

Dear Friends,

This season has been full of new connections in the bioregion and all over the world. The Mohanam Team is deeply to Julie and Light Omega Community in Amherst MA USA, Yoga Center Amherst in USA, Auroville International USA, Lions club Nootdorp Pijnacker from Netherlands, Philippe & Sabine from Suryasoul, Chamuelle Claudia Switzerland Nia, Marion Maertens from Germany Nia, Dianazimmermann from Germany Nia, Sacha, Agile, Jess from AUP, Marco group from Brazil, Cheron Sonia & Someswaran Georges from France, Cox&Kings and LPTI,. Your support helps us to grow our mission and expand our offerings, preserving the rich cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu for generations to come. We wish you and all those who have supported Mohanam health, happiness, and peace - and we hope to see you again. ... An outer activity as well as an inner change is needed and it must be at once a

A relationship that is not only cordial but friendly with the inhabitants of the neighboring village is absolutely indispensable. For the realization of Auroville the

spiritual, cultural, educational, social and economical action" - Sri Aurobindo

first step is to establish a true human fraternity — any shortcoming in this regard is a grave mistake which can compromise the whole work. My blessings are with all sincere effort towards harmony. The school should be an opportunity for progress for the teacher as well as for the student. Each one should have the freedom to develop freely. - The Mother

Mohanam was opened in 2001, The name Mohanam comes from one of the most harmonious ragas of Classical Indian Music, a raga being a musical melody aimed at creating a certain mood and state of mind. The Mohanam raga evokes the power of fulfillment of our aspiration for beauty and harmony.

The Mission To act as a bridge between Auroville and its surrounding villages and to keep alive the local rural Tamil cultural heritage.

Mohanam wants to be a youthful, vibrant community centre that helps to

revitalize the rich village traditions of Tamil Nadu. We believe that in the rush towards modernization it is important to recognize and appreciate our past and its potential to function as a foundation for building a brighter future for all, one

where the divine force within each one of us may unfold. 25th International Yoga festival: 50th Anniversary Journey of Tamilnadu: The 50th Journey of Auroville anniversary started at Dakshina Chitra the south Indian heritage

a great experience for us.

Pongal Festival celebration collaboration with French pavilion:

enrichment. The programs were the following: Exhibition of Indo-French Relations,

vegetables that have fallen out of popular use

do kummi dance (circle dance)

We have an opportunity by the Athiyan people to

showcase their dance and music. Women of that

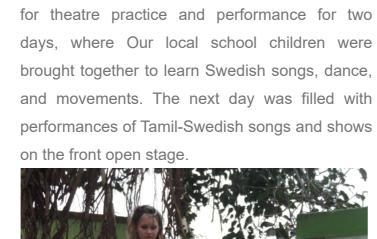
community make gift bags with waste material

from tailors' shops. They also do quilling

[decorative paper work]." The festival included a stall displaying the tribe's beautiful and finely detailed paper decorations. Theater Workshop and Performance offered to Bioregion schools:

On the 1st of Feb, a team from Sweden (theatre group) and Mohanam organized outreach school

on the front open stage.



Kolam a Sacred Mandala walk and Practice:

Mohanam has promoted Tamil customs like

kolam walk-through practice and holding a kolam

competition every year. Kolam is an art form that

is drawn by using rice flour and it is a

mathematical pattern which is especially in Tamil

customs. Kolam is used for blessing home or

business, offering food to insects which is

antibacterial.

said that the performance given by Mohanam's heritage atmosphere.

young team was excellent and it created a

A group of Mexican women requested to learn local Tamilnadu local food recipes.

On 11th, we organized a session during which 27 women came to participate. The women all learned how to drape sarees similar to Tamizh women. The women were split into seven groups and each group interacted with local women and cooked one aspect of the meal (Keera adai, vadai, vegetable curry, Payasam, kuzhi Panaiyaram), following our ancient style of cooking using traditional cooking instruments. Afterward, they enjoyed their meals which were an experience of sharing between the communities of Mexico and Tamil Nadu.

Auroville.

short speech on Mohanam youth space activity. Our chief guest Mr. Seenuvenugobal gave a motivational talk for the youth. He mentioned tamizh poet Mr.kavingnar Subramaniya Bharathiar and his reforms to inspire the youth.

USA and it was an excellent opportunity to learn

many things from him. Then, they went to visit an

organic farm at the Discipline community in

Auroville. At the end of the session, we played a

sound healing session and 40 people came from

different villages around the Auroville region. The

youth said their participation and the overall

experience was wonderful.

Seminar on Freedom from fear: On the 16th we organized a talk with the great Professor Mr.Sehdev Kumar from Canada, author of vision Kabir, on the topic of fear. He interacted with all the participants and discussed types of fear, which allowed everyone to express

their fears. He addressed fears all over the world

but focused on the fear felt by women in India. It

was an excellent opportunity for this kind of

lecture.

explained

Mahakaleesharer is.

