

**Auroville International USA's Evolve Newsletter fosters the link between Auroville and its members in the USA**

**“Trust the Dream”**

*- by Chandresh Patel, Treasurer of AVI-USA*

Auroville is working,  
 Trust the Dream -  
 Slowly opening  
 As a lily in sunbeam  
 White and pure  
 From mud insecure -  
 Stress at every seam.

Come, hold hands  
 And lift this dream  
 Of Truth  
 Supreme.



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***“Regard your life as given you only for the divine work and to help in the divine manifestation.”***

*– Sri Aurobindo*

**AVI-USA Membership is Launched – Charles Flores reports**

To our Auroville family in the USA,

Now after over thirty years of existence, AVI-USA is making the move to create a membership. As reported in the last issue, there have been many changes at AVI-USA. The necessary reorganization is now complete: our main office has been moved to Lodi and the work has been divided up between Julian, Kalpana, and Charles. In this new phase of AVI-USA, we would like to have all of our wonderful supporters over the years and people who are new to ideals of Auroville to join us in creating a higher level of community in the United States.

AVI-USA has begun a membership program to serve two functions:

1. to make AVI-USA a viable, self-sustaining non-profit organization that will have more diverse streams of support allowing for more stability and better planning;
2. to fulfill AVI-USA's mission, as described in the Charter of Auroville International, which was approved by the Mother:

*“Auroville International intends to contribute and to deliver to the world and to the people of different countries the outcomes of the manifestation of The Mother's Vision and Ideals, rather than to take only from the world for Auroville. This is so even before Auroville, The Universal City for Human Unity, is built.”*

With this membership program, AVI-USA will join AVI Germany and other AVIs to create an international network of friends and supporters.

For a base membership of \$10 per month (with larger donations much appreciated!), your membership will include:

1. a subscription to Auroville Today for the latest news on Auroville
2. a subscription to the Evolve newsletter on AVI-USA's activities in the USA
3. an e-subscription to Auroville News and Notes
4. access to a membership section of our website that will help you network in the US and internationally with AVI members throughout the world.
5. Auro-Family Reunion gathering invitations
6. Various gifts, including an annual Auroville calendar and other special surprises.

*Those who have been giving regularly to the AVI-USA General Fund for office expenses will automatically receive memberships. And for those of you “Forerunners” who have joined us as members already, our heart-felt thanks and appreciation!*

*We will soon be creating a web page specifically for AVI-USA Memberships. In the meantime, you can become a member of AVI-USA by calling us on our toll-free line at (866) 2-HELP-AV, by filling out the form at the end of this newsletter, or by visiting us online at: [http://www.aviusa.org/donations\\_membership.html](http://www.aviusa.org/donations_membership.html).*

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## Auro-Family Reunion and Board Meeting in March

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005, the Lodi Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham hosted the third Auro-Family reunion. AVI-USA Board members Julian Lines, Chandresh Patel, Ed Giordano, Paula Murphy, Constance, former director Nilauro Markus, and Executive Coordinator Charles Flores and CFO Kalpana Patel were all in attendance.

About 40 former Aurovilians, members of the ashram, and friends of Auroville were all in attendance.

Julian and Charles presented on their trips to Auroville. Much of the focus this meeting was on the tragic event of December 26<sup>th</sup>, when a tsunami hit South-East Asia, which had a devastating effect on a number of the villages surrounding Auroville. Julian presented some photographs of the devastation and the Tsunami Relief effort, and a new film which documented the relief efforts the day of the tsunami. Julian also provided the latest news on the construction of the Matrimandir, which with enough contributions from the AVI centers, could be completely finished by 2008, exactly 40 years from the founding of Auroville. Charles presented on the CIIS-Auroville collaboration, resulting in two two-week courses in Auroville, and one friends and alumni trip. This winter in Auroville was very busy, as not only did the Auroville International conference take place there this year, but also a three-day Integral Psychology Conference and a United Nations International Youth Conference.

Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham member Vishnu spoke about the future additions to the physical structure of the Lodi Ashram which would allow for larger groups of people to come and stay overnight on the property. This exciting development will allow for longer and more interesting stays for future Auro-Reunions.

The next Auro-Reunion is set to be held in the Lodi ashram in CA on November 5<sup>th</sup> and will feature Narad, an American working in the Sri Aurobindo Ashram and Auroville, with an update on the Matrimandir Gardens. Mark the date!



*From left to right: B, Jack, Constance, Mary, Steve, Nilauro, Charles, Savitra and Bill in a sharing circle at the Auro-Reunion.*

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## AVI-USA in United Nations Green Cities Expo with Green Century Institute

AVI-USA, in collaboration with the Green Century Institute, was honored to be a presence in the United Nation's Green Cities Expo.

