

THE AUSTRALIAN

STRATHFIELD

Sahaja Newsletter



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JUNE 15TH '96

*Power is of two kinds.
One is obtained by
the fear of punishment
and the other by acts of love.
Power based on love is
a thousand times more effective
and permanent than the one
derived from fear of punishment.*

Quotes of Gandhi 1925



ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION

October/November 1996

We are having an arts and crafts exhibition in October or early November. Before we look for a suitable venue, i.e. a large, well lit hall in an affluent area of Sydney with enough passing trade, we would like all artists and craftspeople who are able to submit items for sale to contact one of the organisers below. The aim is to have a professional standard for this exhibition through which the abundance of creativity within Sahaja Yoga will be displayed to the public. The event is going to be spread over an entire weekend with an opening night on Friday night, as well as Saturday and Sunday from 10.00am to 6.00pm. We need everyone's help to make this event a huge success. Here are the main categories in which you may like to offer your talents:

- Opening Night. Friday night 6.00 to 9.30pm.
Live music to celebrate the opening.
Orange juice and light refreshments to be served.
People to serve orange juice and light snacks will be needed.
- Art Exhibition. All artists interested, Australia wide, please contact us as soon as possible. Photographs of samples of work would be appreciated.
- Craft Exhibition. We are looking for good quality, well presented crafts, such as woodturning, carving, leadlights, needlework, jams, to mention but a few.
- Tea Rooms. Tea, coffee, cakes and light lunches.
Donations of cakes and quiches can be donated. There is also a need for people to help with preparing, serving and washing-up.
- Musical Entertainment. A beautiful atmosphere would be created if various musicians could perform throughout the exhibition.

In order to continue with the organisation of this wonderful event we really need to know how many people are going to offer items for the exhibition. Please contact one of the organisers before July the 11th which will give everyone four weeks to decide what they are going to submit.

Advertising is to be done through local Radio, Newspapers, posters and by invitation.

This is a great opportunity to raise funds. Arts and crafts can be donated entirely or 30% commission on sales is to be deducted.

Please contact the relevant person below:

ARTS Greta More ph 02-99047637
Meredith Cooper ph 02-4116827

CRAFTS Ellen Marlow ph/fax 043-533309

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT Judy Dobbie ph 02-4162373

TEA ROOMS Katharine Tolfree ph 049-375154



COMMUNITY TELEVISION PROGRAM

**CHANNEL 31 MELBOURNE
TUESDAY
25TH JUNE
9 PM**

After Channel 31 saw the Community Television Program we screened at Burwood earlier this year we were offered a Saturday timeslot to broadcast a series of meditation programs. As we were unable to produce the numbers required for this series Channel 31 offered to screen the one we have completed as a special.

To screen the series we were offered a discount price of \$300.00 per hour. After some conversation they agreed to screen the special for free with the understanding that when we had a series complete we would come to some financial arrangement.

JAI SHRI MATAJI

Video Group Meeting, 7.30pm Sunday 16th June - at Ramsay St. ashram.



An eloquent homecoming (of Sahaja yogini)

THREE are two musical fallacies often propounded by local parochial thinkers. First, Sydney has too many clashing concerts. Second, too many young musicians of high promise, go abroad to advance their studies and careers.

Fallacies, both. All musically mature cities have clashing concerts, the more the better. And our best young performers must see the wider world to establish standards, preferably returning home for short or long periods to share their progress and discoveries with us.

One of these young conquerors is violinist Asmira Woodward-Page, currently giving nine concerts here while on a short visit home from the famous music school at Bloomingdale in Indiana. I heard her recital for the Australian Musicians Academy on Sunday.

Her program was unusually structured, beginning with an encore — the *Sicilienne* by Paradis — and letting off its fireworks in the

MUSIC

BY FRED BLANKS

Asmira Woodward-Page (violin) and David Howie (piano), St Stephen's Uniting Church, City, June 9

middle, with two Paganini caprices. The centre of gravity lay in two sonatas — Beethoven's G Major, Opus 96, and Brahms's Opus 78 in the same key. In both works the violinist, perceptively partnered by pianist David Howie, showed fine classical poise, playing with an eloquence that was musical rather than rhetorical yet rarely understating the emotional impact.

In Paganini, there were two moments of problematic infonation but technical certitude was of a high order, and brought out excitement at all the right places such as in the *Valse-Scherzo* Opus 34 by Tchaikovsky.

One wishes Asmira Woodward-Page every success in her American environment, and many happy returns home.

THURSDAY 6th JUNE 1996 - 12.02 pm.

From: BAUMGARTNER

AUSTRIA

JAI SHRI MATAJI

Hello from Austria!!

We now have a fax in Franz's studio
no: 0211/43/4762/42358

and our address: Susi & Franz Baumgartner
Aichfeldgasse 2,
A-9800 SPITZEN/Dras,
AUSTRIA.

Austria is very beautiful, and we are
very happy now we have a little flat
with a balcony and fantastic
views! I am learning to drive on
the "wrong" side of the road!! And
helping Franz in his studio - hand
work!

Please pass this on (and Heather
if it's not too late for the newsletter)
and tell everyone how we are settled
I will write lots of letters and hope
everyone will also write/fax to us.

