

Auroville News

No:969

December 14th, 2002

Residents' Assembly

to implement the Resolution
passed by the RA on 30th September 2002
for a new organization at the Matrimandir

and call for a TORA
to propose solutions on all pending issues.

Monday, 23rd December, 5 PM

Sri Aurobindo World Center for Human Unity S.A.W.C.H.U.

This proposal is for an enlargement, not a replacement of the present management structure and work team. It is meant to include all those who are presently working on the site as well as all who would like to join in the work there.

HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA

L'OEUVRE DIVINE

Cette oeuvre, aucune règle de fabrication mentale, aucune norme humaine ne peut la fixer, car sa conscience est sortie de la loi et des limites humaines pour passer dans une liberté divine, elle a quitté le gouvernement de l'extérieur et du transitoire pour entrer en la règle spontanée de l'intérieur et de l'éternel, elle a laissé la servitude des formes du fini pour vivre dans la libre détermination de l'Infini. « De quelque manière qu'il vive et agisse, dit la Guîtâ, il vit et agit en Moi. » Les règles édictées par l'intellect humain ne peuvent pas s'appliquer à l'âme libérée ; un être comme lui ne peut pas être jugé d'après les tests et les critères extérieurs que prescrivent les préjugés des hommes et leurs associations mentales ; il est en dehors de l'étroite juridiction de ces tribunaux faillibles. Et peu importe qu'il porte la robe de l'ascète ou qu'il vive pleinement la vie du chef de famille ; qu'il passe ses jours dans ce que les hommes appellent les œuvres saintes ou qu'il les passe au milieu des activités variées du monde ; qu'il se consacre directement à conduire les hommes vers la Lumière, comme le Bouddha, le Christ ou Shankara, ou qu'il gouverne un royaume comme Janaka, ou qu'il se fasse chef politique ou conducteur d'armées comme Shri Krishna ; peu importe ce qu'il mange ou ce qu'il boit, et quelles sont ses habitudes ou ses occupations ; qu'il réussisse ou qu'il échoue ; que son œuvre soit constructrice ou destructrice ; qu'il soutienne ou restaure un ordre ancien ou qu'il travaille à le remplacer par un ordre nouveau ; peu importe que ses compagnons soient de ceux que les hommes se plaisent à honorer, ou de ceux que leur pharisaïsme proscribit et réprouve ; que sa vie et ses actes soient approuvés par ses contemporains ou qu'il soit condamné comme un corrupteur d'hommes ou comme un fomentateur d'hérésies religieuses, morales ou sociales. Ce n'est pas le jugement des hommes qui le gouverne, ni les lois fixées par l'ignorant ; il obéit à une voix intérieure, il est mû par un Pouvoir invisible. Sa vie réelle est dedans, et la seule description qu'on puisse en faire, c'est qu'il vit, agit et se meut en Dieu, dans le Divin, dans l'Infini.

Mais si son action n'est pas gouvernée par une règle extérieure, il observera une règle cependant, et une seule, qui n'est pas extérieure ; son action ne sera pas dictée par un désir ni un but personnel, mais fera partie intégrante de l'action divine dans le monde, une action consciente et finalement bien ordonnée parce qu'elle porte son ordre en soi. La Guîtâ déclare que les actes de l'homme libéré ne doivent pas être dirigés par le désir mais servir à maintenir la cohésion du monde, à le gouverner, le guider, le pousser et le garder sur le chemin qui lui est assigné. Cette injonction a été interprétée en ce sens que le monde étant une illusion dans laquelle la plupart des hommes doivent être gardés puisqu'ils ne sont pas prêts à la libération, l'âme libérée doit agir extérieurement de façon à leur faire chérir l'attachement aux travaux coutumiers tels qu'ils leur ont été prescrits par la loi sociale. Si vraiment il en était ainsi, ce serait une pauvre mesquine règle, et tout noble cœur la rejetterait pour suivre plutôt le vœu divin du Bouddha Amitâbha, la prière sublime du Bhâgavata ou l'aspiration passionnée de Vivékananda. Mais par contre, si nous acceptons de penser que le monde est un mouvement de la Nature divinement guidé, et que dans l'homme, ce mouvement émerge vers Dieu, et que telle est l'œuvre à laquelle le Seigneur de la Guîtâ est toujours occupé, ainsi qu'il le déclare, bien qu'il n'ait rien à gagner pour lui-même qu'il n'ait déjà gagné, alors un sens profond et vrai apparaîtra sous cette grande injonction. Participer à cette œuvre divine, vivre pour Dieu dans le monde, telle sera la règle du karmayogi – vivre pour Dieu dans le monde et donc agir de telle sorte que le Divin puisse se manifester toujours plus, et le monde avancer sur les voies de son obscur pèlerinage, quelles qu'elles soient, et se rapprocher sans cesse de l'idéal divin.

[À SUIVRE]

HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA

The Divine Work

That work cannot be fixed by any mind-made rule or human standard; for his consciousness has moved away from human law and limits and passed into the divine liberty, away from government by the external and transient into the self-rule of the inner and eternal, away from the binding forms of the finite into the free self-determination of the Infinite. "Howsoever he lives and acts," says the Gita, "he lives and acts in Me." The rules which the intellect of men lays down cannot apply to the liberated soul,—by the external criteria and tests which their mental associations and prejudgments prescribe, such a one cannot be judged; he is outside the narrow jurisdiction of these fallible tribunals. It is immaterial whether he wears the garb of the ascetic or lives the full life of the householder; whether he spends his days in what men call holy works or in the many-sided activities of the world; whether he devotes himself to the direct leading of men to the Light like Buddha, Christ or Shankara or governs kingdoms like Janaka or stands before men like Sri Krishna as a politician or a leader of armies; what he eats or drinks; what are his habits or his pursuits; whether he fails or succeeds; whether his work be one of construction or of destruction; whether he supports or restores an old order or labours to replace it by a new; whether his associates are those whom men delight to honour or those whom their sense of superior righteousness outcasts and reprobates; whether his life and deeds are approved by his contemporaries or he is condemned as a misleader of men and a fomenter of religious, moral or social heresies. He is not governed by the judgments of men or the laws laid down by the ignorant; he obeys an inner voice and is moved by an unseen Power. His real life is within and this is its description that he lives, moves and acts in God, in the Divine, in the Infinite.

