

Auroville International USA's Evolve Newsletter fosters the link between Auroville and it's friends in the USA

Poets Corner: "Pavilioneers are coming to town!" - by Chandresh, AVI USA board member, 12/08/01

Bring your chisel,
Bring your easel,
Bring your goodwill.
Lay the foundation
To collective aspiration.
-- But most of all --
Don't leave home
without a smile!
Pavilioneers are coming to town!

Bring your wallet,
Bring your mallet,
Lay a brick or two.
Slap some laughter
And glue friendships true.
-- But most of all --
Build a bridge
to Human Unity!
Pavilioneers are coming to town!

Raise a chalice,
Raise a trellis,
Raise a roof
Of a solid proof
To shelter human goodwill.
-- But most of all --
Build commitments,
processes and harmony.
Pavilioneers are coming to town!

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Headlines from the AVI USA Headquarters

AVI USA has been so busy lately, that we do not have enough space to report more than just the most recent headlines.

- Three for One Matching Program Is Huge Success - AVI USA Encourages Donors to Create More Matching Programs ...
- Anonymous Donor #2 Supports AV Greenwork Through Yet Another Matching Program ...
- As Landowners Around Auroville Try To Sell, AVI USA Encourages Land Fund Donations ...
- AVI USA To Host AVI 2002 Meeting in California, Selects Sequoia Seminar As Location, Requests Organizational Help & Encourages Donation of Frequent Flyer Miles (more info at right)...
- USA To Build Guest House In Auroville's International Zone ...
- AVI USA Donates 10% of USA Pavilion Funds to Unity Pavilion ...
- AVI USA Planning New Website, Recruiting Inspired Designers ...

AVI 2002 Meeting
To be held in California
from July 19-24, 2002

In 2002 the Auroville International Centers and friends of Auroville will be meeting at Sequoia Seminar, a beautiful retreat center nestled in the redwoods of the Santa Cruz Mountains in California

All are welcome

For more information, please contact Auroville International USA at (831) 425-5620 or info@aviusa.org

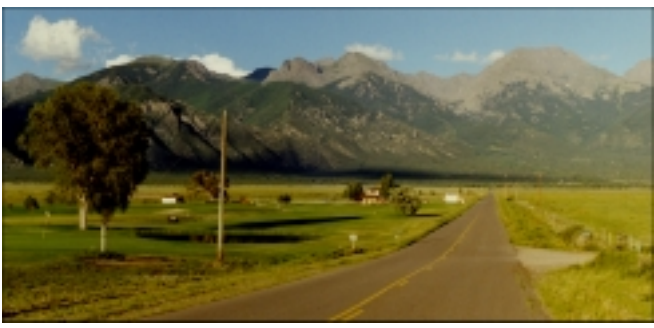
We encourage the donation of Frequent Flyer Miles to help others attend this meeting

Land in The Baca gifted to AVI USA

June Maher, the principal founder of AVI USA, reports.

At the foot of the towering Sange de Cristo mountain range, in the beautiful and sacred San Luis valley of southwest Colorado lies the community known as The Baca. Nearby is the small town of Crestone.

This year Mario & Elizabeth Santonastaso, long time friends of Auroville, and members of the US Mother and Sri Aurobindo community, donated a half-acre plot in the Baca to AVI USA, and donated the adjacent one to the Sri Aurobindo Learning Center (SALC). The donors gifted the plot to AVI USA with no strings attached, but they did express an aspiration that some future collaboration



The Sange de Cristo Mountains tower over the plot of land that Mario & Elizabeth Santonastaso gifted AVIUSA in 2001

with SALC & Savitri House might develop. The Savitri House, founded by Seyril Schochen in 1986, is already an active center in The Baca, offering programs focusing on Auroville, the Yoga and global environmental concerns.

We take this opportunity to thank Mario and Elizabeth for this generous gift. Although the possibilities for this land are many, we are not yet prepared to actively pursue building or using the plot. We do, however, invite your suggestions on how we might work together for the future use of the land for the Mother's & Sri Aurobindo's work in America.

A Guesthouse for the USA Pavilion

A group of university professors and students from the US are donating their time, energy and money to help build the 1st structure of the USA Pavilion in Auroville. Secretary of the AVI USA board, Constance, reports.

On January 4th, 2002, Auroville will welcome 32 students, 5 professors and 5 teaching assistants from the University of Washington, to begin construction of the first phase of the USA Pavilion. This significant event is the result of a long history of envisioning the USA Pavilion - participated in over the years by many Americans - as well as the convergence of several recent developments, i.e. new progress in city planning, the visit to Auroville of members of the Design/Build Program, and the arrival of funding. Evidently, aspiration is important - but timing is everything!

