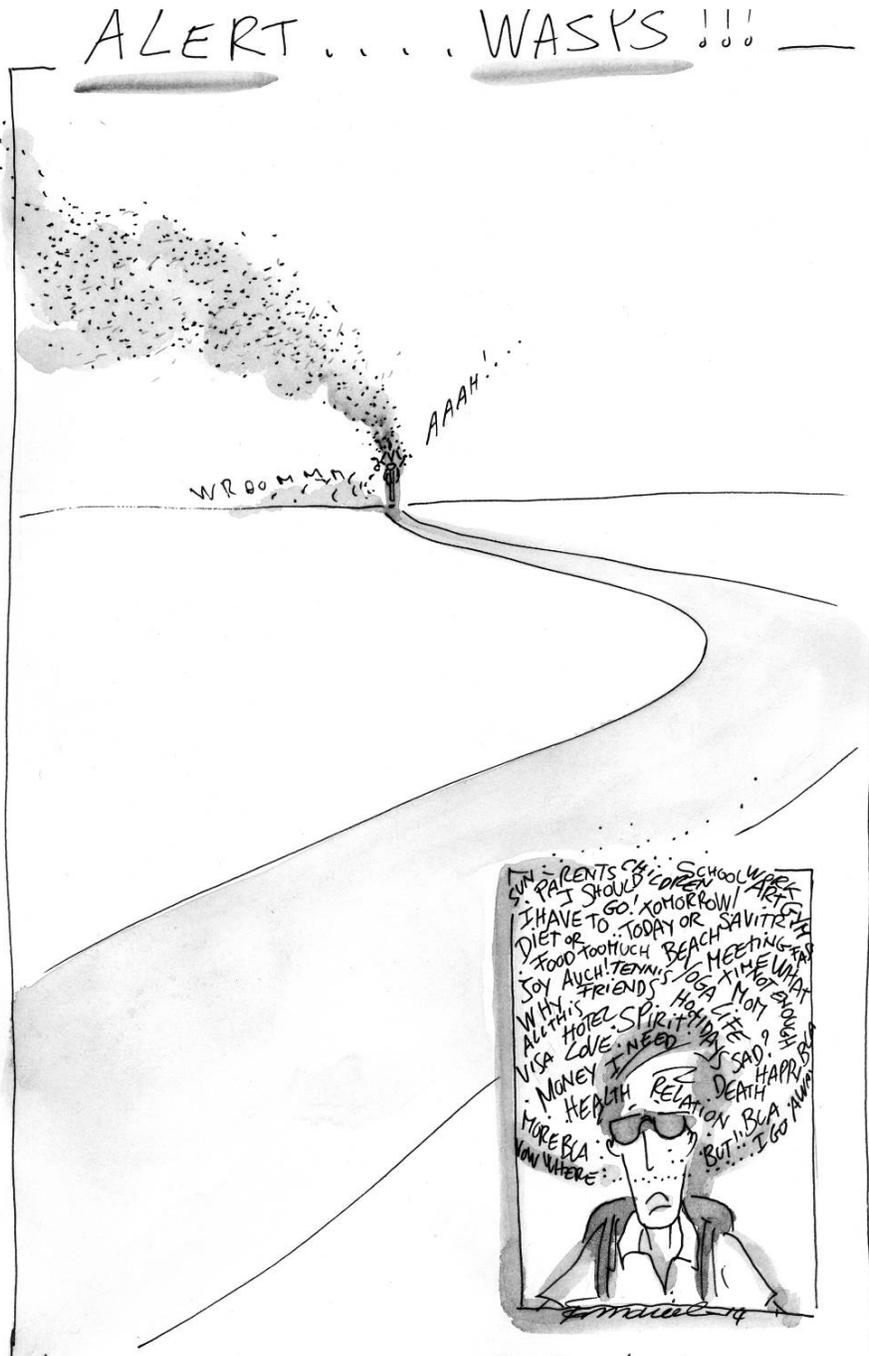


News & Notes

18th April 2015.....A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville.....Number 595



NO...ASUSUAL THE SAME SAMPLE-AURDIVILIAN TRAVELING LOST IN HIS RECURRING THOUGHTS-SWARMING

HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA

I am thinking of my money affair again: that's how life in Auroville should be organized - but I doubt people are ready. *That is, it can be done as long as they accept the direction of a sage. Yes.*

The first thing to be accepted and recognized by all is that the invisible, higher power (higher in the sense that it belongs to a plane of consciousness which, although veiled to most, one can gain, a consciousness one may call as one likes, any name - that doesn't matter - but which is integral and pure in the sense that it's not mendacious, it's based on the Truth), that this power is capable of governing material things for everyone in a MUCH TRUER, happier and more beneficial way than any material power. That's the first point. Once everyone agrees on it...And it's not something you can pretend to have; a being can't pretend to have it: either he has it or he doesn't, because (*laughing*) if it's a pretence, life will use the slightest opportunity to make it obvious! And moreover, it won't give you any material power - here also, Théon said something in this regard, he said, "Those who are all the way up" (he was referring to the TRUE hierarchy, the hierarchy based precisely on each one's power of consciousness), "one who is all the way up (one or those) necessarily has the least amount of needs; his material needs decrease as his capacity of material vision increases." And it's perfectly true. It's automatic and spontaneous; it's not the result of an effort: the vaster the consciousness and the more things and realities it embraces, the smaller the material needs become - automatically so - because they lose all their importance and value. It's reduced to a minimal need of material necessities, which will itself change with the progressive development of Matter. And that's easily recognizable, of course. It's difficult to feign.

The second thing is the power of conviction. That is to say, the highest consciousness, when it's put in contact with Matter, spontaneously has... (what should I call it?... It's not an "influence," because there's no will to influence.... I might put it this way:) it has a power of conviction greater than that of all intermediary regions. Through simple contact, its power of conviction, that is, its power of transformation, is greater than that of all the intermediary regions. That is a fact. Those two facts make it impossible for any pretence to last. (I am looking at it from the standpoint of a collective organization.)

As soon as you come down from that supreme Height, you find the whole play of diverse influences (*gesture of mixture and conflict*), and that's in fact a sure sign: if you come down ever so slightly (even into a region of higher mentality, higher intelligence), the WHOLE conflict of influences starts. Only what's truly all the way up, with perfect purity, has this power of spontaneous conviction. All substitutes you may try are therefore an approximation, and not a much better one than democracy - by "democracy," I mean the system that wants to rule through the greatest number and lowest masses (I am referring to "social democracy," the latest trend).

If there is no representative of the supreme Consciousness (which can happen, of course), if there isn't any, we could perhaps (this would be worth trying) replace him with the government by a small number - we would have to choose between four and eight, something like that: four, seven or eight - a small number having an INTUITIVE intelligence. Intuitive is more important than "intelligence": they should have an intuition that manifests intellectually.[....]

The only thing that could be competent is the Truth-Consciousness choosing instruments and expressing itself through a certain number of instruments, if one can't be found (just one isn't enough, either, that one would necessarily need to choose a whole collectivity). Those possessing this consciousness may belong to any class of society: it's not a privilege arising from birth, but the result of personal effort and development. In fact, that would be an external sign, an evident sign of change on the political level: no question anymore of classes or categories or birth (all that is outdated), but those individualities that have reached a higher consciousness would have the right to govern, whatever class they belong to - and no others. That would be the true vision.

But all those participating in the experience would have to be absolutely convinced that the highest consciousness is the best judge of the MOST MATERIAL THINGS. You see, what has ruined India is this idea that the higher consciousness has to do with "higher" things, while it's not interested in lower things and knows nothing about them! That's what has caused the ruin of India. Well, this error must be completely abolished. It's the highest consciousness that sees the most clearly - the most clearly and the most truly - what the needs of the most material thing should be.

With this, we could try out a new kind of government. There. (*Mother laughs*)

MOTHER'S AGENDA, 10 April 1968

MOTHER

*The
Pender
Corner*

You feel lonely because you want to be loved.
Learn the joy of loving without demand,
just for the joy of loving -
the most wonderful joy in the world -
and you will never more feel lonely.

The Mother - ref. Works of the Mother, vol. 07, p. 85

Cover drawing by Emanuele

Monthly Report of the Green Group for April 2015

1. NTDA:

The Green group would like to give feedback on this proposal which will be done after discussion in Farm and Forest group meetings. To help the discussion an information paper is being formulated that will bring together the many divergent views on the NTDA within the community.

2. UPDATE ON THE GOKULUM SITUATION:

The status of the land is ambiguous as it seems that no papers are available. Now the land is part of a complicated exchange package which involves several different plots of land and land access. So far discussions are ongoing and when a resolution is finally obtained this will be enshrined in a proper legal agreement with the Panchayat.

3. BUILDING REQUESTS:

3.1 Request from Anand in Gokulum for a sun shade; this was agreed quickly over the email with no submission of proper plans. It was agreed that this will not happen again. When there are situations where a quick decision needs to be taken and it is too time consuming to make a Building Application, some basic information about the proposed structure must be submitted to the Green group.

3.2 From Sammy Latzke in Discipline for a new outdoor kitchen; in general the Green group does not have any objections. It seems, however, that the Discipline community was not properly informed and it looks as if the building has already started before the process has finished. The Green group requested the TDC to tell Sammy to follow the proper procedures.

4. LAND ALLOCATION:

The group agreed to an allocation of approximately 5 acres of land in Kottakkarai to the Farm group. The land will be developed as a chicken farm with a new farmer managing the land under the stewardship of the Farm group. During the first three years the new farmer will start by building the first chicken house, and if that is successful, the second one will be started. A temporary capsule for the new farmer will be built and no permanent house will be built until the new farmer is given the stewardship of the land after successfully completing the three year probationary period.

5. RESPONSE TO PAPER ON LAND DEVELOPMENT:

This paper has been shared with the whole community and disappointment was expressed at the lack of any interest or feedback.

6. PONY FARM ROAD:

The Green group is writing to the RAS to support the idea that all work on the road stops until an agreement by all parties has been reached. To avoid such situation in the future there is a proposal that road plans for a year in advance be submitted to the RAS for discussion and that work does not start until the plans are agreed.

If you have any queries or feedback please contact Priya: green@auroville.org.in

Report of the Auroville Council - April 2015

Dear community members,

Following the very successfully organized retreat, the Council has renewed its work on several tasks with new vigour, despite the mounting summer heat. We are about to organize a General Meeting for the end of this month along with the Working Committee, date to be announced soon.

Sathiya, our secretary, is on maternity leave for a few months and Helena has offered her help and is greatly welcomed by us.

Here is a short report on some of the topics, not including ongoing arbitrations/ conflicts.

Conflict Resolution Policy

Please find the final draft attached to this News and Notes for feedback along with a note on the process (*See next article*).

Land Board mandate

After several months of discussion and careful consideration of various points, the final drafts for ratification are ready. They will be published shortly for feedback from the community.

Security team replacement

The feedback on the applicants is currently being reviewed jointly by the Working Committee and the Auroville Council.

Entry Policy revision

Along with some resource persons, the Council has started the process of redefining the Entry Policy, as well as "Windows of Entry into Auroville", as discussed in the Auroville Retreat. If you are interested by this topic and have time to dedicate, please write to us.

A new member for Entry Service

We have interviewed Matilde, a new Entry Service' member, working since March there and are asking for community feedback. Please mail us in the next 2 weeks to: avcoffice@auroville.org.in.

TDC functioning

We are very concerned about the TDC dysfunction in terms of poor communication, insufficient community involvement, partial decision making processes with just 4 remaining members. We have communicated this to the Working Committee who are currently working on strengthening TDC.

