



MATAGIRI SRI AUROBINDO CENTER

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NEWSLETTER WINTER 2003

"To open a centre is not sufficient in itself. It must be the pure hearth of perfect sincerity, in a total consecration to the Divine."

-The Mother



Progress

Through the generosity of the Foundation for World Education Board (FWE) and the collaboration and support of Sam Spanier and Eric Hughes, the land we know as Matagiri is now under the ownership of Matagiri Sri Aurobindo Center, Inc. (MSAC).

MSAC is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization directed by a Board of Trustees. We have in Woodstock the good fortune of a very competent lawyer who donated his services in order to effect the transfer of the property from the Foundation for World Education nonprofit to the Matagiri nonprofit.

In the fall, we had two meetings at Matagiri: one with Bernie and Betty Roseman and one with Bhuvana Nandakumar and Narad Eggenberger. Bernie and Bhuvana have special expertise in nonprofit organizations and Narad knows plants and landscaping. We worked on understanding Matagiri's strengths and weaknesses, mission and vision, priorities and goals.

Narad, who had visited last year after the death of his beloved partner, Mary Helen, had worked for years on the Matrimandir Gardens under Mother's direct guidance. He



Lotus given by Lodi Center



Matagiri Board of Trustees with Sam and Eric Danielle, Tim, Eric, Sam, Aditya, Karen, Wendy & Julian

offered to help us beautify the entrance to Matagiri. This would include landscaping, a tasteful sign and safer views of oncoming traffic. Narad made a generous donation towards a tractor to help us with our work. We hope others will match his gift.

The future maintenance and growth of the center will require more people living and working on the land. Facilities for permanent residents and short and long term guests would make it easier for people to offer their services and use Matagiri's resources.

All in all, it has been a momentous year and we are grateful for the spiritual and material support so many of you have given to make this moment possible. We count on your continued interest and involvement.



Sam, Krishna Das and Eric

When Jeff Kagel was 19 and a student at SUNY, New Paltz and living with Robin and Stephen Larsen on their property, he got inspired by Ram Das and started on his spiritual quest. That seeking led him to Matagiri and Muriel Spanier, who he remembers fondly. Now Jeff is known as KD, short for Krishna Das, and is famous for his kirtan (devotional call and response

chanting) around the world. He spontaneously offered to do a benefit concert for Matagiri a few years ago. But KD is hard to nail down. One inquiry brought the response, "He's in Tuscany with Sting". But last April he filled the Bearsville Theater for a performance and had a warm visit with Sam and Eric. He reminisced, "When I was first on the spiritual path, I came to Matagiri. They gave generously of their time and answered my questions and asked for nothing in return. I'm glad to be able to give something back."



Wendy's Yoga Class on Matagiri's birthday

35th Birthday Party and Darshan

Matagiri celebrated its 35th birthday on August 2nd with an open house and observed Sri Aurobindo's birthday two weeks later with the official announcement of the transfer of the land. As the archives of the library (correspondence with Mother, cards,

books and personal items which already include a tea set and a pillow used by the Mother) are an important part of Matagiri's work, Julian presented a letter written by Sri Aurobindo which he inherited from Marjorie Spalding. He hopes that other devotees would make a similar gesture or a provision in their will to make sure precious articles and documents such as this are not lost.



Harshad Patel and family

11/17/2003

Was the 30th anniversary of Mother's passing. Her memory was invoked by playing a video created by Tara Jauhar from the Sri Aurobindo Ashram Delhi Branch. Using the audio portion of an interview between Mother and her father, Surendranath, Tara

intimate photos, creating the feeling of being in the room. All in attendance felt a powerful presence. The 17th was also the 100th birthday of Nirodbaran, known for his two books *Twelve Years with Sri Aurobindo* and *Correspondence with Sri Aurobindo*. They are among the most intimate accounts of discipleship illustrating Sri Aurobindo's personality and sense of humor.

moved the camera through many of her

November 24th Darshan

Madhumita Patnaik, a dance teacher at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, performed a benefit concert of Odissi dance for Matagiri before an enthusiastic Woodstock audience. Her grace and power enchanted young and old alike. Especially moving were her own interpretations of a Tagore poem and a passage from Shankaracharya.

The following day, historian Peter Heehs shared his insights on the signifi-

cance of this "Siddhi Day", engaging those present in an interesting dialogue about the major realizations in Sri Aurobindo's life. Robert and Nena Thurman, who direct Tibet House (www.tibethouse.org) in New York and Menla Mountain Retreat (formerly the Pathworks Center where we've held our AUM meetings) in Phoenicia, joined us for our meditation and a warm visit over lunch.