But if his action is governed by no external rule, one rule it will observe that is not external; it will be dictated by no personal desire or aim, but will be a part of a conscious and eventually a well-ordered because self-ordered divine working in the world. The Gita declares that the action of the liberated man must be directed not by desire, but towards the keeping together of the world, its government, guidance, impulsion, maintenance in the path appointed to it. This injunction has been interpreted in the sense that the world being an illusion in which most men must be kept, since they are unfit for liberation, he must so act outwardly as to cherish in them an attachment to their customary works laid down for them by the social law. If so, it would be a poor and petty rule and every noble heart would reject it to follow rather the divine vow of Amitabha Buddha, the sublime prayer of the Bhagavata, the passionate aspiration of Vivekananda. But if we accept rather the view that the world is a divinely guided movement of Nature emerging in man towards God and that this is the work in which the Lord of the Gita declares that he is ever occupied although he himself has nothing ungained that he has yet to win, then a deep and true sense will appear for this great injunction. To participate in that divine work, to live for God in the world will be the rule of the Karmayogin; to live for God in the world and therefore so to act that the Divine may more and more manifest himself and the world go forward by whatever way of its obscure pilgrimage and move nearer to the divine ideal.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

REPORT OF DIALOGUE ON MATRIMANDIR – DECEMBER 4, 2002

Present: About 105 people

Chairpersons: Ulli and Mauna

Notes: Janet (the meeting was also tape-recorded)

The chair asked the meeting to observe correct meeting behaviour, i.e no clapping, booing or blowing whistles. He explained that he might ask for a show of hands to ascertain the mood of the house, but not to vote on any issue. He then gave a resume of what has happened since September 30, when a proposal for bringing about change had been accepted. This proposal had been reviewed in several subsequent meetings and it was agreed that more dialogue was needed, as we have to bring about change without creating further division among us.

Anyone who wanted to present another proposal was invited to do so.

The spokesperson for the group who made the proposal for Core and Completion teams said that a second RA could be called on that proposal as it had been modified since September 30. Now all people were included and it was recognized that there had to be a joint effort to find a solution to long-standing problems.

Discussion:

* The paper says nobody is excluded, but was it made in collaboration with MWT?

* Many who work at Matrimandir participated in making this paper.

* I'm curious about why the proposal says no discussion about the structure. There are many outstanding issues there, which need to be talked about.

Chair: Can we revise the proposal to say a TORA could be formed to look into all unresolved issues, including the structure?

* The proposal presented by A is simplistic and will lead to further division as it is not a proposal which has been agreed upon by all. A team is a group of people who work harmoniously together.

* Roger will agree to changes if he is approached with the right attitude.

* Before making a new organization we should agree and decide upon what we are going to do. The problem lies in the design.

Chair: A's team has tried to stretch to be more inclusive. Has the MWT done the same?

* MWT doesn't think like that, anybody can be part of the MWT, we are all Aurovilians.

* The drawing Mother accepted was not wrong, we have no right to try to do something better.

* MWT met with members of the Council and thought today we would discuss only issues; we also thought the Council was trying to be a bridge between the two mentalities, to try and find solutions we could all agree on.

Chair: The proposal presented by the Council at the last meeting (known as Trustees of Matrimandir proposal) was about this, can we now move to that proposal?

* We are forgetting the decision of Sept. 30th, the people who are active in the MWT will not accept that there is anything wrong. There is no proposal that all will agree with. Therefore we try to find solution in a new management.

* We are getting stuck, one group says accept our proposal, the other group says no. Let's forget about the Core Group. Let's see how to get the two groups to work together. Please find a way so that all people can come in and join the work. We must make a Core Team with the agreement of both parties to go forward with the work.

* We need a team rather than individuals in charge of finance and labour management

* So many working groups change their organizational structure, why is it so impossible to question the structure at Matrimandir?

* MWT is open, but people are not willing to join because they have a different vision. It doesn't matter who manages finances and labour if we share the vision.

Chair: Have you discussed a way to come to that?

* Put on hold all proposals about change in management and discuss points of view. The MWT has a right to question the chief architect. We need a common forum where all points of view can be discussed.

* We should also refrain from circulating personal remarks about each other on emails and news. There are grey areas in the proposal for C&C Team that need to be looked into in a friendly atmosphere and we should not blindly follow Roger. As a member of his team I am willing to point out to him certain personality traits which are difficult and ask him to take recommendations of D&S Group and start to work from there. It is true that we can't work in present structure, but there are large areas of work where people could just flow in. Don't agree with MWT that nothing can happen until there is a global solution. Let's start on non-controversial issues.

Chair: this is a very beautiful moment. Let's be silent and let it sink in.

Chair: Let's now focus on how we deal with conflicts.

* A door opened when someone said, let's see how to get the two groups to work together. It's time to concentrate on how we take decisions on future direction of work, which is not on the role of any individual or group. If we do this then the door will open a little more. If we have agreement about where we want to go the decisions on work organization can be taken in the forum of the MWT and if they feel a Core Team is necessary they will form it. The logical next step for trying to find an agreement on future work is to create a TORA. Everything else will turn to confrontation. If we want a true solution we must drop all preconceived ideas and go for agreement

Chair: Please address this because it is the issue. How can we come as a community to take a decision on direction?

* Let's ask MWT if they are going to accept the decisions of the architect.

* Don't get stuck on the architect. We must build Matrimandir with or without him. We are allowed to go and work there and then as workers we can decide.

Chair: Who decides on the direction? If there is disagreement about the size of the lake, is it a TORA, the RA, the MM Workers or a team set up for this purpose, which decides?

* It's stupid to think that by joining the work all will be solved. Mother has chosen an architect and the RA has passed a resolution.

* The Matrimandir must be built according to instructions received from either trustees or a TORA. The MWT will simply implement. People must be welcome in all areas of work, not just to polish marble, but in finance and management as well.

* Mother saw the inner room. She did not care about the rest.

* Nobody should be excluded but certain behaviour should be. We are here to manifest collaboration. What is required is a self-disciplining and self-regulating group, which learns how to call ego, power and control when they manifest. Then decisions about structure could be made there and the community could decide about larger issues.

* There is a deep incoherence in the proposal, which speaks about decentralization and at the same time talks about a chief architect. There are issues that don't concern the architect but are about security and the architect must use common sense. The community must encourage the architect to use common sense.

