



# Foundation for World Education

April 2014

NEWSLETTER

Volume 13, No. 1

## PLANTING SEEDS OF TRANSFORMATION

Each project that receives a Foundation for World Education seed grant is a distinct expression of human aspiration that supports the genesis of a transformed world as envisioned by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. Whether present or future projects involve training and education, provide facilities and services, or manifest any of a myriad offerings that we can or cannot yet imagine, it is the FWE's aspiration that each project flourish as a self-sustaining, unique sower of more seeds of evolutionary consciousness.

This issue offers descriptions of a small number of the projects that the FWE has supported. If one or more of them touches you and inspires you, please do offer support, either directly or through the FWE.

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### AUROVILLE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER

In the early 1990's, when the Matrimandir in Auroville was near completion, visitors began pouring in to see it. Auroville needed a place to receive them and tell them about the community as a whole. The FWE, recognizing this urgent need, gave a large grant of \$30,000 to help build the Visitor Information Center.

In the beginning the Center, built using pressed earth-brick technology, consisted only of an exhibition space, a restaurant and one shop selling Auroville products. Today, several more boutiques have been added along with a large exhibition space, a coffee shop and places under the trees for the constant flow of visitors, guests, volunteers, and Aurovilians who frequent it.



According to Nicole, who manages the popular, packed restaurant, once the Center was built, it began attracting curious visitors all too ready to purchase unique Auroville products and food ranging from Indian vegetarian to Continental cuisine. New boutiques were added onto the complex using the income generated from sales.

Today, the expanded complex, not unlike an American national park visitors center, offers elements of the Auroville experience. People walk 80 meters from the parking lot on a path through a mini tropical, dry forest. "They feel," she says, "like they have reached some place that is in and of Auroville." They encounter the mud-brick arches, the banners showing individual country information on pavilions for the international zone, and the large hall with exhibitions on the history of Auroville and the significance of the Matrimandir. They drift into the inviting boutiques and the Seagull bookstore. Overhead, a huge wind chime crafted in Svaram creates breeze-driven melody.



Aurovilians also use the center, both for its food and for the small stage incorporated into the original structure. On a recent evening a fund-raising dinner was held for the annual Auroville tango festival followed by a tango demonstration by Aurovilians.

Recently, the FWE has funded a grant request for large decorative stones that line the tree-shaded path from the visitor center to the Matrimandir. Each stone has a beautiful hand-drawn flower representing one of its meditation-room petals along with the Mother's name for the flower. Last year, in another grant, money was given for 10 bicycles, housed and maintained at the visitor center, for guests and volunteers.

The FWE has made timely contributions to the success of the Auroville Visitors Center. It demonstrates the strength of a core granting principle: *funding start-up projects that can continue to grow on their own.*

*Funding the evolution of consciousness around the globe...*

## AUROVILLE LIFESAVING SWIM TEAM

A model for involving young people in an activity that promotes discipline and excellence, the team of about fifteen members, ages 10-15, was formed in 2009 by Tanja Rost of Germany. Currently coached by American Satyavan Alexander, team members arrive at 6:30 AM four days a week at La Piscine swimming pool to practice swimming and lifesaving techniques.

Competitive lifesaving is a sport recognized by the International Olympic Committee. Enabled by seed grants from the FWE for equipment and travel, remarkably, within several short years the team has won gold and silver medals at the government-sponsored national lifesaving competition in Kolkata.



Lifesaving drill



Coach Satyavan Alexander with young team members

## AWARENESS THROUGH THE BODY IN THE USA

Created in Auroville by Aloka Marti, ATB, which utilizes physical activities and sensations to access the experience of Integral Yoga, has offered a number of successful workshops in the US since 2009 with FWE support. Among promising new developments, ATB may be able to offer programs in the US public school system and has also entered into an affiliation with the Antioch Center for School Renewal.

In July, 2014 the Antioch Center will sponsor four sequential workshops and a special kindergarten session. Most workshops will be held at the Antioch University New England campus in Keene, NH.

ATB is on its way to building a small, committed cadre of teachers in the US who can lead classes in public schools and elsewhere. There is urgent need for donations for scholarships. Dedicated and promising teacher trainees, some of whom must travel great distances, need financial assistance to attend the workshops.

Please contact Margo MacLeod ([margowmacleod@gmail.com](mailto:margowmacleod@gmail.com)) for more information on how you can help or participate. Information on ATB and the workshops can also be found at:

[www.awarenessthroughthebody.com](http://www.awarenessthroughthebody.com).