NTDA process

The Auroville Council met with TDC representatives Sauro and Cristo for an update on the process. However, we have not been able to agree on a summary of this meeting so far. We feel that until the strong objections to the formation of a NTDA have not been adequately addressed and integrated, a successful community process has not taken place. We will keep the community updated on this topic.

Volunteer Contribution Policy

Following the petition of 60 + signatures against the recently formulated Volunteer Contribution Policy, the Auroville Council met with the representative of this petition. We are currently in dialogue with the BCC on this topic.

Windarra arbitration

We are now in the implementation stage with the Implementation Monitoring Group consisting of Daniel, Auroanand from AVC, Eric, Mandakini from WC and Elvira from Koodam for facilitation. For a more detailed report please refer to the last published WC report.

Matrimandir garden presentation

We are still receiving feedback from the residents and we will look into it together with the MM garden team.

Other ongoing topics:

- NESS management (with Working Committee - see WC's last report)
- Policy for "Appeal against working groups' decision"
- Formation of Review Committee

New Conflict Resolution Policy

Dear friends,

This letter is to present you with the proposed new Conflict Resolution Policy.

The proposed policy has been under development since August last year and has in that time, undergone a comprehensive series of feedback sessions including a General Meeting (August 27th 2014 - <https://www.auroville.org.in/article/43922>) managed by Auroville Council and Koodam. A wide range of views, ideas and reflection from individuals and working groups have been incorporated into the final draft we present to you here (See last pages of the news).

However, there is still scope for last-minute adjustments to details and wording, and the Auroville Council and Koodam now invite you to read the draft one last time and propose any changes that you feel are necessary.

Council and Koodam are making all efforts to communicate this document as widely and as effectively as possible, via News and Notes, AuroNet and the RAS email system.

Please submit your comments, feedback, approval and anything else you may have, as soon as possible to: avcoffice@auroville.org.in.

Council will wait 2 weeks until the 2nd of May, for feedback, and after that time, if no major substantive objections are received, will consider the proposed Conflict Resolution Policy ratified - it will become the official community Conflict Resolution Policy and form the basis upon which all future serious community conflicts will be resolved.

If the Council encounters major substantive objections to the proposed draft, it will be presented to the community in a Residents' Assembly Decision-Making Process (vote).

Council and Koodam plan a General Information Meeting on the Policy at 4.30 pm, April 24, at Unity Pavilion. All are welcome. The purpose of the meeting will be to update the community regarding the policy and to answer questions.

Kind regards,
Auroville Council and Koodam

FOREST GROUP MEETING - PONY FARM 03rd APRIL 2015

PRESENT: Agnes, Jan, Iyanar, Dave, Fabian, Kannyappan, Shivaraj, Nathalie, Cristo, Erumalai, G. Vengatesh, Balu, Alok, Julia, Thanajayan, Sathyaseelam, Yuval, Sunny, Vera, Rik, Jean, Rishi, Hans, Jo, Auronevi, Jeremy, Aryadeep, V. Boobalan, Kumar, David, Matriprasad, Dominik, Christoph, Glenn, Jessamijn, Marike, Sergio, Wazo, Edzard

Topics discussed:

Planting:

Glenn reminded the members to communicate their planting requirements. He also reminded that the funding partners are Stichting De Zaaier SDZ and Foundation for World Education Development, FWE

Kamataru:

Rishi asked for a watchman budget. The request will be put on the budget list.

Aryadeep:

Aryadeep came to introduce himself and the work he is doing and said that in the near future he is very interested to take up green work. He asked the Forest Group for available lands to steward. The group advised him about the overall policy regarding stewardship (especially not to encourage stewardship for small plots to avoid sub-urbanisation of the Green belt) and that there are no places available at the moment. His request is noted and he will be put on a list of people with similar intentions.

FAMC:

David gave a short report on his attendance at the FAMC meeting but as most of their topics are confidential he had not much to tell the group.

Eternity:

Yuval asked that the loan repayment is stalled for the summer months as he has to do additional work watering the existing fence and trees planted last season. The group agrees to grant this break. The topic of payment for fencing work pending with the FAMC came up.

Pony Farm:

Vera, Sunny and Jo gave their view of the Mangalam Radial topic. This brought up a heated exchange between several members revolving about how far working groups such as the TDC can be trusted, what individual stewards can or cannot do and representation of the Forest Group in working groups. In the end it was agreed that the topic will be discussed at the General Meeting on this issue.

Some Forest Group members took the chance to look on site at the impact of the planned road, especially when cutting through a very peaceful tamarind/hardwickia grove.

Existence:

Jeremy asked the group about their way of dealing with TDC surveyors in general and heard various viewpoints. This is in regard to a request from TDC to survey the forest area to define a water line to the administrative zone.

In general it should be clarified before the steward agrees to accommodate the survey team:

- The purpose of the survey should be clear
- The survey team will only act in direct communication and with approval of the steward
- The team needs to promise that they will undergo the work with utmost care
- The survey outcome should be made available (Cristo confirmed that all survey data is available at the TDC office on request).

Skilled mechanic available:

Dominik informed the group that Manolo, a skilled mechanic (chain saw, all kind of machinery repair) is available. One can reach him at 91590 08653.

Abri:

Wazo reports that the building/s will soon become empty and asked the Forest Group to think about possible re-uses taking into account also the asbestos sheets and their disposal. The Forest Groups affirms that as the buildings are in the Greenbelt it wants to retain the right to decide what future activities or uses can happen there.

Planting/managing of work tree:

With the coming rain season Glenn encouraged Foresters to plant and/or manage work trees in appropriate locations within their stewarded areas. Since the cyclone, the light regime has allowed rapid re-growth of the tree which can be easily and cost effectively moved during the rain season and used for firewood and timber plantations. Presently the demand for fire wood is high and probably above the Forest Groups ability to supply due to the enormous loss during cyclone Thane, so since it is a great resource for the community and the sales provide a continuous income to the Forest Group it seemed a "win win" situation.

The next meeting will be on Friday, 1st May 2015 at Aurodam/Sacred Grove, 15.00.

Please access through the Sacred Groves entrance (passing Centrefield and Rita's into the open field and then right); someone will be guiding the way from there. David said small luncheon is available and encourages people to come earlier (around 2.00 pm) to have a look at the location and the work ongoing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trip to Pondy on 24th of April Darshan Day

There will be a bus to Pondy on the 24th of April Darshan Day - starting from Matrimandir at 9 am following the usual route and coming back to Auroville at noon.

Susmita

BCC - new budget forms

The Budget Coordination Committee (BCC) has the new budget forms ready.

These two forms (1) BCC Budget Request Form 2015-16 (a spread sheet), and (2) Narrative Report 2014-15 (a doc file) can be downloaded from Auronet.

Kindly download the forms save it by adding name of your service/activity at the end (e.g. "BCC Budget Request Form 2015-16 activity-names"), fill it up and send to: bccoffice@auroville.org.in with "Budget Application activity-name" as the subject line.

Thanking you,
With Best Wishes,
BCC

Kavunji Nature Camp 2015

Students going to Kavunji MUST attend the following meeting with their parents:

1st group: Saturday, 25th of April

2nd group: Monday, 4th of May

3rd group: Saturday, 16th of May

At Certitude Sports Ground, at 5 pm.

This is the occasion for asking questions before departure!

AV Nature Camp Team

NTDA process

For detailed information and explanations on the NTDA process and interaction with the Tamil Nadu government for land protection, please pass by L'avenir office any morning (Monday through Saturday) from 9.00 to 10.00 a.m. Members of the NTDA task force will be available on shift basis to answer questions or provide clarifications.

The members of the task force are: Bertrand, Cristo, Luigi, Navroz, Pashi, Paul Vincent, and Sauro

Information can also be requested by email: TaskForceNTDA@auroville.org.in

Attachments regarding the internal process and frequently asked questions can be found on the Auronet: <https://www.auroville.org.in/article/48131>

Divya L. on behalf of the TDC

TDC: Nicole resignation

Dear community members,

This is to inform you that Nicole has stepped down from her position as TDC coordinator as of March 15th.

Please find below her communication:

"Severe difficulties in managing a double workload due to my various responsibilities at the Visitors' Centre, coupled with the fact that I consider we are too few members around the table - and have too few able staff- to enable me to concentrate on my designated field and to do good thorough work all around and address issues effectively, have led me to this decision. This is reinforced by the fact that I had committed to this work understanding it would be for three years only and not four as became evident when the Office Order with the official appointments was issued.

I wish you all the best in carrying on with your work and thank the community for giving me the opportunity to serve in this way."

As per Standing Order of the Auroville foundation, the Working Committee is in charge of the process for replacement of the members of L'avenir that have resigned. The TDC has met the Working Committee on Monday April 6th; they will follow up on the above-mentioned process.

Vacancies are: Town Planning, Administration, Communication, Socioeconomic, and Fund-raising.

Sincerely,

TDC/L'avenir d'Auroville

Sri Aurobindo Auditorium safety

The Bharat Nivas group requests the community to consider, that the Sri Aurobindo Auditorium has 550 seats. Overcrowding the hall by occupying the steps and all available space is a serious safety hazard.

In case a larger audience is expected for a program, we will be providing chairs and an outdoor screen on which the program on stage will be telecast live.

We might also hand tokens to limit the number of people entering the hall to 550 persons after which the doors will be closed. We request others to enjoy the program outdoors.

The Sri Aurobindo Auditorium is a real treasure for Auroville and we are trying our best to maintain it as such.

Let us all collaborate in this work.

Bharat Nivas Group

FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE - N&N NO- 595 dated 18.04.2015

We would like to inform the community that our team had decided to recommend the following persons as Aurovilians and Newcomers. We will wait for two weeks (Newcomers and Returning Aurovilians) and one month (Aurovilians), from the date of this publication, for your feedback, before making our final decision.

AUROVILIANS:

Ivar JENTEN (Dutch) - Staying at Fertile, working in construction work with Johnny.

Mariano OJEDA (Argentina) - Staying in Madhuca, working with SUMARK 'as subcontractor for Invocation Phase II

RETURNING AUROVILIAN:

Matthieu GARDELLE (French) - Staying in Dana, working as part of the team at Auroville library.

CHILD OF A RETURNING AUROVILIAN:

Malik PIGNOLET (French) - born on 29/03/2008, studying at Nandanam

Erhel PIGNOLET (French) born on 15/08/2009, studying at Nandanam

NEWCOMERS:

Wolfgang DONNE (German) - Staying in Arati -I, working as a Gynecologist in Kailash Clinic and also helping in Matrimandir.

We have identified a lack of clarity in the communication and confirmation of status, as the announcements done in the News and Notes are FOR FEEDBACK ONLY and sometimes, after announcement, there can be either an extension of status or a decision to stop the process. We have therefore added an additional section to confirm the status of persons previously announced.

CONFIRMATION OF NEWCOMER STATUS:

Axum Kiros DAGNEW (Ethiopian), Jayendra Saraswathi YAFFAROVA (Indian from Pondicherry), Neil Edward MEIKLEHAM (Canadian), Shanti PIGNOLET (French)

CONFIRMATION OF NEWCOMER TO AUROVILIAN STATUS AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT IN N&N AND DUE CONSIDERATION OF FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM RESIDENTS:

Costantino CORCIONE (Italian)

Debabrata (Debo) SAHOO (Indian from Orissa)
Kazue (Kuz) YONEMURA (Japan) -
Rima DAS (Indian from West Bengal)

We will soon invite you to fill in the B-Form request for a meeting with the AV Foundation Secretary, with the aim to add your name to the Register of Residents.

