



MATAGIRI SRI AUROBINDO CENTER

1218 Wittenberg Road, Mount Tremper NY 12457
845.679-8322 matagiri@aol.com www.matagiri.org

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2002

We are disgusted with the world as it is - and we have the POWER to change it. But we are such fools that we can't bring ourselves to abdicate our silly little personality to ... to let the Marvel unfold. And that's all accumulated in the subconscious: everything we have rejected is there, and now it must be brought in contact with the transforming Force ... so that this unconsciousness may come to an end.

-The Mother, Agenda Vol. 13 19th July, 1972

Matagiri – The Next Step

Next year marks the 125th anniversary of Mira Alfassa's birth, known to us as The Mother of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram. It is also Matagiri's 35th birthday. We will celebrate with the formal transfer of the title of the land from the Foundation for World Education to Matagiri Sri Aurobindo Center. From its founding in 1968 by Sam Spanier and Eric Hughes, through the stewardship for the past ten years by the FWE, Matagiri owes a great debt of gratitude to all those who have supported the center with their love, work and financial support.

We want to improve our existing infrastructure, beautifying the entrance and landscaping. We want our library to be an archive of correspondence with American disciples. We want to continue making Matagiri a vibrant resource for the integral yoga in America. We look forward to providing accommodations, a new meditation space and meeting hall in the coming years. This is only possible with your active participation.

Garland of Visitors

With the US hosting the Auroville International meeting this year in California and Sri Aurobindo Center Southeast inviting an extraordinary list of speakers for the All USA Meeting (AUM), we benefited from a constant flow of dear friends in the yoga. **Prof.**

Mangesh Nadkarni gave talks at Matagiri and at the home of **Prof. Jagdish Vyas** in New Jersey, staying until the AUM in August.

Tara Jauhar, director of the Delhi Branch of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, completed a visit to the U.S. cut short in 1985 by the untimely passing of her father. She brought two recently published treasures, her own reminiscence called *Growing up with Mother* and *Psychic Education a Workbook* for those interested in the Free Progress system of education written by **Neeltje Huppés**. Tara's accomplishments at the Delhi Ashram are inspiring, but more moving is her straightforward approach and humility. She charmed us with her description of how Pavitra made flash cards to



Guy Ryckaert speaks in the Matagiri Library on August Darshan

teach the first children at the Ashram the spiritual significance Mother gave to flowers and continued over many years.

Guy Ryckaert once again sought to protect Auroville from land speculation by asking for support from all across the U.S. giving talks and meeting with anyone open to learning more about this crisis. The scale of the threat requires a much more professional approach to fund raising and the support from foundations. Fortunately, **Dian Kiser**, a professional fund raiser long associated with AVI USA in California, who has years of experience in grant writing, is willing to work part time on this project. We hope some far-

sighted donors will see funding her salary as an effective investment in the future of Auroville. AVIUSA is currently in a race to complete a \$100 per person matching fund before the end of the year. www.aviusa.org

Bhavana Dee, representing Auroville Village Action also spent time at Matagiri, sharing her enormous good will



Renu Ray performs in Savitri Dance Drama

and networking with individuals and organizations interested in her work providing social services and income opportunities to the villagers. Her magnum opus

is a strategy for bioregional planning involving local panchayats and NGOs in an overall strategy. Those of you who get Auroville Today, the excellent monthly newsletter, may have read the recent articles on water resources which speak forcefully to the need for comprehensive planning. After all, "we all live downstream" on this water planet.

Our year rounded out in music and dance. **Barun Kumar Pal**, the accomplished student of Ravi Shankar, played hansa veena for Sri Aurobindo's birthday at Matagiri. In November, Sri Aurobindo Yoga Foundation of North America (www.sayfna.com) collaborated with **Renu Ray** and her teacher, Dr. Alakananda to present a dance drama in bharatanatyam style based on Sri Aurobindo's *Savitri*. The company came from Toronto along with **Devan Nair** who gave a wonderful opening explication, setting the atmosphere of the performance that was enhanced and sustained by an extraordinary narration by Renu's husband, **Neeti Prakash Ray**.

Prof. Jagdish Vyas worked tirelessly to bring disciples from New Jersey to the Hindu Temple in Queens with their excellent facilities. Attending the performance was **Mohan Mistry**, whom we last hosted when he traveled in North America with Champaklal. Mohan came to Woodstock to perform bhajans with Ray Spiegel on tablas. His performance was meditative and memorable. He was kind to return for 24th November to sing for those gathered for Darshan accompanied by **Pankaj Mehta** on tablas.

AUM 2002

An all-star lineup graced the All USA meeting in South Carolina, with **Manoj Das, Mangesh Nadkarni** and **Aloke Pandey** pouring out their accumulated wisdom and light. **Richard Hartz**, from the Archives Department and **Debashish Banerji**, from East West Cultural Center, gave scholarly presentations.

Don Salmon, who is living in Greenville and working on his book on integral psychology, took time off to give a talk.



Arthur, Dara, Ila, Robert and Martha



Savitri Aces: Debashish, Mangesh, Richard and Narad

Tara Jauhar charmed us with stories of her early days with Mother as she had a few weeks earlier at Matagiri. In



Willing Servitors

Greenville, she added a wonderful presentation on the Delhi Branch of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, whose twin stars are

Mother's International School, recognized as the best in the city and among the top five in the nation, and Mirambeka, based on the Free Progress System used in the Sri Aurobindo International Center of Education in Pondicherry.

