



Australian Sahaja Newsletter

5th June '99

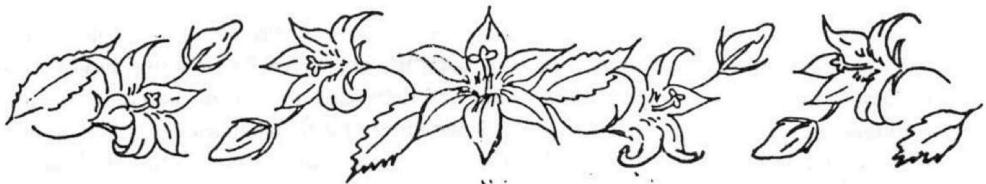
Contributions: Lidcombe: 02-9649 6879
02 97474835 or Burwood Fax 97454927



Adi Shakti Puja
19th June, 1999
Saturday 2pm
10 Clarence St, Burwood



Set up and Dismantle: Group 2 (Co-ordinator Patrick Murphy)
Cooking & Washing up: Group 4 (Co-ordinator Anil Sattershetty)



Youth Camp. At Country Property

Sunday 20th June, 1999

10am to 3pm (including lunch).

There will be a Youth Camp at the country property to help young people with drug-related problems. This is in line with Shri Mataji's concerns about the youth of Australia and her guidance as to how we can help them. There will be lots of music and fun. Everyone is welcome to contribute to the day.

For details contact Avinash 9747 4835.

INVITATION TO SHRI ADI SHAKTI PUJA

I had a phone call on Monday from Manoj Kumar in New York to say that Shri Mataji had her attention very much on the land She has bought at Canajoharie in upstate New York; and that it was her wish that as many people as possible from all parts of the world attend the Adi Shakti Puja there on 20th June.

This puja is an International Puja, not one just for the Americas, and She wants 1000 people to be there.

I am sure it will be a special and important occasion. We all know the importance Shri Mataji attaches to Sahaj working out in America.

So far we have four people going – including Frank Giannasi, who is going to direct the Yogis in erecting the steel for the hangar pendal. I would be very pleased to hear if anyone else will go.

Michael Fogarty

**Shri Adi Shakti Puja
June 18 - 20, 1999
Canajoharie, New York**



By the Blessings and Grace of Her Holiness, Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi, The Sahaja Yogis of North America are pleased to invite our Brothers, and Sisters from every nation to attend Shri Adi Shakti Puja in the Land of Shri Krishna. During the weekend of June 18th - 20th, 1999 To be held on Shri Mataji's land. In Upstate New York near Canajoharie.

Join us on the vibrant green hills and pastures, where the wind stirs the tall grasses and the trees under a vast blue canopy, at the Feet of our Mother, the Adi Kundalini. As part of this puja weekend, there will be a public program in New York City on Wednesday, June 16 at 7:30 p.m. Shri Mataji has requested as many as people as possible to attend.

We immediately need an estimate of the number of adults and children who plan to attend, with estimated arrival and departure dates.

Location and Accommodations for the Puja Seminar

The Yogis will camp on Shri Mataji's land in a very rustic setting (rolling farmland without roads or trails). Yogis can sleep in a large pendal or bring their own tents. Everyone should bring Sleeping bags, flashlights (torches), insect repellent and outdoor clothing, including raingear and outdoor shoes. The weather could be warm and dry, or cool and wet. For those who require special sleeping accommodations, we will make every effort to reserve space in nearby motels. Please tell us if this is needed in advance. Transportation will be provided for those with special needs.

Transportation

Arrangements will be made for airport pick-ups, in minivans or buses, at the three main New York area airports-JFK, LaGuardia, and Newark. It is a five-hour drive to Canajoharie. Transportation will also be available for flights into Albany airport (about one hour from Canajoharie) from Thursday, June 17 onward. Yogis who plan to rent their own cars will be able to park on the land. If driving directions are needed, please request them via e-mail to Carolyn.

Public Program in New York City

The public program in New York City will be on Wednesday, June 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall (123 West 43rd Street, between 6th and Broadway). Arrangements will be made for transportation from the airport into New York City and for accommodations in New York City before the public program. There will be a Hospitality Suite in New York City on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 15th and 16th (details to be provided later). Following the public program,

buses will take yogis directly to Canajoharie. For yogis who plan to attend the public program, provisions will be made to store and transport luggage.

[Please note that the World Peace Symposium previously scheduled for June 15 will not be held.]