The Chair summed up that although no conclusion had been reached we had been able to look closer at many points which divide us and again stressed that there needed to be an organizational structure in place for this. He then tried to close the meeting. However a person came forward to speak but retreated since one attendee made an unfriendly remark. The Chair apologized and tried to close the meeting again, but several others continued. Someone asked if there should be an RA on the proposal of the Study Group. About half of those left in the room said yes, a few said no and the rest did not reply. At this moment, the spokesperson for the Study Group came forward and said he felt the meeting had been quite positive, especially because there had been some opening from members of the MWT. In order for things to mature, he proposed a General Meeting in one week's time on December 11 and this was agreed upon. The mood was to leave any decision about an RA to that general meeting. The meeting closed with a moment of silence.

Following Aurovilians have taken up the work as Contact Persons

Auradha, 26 years old, was born and raised in Auroville. She is living here now with her son Suryan after having spent seven years in Berlin. Through working in the Auroville Housing Service she became aware of how difficult the task of the Entry group is and she would like to support the group in this way.

Charudutta is in Auroville for more than four years. Before joining he spent 8 years in the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry. He is an artist and works in Matrimandir since his coming to Auroville. He likes to share his experience and support new people in their integration process.

Christopher Gray has been involved with Av since 1971, stayed till 1982, then came back in the winters of the late 80's to supervise the marble cladding of the inner chamber. Back to stay a couple years ago. Presently working as a massage therapist in Quiet as well as assisting with MM marble/stone work.

Having a contact person in AV is something I never had and I feel it can be very helpful during the entry process.

Dawn, 21, was entirely brought up in Auroville and has gone through AV schools. Right now she is working in the Financial Service. She wants to do more service for Auroville and likes to get to know newcomers

Isha, living in Utility, is in Auroville since 1993. She says "At that time I was very lucky to have a nice contact person. So I will do my best to fulfill the task as contact person by welcoming and helping the Newcomers to integrate into Auroville."

Josette is in Auroville since 1976. She is working at the Video Library.

Someone from the EG asked her to be a contact person. She just said yes.

Sophie has been in Auroville for seven years. She lives in Anusuya with her husband, Glenn, and their two children who were born here 4 1/2 and 2 1/2 years ago. She teaches Hatha Yoga in Pitanga, including a class for pregnant women.

She would like to be a contact person because she thinks that it is important the newcomers feel welcome in Auroville. It is good that they have someone who they can relate to on a more personal level. She would like to share her experience of living in Auroville and try to help when she can. She feels she could help more specifically people with young children or parents to be.

ENTRY GROUP

IDC Meetings of 26th and 29th of November 2002

Present: Joseba, Eugen (consultant), Jacques, Jill, Peter A.

Presentations: Janna and Joseba

Guests: Ulli, Govind

Secretary: Shweta and Sonja

New Community of Maitreye

Joseba, who is the main project holder of a new public housing development, Maitreye, made a presentation of the first phase, which will include 25 units. Anupama is the architect of the project and its aim is to give affordable housing based on Sangamam's model while giving a lot of possibilities for future developments. Individual studios will be approximately 2 lakhs. The FAMC has agreed that when 5 clients have been found it will provide an advance to cover an additional 5 units.

Presentation by Planning and Development at Town Hall Annex

Here is a brief summary of the presentation of the Master Plan, which was attended by about 65 people.

Auroville as a laboratory of Research – Luigi

Introduction to Auroville & the Master plan as a Tool – Luigi

Asia Urbs Networking – Sauro

People vis-à-vis the Masterplan - Anupama

Emergence of Master Plan in 2025 – Mr. Datatri, who emphasised that the ideal master plan should: 1) Be environmentally friendly 2) Benefit people 3) Be cost effective
Saving the Land for Auroville – Guy; included statistics on the dramatic rise of land costs

Technical Overview of the Masterplan – Pashi; outlined 12 types of information necessary to build a planning atlas, which would enable us to have a holistic vision.

Holistic Sustainable Development – Lalit; a Power Point presentation on 17 points being currently studied, which includes the capability to make projections.

Feedback from the audience: More statistics on commercial activities are needed. Online development forum would help (Lalit will look into this). Need for an agenda of speakers and their topics to be presented before the meeting.

Thermal Power Plant

A private company wants to build a thermal plant in the Vanur area. They will use 6,000,000 cubic metres of water per year for cooling only and the plant itself will have a negative environmental impact on 200 square km in the area. The consequences of this technology on the bioregion are quite serious and the Working Committee will be dealing with this issue.

Green Group

Sydo, representative of the Green Group to IDC communicated to us his wishes to stop coming to our meeting. Everybody felt sad at this news. In our reply, we tried to stress the importance of his participation in our meeting, but he claimed that no dialogue was possible with us. We asked, is it by avoiding to participate in our meeting that the Green Group wants to improve the dialogue? It is clear to everybody that the Green Group and IDC have different point of view, but IDC thinks that only by meeting together we can progress and develop harmoniously and peacefully.

Calling for Collaborative Architecture

One member of the IDC spoke about his dream that the 10-15 architects who are active in the Auroville area could work as a team and form sub-groups in the implementation of public projects. In the past this was tried with the Plaza but the project later fell through.

An overview of the city area, which includes and incorporates the harmonious interpretation of several architects along with the current planners, would bring the collective consensus closer to realization. We need to work as closely as possible and include individual visions when we begin the detailed Master Plan, which includes an overall urban design concept and development plan that we can all agree to.

Sukhavati

Janna came to discuss going ahead with her residential project, Sukhavati. She agreed to follow the proposed density plan and intends to build 14 units, including 2 two-storey buildings and one 3-storey building as soon as possible. She agreed to give the IDC more figures relating to density and basic price per square meter before finishing costs. She plans to have an exhibition soon and she wants to include a variety of different kinds of people. She has taken a lot of time to think about air circulation through a wind corridor and harmonizing with the region which it will share with the Maduca community.

Reve II

Financial details of the last flats whose future occupants have not yet paid remain pending. As there are no set Newcomer loan policies, Auroville Fund needs to get recommendations from Housing, Entry or Development Group. It was specified that a Newcomer's money is not yet officially a donation to the Auroville Fund until they become Aurovilian. Jacques of IDC will be the new financial coordinator until the project is finished.

