

THE AUSTRALIAN

Sahaja Newsletter



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September 8th '95



Ganesha and Innocence

Today is the first day of Navaratri. Today your attention should be on Shri Ganesha. His devotion is infinite. He has never worshipped anybody else except Mother. Hence He is so great. Gauri is the one who, as a Virgin, created Shri Ganesha. And in the same pattern you have got your realisation. The first chakra belongs to the power of Gauri, the power of the Mother of Shri Ganesha. Because of Her power you have got your realisation. Have we been able to develop our innocence within ourselves? The power of innocence is so great. It makes you absolutely fearless. And the greatest thing of innocence is that you are respectful. In your childlike nature only, you can receive the blessing of Gauri. Innocence has a special capacity to make a person 'extremely' peaceful, 'Extremely' peaceful. The one who is not innocent is 'never' wise. Wisdom comes only with innocence. When you grow you find this wisdom really fragrant with compassion. When you have Gauri's power then you stand out because you have that innocent, lustless, greedless, beautiful, sparkling eyes and wherever you turn your eyes, even one glance would raise the Kundalini immediately. It is the maturity of your innocence that must be developed, that keeps you a very religious person, dharmic person.

SHRI MATAJI'S VISIT TO BEIJING.

Last weekend a spontaneous collection was organized by the Australian Yognis to help fund Shri Mataji's visit to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Shri Mataji has accepted the invitation of the organising committee to attend the second session presented by the United Nations Development Fund for Womem and the U.N. Fund for Children on Sept.13th. The theme of the meeting is "Building Bridges of Hope" - "Women Speak out on Peace". It is designed to forge relationships between women working for peace in Africa, Asia/Pacific, Latin America/Carribean, the Middle East and Eastern European Regions. Those attending include delegates holding high level office in Africia - The vice president of Uganda the spokeswoman for the P.L.O. (Dr. Hanan Ashrawi) and the vice president of the International Peace Bureau in Geneva.

We are please to be able to contribute to this event. Anyone who missed out last weekend and wants to add to our efforts please send your donation to:- Debra Keetley at 10 Clarence St. Burwood 2134.

The Hong Kong Yogis have arrived in Beijing to prepare for Shri Mataji's arrival and will be celebrating Ganesha Puja there this weekend. Overcoming great obstacles they have erected a tent outside the Forum where they are spreading the Knowledge of Sahaja Yoga. They have promised us a full account when it's all over.

Michael.

ATTENTION! Yogis are negotiating now with the largest community radio station in Sydney - 2FER 107.3 (the next station up on the dial from Triple J). The station broadcasts in glorious stereo and it looks likely that a Sahaja Yoga radio programme could broadcast fortnightly on Sunday evenings for one hour. The cost will be \$190 per hour. Your attention and kind contributions needed. Enquiries: ^{Mark Williams}
^{Coogee}
665 8210

Not only that, but also on Thursdays at 8 p.m. there is an established programme for seekers called "SOUL SAFARI". They are looking for ideas and we are looking to form a 'radio taskforce' to come up with half-hour programmes on Sahaja Yoga topics which could then be broadcast in this timeslot. Enquiries: Mark Williams, Coogee 665 8210.

REMINDER .

INDIA TOUR RAFFLE 1995.

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

\$15 each or 2 for \$25

Sellers Kim Pearce

Sarita Chavan



ALSO

GANESH PUJA-CABELLA 1996 RAFFLE.

TICKETS STILL ON SALE

\$15 each or 2 for \$25

Sellers Carole McNeill

Ruth Oldfield

Bhajans. Wednesday. 8 p.m. All welcome. Venue : to be announced.



Note: to save the trees, please bring plate and fork for puja meal on Saturday night. ☺

Sahaja Yoga Maha Picnic
Sunday 1st October

venue: "The Basin"

(via Palm Beach ferry)

more details re: venue to be announced
later.

Enquiries: Andrew, Hurstville
570-8562



Room for Rent in Dynamic Ashram for couple or yogi/yogini.
Near the Beach! Enquiries: Coogee 665-8210



Are there any yogis who would
like to help start a series of
public programmes in the
(Seven Hills) Blacktown area?

A hall has been found and is
available on Wednesday evenings.
If you are interested please
call Janet on 671-3871 (This
is a great opportunity for non-
ashramites to be at the "cutting-
edge" of Sahaja Yoga)

FROM: CHRIS DOBBIE

Shri Krishna Puja, Cabella

18-20 August 1995

Shri Mataji arrived in Cabella on the Friday afternoon of the puja weekend, to be greeted by an enthusiastic group of about 100 yogis. About half of these yogis were from America, because the puja was to be hosted by America. Shri Mataji greeted everyone and proceeded into Her sitting room, and then asked all the Americans to come into the room. Yogis crowded in, and all the Americans fitted into the room, leaving nearly everyone else outside. Shri Mataji talked for perhaps half an hour, about the problems in various countries including the Americas and Spain.

In the afternoon and evening, yogis arrived from all over Europe, and many joyful reunions were made: about 600 people attended the puja. The Italians cooked a delicious dinner of pizzas and pasta —the meal preparation was an incredible exercise to see, with pizzas continuously being prepared from balls of dough, spicy tomato sauce and white cheese, and efficiently whisked into the large pizza ovens, to emerge cooked and smelling wonderful.