Detailed Information and Registration

As soon as travel arrangements have been finalized, please send the following information about each yogi who will be attending:

1. Country, Name, Gender, Age (for children)
2. Arrival date, time, flight number and airport
3. Departure date, time, airline, flight number and airport
4. Needs airport pick-up or will rent own car

Please note that people who want to be picked up at the airport may need to wait one or more hours for the bus or van. Please also tell us about any people who need special accommodations. Large groups should identify a coordinator for transportation.

Please send this information and all other requested information to Carolyn Vance Sheredeko at CAVSY@aol.com or fax to (201) 807-1891. Her phone number is (847) 733-0672. Please make arrangements to register collectively by country and for payment to be made in US dollars.

Visas/Invitations

Sahaja Yogis who require invitations for visas should send details to Carolyn Vance Sheredeko. Information should include name (as on passport), date of birth, passport number and expiry date, fax number to send the invitations and the fax number of the U.S. consulate where the visa is to be obtained, if necessary.

About Canajoharie

This beautiful location is called by the Native Americans as "Gana-jyo-hah-laje" meaning "the vessel that cleans itself." It was prophesized as being a sacred land to which The Truth would return, and be the center for all good things to happen. The prophecy, made 250 years ago, is due to come true this year.

Shri Mataji's latest itinerary

as approved by Her. As always it is subject to change.

May 25th Arrival in Toronto
May 26th Public Program in Toronto
May 28th/29th Travel in New York
June 16th Public Program at Town Hall in New York
June 18th-20th Shri Adi Shakti Puja at Canajoharie
June 22nd Travel to Richmond, VA
June 24th Public Program in Washington DC
June 25th Travel to Vancouver, BC
June 26th Public program in Vancouver
June 27th Travel to LA
July 1st Public Program in LA
July 3rd Travel to New York
July 6th Travel to London
July 8th Meeting with Journalists in London
July 10th Public Program in Royal Albert Hall, London



An Invitation: To all Sahaja Musicians, Thespians and other Performers

Your brothers and sisters of the Brisbane/Wamuran collective, having recently invited the Australasian Collective to join us in celebration of the National Guru Puja on Sunday, 25 July 1999, now warmly invite you to enchant our guests and us at an Evening of Entertainment, the night before the Puja, at HH Shri Mataji's property at Wamuran.

As hosts of this auspicious event, we are undertaking to provide a quality performance facility (better than in previous years!). To this end, you can expect a professional PA system, stage lighting and a 4.8m x 2.4 stage (can be made larger if we are expecting dancers to perform).

Our desire is to offer the discrete Bhajan Groups, musicians, drama groups, dancers and other performers from various the Sahaja collectives of Australasia the opportunity to perform their favourite rehearsed material, for the enjoyment of a larger audience of the national collective.

If you are involved in one of the above performing areas, and are interested in participating in the Entertainment Program, please feel free to contact the Program Co-ordinator.

Peter Cavanagh, 28 Merrilyn Street
Chapel Hill Qld 4069
Tel: (07) 3378 0493, Email: peter.cavanagh@treasury.qld.gov.au

BABYBOOK – FOR BABIES BORN IN 1998

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Sahaja Yoga,
Many parents did respond to our E-mail regarding the Babybook for the year 1998. Unfortunately a few countries are still missing completely, which made us decide to wait for Adi Shakti Puja. That's the good news for those who did not manage to send their baby's photo on time. The new deadline is the 11th of June.

Please help to inform all the parents who had a baby in the year 1998. Photos arriving after the deadline can not be included. (sorry) The photos should be postcardsize and have following details :-full name of baby, full name of parents , date ,time ,and place of birth , (remember we need the date of birth, not the age) .

Please send photos to :
Veena Scialo
14 A Montpelier Road
Ealing
London W5 2QP

Wanted

1-2 people in Glebe, to help with Glebe programmes and nurture those who are progressing in a more 'Lakshmi' atmosphere.

Two rooms available at
218 St John's Rd, Glebe.
Contact Prue: 9566 4021

Vacant room available

Sunny room available for a couple or single in Killara Ashram.

