

MEHER BABA LOVERS OF NO. CA. INC.

# QUARTERLY

N E W S L E T T E R

2131 UNIVERSITY AVE. RM.

VOL. 14

235 BERKELEY, CA. 94704

SUMMER

MESSAGES  
BY  
MEHER BABA  
ON HIS SILENCE

On the evening of July 9, 1925, Meher Baba entered the Jhodpi cabin on the property at the Meherabad colony. The morning of July 10th he left the cabin silent, his physical voice not to be heard again by his disciples. We are approaching the 60th anniversary of this memorial date. We will recall here a few of the messages Baba gave us regarding His silence, its importance and the breaking of it.

"God has been everlastingly working in silence, unobserved, unheard, except by those who experience His infinite silence. If my silence cannot speak, of what avail would be speeches made by the tongue?

"The very moment when He thinks my speaking would be heard universally God will make me break my silence."

Myrtle Beach, SC  
April 25, 1952

"Although I appear to be silent, I speak through you all. I am ever silent and everlastingly speaking, but time has arrived when soon I will break this apparent silence and then those who love me will see my Real Self."

Nauranga, UP, India  
February 5, 1954

"When I break my silence, the greatest miracle of all times will happen. Be worthy to receive the Divine Grace and for that be prepared now to receive the Grace."

"I really am, and always was, the slave of my real lovers."

Eluru, Andhra, India  
February 23, 1954



"My mission is to utter this Word of Truth which will pierce the mind of the world and go to its very heart. It will convey the simple Truth in its utter and indefinable simplicity. It will mark the moment of fulfillment of the Divine Life. It will throw open new gates to Eternity.

It will bring new hope to despairing humanity.

"The Word that I will speak will go to the world as from God, not as a philosopher; it will go straight to its heart. With the dawn of the realization of the Unity of all life, hatred and dissension will come to an end. There will be unfaltering love and unfailing understanding, and men shall be united in an inviolable brotherhood based on the realized Oneness of God.

"Be ye guided by Love and Truth. This is the simple way that leads to God. Not by the endless maneuvering of alluring illusions, but by loyalty to the Unchangeable Truth can ye hope to be established in Abiding Peace.

"When I speak, it will be only one Divine Word; but it will be the Word of words or the Manifestation of Truth. This word will have to be hearkened by the heart, and not merely by the mind. It will go home to you and bring you the Awakening."

"My Love and Blessings."

Andhra Darshan Tour  
February and March, 1954

"To ask whether my followers will be informed of the time and place of the breaking of my silence would be ridiculous and in itself would prove that the significance of the breaking of my silence has not been truly understood.

"I must break my silence soon. You all who have come into contact with me will have some glimpse of me. Some will

Continued on next page

# NEWSLETTER

*Continued from first page*

have a little more and some still more. When the power house is switched on, wherever there are electric bulbs and if they have connection with the power house, there will be light. If some of the bulbs are of small candle-power, the light will be bright. If the bulb is fused there will be no light at all. I perform no miracles, but when I break my silence, the first and the last miracle will be performed."

Rajahmundry, Andhra, India  
March 1st and 2nd, 1954



"If you were to ask me why I do not speak, I would say I am not silent, and that I speak more eloquently through gestures and the alphabet board.

"If you were to ask me why I do not talk I would say, mostly for three reasons. Firstly, I feel that through you all I am talking eternally. Secondly, to relieve the boredom of talking incessantly through your forms, I keep silence in my personal physical form. And thirdly, because all talk in itself is idle talk. Lectures, messages, statements, discourses of any kind, spiritual or otherwise, imparted through utterances or writings are just idle talk when not acted upon or lived up to.

"If you were to ask me when I will break my silence I would say, when I feel like uttering the only real Word that was spoken in the beginningless beginning, as that Word alone is worth uttering. The time for the breaking of my outward silence to utter that Word is very near.

"To love God in the most practical

way is to love our fellow beings. If we feel for others in the same way as we feel for our dears ones, we love God.

"If instead of seeing faults in others we look within ourselves we are loving God.

"If instead of robbing others to help ourselves we rob ourselves to help others, we are loving God.

"If we suffer in the sufferings of others and feel happy in the happiness of others we are loving God.

"If we endure our lot with patience and contentment, accepting it as His Will, we are loving God.

"If we understand and feel that the greatest act of devotion and worship to God is not to hurt or harm any of His beings, we are loving God.

"To love God as He ought to be loved, we must live for God and die for God, knowing that the goal of all life is to love God and find Him as our own Self."

Ahmednagar, MS, India  
September 6, 1954

"... My Word of words will touch the hearts of all mankind and spontaneously this divine touch will instill in man the feeling of the oneness of all fellow beings. This feeling will supercede the tendency of separateness and rule over the hearts of all, driving away hatred, jealousy and greed that breed suffering, and happiness will reign."

Meherabad, MS, India  
September 29, 1954

"... Unity in the midst of diversity can be made to be felt only by touching the very core of the heart. That is the work for which I have come.

"I have come to sow the seed of love in your hearts so that, in spite of all superficial diversity which your life in illusion must experience and endure, the feeling of oneness through love is brought about amongst all the nations, creeds, sects and castes of the world.

"In order to bring this about, I am preparing to break my silence. When I break my silence it will not be to fill your ears with spiritual lectures. I shall speak only One Word, and this Word will penetrate the hearts of all men and make even the so-called sinner feel that he is meant to be a saint, while the saint will know that God is in the sinner as much as He is in himself."

Meherabad, MS, India  
September 30, 1954

# C A L E N D A R

**FRIDAY MEETINGS** - Meher Baba meetings are held on Friday evenings at 7:30pm with time for visiting before the program begins at 8:00pm sharp. Meetings are at the Friends Meeting House, 2151 Vine St. (near Shattuck Ave.) in Berkeley, or elsewhere as indicated in the meeting description.



## JUNE 7th - HOW I CAME TO BABA

Here is another exciting evening of personal stories about how the Avatar has drawn us to Him. Coordinator: Cheri Dreyfuss

## JUNE 14th - LITERATURE NIGHT

Once again we will share favorite excerpts from published and unpublished literature - poems, prayers and passages. Please bring your special selections that stir and inspire you in relation to Meher Baba. Coordinator: Bing Heckman

## JUNE 21st - GUEST SPEAKER: BILL LEPAGE



Bill has been a key worker for Meher Baba in Australia for over thirty years. Tonight he will share personal experiences of being with Baba in the '50s and '60s, and will tell of his recent visit to Andhra State in India. Coordinator: Michael LePage

## JUNE 28th - A TRIBUTE TO FRANCIS BRABAZON

One whose voice will ring on through the centuries is Francis Brabazon, Meher Baba's bard, who died one year ago, June 24, 1984. Tonight we will review a little of his extensive work in the arts. Meher Baba has said, "All my lovers are poets: only some have voices and some do not." Coordinator: Sue Jamison

## JULY 5th - NO MEETING TONIGHT

This is the weekend of the Silence Day Sahavas retreat in Southern California -- hope to see you there.

## JULY 12th - 60th ANNIVERSARY OF MEHER BABA'S SILENCE

Our focus will be Meher Baba's Silence in a special evening of slides, music and readings. Coordinator: Jenny Califf

## JULY 19th - SPECIAL GUEST: FILIS FREDERICK

We welcome our special guest and dear friend Filis, who has been a disciple of Meher Baba since the 1940s. Her insights and stories of being with Baba always prove to be an inspiration for our own relationship with the Master. Coordinator: Cheri Dreyfuss

## JULY 20th (SATURDAY) - FUND RAISER WITH FILIS

Spend a Saturday afternoon with Filis. Special raffle. Watch for the details.

## JULY 26th - FILMS OF MEHER BABA



Coordinator: Bruce Ecker

## AUGUST 24th & 25th - BHAAU'S VISIT

BHAAU KALCHURI, ONE OF MEHER BABA'S MEN MANDALI OR CLOSE COMPANION-DISCIPLES WILL VISIT THE BAY AREA FROM INDIA DURING AUGUST 22ND TO AUGUST 28TH. ON SATURDAY THE 24TH IT IS OUR EVENING TO ENTERTAIN BHAAU AND BABA. SUE JAMISON IS COORDINATING THE EVENT. CALL HER WITH YOUR TALENT AND IDEAS AND HELP AT 528-4282. SATURDAY AFTERNOON IS TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR A POT-LUCK LUNCH. SUNDAY AFTERNOON BHAAU WILL GIVE A PUBLIC TALK ON HIS LIFE WITH MEHER BABA. OTHER EVENTS ARE BEING PLANNED. THOSE INTERESTED IN WORKING ON THE COMMITTEE FOR BHAAU'S VISIT, CALL CHERI DREYFUSS AT 525-3498.



## RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A new board of directors for Meher Baba Lovers of Northern California, Inc. was elected at the Annual General Meeting on April 12th. Elected to the Board were Soosan Adham, Jenny Califf, Cheri Dreyfuss, Bing Heckman, Sue Jamison, David Miotke, and Larry Pesta. The new Board held its first meeting on April 14th and appointed the following people as officers:

President	Cheri Dreyfuss
Vice President	David Miotke
Secretary	David Miotke
Treasurer	Alan Talbot
Office Manager	Dan Sparks

and the following committee chair people:

Programs	Larry Pesta
Finance	Jenny Califf
Membership	Sue Jamison
Publicity	Soosan Adham
Service	Louise Barrie
Archives	Bruce Ecker
Bookstore	Dan Sparks

The budget for the new fiscal year (April 1985 - April 1986) was passed and a new nominating committee was elected: Louise Barrie, Harold Jamison, Bruce Kinneburg, Ben Leet and Carol Singer.

## THE 11TH ANNUAL SILENCE DAY SAHAVAS

The Avatar Meher Baba Center of Southern California is holding the 11th annual Silence Day Sahavas from July 3rd thru 7th at the Pilgrim Pines Conference Grounds in Oak Glen, CA. The special guests this year include Bhau Kalchuri, Kitty Davy, Filis Frederick and others. Locally, call Karen Talbot (530-5242) for transportation help. This event is a very special gathering in Meher Baba's Love.

## TRUSTWALLA

Our Trustwalla is Jenny Califf. All who wish to share in fulfilling the commitments laid down by Meher Baba through the instrument of the Trust should contact Jenny c/o Safeguard, 74 14th St., San Francisco, CA 94103. Jenny's home phone is 285-9117 and her work phone is 864-3377.

## MEHER BABA INFORMATION - THE BOX

Worknights at Meher Baba Information are Thursdays, 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Work ranges from responding to requests for information to processing orders for books and other literature, and many new projects. If you would like to help, call Rick Chapman or Gary Freeman at 562-1101.

## MEHER BABA BOOKMOBILE

If you cannot attend meetings when the bookstore is scheduled to be there, but would like to see or purchase something, contact Dan Sparks at 339-1090. No mail orders, but he can probably arrange to get something to you or let you look over our stock.

## FUND-RAISER UPDATE

The Curry Cook-off on April 20th was a big success. All who attended had a great time, especially the children. Donations received exceeded \$1200.00. Thank you for your support.

A flea-market is planned for September. Please begin looking in your garage and attic, etc. for donations. To arrange for delivery or pick-up of your donated items call Jenny Califf at work 864-3377 or at home 285-9117, or Lisa Greenstein at 525-3364.

## CHILDCARE DURING MEETINGS

Childcare is now free but available only by calling Soosan Adham (524-9159) to request a sitter for the upcoming meeting at least five days in advance, and only if three or more parents reserve. Childcare is provided in the downstairs playroom from 7:45 - 9:45 PM. (Children are welcome at meetings as well.)