Devotional songs class:

On the 16th of February, we organized a devotionals songs class for local children and the temple community. There were 24 participants

what

very interested in learning devaram songs. They

wanted to know the history of siddha and

Mahabaleshwar of Swamiji Mr.Selvam had

Siddha

and

what

Youth Sharing Circle: On the 2nd of March, a sharing circle was organized for young artists during which discussions of plans took place. They reported having loved to participate in Mohanam programs and they were advised to create a what's app group for further communication.

were wonderful kolams designed by the village women and part of the walk included a visit to a local temple where Balu shared stories regarding the villages and the temples. The group was inspired by the different kolams they saw and learned how to make kolam and the depth of this beautiful culture.

On the 5th of February in the village, a team

came from Brazil to learn about Tamil cultural

activity and the group participated in the early

morning kolam walk through the villages. There

Our longtime vision to start wellbeing classes in the temple is getting real. The Irumbai temple is a spiritual place and is situated near Auroville. We have started an introductory yoga class run by

local youth every Sunday and it is attended by 25

children. We would like to organize upcoming

devotional songs classes open to local children

Nehru Yuva Kendra trainee team cultural

Irumbai well-being class:

and the public.

audiences.

inspiration program:

A group of trainees from Nehru Yuva Sangathan, along with the youth coordinator for the group, requested a cultural inspiration program on very short notice. Our young team created a

drumming program for 30 minutes and performed

it and the performance was appreciated by the

On the 3rd of March, we organized Nattuvangam which is originally a form of classical dance. It

excellent.

Women's day celebrations:

Classical dance performance:

Mohanam celebrates women's day every year. This year on the 9th of March the celebration

started with Sathya's addressing speech, who is

the president of women's group and Mrs.

Rajaveni, who shared and interacted with the

women about women's rights. Women shared

their issues and how to overcome the problems

in their lives to get support from the women's

circle. After that, they played a few games,

practiced yoga, folk dance, and singing. They

were tremendously happy because their days are

typically filled with housework and childcare. This

celebration gave women the space to express

Journey of Tamilnadu at Thiruchy,

their talent and interact with different people.

Madurai and Thiruvannamalai:

was a great inspiration to the French delegates

who said that our Indian classical dance was

& Shingles

5. Roof & Rain water Protection with Bisone board

performed at NIT and in Madurai, we performed at Aravindar eye hospital. Marathan at Thiruvannamalai : Mohanam music troupe performed in

Thiruvannamalai for Marathon. This Marathon

was organized by llamthaleer to create

awareness in the society. Our team performance

was Indo-Africa inspired drumming creation to

encourage the runners. This performance was

one of the best and highly appreciated and

enjoyed by the participants.

Current Progress of Mohanam Village Heritage Centre

Mohanam sound troupe traveled to Thiruchy,

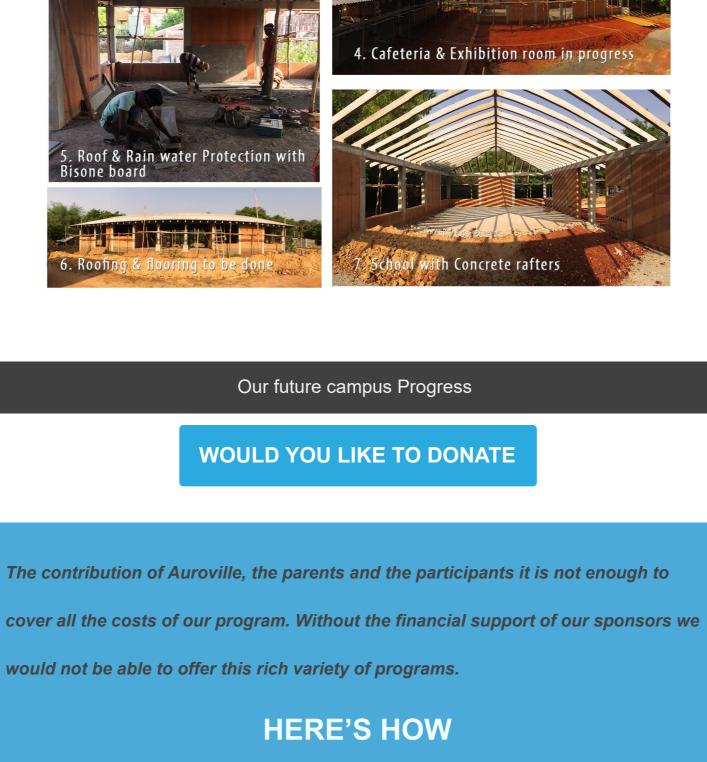
Madurai, and Thiruvannamalai for the

50thJourney of Auroville. Our youth team

performed stick dance, thapattam, Kuichiattam

and drumming in different places. In Thiruchy we

Common Toile



"SWIFT" (electronic transfer) from anywhere. Go to your bank and give them the following information, with your donation. **SWIFT CODE:** SBININBB474 Account with State Bank of India, Auroville