Ring Jean-Michel: 9499 3178

RE: Yuva Shakti Camp, Daglio, Italy
 WHEN: Monday, 26 July to Saturday, 14 August 1999
 (3 Weeks immediately following Guru Puja at Cabella)
 COST PER PERSON: (Approximate) AUD2100 Airfare
 AUD 250 Guru Puja
AUD 550 Yuva Shakti Camp
AUD2900 (give or take)

"DAGLIO" FUNDRAISING: Yuva Shakti contacts from all States should contact Liallyn (02) 9763 5887 ASAP to report any funds raised toward subsidizing one (or more?) Yuva Shakti who wouldn't otherwise be able to go to the Daglio Camp. Also, we need at the same time all names of Australian Yuva Shakti participants over 16 years of age who would like to be in the draw. These young people will need to be available to travel during the week of 19 July to first attend Guru Puja then on to Daglio afterward. The name(s) will be drawn out of the hat (as soon as we have an idea of where we are financially...very soon-ish) by Uncle Michael Fogarty so to provide time for travel arrangements, etc. to be made.

A Yuva Shakti travel kitty has been started in Sydney but 26 July is just around the corner and, not knowing about other States' fundraising at this point, \$1500.00 more is needed at the very least to send one Australian Yuva Shakti. Holding Fundraisers in each State during June could do the trick. It looks as though there will be a fair Australian representation at the camp - the first time Australian Yuva Shakti has participated - and it will be a source of enjoyment, inspiration and ideas for our Yuva Shakti. These are great times for our young people!

JAI SHRI MATAJI

YUVA SHAKTI - NEW SOUTH WALES AND A.C.T.

At a meeting last Saturday, the Yuva Shakti went over some things we've talked about previously, but this time with Shri Mataji's advice in mind - taking a few steps back over old ground to make sure the foundations are laid correctly. New contact people were chosen based on vibrations and using folded pieces of paper with names of all appropriately aged Yuva Shakti in NSW and ACT included - even those we don't see very often. The names the vibrations indicated were most suitable were:

In Canberra: Gabriel Henwood (02) 6281 0081
 In Sydney: Deepak Kumar (02) 9747 4835, and Matthew Stainsby 9579 2293.

Information will now be relayed through these new contact people. A telephone/email tree is being arranged to make communication more collective. A current name/address/email listing is now being finalised, so this is last call to all States for any additions or changes to the list which was circulated earlier this year.

Considering all our news lately, perhaps Australia Yuva Shakti see that it may be time to set up their own (monthly) newsletter for distribution to the general collective and for inclusion in the International Yuva Shakti Newsletter in Europe.

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The night started with a short introduction by Gregoire who, saying that he is now a new member of the German collective (one of the organizing countries) presented the opening of the Sahasrara celebrations to our Divine Mother and to Sir C. P. as well as to all Sahaj brothers and sisters, pointing out that this was to be the first Sahasrara celebration in Satya Yuga, and also the first puja in Cabella this year. Humorously led through the program by Nico and Krishna, we were treated to beautiful renditions that seemed to reach a climax with a play about the Deities which depicted events starting in the ancient times when Shri Brahma Deva, accompanied by Sage Narada, transforms a plunderer into a saintly being. After a few more stories which depicted Shri Vishnu and Shri Shiva, as the modern times approach, there is a meeting in Heaven of all the Deities who, trying to find a solution to the problems of Kali Yuga and desiring to transform the world, together reach the conclusion that only Shri Adi Shakti's coming on the earth could achieve this supreme goal. They all pray for Her to incarnate and take turns pledging their full support, with all their powers, of Shri Adi Shakti's work. Each Deity comes forward and says a powerful phrase, a solemn oath of complete dedication to this tremendous work of transformation of the Divine Mother. It was a very moving moment culminating with the singing of the three great mantras.

One amazing thing is that at the end of the program Shri Mataji said She really enjoyed the play and that it was all true, but She doesn't know who told the Yogis about all these events which really took place in heaven, how did they know about all this. She said "I still have to find out how did you come to know all this because it is all true" which showed us what enlightened Divine inspiration can do.

After the play I was pretty sure that that was it - the program must be over, because I figured that nothing could make it go on with the same high level of vibrations. Well, I was wrong. Christian Schulz, a Sahaja Yogi from Austria, came to play on the cello a quite amazing combination of Western and Eastern raga-like music, in a single piece he composed, which transported us into an even higher heaven. I have no idea how long this unique composition lasted, it seemed like half an hour even though the time had stopped, but at the end everyone was in ecstasy and astonishment and offered him a long ovation. (Later on I found out that he is coming up with a CD called "Meditations" - watch out for it).

Well, that must be it! - I thought again - no one can be crazy enough to get on the stage after this. I was again wrong - the program continued to take us even higher and higher, with Raga Durga by Gabi Ion (Govinda) from France, 7 pieces of Schubert on the piano, and bhajans from the students of Nagpur rendered with awesome perfection - the last one being a Qawwali at 2:30 am which had everyone rise up to dance in exultation.