The public relations management of this project was previously the responsibility of members of the Housing Service, but when they resigned this role was not adequately filled, giving rise to complaints by the Residents. A particular issue had arisen over which of two parties would get a preferred flat, which had been allotted to both of them by misunderstanding. Two separate parties had been registered for the same flat. The dispute was settled on the basis of the contract itself, which states that until the down payment of 2 lakhs is paid the contract is not valid. Thus the flat was allotted to the party that had made the required payment. An alternative flat at the same level was proposed to the second party.

Upcoming Conferences:

- Harold Kraft on Lake; early January
- Water consumption and urgent state of water in Auroville; January
- International Zone Workshop (exploring the soul of each nation, and other topics)
- Workshops on Group Organizational and Professional Maturity (see elsewhere in AV News)

Ulli's new House

Ulli came to present updated plans on his development which includes office spaces, a workshop, a lap pool and a public meeting space. Realistic financial details were also given.

Michel's Pottery Workshop Moving

Michel of Flame Pottery would like to move his workshop from Dana, as there is no space for further development there. He is requesting 1 acre to move. He will be called for more details.

Forest Group meeting 6-12-02 Fertile Field

Present: Daniel, Jaap, George, Anne, Hans(S), Kumar, Anandha, Klaus, Shivaraj, Patrick(R), Julia, Gunter, Kanniapan, Jana, Biggie, Perumal, Angely, Shivaraj, Sivaya, Ivo an Nicolas (civies), Kiren, Shivaji, Mike (chair), Sydo(notes).(25)

Revelation

A letter addressed to the Forest Group regarding the seedbank-building and Dominique's house was read. The contents was confirmed with Patrick an Shivaya who both were present.

Vikas

It was announced that the winmill will be available somewhere in march 2003. Interested parties can contact Vikas or Robie.

Maintenance and stewardship

Anandha requested if Shivaji could get the maintenance that he is receiving at the moment since he is now busy elsewhere.

Klaus told us that he has been working with Shivaji already for a while and that he really is doing the greenwork there.

No objections.

Jaap reported that Bernt has returned to Auroville and is requesting stewardship over a good part of Hermitage to work on the land. Arnold has agreed to it. He is also requesting a maintainance. Since it is our custom that people come in person to our meetings to request these matters, Bernt is invited to the next meeting (Aurodam David's).

Civie settlement

Shivaya came with two Civies (young volunteers from Germany who refuse to go to the army and who come to stay here for a year and work with us .there is a steady flow of them and there are now about 10 of them here..),Ivo and Nicolas, to present a plan for a small community/house to be build near Fertile in Lloyd's old place. They would like to live in one place with a maximum of 4 residents and live a simple life. NO: TNEB,dogs, labour etc. YES: Keet, compost toilet, cycles, etc.

Funding from Germany could be found. It was mentioned that the proximity to the newly erected chicken-farm could be a cause of severe stench. Other locations might be better, Any ideas ? We'll discuss it again.

Planting

The vouchers for the FWE project have to be handed in

to Glenn within the next week.

Greenbelt development

We had a long exchange of views on the ideas that are floating around, on allocating lands in the greenbelt to friends of Auroville who are able to buy it. This to secure the lands of Auroville in a financially low tide . Further meetings by different groups are being held.

Some views: What is our vision of the greenbelt; our guidelines ?-The lands will not be available for Auroville if they build their mansions.-Just to buy the land is not the solution; who are our neighbours ?More onteraction is needed.-Kuylapalayam,for example, with its shopping streets, tempels, cashew fields etc. are a part of our life, of Auroville .-We have to look at all the implications which will be many.

Poramboke lands

After recent outbreaks of dissatisfaction from our neighbour's side regarding AV-fenced-poramboke lands it was reiterated that good relations with the villages is the key to our co-existence. Cattle grasing in cashew fields is only 6 months a year the rest of the year it must be elsewhere. There were two meetings recently with Aurovillians and Villagers of the Kottakarai area and this dialogue is moving us together.Auroville has done good work on environmentally sensitive land (canyons etc.). We will do our best to take care of these lands harmoniously with our neighbours.

Darkali

Gopal and Agnes are ready to give-up stewardship of the westernmost part of Darkali.It is very close to the village and for them too hard to handle.Interested greenworkers wanted with patience and determination !.

erratum

Patrick has been landsteward for Revelation for many years, however on the documents of LEM and Aurofuture Cristo is mentioned as the landsteward. The Forest now group publicly endorses Patrick as the official land steward.

Aranya

Saravanan requested a night watchman but since the forest budget has no room for such solutions it was suggested that we could find people interested to join in the greenwork there and since the place is big enough to have more residents , where Saravanan is the only one now, anyone interested can contact Saravanan by phone e-mail or otherwise.

Next meeting is at David's in Aurodam

International Zone group meeting.

Saturday. 16 October.

Present: Helmut, Jaya, Ruslan Y., Sergei (notes), Tekeste, Tine (late).

The tune was set by Helmut: We are here to help the International Zone to manifest. The clear way to that is to have the guidance of your psychic being – but what to do in case when this guidance is yet a thing to be achieved and for the time being rare, obscure or absent?

In other words, Helmut proposed to clarify the methodology of the work in the IZ. How are we creating the cultural pavilions? What are our means of work on all the levels of the Zone physical, vital, mental, spiritual? What is the meaning of the term “culture”?

What is the soul of a nation, what can the soul be? Where, how can it be found and contacted?

The hints found are the following.

- Concentrate on the “highest moments” in the history and in the culture of the nation. These moments are the manifestations of the inner being
- For the guidance the analogy between the evolution of the individual and the evolution of the nation can be helpful.
- The International Zone is a research centre. Here in Auroville the conditions are the best to do researches in the fields of history, language, literature, science, culture in general etc. in the light of the vision of the world as the evolution of the spirit inherently involved in it.
- International Zone can coordinate the researches done outside.
- We should avoid the egoistic attitude. The researches should be done in the spirit of equality, in contact with the light.
- And still it seems that before we have found the soul we cannot do much in the International Zone. Finding the soul – your own and the soul of the nation – is the only way to develop the IZ.

