Halchal Saturday Café celebrated its first anniversary this May. It experiments with slow food, hospitality, volunteerism, community media and fun! Each Saturday, we feature mouth-watering vegan recipes that utilize local organic grains. The Halchal Saturday café has become a great space to meet lots of cool and passionate people. Thanks to Heera, Manoj, Sunny, Sumi, Uma, Guddi, Nirmal, Vidhi, Karan, Shweta, Jack and many other volunteers who have helped build Udaipur’s first gift culture café. Drop by this Saturday delight to enjoy the zero oil food, zero waste ambience and the zero bill service! The café runs on a “contribute from your heart” concept. Check out the video at: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHyvzeayvRU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHyvzeayvRU)

**Recent Activities**

**Volunteer Udaipur Hosts Summer Volunteer Projects**

Volunteer Udaipur has been quite active this summer. This group was recently formed to unleash the positive energies of youth to make the city more creative, caring, sustainable and beautiful. You can find them promoting cycling on World Environment Day, or performing street plays on important issues at Sukhadia Circle, or organizing eco-treks, or volunteering on local projects. They seem to be everywhere! If you would like to give a gift to Udaipur, explore new possibilities, meet new friends, or just want to make the most of your free time, join in! This monsoon they will be promoting tree planting, herbal gardens and organic kitchen gardens. Connect with them on their Facebook page, Volunteer Udaipur!

**Art Workshop at Udaipur Jail**

Traveling community artist, Blaise Joseph, visited us in March. In collaboration with Shikshantar green fellow, Nirmal, he organized a seven-day art workshop with inmates in Udaipur’s central jail. After playing games and making drawings on paper, the inmates ultimately transformed their prison walls into their canvases! Beautiful wall murals that light up the human spirit are now scattered all around the jail. Many incredible inmate-artists are keen to design the entire jail into an inspiring art gallery!

**Food Festival at Fateh Sagar**

Jaso Ann Vaso Mann group organized a two-day healthy food festival at Fateh Sagar in March. Udaipurites explored the excellent taste of food prepared with local grains and without any processed oil. Manoj, Sunny and the team of volunteers left more than 500 local people amazed at how delicious slow food could be. The food festival inspired several kitchens in Udaipur to become more conscious about their cooking options! To read more, visit: [http://www.udaipurtimes.com/falgun-kaleva-food-festival-udaipur/](http://www.udaipurtimes.com/falgun-kaleva-food-festival-udaipur/)
Learning Society Unconference Highlights, April 3-7, 2011

The sixth Unfolding Learning Societies Unconference was organized at the Deer Park Institute in beautiful Bir, Himachal Pradesh. Over 200 people who are creating amazing learning spaces and processes around the country came together in this exchange and celebration. Participants from Egypt, Iran, Thailand, Canada and Nigeria joined in too. Families who have opted to homeschool/unschool their children were present too. This year’s conference was self-organized around the themes of Contemplation, Compassion, Creativity and Courage. Participants co-created the space together and exchanged skills, ideas, questions, workshops, food and positive energies. Sari-clad women doing Capoeira, participants serving food filled with love in the Langhar, and kids running around all over the place were a pleasure to the eyes! And let’s not forget about the paragliding adventures! To check out videos made by some of the participants, visit http://vimeo.com/22188136 and http://vimeo.com/24997268

For more essays on the event, check out:
- http://organizationunbound.org/expressive-change/the-un-conference/

The next unconference will be held in Sadhna Forest, Auroville, in south India in March, 2012! Write to manish@swaraj.org for more details.

New Publications

Swapathgami Magazine Ready

The new English edition of Swapathgami is out! Read about people who walked out of the ready-made world and are walking on to explore endless possibilities. This issue features emerging career ideas in hosting and social media activism. Download the latest copyleft publication at: http://www.swaraj.org/shikshantar/swapathgami_english9.pdf

Also check out the Swapathgami Year On Campaign posters on Facebook. These are inspiring people of all ages to take a brake year to know themselves, their communities and the world better. Please contribute to the pool of open source posters in your own languages... A Year On could really change your life...

Aloe Vera Recipe Book Now Available

Aloe vera doesn't just make a burn remedy or hand lotion; it has a place in your kitchen too! Check out the scrumptious aloe vera recipes in this Hindi copyleft booklet compiled by Suman Bhatnagar, Vidhi and many friends. Download this copyleft publication from: http://www.swaraj.org/shikshantar/aloeverabookfinal.pdf
Walk Out Walk On Book Launched in Boston!