PEOPLE WHO HAVE LEFT AUROVILLE ON THEIR OWN:

Melissa DE VALERA (French)

In case the above person(s) wishes to come back to live and work in Auroville, (s)he will need to restart his/her newcomer process.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP: We would like to inform the community that Vika has stopped working as a member of the Entry Service. We thank her for her valuable input. We will miss her!

Dear Newcomers,

The Entry Service team would like to inform you of the timings designated specifically for you to collect or submit the Newcomer Kit. Please pass by our office in Town Hall during these hours only: Wednesday & Friday at 2pm to 4pm. We look forward to seeing you.

We are open for B-Forms and Recommendation letter matters, on appointment only.

For all other matters, the office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10-12am, except for every last week of each month when we are closed to the public in order to focus on internal office work.

The Entry Service team (Chitra, Ishita)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Violin in Carnatic Music - A Musical Offering

"In our culture we have such respect for musical instruments, they are like part of God." - Ravi Shankar

The violin is one of the most popular instruments in the world. A simple four-stringed instrument played with a bow, its bright, dynamic tone and the infinite variety possible on its fretless fingerboard makes it suitable for almost any kind of music. According to the great Carnatic violinist, Subramanian, the lineage of the violin in Carnatic music can be traced back to the 19th Century when the violin was adapted to Indian music. Within a short time, it replaced other instruments like the veena, which were used to accompany vocal performances and became the primary accompanying instrument in the Carnatic tradition, especially for vocal music.

Please go to Aurnet, Music Library Group for this essay.

Music Library

World Heritage - To know more

Hi everyone,

I am Felix, a young ethno-anthropologist working on the field of sustainable development. Since November 2014 I'm volunteering at the Town Hall on the topic of Auroville as a World Heritage of UNESCO, for which I mostly did research and editorial work. I would like to work now on a direct and free communication level with all Aurovilians concerned and to continue with new angles, what has been started by others.

So, if you have any question about World Heritage, the implications for a potential candidature of Auroville, the challenges and benefits, or if you just want to talk about any topic connected with those subjects, you are welcome to come and meet me.

I must clarify that I am not part of UNESCO organization, but I already worked 6 months on such a project in French Polynesia with a local foundation of the Marquesas Islands (Motu Haka) and did my graduation paper on this vast subject.

I will be in Town Hall most of the afternoons until the 20th of May, but you can also meet me at La Maison des Jeunes, the new community in front of SAIIER, near Citadines.

If you want to arrange a meeting, my email address is: felix.tessier@live.fr

Cheers to all, *Félix*



GERMANY = The annual meeting of AVI Germany will take place this year from May 14-17 between Fulda and Giessen, quite in the center of Germany. The programme gives room for the exchange of experiences and information in the field of Auroville and the Integral Yoga. Participants will also turn their

attention towards developments in German society and the world at large, seen from the perspective of the evolution of consciousness, and discuss possible contributions to the hastening of this evolution.

Anuradha Choudry, who graduated at the Sri Aurobindo International Center of Education, Pondicherry, and Vinaya Chandra, both scholars of Indian and Vedic psychology, will contribute with a talk on Integral Psychology. Two of our returned Weltwaerts-volunteers will speak about 'One year Auroville - two perspectives' and this will be most attentively listened to by the new group of volunteers who are getting ready to leave in August and currently receive their first training in parallel sessions.

The three-day programme, usually attended by some hundred participants, is rounded up by meditation and yoga sessions, cultural performances and an outing to the beautiful countryside around the place of venue. Aurovilians who are in the area and would like to participate will be offered sponsored rates. For more information please contact:

friederike@auroville.de

REMINDER = The annual gathering of Auroville International will take place in Woodstock, USA from August 20-23, 2015, this year together with the All USA meeting/AUM. The AVI Board will have its meeting the two days before.

The theme of the AVI/AUM meeting is 'Seeds of Light'. Participants will be celebrating Sri Aurobindo, Mother and Auroville with a focus on their influence in America, and hear from Auroville Centers around the globe.

With the help of Mandakini, Dr. Judith Tyberg (Jyotipriya) founder of the East-West Cultural Center in Los Angeles will be remembered and the Acres for Auroville (A4A) campaign will be highlighted.

Savitra (Sasha Lithman), longtime Auroville resident and author, will give a keynote on the evolution of Sri Aurobindo and Mother's Integral Yoga since their passing, and offers an 'evolutionary intensive' workshop to compliment his talk:

<http://www.collaboration.org/aum/2015/savitra.html>

A number of other experiential workshops will be offered as well as cultural events along with a Woodstock Festival retrospective with special guests (the original Woodstock festival started on August 15th, 1969).

A number of Aurovilians will be present, including musicians Nadaka & Gopika and JV Avadhanulu.

For detailed information about the programme and registration, please go to the website: <http://www.collaboration.org/aum/2015/index.html>

MEXICO = From 6 - 8 May this year the Multicultural Universal Dialogue will take place in Guadalajara where Anandi will participate as one of the speakers. Her topic will be 'Auroville in Latin America' and we wish her well. See <http://www.dialogomu.com/speaker/anandi-elba-fernandez/>

For all AVI matters, contact Vani via vani@auroville.org.in / This column is maintained by mauna@auroville.org.in

Sustainable Livelihood Institute (SLI)

The SLI is being set up as an autonomously managed institute, jointly formed and emerging out of an ongoing dialogue between the Tamil Nadu Rural Livelihood Mission and Auroville, in response to the urgent need for new approaches and thinking in rural development based on the principles of sustainability.

Tamil Nadu's advanced standards of technology in urban areas are in stark contrast to its rural poverty, malnutrition and increasing unemployment, shrinking natural resources, loss of agricultural land and a steady decline in farming, tendencies made worse by globalisation and climate change.

Sustainable livelihoods are able to provide, without further destroying the fragile environment, the means for a healthy way of life, a holistic development, and overall happiness for individuals and communities. SLI believes that to create such

livelihoods is not a utopia, but a necessity and a realisable aim.

The SLI aspires to be a bridge between Auroville and rural South Asia, confronting the challenges of globalisation through dynamic localisation, evolving solutions for a humanity in a rapidly changing world by drawing from the wealth of traditional sustainable knowledge as well as the inspirations of the future.

With Auroville as its wider campus, SLI aims to provide a place of learning, growing, teaching, research, experimentation and exchange in all aspects of sustainable livelihood. It will offer regular training programmes for government servants and communities, and platforms where new and pioneering approaches can be conceived and shared between practitioners, policy makers, community resource persons, and all those interested in solutions for a sustainable tomorrow.

POSTINGS

Baby born 1

Dear Av Family & friends, we would like to share with the community that we have been blessed with a pretty baby girl S. Maya. She was born on 31st March 2015, at Rajiv Gandhi Hospital, Pondy. We would like to thank the hospital medical team as well as Appie for her lovely yoga classes at Pitanga - Love and smiles, *Shanmugam & Magesh (Aurogreen community)*

Baby born 2

With hearts full of praise and gratitude, we joyfully announce God's gift to us; Our little bundle of joy has arrived!

Born on the 6th of April, 2015 - *R.Udhay, Chitra and Sadhana (sister) of Celebration Community* are ecstatic to welcome the 'Baby Boy' into the world! PS: Both Mother and Baby are well

Fire at Hermitage

Just to inform the community that on Friday the 10th of April by mid-day a furious fire occurred in the Northeast of Hermitage. The reason is unknown but I guess it was caused by a cigarette. The first hour I tried with the Hermitage workers -

but finally we had to call the fire brigade. They came very quickly but unfortunately could not drive through the canyon so we had to work with man-power only.

With their help, the Sadhana watchmen including the police which is posted in Sadhana, we got it under control. Thanks to all for your help!

At the end a neighbour gave us a pipe and water and we could kill the last flames. The story lasted more than 2 hours.

Please take care of our precious forest and its animals and be aware not to drop any cigarettes.

Agnes - Hermitage

Saturday market suspended

Saturday market is suspended during the summer, it will resume in July or August. With the heat rising, vegetables become scarce, dairy products become difficult to make and keep... and many customers are gone! That's why last year's market will be held at Youth Centre this Saturday, April 18 and then the market will stop during the summer. We plan to resume in July or August, stay informed via the News & Notes!

AVAILABLE

A pair of mountain-shoes /trekking-boots

Size 38-40. Contact: appelie@aurov.org or sms: 9488818065 - *Appie**

MacBook White Unibody

2010 Model, 13" screen, 500 GB HD, 2 GB RAM, completely fixed. Contact *Antonio* at: 9751830699 or antonio@auroville.org.in

Hero Honda glamour 2010 model!

Recently fully serviced, new chain sprocket, new battery, etc. Single owner and Tamil Nadu registration. If you are interested then contact *Praveen* at: Praveen@auroville.org.in / 9843582182

Apartments available in Sanjana Housing Project

Work is going on in the Sanjana Housing Project between Arati and Sukhavati communities. There are still 4 apartments with 2

bedrooms - 126 sqm. Available for housing or office. You are welcome to have a look and choose between different flats. The construction is expected to be completed beginning of 2016. For details please contact: heleneq7@hotmail.com - *Sanjana Management Team*.

Garage sale!

Big comfi sofa set, mattresses, beds etc... Please pass by on Sunday the 19th between 10 am and 2pm at Angiras Garden (just after Ganesh Bakery): Follow the balloons... You can also email me: Prema.isaac@gmail.com Thank you, *Prema*

BMX bicycle

Cool children FIREFOX BMX bicycle (Combat 2.0). For children from 5/6 years, 20 inch. Black, blue and white color. Including stand, and original FIREFOX seat. Price is 3,750 rupees. Contact *Megan*: 9787416417.

LOOKING FOR ...

Serial Port

Hi, I'm *Julius* and I am looking for someone who owns a laptop/computer with serial port to allow me to try out some biofeedback hard- and software (Win XP or newer) to see if it works. Ph.: 9159 884960 / Mail: J.Schretzmann@gmx.de

Help

Dear AV community - Is anyone coming from Pondicherry / Auroville towards Bangalore by bus or train anytime soon? I need help in transporting an electric motorbike. Compensation will be provided. Please contact 'G' at: sattvig@gmail.com, 0840 799 7970. Thanks!

LOST & FOUND

A key (Found): With a plastic tag "Pune". Pass by the News.

Key ring/key chain (Found): with two keys of a vehicle (bike or car). Found on the sand sea bed off Sri Ma (Tanto far beach) on Sunday 12 April, probably lost very recently because not damaged at all. I brought it to the Sri Ma restaurant, where the owner can pick it if needed.

Jacket/cardigan (Lost): Around Christmas/ New Year I lost my comfy dark-blue knitted jacket/cardigan. It is short, without buttons and with pink velvet and ribbon decorations around the neck and front. I kept thinking it would emerge, but it still hasn't and now I will need it for travel this summer.

If by chance you have found it somewhere, please return it to me. Thank You, *Jaya*, Unity Pavilion 0413-2623576

An Italian magazine, "OLTRE-CONFINE" (Lost): On Monday 6th between PTDC and Invocation. It has a plastic transparent cover and the Laboratory of Evolution stamping. Please, if you have found it, call me soon: 2622138 or 9486422138, *Paola*.

White bag marked 'Mauna'(Lost): Saturday, April 11th I lost a bag containing two red sample school uniforms. They are needed at Udavi and I would very much appreciate their return if anyone has found them. Thanks. Suzie (contact me at: suzie@auroville.org.in or 2622927 7-8pm).

THANK YOU

Solitude Farm Organic Café

Thank you Krishna, Sarah and all the team of Solitude Farm Organic Café for providing me with an alternative lunch scheme. It is more than 6 months now that I take all my lunches (Sunday excluded) at Solitude Farm for Rs. 100 the thali. I just had to commit for 3 months and 3 days a week minimum to get that affordable price (and Krishna is also very flexible to accommodate my preferences).

