

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

Poets Corner: "E is for Evolve" - by Chandresh, AVI USA board member, 10/3/02

E is for Engagement:

In the narrow and the mundane.
Instilling care and diligence
To works in quotidian lane.

V is for Vanity:

To dilute and drain it out.
Instilling aspiration and clarity
For an effective collective clout.

O is for Offering:

Of Her works back to Source.
From mud, brick and suffering
Flowering Her projects on course.

L is for Love:

In abundance we share and give.
N'er enough or lack there off,
Yet something we narrowly sieve.

V is for Victory:

Our constant goal in mind.
Her soldiers, an imposing Truth battery,
Never slack, kill Falsehood, unbind.

E is for Earth:

Her children, we adore and we care.
Together in unity and mirth
We build this city* in dire despair ❖

* Auroville

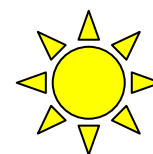
Headlines from the AVI USA Headquarters

We don't have enough space to talk about the following topics in great detail, but look forward to reading about these things in future editions of Evolve!

Land Fund Matching Program A Success!

We are happy to announce that, with your generous help, the Land Fund Matching Program of 2002 has successfully raised over \$47,000 for Auroville's Land Fund.

- Land Fund Matching Program of 2002 successfully completed: over \$47,000 raised for the Land.
- AVIUSA now set up to accept donations by credit card online at: http://www.aivusa.org/donations_main.html
- USA Pavilion nears completion of phase 1: Student Dormitory plans to open in early 2003
- Land Fund engages Dian Kiser as part-time professional fundraiser. All fundraising ideas welcome – email kibosch@jps.net
- AVI 2002 Conference in CA resolves to include more involvement of AVI Centers in International Zone's Development
- AVI 2003 Conference to be held in two locations: Feb 1-4 in Auroville, Jun 10-14 in France, near Paris
- University of Washington to send student exchange program to Auroville in Jan/Feb 2002
- Funds needed for Auroville International USA's Executive Director position ❖



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

Pavilion of Tibetan Culture - our neighbor in the International Zone

Julian Lines, Board Member of AVI USA, reports.

As we worked on completing the first phase of the student dorm, the first building of the US Pavilion in the International Zone of Auroville, a group of Russians and Americans needed a place to meet out of the hot Auroville sun to discuss collaboration on a well. The obvious choice was our closest neighbor: the Pavilion of Tibetan Culture. The irony was overwhelming: the superpowers needed shelter from people exiled from their motherland.

Indeed, the Pavilion of Tibetan Culture (PTC) has been very active hosting discussions on the concept and implementation of the International Zone. It has been a model for other countries in the stream of exhibitions, cultural events (the most recent being folk dancing), and services to the community. This is most highly exemplified by the monthly visits of Dorjee Raptan Neshar, Chief Medical Officer of the Tibetan Medical Centre, Bangalore, who provides traditional diagnosis and



Two Thousand Lights - New Year Meditation at the Pavilion of Tibetan Culture in the International Zone. © Ireno Guerici

prescription of medical herbs to Aurovilians and others in need. A young Tibetan couple are also currently in residence at the Pavilion.

It is the only building near completion in the International Zone, as Bharat Nivas, the Indian Pavilion, was originally designed with an adjoining wing to house exhibitions of the various states of India.

Funds are very much needed to complete the Pavilion and can be channeled via Auroville International USA using

the form on the back page, or by visiting the AVIUSA website at: www.aivusa.org.

For further information, please contact Claude Arpi directly at tibpav@satyam.net.in and enjoy his insightful articles at www.rediff.com.

Claude's latest book "And Long and Dark Shall Be the Night: The Karma of Tibet" is available for \$4 plus \$1.50 postage from our New York office. Click on the "AV Info" link at www.matagiri.org ❖



Guy enjoying his picnic in the fog at Natural Bridges State Park in Santa Cruz.



Young and old dancing to the traditional Moroccan tunes of Amarg, a local Santa Cruz band.



Patrick and Anandi, representatives of North and South America, share experiences of their native peoples.



Paula Murphy recounting "Tibet: Through the Red Box" during the Variety Show.

Auroville Conference

Aurotaranti Maiolini, former Executive Director of AVIUSA, and Nilauro Markus, current Executive Director, report on the recent conference.

Auroville International USA had the great honor of hosting the Auroville International (AVI) conference of 2002, which took place in July at Sequoia Seminar, a beautiful facility nestled among the giant Redwood trees near Santa Cruz, in the coastal mountains of California.