## ABOUT PROGRAM CHANGES

In order for out-of-towners to have a way to confirm their expectations before coming to meetings, a recorded message will announce any program changes and give the location of meetings when not given in the newsletter. Only changes or important information will be added to the regular phone message. If you want a confirmation, call the day before the meeting: (415) 845-4339.

I AM THE GOD OF ALL GODS. TRUST ME.  
I KNOW EVERYTHING. DON'T WORRY.

-- Meher Baba --



MEHER BABA LOVERS  
of Northern California, Inc.

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Berkeley, California 94704

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FALL 1985

## SAHAVAS WAVES GHAZALS BY BHAU KALCHURI



Written by Bhau Kalchuri for the occasion of the 11th Annual Sahavas at Pilgrim Pines this summer, these ghazals give us a glimpse of the Real Sahavas with Meher Baba. Bhau has given us permission to reprint a few of these ghazals for those who did not have the opportunity to hear them at the Sahavas or couldn't purchase a copy of these ghazals at the Pilgrim Pines bookstore.

Oh Bhau! Why do you think of your weaknesses and why do you feel confused? If you lead your life in sahas with the Beloved He will make you free from everything.

### SAHAVAS WAVES 5

Oh Meher! How should I enjoy Your sahas - when I am in the sahas of so many wants and desires? But as I accepted You I feel that You will take care of them and give me Your sahas!

### SAHAVAS WAVES 1

Oh Meher! What can I say about Your loving sahas?  
Your loving sahas of even a moment can wipe out millions of sins!

Oh Beloved! Had we not been weak why would You have come down on earth? Your coming down on earth shows that You come down in order to make us free from weaknesses through Your sahas.

Oh Beloved! It is a fact that Your Grace descends like rain.  
But why don't You remove the seven colored umbrella so that we may get drenched.

Oh Beloved! What work You have done for us while we were sleeping.  
You are now waking us up by giving us Your sahas in our hearts.

Oh friends! What a miracle the Beloved has performed during His physical life-time.  
He has given us so many words of the Truth while observing silence.

Oh friends! Why do you worry about anything? Just long for the sahas of the Beloved!  
And I tell you - every bud of His garden will open up with the aroma of wine during His Advent!

Oh people of the world! There is no difference between you and us except for one:  
The Beloved is our life, while the world is yours.

Oh friends! We have been in the sahas of the self for ages - but what have we gained?  
Let us now enjoy the sahas of the Beloved and see what happens!

Oh Beloved! Because we are in Your sahas we ask you a very simple question -  
When are You going to give up your habit of hiding from us?

Oh friends! It is true that the Beloved feels happy to give His sahas when the other one (self) remains absent.  
Let us therefore drink a little wine so that the other one starts dozing!

Oh brothers! Do you know why the Beloved has given us so many words of Truth through His silence?  
So that we may live His words and enjoy His sahas in order to become silent!

Oh Bhau! Do you know how to enjoy the sahas of the Beloved?  
Remain close to Him and keep away from your own self in His love!

Continued on next page

# NEWSLETTER

Continued from first page

## SAHAVAS WAVES 11

Oh Meher! We have invited You to give Your sahasvas to us so you should feel at home with us. So now it is for You to do something so that You may feel at home with us to indicate that You have accepted our invitation.

Oh Beloved! We need Your sahasvas! And you need us because of Your love for us! So why don't You wipe out everything which comes between our need for You and Your need for us?

Oh religionists! There is a difference between you and us. You go after the dress of the Beloved whereas we go after the Beloved Himself!

Oh religionists! Why do you create differences by creating different ceremonies and rituals? Know well that the ceremonies and rituals are the buttons of your illusory dress!

Oh philosophers! Please do not tell us about the philosophy of the sahasvas with the Beloved. We do not want to make simple things complicated and miss His sahasvas.

Oh Bhau! You want the sahasvas of the Beloved - the relationship of love between you and Him. Then maintain this relationship of love with Him and forget about religions, philosophy and logic!

## BHAU'S VISIT

We are privileged to welcome Bhau Kalchuri to the Bay Area. Meher Baba's nightwatchman since 1955, Bhau joined Baba when he was 23 years old. He lives at Meherazad at the Avatar Meher Baba Trust compound in Ahmednagar, and works for the Trust as a lawyer and agriculturist. He is also a prolific writer. He is the author of The Nothing and the Everything, a substantial body of teachings Meher Baba gave him for publication, as well as a major biography of Meher Baba in Hindi and several volumes of spiritual poetry in the ghazal tradition.

Cherie Dreyfuss is coordinating Bhau's visit to Berkeley. Please call her with any questions. 415-525-3498.

## The Program Calendar for Bhau's Visit

### AUGUST 23rd, FRIDAY 8:00 PM

Friends Meeting Hall  
Walnut and Vine, Berkeley

Bhau meets with us this first evening to talk about Avatar Meher Baba of course.

### AUGUST 24th, SATURDAY 12:00-4:00 PM

Alan & Karen Talbot's home  
22 Woodford Dr., Moraga, CA  
415-376-4325

A pot luck lunch. Come spend an afternoon with Bhau.

### AUGUST 24th, SATURDAY 7:00-10:00 PM

Unitarian Church  
Cedar and Bonita, Berkeley, CA

Tonight we present an evening of entertainment for the Avatar, for our special guest Bhau Kalchuri and for the community. All are welcome. Coordinator: Sue Jamison.

### AUGUST 25th, SUNDAY 2:30-5:00 PM

Unitarian Church  
Cedar and Bonita, Berkeley, CA

A public talk by Bhau Kalchuri followed by music and a film of Avatar Meher Baba. Tea and cakes will be served.

### AUGUST 25th, SUNDAY 7:00-9:00 PM

Michael LePage's home.  
846 Sea View Dr., El Cerrito, CA

A ghazal meeting with Bhau reading some of his ghazals and discussing them. Ghazals are a form of Persian poetry that speaks of the relationship between the lover and the Beloved. Bhau is the author of two outstanding books of ghazals, Meher Sarod and Meher Roshani.

### AUGUST 26th, MONDAY 7:00-9:00 PM

Sue Jamison's home  
1075 Keith St., Berkeley, CA

FOR WOMEN ONLY. Here is a chance to ask Bhau any question that comes to mind about women, men, spirituality, children. Bhau, who is married, has two children and two grandchildren.

### AUGUST 27th, TUESDAY 7:00-9:00 PM

Michael LePage's home.  
846 Sea View Dr., El Cerrito, CA

FOR MEN ONLY. A frank and open discussion night for men only. Bhau will field any and all questions.

# C A L E N D A R

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means  
bookstore  
will be  
present



means  
childcare  
will be  
available

## SEPTEMBER 6th - FILMS OF MEHER BABA

Coordinator: Bruce Ecker



## SEPTEMBER 13th - WHAT - ME WORRY ?

We all worry, even though Meher Baba repeatedly states, "Don't worry, be happy. I will help you." How do we do this? Is there any escape from worry? Tonight we will discuss the problem of worry and share ways of remembering Meher Baba through "worrying" times.  
Coordinator: Harold Jamison

## SEPTEMBER 20th - GUEST SPEAKER: CHARLES HAYNES



As a child, Charles had the fortune to meet Meher Baba in 1958 at the Myrtle Beach Center and in 1962 at the East West Gathering in Poona. Tonight he will share many of those personal experiences. Coordinator: Jenny Califf

## SEPTEMBER 21st (Saturday) - GROWING TOGETHER WITH MEHER BABA

Charles Haynes will facilitate an all day (9 AM - 4 PM) workshop at the Unitarian Church at Cedar and Bonita in Berkeley exploring ways to support one another in our life with Meher Baba. Please sign up for this workshop with Jenny Califf 415-864-3377 (work) or 415-285-9117 (home). Coordinator: Jenny Califf

## SEPTEMBER 22nd (Sunday) - SUNDAY SOCIAL

An afternoon of fun, music, food and stories with Charles Haynes at 846 Seaview in El Cerrito from 1-6 PM.  
Coordinator: Jenny Calif

## SEPTEMBER 27th - BABA IN HOLLYWOOD

A remembering of the years Meher Baba spent in Hollywood from the 1930s thru the 1950s with a special focus on the motion picture industry. Coordinator: Cherie Dreyfuss

## OCTOBER 4th - HOW I CAME TO BABA

Another group of tales of how Baba brought us to Him, by members of our group whose stories have not yet been told. Coordinator: Larry Pesta

## OCTOBER 11th - BABA'S FAVORITE SONGS AND SINGERS

Meher Baba loved music and was particularly fond of certain singers and songs. Come listen to some of these. As a special treat, hear a tape of Fred Marks, an old time Baba lover from England who recently died, explaining the meaning of the words to "Begin The Beguine". Coordinator: Sue Jamison.

## OCTOBER 18th - GUEST SPEAKER: JIM MEYER



Jim Meyer, longtime resident of Myrtle Beach and singer of Meher Baba songs, will share his story of coming to Baba and the impact it has had on his life. Coordinator: Jenny Califf

## OCTOBER 19th (Saturday) - CONCERT WITH JIM MEYER

Jim Meyer, whose albums of Meher Baba songs have been very popular, will give a fundraising concert in honor of Meher Baba's New Life held at the Friend's Meeting Hall at 8:00 PM. Coordinator: Jenny Califf.

## OCTOBER 25th - FILMS OF MEHER BABA



Coordinator: Bruce Ecker

## NOVEMBER 1st - BABA 'TRIVIAL PURSUIT'

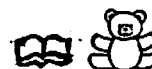
Brian Narelle will MC the game that was such a hit at this year's Sahavas in LA. Halloween desserts and treats will be served. Come in costume if you like. Coordinator: David Miotke.

## NOVEMBER 8th - LOVE COMES WEST



Tonight, the superb slide show "Love Comes West," created in commemoration of Meher Baba's first visit to the West on November 4, 1931, and first shown at our 50th Anniversary celebration of that event at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco in 1981 will be shown. Coordinator: Cherie Dreyfuss.

## NOVEMBER 15th - SPECIAL GUEST: FILIS FREDERICK



Another wonderful evening is planned with Filis, who shares her experiences with the Matchless One, Meher Baba. Coordinator: David Miotke. *Continued on back page*

### MEHER BABA LOVERS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

President, Cherie Dreyfuss \*\* Vice President, David Miotke \*\* Secretary, David Miotke \*\* Treasurer, Alan Talbot \*\* Office Manager, Dan Sparks

Board of Directors: Soosan Adham, Jenny Califf, Cherie Dreyfuss, Bing Heckman, Sue Jamison, David Miotke, Larry Pesta

Coordinators: Programs, Larry Pesta \*\* Finance, Jenny Califf \*\* Publicity, Soosan Adham \*\* Community & Service, Louise Barrie \*\* Bookstore, Dan Sparks \*\* Archives, Bruce Ecker

**NOVEMBER 22nd - MEHER BABA'S MASTERS**

Meher Baba told us that there are always five Perfect Masters actively supervising, so to speak, the entire universe on all planes. He identified the five who were holding this ultimate office during His early years and described something of their roles in relation to Him. Tonight we explore the lives of these special people. Coordinator: Bing Heckman.

**NOVEMBER 29th - MANDALI VIDEOS**

Come take a video mini-trip to India as various of Meher Baba's close disciples talk of the Beloved in their garden setting in Meherazad. Coordinator: David Miotke.

**FUND-RAISER UPDATE**

The Rock n' Roll party at the Albany YMCA was a success. David Miotke showed us where Elvis must have gotten his inspiration, the children kept pace with their parents and the \$268.00 raised will help with the expenses of managing our group's affairs.

The sweepstakes to send a pilgrim to Myrtle Beach was won by Lesley Tejada of Santa Barbara. The event featured Filis Frederick as guest of honor plus the ever growing group of Baba's tots. Thank you for your support.