Our friends, Deborah Frieze and Margaret Wheatley, have recently launched their new book Walk Out Walk. It is organized as a learning journey to several leadership learning centers which participated in the Berkana Exchange.

Shikshantar is featured in one of the chapters on leadership and the gift culture. Read stories of people who bravely chose to walk out of the world of unsolvable problems, scarce resources, limiting beliefs and destructive individualism and to walk on to ideas, beliefs and practices to create healthy and resilient communities. Quite an inspiration!

To know more:
* http://www.walkoutwalkon.net/
* http://www.huffingtonpost.com/deborah-frieze/walk-outs-who-walk-on_b_877686.html#postComment

Release of Greenleaf Rating in Lonely Planet

Local green warrior Vishal as well as interns Rehana and Jack have been working to promote eco-friendly and responsible tourism in Udaipur! Check out our recently updated Greenleaf Ratings—a guide for tourists to make better decisions about their hotels in Udaipur. We’ve given special mention to hotels which excel in water conservation, local foods, energy conservation, and cultural sensitivity. The Lonely Planet guidebook is sharing our work in their new India edition. Pass it on to friends traveling to Udaipur—and get new insights into what kind of tourism you could help promote! Check out http://www.swaraj.org/shikshantar/greenleafintro.html to see the ratings and also have a look at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDG-amUaAeU to hear what tourists have to say about Udaipur. Next up is the identification and promotion of filtered water refill stations around the old city.

Upcoming Events

Swaraj Uni New Cohort Starting Up

After a successful first year, Swaraj University is all ready to start off with a new bunch of khojis (seekers)! A young and energetic is excited to start their program of self-designed learning, community leadership and green entrepreneurship on July 16! Coming from all different walks of life from all over India, they will be spend their first month at Tapovan Ashram in Udaipur discovering themselves and their passions, understanding the basics of self-designed learning and building the community. Many khojis are excited to learn about organic farming, community media, natural self-healing, zero waste and much, much more/ Check out www.swarajuniversity.org and look out for updates on Facebook.

We need your help in growing the ‘Healing Ourselves from the Diploma Disease’ database. Please help us to identify more organizations and companies who are willing to accept portfolios of experience (instead of degrees) in their hiring and promotion processes.
How you can co-create this movement with us...

Over the last 13 years, we have seen Shikshantar organically evolve into a leadership learning community, a gift culture café, a community media center, a zero waste center, an unlearning/self-healing center...and a jeevan andolan engaging with diverse people, from all around India and the world. We are nurturing the local learning ecology of Udaipur through the Udaipur as a Learning City process. We are also co-creating the Learning Societies Network, the Swapathgami Network, and the Families Learning Together Network. This has been made possible by the contributions of friends, who have given of their time, talents, energy, resources, and spirit. We are grateful and feel honored for all that we have received, and in turn, have been able to share back with our wide web of friends, families, organizations and movements.

We invite you to continue to help co-create this life movement this year. Please consider starting up a creative experiment with your family and friends, writing some reflections on your own unlearning journey, sharing ideas for new connections and collaborations, walking out of something that you do/consume that doesn’t support your deepest values, or making a financial donation to support fellowships for local youth leaders.

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Stars of Udaipur Film Series

How many sick dogs you think you could handle at your house at a time? Poonam and Praveen have 25! all of whom they call their bachchas (children)!

Udaipur is home to many such wonderful role models who are experimenting in their homes and communities. The new Stars of Udaipur film series coming soon on youtube will highlight some of these inspiring people and the amazing work they do as part of their daily lives (outside the framework of NGOs, government and corporations). Look for the screening of these films in neighborhoods around Udaipur.

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Shikshantar, a not-for-profit movement was founded to challenge the culture of schooling and institutions of thought-control. We are committed to creating spaces of wisdom, imagination and friendship where individuals and communities can together engage in deep dialogues to: (1) generate meaningful critiques to expose and dismantle/transform industrial-military models of Education and Development, (2) reclaim control over their own learning processes and learning ecologies, and (3) imagine (and continually evolve) their own complex shared visions and practices of Swaraj. We are experimenting with processes of gift culture, jugaad. deep dialogue, and unlearning. Shikshantar is run solely through the support of friends. As a matter of principle, we do not accept funding from international donor agencies, governments or corporations.