



Australian Newsletter

Jai Shri Mataji!

Phone: 6 12 9716 6516
email: sahajnews@yahoo.com
Publication deadline for contributions
is midnight each Tuesday

Mountain

*I see a mountain from my window
Standing like an ancient sage
Desireless, full of love.*

*So many trees and so many flowers
They plunder the mountain all the time.
Its attention is not disturbed
And when the rain pours like
Many pitchers of clouds bursting
And it fills the mountain with greenery.*

*The storms may come soaring,
Filling the lake with compassion
And the rivers flow running down
Towards the calling sea.*

*The sun will create clouds and
Wind carries on its feathery wings
The rain on to the mountain.*

*This is the eternal play
The mountain sees
Without desires.*

Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi
(written in Cabella watching the mountain from her room)



STATE NEWS

News from NSW

NSW Hosting National Navaratri Puja and Seminar Weekend

The NSW and ACT collectives will soon be hosting the National Navaratri Puja celebrations where we will be presenting Sahaja Yoga in all its many facets to the Public of Sydney.

This will begin with a Public Program and Puja celebration in Canberra commencing on Saturday September 28 followed by a Puja to be held within the Canberra Ashram on Sunday September 29. This year the ACT collective have been demonstrating their collective support by their attendance at Balmoral for the regional Puja celebrations. A coming-together of all Sahaja Yogis to celebrate Puja helps contribute to the establishment of a broader vision of care for the wider collective.

We encourage all NSW Yogis to reciprocate this support by a large show of assistance for the Canberra Public and Puja over the September 28th-29th weekend. If there is enough interest perhaps we can arrange a Bus to take a group down to Canberra for the weekend.

It will be the privilege of the Sahaja Yogis of NSW and the ACT to host the National Navaratri Seminar over the October long weekend, beginning on the evening of Friday the 4th October through to Monday 7th October.

At the outset let us all commit to accepting our joint responsibility as hosts. There will be much to do from preparatory work to get Balmoral ready through to hosting seven programs. To this end a working weekend is being called for September 7 and 8 at Balmoral to help prepare the property. Can volunteers please contact me so we can begin to plan the various jobs required

During the time leading up to the programs many Yogis will need to display an open and generous heart in the true Sahaj manner by which all things are accomplished but we will all need to come together and actualise our collective potential and desire.

We ask for the contribution of each Yogi's vision, foresight, passion, enthusiasm, dedication and unfaltering commitment towards the success of the National Seminar and Public Programs. This year the organisation of work required will be apportioned based upon the Puja roster groups.

Leading up to the Seminar there will be much that will need to be done. Everyone will need to be fully involved in order to ensure the success of all the programs, the Puja and Seminar weekend. The following itinerary is proposed:

October Long Weekend (4th, 5th, 6th 7th)

Navaratri Puja celebration at Balmoral Country Property

Tues 8th October

Campbelltown Public Program

Wed 9th October

Global Spirit Music Concert

Thurs 10th October

Penrith Public Program

7pm-9pm at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre

Fri 11th October

Liverpool Public Program

5pm-9pm at Senior Citizens Hall

185 Bigge Street Liverpool

Sat 12th October

Central Coast Public Program

7-9pm at Erina High School Multipurpose Hall

Hornsby Public Program

6-10 pm at Willow Park Community Centre

(Beatrice Taylor Hall)

Sun 13th October

Sydney Central Public Program/Workshop

10am-5pm at the Menzies Hotel

Outlined below are some of the areas of responsibility, anyone wishing to volunteer and to contribute towards these responsibilities should contact me as soon as possible.

