

VIRTUAL DAMANHUR

JOURNAL

YEAR XXXV

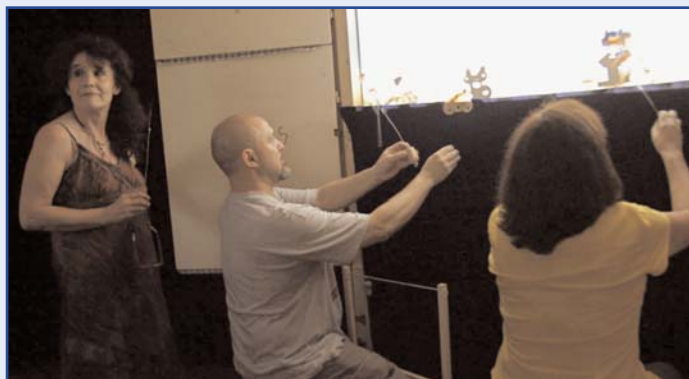
November 2009

Greetings and welcome to the November issue of the Virtual Damanhur Journal. The Journal shall be sent out monthly instead of bimonthly, as time seems to be accelerating and events are happening at an ever-faster clip!

The Earth Charter is a shared vision of basic values, providing the ethical foundation for an emerging world community. The City of Vidracco, which hosts Damanhur Crea and many Damanhur communities and activities, has recognized the value of ecologically sustainable energy sources and is enacting the Biomass Energy Project, a zero-impact initiative that uses the Earth Charter as a reference document for ethical economic development.



The Mayor of Vidracco, Antonio Bernini, thanks the President of the Piedmont Region Mercedes Bresso for her participation at the presentation of the Vidracco Energy project



The Modena group making shadows behind the screen

psychology and Holotropic Breathwork, has also visited. We held a five-day course on "How to Build a Successful Community," welcoming international participants to learn from our experience and share in dynamic activities. The Ritual for the Commemoration of the Deceased was a moment of reflection and appreciation, held annually on November 1.

The warmth of our community spirit is alive and well! I intend you shall find inspiration and joy in these new events.

Ashok Khosla (center) and Maneka Gandhi (right) come to visit Damanhur

Our Damanhur Center in Modena was inspired by the Earth Charter's principles to create a shadow puppet theatre, exploring the themes of community, ecology, democracy, and social and economic justice, bringing them to life in an educative and playful way.

In Damanhur, we've welcomed Ashok Khosla, environmental visionary and President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and Maneka Gandhi, environmentalist from India. Stanislav Grof, the pioneer of transpersonal



News related to the Earth Charter

Biomass Energy Project in the City of Vidracco

The city of Vidracco has a new biomass project, and we have received the following information about the project from the city administration: Using ecologically sustainable energy sources that are available at contained costs has become essential for the wellbeing and development of our society. The new energy center of Vidracco uses biomass from waste collection and agricultural production to make an ecological fuel that produces electrical energy. Biomass is a renewable energy source using the biodegradable part of waste products from industries and cities and residual material from agricultural production. Biomass is available independent of climactic conditions.



Public presentation of the Vidracco Energy project: at the table (from left) the Mayor of Vidracco, Antonio Bernini, the President of the Piedmont Region, Mercedes Bresso, and The President of the Vidracco Energy Society, Antonio Nigro

Through the depolymerization process, biomass and other organic materials are transformed into a combustible liquid analogous to fossil fuels. The liquid is then used to produce electrical and thermal energy for civic use. There is no combustion involved in this process, and the depolymerization process assures an environmental impact that is negligible with respect to most of the traditional systems that generate energy from organic waste. The project is part of the Program of Energy and Economy for the Community (PEEC) in Vidracco. This program is designed to benefit both the environment and the city's residents, in alignment with the principles of the Earth Charter. The Earth Charter serves as the ethical reference for the program in that activities that are associated with this initiative must respect and be coherent with the principles of the Earth Charter.