Thank you for providing me with a creative, tasty, vegan, sugar free, gluten free, organic and local food.

Thank you to all of you and especially Sarah (newcomer) for this creative cooking with every week new flavors and dishes: ragi plantain flour dosa, banana stem salad, bottle gourd and peanuts, tapioca chips, drum stick spinach curry, green papaya and lemon grass soup, sweet papaya chutney, home-made pesto and pickles, taboulia, smoothies, vegan sugar free ice-cream, etc... and cherry on the cake you are open for the summer!

God bless, Joel (Surrender)

APPEAL

2 long time Aurovilians need your help..

Gérard C, after 20 years will go to France for a 1 month project related to his work with Cinema. A French association linked with the Pavillon de France is funding his stay in a major part, but the plane ticket needs to be reimbursed for 38.000/- At the same time, I (Surya) also need to go to France for my Aikido training. As a matter of fact, with Cristo in charge of the children and teenagers, I am now in charge of the adult classes along with a non-Aurovilian friend, Murugan, also a long time student from our dear teacher Serge. Our Aikido master, André Palméri, 6th Dan, has accepted to help us structure the Aikido school here and to follow our training and progression. This is very precious and he is the teacher I visit about every two years as he has asked me to do. PCG (MT&D scheme) is funding part of my stay in Marseille, and my mother will help me when I visit her. But I also need to reimburse the plane ticket and, if I am thankful for my teacher to offer me free classes in the Dojo, I need to contribute for a student room and transport in the city. I would need Rs. 55.000/-

Would/could some friends in the community or around, help us with these 2 needs? Whatever amount can be kindly transferred at Financial Service to the account: 0200 - specified for Surya and/or Cinema.

With gratitude, and at Her service,

Surya (Surrender/Aurofilm) - suryanina@auroville.org.in

IAC news

Dear All,

This is a follow up for those who felt concerned by the fate of the Dinesh Café's dog that was recently hanging around Courage and was suspected of being rabid, for a short while. I went to Integrated Animal Care (IAC) where Rita and her team have welcomed it, after she got the permission from its owner. This dog is now confined under a separate shed in order to avoid a new distemper epidemic. It looks much better and quite peaceful. It does not have foam coming out his mouth anymore. His long coat has been cut as to cure its wounds.

Looking for this dog, I had also the opportunity to visit the IAC and to appreciate the good work being done there. I saw many dogs that were happily roaming the place or were receiving their daily care and treatment with an amazing trust, thanks especially to the dedication of Rita, Veronique and Dr. Gawdaman. I understood also that the task of taking care of all these dogs is quite a difficult one. At the moment this shelter receives Rs 16,000 a month from Auroville, while its expenses amount to Rs 80,000 a month, at least. It means that Rita has to pay not only the balance with her own declining savings, but also all the extra expenses like the repairs of the infrastructure (2 lakhs recently for the keet roofs). So it is a constant struggle to find the financial means to run the place.

For those who feel concerned there are few ways to help. **One can donate a financial contribution towards the shelter - PT account 3111.** The shelter needs also committed volunteers who could come regularly. Last, one can adopt one these gentle and playful creatures who are staying at the shelter and offer it responsible care and affection.

Jean-Claude P.

ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE AND NEEDED

House-sitter 1

Home-Stay - Cute homestay bungalow available for long-term volunteer: private bedroom, kitchen, toilet/shower. Large garden space, quiet and peaceful. L'aura's House, Centre Field (Joy GH campus). Contact *L'aura*: 9442788016, laura.joyful@gmail.com

House-sitter 2

Looking for 2 months: dog + house-sitter in Angiras Garden, Kottakarai (June/ July) - We, Sheila and Bella (2 lovely female dogs), are looking for someone who would like to share house

and garden with us. Let us know, if you can take care of us from 26 May till 31 July. Please contact *Doris*: 763 976 8088 or Inge: 88 702 88 502. Most welcome!

House-sitter 3

Looking for responsible, clean and caring person or couple to take care of our house for the months of May and June. Cat lovers required as our cat just got 4 kittens. The house is nice with a big garden and quite cool in the hot time. Contact *Jorinde*: 9655024585=

TAXI SHARING

April 19th: Leaving from Auroville to Chennai airport at 5 am, returning at around 9 am or later. Contact *Chandra*: chandradedionigi@yahoo.fr, 2623 024, 7639781711

April 21st: I need to go to Chennai airport on the 21st at 4.45 am. If anyone wants to share the taxi on its return to Auroville, please contact shahnandi@gmail.com or SMS 9488483286. I am also willing to leave on the 20th evening if there is a share. *Nandita*

April 23rd: Thursday, leaving Auroville at 01.00 am to Chennai Airport. Place for one person on the way there, empty on the way back. Contact *Meike* at 2622510 or 9047654761.

April 25th: One person is leaving to Chennai airport on 25th of April. The starting time is flexible - between 8 am and 11 am. Please contact *Anna* (97598671669)

April 26th: Leaving AV around 4 pm for Chennai train-station. Contact: appellie@auroville.org.in or sms 9488818065 - *Appie*

April 27th: Taxi leaving Auroville on Monday 27th of April at 10.30 pm to drop at Chennai Airport and returning empty. Share either way. If interested contact *Rosa* at: rosa@auroville.org.in

April 27th: I will arrive at Chennai airport on the 27th at 20.30. If anyone wants to share the taxi on its way from

Auroville or back with me, please contact shahnandi@gmail.com or call 2622637 and send me a message during working hours by the 26th if you cannot email - *Nandita*

April 27th: Monday - Leaving Auroville at 00:30 (around midnight between Sunday and Monday) to Chennai Airport. If interested on sharing, call *Paola*: 9486422138 or 2622138.

April 29th: Hello, I am leaving Auroville on Wednesday the 29th around 6 am to Chennai Airport. (Flight at 11.30am) I would be happy to share a taxi and split the costs. (Taxi can be shared both ways) Please send me a text: 99 95 95 24 06 or email: missacattani@gmail.com.

MAY 1st: Leaving Auroville (next to Gaia's garden) at 4.00 am Friday the 1st of May 2015 for Chennai airport. Flight departure on 1st of May at 8.45 am. For sharing call 9047091508, sms or mail: anges-marie@hotmail.fr. Thank you, *Marie-A*

May 1st: Hello I am *Sabrina* - I will be going to Chennai Airport on Friday the 1st of May at 11.30 pm. I am flexible on timing. If interested please call me at: 8940568216 - Thanks.

May 3rd: Looking to share a taxi on Sun, May 3. Leaving AV at 9 am and arriving at Chennai airport around 12 noon. Contact *L'aura*: 9442788016

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

German speaker needed for part-time work as language specialist.

Avitra is looking for a German native speaker with an excellent command of English for a part-time engagement in the area of proofreading, translation, dtp/layouting, coordination and client communication. German as mother tongue, and fluency in English (orally and in writing) is required. A general inclination towards language-related work and relevant skills is a bonus. Specific dtp knowledge is not required, but general familiarity with working on the computer (and typing skills) is important. Working times are in the range of 6-7 hrs per day, from Mon to Fri. The work would be done partly on-site (requiring traveling out of town 3-4 times a week), and partly from home.

If you're interested, please send us an email and we will give you more information. If you're not interested yourself but may know someone in your surroundings, feel free to pass on this message.

Michael / Rik [Avitra - Auroville international translators phone 09786714857 avitra@auroville.org.in]

Work opportunities at the Sustainable Livelihood Institute

The Sustainable Livelihood Institute (SLI), a collaboration between Auroville and the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (Tamil Nadu government), has for aim the promotion of Sustainable solutions-based capacity building and facilitation, as part of the Rural Development efforts of the Tamilnadu government, and as an outreach and sharing of Auroville's experience and insights.

Applications are invited for the following positions in the Sustainable Livelihood Institute:

- Programme Co-ordinator
- Communication Officer
- Human Resources Officer
- Logistics Co-ordinator

For detailed descriptions of tasks and requirements, please see <http://sli-auroville.blogspot.com>. Suitable candidates may apply by email with their CV and two references before the 27th of April. The positions are being currently made available to the local Auroville community.

HEALTH

Tibetan Doctor

This is to inform everyone that the Tibetan Doctor and his crew will be in Auroville on Saturday the 25th of April. For your appointment call Namgyal or Kalsang @ 0413 2622401 or send an e mail to: kalsang@auroville.org.in

The consultation will be at Pavilion of Tibetan Culture in International Zone, Auroville.

Regards, *Pavilion of Tibetan Culture*

Integral Health

Classical homeopathy; hypnotherapy; midwifery; child care; coaching

Summertime Sigrid will be out from April 22nd till mid-July / Peter will be here into May, Ingo is back mid-June / Manuela is out till September / Malar continues on Mon, Wed, Fri 9- 12 am, providing remedies, monitoring BP and Blood sugar and keeping up the clinic / Sigrid is reachable for follow-up per Email: sigrid@auroville.org.in and Skype: sigridlindemann

Okubaka, homeopathic remedies with effects of pesticide spraying, is available again in C 30.

PC remedies for Diabetes, High Blood pressure and Trauma have shown very effective, good results keep coming in. We provide 84 PC remedies more for Trauma, infectious diseases and chronic diseases. The developer of PC remedies is Dr. Harry van der Zee, internationally renowned homeopath.

"Harmony and Samata" are homeopathic remedies carrying the energies of Mother and Sri Aurobindo. The remedies and information can be obtained free of cost.

Welcome to enquire, pick up background information and start treatment. The remedies are available any time in the remedy box of Integral Health, information in the mornings.

The First Aid Kits, with 32 remedies and a manual (English, German or French) are available again, come mornings.

Experts in classical homeopathy: Peter and Sigrid have trained yearly with Dr. Sankaran and team since 1999. Sigrid has taught this deepened approach of classical homeopathy in Germany since 2004.

Sigrid and Ingo are certified German healing practitioners. Peter, Ingo and Sigrid offer treatment in classical homeopathy: www.sigridlindemann.de / Sigrid offers transpersonal regression therapy, certified: www.tassointernational.com / Manuela is offering professional *midwifery*, consultation for Women's health and hypnotherapy.

Consultations are generally held in English, French and German - additional languages: Sigrid in *Tamil*, Manuela speaks *Dutch and Italian*.

Malar is managing the office, mailing of remedies, the First Aid Kits and PC remedies on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 9 - 12 am.

You are welcome to contact us at: integralhealth@auroville.org.in to enquire about the most suitable approach for your health or psychological issue.

Please make an appointment beforehand via Integral Health, Prayatna: 2623669

Sigrid sigrid@auroville.org.in , www.sigridlindemann.de / Peter peterh@auroville.org.in - mobile 9787698464 / Ingo ingo@auroville.org.in 9489325085 / Malar malar@auroville.org.in 9585012007 / Manuela manuela.auroville@gmail.com 8098900471.

More information is available on our website: <http://www.auroville.org/contents/148>

EATING OUT

Garden Cafe

We are happy to announce that the Garden Cafe will be open on Sundays throughout summer, starting from 19th of April! Do join us for a hearty meal on the most important day of the week.

Note that we will now remain closed on Mondays. Our new timings are: Tuesday to Sunday, from 9 am to 5 pm.

Regards, *Naturellement & Garden Cafe team.*

AUROVILLE RADIO



Happy Tamil New Year to our listeners near and far!