As is usual at pujas in Cabella, Saturday was a free day for yogis to wander about, make acquaintances and footsoak in the river. The Americans busied themselves preparing the stage and hangar for the evening program: a beautiful blue and silver backdrop was put up, and a lot of work was done to clean the hangar and prepare for the program. The program itself was up to the usual high standard of such evenings at Cabella.

The evening started with a 'scintillating' recital of Indian classical ragas, played by a jugalbandi (duet) of flute and violin, with tabla accompaniment. The artists were Ronu Majumdar (flute) and Sangeeta Shankar (violin) who is the daughter of the great violinist N. Rajam. These two artists have just released a compact disc of jugalbandi ragas, which they presented to Shri Mataji. Shri Mataji spoke after their recital, saying that this new generation of young classical Indian musicians is extremely talented and more dynamic than the renowned artists of today.

The next few items in the concert included dances from South America and North America, and a seven year old boy, Prateep, played a classical Indian flute recital and performed an Indian dance. A very heartfelt bhajan was sung by the Columbians, and a 'pop' song was performed by Steve Day and a few other musicians including Matt Malley (bass player from the well

known rock band 'Counting Crows'). To end the musical segment, the same musicians dressed up in long hair, daggy jeans and black T-shirts to sing a 'rock' song, which was extremely funny because the lyrics totally sent up the concept of rock and roll. They even had flashing coloured lights and danced to the beat!

The most memorable item in the program was a movie which had been created by the American Sahaja yogis, called something like 'A Warrior Arises'. It was extremely well done, with an interesting dual storyline. The film depicts the trip of an American lawyer sent to India to defend a large U.S. company which had created a devastating chemical spill in India. During this trip the lawyer is brought around to stand up for what is right and expose the corrupt company. The lawyer is paralleled with the character of Arjuna from the Mahabharata, who is called upon by Shri Krishna to wage war against his own relatives who were negative. The overriding idea is that America needs a warrior such as Arjuna to arise and save the country from the negativity. After the film, Shri Mataji said not to worry as She is coming to America and She will work everything out. All the actors in the film were Sahaja Yogis, and it was put together in a very professional way (although it was a bit 'rough around the edges' — it was not quite finished properly). Hopefully the American yogis will make the film available to us once it is finished.

Another highlight of the evening program was a slide show which had been put onto video, made up of pictures of Sahaja yogis from all over the world, set to music. It was very sweetly done and it gave the feeling that we are all one world and Sahaja yoga is a global thing.

On Sunday morning the puja preparations were made: the Americans created an exquisite backdrop showing Shri Krishna, whose face looked like Shri Mataji, in the midst of a swirling galaxy. In front of this was another layer of scenery, with mountains and landmarks from all over the world (including the Statue of Liberty).

Shri Mataji arrived at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. In the puja talk She spoke about the life and times of Shri Krishna, how religion was very serious and so Shri Krishna introduced the idea of enjoyment into religion, with the Leela (Divine play) and all the festivals throughout the year such as Raksha Bandhan. She also spoke about the problems in America and how to work them out: America is very much into 'enjoyment' of every minute of life, but this enjoyment is through Mooladhara, whereas the real enjoyment comes

through the Heart and Sahasrara. She also said that the American people were very immature as they took to anything black and white and treated it as a bible. She said that the American media is no good for spreading Sahaja Yoga, so we should set up a cable TV station or a newspaper of our own instead.

Towards the end of the talk, Shri Mataji announced that the book which She has been writing for a long time, is now finished and ready to be published. It is called 'Meta Modern Era' and is about the problems of the Western society. She suggested that the next book which She might write will be about Her experiences of Sahaja Yoga and Sahaja Yogis.

The vibrations of the puja were fantastic, of course, and at the end Shri Mataji put on three different crowns: two golden ones with jewels, and a colourful crown made of feathers in the American Red Indian style.

After the presents were offered, there was a long qawwali session, in which Shri Mataji played the harmonium for a while. All the yogis danced and danced to the qawwali music, and then Shri Mataji requested that we do a stick dance, which was very enjoyable; most yogis had the opportunity to join in with the dance. Finally, after the evening (morning!) meal, a crowd of open-hearted and elated (but tired) yogis trundled off to bed.

BURWOOD - SYDNEY

FRIDAY NIGHT PROGRAMME

September 15



RAMAYANA

The life and times of Shri Rama and Shri Sita



Programme will include an animated video version of the Ramayana in English

Starting at 7.45pm (sharp)

Ganesh Visurjana Festival

The festival at Helensberg was really beautiful and joy giving. The program was a little bit late (later we came to know that someone was putting handhans to make it late!). About at 1:30 pm, when our musicians were invited to perform, mild showers sent all audiences rushing for the cover. So when the program started, only few sahaj yogies (braving the showers!) were the only audience. The three great mantras started and lo! the showers were gone and people started pouring in. Since the first bhajan "Jai Ganesh Deva" every body was clapping and few children felt like dancing but were too shy, we suppose. More and more people kept pouring in and didn't leave till the program finished. It appeared as if they were spell bound or sort of mesmerized. We were supposed to sing three bhajans but audience (non sahaj yogies!) wanted "One More"! The compere had to nod "yes" to the "public pressure" (?). The musicians sang 'Shri Jagdambe Aay Re, Meri Nirmal Ma'. Whole atmosphere was of sheer bliss, joy and vibrations. When the musicians left the stage, we could feel that the people's appetite for more bhajans wasn't satisfied! But you know the ways of world.... Well, it was so nice being there.

JAI SHRI MATAJI