Branch code:03160 Name of the Account Holder: Auroville Unity Fund **Account No: 10237876508**

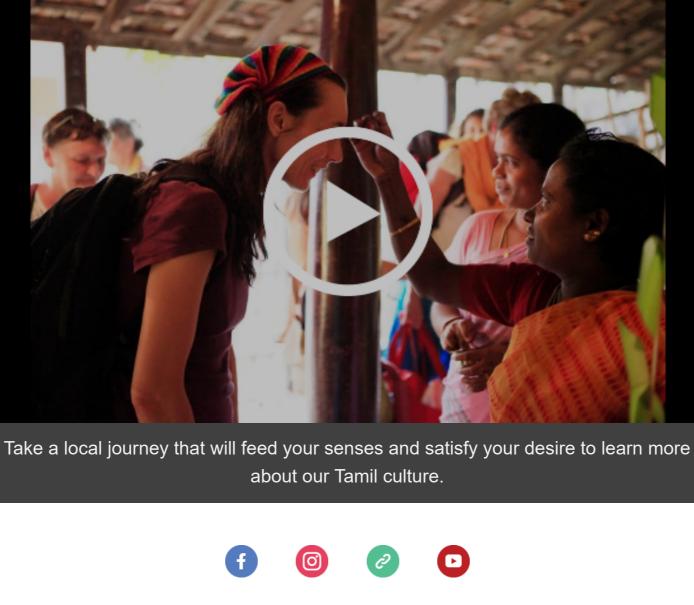
Purpose: Mohanam Cultural Centre

Volunteer Needed

The easiest and simplest way to transfer money is by

International Township Branch, Kuilapalayam,

Auroville – 605 101 –India



Our mailing address is: *|mohanamprogram@auroville.org.in|*

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Museum. On the 10th of February, the Mohanam team performed cultural shows highlighting our traditional folk dance and music at Dakshina Chitra. The Deputy Director, Mr. Sarat Nambiyar, On the 4th of January, the government of Puducherry organized the 25th International Yoga Festival at the Gandhi statue. Many yoga schools participated in the festival through performances, seminars and various activities. The purpose of the festival was to bring awareness in public where Mohanam team offered sound healing therapy for the participants for two days in the various area around Pondicherry. Our participation and the comments we received was The tourism department also requested **Mexican ladies meets Native Ladies:** Tamizh Heritage food is the most ancient food in Mohanam to display health-related products at the International Yoga Festival where We came the world. Beginning with our ancestors and continuing into modern cooking, our cooking up with bamboo soap, bamboo tea, and other techniques are influenced by medical knowledge organic products. It was a great opportunity for Mohanam to introduce Auroville's health products from Ayurveda and Siddha medicine, more than to the public. any other food. Mohanam has promoted local and heritage value for the last 18 years so part of in our program includes traditional cooking classes. On the occasion of Pongal, the Tamil harvest is specifically celebrated. This year, it was a meeting between Tamil culture and French culture to celebrate the end of the harvesting season and Thanksgiving based upon the ancient traditions common to both cultures. This echoes an old French tradition that is still present today: the festival of the "moisson" (which means "harvest" in French). So, this year Mohanam cultural center and llaignarkal educational center took an initiative to merge with French Pavilion to celebrate Pongal. This enabled us to realize once again that we are not so different, that our customs are getting closer, and that their differences can only be mutual and collective Educational and thought-provoking talk about Tamil-French culture by eminent scholars Traditional Tamil and French games Song and dance performances Food, handmade crafts, and artisan stalls Traditional Pongal offering with 24-spice Pongal Curry (traditionally cooked with local and One Day Youth retreat program for Bioregion seasonal veggies) Youth clubs: Research conducted by Mr. Arivan, French On the 16th Mohanam youth group and scholar and president of the Thazhi Foundation, Puducherry Nehru Yuva Kendra jointly organized was presented regarding the Indo-French a one-day youth retreat learning program. The relation. We shared information about traditional youth arrived and watched a video about cooking, especially emphasizing 34 special local Auroville, then went to Savithri Bhavan to learn more where Danalakshmi explained the history of We introduced traditional food like millet, ragi, steamed food, oil food, buttermilk, curd, and sugar cane. There is traditional culture performance like kummi, kollatam, kuitchiattam, thappattam and folk dance from Mohanam youth, We invited Nithiya and Meera from the Mohanam children and women. We invited local women to campus to give a welcome talk and to give a Traditional sports games indigenous to Tamil Nadu and France were played very well by youth and children. Our chief Guest Mr. Auroville Secretary and French consulate team was part of Pongal celebrations as a show of Indo-French collaboration. The program continued with an interactive session in between our local youth and Mr. Mathew, who was from Amherst's yoga center,