

I've Brought You More Customers

LONG ISLAND NEW YORK – On June 21st 2003, the Long Island New York collective was given the opportunity to have a Sahaja Yoga booth at the Green Acres Mall in Valley Stream.

More than 250 seekers get Realization at New York mall.

Due to the short notice, we did not expect much yogi help, since Long Island is in one corner of New York. Thus we thought it would be quite difficult to man the booth all day with only three people, as stipulated the contract. But, believe or not, we had more than twenty yogi hands giving Realization and helping out the small Long Island collective that day.

Saturday 21st of June, started out with clouds, which was later followed by thundering rain that also drew many more people to the mall than usual. So even the nature was lending us a helping hand.

In the mall we were provided with a long table in between a lounging area and a wireless telephone booth. We started with about five yogis and, by around 1 pm, twenty-five to thirty people were blessed to have their Realization. Slowly and steadily, as the day progressed, so did the yogis and the seekers at our booth.

A stage had been set up for the sale of the new Harry Potter book. We requested if we could move to that area. Once again the vibrations were with us and we moved more towards the middle of the mall. With this and with all the yogi power working, the small table turned into a big arena of people everywhere, with every yogi always working on a new seeker. It was simply fabulous.

A father and his five-year-old girl came to the booth full of curiosity. The father kept discussing Realization with me. He spoke about Christ, but did not sit down for his Realization. But his daughter wanted to do what the others at the booth were doing. So she sat and got her Self Realization. When she finally opened her eyes, she had a bright smile on her face. That encouraged her father to get his own Realization. The little girl sat with her hands open during the whole time. She wanted to stay near the booth.

During the evening, we were surprised to see the same father with two boys and two girls, including the five-year-old, saying, "I have brought you more customers." The little girl sat down again to have her kundalini raised. When her brother asked her what she was feeling, she said, "Cool wind blowing from my hands."

Even though we were allowed to have only three yogis present at the booth at one time, the mall administration did not object to the small arena that we had made for ourselves with the fifteen or more yogis. All the other booths were closed by four, but until the time the mall closed at 9:30, we still had seekers on the stools at our booth.

By Mother's grace, 250 seekers received their Self-Realization that rainy day at the mall. Jai Shri Mataji!

Pusbpa Rao

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"..I am always present with each one of you all the time.."

Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi, August 2nd, 2003

A Deep Sense of Devotion

Her presence, love and blessings were there all the time as Sahaja Yogis from around the world gathered to celebrate Shri Krishna Puja in Canajoharie, USA during the weekend of August 8th to 10th. It was one of those historic events that will be remembered forever by Sahaja Yogis who had a great fortune to be there.

We could only feel a deep sense of devotion after the puja.

Despite the news that Shri Mataji would not be able to come to Canajoharie in person for the Puja celebration, Sahaja Yogis from around the world came in huge numbers to enjoy the blessings of performing puja in this collective sanga. They were full of vibrations, joy and bliss. Everyone had a sense of maturity that they hold a huge responsibility to carry on this great work of Shri Mataji.

One of the highlights of this puja seminar was Shri Mataji's speech, which was recorded in India at the puja in Pratishtan, near Pune, during the morning hours. The Yuva Shakti of America and Pune bonded together and utilized all the powers of technology and Shri Vishnumaya to transmit the speech from to the Nirmal Nagari computer system just in time for the puja.

Her talk was in Hindi, which was immediately translated to both English and Spanish. The puja hangar, which was filled to capacity, was so silent and full of vibrations after we listened to Her speech.

During Guru Puja, Shri Mataji had asked us to hold Shri Krishna Puja in Canajoharie. Sahaja Yogis from North and South America immediately started preparing Nirmal Nagari in Canajoharie to host brothers and sisters from around the world.

Nirmal Nagari, a name given by Shri Mataji meaning "town of purity," is a very special place. It is a heavenly retreat nestled in the rolling farmland in upstate New York. In 1993 this land was selected and purchased by Shri Mataji for the use of Sahaja Yogis. With Her guidance over the years, it has now truly become a Sahaj community. It is a place both very vibrant and tranquil. Sahaja Yogis from all over America get together in Canajoharie to enjoy collectivity and to enrich their vibrations.

In addition to a collective hangar assembly hall, a kitchen and shower facilities, there is also a beautiful ashram in Nirmal Nagari, where Shri Mataji always stays, which was fully prepared and decorated for Her visit this year.

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Shri Mataji You are the deep calm ocean beneath the waves of our lives

*Nirmal Nagari
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from page one / This Krishna Puja celebration seminar was a sign of a level of maturity that we have reached as a collective. Nirmal Nagari became Shri Krishna's gokal, with yogis enjoying each other while strengthening their ascent.

Sahaja Yogis from both North and South America started arriving in Canajoharie on Monday, taking some time to settle in, meeting old friends and enjoying the fruits of the holy land.