Bhavana and Guy made presentations on Auroville and **Lynda Lester** brought her wit and insight to the Greenville audience, but perhaps the most impressive part of the meeting was the

karma yoga service from the entire Rama extended family. Their hospitality and attention to detail made one of the largest and most ambitious schedules (morning yoga at 7am and some talks running past 11 pm) come off smoothly.



Rama Family Morning Planning Session

AUM 2003

As we end the 100th birth year of Dr. Judith Tyberg, or Jyotipriya, and look forward to the 50th anniversary of the East West Cultural Center, now known as the Sri Aurobindo Center of Los Angeles, it is only fitting to gather in California next year. The All USA meeting will be held at the same venue as that of the Los Angeles AUM in 1993 - Loyola Marymount University, a stone's throw from the L.A. airport, Memorial Weekend May 22nd -26th. While the participants have yet to confirm, we do know the gathering will end with a glorious concert by brothers Rajan and Sajan Misra, the acclaimed classical and devotional singers from Varanasi. Watch for details at www.collaboration.org

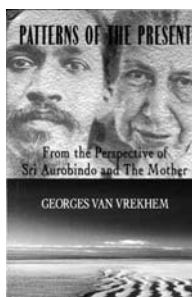


Growing up with the Mother

\$9.95 Pb 222 pp

Tara Jauhar had the privilege of close proximity to the Mother for many years. This book is a collection of correspondence, messages and conversations of the Mother with Tara, "showing how the Mother patiently and persistently helped and guided a young girl towards

the discovery of her inner being and held out Her ever helping hand, nurtured her growth, and led her on to the path of spirituality".



Patterns of the Present

BY GEORGES VAN VREKHEM

\$10 pb 238 pp.

The present situation of humanity in the perspective of the evolutionary vision of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother: the meaning of history, the globalization of our planet, the values represented by East and West, their meeting and reciprocal fertilization, the future evolution of mankind - all these and more are presented in a fresh, often surprising perspective.

Psychic Education

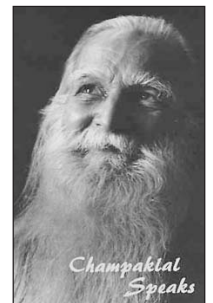
by Neeltje Huppés 284 pp. \$9.95

A workbook based on the writings of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother for educators, parents and seekers.

Champaklal Speaks

\$14 400 pp

New edition edited by Roshan (based on Champaklal Speaks edited by M. P. Pandit) incorporates revisions Champaklal made in the first two editions, translations of new episodes published in the Gujarati edition and eleven reminiscences and Sri Aurobindo's correspondence with Champaklal, published in Champaklal's Treasures. Includes color plates, photos and facsimiles. Champaklal served as personal attendant to Sri Aurobindo and Mother and was infused with them.



Consciousness and its Transformation

EDITED BY MATTHIJS CORNELISSEN

\$16 400 pp. Index.

Papers presented at the Second International Conference on Integral Psychology. A wonderful convergence of scholars from India and the U.S.

DHYANA \$14 CD

Devotional Songs on The Mother and Sri Aurobindo by Mohan Mistry: Om Namoh Bhagavate, Adya Shakti Maa Meera, Jai Vandana Gurudev, Jai Jai Ma, Mama Sharanam, Twama Mama Mata, Chalane Ka Varadan Do, Hey Anant Divay Purush, Tum Padharo Maa. Over one hour in length with harmonium, santoor, sitar, flute, synthesizer, tabla.

And Long and Dark Shall Be the Night

THE KARMA OF TIBET BY CLAUDE ARPI

\$4 pb 93 pp. \$2 s&h

In 1932, a year before his death, the Thirteenth Dalai Lama has prophesied that Tibet would have to go through difficult times. The present study, through a very down-to-earth chronological narration, tries to get some insight into the forces at work and the larger implications of some of the events which occurred in Tibet during the first part of the twentieth century. Includes excerpts from interviews with a number of lamas including H.H. the Dalai Lama and research in British archives. International Pavilions series.



How My Garden Grew

BY PRIYA VINCENT

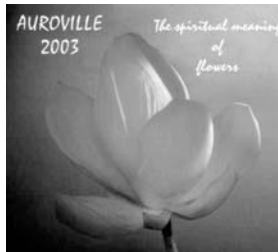
204 pp. photos, glossary \$14

In the early part of the year 2000 I moved to a piece of land in Auroville which I called 'Buddha Garden'. Here I planned to answer the call of the earth - 'to empower her fruitfulness' - by growing organic vegetables for the community. 'How My Garden Grew' documents how the garden came into being and took shape during the first year of its existence: How the day-by-day work in the garden enabled me to experience what sustainability might mean - for the earth, the community and for myself.

BOOK ORDERS:

Please include \$3 for the first item and \$1 for each additional item and mail your check payable to: Pondicherry, PO Box 676, Woodstock NY 12498

For credit card orders call toll free: 800-815-1969



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7½ x 8¼ Free Standing Desk Calendar \$10 plus \$2 S&H
12 beautiful flowers and their significance given by Mother. Large flower photo faces out. Calendar, small flower photo

and next month faces you. Days of the week run horizontally with phases of the moon

Matrimandir Wall Calendar

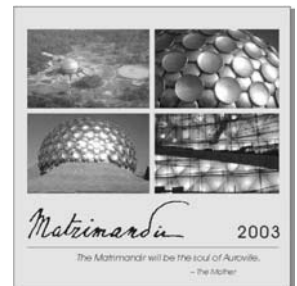
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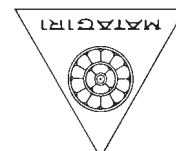
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www.matagiri.org
matagiri@aol.com
845.679.8322
Mt. Temper NY 12457
1218 Wittenberg Road

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