



Australian Sahaja Newsletter

Contributions:

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If you read the newspaper, you'll be amazed how things are happening, how people are suffering. We have to understand fundamentally that unless and until transformation takes place, we cannot change this world....

Love is the only way now we can work it out. It is something like a big, big hall, which we go into this darkness of vibration and which will clarify many places, many hearts, many people. It is an ocean, we should say, Ocean of Greatness.

This Divine Love is so great and so powerful, at the same time so very gentle, that you can see the nature, how the trees grow. Every leaf gets the sunshine. Every tree has its own position. We have to learn so much from the Nature because Nature is bound with that love. Nature has no aggressiveness. It is just under the complete control of the Divine Love.

Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi, Adi Shakti Puja, 20 June 1999

★ Sunday 27th February, 2pm

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★ Public Program in Australia in Shri Mataji's Divine

presence.

★ Our booking of this venue is now confirmed - Capacity 10,000!

★ Jai Shri Mataji!

Seminar Weekend- 'Back to Basics'

A Seminar was held over the weekend, *November 27th* to *28th* at the Country Property. The Seminar provided an opportunity to begin discussions centred around next year's Tour, while enjoying a few days in each other's company. While it may have been hoped that more people could have attended those present displayed an enthusiasm, eagerness and passion for an auspicious beginning for the arrangements for Shri Mataji's visit.

During Saturday everyone present made positive contributions towards the Tour with many people volunteering their services. All ideas were welcomed; a summary of the discussion are included.

On Sunday discussions opened out and through the will of those present moved towards the nature of our behaviour and being able to move beyond some of the more superficial and disingenuous aspects of the collective. The point was made that as Sahaja Yogis our undertaking should be one of committed spiritual evolution and growth, worship of Shri Mataji, and performing the work of Sahaja Yoga.

Somehow some may have lost sight of this vision; too much attention and time is being directed towards criticism, close heartedness and being unforgiving. Discussions ebbed and flowed about why we sometimes fall prey to these weaknesses and how we sometimes miss the point about what it means to be a Sahaja Yoga.

Many expressed their appreciation that we were mature enough to talk openly about some of our shortcomings; first we must recognise where we may have lost our direction before we can begin to steer a new course.

By the end of our discussions it was agreed that recognising the issues before us was only the start, and that it was good for all of us to converse, however talk would not institute the sort of changes we collectively felt were needed. This could only be achieved by collectively bringing Shri Mataji closer to each one of us.

To this end it was decided that everyone, whether they are resident in an Ashram, collective house, or are living on their own should rise at 5:00am for Meditation. If as a collective we are all meditating at the same

time, manifesting our desire for Shri Mataji to come into our lives, then this more than anything else would help lift our collective in readiness for Shri Mataji's Tour. It has been over four years since Shri Mataji's last blessed our country, the prevailing theme is that each Yogi should re-establish a 'back to the basics' approach to Sahaja Yoga including a **commitment to clearing ourselves each day**. Those with problems of the left-side should perform three candle treatment; those with right-sided problems should use ice packs on the liver and footsoaks; we should also shoebeat ourselves.

If Shri Mataji was to visit our homes then we would leave no stone unturned in cleaning and preparing our residence. In a similar sense we should spend the next two months cleansing and balancing our spiritual beings in preparation and in readiness for Her visit.

Many said they felt that the openness, sincerity and honesty displayed during the seminar had enabled us to turn a new page in the growth, evolution, and progress of the collective.

Tour Preparations

1. Preparations required for **Balmoral** to host Maha-Shivaratri Puja will commence mid December and will include construction work to expand its facilities. The collectives of Sydney, Central Coast, Wollongong and Canberra will be asked to contribute people into different groups who will be responsible for contributing labour on a nominated weekend of each month. In this way everyone can contribute and has some manner of planning when they will be working.
1. Arrangements for **Shri Mataji's accommodation** in Sydney and the Bowral/Mittagong area during her stay in Australia. It was decided that Apartment style accommodation would be most appropriate.
1. **The venue for the Public Program will be the Sydney Entertainment Centre, Sunday February 27th.** It was agreed that a community based grass roots marketing campaign would be the backbone of our strategy including posterizing, handbilling, outdoor posterizing, direct mailing and yogi referrals, Some degree of mainstream media – print, radio, televi-

BHAJANS PRACTICE

There will be a bhajans night at 10 Clarence St Burwood, this Saturday night (4.12.99) at 8pm. All welcome!

YOUTH WORKSHOP

The Youth workshop will be held in **Balmoral, 10-2pm, Sunday 5th December.**

Lunch will be provided.