We are happy to say that the work for an Auroville FM Community Radio station is progressing! Harini, Chandresh, Krishna D, Alok M and Vinodhini are helping to make this a reality. This would enable receiving, via cheap means, (FM radio receiver or mobile phone) broadcasts within 10 to 15 Km radius.

Somewhere in the administrative zone heights a spot on a roof must be located for the low power FM transmitter and the small antenna. This will enable a decent coverage of Auroville, the surrounding communities and villages.

Our Team sessions have re-started where the work of re-defining vision, mission, goals and activities are shared;

Kristen, Yahalom, Marie F, Roland, Renu, Miriam and Andrea are engaged in this exercise.

If you are passionate about any kind of music that you would like to share and/or introduce, the Auroville Radio will provide you with a slot of time for culturally valuable music from anywhere and any period of time.

We are always looking for interested persons who would like to be trained in the field of journalism and sound production to join the team and help us deepen and widen the Auroville Radio content.

The radio is also looking for a photographer to share images of Auroville life daily on our social media network.

A software developer familiar with APPS for mobile would be very welcome.

There are many fun and exciting projects to carry forward and develop that are waiting for you!

These are the latest programs published by AurovilleRadio this week. All the recordings are available in CD or ready to be copied on your memory stick at the AurovilleRadio premises in Town Hall, opposite the Financial Service.

Off the Cuff-23 (Performing Arts 10/04/2015)

We discuss the mood in the house after the recent GM attended by many residents of diverse backgrounds and views. -[English, 17 Minutes]

Jazzy Weekend (News from Auroville 09/04/2015)

Concerts at Solitude Farm where they are trying to bring together local food and music - 10th Nathali John Quartet. - [English, 8 Minutes]

Forum sur la conscience a Paris (The Path 08/04/2015)

Eric, Christine et Anne (organisateurs), nous parle du Forum de l'Evolution de la Conscience a Paris. -[French, 66 Minutes]

Selections par Gangalakshmi-34 (Performing Arts 08/04/2015)

Gangalakshmi reads Sri Aurobindo, La Vie Divine -[French, 14 Minutes]

Invisible Wings (Cinema 08/04/2015)
Hari M Mohanan talks about his documentary Invisible Wings on tea shop owner Vijay whose passion is traveling -[English, 18 Minutes]

GM on Mangalam Radial- Pony farm (Mobility 08/04/2015)
Meeting on the Pony Farm road was attended by 170 people. Diverse and opposing views shared in a mature atmosphere. - [English, 114 Minutes]
AVArtService and Artists Meeting (Culture 06/04/2015)

AVArts Service and Artists share their experience and the next possible steps forward after the Chennai Festival -[English, 89 Minutes]

GM on Mangalam Radial, Culture (News from Auroville 06/04/2015)
RAS invites to a General Meeting to discuss Mangalam Radial project - Pony Farm in phase II tomorrow at 4.30pm UP. - [English, 10 Minutes]

You can listen to all of the programs and more on www.aurovilleradio.org
For more info call 0413-2623331 or email a@aurovilleradio.org

GREEN MATTERS



Earth Day, World Water Day... and last Sunday walk of the season



Earth Day - 22nd April

Intended to foster awareness and appreciation for the planet's natural environment, the first Earth Day ever was held on the 22nd of April 1971. Today Earth Day is celebrated in more than 192 countries, and the Earth Day network covers a total of 19,000 organisations worldwide. Activities focus on environmental issues and activism, awareness campaigns and education. The upcoming one is the 45th Earth Day.

A special proclamation on the first Earth Day was issued by UN secretary general U Thant. His message touches today as deeply as ever: "May there be only peaceful and cheerful Earth Days to come for our beautiful spaceship Earth as it continues to spin and circle in frigid space with its warm and fragile cargo of animated life."

For Auroville's programme on this Earth Day and the documentary programme in Cinema Paradiso, please see relevant announcements.

World Water Day 2015

Celebrated since 1993 on the 22 March, this day shines the spotlight on a different issue each year, and aims at improving the plight of millions of people who suffer from water-related issues, as well as at better management of the Earth's water resources.

This year's theme is '*Water & Sustainable Development*', and aims at creating awareness around water and sanitation. No water, no life: Water is at the very core of sustainable development. Management of water resources and related services directly affects the livelihood of billions, and shows the complex relationship between poverty reduction, economic growth, social wellbeing and environmental health.

Ecosystems lie at the heart of the global water cycle. In fact, all freshwater depends on the continued health of ecosystems. The best-known example of this is the frequent droughts as a consequence of deforestation, and the return of rains as soon as a sufficiently large area is reforested. Unfortunately most economic models in use don't recognise the vital function of freshwater ecosystems, hence the unsustainable use of water resources and ecosystem degradation. Pollution from untreated residential and industrial wastewater and agricultural run-off further weaken the ecosystems' capacity to provide safe water. A vital key to long-term water sustainability is therefore the adoption of "Ecosystem-based management".

Water and urbanisation: Every week globally one million people move into cities (40 % of these into slums!). Of the thousands of kms of pipelines that bring water to the urban populations, many waste more freshwater than they deliver, and in many fast-growing cities wastewater infrastructure is non-existent, inadequate or outdated.

'Water is food': Agriculture is the largest user of water, accounting for 70% of total consumption globally, and up to 90% in developing countries. To produce one kg of rice 3,500 L of water is needed; only a fraction of this is needed for millets; in contrast, producing 2 steaks requires a staggering 15,000 L! As a rough rule, one liter of water is needed to irrigate one calorie of food, while inefficient use wastes a hundred times more...

'Water is energy': Water is needed for energy generation, and energy is needed for water delivery. Today over 80% of power is generated through thermal energy. Water is heated to steam to drive electric generators, while massive amounts of water are also used for cooling. One of the most urgent measures to avoid disastrous climate change is to limit construction and use of coal-fired power plants (see previous Green Columns on the global movement of oil and coal divestment, and Tamil Nadu's plans for forty 'Ultra Mega Watt Coal-fired Power Plants!'). Hydropower, today recognised as far less green than advertised, accounts for 16% of energy production worldwide. Alternative water sources such as sea and waste water can reduce the pressure on freshwater resources, while renewable energies - sun, wind, rain, tides, waves, geothermal heat etc - are becoming more efficient, affordable and sustainable thanks to steadily improving technologies.

'Water is industry': Each manufactured product requires water: 10 L to produce one A4 sheet of paper, 91 L to make 500 g of plastic, an Olympic size swimming pool to manufacture one car! The industry's priority is on maximising production and profit rather than water efficiency & conservation. Global demand for manufacturing is expected to increase fourfold in 2050, mostly in emerging economies and developing countries.

The water situation in Auroville & bioregion: We all know it, our overall water usage; waste water treatment systems, our depleting aquifers and salinisation are mirroring the general issues, and are in dire need of attention from all water users and city planners alike. It has been predicted that the 21st century's wars would be fought over water. We dare to believe that the crucial need of water for survival can lead us from the edge of disaster into new and unexpected ways of collaboration, and who knows, even nudge us along the way towards rediscovering oneness?

Sunday walk Farms & Forests

The last two Sunday Walks of the season:

19 April, 8 – 10 am: Buddha Garden with Priya.

Directions: From Visitors Centre follow the outbound road to a T-junction, turn left onto the tar road towards Edyanchavadi. After a large pond turn right, and follow the signs along the path passing in front of a small temple and through a gate. Go down the path to Buddha Garden's gate. Tel: 94432 22653

Sunday 26 April: Aranya with Kundhavi & Saravanan

For the last walk of the season the AV Green Center invites you all for an adventurous walk, a brunch, and a bus to get you there!

Aranya is one of Auroville's well-kept 'secrets', a research sanctuary for indigenous flora & fauna near Ousteri Lake, ca 10 kms from Auroville. Bring some organic food to share.

Departure 7 am from Solar Kitchen; return at noon.

Important: If you want to avail of transport & brunch, please do send a mail to: avgreencenter@auroville.org.in before Wed 22 April! (Tel. Aranya 0413-2903590 or 94893 25433)

For AV Green Center, avgreencenter@auroville.org.in
Lisbeth, Bridget, Jasmin



Objection of Housing Board

About the posting of AVC regarding the arbitration process of Sheril and the Progress community

The Housing board wants to communicate our strong objection on the report AVC has published in the News and Notes about the arbitration process of Sheril and Progress community.

AVC has failed to report the facts on the matter concerning:

1. The transfer of the asset is for an architecture office/studio only and this is signed by Pino and Sheril.
2. The residents of Progress have started the community as a part of the line of force. A free standing residential house is not authorized in this place.
3. When the residents of Progress came to the Housing Board meeting, Joseba as a member of the Housing Board was not present.
4. All the other members of the HB took the decision not to give permission to convert an office/ studio for architecture into a residential house in the city center for Sheril.
5. L'avenir did not give the NOC, there was no consent from the residents of Progress. The beginning of the construction was done forcefully and it had to be stopped.

In the posting in the N&N, AVC is not mentioning the above facts. They are mentioning only the allegation from Sheril which is questioning the integrity of the HB. This is not acceptable to us.

You did not even report the conclusion and statements from the arbiters who have looked into this issue.

Do you propose that a new arbitration process would enforce a change in the actual stewardship agreement?

Do you propose that a new arbitration process can question clear decisions from 2 major working groups, L' Avenir and the Housing Board who do not allow that an office should be transformed into a residence?

Housing Service / Housing Board

Are you a laboratory of evolution?'

It is all well and good to celebrate the publication by one of us of some new translation, compilation or commentary of Sri Aurobindo or Mother's writings. The celebration together brings within us the shared sweetness of that bhakti we all feel towards Them... What a pity that it is not yet the same shared togetherness and support that is felt and expressed by all, for those of us who are not satisfied with just translating, compiling, etc., but who also follow in Their Steps with their whole life, including their body and its cells. To adore our Masters is already something useful, of course, a first step; but as Mother pointed out: *'Why do people want to adore? It is laziness that makes you want to adore. How much better it is to become, rather than to adore.'*

Are you, in your own being, a small laboratory of Evolution? Anyone is, wherever they live, if their whole being, down to their body itself, is in that deliberate process of becoming, through the necessary opening of it all to the workings of the New Evolutive Force. We need the 'Record of Yoga' not only from Sri Aurobindo, or Mother's 'Agenda', but from all those humble little followers too, for we all have been invited by Them to contribute, in our own individual unique way, to the research and experimentation that still has to be done in order to arrive at the New Being. So, instead of endlessly suspecting each other of spiritual ego or mental confusion, why don't we support each other's evolutive way, in all simplicity? And you know, none of this is for the personal glorification of the specific individuals having cellular experiences: on the contrary, their having such experiences only shows that it is becoming possible for everybody to have those experiences, so it should be felt as an encouragement for others too to learn!...

Bhaga - From LOE Research

Matrimandir Gardens

It is good that a lot of thought and work has gone into preparing possible landscape designs for the last 9 sections of the Matrimandir Gardens, but I have to say that I am very uncomfortable with the idea of referring to the gardens area as a single "garden". In fact I find it somewhat ridiculous to try forcing use onto Auroville of the singular word "garden" for what are clearly 12 different "gardens", each meant to be distinctly different to the others i.e. Existence, Consciousness, Bliss, Light, etc.

If Mother had wanted us to see the 12 segments of the garden area as a single "garden", then we can be sure that she would have said so, or have used the term herself. On the contrary, she specifically said on 25th June 1965, "*The Park of Unity will be divided into twelve gardens...*" and then again on 16th February 1968 in an exchange with Huta, "*There will be 12 gardens with various kinds of Hibiscus and other flowers, plants, tall trees...*"

At no point did she ever use the singular "Garden" for the area between the MM and the boundary of the Park of Unity. I therefore feel this latest suggestion is a misleading fabrication and should not be adopted.