A Flea-market is planned for Saturday, September, 28th at the Sausalito flea market. Please begin looking in your garage and attic, etc. for donations. To arrange for delivery or pick-up of your donated items call Jenny Califf at work, 864-3377, or at home, 285-9117, or Lisa Greenstein at 525-3364.



**CHILDCARE DURING MEETINGS**

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**TRUSTWALLA**

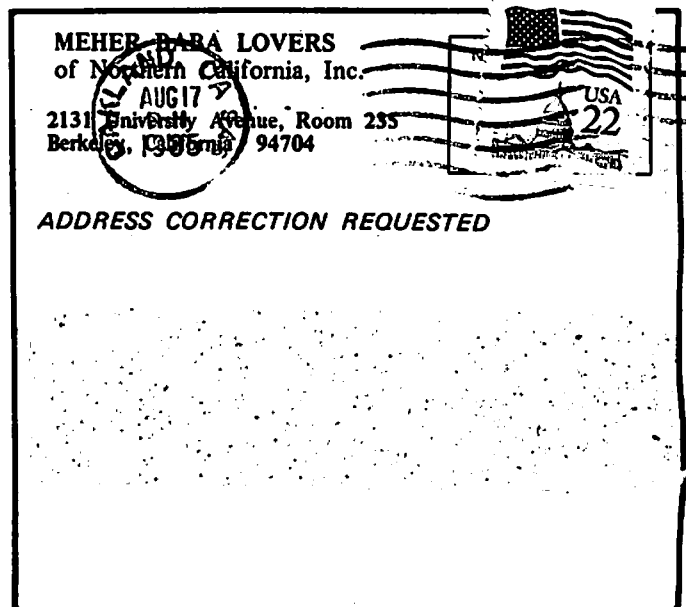
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Love makes the Formless and Infinite become enformed and finite as the God-Man among men. Love me more and more because for the sake of love I have come among you.

-- Meher Baba --





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VOL. 15

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## The Three Phases Of His Work



The goal of life is to realize God and the whole of creation has come into existence to fulfill this purpose, though all of creation is actually non-existent. There is a straight path to God-Realization, and it passes straight through seven stages of evolution and seven levels of involution. Each soul has to pass through evolution and involution before it can attain the level of God's Consciousness.

The path to God-Realization is straight, but almost every human being misses it, because the accumulation of unnatural sanskaras is causing almost everyone to deviate from that path. Natural sanskaras propel consciousness in its evolution and are necessary for progress through the seven stages of evolving consciousness. Unnatural sanskaras are accumulated in human form and they halt the progress of the human being toward his involution. Unless these unnatural sanskaras are wiped out of the human mind, progress toward involution is delayed. The human being is entangled in his gross consciousness, and so wanders through the world lifetime after lifetime.

The Avatar appears on earth because the whole sanskaric pattern of evolution has become unnatural. Humanity misses the straight path toward God-Realization because of its unnatural condition. Even the stages of evolution have become unnatural, mainly because of mankind's scientific explorations, experimentations and exploitation of various species of evolving life forms.

The first phase of the Avatar's universal work consists of wiping out the unnatural sanskaras in humanity and the lower evolving forms, thereby placing all

of evolution on the straight path toward God-Realization. When he completes this first phase, the Avatar drops his physical body. The result of the first phase of his work manifests gradually over a period of 100 to 200 years. This phase is of sanskaric annihilation and burning.

After the Avatar has dropped his body the second phase of his work starts. The second phase of the Avatar's work is the distribution of wine - his divine love. The Avatar's wineshop opens to all humanity and he first distributes wine freely to those who are already on the straight path toward realizing God, and who are extending their hearts to him in acceptance of this wine. This is the phase of intoxication.

A person whose mind is burdened with mostly unnatural sanskaras cannot thirst for the divine wine of this Avataric age. Thirst starts after the unnatural sanskaras are severed and burned up; only then is the straight path found. The result of the first phase of the Avatar's work is universal, as he places all the stages of evolution back on the straight path. When this happens, the evolution of the universe becomes natural once again. This is a phase of purification.

During the second phase of intoxication, the Avatar works to distribute his wine freely and there are some individuals who strive their utmost and drink more wine; they receive a push to a higher plane. Some individuals who are becoming divinely intoxicated thirst for more wine and they enter the beginning of involution. Some individuals have only a taste of the wine, but in their temporary intoxication they do not advance beyond gross consciousness, although they are approaching the entrance to the inner path. The Avatar's wine pours through the heart of humanity as his love floods the world purifying, to some extent, all of human consciousness.

The light of the Avatar's sun, his effulgence, pours into the three worlds through seven doors. His light pours in

continued on the next page

# NEWSLETTER

Continued from first page

the gross world through the opening of the seventh door. When all stages of evolution are moving on the straight path to God-Realization and humanity is experiencing the wine of divine love, the consciousness of each level then focuses toward the light of his sun as it pours through the seventh door. When this light is seen everywhere on earth by mankind, the third phase of the Avatar's work begins and this is his manifestation on earth.

In this third phase humanity experiences the full impact of the Avatar's manifestation consciously, while other stages of evolving life forms are universally affected and their progress is stepped up. Those human beings who are closest to the seventh door experience his manifestation most directly and intensely. The rest of humanity experiences the manifestation in accordance to their relative distance from the seventh door. This light seen by humanity, as his manifestation, inflames human consciousness so that divine intoxication is actually experienced.

Avatar Meher Baba started the second phase of his universal work the day he dropped his physical body. Since January 31, 1969, he is now distributing wine freely. Those people who did not come into his physical contact, or did not see him physically during the first phase of his work while incarnate on earth, did not miss anything! Meher Baba completed the first phase of his inner work for them without their awareness of him, or of his presence on earth. The first phase of his work has prepared them to receive his wine and to participate in the second phase of his work. However, if they fail to extend their hearts to him and accept his wine, they will actually miss the real glory of his manifestation - divine intoxication.

I remember one incident that occurred in September, 1968, that clearly pertains to the second phase of Meher Baba's work. Baba was discussing the forthcoming 1969 darshan program with the mandali.

Padri said to Baba, "We are old now. Close the shop, Baba!"

Baba immediately became annoyed and gestured, "What are you saying? Close the shop! The shop will now be opened!"

None of us understood at that time what Baba meant by this. But, soon afterward he dropped the body and more people started coming into his contact, even though they had not met him. This moving stream of humanity signifies that he has opened his wineshop for the world -

to freely distribute wine to all of those who were unknowing participants in the first phase of his work. They are now on the path to him.

Another incident occurred in October, 1968, during the seclusion phase of Baba's work. I felt deeply disturbed that Baba would not reply to the correspondence from his lovers. There was at this time a strict ban on correspondence for both the east and west.

Recognizing my disturbance, Baba explained to me, "My lovers are so great, they want nothing material or spiritual. I come down to worship them... Why are you so disturbed? You have been with me for so many years and still you do not understand what I am doing for them.

"If they come here, what will they see? Only this physical body! This is the real thing that I am giving them." Then Baba made the sign for his seclusion work which was a pounding on his thighs.

He continued, "My work is the real thing which I am giving them and you will witness with your own eyes what will happen to those who have not met me physically."

Because his work is the real thing he has given to the world, people are now coming to him, even though they did not meet him in the physical form. Meher Baba has completed the first phase of his work for them, though these people have had no physical contact with him. Without their knowing it, he has bestowed a great blessing upon them, and in his own way he has prepared them to participate in the second phase of his work - the wine of love.

Near the end, Baba's health was in very critical condition. During January, 1969, Baba was discussing his forthcoming darshan program in April. His suffering was terrible. His body was being crushed by the infinite burden of the universe. This was the last stroke of the first phase of his work on earth. Spasm after spasm wracked his body. It was as if his bones were breaking. That memory will never leave me.

During the discussion about the darshan, Baba said, "Once I start giving darshan to my lovers, I will never stop. It will be continuous and I will be very strong at that time."

Again we mandali did not understand what he meant. But since he has dropped his body, I have witnessed more and more people coming for his darshan. I now see

continued on the back page

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means  
bookstore  
will be  
present

To check for  
program changes  
call 415/845-4339.

## JUNE 6th - AFTER THE HONEYMOON

Several of our group will discuss how the course of their life has changed because of their involvement with Meher Baba. Coordinator: Harold Jamison.

## JUNE 13th - SLIDES AND COFFEE

Tonight some of our members will be sharing personal experiences and color slides of India at the new home of Harold and Sue Jamison, 6934 Fairview Drive, El Cerrito. Coordinator: David Miotke.

## JUNE 20th - SPECIAL GUEST: KACY COOK LIVING IN INDIA

We are pleased to have Kacy with us during her visit to this area where she was raised. She has lived in Meherazad for over seven years and will share her stories of her life there. Coordinator: Bing Heckman.

## JUNE 27th - FRANCIS BRABAZON REMEMBERED

Meher Baba's disciple and poet passed away two years ago. Tonight we will savor selections from his written works and glimpses of his life. Coordinators: Sue Jamison and Michael LePage.

## JULY 4th - INDEPENDENCE DAY - NO MEETING

There will be no meeting tonight due to the holiday and because many are at the L. A. Sahavas this weekend.

## JULY 11th - "ANCIENT ONE" SLIDE SHOW

Tonight "The Ancient One" a slide show created in 1984 for the public celebration of Meher Baba's 90th birthday, held at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco. This slide show covers in broad strokes the many different phases of Meher Baba's advent. It is offered tonight to mark the 61st anniversary of Meher Baba's first day of silence (July 10, 1925); a silence that continued unbroken for 44 years. Coordinator: Michael LePage.

## JULY 18th - MEHER BABA AND WAR

Recent political disturbances make us think about Baba's declarations concerning world conflict. What does the Master say about our role in the midst of international unrest? Coordinator: Larry Pesta.

## JULY 25th - FILMS OF AVATAR MEHER BABA

Coordinator: Doug Ross.



## RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A new board of directors for Meher Baba Lovers of Northern California, Inc. was elected at the Annual General Meeting on April 11th. Elected to the Board were Bing Heckman, Harold Jamison, Ben Leet, Michael LePage, David Miotke, Larry Pesta and Doug Ross. The new board held its first meeting on April 19th and appointed the following people as officers:

President	Bing Heckman
Vice President	Harold Jamison
Secretary	Jamie Dillon
Treasurer	Alan Talbot
Office Manager	Ben Leet

and the following committee chair people:

Programs	Larry Pesta
Finance	Michael LePage
Membership	Harold Jamison
Publicity	Harold Jamison
Service	Louise Barrie
Archives	Bruce Ecker
Bookstore	Ben Leet

The budget for the new fiscal year (April 1986 - April 1987) was passed and a new nominating committee was elected: Jenny Califf, Ron Greenstein, Karen Lundegaard, Fred White and David Worthen.

Continued from previous page

how he is giving darshan continuously and how he distributes his wine.

Now he is very strong. The wineshop is open and the door is remaining open. Maya cannot close it. Wine is the second phase and the world is receiving it, for wine is his work. He gives darshan continuously to all those who now thirst for his wine. Wine is the most important phase for this is the period of preparation for participating in the third phase of his work - his divine manifestation to the entire world.

Now is the time to participate wholeheartedly in the second phase of Meher Baba's work and drink deeply the wine of love. We need to avail ourselves of the spiritual opportunity by drinking evermore deeply of his wine. Our intoxication is his preparation. This preparation will make us ready to experience the manifestation more fully. We should become prepared to put ourselves at his feet and bow to him who suffered infinitely in his work for all of us.

