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## American Influences Help Redefine Practice of Yoga



Photographs by Fred LeBlanc for The New York Times

David Life and Sharon Gannon, the founders of a Manhattan yoga center that has become a favorite of rock stars, joined other prominent yoga instructors in teaching and sharing ideas at a conference in Lenox, Mass.

LENOX, Mass. — Many of America's masters recently descended upon the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health here for a conference on "The New American Yoga."

Sharon Gannon and David Life, the founders of the favored rock star hangout, Jivamukti Yoga in Manhattan, came to teach and stump for animal rights.

The Kripalu conference often felt like a strictly religious gathering, with chanting, meditation, and talks like Ms. Gannon's, a discourse on the relationship between ahimsa, the Hindu ethic of nonharming, and animal rights.