Public Programs / Concert

- Preparation of promotional material, posters, handbills
- Newspaper advertising, articles, community announcements, libraries, web sites
- Distribution, coordination for the Posters and Handbills
- Coordination, administration, setup for the Music Concert
- Coordination, administration, setup for the Public Programs
- Ushers, marshals, volunteers, handouts and information desks for the programs
- Transport, stage decoration, backdrops, loading / unloading for each of the above programs
- Lighting, sound, PA mixing, video projection, stage setup
- Potential fund-raising tea, coffee, cakes, hotdogs at the programs

Follow-up Program

- Liaise with Ashrams, collective houses for the selection of follow-up venues for each area
- Prepare standard follow-up material
- Ensure follow-up program venues are booked, and attended

Seminar Weekend

- Building work, Puja Site preparation, work required for the property at Balmoral
- Preparation of Puja memento
- Transport for visitors to the Puja / Programs
- Accommodation for visitors for Puja and Programs
- Coordination with interstate visitors
- Puja preparation, staging, production
- Evening night concert, arrangements for the seminar
- Equipment hire, pendal, skips, kitchen equipment, amenities
- Seminar weekend ordering / purchasing of food
- Seminar weekend transport of food / facilities to Balmoral

As always with everyone's cooperation everything will come together and we shall once again collectively enjoy the bliss of Sahasrara.

Sincerely, *Chris Kyriacou*

Sahaja Yoga Meditation Research Receives Prestigious Award

The Sydney University Medical Foundation recently bestowed a prestigious award to the Meditation Research Programme at the Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney.

The *Dr Bernard Lake Memorial Award* for best scientific research into alternative medicine was awarded to Dr Ramesh Manocha and the research project titled *Sahaja Yoga in the Management of Moderate to Severe Asthma*.

The award includes \$2,000 in prize money which will be used for further meditation research projects. It is an important positive step for the mainstream recognition of Sahaja Yoga meditation.

Shri Ganesha Puja 15th September 2002 11.00 am at Balmoral

This auspicious event will be held at Balmoral, hosted by the Newcastle, Pelaw Main and Central Coast Collectives.

Please assist us by bringing your own plate, knife, fork and cup.

We look forward to the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful vibrations with our brothers and sisters in this great land of Shri Ganesha.

Judy Lenartis

News from Queensland



Greetings to all, from the Bundaberg Collective.

During the preparations for Shri Krishna Puja this photo of the altar was taken. We thought it was worth sharing with everyone. Shri Ganesha was there giving his blessings.

A day trip to Yepoon with public program has been arranged for Sunday 1st September. The program will start at 1pm. Bhandans would be appreciated.

Jai Shri Mataji
Alan and Pam Jenner

Dynamic Preparations for Brisbane Programs

The meeting last Sunday went well with a lot of decisions being made by the collective. I would like to thank everyone for a well-attended, constructive meeting. The following decisions were made:

The city program at the Festival Centre will go ahead from Tuesday 3/9/02 at 5.30-6.30pm with a second program at 7.00-8.30pm. The program is being coordinated by Peter, Robert, Vasantha, and Mark. Albert, David, Sue, Shubhra, Bob Rankin, Leanne and myself will also be attending

whenever possible. It is hoped that as many yogis as possible will attend. This program is a collective program and Yogis will take turns in presenting both the introduction and self realisation.

It was agreed that the above format will run for 4 weeks on trial with the collective paying the shortfall in funds after the contributions from Yogis (7 at this stage, more welcome) are collected. It is hoped that the programs will be successful and become a beacon for the hundreds of potential seekers that must be in the city every day.

Peter will be the main coordinator and can be contacted on 34043992 at work for any questions. He will also be able to give hints on free parking in the city area.

Advertising:

- Will be via the City News, postering in shops, business staff lunch rooms and other postering (Sue to coordinate)
- Web pages at the radio stations, local governments (Peter)
- Asking attendees at programs to tell friends (all)
- A prominent poster being displayed at the Adelaide St hall (Mark & Peter)

Sue has volunteered to organize posters & handouts and Mark is to arrange for more literature to be sent from Sydney.

On a slightly different approach, we will be speaking to Pavan Keetley & Sno Bonneau for them to email to us info on their methods of approaching and holding programs in the corporate world. It is hoped to direct seekers from this approach to the Festival Centre.

