



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We hope this letter finds you all well and happy in the beginning of this New Year!

Although the outcome of one of the last year's most important events, the UN Climate Change Conference, did not build trust towards solutions offered by governments, it hopefully built trust towards the potential of change that each of us and our communities can make. May these challenging times in the world today teach us much about our true human Self and relationship with all Creatures and the One.

A beautiful poem of Rashmi Mayur from the International Institute for Sustainable Future, written at the first session of the Gaia Education Meeting in 1998, was published in the special edition of Danish Ecovillage Network during people's Climate Bottom Meeting in Copenhagen in December.

Of Learning and Immortality

*Then they asked:
Master what is education?
The wise man spoke silently,
"There is no master
and no education,
my people"
People were bemused
Master continued,
"Life is an opportunity
to realize ourselves.
We are creatures
of learning.
To learn is to be creative.
To learn is to know
the root of our existence.*

*To learn is to preserve
Our sacred Earth.
To learn is to live
in harmony with the whole.
To learn is to give
birth to the future.
To learn is to reach
enlightenment - Nirvana.
To learn is to be liberated
from the finiteness
of Space and Time
To learn is to be
immortal".
Master was no more.*

Sept 6 1998

For our community in Estonia, a good educative year has again passed and when creating an overview for ourselves, we composed a summary also for you - dear friends, partners and members of the same international movements. Please take a look into our activities in 2009:

Spiritual training, seminars and events

- The core spiritual activities as regular ceremonies, weekend lectures and group practices, satsang circles and longer retreats continued in the same good rhythm also this year. Some new people join the group each year.
- Two new seminars were offered by our spiritual teacher Ingvar Villido (Ishwarananda) and they turned out to be most popular in our course program. Both are preparatory and part of the program of "The Art of Inner Change". One offers effective simple methods to master emotions and the other works on releasing mental conceptions.
- The number of our Kriya Hatha Yoga teachers grew last year as 4 new teachers finished 1-year long program guided by Annapurna, an experienced Kriya Hatha Yoga Teacher, and more than 10 people are now going through the training.
- Our seminar program offered altogether 28 courses given by local and guest teachers on different themes of spiritual growth, health and ecological way of life. We had two bigger free events: "Day of Open Doors" was attended by 250 visitors and "Day of Yoga" had 150 participants.
- We hosted several big excursion parties who visited our premises out of various interests. Our park of Flower of Life and the herb garden are really beautiful in the summer. One of the excursions was even arranged by the local government for the inhabitants in our region.

Organisation and community building

As the scope of our activities and the public interest are gradually growing, one of the themes in 2009 was improving our know-how of communication and marketing:

- We asked two of our friends, good professionals of marketing, to give an in-house training for a team of 20 people. This intense training lasted for one month and a so-called 'marketing team' was established as a result. This small team now continues to work through the issues and to create a basis for renewing our public presentation in 2010, e.g. through a new website and leaflets.

New on our premises

Bigger construction projects were not started last year, as the overall economic situation in the country turned out to be quite challenging also for us. We repaired and improved existing facilities:

- Finished the inner flower form (six petals from limestone) of our landscape architectural object – "Flower of Life", as part of Sanathan Dharma park. A geometrical form – the powerful Yantra of Kriya Babaji - was placed in the middle.
- Finished the construction of a small round reed-bale house for children. Two Karma Yogis dedicated many weekends and the final result was really nice and sweet.
- The "hit of the Summer" was the swimming place with a diving board. It is part of our big pond, called "Amrita Lake", project that is being digged gradually. The lake area has wonderful healing clay at its bottom and in addition to using it for building, it is much enjoyed by women for taking in or massaging all over. We offered three evening courses for women with clay treatment and sweatlodge ceremony.
- A small straw bale hut was put up during an eco-construction workshop. It became home for Nandi Devar, Acharya of Babaji's Kriya Yoga from Germany who moved to live in our community last year.
- A tall internet post was mounted on our premises and new Wifi connections were arranged to better meet the Internet needs of the inhabitants and visitors.
- The official local plan of our premises of 15 ha got accepted by the authorities. It took them 5 years :-)) and now we finally have the legal prerequisite for starting new building projects.
- Compost beds found their new location and a simple facility for drying herbs was built for the herb-household.

Progress on eco-village site

The construction of SkyEarth eco-village progressed much during past year. The first family moved in, another family moved in a heated shelter and altogether 7 houses are in the construction phase.

Publications

- The wonderful "Autobiography of a Yogi" by Paramhansa Yogananda got published by us for the first time in Estonian language.
- The 3rd reprint of the book "Ancient Secret of the Fountain of Youth" by Peter Kelder got also published. This book has proven to be surprisingly successful.

Outreach and cooperation

- As one of the founders of Estonian Network of Eco-communities, our members were involved in its management and were organizing the 3rd annual gathering of Estonian eco-communities in 2009; and working on adapting the international GAIA Education program for local needs.
- A team of our women attended regularly various public markets and bigger events to meet people, spread leaflets and sell our herbal teas, books and handicraft.
- Our place was shown on TV in a popular environmental program of our national TV. They were presenting several places of interest to visit during the summer.

Participation in international events:

- Ingvar (Ishvarananda) and Ave (Aradhana) attended international gathering and Guru Purnima celebrations of Haidakhan Babaji Ashrams in the Center of Unity in Schweibenalp, Switzerland.
- Aale-Triinu (Anjani), Ave (Aradhana) and Reet (Rama) were our representatives in the GEN-Europe General Assembly held in Keuruu Ecovillage in Finland.
- Ingvar (Ishvarananda) and Ave (Aradhana) participated in two NGO programs during UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen: the gathering of world spiritual leaders „Addressing Climate Change By Awakening to Oneness" by the Global Peace Initiative of Women and Climate Bottom Meeting „Windows of Hope" by Global Eco-village Network and Danish partners.

A beautiful video clip with the aerial perspective of our premises and the Flower of Life from autumn 2008 can be enjoyed on our website: http://www.lilleoru.ee/?module=news&id=5274&set_design=2

May the year 2010 be Happy for You,

Ave/Aradhana,

Lilleoru spiritual-ecological community, Estonian Babaji Ashram and Babaji's Kriya Yoga Ashram