Much love Susi & Franz

xxx

S.M.H.
Jai Mataji

Goodbye Bombay, hello Mumbai, and the poor will be made to pay

BOMBAY, Monday: Nobody thought the new name for the city would stick. The wraths in scraps of clothing did not think so, nor the paunchy tycoons who somehow coexist here with the wraths in scraps of clothing. For them, the city of infinite possibilities, the megalopolis of 13 million, would always be Bombay.

But not any more. Come Wednesday, all establishments are to change the name of the city on their signs and stationery and company registrations to Mumbai — the original Marathi name for a collection of fishing villages from which the city grew. The word "Bombay" as India has known and come to love as its most cosmopolitan and commercially vibrant city, will begin to disappear.

For all its British place names and crumbling colonial mansions, this is a city that shrugs off its past without a backward glance. Bombay for years has been the place where people go to reinvent them-

It is a city which changes colour and changes culture, at every moment," he says. He wants to impose internal immigration controls to keep out new arrivals — especially the poor. Underlying Mr. Nawalkar's desire to reinvent its own image, SUZANNE GOLDENBERG reports.

What it needs is a little discipline, Bombayites are ethnic Marathis less than half of what it was in 1980. Now that Mr. Nawalkar's Shiv Sena Party has got its way on Mumbai, it can begin to impose a strict Marathi identity throughout the city, starting with the city's most famous landmarks.

He claims that only a quarter of Bombayites are ethnic Marathis — a snub to alien — read Muslim, or Western — influences, lessening the importance of the Marathi sons of the soil movie star. Or at least that is what would happen if one of the hundreds of Hindi films that are spun in the city every year came to life.

Even if you do not find fame and fortune, there is still a sort of freedom in the chronic overcrowding that forces people to leave caste and religious allegiances behind. Professional women swear by the safety of its streets. Mr. Nawalkar favours a robust approach.

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WIN

HURRY!!!

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

SHRI GANESHA PUJA - CABELLA

RAFFLE TICKETS \$15ea or \$25 for two.

In Sydney, see either Sue Williams or

Carole McNeill at Saturday night programme

JAI SHRI MATAJI

Dear brothers and sisters,

We are hoping to put together a book which will be offered to Shri Mataji at this year's Shri Ganesha Puja. This book will be in praise of Shri Ganesha, and will include:

- drawings, paintings, or any visual image of Shri Ganesha (especially by children)
- photos of Shri Ganesha swayambhus
- poems, stories, quotations relating to Shri Ganesha or innocence
- Miracles photos

It would be wonderful if all countries were represented in this book. Please contribute!!!

Please send your contributions by August 15 (or sooner!) to

Shri Ganesha Project
c/o Victoria Zbylut
La Bardeuse
Les Valayans
84 210 PERNES-LES- FONTAINES
FRANCE

tel. (33) 90 62 06 54

Jai Shree Mataji

Dear Sahaja Newsletter of Australia,

June 3, 1996

Just a little note from your friendly liver, to say that the work continues, slow but steady. The French have just begun a collective three month liver diet and following a suggestion from Shree Mataji we have decided to perform a havan once a week at the time of meditation - 4.00pm.

Until I came to live in France I never realised how lucky I was to be born in Australia and just how open the people are. In France it is so very difficult to speak openly about meditation or yoga, the culture here goes back for centuries and it was in France that the philosophy "I think, therefore I am" was born. Culturally, they decided to do without God and went completely towards the intellect and the so called freedom it gave. Hence, there is very little seeking for spiritual and moral values. We have faced open and at times virulent opposition from government, media, families, church organisations, you name it, they are against us. For us there are no festivals, no processions, no open air stands. Credit must be given to all the French Yogis who had the courage to be born here, it is no holiday!

In Australia, even the United States, it is true we have no actual culture, but on a more positive point neither do we have the historical conditionings which accompany older established societies. It is a wonderful chance for Yogis in countries like Australia to influence the upcoming culture to move in a direction that are needed to sustain a healthy society. So if ever your thoughts stray towards us here in France, you're very welcome, sitting in your room, with the earthly impurities, please give us a little bandhan, perhaps a tap with the heel of your shoe to help us to get our freedom to be ourselves and to openly express the love of Shree Mataji.

Meanwhile I have enclosed a few quotes from Martin Luther King. I came across a little book of his quotes just recently and am very impressed by what an incredible soul he was. Hope you all enjoy these few words as much as I do.

With lots-of love, Pragnya

Pragnya

If God dealt with evil in the overbearing way that we wish, He would defeat His ultimate purpose. We are responsible human beings, not blind automatons; persons, not puppets. By endowing us with freedom, God relinquished a measure of His own sovereignty and imposed certain limitations upon Himself. If his children are free, they must do His will by voluntary choice.

Man is a being of spirit....An abiding expression of man's spiritual nature is his freedom. Man is man because he is free to operate within the framework of his destiny. He is free to deliberate, to make decisions, and to choose between alternatives. He is distinguished from animals by his freedom to do evil or to do good and to walk the high road of beauty or tread the low road of ugly degeneracy.

Moral principles have lost their distinctiveness. For modern man, absolute right and absolute wrong are a matter of what the majority is doing. Right and wrong are relative to likes and dislikes and the customs of a particular community. We have unconsciously applied Einstein's theory of relativity, which properly described the physical universe, to the moral and ethical realm.

Martin Luther King Jr, The Strength to Love