As two of us were Germans it was interesting to see the differences and, through that, the sameness – of their approach to the understanding of the past and present of the country. The discussion then took a general turn. Very often the history of a nation is not as pleasant as it could have been, the dark spots are present. What attitude can be helpful here?

The answers given were:

Approach to the dark sides of the history of a country.

- Forget the “accidents of history” (The Mother).
- Find the evolutionary change brought about by that “accident”.
- The lesson of the history is a universal lesson. It enriches not only the consciousness of the nation, it’s an experience of the humanity as a whole.
- Take a yogic, not moralistic or religious position. The task is not to find faults or to justify yourself or your country, but to move towards perfection. You can look at the difficulties without identifying yourself with them. Difficulties highlight the problems to work upon.

The spirit of discussion.

A few words were said concerning the spirit of discussion. While we are making research, we should be as open as possible. Should we avoid making categorical statements?

But we can agree that we take whatever we are saying not as a judgmental statement but as a question.

Evolving question is more important than a static answer.

House for Rent at Sangamam community near Utility. One bedroom, hall, kitchen and attached bathroom - toilet. Contact Meenakshi @ 2622-770 or Sangamam @ 2623-026.

FOUND: A bunch of keys on the road between Savitri Bhavan and Adithi Griha Guest house. Contact Jayamoorthy @ 2622-563 - Rangoli

MATRIMANDIR COORDINATORS' GROUP AND CORE TEAM

(proposed implementation of the resolution passed by the RA on September 30th)

This proposal presented to the RA on November 18th has been revised incorporating input from that RA, plus two general meetings. The intention is to facilitate mutual cooperation.

CONSTITUTION OF A COORDINATORS' GROUP AND A CORE TEAM

Every defined sub-area of work will be led by one (or more) coordinators who will assess the work scope, estimation of resource requirements (people, materials, etc.) and a budget estimate for 6-12 months in advance, as well as assigning and overseeing the work in that area. This group of approximately 15 Coordinators will form the Coordinators' Group. The Core Team will emerge out of the Coordinators' Group. Emphasising decentralization and depersonalisation, the attitude sought is that of work in a spirit of brotherhood, comradeship and coming together. This especially applies to the Core Team, whose true function is not to lead, but to facilitate. Those who have so far volunteered in the new spirit that is the leading force of the proposed work-reorganization at Matrimandir, are: Ashatit, Divya, Jean, Srimoyi, Toine (Toine from Feb onwards). More people willing to serve in the Core Team by the same spirit are welcomed.

FUNCTIONS OF THE CORE TEAM:

- Coordination
- On-site engineer
- Project planning (prioritisation of work, timeline and cost projections)
- Finance & administration – signatories' responsibilities. It is proposed that the Core Team members decide among themselves who will be the executives as required by the AV Foundation, plus the signatories.
- Secretariat – to organize meetings, prepare notes, etc.
- Liaison with the community, the WC, AV Council and the AV Foundation.
- Preparation of periodic progress reports on the completion of the structure and other activities, so as to keep the community and all Matrimandir well-wishers thoroughly informed.

Term of office: Three years. Core Team members can be reappointed with Coordinators' and community's approval. The main function of the Core Team is to assist, facilitate and support the Coordinator' Group as well Completion Team in completing the Matrimandir's structure at the earliest. Core Team members can be relieved of their responsibilities if two-thirds of the Coordinators request a review of the member's performance by the Auroville Council, and the Council recommends it.

MANDATE OF WORK AND AREA

The Completion, Coordinators and Core Teams have purview over the completion of the structure (those areas agreed upon), petals and amphitheatre only, as per the Resolution of 30th September. As for those issues, related to the structure, on which agreement still has to be found, taking into account the needed expertise on such technical issues a study-group will be appointed within the framework of the TORA. The work already done by the Matrimandir Design Study Group may be the starting point.

Pending issues such as Visitors, Access & Activities, Gardens, Lake, Perimeter, Interface with the City etc. will be dealt with in the light of The Experiment, Phase II, the Task Oriented Residents' Assembly (TORA). In this spirit, the WC, AV Council will launch an appeal to all the Residents of Auroville to define and organize the process of a TORA.

NOTE: All are invited to carefully go through "The Experiment", where the TORA is described in detail.

Erratum:

Supplement page 3 "TO WATER SERVICE AND AUROVILLE MAINTENANCE" first sentence in the first para should read "but the way you are doing this is a little blunt."

C I N E M A - Bharat Nivas - AUDITORIUM
FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER – 7.30 PM (Film show
starting at 7.45 sharp)

“ASTERIX & OBELIX Vs. CAESAR”

Directed by Claude ZIDI, France, 1998

With: Gérard Depardieu, Christian Clavier, Roberto Benigni, Sim, Laetitia Casta, Arielle Dombasle

Synopsis: In the year 50 BC. Gaul is occupied by the Romans. Only one little village still resists the armies of Caesar, thanks to the magic potion prepared by the druid, Panoramix, which provides invincibility to its inhabitants ...

English version - Duration: 1h.49' – 35mm film – Colour

C I N E M A - Bharat Nivas - AUDITORIUM
VENDREDI 20 DECEMBRE – 19h.30' (le film
commence à 19h.45' précises)

“ASTERIX & OBELIX CONTRE CESAR”

Réalisé par Claude ZIDI, France, 1998

Avec Gérard Depardieu, Christian Clavier, Roberto Benigni, Sim, Laetitia Casta, Arielle Dombasle

Synopsis : La Gaule, an 50 avant J.C. Celle-ci est occupée par les romains. Un seul petit village gaulois résiste grâce à la potion magique préparée par le druide Panoramix, qui rend ses habitants invincibles...

Version originale française avec sous-titres en Anglais – Durée : 1h49' – 35mm - couleur

Dear Aurovilians/Newcomers and Guests

Kindly be informed that the Residents Service is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the public. **Opening Timings: 9 am to 12 pm**
 Regards, Ilse, Mark, Raji & Tanvi
 for the Residents Service

COMPOST FOR SALE

E.M Compost prepared from Kuilapalayam household organic waste is ready for sale. The cost per bullock cost load is Rs.150/- excluding transport cost. Anyone who is interested to buy the compost should contact either Gillian or Pratul. Gillian Phone No: 2622660

Pratul Phone No: 2622168

INVITATION FOR SUKHAVATI PHASE 2 - RESIDENTIAL ZONE

PROPOSED DESIGN AND MODELS OF SUKHAVATI PHASE 2 WILL BE EXHIBITED AT BRAND-NEW-DAY OFFICE FROM MONDAY THE 16th DECEMBER TO 22nd DECEMBER. ALL ARE WELCOME.
 JANA.