Interview with Coboldo Melo on the Biomass Energy Project

Coboldo Melo (Roberto Sparagio), the Vice Mayor of Vidracco: The project Vidracco Energy involves the construction of an energy center that uses biomass and organic waste to produce fuel ecologically. It is ecological in that it uses plant-based materials and there is no combustion or production of mineral residues. The fuel produced shall power a co-generation motor to produce electrical energy for the city. This project was inspired by the ethics of sustainability applied in a local condition, in combination with the use of technology to attain practical results. The intention of this project is to bring the resources of the city back into the hands of the people, to give them the power to participate in solutions. The Earth Charter is the reference document for this project. We intend that this is a zero-impact initiative and that the economic benefits that are derived from this project will support activities that respect the values delineated in the Earth Charter. The Earth Charter proposes a society with ethical economies, ones that value improving the environment. This is key, not just avoiding pollution, but leaving the land improved for future generations. This program is meant to be a reproducible model that can be used in many other localities, creating a network of production points and ethical businesses. Also, the network serves for citizens to exchange information and share cultural contact. Currently, this model is only reproducible in smaller towns, such as

Vidracco, although the intention is to eventually reproduce it in larger cities as well, where organic waste that normally cannot be utilized can instead be transformed into a valuable resource.

The technology of biomass is such that it consumes waste to produce resources, which is a change of logic. Biomass is in use in other countries as well, though as a for-profit endeavor. Our project is unique in that it gives back to the people, and it supports the sustainability and development of the community.

Shadow puppet theatre based on the Earth Charter

Members of the **Damanhur Center in Modena** have written and performed a shadow puppet theatre based on the principles of the Earth Charter. The show was performed September 6 and 27, 2009 at Villa Sorra near Modena and at the Holistic City Festival in Rome on September 12 and 13. The theatre piece is entertaining for both children and adults, and it promotes sustainability and increases conscious use of resources and respect for the environment. By drawing on themes

inspired by the Earth Charter, the puppet show highlights the values of equality and solidarity, with the aim of increasing harmony and well being on the planet.

The theatre show entitled *Everything Can Change* features various dramatic scenes that illustrate the four Earth Charter principles, bringing them to life with colorful images and dialog. The scenes were created by shadows projected on a white screen, with objects and three-dimensional figures illuminated from behind.

The first principle - Respect and care for the community of life...Respect Earth and life in all its diversity...Affirm faith in the inherent dignity of all human beings and in the intellectual, artistic, ethical, and spiritual potential of humanity - is treated in "The Two Architects." Two children of different ethnicities encounter each other at the ocean side. Each one dreams of constructing the most beautiful castle ever, and as the children begin building, they become competitive with one another. The audience participates by suggesting solutions, enabling everyone to realize his or her dreams. The principle also states - Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations. In "The City of Forbidden Flowers," the town mayor bans flowers, plants and butterflies, and the citizens seek solutions to safeguard the future for all.

The second principle - Ecological integrity...

Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being - is depicted with "The City and the Piper." Traffic and pollution plagues the city; the mayor proposes a solution and hot air balloons are put into use for transportation. The third principle - Social and economic justice...Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily

health, and spiritual well-being - is explored in "Ovomania." A young girl proposes the construction of a village where people-eggs live well and get along with each other, until one day, a change puts the security of the village into crisis.

The audience participates in finding a solution in this conflict in the spirit of welcoming and tolerance.

The fourth principle - Democracy, non-violence and peace... Treat all living being with respect and consideration - comes to life with "The War at the Border." Two populaces coexist peacefully until an event at the border triggers power plays and reciprocal suspicion. They seek a solution to change the situation and return to peace. The principle also states - Recognize that peace is

the wholeness created by right relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth, and the larger whole of which all are a part. In "The Unusual Country," the inhabitants are peaceful and happy, sharing talents and developing civic life, until a harmful virus brings about fear, and the citizens become closed to each other. They explore ways to resolve the situation and regain a sense of solidarity.

The next theatre piece to be performed by the Modena group explores the relationship between humans and trees, continuing in the playful enactment of the Earth Charter's principles around ecology and awareness.



Tales of ecology and peace on the shadow puppet stage

International Visits

Ashok Khosla and Maneka Gandhi - environmental visionaries visit Damanhur

October 12 - Ashok Khosla and Maneka Gandhi came to visit Damanhur after their participation in the World Political Forum in Turin. This was Khosla's second visit to Damanhur, and he and Gandhi visited Damjil, Damanhur Crea and the Temples. They also went to Cuceglio for a visit to Aval, where they received a tour of the bio-architectural features of the home, its renewable energy technologies, and the scientific laboratories of Damanhur.

Khosla is one of world's leading experts on the environment and sustainable development. A former director of the United Nations Environment Program, he was awarded the 2002 Sasakawa Environment Prize. He is the former Minister of the Environment in India and currently serves as the President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a global environmental network based in Switzerland. Gandhi is involved in Indian politics, is an animal rights activist, environmentalist and former journalist.