For the first time ever, a live webcam broadcast was done of the whole puja celebration. In this way, over three thousand Sahaja Yogis worldwide watched the live seminar over the internet.

During the daytime on all the three days of the seminar, there were several activities organized for the little children and for grown-ups. A separate activity area was set up and decorated for the children in addition to a beautiful playground and a fountain.

On Friday night, we had a wonderful music program with a professional sitar player from the Toronto area, Anwar Khursheed accompanied by Anjan Upadhyaya from Florida on the tabla. There were many other performances from children and other Sahaja Yogis. For example, there was a reading of Shakespeare's poems about the Devi, bhajans and Indian classical dances. Each performance was full of tremendous vibrations.

On Saturday, we started to prepare for the puja. Some of us were working on the decorations, some were busy in the kitchen and others were practising for the music performance for that evening.

On Saturday night we had yet another amazing music program. While Friday night's performance included more Indian classical items, Saturday night's program was truly diverse with talents from North and South America. With so many flavours, one after another, yogis gave a standing ovation after each performance without fail.

The performances ranged from songs from musicals, a rock and roll band, folk music, Sahaj hip hop, a song about Canajoharie, kumba and salsa from Colombia, a dance from Mexico and much more. It was such a blessing to hear such extraordinary talents during these musical performances. Two new CDs were released during the Saturday night program – the first ever Sahaj hip hop songs and the other was vocal music by Mr. Subramaniam.

On Sunday before the puja, we had a wonderful raksha bandhan ceremony. All the brothers were gathered together in the pendal awaiting the arrival of their sisters. Meantime the yoginis were gathered together at the courtyard getting instructed on how to perform the ceremony. Each yogini was given a thali, a plate, on which were several elements such as a candle, incense, rice, kumkum, perfume, rakhi bracelets and sweets.

The bhajans began as the yoginis started walking into the pendal with their thalis. They strolled around finding the brothers who have been dear to them and performed the ceremony. The vibrations were so strong from the sisters and brothers that the atmosphere became one of pure love.

Although we are all brothers and sisters in Sahaja Yoga, raksha bandhan helps to reinforce the bond. And, on that day, it certainly felt like relationships were strengthened.

After light snacks, we started the puja. We first sang *Swagata Agata Swagatam* as Shri Mataji's photo was gracefully brought to Her seat. The ladies did aarti and we began the puja with the *Ganesb Atharvasheersha*, followed by the *Ganesb Stutbi*. All the children four years and older gathered on the stage to wash Shri Mataji's Lotus Feet. Then seven married ladies from the hosting countries came up to do puja as we sang some more bhajans.

We watched a video of the Shri Kubera Puja of 2002. As soon as the video was over, we were told that Mother's speech was recorded from Pune and was going to be played for us to hear. In this speech, Shri Mataji talked about how we should never criticize others and stressed the importance of introspection.

Hearing a talk of Shri Mataji's from the internet on Shri Krishna Puja was not the only new innovation in Canajoharie this year, however it was indeed one of the greatest advances.

In terms of the preparation at Canajoharie, every year it is getting much easier, comfortable and enjoyable for Sahaja Yogis to be there. The ladies' pond was cleaned up this year. It is now much larger and deeper than before. Some yoginis said that it now looks like a lake.

We also had TVs installed in the kitchen in order to have the cooking ladies watch what was going on in the pendal and not have to feel like they were missing any of the performances or activities.

Each year our Vishuddhis open more and more. In the areas of music and dance, we have been able to demonstrate how we can introduce Sahaja Yoga to the American people through hip hop and rock and roll.

Collectively, we have grown both in number and in spirit, with a wide array of talents to appeal to diverse audiences.

Furthermore, we are now in the age of technology where we have found how to use this form of communication to penetrate deeper into the society at an en masse level.

As our society makes more advances in the years to come, so will the society of Sahaja Yoga. And, one day, Sahaja Yoga will become our only society and Canajoharie will become a land where we all belong. Jai Shri Mataji!

Art at Canajoharie

"The skill of art must have vibrations. It should be kundalini's expression and kundalini's colour. Sahaja Yogis have no style. Integrate abstract, realistic and a little of impressionist."

Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi, May 1984

There are many Sahaja Yogi artists who wish to reach the level of Her words.

From those words, we had, for the first time, on the land of Shri Krishna, the chance to express our talent of art by having an art exhibition. Sahaj artists from South and North America participated with joy and collectivity.

Under a big tent, ten tables were set up each displaying different skills – pottery, woodcarving, drawing, ceramics, paintings, music, sewing, embroidery. Neither rain nor hot sun could stop the yogis from visiting the exhibition between Friday and Saturday nights. It was not long enough for some.

In addition to feeling the vibrations, we had the opportunity to raise contributions for the land by selling our works. Happily we could give 1008 American dollars to a Sahaja Yoga charitable fund.

It was a successful activity.

Louise Ruelland

If you could only
know who you are,
all your trouble
would seem utterly
unnecessary and trivial.

LEO TOLSTOY