“It is the FWE’s aspiration that each project flourish as a self-sustaining, unique sower of more seeds of evolutionary consciousness.”

## THE AUROVILLE REVOLVING FUND

In the late 1980's the FWE provided a \$25,000 surety deposit to allow the Matrimandir crystal to be cast while Auroville completed fundraising to pay for the project. Upon completion of the crystal, the FWE created a revolving loan fund with these surety deposit monies to serve the Auroville business and commercial community. This original seed grant has since continued to grow under the management of the Auroville Board of Commerce and the Auroville Maintenance Fund.

Today the Auroville Revolving Fund is an integral part of Auroville's financial life. Business and commercial units have active loans totaling approximately \$150,000.

## SRI AUROBINDO ASHRAM ARCHIVES

Barbie Dailey, of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram Archives Conservation Lab in Pondicherry, is in her twentieth year of preservation of the manuscripts of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. Between 1994 and 2014, Barbie has received seven grants from the FWE. Her first grant supported an internship with Martha and Robert Orton at Blueridge Book Conservation in Virginia. She went on to further training in book and paper conservation in India and the United States and eventually brought conservators to the Ashram to offer trainings.

With this treasure of accrued knowledge, she and her dedicated colleagues work on manuscripts as well as a broad variety of materials — a challenge in Pondicherry's tropical climate. She feels that the funds granted by the FWE have had an immeasurable impact on the growth and sustainability of her group in preserving the collections in the Ashram Archives.



Barbie (left) and co-workers

Barbie expresses her approach to developing a broad expertise in this important work with these words, “One of the most important lessons I have learned during these internships is an attitude where one strives to do one's best while allowing for humility and an aspiration for progress.”



*Planting seeds of human unity...*

# REMEMBERING JUNE MAHER

JANUARY 15, 1930 - APRIL 25, 2014

When I remember June Maher her very name conjures up thoughts and memories of her strength, courage, compassion, loyalty, dedication, reliability, her humor and laughter, her joie de vivre—but most of all a heart full of love.

June was “Mother Auroville.” I cannot begin to imagine how many Aurovilians stepped through her portals in Aptos, California seeking comfort and rest from their long, weary journeys from India. She fed them, housed them, and embraced them all as though they were her own children. She focused on the good in everyone and truly lived by the aphorism of the Mother, “The least said about others, even if it be in praise of them, the better.”



When June went to India in 1971, she requested advice for her group, the Auroville Association. Mother told her, “No recruiting, but money may be obtained.” So a Nonprofit organization was established, initially out of June’s home. Much of the expansion and success of Auroville International today can be attributed to June’s organizational skills and persistence in the early days.

Whenever there was a chance to do something for Auroville June assisted if she could. When I organized two major fundraisers for Auroville Land in the early 2000’s she was on a plane to Los Angeles in an instant to help.

Having June on the FWE board where she exercised wisdom and fairness in all decisions was a blessing. It was an honor to serve with her and work together on the collaborative AVI-USA / FWE Planned Giving fund that was established through the FWE.



After experiencing serious heart disease in 2005, I was certain she would rally. She had grit and a strong will. She held to a positive attitude and avoided spreading negative energies about her condition. She always worked diligently and aspired with the intention that the body would come around and that she would toss away her walker forever. She must have done some intense inner work in her last days.

A week before she passed she called and we had a long conversation. Her final words to me were, “We will always be connected.” Those words ring in my ears with great comfort. June always talked about the “Golden Ship.” I feel that Ship was waiting for her as she moved from a lifetime of service on to another realm of the Inner Journey.

She is greatly missed by many around the world but she has left behind a noble legacy.



— Anie Nunnally is an advisory board member to the FWE and president of the board of directors of the Sri Aurobindo Center of Los Angeles (aka: East West Cultural Center)

To read the unabridged version of this article, please visit [FoundationForWorldEducation.org](http://FoundationForWorldEducation.org).

## F.W.E. MISSION STATEMENT

The Foundation for World Education awards grants to incorporated nonprofit organizations around the world that support integral education, human unity, conscious evolution, and a transformed world as envisioned by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.

The FWE provides a continuous stream of funding for current and future generations through responsible management of its endowment, receipt of donations and bequests, and discerning selection of grant recipients.

The FWE aspires to be instrumental in transmuting financial energy to its true purpose in the unfolding evolution and manifestation of a greater consciousness on earth.