Tim W.

For your calendar



AMPHITHEATRE - MATRIMANDIR

Meditation with Savitri - read by Mother to Sunil's music
Every Thursday at sunset

From March onward: 6.00 to 6.30 pm (weather permitting)

Enjoy the beautiful open space, an immense sunset, heavenly music in the very center of Auroville!

Reminder to all: The Park of Unity is a place for silence, meditation and inner work and is to be used only as such. We request everyone: please do not to use cameras, i-pads, cell phones, etc.

Dear Guests, please carry your Guest Card with you - No photos there.

Access only for the Amphitheatre from 5.45 pm

Please be seated by 5.55 pm, no late entry. Thank you.

Amphitheatre Team

INVITATIONS

FARMER'S MARKET AND COMMUNITY FESTIVAL - SATURDAYS AT THE YOUTH CENTER (10:30 am - 2:30 pm)

Farmers, cooks, eco-warriors, handicraft artists, singers, musicians, and volunteers are all welcome!
Come to eat local organic snacks and lunch, buy local organic produce, explore local handicrafts, and join in the music, games, and community fun) - *The Market will be cancelled in case of rain.*

To participate or volunteer, please email: localiciousav@gmail.com

Love and light, *The Localicious Auroville Team*

"In the interest of Peace"

Invites you to the viewing of "The Presence in the Present"

By Peace ambassador Prem Rawat (Toronto, Canada - July 2014)

Unity Pavilion on Wednesday 22nd of April at 7:30 pm

Duration an Hour and 12 minutes

Community integration

Dear AV family,

We invite you all to join us for a gathering in Pony Farm.

Saturday 18th of April from 5 pm to 10 pm

5 pm - 7 pm: Discussion on how to integrate community and town planning.

7 pm - 10 pm: We share music and snacks (bring your instrument, your voice and your goodwill)

*With love,
Pony Farm*

EXHIBITIONS



NIRMITI project

LAND-ART in Botanical Gardens - Auroville

Invites you to see a slideshow
About last year's work done by students of Aikiyam, Arulvazhi, Deepam, Oli School, Udavi
At the Botanical Gardens on Saturday April 18th - 2 pm to 4 pm



A PHOTO EXHIBITION

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGES IN JAPAN

三好和義写真展「日本の世界遺産」

Photography by Kazuyoshi Miyoshi

at GALLERY SQUARE CIRCLE Kala Kendra, Bharat Nivas, Auroville
From 18th to 30th April 2015
9am - 5pm (Sunday 19th Closed)

Opening Reception: 18th from 5pm
Japanese Green Tea and light snack will be served



www.jfindia.org.in

CULTURAL EVENTS

A 40min performance by Savita Rani (Binu)

23rd of April, 5 pm, Tai Chi Hall, Sharnaga

RIP

Rest in Peace is the inquiry (Post-mortem) of Rest in Peace. What do we mean by RIP? It an abbreviation used to pray for the soul who is no more in this world. But the other meanings of RIP are tear, split, shred, break, scratch and cleave. Postmortem of a body is the inquiry of his/her restlessness. Can a body which goes from so much restlessness within and around Rest in Peace after death? And why do we need to do rest in peace after death?

I want to Rest in Peace when I am alive.

So an inquiry into RIP opens up the landscape of an individual's questions, doubts, resistance, expression, dreams, proposals, and manifesto and hence the possibilities and futuristic approach. The focus is not on the final product, but rather on the subject in the process.

Binu (Savitha) is finishing her Ph.D in Theatre Studies at the Pondicherry University and studies Tai Chi with us.

Dance Performance



An evening to watch and enjoy the beauty of dance...

Saturday 18th of April at 20:00 in Barath Nivas

Hip Pop, Jazz, Contemporary and much more!

Saturday 18th April

in Barath Nivas at 20:00

Hip Pop, Jazz, Contemporary dance and more...

One evening to watch and enjoy the beauty of Dance

Piano récital

Cyril Marie (Murali)
BEETHOVEN

The three last sonatas

*Sonata n°30 opus 109 in E Major
Vivace, ma non troppo / Prestissimo / Andante molto cantabile ed espressivo

*Sonata n°31 opus 110 in A flat Major
Moderato cantabile molto espressivo / Allegro molto / Adagio ma non troppo / Fuga: Allegro ma non troppo

*Sonata n°32 opus 111 in C minor
Maestoso / Allegro con brio ed appassionato

On Wednesday 22nd April 7h30 pm at CRIPA



TALKS, SEMINARS

Water Talk

The next Water Talk will take place on Tuesday the 21st of April 2015 at 5 pm.
The topic will be a presentation on "The Geological History of Auroville and its bioregion"
By Giulio

The venue will be confirmed via Auronet
Working with You at Her Service,
Tom

CLASSES, WORKSHOPS

English Workshop for Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing

Saturday, April 25th, 9 am-12, 1:30-5 pm at the Savitri Bhavan, Main Building AV Room
Space for 10 people, age 15 and above

Sometimes it is easier to read and write English than to speak or understand spoken English. This workshop aims to be a foundation for listening and pronunciation and for strengthening our face-to-face communication. It will be interactive, thorough and fun. It will also be innovative: using the 26 letters of the English alphabet to represent the spoken sounds; e.g., we write 'plumber' but we say /pLUMR/. The workshop requires a full day so please come before 9:00 am.

Alice Watson will facilitate. She has developed a teaching method which she has been refining for the past 5½ years of teaching in Nepal and India. It is her joy to share the methods and materials with anyone who wants to develop their own speaking and understanding of spoken English, and/or wants to help others. She plans to continue these workshops - including offering them for teachers in school settings - in the future. Alice is an ESL teacher with a Masters of Early Childhood Education degree from the USA. For more than 30 years she has

taught all ages in Spanish and English. Her teaching style is friendly and colorful. Alice has applied for entry to Auroville and is volunteering full-time at Savitri Bhavan.

There will be a cost of RS 150 for two tea breaks, photocopies and other materials which you will take home for permanent reference and continued learning. There will be chairs, two small tables, cushions and wall-space for sitting on the floor with back support. You will need to bring lap boards for writing.

Registration is required by April 21st. Please send email or call Alice: awatson46@gmail.com (0413) 2622855 or 7094629770, or Patricia pat@auroville.org.in, 262 3750.

Please note: For the workshop on Saturday 25th, there is space for 10 people, age 15 years and above. Preference will be given to Aurovilians/Newcomers and long-time AV Residents.

AcroYoga

Every Sunday 8 to 10 am at Arka.

A beautiful blend of partnered yoga, acrobatics, and Thai massage. No need to bring a partner. Flexibility, power, & surrender are all combined... experience in yoga (particularly Ashtanga or AcroYoga) is very helpful.

No Sunday beginners class in April

SCHEDULES



PITANGA NEWS

PAIDA - LAJIN, (slapping and stretching) self-healing therapy presentation and class Saturday, April 18th 2-5 pm

Ms. Deli Zhang is a student of Mr. Hongchi Xiao, global promoter of PaidaLajin (slapping and stretching) self-healing therapy who came and gave a talk in Pitanga in 2012.

Ms. Zhang has self-healed her own pains by practicing slapping and stretching, and for over 3 years, she has been sharing this therapy with thousands of people, at Paida Lajin workshops, in families, companies, on the bus, train or on the road.

Slapping and stretching are simple, safe, effective ways that can quickly relieve acute symptoms such as coughing, cold, fever, mosquito and insect bites, ankle sprain, muscle cramps, motion sickness, stomach ache, toothache, headache, heart attack, stroke, etc., and empower people to self-heal or help each other to heal various injuries, pains and chronic diseases, including frozen shoulder, lower back pain, knee pain, hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, allergy, diseases of all internal organs, varicose veins, Parkinson's disease, stroke, etc.

The disease names may vary, but slapping and stretching do not target specific diseases, but rather aim to remove blockages in the energy channels of the body in a holistic, green way. With smooth energy and blood flow, diseases and pains known or unknown to us are healed.

Pitanga, Samasti, Auroville, (0413) - 2622403, email pitanga@auroville.org.in



C I N E M A - Bharat Nivas - AUDITORIUM

(FRIDAY 17 April "LIFE AND NOTHING BUT" - "LA VIE ET RIEN D'AUTRE" by Bertrand TAVERNIER)

FRIDAY 24 APRIL - 7:30 PM (Film show starting at 7:45 sharp)

"DAYS AND NIGHTS IN THE FOREST" - "ARANYER DIN RATRI" (original title)

Directed by Satyajit RAY- INDIA, 1969 / With: Sharmila Tagore, Kaberi Bose, Simi Garewal

Synopsis: Four bachelors go together for a short holiday in the forest. While enjoying a break from the hurly-burly of city life, each man undergoes profound character developments and transformations. Also figuring in the proceedings is a group of humble forest dwellers, who prove not to be the rubes and rustics whom the bachelors assume them to be. Filmmaker Satyajit Ray retains the intense humanism of work with a tight grasp on characterization and technique. While most of the film has an entertaining tone, Ray's disillusionment with the state of affairs in Indian society of the 1970s suffuses every frame. Days and Nights in the Forest earned a best picture nomination at the 1970 Berlin Film Festival.

Original Bengali version with English Subtitles - Duration: 1h.55'

AT SAVITRI BHAVAN

"JOURNEY TO THE LIFE DIVINE" - Part 2

Monday, 20th of April 2015, at 6:30 pm

To create a new world with and for a spiritual life was The Mother's dream already in France. This film is about how The Mother and Sri Aurobindo worked this out in the Ashram.

It reveals the meaning of Sri Aurobindo's withdrawal in 1926 and shows that on every Darshan a new consciousness-force was brought down. A special achievement in the earth evolution was the Supramental Manifestation on Earth - on 29th of February 1956 - when The Mother shattered the massive golden door which separated the world from the Divine.

The Mother's work for the evolution of consciousness and for the opening of the psychic of sadhaks was by giving flowers and through this to become aware of states of consciousness. Another important attempt for growth of consciousness in the Ashram was and is the fostering of physical education and so to make the body ready for the descent of the new consciousness force.

The film ends with images of Ashram life today: meditation at the Samadhi, how Darshan happens, and the sending of relics to centers of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother. Duration: 90min.



Cinema Paradiso

Multimedia Center (MMC) Auditorium
Film program 23 April 2015 to 26 April 2015

Please see separate announcement this week for the annual Eco-Film Fest to be held from 16 to 22nd April to celebrate Earth-Week, culminating on the Earth Day!

Nordic - Thursday 23 April, 8.00 pm:

- DEN ENESTE ENE (The One and Only)
Denmark, 1999, Dir. Susanne Bier w/ Sidse Babett Knudsen, Niels Olsen, Søs Egelind and others, Comedy-Romance, 106mins, Danish w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR.

Sus, a Danish lady, is married with Sonny, who is of Italian origin and, contrarily to her husband; she is not in a hurry to get children. Niller, a Danish handyman, and his dominating Danish wife Lizzie plan to adopt a child from Africa. When Sus meets Niller their lives take another turn.

International - Saturday 25 April, 8.00 pm:

- WHIPLASH
USA, 2014, Dir. Daniel Chazelle w/ Miles Teller, J. K. Simmons, and others, 107mins, Drama-Music, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: R

A young and talented drummer attending a prestigious music academy finds himself under the wing of the most respected professor at the school, one who does not hold back on abuse towards his students. The two form an odd relationship as the student wants to achieve greatness, and the professor pushes him.