The rest of the meeting was taken up with the presentation of the budget for the next 12 months. This was an excellent presentation by Wendy and Sue and we all should be thankful for their hard work. In short, we are not meeting our current expenses with the existing contributions, but the tone of the meeting was surprisingly upbeat. With the continuation of the weekly lunches at Wamuran and possibly more donations and fundraising, there was confidence that the budget can be achieved.

In other news, due to Lucas developing chicken pox, there will be a havan in Ipswich at David and Wendy's house, 6 Blackall St, East Ipswich Sunday 1/9/02. I realise this is Fathers' day, but this is a great opportunity to clear out Ipswich, so please try and be there at 10.00am.

The following Sunday (8/9/02) there will be a Lakshmi Puja at Mario & Isolde's new house in Ham St, Wishart.

The following Sunday will be Ganesha Puja at Wamuran.

Paul Niccolai

GENERAL NEWS

Getting to the Root of Modern Evil

Sydney Morning Herald, August 28 2002

Our hunger for money, not politicians and businessmen, is behind many of our woes, writes Ross Gittins.

If you don't like the way economic rationalism is changing our country, you haven't quite put your finger on the problem. If you object to the increasingly mercenary behaviour of big business, you're missing the point. It's taken me ages to realise it, but these things are just symptoms - outward manifestations of something a lot deeper.

To understand the root cause of these developments you have to appreciate that we're living through an era of heightened materialism.

There's nothing new about materialism, of course. A concern about money and material things has always been part of our make-up. But sometime over the past 20 or 30 years we suddenly became a lot more preoccupied with money than we had been.

Materialism is the dominant characteristic of our era. Our descendants will look back on the last part of the 20th century and the early part of the 21st as The Age of Materialism.

That's true not just for Australians, but for people throughout the developed world. Such claims about changes in people's values are hard to prove, but a leading American social psychologist, Professor David Myers, has produced impressive evidence for the United States.

In a poll that regularly asked people what factor was most important in a job, "high income" rose to second-highest between the early 1970s and the early 1980s.

Now consider the evidence from the American Council on Education's annual survey of more than 200,000 new college students. Asked about their reasons for going to college, the proportion agreeing that an important one was "to make more money" rose from half in 1971 to almost three-quarters by 1990.

And the proportion believing it "very important or essential" that they become "very well-off financially" rose from 39 per cent in 1970 to 74 per cent in 1990. Over the same period, the proportion who began college hoping to "develop a meaningful philosophy of life" slumped from 76 per cent to 43 per cent. This reversal stayed unchanged throughout the '90s.

Myers calls this cultural shift "the greening of America". And though our bank notes are multicoloured, I don't doubt it's true of us, too.

The point is that once you appreciate the way our values changed, the reason for a lot of developments becomes clear.

Take the rise of economic rationalism. Economists have

been giving politicians the same advice about the need to cut protection and reduce government regulation for many decades. It's standard textbook stuff. And for decades the politicians unflinchingly brushed aside such doctrinaire and politically unpopular advice.

But from the early '80s on, the polities started saying yes, and economic rationalism became the dominant ideology in the public sector. Why? Because they were reacting to the electorate's increased materialism. They believed the public wanted them to make our economy more efficient at producing goods and services so as to raise our material standard of living more quickly.

You have to admit that the polities and their rationalist advisers have been strikingly successful. Their reforms have worked. The '90s saw faster growth in productivity and real income per person than in any decade since the '60s. (There's been only a modest reduction in unemployment, you say? True - but that wasn't a core objective.)

But there has been another development, one arising as much from the changed behaviour of business as from changes in government policy: the way money has invaded parts of our lives where it formerly played a lesser role.

The most glaring case is sport. The big media companies have taken over, and professionalised, first cricket, then the various football codes. The taxpayer and corporate sponsors have poured millions into our Olympic athletes to beef up their medal-winning performances and, in the process, make them professionals.

We're even seeing the commercialisation of schoolboy sport as some Greater Public Schools use under-the-table scholarships to buy success. It's so simple: how do you win the comp? Apply a liberal dollop of money.