This will be the third program of its kind. The Youth program in Strathfield on Wednesday nights is very well attended.

All yogis are welcome to the Balmoral workshop. Anybody who needs transport could contact Avinash or Deepak on 9747 4835. (Leaving 8-8:30 am. Sunday am)

Meta Modern Victory

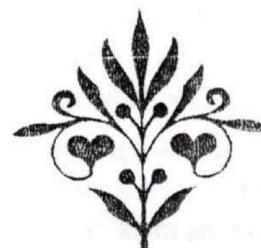
DALLAS < Another "victory" on the electronic battlefield concerns Meta Modern Era. As you may know, there is a link from the Sahaja Yoga website to the Meta Modern Era one (www.metamodernera.com) from where seekers can buy Shri Mataji's book either by cheque or, more recently, by credit card. The way we achieved this without setting up any credit card acceptance system was by submitting Meta Modern Era to Amazon.com, probably the world's largest online bookseller. Clicking on our button for credit card payment takes you directly to the page where you can buy it from Amazon.com (and, as any serious online seller, they take credit cards over the web!). Not long after this was set up, Amazon.com emailed us requesting twenty-one copies of the book that seekers had already ordered.

JAI SHRI MATAJI ! CALIN COSTIAN

The flower says
Blessed am I
Blessed am I
Upon this earth.

Of dust inside me there is none.
No dust at all inside me
The flower says.
Tagore

The flower says
I was born from the dust
Kindly kindly
Let me forget it
Let me forget it
Let me forget.



Task List for Shri Mataji's Public Program
Entertainment Centre Sunday February 27th
Overall Coordinators: Avinash and Chris

Team	Main Task	Tasks Required	Printing and Poster Team Contact:	Charles, John T.
Press Release / Media Kit Team Contact:	Ramesh, Mark o Secure Mayoral or Ministerial Welcome for Shri Mataji o Prepare Press Kit o Identify / prepare Media/journalist target list o Prepare Standard articles	Prepare target VIP list, deliver press kits, follow-up phone call - lobby Target journalists print+electronic, deliver press kits, follow-up phone call - lobby Liase with all Sahaja writers - Jenny, Mark, Michelle, Brian	o Railway Posters (referred to as 'Backlites') o Bus Shelter Posters (referred to as 'Metrolites') o Outdoor Posters (referred to as 'Phantom Posters') o Poster by Sahaja Yogis A4 Color Poster o Public Prog Invitations Cards Color o A5 Handbiling 500,000 o Handbiling professional/ mail Inserts/ letterbox o Banners o Puja Invitations o Car Top Signs o Quantities required for all printed material	Identify sites, artwork, printing, deliver posters, inspect sites identify sites, artwork, printing, deliver posters, inspect sites Generate Quotes, artwork, printing, deliver posters, inspect sites
Paid Advertising and Publicity - Team Contact:	Helen Mannasey o Television Advertising Radio Team John Tedesco John Dobbie Mark Williams	Book space, artwork, place ads Book space, artwork, place ads Write article, lobby	Graphic Design Team Contact: Guy, Lene and Kate	Ring all local and Asian centres
Free Advertising and Publicity - Team Contact:	Radio Team o Community Announcements : Radio, Television o Community Announcements in: Newspapers, Magazines o Community Announcements in Trade Newsletters		Entertainment Centre Build Team Charles	o Shri Mataji's need on stage and in the lounge room o Event Management o Program itinerary o Venue Signage o Stage and backdrop and decoration o Stage setup and dismantling team o Marshals and hosts o Handouts and information desks o Transport to and from the venue o Music program
Internet Team: Contact: Rajan	o Announcements on Internet Billboards o Email and Internet Lists o Newsletters		Audio / Visual Team Chris and John Dobbie, Lawrence, Michael	o Television Advertising o Radio Advertising o Video Recording at Ent Cent o Audio Recording at Ent Cent o Video Projection at Ent Cent o Lighting at Ent Cent o PA and mixing at the Ent Cent

tion, Internet site and press kits will be used as part of a coordinated media strategy

The format of the handbill will be double-sided A4 sheet which will be folded to create the handout. Information included will be frequently asked questions about Sahaja Yoga and material about Shri Mataji. For the Royal Albert Hall program **250,000** handbills were printed which attracted **5,000**. The capacity of the Entertainment Centre is **10,000** people, so it is planned to produce **500,000** handbills, so each one of us will need to be involved with handbiling, postering and the active promotion of the public program if it is to be a success.

