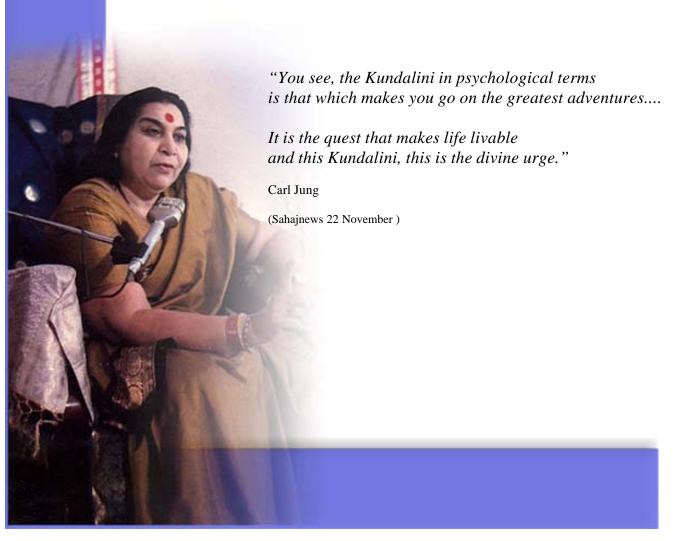


Jai Shri Mataji!

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STATE NEWS

News from Victoria

Diwali Puja Weekend November 16, 17 & 18 2001

When one is going to the calm and blissfulness of our Mother's embrace one often encounters turbulence as in heading into the eye of the storm and consequently encounters flack on exiting as well. This was not the case at the recent Diwali celebrations at Shri Maha Lakshmi's haven in East Gippsland Victoria Australia.

The Melbourne collective, with support from the greater Australian collective, recently purchased 188 acres of land with Shri Mataji's Blessings. The teamwork and collective efforts to get the place ready to host a National/ International event has been smooth. No big stressful meetings demanding things to be done - rather a Sahaj approach and everything worked out and the venue was ready to receive our Sahaja Yogi family.

The approach to the property is majestic, with rolling hills and horizon-to-horizon vistas. The two-day celebration was like a mini-India tour: timeless, thoughtless and great collectivity. The property managed the approx 200 participants very nicely and could accommodate more when required.

Saturday's havan was a really clearing experience, and the evening's Diwali puja transformed the big hall into a timeless ship carrying us closer to our mother and toward unity with the Divine Pure Spirit. The food was constantly flowing and laughter reverberated through the halls.

On Sunday - after a strong meditation and before a lot of yogis had to travel - a diverse, relaxed presentation of Sahaja Yoga talent was offered. So sweet were the children and so professional were some performances, especially the Kawwali group, Anthony and Lyndon and company, thank you, Monica for her inspiring Violin playing, Kumi for singing after only one year of lessons, Uma on the Veena brought the sunshine, the Melbourne collective's children's play (thank you Christine) and all the diverse entertainment was appreciated. Our thanks to the Adelaide collective for their first Act of a play to be continued, to the Sydney collective without whom the weekend would have been greatly diminished, and thanks to all those who worked so hard to make it all happen - especially the ladies who really make all things possible.

The joy of that weekend still reverberates through our attention and is still providing us all with positive nurturing collective vibrations. On leaving one could not help but entertain the prospects of coming back again and again to Mother's new land in Victoria Australia.

Jai Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi Jeff Lyons, Melbourne

News from NSW

URGENT!

Terilary Qualifications Sought from all NSW Yogis for SMND University

An academic audit of the entire world Sahaj collective has been conducted in order to establish fields of expertise from which we can draw in order to design appropriate courses for the syllabus of SMND University.

Any NSW yogis with tertiary qualifications are requested to submit details to SMNDU@michaeldavies.com. Please see the Curriculum Vitae pro forma at the back of this newsletter for particulars.

NSW seems to be the last region in the world to be covered by this survey, so your urgent response to this request is greatly appreciated.

Raymond Hampton, Sydney 0409 986 591 or 9498 6591.

Final reminder for Raffle Tickets

Just a last reminder all raffle tickets for the Christmas Hamper Raffle must be brought to Burwood by next Friday night the 14^h of Dec as we will be drawing the raffle that evening.

Sarita Murphy Sydney

Birthdays!

Richard Magers

Our very best wishes to Sahaj yogis whose birthday falls in the coming week. May they all have many happy returns of their special day...

Donna Goulding
Philomena Fernandez
Peter Hewitson
Deepak Kumar
Pushpa Ranjitkumar
Michelle Shete
Debbie Venugopal
Joe Griffith
Karen McDonald
Robert Webber
Jessica Miller
Diana Corden
Sarah Frankcombe
Neroli Marcus
Michael McFadden

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

News from America

Like Candles Bringing Light

For the second year running, Diwali Puja was held at Lake Piru, Ventura County, just outside of Los Angeles.

Lake Piru is surrounded by hills and the terrain is desert. The campsite is situated in an olive grove and nearby are many fruit farms with oranges, lemons, pomelos and all sorts of such fruits grown on a huge flat plain.

On the Saturday evening, the day before the puja, there was a spectacular display of literally hundreds of meteors.

The following is the gist of Shri Mataji's talk, but as always, one should make a point of listening to the talk itself, as memory is faulty and the nuances of Mother's words bear endless repeated hearing.

Mother started by saying that this day was a great day where evil has been suppressed. She said that She did not expect that there would be such a quick victory over the evil forces and certainly not before Diwali Puja, but it had happened.

She said that people go wrong through ignorance and that is why evil spreads throughout the world. She said that evil people will be taken care of by the Divine Power.

Several times She stressed the need for us to introspect and that we should see what needs to be changed in us and She said that it will only work for us if we are collective.