Another institution that's been commercialised is the weekend. We used to stay at home or visit friends, but now we shop or visit restaurants and commercial entertainment venues. This, of course, means more of us have to work on weekends.

Heightened materialism explains why we've become more litigious. If we have some kind of accident, our first thought is: how can I turn my misfortune into cash? Here's my chance to get among the big money.

Even politics has been commercialised. The parties' election advertising battles require ever-growing millions of dollars. The big taxpayer subsidies the polities granted each other have proved inadequate, so they're becoming increasingly beholden to union and business donors.

Politicians, bureaucrats and political staffers are cutting short their careers of service to the public so they can sell the expertise they've gained to the highest private-sector bidder.

Heightened materialism helps explain why the nation's business chiefs have been awarding themselves unprecedented pay rises and why they've become much more

hard-nosed in their attitudes towards customers and employees.

Heightened materialism also explains the declining ethical standards among company directors and auditors. And even our charities have been commercialised - these days, most sell their services to governments.

Materialism is highly seductive and highly contagious. When you see your neighbours getting in for their chop, it's hard to resist the temptation to get in for yours. So all of us have been infected to a greater or lesser degree.

It's so insidious even our clerics have failed to detect its rising influence. Or maybe they're not game to challenge it for fear of offending too many parishioners. Either way, they don't inveigh against greed and envy, but stick to fighting less-controversial evils such as homosexuality and women priests.

Among the rest of us, it's OK to attack evil economic rationalists, greedy businessmen or stupid politicians, but it's just not done to attack materialism. That would come altogether too close to home.

To criticise materialism is to turn both sides against you. The Right sees it as an attack on the rich, while the Left sees it as an attempt to con the poor into accepting the bum hand they've been dealt.

But next time you're tempted to blame all our woes on economists or politicians or big business, pause and consider a deeper cause: maybe the real trouble is that materialism isn't all it's cracked up to be.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

News from the UK

Realisation in Hyde Park

Dear All

The Bank holiday Saturday and Sunday were two fantastic days in Hyde Park giving realisation. There were up to ten of us and the same number of chairs. We were positioned by the Serpentine lake and the weather was bright sunshine, sparkling and reflecting off the water. During the five hours we were there the chairs were almost constantly full.

The next day Sunday the weather was again bright sunshine. People were in a holiday mood and showed even more interest. With more yogis and more chairs, hundreds of people got their realization. At one point the circle around the chairs was 3-4 deep.

On Monday the atmosphere changed and it was overcast and windy. No sooner had we set up than a police car stopped and we were informed that our activities were not allowed in a Royal Park. The previous two days police cars had slowed down but then continued on. So this particular policeman decided to enforce the rules.

We moved to Covent Garden where 10 - 20 people got their realization. So a less spectacular day but successful nonetheless.

Some ideas for an autumn/winter programme of realisation include:

- University *Fresher Fairs* (or open days). Phoned a few colleges in London and they seem to be held on the 4th and 5th of October. They have a special rate for charities which is approx £175. But when I said that there is no charge for SY and all the meetings are free the person I spoke to seemed willing to reduce this even more...and the suggestion was that he may provide a space for free.
- Another idea is to go to prisons...I haven't looked into that yet...
- This weekend 1st and 2nd we will be setting up along the river at the South Bank Arts Centre.

Best wishes

Bea

bernadette.sullivan@pascalls.co.uk

News from the USA

Photos of Shri Krishna Puja Available Online

Dear Family,

We have 2 web-sites to enjoy and feel the Shri Kubera Puja's events. You can see many photos with Shri Mataji and also with (mostly but not only) the entire American collectivity that hosted this joyful week-end.

Please, come and take a bit of Canajoharie and take a glance of America's heart offered as a rakhi gift to Virata... all of us enjoyed tremendously this sahaj week-end!

<http://de.photos.yahoo.com/mackilroy>

<http://photos.yahoo.com/vkukreja2003>

Yours, *Ioana*