There was such a strong feeling of oneness with Shri Mataji, and with each other, in the pure love of the Sahasrara, like all our individual selves had melted into Shri Mataji. Shri Mataji commented at the end of the very high artistic expression of all the parts of the program and how it had taken us so high in the Sahasrara.

The second evening, on Saturday, started with a very devotional offering by Philip, the German leader. At the end of the offering, his words fell short of being able to convey what the heart overflows with, and he didn't know what more to say to Shri Mataji. One yogi from the middle of the hall then said in a strong voice "and we love You, Shri Mataji!" Everyone applauded and this opened our hearts as we entered into what was going to be an evening of even more amazing artistic expressions. A wonderful Katak presentation by a German Sahaja Yogi who mastered this form of dance at the Nagpur Academy, a beautiful adaptation of the song Raghu Pati Ram by the Slovenians, a moving video of Slovenia, a song from the upcoming Academy CD, and many more.

One of the greatest highlights of the evening was an extraordinary raga rendition by Selim, a Yogi from Turkey, who modified a banjo-like string instrument to make it sound in a very unique way (close to the sarod). Selim learned to play it all by himself in only a few years but he brought it to such a state of perfection. The raga was long but truly amazing, taking us higher, and higher, and higher. Just when you thought you had reached the peak, you would realize you are taken even higher in the infinite musical dimensions of the Sahasrara. At the end everyone rose up with joy and gave a very long ovation. There was also a funny skit with "Martian marriages" and how the vibrations can transform and enlighten our marriages.

The night culminated with a historical rendition of the Magic Flute - the first time ever that an opera, acted and sung exclusively by Sahaja Yogis, was played in the presence of Sakshat Shri Adi Shakti. Again the artistic quality and amazing voices and talents of the Yogis took us seems to another realm. Shri Mataji really enjoyed it as well as the whole program, and said at the end that She would like them to do a full feature of the opera at the Royal Albert Hall in London. We were again emerged in the ocean of bliss as we went to bed around 4:30am.

On Sunday, the puja started around 9pm. The talk was about one hour long and very powerful and subtle. I couldn't remember much afterwards and realized that I had to listen to it many times to be able to imbibe some of the points. I was fortunate enough to spend some more days after the puja in Cabella and to have access to an audiotape of the puja talk to which we listened for three days in a row at our morning meditations. Shri Mataji

From: Maron Patricia, USA <Maron_Patricia@prc.com>
 Subject: Sahasrara Puja Impressions

It was infectious, the love which pored from the Yogis in Cabella at this years Sahasrara Puja weekend. One could not deny its gentle strength. One watched in amazement at the professional yet collective work done primarily by the host country Yogis. Even the country leaders of the hosting countries were working physically to make this a most beautiful Puja weekend. And, the weather cooperated completely. It was beautifully sunny every day, Friday through Monday. It was not too hot and not too cold but just right. Only during the programs while we were all inside the newly constructed hanger did it rain, ever so gently.

It was amazing indeed to watch the Yogis of the hosting countries rebuild the hanger from the ground up. They worked right up to five minutes before each entertainment program and before Puja. Never was an argument observed. It was as if they were working as one body, as one mind, as one. Such collectivity for many of us is still a dream. Such collaboration of skills, it was truly Sahaj.

And, when they finished for the day, the love pored forth for Shri Mataji. It was as if this were a welcome home party to welcome Shri Mataji back to her summer home. Each entertainment program was like a Puja. The vibrations flowed so easily and so naturally. Of course the European entertainment was second to none. It was hard to believe that they could do better after Friday night's program. Yet, on Saturday night they did. European Yogis performed each program totally. To end Saturday's program we were treated to a European Collective interpretation of "The Magic Flute". Shri Mataji announced after the program that she would like it to be performed by the Yogis at the Royal Albert Hall.

Then there was Puja. Wow! The love, I don't know what else to say. The Yogis sang each bhajan as if there were only one voice. One could not distinguish any one person's voice over another. Again, it was one body, one mind, one voice: we were one. I don't want to paraphrase Shri Mataji's lecture as I may misquote or forget important parts. But... Shri Mataji began by explaining that the 1000 nerves in our brains are the Sahasrara and that Sahas means 1000. She mentioned that doctors are still arguing among themselves as to how many nerves there are but that we should not pay any attention to it. There are 1000. Shri Mataji went on to explain that enlightened ideas come from this area. Most thoughts comes from just above our liver, in the area around our diaphragm. They are not enlightened thoughts, even though we think we are thinking righteous thoughts for Sahaja Yoga. Later, Shri Mataji spoke about investments. I can't remember most of what she said, but it was something on the order of investments will not work out for Yogis. By investments I believe she was talking about playing the stock market sort of investments. I apologize but my memory on this is sketchy. Please, buy the audio when it is available; it is an excellent lecture.