#### MEHER BABA INFORMATION - 'THE BOX'

Worknights at Meher Baba Information are Thursdays, 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Work ranges from responding to requests for information to processing orders for books and other literature, and many new projects. If you would like to help, call Rick Chapman or Gary Freeman at 562-1101.

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Our Trustwalla is Jenny Califf. All who wish to share in fulfilling the commitments laid down by Baba through the instrument of the Trust should contact Jenny c/o Safeguard, 74 14th St., San Francisco, CA 94103.



#### CHILDREN'S SING-ALONG

On the first Sunday of each month there is a gathering of children with their parents and other adults to sing Baba songs at the home of Ron and Lisa Greenstein (525-3364) at 11:30 AM. This is oriented to children, but is fun for all ages. The next two meetings will be on June 1 and August 3. There will not be a gathering in July because many people will be at the Sahavas.

#### THE 11TH ANNUAL SILENCE DAY SAHAVAS

The Avatar Meher Baba Center of Southern California is holding the 12th annual Silence Day Sahavas from July 3rd thru 6th at the Pilgrim Pines Conference Grounds in Oak Glen, CA. The special guests this year include Virginia Rudd, Naosherwan Anzar and Ann Conlon. In the Bay Area call Karen Talbot (415-376-4325) for transportation help. This event is a very special gathering in Meher Baba's Love.

#### CHILDCARE DURING MEETINGS

We regret that until further notice the use of the downstairs children's room at the Friends Meeting Hall is discontinued. However, we can continue to use the education room in the small hall. This also means we will not be providing a baby-sitter. Children are welcome at the meetings if supervised by their parents.

The way of my work is the way of effacement, which is the way of strength, not weakness; and through it you become mature in love. At this stage you cannot know what real love is, but through working for me as you should work for me you will arrive at that ripeness where, in a moment, I can give you That which you have been seeking for millions of years.

-- Meher Baba --

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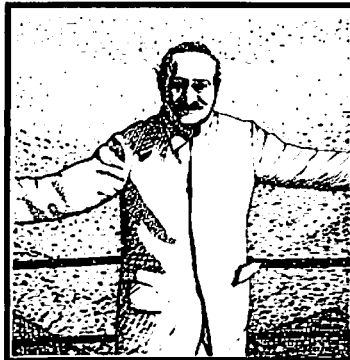
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VOL. 15

235 BERKELEY, CA. 94704

FALL 1986

At the 1986 Sahavas sponsored by the Los Angeles group, Naosherwan Anzar gave a powerful talk entitled "The Ten Demandments of True Discipleship." Excerpts from this talk are reprinted here, with permission from Naosherwan and the LA Group.



love, but you have to love. If you surrender, if you love, He doesn't give a raise in pay. He is already there.

It is not a joy for Him to live in the body, it's the crucifixion and He suffers for each one of us. I have seen Him suffer with my own eyes.

So when you say you surrender, you stretch that surrender all the way. It's not a one-time thing, it's a continuity.

## THE NON-COMPLACENT LOVER

When you come down to the bottom line, it's not the dollar, it is love.

Look within you and ask this question: what is the bottom line in my life, why is there confusion and conflict in my life, why is there a breakdown of relationship, why don't I get along well with my mother, why am I estranged with my father, what's going on between me and my husband, why can't I relate to my son -- and the answer is that you've put this heavy block on your heart. You're not relating to them. You're not talking to them, we are only talking to ourselves.

Go back to the discourses of Baba and read all the discourses from 1931 to 1958 that Baba has given in the United States. Every discourse is on self interest. And Baba time and again described the greatest problem of this country: it has tremendous spiritual energy which it can share with the world if it can eliminate self interest.

I see it happening in New York all the time, but I also find that hearts are opening up. The revolution that Baba talks of, the emergence of a new humanity, is now happening.

What are the demands we must make on ourselves? Surrender -- Baba has asked for our surrender. We say, "Yes Baba, I will surrender to you." But is that an empty word? Is that just a promise that we don't intend keeping? We have to carry the promise of surrender that we have made to Him all the way, as a demandment on ourselves. We demand ourselves to surrender. He isn't asking you for your surrender. But you have to surrender. He's not asking for your

The desperateness that you experienced when you were seeking, when you were searching -- you let that desperateness flag. You have found Baba, you take a sigh of relief, and you become complacent. That desperateness, that pull, that ember -- don't let it turn to ashes. That fire of love, let it go all the way through not only this lifetime, but many, many lifetimes. That divine desperateness that Baba talks of, let it go all the way through so you can get that glow, that feeling, that fire that can be a continuity. That sahavas -- living with Him can be a continuity.

The third factor, the third demandment that you make on yourself is one of obedience, a factor that Baba time and time again emphasized. He relegated everything else into the shadows when He talked of obedience. The two aspects of obedience that Baba gave me directly -- of course Baba gave me several orders -- but the ones that were very important to me were "Don't Worry" and "Be Happy". Now, to us these sound like trivial words, but to me these are two very important orders because they totally eliminate every other confusion, every other negativity. I find that Baba's order "not to worry" has helped me to see things through. To "be happy" has sometimes been a problem, but one has to make a concerted effort. Baba always said, "Try to be happy. Try!" So one tries to be happy. People sometimes say, "Well, Baba is not in the body, so what orders do I obey?" Don't worry, be happy is a very important order. And if you were to follow this order, take my word for it, all your problems would be ironed out.

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# NEWSLETTER

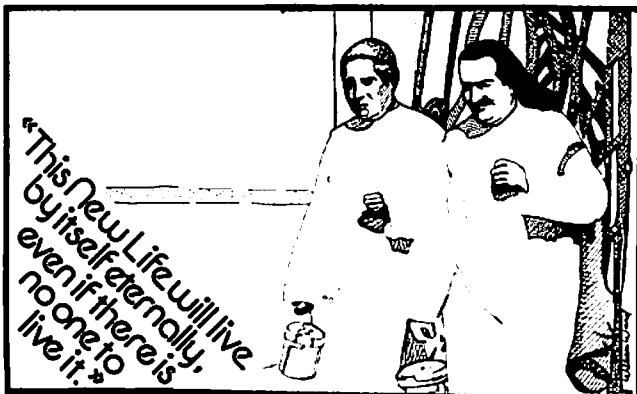
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We've already talked of love, which is a very important aspect of our relationship to Baba. But what bothers me constantly is that we love Baba, yet we have no love for the people around us, as if Baba doesn't live in them. Consequently there is divorce, separation, unhappiness. We are happy to love Baba, but we can't love those who we are supposed to love in our daily lives. Is that what Baba wants of us, that we put Him on a pedestal and love Him and can't love those who we should love? I think that is something we all should consider at some point so that the confusion can be dispelled. We love Baba and that love must be translated into our daily lives. Baba was a practical Avatar. You don't put him on a pedestal and worship Him, you bring Him into your daily life and use what He has given you.

Another important aspect is intuition. The present period is a very intimate time with the Beloved. A time will come when thousands will follow Him and all of us will be relegated to the back. It is a very intimate time with the Beloved. Our intuition has recognized the Beloved, but we have to strengthen it further. And the only way you can strengthen it is by loving Him more and more. There are no other gymnastics to do.

Selflessness is another area of work with Baba. Selflessness means letting go and giving in. I know of couples who got married, brought their books into the home -- and these books are mine and these books are yours! Selflessness is to be practiced in our daily lives as we go from day to day, letting go of I-me-my-mine.

I have already talked of work for Baba, developing our capabilities and capacities and applying them to working for Him. He can do all the work Himself, but He makes use of your efforts and channels His work through you.



A very important aspect or demandment that we can make in our lives is that of recollection. That is going back to the source of when you met Baba, how you came to Him, what brought you to Him. This is your touchstone that you have to go back to and hold on to tightly because that is the gift that He has given you. The gift of Baba is love and that is what will sustain you. And how do you recollect? By constantly repeating His name. That is the talisman He has given you, His name! There are several stories of terrible moments in people's lives which have been transmuted simply by uttering His name. That is the greatest gift Meher Baba has given us, the gift of His name. Repeat it all the time, and talk to Him. You don't need an intermediary, you don't need a guide, a murshid, a priest, a mullah, anybody. You relate to Him directly. You don't need churches and temples. He is there, here and now. Just reach out to Him, talk to Him, tell Him your daily problems, and He will give you an answer in different ways. He may not answer right away, but as the days go by you will discover that He will give you an answer. So talk to Him. There are always professionals you can go to, but the greatest gift in this lifetime is that he is available now. Isn't it great that He is with you all the time and that you can never be alone?

(Special thanks to Charlie Morton who provided us with an audiotape of the talk.)

## CENTER SEARCH REPORT

After a long and pleasant association with the Friends, we are being eased out of the nest and need to find a new place to meet. The Friends would like to make more use of their buildings, and they have told us that after October 1st they cannot schedule our meetings on a weekly basis. As a result, the Center Search Committee is looking for a new place to meet. At the business meeting on July 25th, the membership passed a motion to permit commitment to a permanent Center. The motion supported either a rental or a purchase, but favored a purchase. We are still unsure if we can afford a permanent Center and are carefully exploring all possibilities. In the meantime, we will be meeting in people's homes and other locations, so please check the schedule for each meeting. Locations are subject to change; please call and confirm to be sure.

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# C A L E N D A R

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FRIDAY MEETINGS -- Meher Baba meetings are held on Friday evenings at 7:30PM with time for visiting before the program begins at 8:00 PM sharp. Meetings are as indicated in the meeting description. To check for program changes call 415/845-4339.

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## September 5th - FILMS OF MEHER BABA

Films of Avatar Meher Baba will be shown to welcome everyone back from the August break. Coordinator: Doug Ross. Location: Friends Meeting Hall, Walnut & Vine, Berkeley.

## September 11th (THURSDAY) - FUNDRAISER DINNER WITH DON STEVENS

A fundraising dinner will be held with a favorite friend-in-Baba, Don Stevens, as our special guest. Don is the author and editor of several books about Meher Baba and was blessed to have had many opportunities to meet with Him. Don will share some of his experiences and insights from many years with Baba. Coordinator: Bobby Buggia. Location: Unitarian Church, Cedar and Bonita, Berkeley.

## September 12th - NO MEETING TONIGHT

## September 19th - VIDEOTAPE OF ANN CONLON'S TALK AT 1986 SAHAVAS.

Here is Ann's wonderful talk on how she came to Baba, including her weekend in India in 1961, captured in full living color by ace video cameraman, Charlie Morton. Coordinator: Michael LePage. Location: Friends Meeting Hall, Walnut and Vine, Berkeley.

## September 26th - BALANCE, PART II

Living quality lives balanced between the material and spiritual is a challenge for every Baba Lover. This is Part II of our lively discussion. Coordinator: Larry Pesta. Location: Friends Meeting Hall, Walnut & Vine, Berkeley.

## October 3rd - HOW BABA CHANGED MY LIFE

The circumstances are different, but the theme is the same; Meher Baba comes into our lives and turns them right side up. These changes are happy and sad, easy and hard, but they all bring us closer to Him. Coordinator: Harold Jamison. Location: The Carriage House at Rosen Institute, 2315 Prince, Berkeley. (Near Telegraph)

## October 10th - FILMS OF MEHER BABA

Coordinator: Bruce Ecker. Location: The Carriage House at Rosen Institute, 2315 Prince, Berkeley.

## October 17th - CELEBRATING THE NEW LIFE GUESTS: DARWIN AND JEANNE SHAW

The Shaws, New Yorkers who first met Meher Baba in 1931, will be our special guest speakers as we celebrate the New Life, which "lives eternally, even if there is no one to live it." Coordinator: Bing Heckman. Location: Unitarian Church, Cedar and Bonita, Berkeley.