Madhumita Patnaik

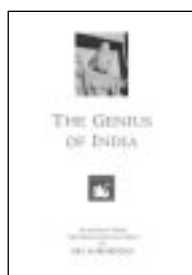
VIDEOS • CALENDARS • BOOKS • CDs

The Genius of India

VHS Videocassette
30 minutes \$19.95
booklet \$3

Auroville Press has created a highly acclaimed video based on an essay by Sri Aurobindo. Rajeev Srinivasan gave the following enthusiastic review on Rediff.com:

I would like to recommend an incredible CD/Videotape named *The Genius of India*, a labor of love by Christine, Olivier, and Serge, of Auroville, near Pondicherry. It is a stunning introduction to the wonder that is Indian culture; with the words of Sri Aurobindo



recited by strong male and female voices with the backdrop of exquisite photographs and music.

The photographs are outstanding; they show with immediate, vivid intensity the creativity and originality of Indian art; the beauty of the Indian landscape; and the grace of gesture and ritual among the general public. The sound track is even more amazing: from stonecutters' chisels, to ringing temple bells, to a crystalline voice singing a Sanskrit hymn.

Yet, we watch video and we realize how little we know of the spiritual and artistic legacy of the ancient culture of India. I believe every schoolchild in India should be shown this video.



2004 *Matrimandir* *Calendar*

12 photos of Matrimandir with project descriptions \$12

2004 *Auroville* *Single Photo* *Calendar*

Matrimandir Dawn with Gladiola 14 x 19
3 months panel
4.5 x 19 beneath photo \$4



Antithesis of Yoga

The Antithesis of Yoga

BY JOCELYN

hardbound 450 pages \$25

"Antithesis of Yoga" is a road story, one hippie mama's view of a parade of extraordinary people in the Ashram and the pioneers of Auroville. While some names are changed (to protect the guilty?), they still exude a certain radiance and intensity of personality. If you happen to have known some of these folks, it only amplifies the anecdotes and stories bringing back fond (and paradoxical) memories. A number of times, the reader laughs and is inspired, uplifted and grateful Jocelyn has shared her journey.

Being Consciousness Bliss:

A Seeker's Guide

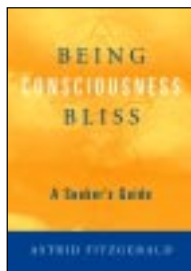
BY ASTRID

FITZGERALD

383 pp \$24

As a primer to living a conscious life, this thoughtful compendium of quotes and insights maps out the "perennial wisdom". It includes a number of quotes from

Sri Aurobindo, Vivekananda and Shankara as well as the classical texts along with Emerson, Thoreau and the Western esoteric tradition. It gives a clear and compelling account of the true inner structure of the human being and how it may be developed to its full potential.



Essays for the New Millennium

BY ROD HEMSELL 198 PP.

plus Rod's Solar Dome CD Recording of Sri Aurobindo's "The Yoga of the King" with musical accompaniment.

Essays include:

Ken Wilber and Sri Aurobindo - A Critical Perspective

Whitehead, Heidegger and Sri Aurobindo
Auroville - Money and the Millennium

Spirituality in Healing

Spirituality and Education

The Bush Doctrine

On the Divine Mother: A Mystery and a Prophecy

Proceeds from books sales will go to the SOLAR BRIDGE, a conference center and guest house in Crestone, near the Solar Dome and Savitri House

The book and CD set will normally retail for \$14.95 and \$9.95 but is available as a \$20 package.

An Evolutionary Agenda for the Third Millennium

A primer for the mutation of consciousness

BY ALAN SASHA

LITHMAN

paperback 214 pp.

\$16.95

Savitra has written a new book which everyone interested in this yoga, Auroville and understanding our collective birth pangs should read. Endorsements by Matthew Fox, Barbera Marx Hubbard, Michael Toms and Michael Murphy:

Here is a passionate, bold, thought-provoking new vision for the future - a pioneering book that bridges the chasm between spiritual and material, inner and outer, seeker and activist, scientist and mystic, in what the author calls "an applied evolutionary research". Filled with great feeling, insight, and metaphysical wit, this daring thought experiment helps us make sense of who we are and what we can become.

Michael Murphy, author, The Future of the Body, Golf in the Kingdom; founder, Esalen Institute



Indian Religions

A Historical Reader of Spiritual Expression and Experience

EDITED BY

PETER HEEHS

604 pp Paperback \$23

Indian Religions is an expansive collection of the key written and oral texts by spiritual teachers from South Asia, covering 3,500 years and all the major traditions-Buddhism, Jainism, Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, and "new" Indian religions.