*Long-term giving to transform the earth.*

## GUIDELINES FOR GRANT APPLICATION

The Foundation for World Education invites grant applications from individuals, programs and groups who share the vision for a transformed world espoused by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. *All proposals must be presented to the FWE through the auspices of a nonprofit organization* and are subject to review by members of the board before a decision is taken. Proposals must be received by the board **four weeks in advance** of a scheduled meeting. Please email your proposal to the secretary. If your organization is submitting a proposal for the first time, please include a copy of its nonprofit tax exemption status. See below for upcoming application due dates.\*

### PROPOSAL FORMAT

- **Summary/overview:** Name of your project/program and brief explanation of what you plan to do.
- **Need/rationale:** Justify the significance of your project /program in relation to your organization's mission and the work of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.
- **Program implementation and schedule:** Explain how you will implement this project. Include a time line and statement of the future viability of this project. Is it self-sustaining after initial seed money from the FWE, or will there be future requests to support the program?
- **Personnel:** Names and qualifications of groups and individuals directly responsible for project.
- **Project's contribution:** What is the duration and extent of influence your project will have for Sri Aurobindo and the Mother's vision of the Integral Yoga? How is your project related to other organizations or individuals currently engaged in the work of the Integral Yoga?
- **Current and future funding:** List sources of income and/or other funding sources for your project.
- **Budget:** Detail income and expenditure.
- **Final and progress reports:** Indicate method proposed to evaluate effectiveness of the project/program while in progress; written final report to be submitted within one year of completion of the grant or grant renewal. Indicate name of person who will prepare the final report.

### \* DUE DATES FOR NEW GRANT APPLICATIONS:

- SEPTEMBER 2, 2014
- JANUARY 7, 2015 (for main granting session)

*The FWE would like to thank the following non-profit organizations for their role in sponsoring grant recipients during 2013: AuroMiraService Society, Matagiri, Sri Aurobindo Ashram-Delhi Branch, Sri Aurobindo Center of Los Angeles, and Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham.*

## We invite you to participate ...

The Foundation for World Education allocates annual grants through disbursement from its endowment. Since grant requests keep growing, we are able to fund only a portion of the worthy projects we consider each year. We therefore seek to grow in our ability to give grants by increasing the endowment.

The FWE encourages donations, bequests, long term giving, and tax advantaged estate planning. We also welcome the establishment of designated funds for areas of special interest--see our website for further details. As we are a 501(c)3 non-profit foundation, contributions within the U.S. may be partially or fully deductible for income or estate taxes. Please consult with your own tax advisor to determine the specific tax benefits that may be available to you. (For additional information on wills and trusts go to [www.fwegiving.org](http://www.fwegiving.org).) We are happy to answer questions and work with contributors to build a plan for giving. Your gift to the FWE is a gift to future generations and to conscious evolution in diverse fields of human endeavor.

## Foundation for World Education

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## GRANT ALLOCATIONS 2013

### Grants \$44,737.93

Auroville (via the Projects Coordination Group) \$20,180.00  
- Apprenticeship for Aspiring Farmers.....\$4,000.00  
- Auroville Ambulance Service.....4,630.00  
- Management, Training & Development.....2,500.00  
- Auroville Life-saving Team.....1,446.00 \*  
- Unity Pavilion Sound System.....2,770.00  
- Scholarship Fund.....3,000.00  
- Auroville Unity Fund.....1,834.00

Antioch-Auroville Teacher Exchange.....6,500.00  
Integral Ed. Teacher Training (Delhi Ashram)...4,800.00  
Solar Radiant Floor (S.A.L.C. -Crestone, CO)....3,800.00  
Student Dorm Beddings (Ketchla, Orissa).....3,111.11  
AUM 2013 Scholarships .....3,000.00  
Teacher Training Workshops in Auroville.....1,000.00  
Sri Aurobindo in the Press 1925-1947.....537.00  
Soul of Nations / Int'l Zone Workshops in AV.....700.00  
Mickey's Fund Disbursements.....739.88  
- Matrimandir.....\$369.94  
- Matagiri.....244.16  
- Sri Aurobindo Center of Boston.....125.78

\* (this grant was sponsored by Ron's Fund)



*FWE Board Members from left to right: Jerry Schwartz, Bhuvana Nandakumar, John Schlorholtz, Dakshina Vanzetti, Margo MacLeod, Paula Murphy, Heidi Watts, Gordon Korstange, and secretary, Jeanne Korstange*



*Advisory board members: Anie Nunnally and Rudy Phillips*

*Founder: Eleanor Montgomery*



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