## October 18th (SATURDAY) - POT-LUCK BAR-B-Q WITH THE SHAWS.

A chance to socialize with our dear friends from the East coast. Please bring a salad, or dessert, or drinks. Coordinator: Michael LePage. Location: 846 Sea View Dr, El Cerrito. Telephone 415-525-8416. TIME 2:30PM

## October 24th - MUSIC NIGHT

A special night of music centered in Baba. Coordinator: Ron Greenstein. Location: 600 Albemarle, El Cerrito. Telephone: 415-525-3364.

## October 31st - VIDEOTAPE OF NAOSHERWAN ANZAR FROM THE 1986 SAHAVAS.

Tonight is your opportunity to see this brilliant and fiery talk by Naosherwan Anzar, from which our feature article was drawn. Coordinator: Michael LePage. Location: 846 Sea View Dr, El Cerrito. Telephone 415-525-8416.

## November 7th - BEADS ON ONE STRING

Baba's work of bringing religions together like "beads on one string" encourages us to discuss and consider the true heart of religion. Where do we fit into this process? Coordinator: Larry Pesta. Location: The Carriage House at Rosen Institute, 2315 Prince, Berkeley.

## November 14th - GUEST: RICK CHAPMAN

Tonight we are pleased to have a talk by Rick Chapman, who met Baba in 1966 and has headed Meher Baba Information since 1967. The topic will be caring. Coordinator: Bing Heckman. Location: The Carriage House at Rosen Institute, 2315 Prince, Berkeley. Continued on the back page

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MEHER BABA LOVERS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
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Secretary, Jamie Dillon \*\* Treasurer, Alan Talbot \*\* Office Manager,  
Ben Leet.

BORAD OF DIRECTORS: Bing Heckman, Harold Jamison, Ben Leet, Michael LePage, David Miotke, Larry Pesta, Doug Ross.

COORDINATORS: Programs, Larry Pesta \*\* Finance, Michael LePage \*\*  
Membership, Harold Jamison \*\* Publicity, Harold Jamison \*\* Service,  
Louise Barrie \*\* Archives, Bruce Ecker \*\* Bookstore, Ben Leet.

**November 21st - DOWN-HOME FOCUS ON BABA**

An evening of focusing on Baba thru song, story and personal story telling. Coordinator: Ron Greenstein. Location: 600 Albemarle, El Cerrito. Telephone: 415-525-3364.

**November 28th - GIVING THANKS**

Everyone is invited to bring stories of gratitude to God -- your own or as found in spiritual literature -- on this evening after the American Thanksgiving celebration. Coordinator: Max Reif. Location: 600 Albemarle, El Cerrito. Telephone: 415-525-3364.

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**MYRTLE BEACH SWEEPSTAKES**

The Grand Winner of the 2nd Annual Myrtle Beach Sweepstakes will be karmically chosen at the pot luck dinner for Darwin and Jeanne Shaw at Michael LePage's home on Saturday, the 18th of October. The winner does not have to be present to win. Tickets are available from the Board Members at \$1.00 each, 13 chances for \$10.00 or 75 chances for \$50.00. The winner may take the trip from San Francisco or Los Angeles airports or the equivalent amount in cash. Tickets may be purchased through the mail by sending your check for the proper amount to: Meher Baba Lovers of Northern California, 2131 University Ave., RM 235, Berkeley, CA 94907. Mail in requests must be received no later than October 18, 1986 to be entered into the drawing.

**FUNDRAISING NOTES**

Thanks to the great generosity of Ove Wittstock, the group was able to hold a very unusual and successful fundraiser on June 29th. Starting with an idea concocted over lunch at Larry Blake's by Ove and Billy Ward, plans were made to staff Ove's shoe store, Laytons on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley, for a sale with a percentage of the sales for the day being given by Ove to the Group. Former veteran shoe sales people, Ben Wright and Ron Greenstein, willingly gave of their services and dazzled the customers with their knowledge of fractional fittings and other esoteric subjects. Others also helped in the sales; although less brilliant, all agreed that to spend a day stuffing feet into Birkenstocks probably had some important, although indefinable, spiritual value. \$500.00 was raised for the group. This flippant and irreverent report was NOT submitted by the Minister for Finance.



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# QUARTERLY

N E W S L E T T E R

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VOL. 16

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704  
WINTER 1987

## FORGETFULNESS

Excerpted from *God Speaks* by Meher Baba



The whole philosophy of approaching and realizing the Truth hinges on the question of what we may call forgetfulness. The word "forgetfulness" used here must not be associated with its commonly accepted meaning of forgetting to post a letter, or of a state of mind that is simply dull and blank. Forgetfulness in this special sense is an attitude of mind that develops gradually into spiritual experience. External renunciation is not forgetfulness, because it is mostly physical and partly mental; but internal renunciation, when it becomes purely mental, does assume the quality and dignity of forgetfulness. Thus one may renounce the world, but it is not so easy to forget it.

Forgetfulness in this special sense thus explains the secret that lies behind all happiness, spiritual or otherwise, that human beings experience. The Sufi term for this forgetfulness is *bikhudi*, and it should not be mixed up - though it often is - with *bihoshi* (unconsciousness).

The difference between forgetfulness and unconsciousness is important, and a few examples of types of unconsciousness will help to make it clear. To begin with, one must remember that forgetfulness is the partial or total *detachment* of the mind from the physical world, and unconsciousness the partial or total *deadening* of the mind to the physical world. The former gives rise to various degrees of spiritual ecstasy and the latter to various degrees of cessation of pleasure and pain.

Let us then look at one or two examples of unconsciousness. In perfect health one does not bother about the functioning of a vital organ like the heart. This means that one forgets that this organ is beating ceaselessly and perfectly in the human body for the maintenance of life and health. If, however, there is a disturbance in the cardiac rhythm there is immediate discomfort, and if there is a cardiac infarct there is immediate precordial pain. In either case one is reminded that one has a heart. The sensation of discomfort or pain, though it arises from the heart, is felt only because of the functioning of the mind. The more the mind is directed to the heart, the more is the discomfort or pain felt. When pain reaches its climax, unconsciousness may supervene - a break in the threads of consciousness that enables one to forget the

pain. But this is unconsciousness and not forgetfulness in its spiritual sense. A surgeon by performing a prefrontal leucotomy can interfere with some of the nervous pathways that serve this focussing of the mind on the intractable pain of some incurable disease like cancer. After this operation the pain is still there, but the patient ceases to direct his mind towards it, and so ceases to bother about it. This again is a partial unconsciousness brought about by purely physical means, and not true forgetfulness in its spiritual sense. Sleep is a state of unconsciousness that affords a temporary respite from the wear and tear of life; but sleep is not true forgetfulness in its spiritual sense.

The whole philosophy of happiness and unhappiness therefore hinges on the question of forgetfulness of some kind or another. Remembrance is an attachment of the mind to a particular idea, person, thing or place, and forgetfulness is its opposite. Once it is understood that remembrance causes pain, it follows that the only cure is some kind of forgetfulness, and this forgetfulness may be either positive or negative. The positive forgetfulness is one in which the mind remains aware of external stimuli, but refuses to react to them. The negative forgetfulness is either mere unconsciousness - a stopping of the mind as in sound sleep - or an acceleration of it as in madness, which has been defined as a way of avoiding the memory of suffering. Either sleep or madness may be artificially induced in various degrees by the use of intoxicants or drugs; but this also is a negative way of overcoming remembrance.

Positive forgetfulness, then, is the cure, and its steady cultivation develops in man that balance of mind which enables him to express such noble traits as charity, forgiveness, tolerance, selflessness, and service to others. One who is not equipped with this positive forgetfulness becomes a barometer of his surroundings. His poise is disturbed by the slightest whisper of praise or flattery, and by the faintest suggestion of slander or criticism; his mind is like a slender reed swayed by the lightest breeze of emotion. Such a man is perpetually at war with himself and knows no peace.

In the exercise of this positive forgetfulness, not only is nonreaction to adverse circumstances essential, but also nonreaction to favourable and pleasurable circumstances. Of these two the latter is the harder and is less often described, although it matters just as much.

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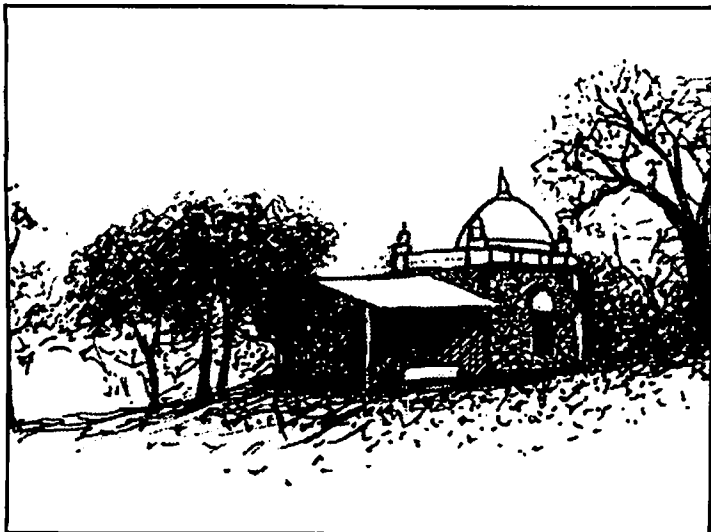
# NEWSLETTER

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Positive forgetfulness, although it lies at the very root of happiness, is by no means easy to acquire. Once a man attains this state of mind, however, he rises above pain and pleasure; he is master of himself. This forgetfulness, to be fully effective for the spiritual life, must become permanent, and such permanence is only acquired through constant practice during many lives. Some people, as a result of efforts towards forgetfulness in past lives, get spontaneous and temporary flashes of it in a later life, and it is such people who give to the world the best in poetry, art and philosophy, and who make the greatest discoveries in science.

In such moments of true forgetfulness there is a mental detachment from all material surroundings in which the poet allows his imagination to soar. An artist, when he gives form to an ideal in which he completely forgets himself and all irrelevant surroundings, creates a masterpiece. The best of philosophy is uttered when a man surveys the problem of life without reference to the ups and downs of his purely personal circumstances; and some of the greatest scientific discoveries have been made in this same frame of mind. Such manifestations of genuine spontaneity of forgetfulness are very rare indeed, and although it is said that poets, artists and philosophers are born and not made, these fleeting phases of real forgetfulness are the result of efforts made in past lives.

In an attempt to make life bearable some people develop a feeble kind of stoicism - a sort of "who cares, anyway" outlook - and others plunge recklessly into epicurianism. The former is the apathetic acceptance of defeat, and the latter the effort to forget defeat in the arms of pleasure. Neither are true forgetfulness. But when a man acquires the true forgetfulness, he enters the spiritual kingdom and passes through different degrees of forgetfulness until the Goal is reached. Meher Baba tells us, "Forgetfulness of the world makes one a pilgrim (rahrav; sadhak); forgetfulness of the next world makes one a saint; forgetfulness of self means Realization; and forgetfulness of forgetfulness is Perfection."



*The following letter was received by the newsletter staff in response to the last issue. The information is important and illuminating and it was felt that the letter should be brought to the attention of our readership. Thank you, Don, for clarifying the error!*

Dear Quarterly Newsletter Staff:

Let me first thank you for your continuing kindness in sending regular copies of the *Quarterly* and compliment you on its excellent quality. I always share my copy with *Neti*, *Neti* staff, and you may have noted that on occasion they reprint some of your very good articles.

In your FALL 1987 issue you reprint the *Song of the New Life* and in the third from last verse you give what is unfortunately now the classic version of "Let not despair or disappointment..." which I believe is based on Purdom's version, and was repeated in this same version in *Tales from the New Life*.

