Success)
Tuesday	January 12, 1932	Developing Dynamic Power of Will for Lasting Success
Wednesday	January 13, 1932	Greatest Science of Healing
Thursday	January 14, 1932	Law of Attracting Abundance and Health Consciously
Friday	January 15, 1932	Highest Technique of Meditation
Saturday	January 16, 1932	Spiritual Marriage (How to scientifically attract your ideal life companion)
Sunday	January 17, 1932	Highest Science of Superconcentration and All Round Success—Yogoda

Kansas City Demands! 5 More Free Lectures

Wednesday	January 27, 1932	How to Develop Personal Magnetism
Thursday	January 28, 1932	Developing Dynamics of Divine Love and Real Human Love
Friday	January 29, 1932	Art of Attracting Prosperity According to Superconscious Law
Saturday	January 30, 1932	How to Analyze People at Sight (Using the Mental Microscope)
Sunday	January 31, 1932	Super-Science and Art of Concentration for Real Success

The Lynn Home
6440 Brooklyn Avenue, Kansas City, MO



Following is an example of how the ads were placed in the movie section. Can you spot the ad?

THE KANSAS CITY STAR, SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1932.

FAMILY—THE NEW EL DOMINGO.

THE GREAT NEW LIBERTY

Now! **LADIES OF THE BIG HOUSE** with STONEY LIND BATHING

Now! **RAINBOW TRAIL** with JAMES GAGNEY and O'BRIEN

OAK PARK **Penrod and Sam** TOMORROW IN PENROD

BAGDAD **Bagdad** in "OUTDOOR"

MURRAY **Murray** in "RIGHT OF WAY"

ROANOKE **Roanoke** in "THE LIGHTNING FLYER"

MARY LUE **Mary Lue** in "MIN AND BILLY"

COLONIAL **Colonial** in "BALKONIA OF THE DRAGON"

SOUTH TROST **Penrod and Sam**

MADRID **Madrid** in "TWENTY-FOUR HOURS"

LINDBROUGH **Lindbrough** in "The Spider"

TIVOLI **Tivoli** in "The Spider"

CHIEF **Chief** in "The Spider"

STRAND **Strand** in "MOTHER'S MILLIONS"

PROSPECT **Prospect** in "ROAD TO SINGAPORE"

BIJOU **Bijou** in "The Spider"

CIRCUS **Circus** in "The Spider"

COMING TOMORROW **Swami Yogananda, A. B.** "EVERLASTING YOUTH"

PLAZA **Plaza** in "EAST OF BORNEO"

1515 **1515** in "BLONDE CRAZ"

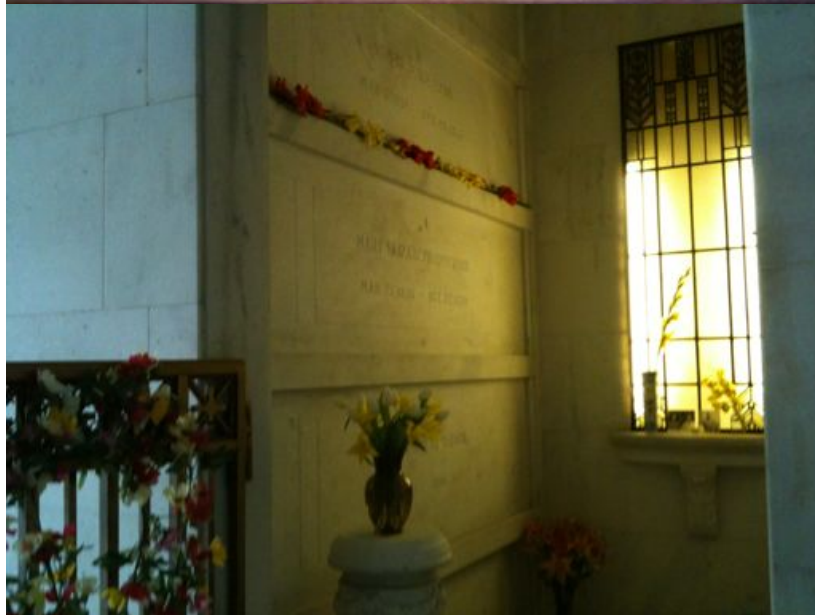
APOLLO **Apollo** in "WARWICK"

MOKAN **Mokan** in "POCATELLO KID"

LINWOOD **Linwood** in "ROCK HILL"

James J. Lynn Crypt – Forest Hill Cemetery 6901 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO

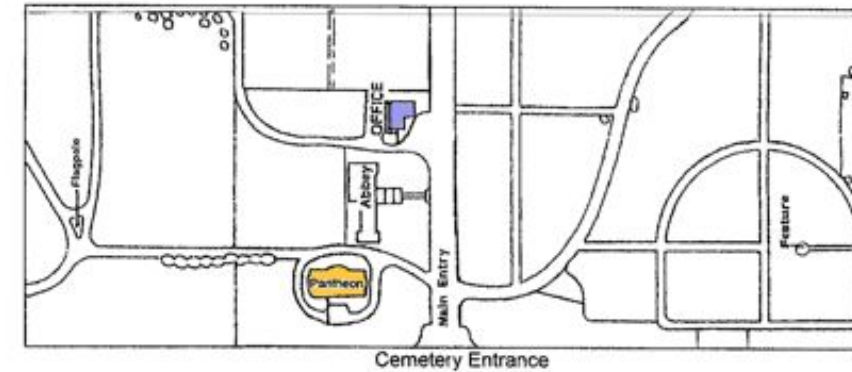
James J. Lynn, May 5, 1892 – February 20, 1955
 Revered president, 1952 – 1955, of Self-Realization Fellowship and Yogoda Satsanga Society of India. Ideal disciple of Paramahansa Yogananda for more than twenty-three years.



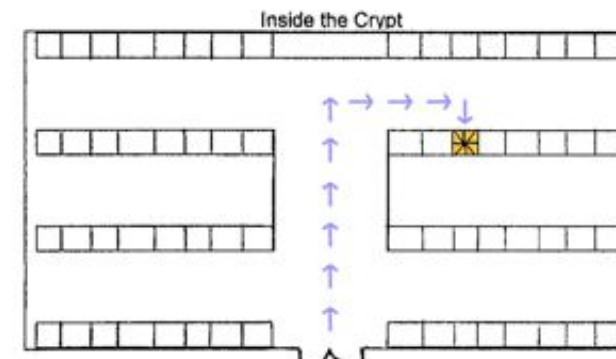
The crypt of James J. Lynn can be found at Forest Hill Cemetery in the Pantheon Building, U.S. Epperson Room. Flowers are placed here on behalf of Sri Daya Mata and Self-Realization Fellowship four times each year. The Kansas City Meditation Group checks and maintains the crypt regularly.

Directions to James J. Lynn crypt at Forest Hill Cemetery
 6901 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 816-523-2114
 Office Hours: 9–5 Monday through Friday; Saturday 9–4

Proceed to the cemetery office and ask for the key to the Pantheon.



Unlock the door, open and secure with hook at the bottom of the door to prop the door open. Lights are on the right side as you enter the building. The crypt is located in the Southeast section of the building. Proceed to the U.S. Epperson room. There is a light above the gate as you enter the crypt.



Remember to turn out the lights, lock the door and return the key to the office.