Children's Film - Sunday 26 April, 4:30 pm:

- MONSTERS UNIVERSITY
USA, 2013, Writer-Dir Dan Scanlon and others, 10mins, Animation- Adventure, English, Rated: G

A look at the relationship between Mike and Sulley during their days at Monsters University -- when they weren't necessarily the best of friends.

Masterpieces of Japanese Cinema @ CINECLUB

Ciné-Club - Sunday 26 April, 8:00 pm:

- BUTA TO GUNKAN (Pigs and Battleships)
Japan, 1961, Dir. Shohei Imamura w/ Hiroyuki Nagato, and others, 77mins, Drama-Comedy, Japanese w/ English subtitles. Rated: PG

A dazzling, unruly portrait of post-war Japan, the film details, with escalating absurdity, the desperate power struggles between small-time gangsters in the port town of Yokosuka. Shot in gorgeously composed, bustling Cinema-Scope, the film follows a young couple as they try to navigate Yokosuka's corrupt businessmen and their own unsure future together. A ground-breaking film by Imamura.

Rating codes we often use are from Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA): G=General Audiences, PG=Parental guidance suggested, PG-13=Parents strongly cautioned, R=Restricted (equivalent to Indian rating: A i.e. for Adults), NR=Film Not rated, Rating awaited, or Rating not available.

PLEASE no food, drinks, snacks, munchies or your pets into the auditorium. Also, as a courtesy to the fellow viewers please be sweet and stop chatting after the film starts.

For scheduling programs at MMC/CP venue: please email us at mmcauditorium@auroville.org.in.
Thanking You, MMC/CP Group - Account# 105106,
mmcauditorium@auroville.org.in



Cinema Paradiso: Eco Film Fest 2015

MMC Auditorium

Film programme 16 April 2015 to 22 April 2015

Eco-Film Fest 2015: 16 to 22 April 2015

"For decades, people who concern themselves with the world's "wicked problems"—interconnected issues like environmental degradation, poverty, food security, and climate change—have marched together under the banner of "sustainability": the idea that with the right mix of incentives, technology substitutions, and social change, humanity might finally achieve a lasting equilibrium with our planet and with each other".

We dedicate our 11th Eco-Film Fest to the hope of achieving that equilibrium within ourselves, in our community, and in our world. Sustainability (or lack of it) is our theme this week with spotlight on the recent -Tiny House Movement aimed at appropriate, adequate, and affordable housing with lower environmental footprint.

Eco-Film Fest - Thursday 16 April, 8:00 pm:

- THE RISE OF ECOLOGY
- KAAYAL KATHAIGAL (Stories of a Lagoon)

The Rise of Ecology - 10 Disasters that Changed the World - USA, 2012, Dir. Virginie Linhart, Documentary, 52mins, English, Rated:NR: Sometime when some major health issue shake us up we realize that the body has been giving signals we had ignored. Similarly, our ecosystem constantly tries to communicate to us- but we seldom heed unless a disaster occur (and perhaps not enough even then). This film showcases 10 disasters that had held our attention and changed our consciousness. While revisiting we question - are we better at paying attention now? Kaayal Kathaigal (Stories of a Lagoon) - India, 2013, Nityananda Jayaraman and Ravi Chellam, Documentary, 25mins, Tamil-English w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR: This film brings us closer to home - to Cheyyur. It highlights the beauty and richness of the lagoon that we stand to lose if the 4000MW coal-fired power plant materializes.

Eco-Film Fest - Friday 17 April, 8.00 pm:

- TINY HOUSE HUNTING: LIVING IN NASHVILLE
- YERT: YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL ROAD TRIP

Tiny House Hunting - USA, 2015, TV-Series, Documentary, 22mins - Part of series that showcases families on the hunt for something new while bringing a fresh perspective to "scaling back". Here, a couple in Nashville, USA goes house hunting for a tiny house for themselves and their little daughter. Your Environmental Road Trip - USA, 2011, Dir. Ben Evans, Documentary-Adventure-Comedy, 113mins, English, Rated: NR (G): What is sustainability? Can we achieve it or are we doomed? With these basic questions 3 friends gather their funds and set out for a one-of-a-kind year-long adventure across the USA. Along with them the viewer takes a ride and gets to meet innovative people and options. Though based in the USA the content and query are relevant for all. *You do not want to miss this!*

Eco-Film Fest - Saturday 18 April, 8:00 pm:

- SUMMER OF (FAMILY) LOVE

USA, 2014, Dir. Kirsten Dirksen, Documentary, 118mins, English, Rated: NR (G)

In any country, having a home is synonymous to settling, to realize a dream. Yet homes are either unaffordable or creates issues such as financial instability and huge environmental footprint. In recognition, people around the world and the USA are increasingly moving towards tiny homes. The director, who had created "We the Tiny House People" (*that we had screened last year*), here packs her family in a caravan car to travel around the USA exploring some of these tiny spaces and meet people who have made this choice. With no arrangements in advance and only questioning to guide them, they've visited the cabins of ordinary people in their tiny but extraordinary world. With each pause they've gathered some new chunks of insight about life's necessities. A much acclaimed film; a must see!

Children's Eco-Film Fest - Sunday 19 April, 4:30 pm:

- THE LORAX

USA, 2012, Dir. Chris Renaud & Kyle Balda w/Zac Efron, Taylor Swift, Danny DeVito, and others, Animation-Comedy, 86mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: PG Based on Dr. Seuss book, here a 12yrs old boy searches for the one thing that will make him win the affection of the girl of his dreams. To find it he must discover the story of the Lorax, the grumpy yet charming creature who fights to protect his world.

Eco-Film Fest - Sunday 19 April, 8:00 pm:

- THE COCONUT REVOLUTION
- TINY HOUSE NATION: EPISODES 5

The Coconut Revolution - UK, 2000, Dir. Dom Rotheroe, Documentary, 50mins, English w/subtitle (when needed), Rated: NR (PG): This is the modern-day story of a native peoples' remarkable victory over the giant Western mining corporation Rio Tinto Zinc (RTZ). What part does coconut play here? *For that you will have to watch this much acclaimed film!* Tiny House Nation: Episode 5 - USA, 2014 (Season1), Hosts John Weisbarth & Zack Griffin, Documentary, 41mins, English, Rated: NR(G) - The film takes renovation experts across the USA to help design and construct tiny dream homes under 500sq feet (46.4sq m). It proves size doesn't matter it's creativity that counts. In this episode - a house is being constructed for a couple who lost their home in a fire, needs a home-office, and soon! *Must See!*

Eco-Film Fest - Monday 20 April, 8:00 pm:

- COWSPIRACY: THE SUSTAINABILITY SECRET

USA, 2014, Writer-Directors Kip Andersen & Keegan Kuh w/ Lisa Agabian, Manucher Alemi, Lindsey Allen, and others, Documentary-Adventure, 85mins, Rated:NR (G) Follow the shocking, yet humorous, journey of an aspiring environmentalist, as he daringly seeks to find the real solution to the most pressing environmental issues and true path to sustainability. *A must see; while watching keep your mind open while being critical.*

Eco-Film Fest - Tuesday 21 April, 8:00 pm:

- UNWASTED: THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS ON EARTH
- TINY HOUSE NATION: EPISODES 8

Unwasted: The Future of Business on Earth - USA, 2011, Sage Environmental Services & Porter-Works, Documentary, 54mins, Rated: NR(G) - There is no waste in nature. In fact up until ~100yrs back even human beings did not produce much waste - that required spending money to create massive land-fills. It seems "Businesses around the globe produce nearly as much waste as they do product..." Irrespective of the location, the film applies universally since we all somehow contribute to the waste, landfills, and littering. This film highlights many ways to reduce and manage waste - including tapping into the business opportunity it offers.

Tiny House Nation: Episode 8 - USA, 2014 (Season1), Hosts: John Weisbarth & Zack Griffin, Documentary, 41mins, English, Rated: NR(G) - Here a Minnesota couple builds a 207sq.foot (19.2sq m) mobile prairie cottage for their family of four. In addition, they need a classroom for home schooling their kids, and most importantly they needed a dream home that can withstand the harsh Minnesota winters.

Eco-Film Fest - Wednesday 22 April, 8:00 pm:

SPECIAL SCREENING

Specific description of this film including the title is a mystery (upon request by the filmmaker). However, can reveal that it is a recent and amazing film that will nourish our senses and heart. Hint: The pluviophile and the ceranophiles amongst us will be thrilled. It will also remind the biophile in each of us about the magic. A MUST

see! *This film is on its way. If it does not make in time we will screen an equally wonderful film and keep this one for later.*

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Thanking You, MMC/CP Group - Account# 105106, mmcauditorium@auroville.org.in

Important information about News & Notes (Absolute deadline for submissions or cancellations: Wednesday 11 am)

The contents of *News & Notes* are a reflection of the growth process of this community towards its ideals of harmony, goodwill, discipline and truth. Editing of submissions, mainly for reasons of space and clarity, is done according to an established policy.

How to submit material: Material (no pdf files, please) may be sent (in English only) to the *N&N* email address (below).

NB: Messages with large attachments (more than 1 MB) will not reach our inbox.

Please try your best to send your announcements, reports, film schedules whenever they are ready.

The Wednesday deadline (11am) is absolute as the News is given to the printers by Wednesday 2 pm.

Any modifications of the submitted *News* items have to be sent to the editors before Wednesday.

We regret not being able to attend to visitors on Wednesdays due to work pressure.

Articles for the Notes section should ideally be no longer than 500 words. All articles need to reach us by Tuesday noon.

Visiting hours: Mondays, Tuesdays 9am to 11.45am and 1pm to 3pm; **No visitors on Wednesday.** Please, no dictations over the phone unless it is an emergency or you have a medical problem.

Soft Version: We encourage you to ask us for a soft version of *News & Notes* send directly on your own mail. First, it saves trees, cost of paper (Rs 12.000 monthly are spent only on purchasing paper) and labor cost (900 copies are printed every week). Second we send your soft copy as a PDF file (Same formatting as the printing version with colored pictures) on Thursday morning and you can get information earlier than the printing version which is delivered only on Friday and Saturday. Don't hesitate to mail: newsandnotes@auroville.org.in or to phone 2622133.

Disclaimer: The views expressed on these pages are those of their respective authors or work groups and do not represent the position of the editors or of the community as a whole. The *News & Notes* serves as a channel for the publication of material coming from trusted sources within Auroville. The editors cannot be held accountable for any alleged misinformation given or offence caused. In case of any dispute, the Auroville Council may be consulted and publishing of disputed material suspended.

News & Notes, Media Centre, Town Hall. Phone: 2622133, email: newsandnotes@auroville.org.in

Auroville Conflict Resolution Policy / Draft March 2015

This policy applies to disputes between any of the below:

- Auroville residents including newcomers,
- Auroville commercial units including Auroville trusts,
- Auroville projects,
- Auroville services or working groups.

Employees or volunteers of any of the above with their respective employer and guests who have a conflict with any of the above can use this policy as well.

Aurovilians and Newcomers will not apply to court against another Aurovillian or Newcomer in relation to conflicts which can be solved under this policy.

This policy is not applicable:

- In a case where the Indian criminal law prescribes a different process to be followed,
- In a case brought to the Review Committee under the Auroville Foundation (Entry and Removal of Names of Persons in the Register of Residents) Regulations 2013.
- In a case where an individual appeals against the decision of a mandated working group.

1. Introduction

As a community, it's a given that individuals and groups go through moments of division and conflict, and sometimes these become deep and longstanding.

Although something many of us may like to do without, conflicts are a fact of life. They happen when people who depend on each other have ideas, goals or behaviours that are, or seem, not compatible.