Stanislav Grof visits Damanhur

Stanislav Grof visits Damanhur

October 15 - Stanislav Grof, psychiatrist and researcher of non-ordinary states of consciousness, came to Damanhur before his participation in a conference of the European Transpersonal Association in Milan.

He was very moved by the Temples of Humankind and commented that having such a vision in and of itself is incredible, and the fact that Damanhurians succeeded in realizing it is a truly extraordinary feat.

Grof is the one of the founders of transpersonal psychology, and the founder of the International Transpersonal Association (ITA). He and his wife Christina Grof have developed Holotropic Breathwork, a self-exploration and healing technique involving

accelerated breathing and evocative music. He has served on the Board of Trustees at the Esalen Institute and lived there as a Scholar in Residence from 1973 to 1987. Grof has already been in contact with Damanhur for many years, as he follows the work of Alex Grey.

Damanhur in the World

Damanhur in Slovenia

November 14 - Macaco Tamerice has gone to Slovenia on November 14 - 15 in the ecovillage of Naklo to speak about Damanhur and meet with a group interested in deepening their knowledge of intentional communities. She participated in a meeting that included the topic of constructing straw bale houses.

Macaco was invited to Naklo by a member of the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN), who participated in the straw bale construction workshop at Damanhur last summer.



Macaco at the Naklo Ecovillage in Slovenia

Events in Damanhur and Italy

Course on How to Create a Successful Community

October 24

The course on "How to Create a Successful Community" was held October 20 - 24, with nine participants coming from various parts of the world: Hungary, Bulgaria, Brazil, Australia and America, some of whom already have communities in formation. The five-day course offered in-depth exploration in the art of creating a community, with themes including the choice of the territory, economic considerations, decision-making and organization, education and children, health and wellness, change and innovation, and networking with the communities of the world.



Community course participants with instructors, interpreters, and their collaborative creation



At dinner in the Ognidove nucleo community for the community course

Coboldo Melo and Husky Vaniglia were the primary instructors and coordinated sessions that were equilibrated between theory and practical exercises. The Damanhurians offered the experience of the Federation from the early years to present times, and they held space for participants to share their own experiences. Agnello Radicchio led interactive sessions of theatre and collaborative sculpture to simulate the dynamics of community building. The course participants visited various nucleo communities to have first hand contact, learn about their projects and witness the diversity between them. Falco was available during the public evenings and present in the course at the culmination, deepening the argument with insightful responses.

Ritual for the Commemoration of the Deceased

November 1

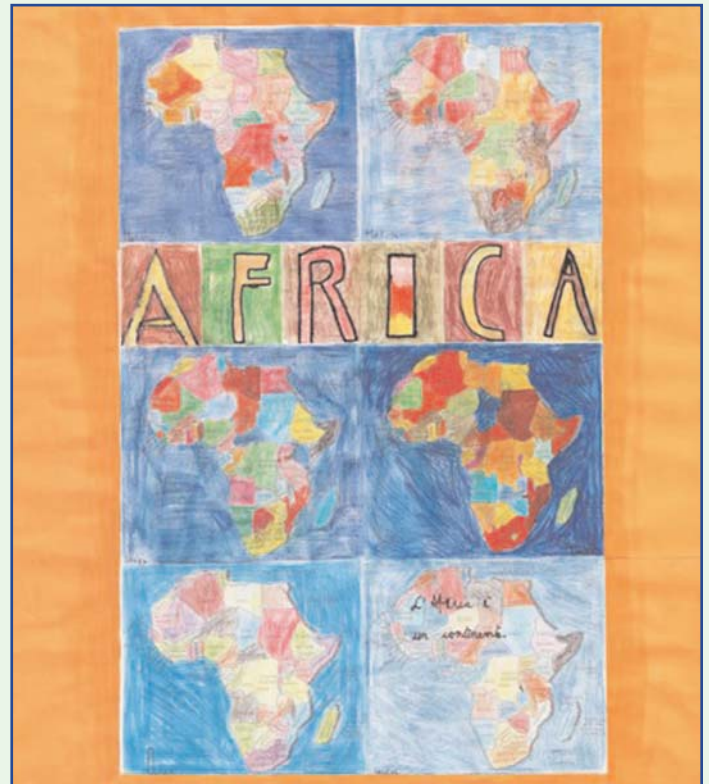
More than 70 Italian and international guests from all over Eastern and Western Europe, America and Japan were present at Damanhur, along with citizens and initiates of the School of Meditation, for the annual ritual to commemorate the deceased. After the poignant ritual, a small celebration was held with traditional offerings of Vin Brulé, hot tea and roasted chestnuts. Proceeds from the evening shall go toward the Damanhur schoolchildren's solidarity project to support the construction of a second school on the island of Mancarroncito, Nicaragua.