When I was writing *Listen, the New Humanity*, in researching a good bit of original source material on the New Life, I noted that the Song as originally quoted in my sources was "Let despair or disappointment ravage...", with the "not" being omitted. After considerable reflection, I concluded that actually this made sense and Purdom's version seemed obscure to me. I quoted the Song as I found it in the older sources.

All this created considerable interested discussion, so on an early trip to Ahmednagar I raised the point with Eruch and Bal Natu. Bal came to me the following morning with, miraculously, several original copies of the Song printed up on one sheet by Adi Sr. under Baba's instructions and approved by Baba. (Baba incidentally personally reviewed minutely all communications given out during the New Life and was quite severe if some error was found in what He had instructed to be sent.) This original omitted the "not". Eruch looked carefully at the matter, and he too concluded that omitting the "not", as originally printed, appeared consistent with the tenor established by Baba in the New Life.

Final chapter in the story. The next day Bal Natu came to me again and said he had checked the Hindu original also, and it too was most consistent with the original English version which did not have the "not".

You might want sometime to correct this error, as it is an extremely interesting point in many ways, not least of all, to illustrate how easily the Avatar's sense can be unwittingly changed in later editing.

Warmest love to you all,

Don Stevens  
September 6, 1987

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# C A L E N D A R

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**FRIDAY-SATURDAY MEETINGS** - Meher Baba meetings are held at the Albany Methodist Church, Stannage Avenue and Marin in Albany. The first meeting of each month is on Saturday, with the remainder on Friday. All programs begin at 8:00 PM sharp and normally end at 9:30 PM with time for visiting before and after the meeting. To check for program changes call (415) 845-4339.

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**DECEMBER 5th (Saturday) - PHOTO FESTIVAL AND SALE**  
**7:00 PM** - A special event to make the photos taken by each and all available to one another. Come and view each other's collections and place your orders for copies. Just in time for Christmas, too! Please contact Ron Greenstein at (415) 525-3364 so we can share your special prints or slides. Coordinators: Ron Greenstein and Karen Lundegaard.

**DECEMBER 11th - LIFE AFTER RETURNING FROM INDIA: FROM THE SUBLIME TO THE MUNDANE**  
Constant focus on Baba seems natural when we are in His home. Integrating the experience of being with Him after returning to our home is more of a challenge. Join Alexandra Conn in a panel and group discussion of ways we can keep Baba with us as we reenter our home and work lives. Coordinator: Carol Singer.

**DECEMBER 18th - FILMS OF AVATAR MEHER BABA**  
 Coordinator: Michael Le Page.

**DECEMBER 25th - NO MEETING TONIGHT**

**JANUARY 2nd (Saturday) - A NEW YEAR FOR THE BABA CENTER: NEW DIRECTIONS**  
As we start another New Year, let's meet and talk about our center and its directions. Coordinator: Ron Greenstein.

**JANUARY 8th - FIRST TRIP TO INDIA IMPRESSIONS**  
An evening to share the impressions of several people who have recently returned from their first trip to India. Coordinator: Ron Greenstein.

**JANUARY 15th - ON SURRENDER**  
Dick Anthony will give a talk and lead a discussion on surrendering to Baba in daily life. Coordinator: Louise Barrie.

**JANUARY 22nd - BABA'S SUFFERING**  
In order to absorb the burdens of the universe, the Avatar suffers both physically and mentally. This evening we will explore the nature of Baba's suffering and the meaning it holds for our day to day

lives. Presented by Malinda McCulloch. Coordinator: Karen Lundegaard.

**JANUARY 30th (Saturday) - SPECIAL AMARTITHI PROGRAM**



January 31st is the nineteenth *Amartithi*, the anniversary of Meher Baba's physical passing. Our special program begins at 9:00 PM (early arrivals are welcome as of 8:00PM) and features music, a superb slide show on Meher Baba's Samadhi (tomb) and the intimate film of the Beloved's entombment. We will end with 15 minutes of silence from 10:30 to 10:45 PM, simultaneous with the traditional silence observed by the many lovers gathered at the Samadhi in India (where the time is 12:00 to 12:15 PM on the 31st, the time Baba dropped the body). Coordinator: Michael Le Page.


**FEBRUARY 6th (Saturday) - MUSIC BABA LIKED**

"I am the song, its words and its melody, and I am the singer." - Meher Baba. Sue Jamison will repeat a wonderful review of music Baba especially enjoyed. Coordinator: Louise Barrie.

**FEBRUARY 12th - AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST UPDATE**  
Ed Van Buskirk will explain the significance of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust and will update us on its current status. Coordinator: Michael Le Page.

**FEBRUARY 19th - TEN YEARS AFTER**

Michael Le Page will talk about his research project for his dissertation in psychology. Michael studied the psychological development of long-term Baba lovers. Discussion follows. Coordinator: Dick Anthony.

**FEBRUARY 25th (Thursday) - HAPPY BIRTHDAY BABA**  
 **5:00 AM** - Arti at the home of Michael Le Page, 846 Sea View, El Cerrito. Phone: (415) 525-8416. Coordinator: Michael Le Page.

**7:00PM** - A special Happy Birthday Celebration. Come celebrate Meher Baba's birthday at the Unitarian Church, corner Cedar and Bonita, Berkeley. Coordinators: Louise Barrie and Bing Heckman.

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**MEHER BABA CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC.**

President, Bing Heckman • Vice President, Louise Barrie • Secretary, Malinda McCulloch • Treasurer, Alan Talbot • Office Manager, Ben Leet.  
Board of Directors: Louise Barrie • Bing Heckman • Ron Greenstein • Michael Le Page • Karen Lundegaard • Malinda McCulloch • Carol Singer.  
Coordinators: Program, Karen Lundegaard • Finance, Ron Greenstein • Membership, Bing Heckman • Publicity, Harold Jamison • Service, Carol Singer • Archives, Michael Le Page • Bookstore, Ben Leet.

## BOARD MEETINGS

Meher Baba Center of Northern California Board meetings are open to all members. Call Karen Lundegaard at (415) 549-1736 for the date and time of upcoming meetings.

## PHONE TREE

We are attempting to organize a workable phone tree. If you have not been contacted and would like to be included, please mail your name, area code and phone number to the office or leave the information on the office answering machine, (415) 845-4339.

## MEHER BABA INFORMATION - "THE BO"

Worknights at Meher Baba Information are Thursdays, 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Work ranges from responding to requests for information to processing orders for books and other literature, and many new projects. If you would like to help, call Rick Chapman or Gary Freeman at (415) 562-1101.

## CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

On Sunday, February 21 a party for children of all ages will be held to celebrate Meher Baba's birthday at the home of the Talbots, 721 Crossbrook Drive, Moraga, CA. The celebration will begin at 1 PM with birthday cake for everyone. Call Karen Talbot at (415) 376-4325 for more information.

## ARTI

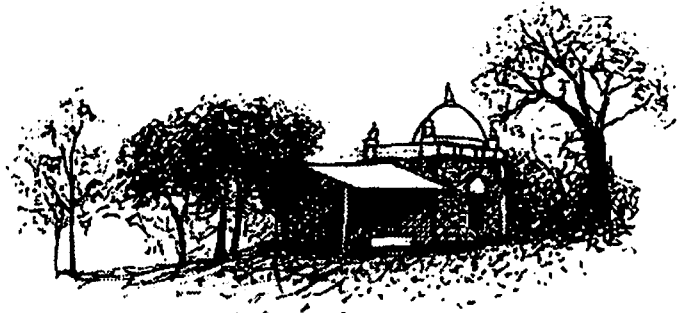
Each Sunday morning at 10:00 AM, Arti is performed at the home of Ron and Lisa Greenstein, 600 Albemarle, El Cerrito. Phone: (415) 525-3364.

## TRUSTWALLA

Our trustwalla is Jenny Califf. All who wish to share in fulfilling the commitments laid down by Baba through the instrument of the Trust should contact Jenny c/o Safeguard, 74 14th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Phone: (415) 864-3377.

## REMINDER

There are sometimes last minute changes in the meeting schedule. Please check the answering machine at the office, (415) 845-4339 for up-to-date information.



MEHER BABA CENTER  
of Northern California, Inc.  
2131 University Avenue, Room 235  
Berkeley, CA 94704

CHRISTMAS



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEHER BABA LOVERS OF NO. CA. INC.

# QUARTERLY

N E W S L E T T E R

2131 UNIVERSITY AVE. RM.

235 BERKELEY, CA. 94704

VOL. 18

SPRING 1987

## The Springtide of Creation

(Taken from The Discourses, Vol. 3, a part of the discourse entitled "The Avatar.")



*Avataric* periods are like the springtide of creation. They bring a new release of power, a new awakening of consciousness, a new experience of life - not merely for a few, but for all. Qualities of energy and awareness, which had been used and enjoyed by only a few advanced souls, are made available for all humanity. Life as a whole is stepped up to a higher level of consciousness, is geared to a new rate of energy. The transition from sensation to reason was one such step; the transition from reason to intuition will be another.

This new influx of the creative impulse takes, through the medium of a divine personality, an incarnation of God in a special sense - the Avatar. This Avatar who has ever manifested or will ever manifest. Through him God first completed the journey from unconscious divinity to conscious divinity, first unconsciously became man in order consciously to become God. Through him, periodically, God consciously becomes man for the liberation of mankind.

The Avatar appears in different forms, under different names, at different times, in different parts of the world. As his appearance always coincides with the spiritual birth of man, so the period immediately preceding his manifestation is always one in which humanity suffers from the pangs of the approaching birth. Man seems more than ever enslaved by desire, more than ever driven by greed, held by fear, swept by anger. The strong dominate the weak; the rich oppress the poor; large masses of people are exploited for the benefit of the few who are in power. The individual, who finds no peace or rest, seeks to forget himself in excitement. Immorality increases, crime flourishes, religion is ridiculed. Corruption spreads throughout the social order. Class and national hatreds are aroused and

fostered. Wars break out. Humanity grows desperate. There seems to be no possibility of stemming the tide of destruction.

At this moment the Avatar appears. Being the total manifestation of God in human form, he is like a gauge against which man can measure what he is and what he may become. He tries the standard of human values by interpreting them in terms of divinely human life.

He is interested in everything but not concerned about anything. The slightest mishap may command his sympathy; the greatest tragedy will not upset him. He is beyond the alternations of pain and pleasure, desire and satisfaction, rest and struggle, life and death. To him they are equally illusions which he has transcended, but by which others are bound, and from which he has come to free them. He uses every circumstance as a means to lead others towards Realization.

He knows that men do not cease to exist when they die, and therefore is not concerned over death. He knows that destruction must precede construction, that out of suffering is born peace and bliss, that out of struggle comes liberation from the bonds of action. He is only concerned about concern.

In those who contact him he awakens a love that consumes all selfish desires in the flame of the one desire to serve him. Those who consecrate their lives to him gradually become identified with him in consciousness. Little by little, their humanity is absorbed into his divinity and they become free.

Those who are closest to him are known as his circle. Every *Sadguru* [perfect master] has an intimate circle of twelve disciples who, in point of realization, are made equal to the *Sadguru* himself, though they differ from him in function and authority. In *Avataric* periods the Avatar has a circle of one hundred and twenty disciples, all of whom experience realization and work for the liberation of others.

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# N E W S L E T T E R

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## A QUIET MIND IS A POWERFUL TOOL AND BABA IS THE KEY TO A QUIET MIND

Henry Kashouty

(In response to a request by Ben Leet, Judge Henry Kashouty sent this article for our use in this newsletter. Thank you Ben and Henry!)

There are times when the mind is more quiet. At those times, one must put one's thoughts on Baba. When this becomes a real habit, it will be easier to hold on to thoughts of Baba as activities increase. It is always better to have some thoughts of Baba than no thoughts of Baba. But it is best to have continuous thoughts of Baba during your conscious hours and even during sleepless hours. You will notice that when you can do this uninterrupted, you will feel very refreshed and rested. This can only happen if you put Baba first at all times.