Officially, this annual gathering is designed to bring the Auroville International Centers and Liaison offices from around the world together to help them coordinate their global support of Auroville. More informally, the meeting provided a venue for Auroville's extended family, young and old, to gather, to rekindle old friendships and build new ones. There were children on all fours, playing with those who were there at Auroville's foundation ceremony; Aurovilians who left decades ago meeting with those who live there now; residents of the Ashram talking with representatives of the Auroville International Centers and Liaisons; and locals from the Bay Area and Santa Cruz networking with everyone.

For the most part, the atmosphere was both light and peaceful. A local Moroccan band came to liven up the gathering one evening and got us all to dance. Patrick Orozco, an Ohlone Indian Elder, shared songs and stories about his people who once lived in the same region where the conference was now taking place. The Monterey Bay Aquarium donated free tickets for those of us interested in touring its amazing facility. An outing to the beach and Henry Cowell State Park was organized (the hikers got lost along the way!) Amrita sang bhajans for us one morning, and there was a variety show, which included poetry, music and storytelling by the participants. On the last night we gathered for the AVI Follies, short performances that the participants had been

AVI Conference 2003

You are heartily invited to attend the next AVI conference, which will be split into two sessions. The first will be from **February 1st to 4th, 2003 in Auroville**, and the second from **June 10th to 14th near Paris, France**. In Auroville, the emphasis will be on reinforcing and expanding the relationship between Auroville and Auroville International and will explore concrete ways in which the two can collaborate in developing the International Zone. The meeting in Paris will be the formal meeting that is required by the AVI Bylaws, and will also be open to all. We hope you accept this invitation to join us either in Auroville or in Paris in 2003!

International 2002 Report

preparing since their arrival.

Besides just fun and games, we discussed some real issues on Auroville's current state of affairs, with focus on the International Zone. Clearly, securing the remaining land, laying down the infrastructure and building bridges with the villagers have become our priorities. The members of Auroville International felt strongly that the outside world, especially the AVI Centers and Liaisons, should have an active role in developing Auroville's International Zone. With that in mind, the conference spontaneously focused on a proposal to expand Auroville's International Zone Group so that it would include the AVIs, the local village of Bharathipuram and, when needed, certain specialists in various fields. With the help of Megan Thomas' Consensus Decision Making workshop, everyone at the conference participated in forming the Extended International Zone Group proposal, which was then ratified with complete consensus. Since then, the proposal has been presented in Auroville, where it was well received. How it can be implemented will be discussed at the next AVI meeting.

In order to encourage greater interaction and coordination between Aurovilians and the AVI community, we decided that it was necessary to have part of the next AVI meeting in Auroville. We decided to split next year's meeting into two parts: the first part will be in Auroville from Feb 1- 4, 2003 and the other part will be in mid June near Paris, France. Amrit Inamdar pledged \$1,000 in memory of his beloved wife to help fund the next AVI meeting, a much-appreciated gesture which will further help link Auroville and its extended family.

We hope to see you all in 2003, either in Auroville or in France!

For more information on the AVI 2002 meeting in California, visit the calendar section of AVIUSA's website at www.aviusa.org. For information on the AVI meeting for 2003, please click on the link at www.auroville-international.org ❖

Blossoming - by Aurotaranti Maiolini, 12/13/02

In the hustle and bustle of the AVI meet,
'Twas then I discovered it was a retreat.
With misunderstandings arising galore,
Not one escaped the heart of the meeting floor.
Each was examined, unraveled bit by bit,
Miscommunication the only culprit.
Once these language barriers unveiled the cause,
Harmony embraced us in its deeper laws.
We returned to the work with a finer skill,
And accomplished our goal with a Higher Will.



Bill and Jill went down the hill, and found the group astray. Bill whipped out a funky map, and both strained to find their way.



Alain, Helmut and Hashi enjoying the AVI Follies.



Megan leading a brainstorming session to help refine the Extended International Zone Group proposal.



Megan helps mediate a discussion while Jarod takes notes.



Auroville International
U.S.A.

**TAX DEDUCTIBLE
DONATION FORM**

Note: You can now also make your donations online with a credit card in the donations section of AVIUSA's website at www.aviusa.org

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation:

Donation Amount: \$ _____

- Specific Project: *Auroville Land Fund* *USA Pavilion*
 Matrimandir *Pavilion of Tibetan Culture*
 Village Action
 Other: _____

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

Check *Number:* _____ *exp:* ____/____

Money Order *Name on Card:* _____

Date: ____/____/____ *Signature:* _____

If the name and address on your credit card are different from what is printed at the bottom of this page, then please provide them here.

Please also provide us with your email address and phone number.

Name: _____

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Please make donations payable to *AVI USA*, and mail to
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