What we tend to ignore is the fact that conflicts often have a great creative potential that can lead to positive change - when dealt with constructively.

How we deal with conflict is important, so we can create honest and compassionate communication that leads to lasting resolutions. If our approach to conflict is superficial, we may resolve the wrong issues, communicate at an ineffective level, or address concerns that distract us from resolving core problems.

In the past, conflicts were often brought to one of the working groups - mainly the Auroville Council (AVC) and the Working Committee (WC) - with the approach of "demanding justice". Individuals who brought their conflicts expected the working group to become a judiciary body that listens to all concerned and then arrives at a verdict. This approach to conflict usually leads to creating a winner and a loser and blocks the opportunity to enable people to create a positive transformation for their own conflict.

The Working Committee and the Auroville Council have expressed that they do not wish to be the 'Auroville judiciary'. They don't have the relevant tools, and the time and energy spent on the great amount of conflict cases prevents them from concentrating on their actual mandates.

In Auroville, we aim to enable a shift in our attitude towards conflict: away from the idea of truth vs. lies and a judiciary system, towards the idea of multiple truths, conflict transformation and taking responsibility to engage with our own challenges.

This policy outlines a step-by-step process to guide Aurovilians when involved in a conflict situation in Auroville.

2. Conflict Resolution Process Steps

2.1 Step 1 Direct conversation: People are encouraged to sort out their conflict themselves or with the support of the community or group within which the conflict occurs. This could be a neighbourhood, a circle of common friends, family or workplace.

2.2 Step 2 Facilitated process: If Step 1 fails, the parties in conflict can choose one of the alternative dispute resolution methods available in Auroville. Ideally, the parties themselves agree on the specific method and facilitator. Auroville Koodam, in cooperation with the AV Council, is a platform that can support this choice by analysing the situation, explaining appropriate processes and referring to the relevant practitioners. There are a number of Aurovilians trained in methods that aim at supporting people in a conflict situation to find a solution acceptable to both parties. Some of these methods are:

2.3 Mediation: a structured process for solving disputes, with assistance of one or more mediators. The mediators support the disputing parties by creating a safe space to have a constructive conversation and reach an agreement that is acceptable to both parties. Mediation is a voluntary and confidential process where at any moment either side can decide to stop the process. For detailed information see Annex 1.

2.4 Restorative Circles: a process for addressing conflicts between people within the context of their community. Restorative Circles (RC) is a series of meetings amongst those involved in a conflict either directly, indirectly or structurally. RC meetings rely on reflective listening to offer everyone an opportunity to speak and be heard. For detailed information see Annex 2.

2.5 Step 3 Arbitration: If any or both parties are unwilling to follow step 2 or if step 2 doesn't lead to a closure, the AVC can - with or without prior request from the parties or any one of them - initiate an arbitration process if AVC finds it necessary in order to protect the interests of Auroville. In arbitration, the arbiters are entrusted with the responsibility to make a binding decision that brings closure to the conflict situation. Auroville arbiters are committed to finding the best solution for all parties in the light of Auroville's interests and ideals. The formation of an arbitration body is coordinated by the AVC. For detailed information about the arbitration process see Annex 3.

2.6 Status Quo: If a situation needs a minimum of stability to allow a conflict resolution process to happen, the AVC may recommend a specific status quo to be maintained for the period of the process. This status quo will be formulated in consultation with the person(s) who have been chosen to facilitate, mediate or arbitrate.

2.7 Spokesperson: The AVC, in cooperation with Auroville Koodam, will assist people who have difficulty expressing themselves to find a 'spokesperson'.

3. Exceptions

3.1 If any of the following applies, and only then, a formal request for intervention can be submitted to the AVC directly, without going through the above process:

- 3.1.1 Violence or threat of violence,
- 3.1.2 Substance abuse (alcohol or drugs),
- 3.1.3 Psychological health issues,
- 3.1.4 Offence under the Indian Criminal Law,

3.2 The formal request for intervention needs to be signed by the Aurovillian submitting it, using the format as attached in Annex 4.

3.3 The AVC, if necessary together with the Working Committee (WC) and/or other experts (e.g. qualified psychotherapists, Alcoholics Anonymous coordinators, lawyers) will decide on the suitable course of action. This can, amongst others, include any of the above steps (see point 2.).

3.4 If a formal request for intervention contains statements that are found to be false, submitting it will be considered as an action against the ideals of Auroville and the AVC will decide on an appropriate consequence.

3.5 In case of an immediate threat of physical injury the formal request can be submitted after emergency measures have been taken by the AVC or WC.

4. Implementation of Agreements and Decisions

4.1 Agreements and decisions reached through any of the above processes are binding. In case the agreement / the decision is not respected, the AVC and the WC, if necessary in consultation with other AV bodies (e.g. FAMC, BCC, Auroville Foundation etc.), will decide together on an appropriate course of action, in relation to any individual or group who refuses to cooperate with the agreement or the decision, which may include but is not limited to:

4.2 Removal of a person as member of a Working Group, Unit or Project and /or ensure that they don't take any such position for a specified period of time;

4.3 Ending monetary support from Auroville or from any of its units and trusts to a resident, unit or project for a specified period;

4.4 Advising the Working Committee to start a review process which may lead to the removal of the person's name from the Register of Residents and/or Master List.

Auroville Conflict Resolution Policy, Annex 1 - Mediation

1. What is mediation? Mediation is a structured process for dispute resolution, conducted by one or more third parties (the mediators). The mediators' role is to support the parties in conflict to have a positive conversation and reach an agreement that is acceptable to them. The mediators' role is not to decide on behalf of the parties in conflict. Mediation is a voluntary process that is entered by individual choice and can be ended at any moment.

2. Who can be a mediator? In order to join the pool of Auroville mediators, you have to be trained in mediation and have practiced a minimum of 20 hours on real cases with an experienced mediator.

3. How are mediators chosen for a specific case? The parties agree upon who they want as mediators, if necessary with the help of Koodam. In case the parties can't agree, the AVC can choose the mediators.

4. What does impartiality mean? Mediators act impartially - that means they do not represent the interest of any party, but treat both parties as equals. If, at any moment during mediation, a mediator feels that he/she is not able to act impartially, he/she will step back from the mediation process and announce this to Koodam, so a substitute mediator can be found. If the one party or both parties perceive a mediator to not act as impartial, they can ask Koodam to find a substitute mediator.

5. What is the purpose of Confidentiality? A mediation session aims at creating a safe space that allows for conflicts to transform. In order to create this safe space, parties and mediators agree to keep what is spoken during a mediation process between them. The disputing parties and the mediators are committed and trust each other to keep this confidentiality, unless all sides agree to share specific information. Exceptions are situations that are of threat or harm to someone, an intention to harm a third party or matters of public interest. On request of the parties, the mediation agreement can also be kept confidential.

Auroville Conflict Resolution Policy, Annex 3 - Arbitration

1. What is arbitration?

- Arbitration is a structured process of conflict resolution, led by a minimum of three arbiters who have the role of an unbiased third party.
- The arbiters are entrusted with the responsibility to take a decision that brings closure to the conflict situation.
- Auroville arbiters are committed to find the best solution for all parties in the light of Auroville's interests and ideals.
- When an arbitration process starts, the parties in conflict surrender their responsibility to find a solution to the collective (represented by the arbiters) and accept that the arbiters' decision will be final and binding.

2. What is the pool of arbiters?

• The pool of arbiters is an existing group of Aurovillians that is willing to take arbitration cases on request, subject to their availability.

• The AVC is responsible to maintain the pool of arbiters and will publish the actual list every two years for feedback from the community at large. The AVC will update the pool of arbiters about the feedback received from the community.

• The pool of arbiters should not comprise of less than 18 members.

• A person can be added to the pool of arbiters if a minimum of 10 members of the pool of arbiters express their agreement in writing.

• An arbiter can be removed from the pool on their own request or if a minimum of 10 members of the existing pool object to his or her continuation in writing.

3. How are arbiters chosen for a specific case?

These are the different options of how arbiters can be chosen from the pool of arbiters for a specific case:

- Each party will appoint one arbiter and the two chosen arbiters will appoint the third arbiter.
- If one or more parties/arbiters refuse to appoint arbiters, the AVC will do so and will inform all parties and arbiters.
- If there are more than 3 parties or more than 10 individuals involved, the AVC can choose the arbiters.
- If the decision at hand may have crucial consequences for the community as a whole or the issue discussed is very critical, the AVC may decide on calling on more than three arbiters. This can be 5, 7 or 9 arbiters.

4. What does Impartiality mean?

- Arbiters act impartially - that means they do not represent the interest of any party, but treat both parties as equals.
- Before nominating an arbiter, the AVC will confirm that he or she is not connected to any of the parties or the issue at hand in a way that may create an impression of conflict of interest or lack of neutrality.
- The arbiter should disclose to AVC any such connection if it exists or as soon as it arises.
- If at any moment during arbitration, an arbiter feels that he is not able to act impartially, he will step back from the arbitration and announce this to the AVC, so a substitute arbiter can be found.

5. Fair hearing

- The arbiters will assure that all parties to the conflict (including any third party who may be affected by the arbitration decision) will have a fair hearing.
- All will be invited by the arbiters to share their perspective of the conflict, their interests, motivations and ideal solution within a time frame given by the arbiters.
- The arbiters will send a prior notice of the hearing with date, time and place of the hearing.
- The hearing will be done in person and possible in writing if a party wishes to do so.
- The arbiters will decide to hear the parties together or in separate meetings. If the hearing is in separate meeting, any of the parties can ask the arbiters to share with them the main arguments of the other parties.
- If any of the parties chooses not to attend the hearing or submit his/her statements within the given time frame, the process will continue nonetheless and the hearing will be considered as fair.
- The arbiters will, if needed, allow parties to be represented by an Aurovilian of their choice.

6. Referral to Mediation

- At any part during the arbitration process the arbiters have the option to refer the dispute or parts of the dispute to mediation. Accordingly the arbitration process will be postponed or terminated and where applicable the mediation agreement will be incorporated in the arbitrated decision.

7. The arbiters decision

- The arbiters will come to a final decision that is binding to all parties.
- The arbiters will take a decision within 30 days after the hearing process has been completed and will announce the decision to the AVC immediately after that. In special cases, the arbiters can extend the period for the decision in maximum 30 days.
- The arbiters decision will be in writing and will contain:
 - A short report regarding the fair hearing in the arbitration process, including all the meetings that have been conducted by the arbiters with the parties or affected third parties and all documents which were part of the arbitration process.
 - The reasons for the arbiters' decision and how it reflects Auroville's charter and ideals.
- The arbiters will nominate an implementation monitoring group including an AVC representative.

8. How do arbiters arrive at a decision?

- The arbiters will make an effort to reach their decision by full consensus, with Auroville's charter and ideals as a common ground.
- If full consensus, after prolonged efforts, cannot be reached, the decision will be taken by a simple majority of the arbiters.

9. How will the decision be communicated?

- The AVC will invite all parties involved in the conflict and those needed for the implementation of the decision to a meeting at which the AVC and the arbiters:
 - share the decision,
 - remind all present that they are committed to accept and implement the arbitration decision and
 - schedule a series of follow-up meetings that will help to monitor the implementation process.
- The written decision, whether in hard or soft copy, will only be shared with the parties and those who need to cooperate with the implementation after this meeting unless the arbiters recommend differently.
- If the commitment to accept and implement the arbiter decision is not upheld, the AVC will decide on a suitable course of action, according to point 4 in the Conflict Resolution Policy.

10. Clarification and correction of the arbiters decision

If needed, the implementation and monitoring group can ask the arbiters:

- to clarify a point in the decision;
- to take an additional decision.