Impatience tires the mind, frustration tires the mind, disappointment tires the mind, anger tires the mind. Wishing numbs the mind, wanting numbs the mind, lust numbs the mind, fanaticism numbs the mind, money numbs the mind, drugs numb the mind, alcohol numbs the mind; and worry causes any or all of these things to take over the mind. The only way to keep worry out is to put Baba in. This is not easy at first. That is why Baba tells you to struggle to remember him.

Now, the real work is to make the struggle into the habit of remembering Baba. That habit will become the real presence of Baba. That is the discipline needed to obey Baba One Hundred Percent!

If one is sincere and honest about one's conviction about Baba's Divinity then the struggle is real, and the result is inevitable. That result is to consciously feel Baba's presence at all times.

Now, the world tells you, "You must worry about this, and you must worry about that." And so it is a world filled with worry and all things that worry brings. But does the world love you? Does the world give you eternal life? Does the world give you compassion? Does the world give you the grace that sustains your being from lifetime to lifetime? What the world would give you is total and complete annihilation except that God will not stand for that.

What God will stand for is love and truth. It is up to each to know this and accept this and give one's self up to the One Reality, the Only Reality, the Eternal Reality, which is and has been and will always be God. And in this Avataric cycle is Avatar Meher Baba.

Oh yes, Jai Baba.

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Their work is not only for contemporary humanity but for posterity as well. The unfoldment of life and consciousness for the whole Avataric cycle, which has been mapped out in the creative world before the Avatar took form, is enclosed and fixed in the formative and material worlds during the Avatar's life on earth.

The Avatar awakens contemporary humanity to a realization of its true spiritual nature, gives liberation to those who are ready, and quickens the life of the spirit in his time. For posterity is left the stimulating power of his divinely human example, the nobility of a life supremely lived, of a love unmixed with desire, of a power unused except for others, of a peace untroubled by ambition, of a knowledge undimmed by illusion. He has demonstrated the possibility of a divine life for all humanity, of a heavenly life on earth. Those who have the necessary courage and integrity can follow when they will.

Those who are spiritually awake have been aware for some time that the world is at present in the midst of a period such as always precedes Avataric manifestations. Even unawakened men and women are becoming aware of it now. From their darkness they are reaching out for light; in the midst of the strife into which they have found themselves plunged, they are praying for peace and deliverance.

For the moment they must be patient. The wave of destruction must rise still higher, must spread still further. But when, from the depths of his heart, man desires something more lasting than wealth, something more real than material power, the wave will recede. Then peace will come, joy will come, light will come.

The breaking of my silence - the signal for my public manifestation - is not far off. I bring the greatest treasure which it is possible for man to receive - a treasure which includes all other treasures, which will endure forever, which increases when shared with others. Be ready to receive it.

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# C A L E N D A R

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**FRIDAY-SATURDAY MEETINGS** - Meher Baba meetings are held on Friday or Saturday evenings at 7:30PM with time for visiting before the program begins at 8:00PM sharp. To check for program changes call 415/845-4339.

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## MARCH 7th (Saturday) - INDIA IMPRESSIONS

Tonight we will hear the impressions from recent first time visitors to India. Coordinator: Ron Greenstein.

## MARCH 13th - MEHER BABA AND SPORTS

A panel discussion with audience competition about a topic seldom discussed in relation to Meher Baba's views. Coordinators: Michael Le Page and Harold Jamison.

## MARCH 20th - FILMS OF AVATAR MEHER BABA

Coordinator: Doug Ross

## MARCH 27th - AMARTITHI 1987 REVISITED

Each year since Meher Baba dropped His body a pilgrim from the Bay Area has been at His side in the Samadhi. Tonight we will hear stories and see slides from this year's program. Coordinator: Harold Jamison.

## APRIL 4th (Saturday) - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1987 AGM will begin at 7:00PM. Under the bylaws of Meher Baba Lovers of Northern California, the voting members shall 1) discuss and vote on a budget for the coming year; 2) consider other old and new business; 3) elect a new board of directors; 4) elect a nominating committee for next year's AGM. This year's nominating committee will present a slate of not more than three candidates for each of the seven board positions. Candidates will be announced at Friday meetings at least 30 days before the AGM. According to the bylaws you are a voting member if you: 1) have a sincere interest in Avatar Meher Baba; 2) live in Northern California; and 3) have attended meetings of our group or supported it in other ways during the preceding year. If you are eligible please notify us to add your name to the membership list by signing a sheet provided at the Friday meetings, or by calling Bing Heckman at 415-494-6443. Notification of your eligibility to vote will be mailed to you two weeks before the meeting along with a list of candidates. We urge you to attend this meeting. Participation in

selecting our leadership is the way to assure that our meetings and other activities will suit our needs and be in the spirit of Meher Baba's love.

A further agenda item for the AGM is the question of a possible name change for the group. There has been some feeling among the group that a new name is desirable. The options to be considered include:

1. Retaining the current name, that is, Meher Baba Lovers of Northern California.
2. Meher Baba Lovers.
3. Meher Baba Group.
4. Meher Baba Group of Northern California.
5. Meher Baba Center.
6. Meher Baba Center of Northern California.

If you have another suggestion that you would like to have considered tonight, please write to the office or let one of the board members know.

## APRIL 10th - VIDEO SHOW

During the past few years Wendel Brustman has been video-taping Meher Baba's mandali and others who met Meher Baba. Tonight we will see a selection from these pre-edited tapes. Coordinator: Bing Heckman.

## APRIL 17th - HOW I CAME TO BABA

A Bay Area favorite, the "How I came to Baba" stories continue to be told by members of our group. Coordinator: Ron Greenstein.

## APRIL 24th - A SHARING OF BABA EXPERIENCES

Meher Baba is in our lives every day in ordinary and extraordinary ways. Come share your personal experiences of Meher Baba. Coordinator: Jennifer Buggia

*continued on the next page*

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### **MEHER BABA LOVERS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA INC**

President, Bing Heckman \*\* Vice President, Harold Jamison \*\* Secretary, Jenny Califf \*\* Treasurer, Alan Talbot \*\* Office Manager, Ben Leet.

Board of Directors: Jennifer Buggia, Bing Heckman, Harold Jamison, Ben Leet, Michael Le Page, Larry Pesta, Doug Ross.

COORDINATORS: Program, Larry Pesta \*\* Finance, Michael Le Page \*\* Membership, Harold Jamison \*\* Publicity, Harold Jamison \*\* Service, Louise Barrie \*\* Archives, Bruce Ecker \*\* Bookstore, Ben Leet.

**MAY 2nd (Saturday) - SPECIAL GUEST:**  
**DONALD MAHLER**

Tonight we will hear Donald's stories of his time with Meher Baba. Donald met Meher Baba in 1958 at Myrtle Beach and then again in 1962 at the East-West Gathering. He was one of the young men who carried Baba in his chair at Myrtle Beach. Coordinator: Jenny Califf.

**MAY 8th - SPIRITUAL CHOICES**

Dick Anthony and Bruce Ecker, authors/editors of a new book, "Spiritual Choices", will discuss their book which is being received with strong public interest. Coordinator: Michael Le Page.

**MAY 15th - GUEST SPEAKER: ROBERT DREYFUSS**

Robert met Meher Baba in 1965 after hitch hiking across Europe and Asia. Sent back by Baba with His initial message about drugs, Robert has been living in the Bay Area since then except for four years he spent living/working in India with Baba's mandali. Robert will share some of his experiences with Meher Baba. Coordinator: Harold Jamison.

**MAY 22nd - FILMS OF AVATAR MEHER BABA**

Coordinator: Michael Le Page

**MAY 29th - GUEST SPEAKER: BRYNAR MEHL**

At the East-West Gathering in 1962, Brynar met Meher Baba through his connection with Baba's long-time disciple, Margaret Craske. Brynar will share some of his Baba stories with us. Coordinator: Ben Leet.

**NEW MEETING PLACE AND DATES**

We are very pleased to report that we have a new place to meet on a regular basis -- the Albany Methodist Church. The address is 980 Stannage Avenue in Albany. It is at the corner of Marin Avenue, just south of Solano Avenue and just east of San Pablo Avenue. Also note, the first meeting of each month is on a Saturday evening rather than on Friday. We hope this will make it easier for people coming a long distance to attend more conveniently. This is an experiment and we welcome your thoughts on meeting days and times.

**TRUSTWALLA**

Our Trustwalla is Jenny Califf. All who wish to share in fulfilling the commitments laid down by Baba through the instrument of the Trust should contact Jenny c/o Safeguard, 74 14th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. (415-864-3377).

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MEHER BABA LOVERS  
of Northern California, Inc.

2131 University Ave., Room 235  
Berkeley, California 94704

LOVE



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# QUARTERLY

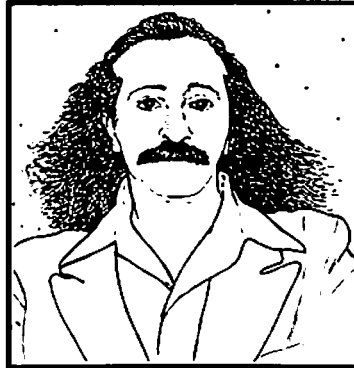
N E W S L E T T E R

2131 UNIVERSITY AVE., RM. 235  
VOL. 16

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704  
SUMMER 1987

## FILIS

By Ursula Van Buskirk



Whenever I remember Filis, I remember Meher Baba because Baba instructed me to meet her. Filis was a very special Baba contact because of that fact, but she was also a confidante and special buddy. She always had time to listen, even to the smallest nothing; she was never judgmental and she was a special friend to many, many people because of those qualities.

After I settled in Santa Barbara in 1966, Meher Baba instructed me, by letter, to meet Filis. I called and made arrangements to attend one of the weekly meetings in her home. My first impression was that she was unique - she was the first 50-year-old "hippie" I had ever met. The people at the meeting were all much older. I was 21 at the time and to me they were a strange assortment of astrologer-occult types, the type of people I had not encountered before. Prominent among this group was a former Mr. America who claimed he was a "Breatharian" and upon seeing a chart of the Ten States of God from *God Speaks*, informed the group that he was so advanced that he was "off the chart." This was before the wave of younger seekers began coming to Baba, and while I liked Filis very much and was intrigued by her, I didn't spend much time at her meetings.

I left Santa Barbara in 1967 and Filis moved to New Jersey shortly thereafter. I didn't meet her again until 1971 when I was invited to give a talk to the Los Angeles group about my meeting with Baba. The group was entirely different by that time, mostly comprised of new, young followers of Baba, and Filis was the group's "Godmother."

From 1971 onward a very close friendship evolved and I began to know the person behind the sweet exterior, a very sensitive, intellectual type of person who was totally focused on her Beloved Baba through the many ups and downs of her life.

Filis was very psychic from the time she was a child, and this faculty had caused her much suffering until Baba "toned down" her psychic abilities and made it much more bearable for her. While she was still very

psychic and saw auras at all times, she was very matter of fact about it. Filis helped many other people with similar faculties put their abilities into a proper spiritual perspective.

In 1971 she innocently told me there was a "boy soul" hanging around me all the time. I had no intention of ever having children, so I never gave it much thought, but surprisingly I became pregnant in 1983. I had an amniocentesis because of my age and it revealed I was carrying a boy. I can still hear Filis' innocent voice after I told her, saying, "I could have told you that."