The volume provides clear translations of extracts from original documents and texts from most of the well known and many of the lesser known individuals and traditions.



Auroville Today

15 year Anniversary

The monthly journal of Auroville celebrates its 15th year. With excellent photographs and writing, AV Today is the best way to keep in touch with all the interesting and important issues facing the community. An airmail subscription is \$38 and worth every penny.

Mantra Candles for Matagiri

As a last minute gift giving idea or lovely adornment to your own home, these lightly scented votives made in Auroville will be appreciated all year long. Made in Auroville. Four fragrances: Morning, Afternoon, Evening, Night Proceeds benefit Matagiri. \$3 each.



Living Colours

CD \$16

NADAKA AND THE BASARAV

BROTHERS

Nadaka- Guitar,

Balasai - Flute,

Ragavendra - Violin

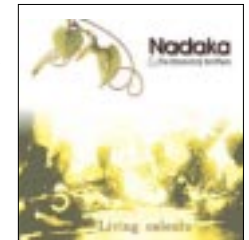
Sivaramakrishna -

Sitar, Ganesh - Tabla,

Ramakrishnan - Mridangam ,Kanjira and

Ghatam.

Canadian born Nadaka is a highly successful world musician who brings a deep understanding of carnatic music and its sensibilities into a North/South East/West fusion. His music has been included in most of the Auroville videos. His latest CD is a wonderful collaboration creating an all-acoustic delight.



Hymns and Songs in Sanskrit

CD \$16

Sacred chanting by Joy, with eleven texts including two mantras from Sri Aurobindo. Joy is accompanied by: Bryce - flute, Aurelio - conch, Krishna - tabla, Nadaka - additional vocals and Holger - all other accompaniments.

Order and Donation Information:

Credit card orders are processed through Pondicherry in Woodstock, NY and can be made toll free at 800.815.1969. Checks for videos, calendars and AV Today should include \$3 for 1st item, \$1 each add'l item for S&H. Make payable to AVIUSA and send to PO Box 676, Woodstock NY 12498.

Donations may be made online with a credit card at www.networkforgood.org for both Matagiri and Auroville or directly on the AVIUSA Website www.aviusa.org

Checks for Matagiri should be sent to 1218 Wittenberg Rd, Mt. Tremper NY 12457

Donations for Auroville may be sent via Matagiri or to AVIUSA, PO Box 877, Santa Cruz CA 95061

Please include a note if you wish to support a particular project (ie Land Fund, Matrimandir, Matagiri Landscaping, Birthday Gift, etc).



Anupamma and Wendy at Pondicherry

Auroville News

Bhavana Dee DeCew has been on a national tour meeting with students, seniors, Rotary Clubs and anyone else open to the story of Auroville in general and Village Action in particular. Armed with a number of excellent videos, she is opening

minds to the importance of uplifting the villages, empowering women and protecting and restoring the Auroville Bioregion. She will be staying at Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham in Lodi, CA if you could support her work and want to be in touch please contact her at 209-339-1342 or email (bhavana@auroville.org.in).

Land Million dollar Campaign and Estate Planning

Atremendous effort has gone into reaching out to those who wish to help purchase critical pieces of the Auroville Land. The grass roots campaign to reach a million dollars is well on its way with the deadline to pledge extended to February 21st 2004, so you still have the opportunity to raise some portion of the goal.

For those who want to put off their giving until they've move onto their next incarnation can participate in a planned giving program. If you did not receive an information packet, please contact us or visit the AVIUSA website: www.aviusa.org

Auroville news on the web search www.loe.org and www.hinduonnet.com

Sri Aurobindo Center South East, Inc.

CELEBRATES ITS

10th Anniversary by hosting All USA Meeting 2004

July 29, 2004 to August 1, 2004

Furman University Campus Greenville, South Carolina

The theme of this year's conference is "Integral Yoga in Daily Life - A Practice & Approach" Please mark your calendars. Updates will be posted at <http://collaboration.org/Aum.html>



Anie and Ulli at Matagiri

Architect, Anupamma Kundu, gave a talk in Woodstock on "green architecture" and walked the Matagiri land to assess some of our dreams for the future. Gillian brought some of her bead masterpieces from her workshop, Bijou, to show in New York. And founder of Aurolec, Ulrich Blass, visited with his son, Samvit, who is

working in nearby Stamford. We hope to see Ila and daughters, Mahi and Dakshina, before the year is out and discuss the Auroville International meeting to be held in Brazil, June 2004. (www.auroville-international.org)



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