

2010 has been a momentous year for us. It began with the gift and the challenge of hosting Gangaji on her first visit to NZ.

We felt it would be a wonderful way to express our gratitude to Gangaji and also to the people of NZ who had shown us so much generosity and warmth since moving here from the UK. Unlike many, we had been able to travel overseas to be with Gangaji on many occasions, and we felt deeply grateful in offering Gangaji all support as hosts. We also felt we could offer the people of NZ what we had so richly received and awakened to with the support of Gangaji.

The question was HOW!!

The journey of the HOW has been deeply enriching. As each worry or fear arose the challenge was to allow an opening so that this question could be answered. Mystery and magic opened the way and guided us.

With the mind not planning at this stage, it was simply asking for help, offering ourselves up and letting the way be shown to us.

Sometimes the mind stepped in and tension was the result. When there was surrender, relaxation was the result. In the space a new way was revealed.

It's such a wonder to find that the mind does not know best and it is a far more exciting journey when you 'don't know' than when you think 'you do know'! The way is beyond our imagination.

It all gives new meaning to Let Go, Let God! But we had to discover this for ourselves and we have, so we carry this treasure with us. We meet the present as a present. Life knows best, not thought!

Somehow getting the message out is really just being willing. The rest is about giving yourself to this mystery, and opening to put into action what is clearly revealed.

We were just the flow of energy going 'out' and somehow this 'out breath' reached those that could receive and hear. Then those that heard let that breath breathe out again and so on. Finally we are all just the small drop of the ocean as it comes in to the shores of NZ bringing the energy Gangaji here.

The mind was pretty useful in getting to the practical bit! Managing the 'where, the admin and finances' is where the mind excels and one of her expert gifts here!

The joy of seeing so many people come when we had no idea who would come or if anyone would come was truly a moment to remember!

It was like watching the tide come in. At the first meeting in Auckland just a small number came in early but as time drew close, the gathering swelled and swelled bringing a surge of people from all quarters. Suddenly the room was full and we needed more chairs! The joy was overflowing. The tide was in!

To see so many people come to the meetings and weekend and witness the openings and shining faces was just beautiful.

The final gift was very special. It was the realization that Gangaji can be any way she is as a personality. Coming into her presence was like drawing close to the fire and catching light. Now the flame burns brightly and is its own fire.

Whilst we are deeply, deeply grateful to her it is conscious truth that has gifted us not the body or personality of Gangaji.

What Gangaji is, is a living conscious presence, the fire, that has kindled our wood and awakened and deepened this presence in us. Any personal attachment or dependence is gone now. What remains is a deep love and gratitude for what is here.

In the past we felt we were being gifted by Gangaji, but we know now it was conscious presence that she is and we are. She was a bridge for us for a time, but there is now a deep awareness of ourselves as that conscious presence, and a knowing that this presence is the gifting us for ever. So there is a letting go at a personal level for it is all impersonal and we can just be free and spontaneous! The personal is the story and we are deeply grateful for the part this has played in our lives.

So now to the good news about Gangaji's visit for 2011
Gangaji and Eli are returning to NZ in December 2011.

The detailed plan on meetings is yet to be revealed but they will be in Auckland in Takapuna from 15th December.

Gangaji and Eli will hold a weekend & 2 public meetings. Eli will offer an Enneagram programme.

Gangaji and Eli will be in Christchurch over Christmas where they will hold some small group meetings for those who have already been to Satsang with them.

Dates of meetings and how to book will be sent out as soon as the venue in Auckland is booked and meetings finalized.

Aside from the great gifting of the realizations that came through hosting, the year brought great insights through volunteering at a hospital for long term terminally ill people. Many of the residents at this small hospital have very serious horrible diseases that mean they are dying slowly. Their bodies are often totally or partially paralysed, unable to talk or swallow unless food is liquidized. Helping here has been a most humbling experience.

What I realized is so many residents have long ago surrendered to their path of dying, allowing the body to crumble and become useless.

On the other side of their surrender there is a transmission of peace or joy, of stillness that is so easily felt and gifted to the world, and certainly to anyone who comes into their presence. Such people are gifting the world in their 'being' not in their 'doing'.

Of course some residents still struggle and it is painful to witness and open to this suffering; theirs and mine. Yet when I open and allow this pain more room then I find something new each time; maybe joy or love or freedom. It's then gifted back by a presence there when visiting.

What I have found it a deep love of so many of the residents that I have no conversation with, but we communicate at a heart level.

Love does it all.

What a great privilege to have friends there.

We realize we are all trapped in a body and we are all dying from the time we are born but in the surrender to this body as a temporary house we can fall back and open and receive to discover what never dies and it is this that is so gifting that is living presence.

I know in my own deep discovery with pain it is resistance to what is present that is suffering. Earlier in the year I experienced deep pain and resisted it because of some story, but in surrender I found joy and laughed out loud that in my resistance I had postponed receiving this precious gift of joy!

DIAMOND AWARENESS RETREAT

Meanwhile here in Governors Bay we will continue to offer Gangaji DVD Satsangs once a month on the 1st Sunday in the month at 7pm. Everyone is welcome. We offer an evening beginning with short silence followed by the DVD and then we see what questions or inquiries flow from that as we have a drink.

We find it is supportive to be with friends who are opening and deepening through whatever life offers. We support that opening too.

We continue to offer retreat and facilitation to those who seek rest and peace as they explore questions and challenges that life has brought.