GREENBELT - CITY - SOUNDS

Because of the surprisingly overwhelming non-occurring response we dare once more to put out our sincere request :

WOOD, BAMBOO, SCRAP. GREENBELT-CITY-SOUNDS ...WOOD, BAMBOO, SCRAP.....

Our young team in the Mohanam Cultural Centre in Sanjeevinagar is experimenting with building different sound-makers and new musical instruments.

In case you have some useful material lying around - in the forest, the yard or the storeroom - which you always thought - or have the prompt inspiration this very minute - that it could be used for a creative purpose, we are ready to come by, see, gather, clean up and move on with making The Dream more real.

Any special deal or donation of “AV-homegrown” (Work, Transformation, Jackfruit and any other unique hardwood-stuff ...) would be very welcome - so that we can continue to explore our local sound-flora, and prepare for an expo in March.

Please give us a ring in MOHANAM 262-3183 or leave a note with Aurelio/ Verite 262-2045

Dear newcomers and contact people,

We would like to organise a potluck event in January to meet and have fun together. To make this happen help is needed. Good ideas for games and entertainment are most welcome. If you have time and energy please contact us.

Sonja, Aurodam 2622 371,

sonja@auroville.org.in

Shivaya, Newlands 2622 574

shivaya@auroville.org.in

Dear friends,

If anyone is interested at having an honest and dutiful 'amma' for work preferably near Kuilapalayam since she has no transport, kindly contact me.

Samrat, youth camp, Fraternity.

email : samrat@auroville.org.in phone : 2622357

For sale

My orange Willy jeep, diesel engine, very good condition, best offer.

Contact Giorgio Halcyon 2655779

For Sale: Stereo system CD + tape Rs.3,500 and Wooden Ganesh sculptures Rs. 2,000. Contact Maurizio @ 2623664.

Architects, Builders & Plumbers

This is about pipes. A "new" product has come on the market called KiTEC. It is a pipe made of Aluminium with layers of Polyethylene (PE) on both the inside and outside. This makes it completely corrosion resistant and PE does not react with water (as PVC does), posing no health hazard to drinking water.

Further advantages:

- Longer life: 50 years
- Fewer joints & fittings ? faster installation
- Stays in shape hot and cold and can be bend and shaped by hand

Applications:

- (Solar) hot water systems ? Less heat loss
- Air-conditioning systems
- Cable conduits ? EMI screened

KiTEC pipes can handle hot water up to 90°C at 10 bar, making it ideally suited for domestic (solar) hot water applications. The PE layers give it some thermal insulation so there is less heat loss on the way and they also prevent the on-set of scaling inside the pipe. The cost: about 20-30% more expensive than normal GI pipe.

We had a representative of KiTEC visiting us at CSR last week with some demo material, literature and a price-list. Feel free to come and pick up a copy of this literature and a sample piece of pipe at AuroRE office at CSR, Auroshilpam.

And have a look at their website: www.kitecindia.com

Aan alle Nederlanders en Vlamingen,
Wij hebben de beschikking over de nieuwe Nederlandse speelfilm "Minoes"
Minoes heeft 2 gouden kalveren,
en op het internationale jeugd festival
in Chicago de 1e prijs gewonnen
voor de beste buitenlandse live action film.

Wij gaan deze film vertonen op
**Zondag 22 December Merriam Hill
Centre @ 3.30 p.m.**

iedereen die wil is welkom, ook de kinderen
Tot ziens, Tineke & I lse

Consumer VOICE

Are you paying too much for the same quality?

The Voluntary Organisation in Interest of Consumer Education (VOICE) issues a bi-monthly magazine with comparative tests of consumer goods.

Recently they tested 8 major refrigerator brands with some surprising results coming out of that. The latest issue tests and compares 10 major brands of electric water heaters. Apart from these tests there are lots of other interesting consumer information as well as health related articles in the magazine.

You can subscribe to their magazine for a mere Rs 100 per year.

Have a look at their website for more information:

www.consumer-voice.org

THE MAHASARASWATI FREE-STORE / EXCHANGE STORE

UPDATED NEWS...

Repair service : Every morning from 9h30 to 11h30.

You name it, we fix it or tell you how or where to fix it.

Logu will check your appliance on the spot and give you a rough estimate and advice for the repair.

But he can also come to your house to collect anything you wouldn't have the time to bring yourself or to check your fridge, washing machine, TV, and just anything.

Knife sharpening : Bring us your kitchen knives and scissors and we shall sharpen them in minutes.

Cane furniture repair : We can recommend a nice and honest old man who will come to your house and repair on the spot. Call Logu at 623014 before 9am, lunch time or evenings, or leave a message for him to call you back.

We will charge a basic 50 rupees on top of the repair charges for any in house attendance, pick-up or delivery.

All payments will be operated through the Financial Service's Pour Tous accounts.

Here is the present list of items available for exchange :

Cloth iron - Coffee machine - Table / exhaust / standing fans - PL light 12 volt - Electric oven - Gas oven - Table lamps - Ice cream maker - Electric kettle - Mixer / grinder Hitachi - S.S. Gas stove single & 4 burners - Electric can opener - Lady cycle - Graphit tennis racket - Juicer Rowenta - Torch lights - Walkman speakers - Amplifier/equalizer 2 x 50 watts - French electronic typewriter - Dough mixer - Electric Pan cake/chapati hot plate - B/W monitor - Tabla set - Flute a bec - headphones - Kitchen timer - Noodles making machine - Water filter - Cane chair - Manual vegetable slicer/grater - Service a fondue - and a lot more...

But remember the exchange store opens only on Saturdays 3pm to 5pm !

The Mahasaraswati store is situated in the same building as the Kuilapalayam Post office.