She said that the atmosphere has changed since September 11th and that we should go out collectively and spread Sahaja Yoga. She said that we should have nothing to fear, that there was nothing stopping us and that anything appearing to be in the way is just illusion.

She said that people who were not yogis are coming up to Her in the airports, holding out their hands and feeling the cool breeze and they are sensing that their kundalini has risen.

She said that we must have faith and that what She finds is that we are afraid to go out if there is a bomb sc are, but we should know that we are looked after, that we should have no fear and that we are special people.

She said that we have to be like candles and burn ourselves to bring light to the people.

She said that we would see great things in the coming

year, that we will be surprised.

Again Mother said that every day She receives letters from yogis who want Her to help their father, mother, brother, sister and that when She asks whether these people Sahaja Yogis, the answer is no.

She said She is not interested in helping such people, that they are free to come to Sahaja Yoga and if they do not, then that is up to them. She said that we should not worry about people who do not want to come to Sahaja Yoga.

She also said that everyone of us should go all out to tell people about Sahaja Yoga, that if you are a yogi, then She did not give you Self Realization for you to keep it to yourself. She said that if you are a half-baked yogi, you should get out of Sahaja Yoga.

She spoke about how humans cannot sense evil people, whereas animals can. She said a dog will bark at an evil person. She said that, whereas animals eat raw food, we cook ours. We also cook our brains.

She mentioned the meteors and said that this had never happened on this scale before.

Things have changed so much that we should forget the past. It no longer matters.

Jai Shri Mataji

Alan Wherry and Hugh Frith

(Sahajnews 22 November)

GENERAL NEWS

A Child's Innocent Gesture Rewarded

Hi – I am, yet again, completely amazed by the awesome wonder of Divine Orchestration. Let me tell you a little story.

Nine years ago when Grace-Ganga was 5 years old, the situation in Somali was at its worst, as you may recall. It was December and Gracie found the news reports about the starving and homeless children quite disturbing. After some time, seeing that she was quite seriously attentive to the situation, I suggested she do something to help (I envisioned putting money in a relief fund, that sort of thing). She decided she wanted to send the children a Christmas card (all 5 million of them?).

She agreed that sending one card for everyone would be okay as they could just pass it around amongst themselves. At age 5 I don't think children have any concept of geography or population - anyway, she wrote out a card saying, "To everyone in Somalia - I hope you have a nice Christmas and hope everything gets better soon. Love, Grace Fitzpatrick Age 5". She put it in the envelope, addressed it "To everyone in Somalia, Africa (Please Pass This Around)" and we walked to the post box and she solemnly put it in. There wasn't a proper address and no postage stamp, and though it was such a sweet and loving sentiment from the beautiful heart of a child, but I honestly thought it would go no further.

Well, bless Australia Post's heart, a few weeks later Grace received a letter in the mail from Colonel W.J.A Mellor stationed in Somalia (then National Commander of the Australian forces in Somalia). Suffice it to say it was a sweet, very kind and informative letter and speaking on Gracie's 5-year old level but not condescending.

So, present day: a couple of months ago I find that he and his letter keep popping into my attention. Some days later I find Grace re-reading his letter which we've kept in a file. I mentioned to Ganga how he's been very prominent in my attention lately and she tells me that he's been in her attention too. We thought that perhaps he may be stationed in Afghanistan and perhaps needs protection so we put him into bandhan - cool. We then decided that since Christmas was coming up, wouldn't it be nice to send him another card, this time properly addressed to him as a kind of natural progression of Ganga's card nine years ago. It felt so cool and Grace said it's the right thing to do, that it has to be done, it needs to be done and she knows that somehow. I felt this too. That was a remarkably joyful moment, actually.

I tried but couldn't find out where Mellor was posted but I obtained the address of a Defence department which

would forward our card to him. That address has been sitting on my altar for a couple of weeks now and we're just about ready to send our messages (and Grace is doing a little art work, as well). I think maya may have been at work - I hadn't been able to find anything on the internet about him and so assumed he is engaged in something not for public consumption but perhaps very important, so we put him in bandhan again - cool again.

So today, I find that he's very strong in my attention before leaving for work and I told myself I'm going to dig until I find at least some morsel about Mellor. When I arrived at work, and as easy as pie, I'm suddenly linked to the internet site of the Australian Embassy in Washington and find that (he's had a promotion) Brigadier W.J.A. Mellor is Australia's Military Attache to Washington USA and Ottawa Canada!!!! Wahwahwahhhhh!!!!

At that moment I was flabbergasted, not quite able to fathom the Sahaj orchestration of this, the immense meaning. So, as I had resolved to include one of the new Sahaj postcards in his Christmas card, now I'm most definitely going to include one!! Grace is going to be amazed when I tell her.

There you have it.

Love, *Liallyn Fitzpatrick* Sydney, Australia

Devastating Storm avoids Sahaj Household

Last Monday during my lunch break lying on the grass, I was witnessing the lightnings of Sri Vishnumaya in the sky and vibrating at the sound of the drums of Shiva as a storm was coming.

I had just the time to get under shelter when the rain started pouring.

But I was not aware of the strength of this storm. When I came home at night to Hornsby, the street near our house was looking like a battlefield with trees torn apart, big branches across the road, bits of roof on the ground, etc and the trains being cancelled. I was happy that our house had not been at all touched, seeing that the avenue next to it was devastated. A neighbour who was there when it happened said that it was in fact a mini-tornado that came across the city. When I looked carefully in the area, I noticed that it was heading straight for our house, but for some reason had turned left 20 metres before our house and right again after it, resuming its path in the next street as if to avoid our place where we run sahaj programs every week.

Jean-Michel Huet, Sydney, Australia