Frederic Folsom Bushnell (1927-2015), called Ananta in the Ashram, left his body peacefully in the early morning hours of April 2, two weeks after his 88th birthday. Raised on Beacon Hill, he dined with the Cabots, Lodges, Storrows and other leading Boston families. He was educated in the classics, loved drama and the Greek gods, and spoke English with the refined accent and grammar of a Boston Brahmin. Eccentric, intense and flamboyant, he defied both common sense and conventional morality, and created his own values. He was both the Mother's most unruly child and one of her most ardent devotees.

After a brief stint in the U.S. Navy in WWII, in the late 1940s Frederic set off for India on a spiritual quest. Following a strict policy of enjoying life's color, he first wandered through the most expensive hotels (and parties) in Europe and then Egypt. Due to Indian visa problems, he eventually ended up in Sri Lanka, where he studied Buddhism and had some initial spiritual experiences. Hearing of Panditji, the Tantric guru who lived in Rameswaram, Frederic crossed the channel to India and actually met Panditji on the beach, where he was initiated into Tantric practice. Remarkably, Panditji instructed him with Greek rather than Hindu deities, because of Frederic's deep love for ancient Greece. He also gave him the name of Ananta Chaitanya (infinite consciousness), the serpent on which Lord Vishnu reclines.

When Frederic finally arrived in Pondicherry in the early 1950s, he heard amazing stories about the Mother, and demanded to see her immediately. She made him wait—thus heightening the dramatic tension of the moment—and when she finally received him, suggested he go check out a weedy snake-infested island she owned south of Pondicherry. He instantly fell in love with the place, and she gave it to him to live on. With the help of his faithful servant, Shingeni, he cleared the grounds, grew beautiful gardens and a coconut grove, and built shrines to the Greek gods. He asked her to name him Zeus, but she concurred that Ananta was more appropriate, so that became his ashram name. With Her blessings, he continued to study Tantra under Panditji, initially with Debu and Satprem as well, and remained faithful to that discipline for the rest of his life. Or at least faithful, if not disciplined. For true to his name, Ananta was always a protean disciple of the Mother who hosted many east-west voyagers in the Ashram, he was beloved for his song and dance routines, and his ability to make the Mother laugh. He was an excellent body builder, dashingly handsome, and conducted human relationships according to the laws of quantum entanglement and chaos theory. He vacationed in Kodaikanal when Pondy got too hot, and spent time in rest homes being attended upon when life became too stressful.

On the more serious side, Ananta was sitting at the Mother's feet when she announced the Supramental Manifestation, and the night before (or was it after?) had an experience of rising into the supramental worlds, then falling down into the lap of Zeus. That places him among only a handful of human beings in the world who were aware of the Supramental Manifestation when it happened.

The 1970s was the beginning of a difficult period for Ananta. His sister died, the Mother left her body in 1973, and a few years later his mother Sylvia passed. He sojourned to Switzerland for healing, where he lived with his close friend Carlo Schueller, a devotee of the Mother who hosted many east-west voyagers in his home. Ananta threw himself into the practice of seizures, a difficult branch of yoga that he quickly mastered. He astounded doctors at the Carl Jung Clinic with his prodigious mix of elec-
In the 1980s, Ananta returned to the United States for treatment of skin cancer, and his nose was disfigured from surgery. He developed increasing problems with his Indian visa, which eventually barred him forever from his beloved island. However, in 1996 events took a positive turn when he met a naive young psychiatrist named Michael, via the Sri Aurobindo Center of Los Angeles. Ananta convinced the good doctor that his last, dying wish was to visit the ancient Mayan ruins in Palenque, Mexico. Michael dutifully accompanied him there, and was surprised to see Ananta suddenly revive. They went on to survive numerous other fatal illnesses, and took many trips to Palenque to experience the remarkable Tantric manifestation there.

Ananta followed Michael to Boston in 1997, and lived with him (between wanderings) until he finally entered a V.A. nursing home. He was a devoted spiritual brother, and taught Michael much about yoga, including the importance of the Gods, laughter, and going on adventures. He also taught him a lot of psychiatry, as Ananta qualified for more than half the diagnoses in the DSM, and was proud of it. As Ananta's health declined, the master of disaster still served the Divine by training V.A. staff in how to care for impossible patients.

In his final year, Ananta experienced the opening of the cellular consciousness, thus fulfilling a prophecy that he would attain his spiritual goal at the end of his life. What a great soul. His friends remember him fondly for his humor, affection, joie de vivre, inspired intuitions, and absolutely outrageous excesses. He opened our hearts, blew our minds, and gave us stories to laugh over forever. A warrior, king and conqueror in past lives, in this life he waged his largest campaign yet—against human nature itself. He may not have won this battle, but he will return and win in the end. For his true nature is Victory, and he will surrender to no power but the Mother. Au revoir.

Activities at Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham

by Dakshina Vanzetti

The activities at the Lodi Ashram continue with emphasis on collective yoga practice. We hold collective meditation every night at 8:00 pm and regular study groups on the works of Mother and Sri Aurobindo five days a week, with an Om Choir (and Ma Choir) on Tuesdays. Our resident members explore ways of musical collaboration in addition to our main focus of karma yoga practice. For the last 19 years we have been holding a monthly collective yoga retreat for the wider friend circle of devotees and supporters and their children. Recently we have taken up the exploration of the ranges of consciousness above the mind through the vehicle of Savitri. The attendees participate in organizing the retreats and contribute towards manifesting various beautification and con-

struction projects around the Ashram. Currently we are working on building a fire pit with benches and flagstone pathway by the yurt. The children's program has taken on inspiring new life with the children themselves taking responsibility for organizing the activities—with adults helping the young facilitators. In 2016, (next year) SASP will be hosting the annual AUM conference in Lodi, which will include a full children's program, and organizational preparations are already underway. Visitors are always welcome to come and participate in the karma yoga activities or for a personal retreat in the sacred atmosphere of Mother and Sri Aurobindo's Presence which is cultivated here with love and devotion. Please see website for more info: <sasp.collaboration.org>

All USA Meeting 2015

We invite you to join us for this year’s AUM at the Menla Center for Health and Happiness in Phoenicia, NY, from Thursday, August 20 through Sunday, August 23. Our theme is “Seeds of Light,” sharing our personal and institutional stories in manifesting the vision of human unity and spiritual evolution.

This year we have the added delight of having Auroville International (AVI) members join us. Representing Auroville in Europe, Asia, and South America, many have a long and deep association with the community. The AVI board will meet at Mata-giri August 18–19 and give a public presentation on Auroville the evening of August 19 in Woodstock, NY.

Our keynote speaker on Friday the 21st will be Alan Sasha Lithman, a pioneer in Auroville known as Savitra. He will also give a workshop. Other workshops include: JV Avadhanulu: Pranayama and stress reduction; Martha Orton: An exploration of oneness; Shelly McNeal: Integral education; Andrea van de Loo: 12 steps and Integral Yoga; Elliot Landy: Healing workshop.

Music by Nadaka/Gopika will invoke the Divine Presence and inspire our time together. The Vanaver Caravan will also present a celebration of music and dance.

For more information and registration details, see the website: http://www.collaboration.org/aum/2015/index.html