In Auroville, the finalization of the Master Plan has stimulated more detailed elaboration of the four zones. As a consequence, Helmut - with Roger's support - has been inspired to plan the International Zone (IZ) in terms of continental areas. A subgroup of the IZ planning group was formed to create a concept specifically for the Americas area. Currently it is exploring the idea of a campus with shared facilities. The foundation ceremony for the Americas site was held on 2/28/01 (see last issue).

At the time of the Americas inauguration, a team led by Sergio Palleroni and Chuck Henry from the University of Washington (UW) was visiting Auroville (thanks to the efforts of AVI USA's president, Bill Leon). The UW's Design/Build Program creates student designed and built structures that utilize appropriate technologies and sustainable building practices. The local community and local artisans are involved in the building process, so that a sustainable building emerges that is suitable to the local environment. The Americas group in Auroville, recognizing the opportunity that this

type of program presented, took the initiative and invited the Design/Build Program to construct a student guesthouse for the Americas area - conceived as a first building of the USA Pavilion complex. AVI USA is actively involved in the support of this project, but an administrative team of 7 now oversees the actual details of organization and construction. Its members are June, Chandresh, Julian, and (in Auroville) Renu, Jill, Juanita and David.

Initial funding for the project came through a donation of stock by Chandresh Patel and more recently from a successful matching program that raised \$100,000 for the student guesthouse - made possible by an anonymous donor.

The values and design principles of the Design/Build Program are substantially in accord with the criteria established by the IZ group, and it is expected that - in collaboration with the USA Pavilion Team - the students will create a comfortable, innovative and useful building that will serve as a foundation for the next phase of development. The building, which is being planned for groups of up to 18 people, will not only be oriented based on considerations of seasonal climate and monsoon, but also with a flow of space that will open out to include future neighbors of the Americas site. Gradually, as the project proceeds, the design of the main structure of the USA Pavilion will emerge. It is our aspiration that this first space will express and contain the vibration of the USA in a living and evolving way as students, researchers, and artists come to stay, learn and contribute to Auroville.

For more information email jillswar@auroville.org.in or info@aviusa.org - or visit the following websites: www.auroville.org/thecity/americas/americas.htm, www.aviusa.org/pavilion, and online.caup.washington.edu/courses/ArchW00/mexico/index.html



After many years of discussion, the first seedling is planted to mark the USA Pavilion's site within the International Zone



The Unity Pavilion: A Celebration Of Diversity

The Unity Pavilion will provide an exhibition and research space to all those cultures/nations, who have not yet built their own pavilion. Jaya, an active member of the International Zone group, reports.

One of the International Zone group's primary focuses in the last couple of years has been the realisation of the Unity Pavilion, a project that will act as a seed and catalyst for the development of the entire Zone. Whereas only a few nations are currently prepared to start building their national pavilions, this pavilion will be a place where the cultures of the world can flow and join forces, defying national boundaries and celebrating the joy of our Unity and Diversity.

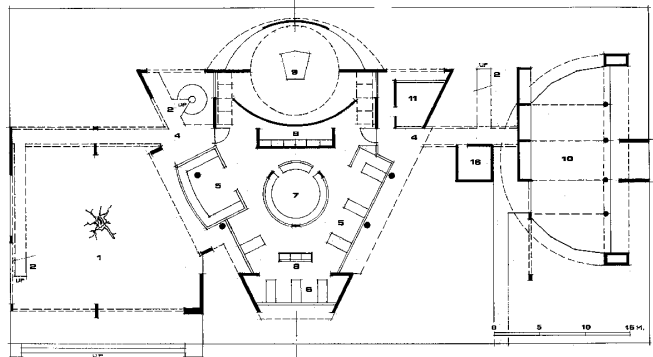
The Unity Pavilion will be more than just a location in which those cultures without pavilions can present their cultures. It will also be a research location, providing the national pavilion groups a platform for working closely with the International Zone Development Group and the Auroville International Centres. The presence, sharing and interaction between the cultures will stimulate the diversity of the work. Thus, the Unity Pavilion will support the realization of many of the other national pavilions.

An integral part of the Unity Pavilion is the Hall of Peace. The centrepiece of this hall will be the Naka-

shima Peace Table, which will be used for dialogues on Peace, for meetings and presentations and for gatherings of the International Zone. Artistic installations in the Hall of Peace will emphasize depth, harmony, peace, inwardness, lightness and beauty.