Damanhur Education at Family Today Conference

October 31

Iride Pistacchio, Director of the Damanhur Education department, and Gazzella Mimosa, President of the Association Damanhur Education, presented at the conference "Family today: roots and wings ~ sacred everyday love" at Lonato del Garda, Italy. They spoke about their professional and personal experience with educating and raising children at Damanhur, and offered interactive sessions of "sunset metratura" - an awareness meditation - and "dynamic collective art."

The first day of the conference was dedicated to exploring couples and symbiotic love, moving beyond limitations and increasing our capacity to love. The second day focused on education and children, and Iride and Gazzella gave their presentation, as well as a pediatrician, who offered touching stories from her



Cristiana Vignoli and son at the first Educating with Intention conference

personal and professional experience. Chiara Sozzi, the organizer of the event, is coming to Damanhur on January 16 to speak on codes of communication with children as part of the series conference series "Educating with Intention: Sprouts of New Species."

Upcoming...

Conferences of Educating with Intention: Sprouts of New Species

DAMANHUR CREA CONFERENCE CENTER
Via Baldissero, 21 - VIDRACCO, ITALY - time 16:30

Saturday, November 21, 16:30

Conference with Brabha Eusebio

"Stories are food for the soul"

Prabhat Eusebio: Editor, spiritual researcher, musician, father of two children. Begin a parent was guided him to materialize ideas and proposals, like the projects: "Bambini Nuovi" books, "New Children for the Future Human", and the successful struggle to allow the practice of Lotus Birth (gradual removal of the umbilical cord), even in hospitals.

A good story speaks to the heart and knows how to open magical doors, from which our potentials and talents emerge. It liberates ingenuity, frees the mind, and puts wings on the dreams and the future, where the young will be the directors.

Other than feeding the body, young people need to be nourished in a more intimate sphere, one that is fed by stories, symbols and significance. They need to grow in all their facets, through encountering life, taking in the best that each culture has to offer.

Saturday, December 19, 16:30

Conference with Luca Poma

"Save Gianburrasca!

Hyperactive children... sick children?"

Poma is a journalist and spokesperson for the international campaign of pharmaceutical vigilance, "Giù le mani dai bambini." He supports listening to the needs of children and appreciating the uniqueness of new generations, instead of characterizing them as ill. Poma educates on alternatives to medication, offering useful information for those who work in schools and health fields.

Saturday, January 16, 2010, 16:30

Conference with Chiara Sozzi

"Keys and codes of communication with children, understanding each other for growing together."

Sozzi is a pedagogue and family relationship therapist. She explores the relationships within families, bridging generations through a new model of communication.



Saturday, March 20, 2010, 16:30

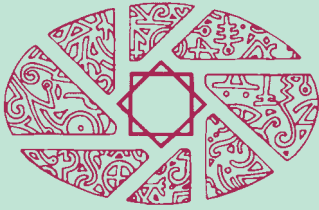
Conference with Iride Pistacchio

and Gazzella Mimosa

"Intentional education at school and at home."

Iride is a psychologist, artist and Director of the Damanhur Education Department. Gazzella is a counselor in Educational Psychosynthesis, President of the Association Damanhur Education, and Director of the Damanhur School.

Olami Damanhur University



Course Calendar NOVEMBER 2009 - JANUARY 2010

November 22 -- December 2

**Mystery School year one
- intensive, first meeting**

December 26 -- 27

Personalities Within

November 23 -- 24

Spiritual Physics 1st level

December 29 -- January 3

Winter Festival

November 25 -- 26

The Dream Path

... ..

November 28 -- 29

Inner Harmonizing

January 2 -- 3
Past Life Research 5th level

... ..

December 19 -- 20

**Contact the Cosmos
in the Temples**

January 3 -- 4
**Contact the Cosmos
in the Temples**

December 22 -- 23

**Learning to Guide the
Emotions & Lateral Thinking**

January 4 -- 18
**School for Spiritual Healers
year one - intensive**

Enrollment Open - seminars@damanhur.it

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