Recent discussions about the format for the Public Program have discussed the possibility of hosting a unique cultural celebration of the spirit incorporating music from a variety of traditions to welcome and introduce Shri Mataji. This would utilise different groups of Sahaja musicians, as well as possible including other artists. We will also wish to ask Shri Mataji if She would like to nominate a theme for the coming Tour which we would use on all our promotions.

Wherever you feel you can best contribute please volunteer for one of the following teams; either add your name to a copy of this list posted on the Noticeboard or speak to Avinash or Chris.

The people listed as contacts for each of the tasks are only acting as co-ordinators for these activities, input, contribution and ownership of all these tasks rests with each one of us.

Sincerely Avinash and Chris

My Dear God, Published 14th of Nov. 1999 in The Times of India - Mumbai in "The Speaking Tree". I was very little when I first heard of you. The mother who carried me from your arms and delivered me into this world fondly looked upon me one day and said "You are God's miracle". My baby heart merely saw the tenderness in her eye. I gurgled and gave her a toothless smile in acknowledgement.

My adolescent years in a Hindu family were filled with your stories. Stories that wove more magic for me than any fairy tale could. Story of an elephant whose impassioned cry had you running to save him from the jaws of a crocodile. Of a Draupadi who sought ultimate refuge in you to save her honour and your gift of the endless robe to her. Of little Prahlad whose innocent faith compelled you to take the form of Narsimha, the half-man, half-lion.

The entire world was your creation, I was told. You, the cosmic dancer and the universe, your eternal dance. Right from the little ant to the mighty mountain, a tiny trembling leaf to the deep forests, the bubbling brook to the hushed deserts, the silent stones to the chirping birds, the skies, the sun, the moon and the stars, women and children – they were all fragments of your dance. That you longed for it. And delighted in it.

I wanted to see you. Hear you. I could say that. Hear a bird sing, they said. Or the wind whistle. See a flower bloom, they said. Or a star twinkle. For starters said the mother: "Love all and be loved yourself. Give your all so you are never wanting. Be kind and the world's compassion will fill you. You will see him then."

The child's heart believed all. I grew up in faith. Got on with life. And the innocent toothless smile was lost in the furrows of hope and despair. Of depression and delight. The world wasn't all about stars and flowers. It was about power. Of self, politics, polemics. I had read in school of your promise that the meek shall inherit the earth. I saw, instead, the powerful hijack the earth. The meek simply perished.

I heard them wage wars in your name and slaughter your creation. Tyrants, thinkers, theologists, politicians, scientists, ideologists. They came in as many garbs as you had names. Rama, Krishna, Prophet, Christ, Buddha they christened you and rechristened you as and when it suited them. They chained you to the temple and pulled down the mosque. Fettered you to a mosque and marauded a temple.

I saw the magic of your stories turn black as they butchered innocent people in selfish wars. Exploded bombs to bargain and blackmail. Consigned widows to the funeral pyre of their husbands. Killed little girls in the womb of life. Damned the rivers and fuelled forests. Perhaps, the decibel of the collective cry was too low, or perhaps, God needed earplugs, they jeered! I wondered if you, the dancer were bored now. Why else would you do little about tyrants snuffing out lives in gas chambers? Or lie inert as human conversions bloodied the market of religion? Or when fanatics pumped bullets into the hearts of saints? And the end?

Well, the bird still sings. But I don't hear you in the song. The star too twinkles in the sky. But I don't see you in the sparkle. Will you break your silence and speak to me? I want to hear no one else but you. Hear from no one else but you. Will you return to me my baby smile, the eye that sees. The ear that hears, the heart that knows? Will you give me the trust and patience that someday, you will? And I will too?

You know dear God, the new millennium is around the corner. And I just thought it was a good time to reflect, remember and remind. I know, things are not all that bad. Can't be. The strains of your divine song come back to fill my ears my heart. When you sang "Yada yadahi dharmaśya, glanir bhavati bharata...." You blessed your creation with timeless hope.

Remember how the Jewish mystic Baal Shem prayed to you? He said: "Remember, Lord, you need me just as much as I need you. If you did not exist, whom would I pray to? If I did not exist, who would do the praying?"

It is possible that I speak out of turn. Sin out of sheer ignorance. But here is another chance for you to forgive me. If that sounds cheeky, know that fun and innocence are quite alive and kicking. Know also that I would like to see you grin and bear it as much as you would like to tweak my ear after you've wiped all my tears. How about a date, dear God, in 2000 AC?

Yours Forever.....

P.S. AC here stands for Always current.