

BARBARA JEAN HEIMLICH



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Accent on Youth 3, 4; Junior Choral Club 2, Accompanist 2; Senior Choral Club 4, Accompanist 4; Junior Glee Club 3, Accompanist 3; Junior Class 3; Senior Class 4; Spanish Club 3, 4; Sophomore Class 2; Arabs 3.



BARBARA IN 2007

On Friday, 15th June, Barbara Heimlich (USA) left her body in the presence of her son, Akash, and John of Matrimandir. It happened in PIMS, where she had been taken for complications due to the colon cancer which she had been battling for some time. She was 68 years old.

Barbara came to the Ashram in 1969 and joined Auroville in 1972. Her dedication to The Mother's work and to the Matrimandir was absolute. After working for many years on the structure, she took up the vital task of keeping donors and wellwishers around the world informed of the progress of the project. Her regular newsletters were not only informative but also unflinchingly uplifting, reminding us of the larger dimension of the work and of its importance to humanity. She was also, for the many people who could not visit or visit regularly, a wonderfully warm and sympathetic link to what was happening here.

She never seemed to forget a name, she unflinchingly acknowledged all donations – always adding a personal note – and when individuals managed to visit, she would go out of her way to make them feel at home and highly valued. Barbara avoided publicity: for her, the work was the main thing. She took to heart what The Mother had said, that work on the Matrimandir should continue without interruption, and all her efforts went into ensuring this. On hearing of her passing, a long-term friend wrote, she was “A true sadhak, servant and warrior for Mother. A true Aurovilian.”

This says it all.

Barbara's remains were cremated in Adventure on Sunday, 17th June.

Reported in the Auroville Today, June/July 2012, magazine. Auroville is located in South India. Their declared charter is "Auroville wants to be a universal town where men and women of all countries are able to live in peace and progressive harmony above all creeds, all politics and all nationalities. The purpose of Auroville is to realise human unity."