Green Century Institute (GCI), a project of the Rudolph Steiner Foundation, intends to build Califia, an ecological project envisioned for Northern California. Executive Director Michael Gosney visited Auroville in January because Auroville is the largest and longest running ecological city of its kind, and decided to collaborate with AVI-USA to give greater exposure to both Auroville and the potential of Califia.

At the main gallery, Auroville had a display at the art exhibition, which consisted of large posters and the videos "Towards a Sustainable Future" and "The Dream of the Divine" running on televisions in a continuous loop. Thousands of people got perhaps their first exposure to Auroville with this display.

On the occasion of the United Nations World Environment Day, June 3rd, the California Institute of Integral Studies hosted a symposium on Auroville and Califia. About one hundred and fifty people were in attendance for the panel moderated by Michael Gosney and Bindu Mohanty, a current Aurovillian who has been studying at CIIS. Other members of the panel were Kathy Walking, of the Adventure community in Auroville, who coordinates with several universities in the US for educational opportunities in Auroville, Reinhold Zeigler, a renewable energy pioneer and green design consultant with Synergy International and GCI, and Charles Flores of AVI-USA. The featured speaker was Lalit Kishore Bhati, one of the main town planners of Auroville, who gave a fascinating PowerPoint presentation on Auroville.

While the intention was to speak in equal parts about Auroville and Califia, the audience displayed a strong interest in Auroville and its progress. After the symposium, many came and purchased videos and received literature on Auroville and AVI-USA. Grace Aroha of Auroville and now Lodi Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham came to help with the sales, the profits of which went to Auroville.

Overall, the collaboration with GCI was a great success, and AVI-USA hopes to do more fruitful collaborations with GCI and other like-minded organizations in the future.

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## Matrimandir Donations Update

As of January of this year, the AVI-USA Board has decided that all donations, including those made to the Matrimandir, will have a deduction of 1/12th (8.33%). This fee basically covers our operating costs, accounting requirements and filings to maintain our tax exempt status with the IRS. Note that AVI-USA deducts substantially less from donations than other non-profit organizations do, which often take as much as 25% of donations to cover their overhead expenses.

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## East Coast Office News:

### Dr. Karan Singh Talk at Asia Society 10/31 at 3:30 pm – *Julian Lines reports*

The heir apparent to the last Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, a charismatic young member of Indira Gandhi's cabinet and former Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Karan Singh has had an illustrious career in public service.

The most recent honor was his recent appointment as Chair of the prestigious Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). This is in addition to his current service as a Deputy Leader of the Congress Party in the Rajya Sabha and Chancellor of Nehru University.

Most importantly in our view, Dr. Karan Singh is serving a second stint as Chairman of the Governing Board of Auroville.

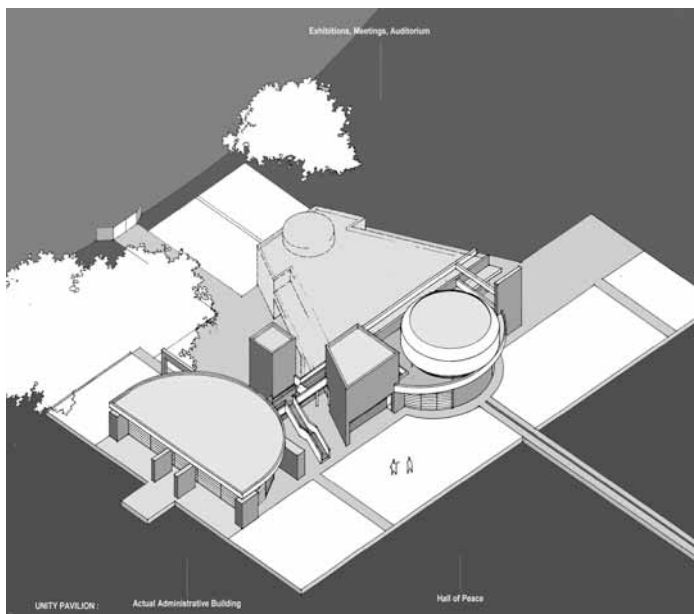
He was catapulted into political life at the early age of eighteen when, in 1949, he was appointed Regent of Kashmir by his father on the intervention of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. He is a renowned orator, and

has lectured in five continents on philosophy and culture, politics and the environment.