See you around,

Logu, Celestine, Olivier

Connections

Connections always invites the Units of our community to discuss the help they need to reach their aims. There are Aurovilians, Newcomers, and Long-term Guests who are looking for activities to fulfil their commitment to Karma Yoga and the community. Please feel free to visit us at the SAWCHU building to discuss jobs and activities. **Connections is opened on Monday, through Friday mornings from 9.00am till 12.00 am or by appointment. You can also reach us by email <connections@... >**

❖ **Site Supervisor: AV Building Centre/Earth Unit**
AVBC is looking for a mature, dynamic person who is fluent in Tamil and English to be a good supervisor. As a supervisor, the person should have enough authority and a strong commitment towards construction work to ensure the desired quality of the work. He has to perform as a link between the architect and workers/contractor. The person should commit himself to a minimum of 1 year. Please contact Aurosatprem at Ph:2623 330/263 064, or avbc-earthunit@auroville.org.in

❖ **Two Highly Qualified Internet-related Positions**

○ **Solid Programming Foundation**

Mysql and database experience is necessary. Understand that you will be trained in high-level Internet skills, so the desire to learn and acquire these skills is important.

○ **Marketing for Internet Business**

This unit is looking for someone who is excited by Internet business. The person should be able to work independently. Familiarity with a text editor is important. Tamil preferred.

If interested, please contact Connections.

❖ **French translator**

Auro-Traductions, needs a **French translator** on a voluntary basis. (Perhaps a Newcomer or Long-term Guest whose first language is French). The translation work must be done weekly according to the tight printing schedule of the AVNews. The time involvement should be a minimum of 20 hours a week. Please contact either:

Claude or Swar at Auro-Traductions (622713;
avtraductions@auroville.org.in)

The **Connections** team

Anand, Don, Jaya, Marijke and Paulien
SAWCHU Building,

Tel.: 623440, email: connections@auroville.org.in

LOST: SCHOOL BAG

Last Monday between 8-8:15 AM I lost my black canvas tote bag (with 'Joyce' written on the side) on the road between Dana and Matrimandir.

It contains material from four different Auroville libraries (videos, books, cassette) and some miscellaneous school material. I would be very grateful to have it returned to me at Aurogreen if anyone found

it. Thanks. Suzie (tel: 2622-927)

Deepanam School 'OPEN HOUSE'

Dear friends,

We are holding an open house on the 19th Dec. from 10:30AM to 1:30PM.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

How do our children see the future city?

DRAWING CONTEST

We invite the children from Auroville and the surrounding villages to participate in a drawing contest; Make a drawing of how you would like to see Auroville in the future. Your drawing can include the Matrimandir, the City, the Greenbelt and the villages that are part of the Auroville area. There are three categories: 7-9 years old, 10-11 years old and 12-14 years old

An exhibition of all the drawings will be held during the Auroville Birthday week (February 21st - 28th) to which children and their parents will be invited. Surprise prizes will be distributed to the first three winners of each category and each participating child will be rewarded with some sweets.

Color pencils, crayons, watercolor can be used.

The paintings should be done on

A4 paper size.

On the back side of the drawing name, age, school and teacher should be indicated.

If necessary, paper can be made available.

The drawings have to be submitted by January 15th. They can be given to Jaya, Shivaya, Srimoyi or brought to the SAIER office in Bharat Nivas.

For further information contact Jaya 2622740,
Shivaya 2622740, Srimoyi 2622307
Or SAIER office, Ayyanar

An Evening of Songs & Bhajans

We present to you an evening of songs and bhajans. Naditadi has been guiding us at different levels in Indian Vocal Music. A year of learning with her has brought us together to present some of our work to you all. Shri Somnath Nandi from Pondicherry accompanies us on tabla.

Join us on the 22nd December at 7.30 PM at Pitanga Hall. All students of Nanditadi

THE MOTHER SYMBOL ON THE SECOND LEVEL AT THE MATRIMANDIR NEEDS PEOPLE TO DO THE FINAL FINISHING WORK ON MOSAIC. BRING YOUR JOYFULL ATTENTION TO DETAIL . HAVE FUN! CONACT 262-2595.

Small house to rent or to exchange priority to those who are involved in the Forest Work or Farm Work.

JEAN-MARIE 9am to 4pm
2-622-023 Siddhartha Forest.

NATURELLEMENT

We are not using second hand bottles anymore for our syrups as it is too risky. From now onwards we will only give a refund (Rs 3.00 per bottle) for the type of syrup bottles that we are using.

Thank you, The Naturellement Team



PITANGA

"The silent dance of universal lotus"

Exhibition of paintings
by Sarasija

December 17 to 30, 2002

Monday to Saturday 8.00 am to 5.00 pm

Pitanga Ph. 262 2561, mail: pitanga@auroville.org.in



PITANGA

December 16 - 31, 2002

**For 2 weeks, from 16 - 29/12,
most of the physical activities are going to pause
due to a Hatha Yoga Workshop for Teachers
happening at Pitanga.**

We kindly ask you to bear with a smile the inconvenience the workshop is causing in those two weeks. The training, which is offered free of charge by an expert from England, is a unique chance for our teachers to improve their teaching skills. All classes will resume from beginning of January at their usual timings.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES from December 16 to 31

Yoga Classes	weekday	mornings	afternoons	teacher
For beginners:	Monday, 16/12		3.30 - 4.30	Sophie
	Monday, 23/12		no class	
	Monday 30/12		4.00 - 5.30	Sophie
	Wednesday, 18/12		3.30 - 4.30	Sophie
	Wednesday, 25/12 & 01/01/03		no classes	
	Thursday, 19 & 26/12		4.00 - 5.30	Jana
For people above 60 years:	Wednesdays	8.30 - 9.30		Gala
	Fridays	8.30 - 9.30		Gala
Balkan Dance	Tuesdays		6.00 - 7.30 pm	Loretta
	Saturdays	10.30 - 12.30		Loretta
Body Awareness	Wednesday, 18/12		6.30 - 8.00 pm	Hans
	Wednesday, 25/12 & 01/01/03		no classes	
Qi Qong	Wednesday, 18/12		4.30 - 6.00 pm	Maria
	Wednesday 25/12 & 01/01/03		no classes	



For further information please contact us at Pitanga 262-2561.

If you wish to receive information about our activities regularly, please mail to us: pitanga@auroville.org.in

Words for Snakes

"Tell... the Master-Words of the Jungle... for the Snake-People... The answer was a perfectly indescribable hiss... Mowgli was now reasonably safe against all accidents in the Jungle, because neither snake, bird, no beast would hurt him" (Rudyard Kipling, a winner of the Noble Price of 1907. The Jungle Books. Printed in Czechoslovakia, 1987, pages 41-42).