The architectural plans are ready, the land is being cleared, the foundations are being dug, and the inauguration is planned for February 27th, 2002. Although enough funds have been raised to start the construction, donations are still needed for its completion.

For more info, write unitypavilion@auroville.org.in or visit <http://www.auroville.org/thecity.htm>



Plans of the Unity Pavilion, showing the Nakashima Peace Table (top center). The 2nd floor auditorium will seat 150

New Secondary School Campus

A new campus with shared resources will bring Auroville's youth together, creating a more tight-knit generation with a stronger sense of belonging and commitment to the community.

Over the last 10 years, more and more of Auroville's youth has been completing its secondary education outside of the Auroville school system. Concerned with this trend, the Auroville school board has been exploring ways to encourage children to remain in the community to complete their high school education. In 1999, the board realized that Auroville's schools are too isolated from one another, which limits the interaction between the children, and reduces their sense of community. The children need a shared campus; one, which will provide a dynamic and interactive space that can offer them an opportunity to work and be together, to mix, mingle and bond. This shared academic campus



By the end of 2002, students will begin using the new secondary school complex, but funding for computers and lab equipment, among other things, is still needed.

would build a generation that would stay in Auroville, leading it into tomorrow.

With this campus in mind, and with a generous grant specifically for this purpose, the Auroville School Board and the Sri Aurobindo International Institute of Educational Research (SAIER) decided to collaborate in creating a campus for Auroville's secondary schools. Auroville's various high schools, such as the Center for Further Learning, After School, and Last School, will relocate to the new campus, and share its facilities, such as the computer room, science laboratories and library. These shared facilities will bring the youth together for those parts of their curricula that overlap. Auroville hopes that this campus will provide a powerful stimulus for the youth to continue their studies in Auroville.

Within the next 10 years, this campus will accommodate 200 students between the ages of 14-20. The first students will begin using the facility at the end of 2002, with the scheduled completion of phase one. Although they will be able to move in, funds are still needed to furnish the computer labs with at least 20 computers, to equip the science laboratories, to build a wastewater treatment facility and a small caretaker's apartment.

If you would like further information, or if you have ideas, time, energy or funds to contribute, please write Chali at chali@auroville.org.in, call the AVI USA office at (831) 425-5620 or visit www.auroville.org/education/sec_school.htm

Creativity: A new approach to housing in Auroville

Paula Murphy, a member of the AVI USA board, reports on one of Auroville's exciting new experiments in community housing.

Creativity is a new and exciting housing project in Auroville that is consciously asking the question, "How can people who are different live together in peace and harmony?" It is also one of the answers to the challenge of the housing shortage that Auroville has been experiencing over the last few years. Creativity has living spaces specifically designated for guests and New-comers, so that they can experience community life with Aurovilians.

Several individuals worked together for over two years to create the charter for this housing project. They have considered several key issues, including cultural diversity, cost effectiveness, aesthetics, environmental impact, and suitability for a wide variety of residents. To ensure cultural diversity, one of the points in the charter states, "Any cultural group normally should not represent more than 25% of the community members." On the environmental side, this is an experiment in sustainable urban living. It



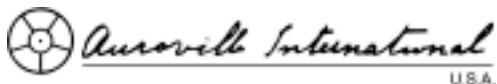
Deliberately encouraging cultural and economic diversity, the Creativity housing project is a dynamic experiment in sustainable urban living.

will become a demonstration site for eco-technologies and the integrated management of human and natural resources. The community will use alternative forms of energy such as solar power, harvest rainwater, and have a living wastewater treatment plant. Eco-friendly building materials are being used. Fifty five percent of the site will be green with trees and an organic garden for the community kitchen.

The foundation stone of the ambitious project was laid on Sri Aurobindo's birthday, August 15, 2001. Work is ongoing. Funding for this project is crucial at this time to allow construction to continue uninterrupted and prevent cost overruns. If construction is able to continue uninterrupted, Creativity should be ready for occupation in August 2002.

You can learn more about Creativity on the web at http://www.auroville.org/thecity/planning_creativity.htm. If you feel a resonance with this project, you can send a tax deductible contribution through AVI USA.

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TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION FORM

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation:

Donation Amount: \$ _____

- Specific Project:
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auroville Land Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> USA Pavilion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matrimandir | <input type="checkbox"/> Unity Pavilion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Campus | <input type="checkbox"/> Creativity Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

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Please make donations payable to AVI USA, and mail to AVI USA, PO Box 877, Santa Cruz, CA 95061

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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.

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