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GLADWYNE *Living*

A SOCIAL MAGAZINE EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF GLADWYNE



*Meet the Dodge Family and
Crew of Zavino Wine Bar Pizzeria*



Photo by Heather Braver

MEET YOUR neighbors

The Richest Man in Gladwyne

Photos by Alex Lowy Photography LLC
Feature written by Resident Reporter, Heather Braver

When Philosopher Ashok Gangadean jests that he is the “wealthiest man in Gladwyne,” he is referring to his wealth of access to wisdom and enlightenment. “Enlightenment is not just for buddhas and yogis and krishnas, it is for everyone,” says Gangadean.

A world-renowned Professor of Philosophy at Haverford College for 45 years, Gangadean is awake and aware on the highest level. Unlike most Americans, his clarity is not a result of a Starbucks coffee buzz, but rather daily shots of meditation and a constant feeling of connection to nature and people.

Nature is easy to appreciate while sitting on the deck of his Gladwyne home on a beautiful fall afternoon. 72 year old Gangadean is striking, dressed in a navy blue pinstripe suit and tie, his deep tan skin a lovely contrast to his long, white hair. Running and tennis at the Gladwyne playground help him keep fit, as does hands-on yard work. “I’ve never hired a landscaper. This is sacred ground and I feel fortunate to tend to it.”

Gangadean and his wife, Laurie, enjoy a two-story temple in their home in which they meditate, read, and dialogue together.



His five grown children are all graduates of Harrilton High School. Their professions range from airline captain to crisis counselor, musician, lawyer, and yoga guru.

Gangadean is one of the most popular professors at Haverford College where eager students clamor for a spot in his coveted classes. This fall he is teaching Hindu Philosophy and Global Ethics.

Last year, the women’s lacrosse coach solicited the professor’s help to teach players how to get in the zone. “A truly successful athlete is not an ego or me player, but a team player. It takes a unified field. It’s about connection, team, and flow.”

That is Gangadean’s philosophy off the field as well, “An ego-based culture promotes war globally and within ourselves.” Self-centered living, or “single-bracket living” as he calls it, “causes health to decline.”

Gangadean’s father was one of the pioneers of yoga. He was free spirited, but opinionated, “My father felt that he knew best and stipulated that I become an engineer.” Unhappy but compliant, Ashok went to the City College of New York and signed up for classes to please his dad. But his heart led him elsewhere, “I cut my scheduled classes and snuck off to philosophy class.” He was hooked for life and went on to complete his PhD in Philosophy at Brandeis University.

Despite an incredibly busy schedule and many titles including author, television show host, and co-chair of the World Wisdom Counsel, Gangadean always takes time to smell the roses.

“I love 19035!” Gangadean gushes, “It is such a charming town with the pharmacy, the park, the hardware store, The Guard House Inn restaurant. I feel privileged to be in this town, this sanctuary to do my writing and meditation.”

For more information or to contact Ashok directly, please visit his website @ www.awakeningmind.org

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