Once a big cobra visited my house in Aspiration. Jack from Djaima knows the words for snakes. He removed the huge poisonous reptile outdoor. Any knowledge about snakes means learning the words for them.

Eric, an Indian Zoologist, showed me his list of reptiles in Aranya region. I was surprised. We don't see snakes too often but it is possible to see lizards (geckos and others) any time. Nevertheless Eric's list of snakes species was twice longer than list of lizards.

In Francois' (Dana) rich collection of photos a Variety of snakes in comparison to lizards also prevails. Two male ratsnakes are fighting in some pictures. People, who see these photos, often say : it is a mating dance of male and female. Don't believe these "specialists" ! Eric told me that for male ratsnakes such fighting isn't something extraordinary. Rajiv Bhatt in Fraternity created a brochure "Some common snakes of Tamil Nadu". He named this behavior of ratsnakes "War Dance".

It would be nice to tell some words to the ratsnakes in their hiss language, may be they would be include the War Dance in the Christmas programme of Auroville.
Boris

HEALTH FIRST

Classical homeopathy child care personal development Consultation in English, French, German and Tamil With Sigrid, healing practitioner, Heilpraktikerin The NEW MOTHER AND CHILD KIT will be presented on FRIDAY 20.12 10 a.m. All interested are welcome

Timings for consultations every morning :

Mon, Wed. Fri 9 a.m. to 12.30 a.m.

Tue, Thu 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 a.m.

And on appointment at Health First, Prayatna, phone 2623669

All are welcome Sigrid

RENEWED INVITATION**to Walk in the PEACE AREA**

Due to the enthusiastic response to our recent invitation to walk in the Peace Area, we are extending this series of walks throughout December.

Come and discover the land, the trees and the views in the Peace Area.

We invite you all to walk with us on any of the following mornings:

Saturdays: December 14th, 21st, and 28th

Sunday: December 15th, 22nd, and 29th

The walk will start on these six days from the Matrimandir Office at 9 am.

We would recommend that this is one of the best ways (beyond all words) to experience the material reality of the Matrimandir and its Peace Area.

The Matrimandir Workers' Team

PS. If these dates or timings do not suit you please feel free to e-mail or telephone us so that alternative timings or days can be arranged.

Beginning on Dec. 15 from 5 to 6 pm in the Music Room in New Creation, a Course in ear training will take place. It is intended to help you familiarize yourself with certain aspects of musical sound, in order to get more enjoyment from music, especially Western classical. No previous training required. Open to Indians and Westerners. Guests welcome.

- Merry

AMPHITHEATER

Tuesdays at 5.30 p.m. for sunset all are invited to experience "Savitri" read by Mother accompanied by Sunil's music :

Book 2 The Book of the traveller of the worlds

Canto ix The paradise of the Life gods

Canto x Kingdoms and Godheads of the Little Mind

Canto xi Kingdoms and Godheads of the Greater Mind.

:

"All creatures here their secret self disclose,
Forced to become what in themselves they hide."

Thursday 5.30 p.m.

"The Mother" by Sri Aurobindo read by Mother "Maheswari"

in english and french

Hot Shot Ramblers Wanted

Also two-bit gamblers, sorry losers, beggars & choosers, harlequins, contortionists & hurdy gurdy men. All sort of riffraff, dogsbodies and town scruff & fluff. Dandies, pickpockets, & double dealers. Tattooists, masseurs & shoplifters. Cowboys, shopgirls and maybesitters.

All will be forsaken & forgiven at the Fair Share, Youth Centre, 21st Dec.

The stockmarket opens at 2pm.

NEWS FROM QUIET

We are happy to announce that Petra is now offering accupuncture at Quiet on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

This may be of particular interest to those wishing to, but having difficulty in giving up smoking, a process which Petra says can be greatly helped by accupuncture. For appointments please phone the Quiet Office.

FOR SALE: UPS. 400w. Recently serviced. Rs. 2500 (without battery).
The Quiet Team

THAI YOGA MASSAGE COURSE

There will be a Thai yoga massage course for beginners given at Quiet from Dec. 19th - Dec. 29th. This is an intensive program involving approximately six hours / day of instruction and practice.

Itzhak, the course instructor, is a regular teacher at the Ashokananda ashram, Chang Mai, Thailand.

A certificate will be given to those completing the program.
Those interested in participating should contact the Quiet office Promptly (tel. 2622 329 or 2622 646).

FOR SALE

1. 4 full size godrej steel cupboards good condition - rs. 4,000 each [new ones rs. 8,500]
 2. 1 teak wood writing table with drawers 3'6"x1'9" - rs. 2,500
 3. 1 plywood dressing table with mirror, drawers, sitting stool etc - rs. 1,500
- prices negotiable. for more information, call 2339500 or write to kosha3@hotmail.com

BODY AWARENESS

-workshop-

~Our posture, the way we stand, sit, lie down, or move about is conditioned by chronically contracted muscles that hold us in a particular shaping of the body.

~This affects our well-being and health drastically.

// exercises that are proposals for change.

// relaxation.

tues,wed,thursdays: December.2 workshops.

17,18,19-10.00-12.00am

24,25,26-10.00-12.00am

in Tadvanam Hall, Evergreen.

(the road to Evergreen lies next to Abri road.)

contribution

All are welcome.

regular class: thursday 8.00-9.30

Thanks to all in Auroville who have given us a helping hand and to Auroville itself.

Swoazig and Samuel

The passing of Francois Durand

Please know that Francois Durand, a French newcomer living and teaching in New Creation, very suddenly passed away on December 8th, at 3 in the afternoon at the age of 46. His body was cremated in Adventure on Wednesday 11th. Dec. 2002

Francois joined Auroville in September this year. He leaves behind his son Timothee (6), as well as his partner Marie-Noelle Pignolet and her daughter Shanti (17).

Our heartfelt love and sympathy go out to Marie-Noelle and the children. May they find the strength and support to go through this in their new-found home, Auroville.

Who got (by mistake) my grey linen long pants and pinkish silk pillow cover from the Free-Store tailor? Please return them to me or call 2622-787. Appie

Pandiyan House Burnt

P.T. Account No has been changed to 251169