From: "Calin Costian" <calin@nortelnetworks.com>
 Subject: account of the Sahasrara Puja

Dear brothers and sisters,

It was with great joy in our hearts that we gathered at the Lotus Feet of our Divine Mother to celebrate the Sahasrara Day and worship Her as Shri Sahasrara Swamini Moksha Pradyani. The festivities started on Friday, May 7, when many Yogis strolled to fill the hangar (ladies) and the big blue tent (men) as well as the banks of the Cabella river, where the vibrant sky, trees and water beckoned us to deep and joyful meditations as well as fast rhythms of happy shoebeats which could be seen everywhere. For those of us who only get to Cabella once a year or even less often, just reaching this place of paradise gave us great peace and joy, lifting our spirits and vibrations and preparing us for the events to come.

The first evening program on that Friday night was such a powerful blast of vibrations carried with force by all the exquisite artistic manifestations of our brothers and sisters from Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic. In fact it seemed that this first evening was the most powerful in a way, maybe because it was the first time in the weekend that we all reached a seemingly new state of the Sahasrara, which made it easier to get "up there" in the following evenings. In fact, at the very end of this first program Shri Mataji said that all of us had our Sahasras very opened.

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started by explaining to us the role that the Sahasrara plays at the level of human awareness (before Self Realization) - this is the chakra by which we react and try to avoid people or things we don't like. Thus we start developing feelings of fear, hatred, etc. which first manifest in the individual and then collectively (groups promoting racism, fundamentalism, etc.)

This is because of the darkness in us which is ignorance. After Self Realization, it becomes light and we start seeing what is right and wrong, and we should always choose to do what is right. Then it goes to the collective level, where we desire to spread Sahaja Yoga. We realize that we can't talk to other people about these things and the only solution is to give them Self Realization first, so that they can understand and see for themselves.

Through this awareness given by Self Realization, we get to know the Truth in an absolute way, through vibrations, and we can also speak of it with authority (Shri Mataji gave the example of a discussion on economics, where She pointed out that it is all wrong since it is self-destructive: modern economics destroys family life, and own country or other countries). We need to find out what is our position, our role and mission to play in the collective work of Sahaja Yoga in the world. Each one of us needs to find out what we are supposed to do in this great Divine Plan and fulfill our role.

The puja itself was short but very strong and we all felt melted in such oneness of Divine Love at the Lotus Feet of the Great Goddess. It was a weekend of great upliftment for all of us, in which our hearts became more opened and united, and our awareness became deeper and got transformed in the Sahasrara, swimming in the ocean of bliss, peace and blessings of our Divine Mother's Love. The entire weekend, if it was to be summed up in a few words, was just Love and the pure awareness of the Sahasrara.

Shri Mataji, thank You again and again as we bow to Your Lotus Feet in devotion and dedication, for giving us all the blessing to be Your children, for taking us in Your Heart and offering us the privilege to be Your instruments



From: "Calin Costian" <calin@nortelnetworks.com>

Dear Sahaja Yogis,

We are looking for testimonials of what Sahaja Yoga has done for us to put on the Web in the testimonials section (which has only 2 letters right now, not enough to show the world). These testimonials should be written for the general public, as if they were sent to an editor, with the idea in mind that they are for the general public.

What we're looking for is simply honest statements from the heart, from everyone's experience and if possible actual stories (miraculous or not) which have beneficially impacted our lives after coming to Sahaja Yoga (and which we have reason to believe happened because of our meditation and of our being in Sahaja Yoga). Length is not at all a limitation in any way - if several pages are needed to express what the writer wants to say we can include all of it, but if other yogis feel like sending a single, powerful phrase that sums up what they want to say, that would be just as great. All testimonials can be sent to Steve (Steve.Wollenberger@harrisbank.com),

Calin (sydallas@applink.net) and Mark Taylor (sahajbhakt@aol.com) to be reviewed and placed on the web. Please send your letters to all the 3 above addresses if possible by the end of this month (May, 1999).

JAY SHRI MATAJI !

With many thanks and kind regards from the Web team