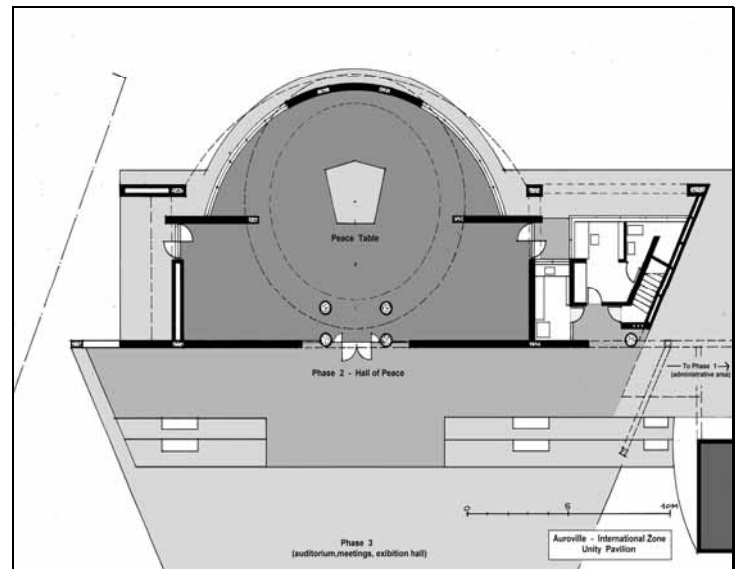
Dr. Singh's talk will focus on sectarian violence and the need for multiculturalism and Human Unity. Specific projects in Auroville like the Nakashima Peace Table which he inaugurated during his first term as Chairman in 1994, have an important new context. The second phase of the Unity Pavilion under construction in the International Zone will be the permanent home for the table, known as the "Hall of Peace". The building was designed by Piero and Gloria.

This year is the birth centenary of George Nakashima, who also helped design and build the remarkable Ashram Guest House, Golconde.

For more information please visit the Nakashima Foundation online at: <http://www.nakashimafoundation.org>.



Plans for phase two of the Unity Pavilion: aerial perspective.



Plans for phase two of the Unity Pavilion: floor plan.

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### Unity Pavilion Update – *Building phase II adds the Hall of Peace and office space.*

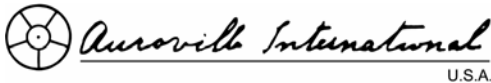
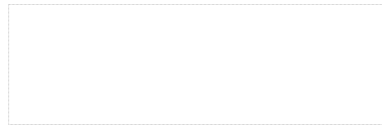
The Unity Pavilion is entering phase II of construction. This second building of the Unity Pavilion complex will give a permanent home to the Peace Table, letting Auroville and the world make maximum use of the Peace Table's intended function as a vehicle for focusing our energy on World Peace and Human Unity. The space is meant to be used for dialogues on Peace, for meetings and presentations, as well as for gatherings of the International Zone. This space will hold the qualities of depth and harmony, so essential for a real mutual search and exchange. The estimated cost of this second is Rs. 45,00,000 (\$102,000). In the plans above, the Hall of Peace is the circular building in the foreground and the office is the square building to its left.

The Unity Pavilion designers Piero and Gloria Cicionesi wrote, "We met architect Nakashima a few times: we had with him a very deep connection, admiration and love. We feel this will be the appropriate place for the table he offered to humanity as a prayer for the peace of the world. Without peace there will never be a real Human Unity. The peace table is not only a very beautiful piece of art; it is also a beautiful symbol for the International Zone."

For more information, please visit Auroville's website at: [http://www.auroville.org/thecity/int\\_zone\\_unity.htm](http://www.auroville.org/thecity/int_zone_unity.htm), or email the Unity Pavilion team at: [unitypavilion@auroville.org](mailto:unitypavilion@auroville.org)



P.O. Box 1534  
Lodi, CA 95241-1534



**TAX DEDUCTIBLE  
DONATION FORM**

**Note:** You can also make your donations online with a credit card at [www.aviusa.org](http://www.aviusa.org). Please contact us for if you would like to make a donation of stocks, gifts in kind or to send us a wire transfer.

**I would like to make a tax-deductible donation:**

Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Specific Project:
- NEW ! AVI-USA's Membership**
  - Auroville Land Fund*
  - Village Action*
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_*
  - USA Pavilion*
  - Matrimandir*

Payment Type:  *Visa*    *MasterCard*    *Am-Ex*    *Discover*

*Check*   *Number: \_\_\_\_\_ exp: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_*

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*Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_*

Please provide us with your name and address, especially if you are donating with a credit card. Please also provide us with your current email address and phone number.

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Please make donations payable to AVI-USA, and mail them to:

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**P.O. Box 1534**

**Lodi, CA 95241-1534**

Email: [info@aviusa.org](mailto:info@aviusa.org)

Phone: (831) 425-5620

Auroville International USA is an educational non-profit organization, registered under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and whose main purpose is to foster the link between Auroville and the United States.

**To purchase books, videos, CDs and AV calendars, please contact:**

**Auroville Information Office**

**P.O. Box 676**

**Woodstock, NY 12498**

**[www.matagiri.org/avinfo.htm](http://www.matagiri.org/avinfo.htm)**

email: [aviny@aviusa.org](mailto:aviny@aviusa.org)

phone: **(845) 679-5358**

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