Filis spent ten years from 1942 through 1952 living with, and in close connection to, Norina Matchabelli, Elizabeth Patterson, Nadine Tolstoy, Margaret Craske and others of Baba's early Western disciples. She endured many hardships and much suffering to maintain her relationship with this group. They were her connection and her hope of one day meeting her Beloved Baba.

Apparently she was severely tested during these years and she was a virtual treasurehouse of stories about Baba and His work in America through these great disciples. She seemingly had a photographic memory about all of these things and over the years we spent many hours, often until two or three o'clock in the morning, absolutely lost in the magic of these times.

When questioned about the source of her quotes or stories, her stock reply would be, "It's in the *Awakener*." And it always was, whenever I checked. She had a large archive of materials for the *Awakener*, a quarterly publication she so lovingly tended over thirty years, often with no help and usually with financial strain. A lot of the material was given to her directly by Baba and much of it remains unpublished. Probably because of the *Awakener* was she allowed continual mail access to Baba, even during periods while Baba was in seclusion when most others were forbidden to write.

In 1979, Filis invited me to accompany her to India both as a companion and to help her through the rigors of the journey. Naturally the friction that Baba stirs up ensued as soon as we arrived. It took the form of Filis' almost constant snoring and my almost total lack of sleep. This drove me to the limits of my patience, but her sweetness won out as she would innocently insist,

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# NEWSLETTER

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continued from the first page

"But I can't hear myself snoring," and I just couldn't stay mad. The trip was very special and I felt privileged to share in and witness her joy at being there, especially at the Samadhi and when she would visit with Mehera.

I remember so many other stories and times with Filis, including our 1981 trip to Australia where she was the guest speaker at the anniversary celebration at Avatars Abode. She was particularly happy to be with Frances Brabazon, whom she deeply admired, as she was a talented poet in her own right. It was during this visit that she inadvertently stirred up a controversy among the Australian Baba lovers. Filis was a feminist and a liberated woman long before it was in vogue, and her talks to the Australian women naturally reflected her ideas about how they could be more involved in the affairs of the group there. This was quite at odds with the ideas of the Australian men as to the role of women, and some were very upset. I don't think she realized how deep were the sensibilities that she offended.



My favorite memory of Filis is when in 1977 a group of us took Adi K. Irani to San Francisco on BART, our local subway, and we went to a revolving restaurant on top of a large hotel. The drink of the day on the menu was a Banana Nirvana and we felt this was a nice little Baba touch to the occasion. Later as we toured the huge atrium lobby of the hotel, there was a band serenading the patrons of one of the lobby restaurants. We requested *Begin the Beguine* and when they played it, Filis and Jack Small spontaneously began to waltz around the lobby even though there was no dance floor. Somehow that incident has always stuck with me as a reminder of the innocence and spontaneity she expressed in her love for her Beloved.

Filis had many times intimated that she remembered being my mother in past lives and somehow this seemed naturally right to me as it explained the closeness we felt with one another. A few days before she died I visited her in the hospital. This was an unexpected visit for her and she started crying when she saw me and her lips just said, "Surprise." This was obviously a goodbye visit and we held hands and shed tears; she was in great discomfort and seemingly too weak to talk. I was immersed in the overwhelming feeling of peace and of Baba's presence in that hospital room. After awhile, I became restless with the silence and somehow blurted out, "Maybe you'll be my mother again." Abruptly she sat up and with a suddenly found vigor said rather sternly, "I just want Baba." Most of all, that is how I'll remember Filis.

## POEMS BY FILIS

The spark of Creation is still there  
In His Adam-eye  
I saw it fleck and flare  
As I stood by  
As I, burned witness, stood  
Silent, in Meher wood.

.....

I saw all Bliss  
In His Eyes  
I saw all Love  
In His Heart  
Out of His Mouth  
Came the Silence of Truth.

.....

Where will He run  
Where will He run  
God in His little gold shoes  
-- And may we run along?

---

## RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held on April 4, 1987 at the Albany Methodist Church. Following is the new Board of Directors elected from the slate presented: Louise Barrie, Bing Heckman, Ron Greenstein, Michael LePage, Karen Lundegaard, Malinda McCulloch, Carol Singer.

The nominating committee for 1988 is: Alisa Genovese, Harold Jamison, Ben Leet, David Miotke, Lee Wright.

After discussion, a new name was selected for the group from the options offered. Henceforth we shall be known as: MEHER BABA CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.

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# C A L E N D A R

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**FRIDAY-SATURDAY MEETINGS** - Meher Baba meetings are held at the Albany Methodist Church, Stannage Avenue and Marin in Albany. The first meeting of each month is on Saturday, with the remainder on Friday. All meetings commence at 7:30 PM with time for visiting before the program begins at 8:00 PM sharp. To check for program changes call (415) 845-4339.

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## **JUNE 6th (Saturday) - MEHER BABA AND THE ARTS**

An evening of music and poetry dedicated to Meher Baba. This program received great reviews when it was first presented at Shared Visions in March. Don't miss it. Coordinator: Ben Leet.

## **JUNE 12th - BABA, BABA, BABA...**

Repeating the name of God has been important in every culture. Baba has revitalized this age-old practice for us. Come share your experiences in tonight's discussion. Coordinator: Larry Pesta.

## **JUNE 19th - IMPRESSIONS OF INDIA**

Herman Lowe and Jim Hastings recently returned from two months in India, including Amriti and Baba's birthday. They also visited sites in northern India associated with Baba. They will illustrate their talk with slides.

## **JUNE 26th - SPORTS, GAMES AND MEHER BABA**

Over the years Baba made many interesting comments about sports and games. We will present these comments along with a discussion of how athletes may bring Baba into their recreation. Coordinator: Harold Jamison.

## **JULY 4th - NO MEETING TONIGHT**

There will be no meeting tonight because so many of our members are attending the Sahavas in Southern California.

## **JULY 10th (Friday) - SILENCE DAY: 10 TO 10 ON THE 10th**

In remembrance of Baba's Silence, our meeting place will be open from 10 AM to 10 PM. Drop by during the day, then come for films from 8 to 9:30 PM. A special area will be set aside with Baba's sardra, picture and flowers. Also available: lending library, bookstore, tapes.

## **JULY 11th (Saturday) - SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: BILL LE PAGE**

Bill Le Page, who first met Baba in 1954 in India, will be with us tonight to share stories and reflections on his contacts with Baba over succeeding decades. Coordinator: Michael Le Page.

## **JULY 12th (Sunday) - BARBIE AND BILLY TEA WITH BILL LE PAGE**

Join us from 3 PM on for a pot luck barbeque at the home of Michael Le Page, 846 Seaview, El Cerrito. Phone 525-8416. Bring salads, desserts and drinks (main dishes provided - maybe even a shrimp or two!).

## **JULY 17th - DREAMS, VISIONS AND MEHER BABA**

Meher Baba has touched the lives of many of his lovers through dreams and visions. After presenting some of these stories, we will discuss some of Baba's own comments on such phenomena and share how they have played a part in our own lives. Coordinators: Karen Lundegaard and Ron Greenstein.

## **JULY 25th (Saturday, 7 - 9 PM) - KIDS' NIGHT**

Puppet show, magic tricks and entertainment by kids for kids and adults. Come share the fun! Coordinator: Patti Lough.

## **AUGUST 1st (Saturday) - FILMS OF AVATAR MEHER BABA**

Coordinator: Michael Le Page.

**REMINDER:** There are no meetings scheduled for the remainder of August. Looking forward to seeing everyone in September.

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### **MEHER BABA CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC.**

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*Board of Directors:* Louise Barrie • Bing Heckman • Ron Greenstein • Michael Le Page • Karen Lundegaard • Malinda McCulloch • Carol Singer.  
*Coordinators:* Program, Karen Lundegaard • Finance, Ron Greenstein • Membership, Bing Heckman • Publicity, Harold Jamison • Service, Carol Singer • Archives, Michael Le Page • Bookstore, Ben Leet.

# BEGUINE BULLETIN

## MEHER MOUNT UPDATE

We are pleased to report that some good progress has been made toward making Meher Mount habitable for Agnes Baron (a major fire burned out her home in October, 1985).

Agnes had been living on Meher Mount in a small trailer with very limited facilities since September, 1986. A mobile home has been set up along with water, electrical and sanitary services. A water system was put in place to provide basic water pressure and avoid contamination that was a concern with the existing stagnant supply reservoir (a forty-year-old swimming pool). The new system includes filtration of the high sulphur content. Hot water is also provided for the first time in several decades.

The provisions for basic habitability have resulted in some accrued debts, and any contributions large or small to help pay them off would be appreciated very much. Checks can be made payable to "Meher Mount Fund," and all contributions can be sent to:

Agnes Baron  
Meher Mount  
9902 Sulphur Mountain Road  
Ojai, CA 93023

## ARTI

Each Sunday morning at 10:00 AM, Arti will be performed at the home of Ron and Lisa Greenstein, 600 Albemarle, El Cerrito. Phone: (415) 525-3364.



## BOOKSTORE NEWS

Several new books and other interesting items have arrived. The following is a sampling:

1. *Practical Spirituality with Meher Baba* by John Grant. The story of Baba's visits to Australia.
2. *Is That So?* by Bill LePage. A compilation of stories from Eruch.
3. *The Silent Master* edited by Irwin Luck. A collection of quotations enjoyed by Baba. The companion to the film soon to be completed by Meher Baba Archives.
4. *The Compassionate One* by Meher Baba Information. A revised introductory pamphlet.
5. *The Road to Meherabad* by 3-D Jones. A new tape sung by the Jones sisters. Available from Meher Prasad.

## TRUSTWALLA

Our Trustwalla is Jenny Califf. All who wish to share in fulfilling the commitments laid down by Baba through the instrument of the Trust should contact Jenny c/o Safeguard, 74 14th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Phone: (415) 864-3377.

## MEHER BABA INFORMATION - "THE BOX"

Worknights at Meher Baba Information are Thursdays, 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Work ranges from responding to requests for information to processing orders for books and other literature, and many new projects. If you would like to help, call Rick Chapman or Gary Freeman at (415) 562-1101.

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# QUARTERLY

N E W S L E T T E R

2131 UNIVERSITY AVE., RM. 235  
VOL. 16

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704  
FALL 1987

## MEHER BABA'S WORK IS OUR OPPORTUNITY

By Charles Haynes



As lovers of Avatar Meher Baba we know that this is a special and unique time in the unfolding of His Divine Work to awaken humanity. This is both the time of deep intimacy with the Beloved and the universal manifestation of His love. Now, more than ever, He is most available to all who approach Him with love. Thus there is a sense of urgency in the air as Baba calls us to take advantage of His availability by deepening our inner connection with Him, while at the same time doing our part to share in the work of His manifestation.

The immediacy and significance of Baba's call to action was driven home to me once again last fall with the passing of Pendu and Rano. The men and women who have served Meher Baba best, those he called His mandali, are leaving the stage. I feel as though the Beloved is completing the dropping of His physical body now that His companions, His hands and feet in the world, are rejoining Him. As this change takes place, Baba is releasing His love more and more to waiting hearts everywhere. Simultaneously, He is pushing His lovers onto the stage to play a greater role in His work.

Naturally, as the mandali leave, many of us ask ourselves if we are ready and able to carry the torch of His love in the world. As the world experiences His love and asks about His ways, are we prepared to tell the Story? Fortunately, we can take comfort in the fact that the Avatar does His own work in spite of the limitations of his workers! At the same time, we also know that Baba uses His lovers as instruments in His awakening, and He asks us to put our whole hearts into the work He gives us to do. "My work," He tells us, "is your opportunity." Why are we given such an opportunity? "I allow you to work for Me," Baba says, "so that you have the opportunity to use your talents and capacities selflessly and so draw closer to Me."

Though we may not feel ready or worthy to do His work, we cannot complain that we have had no time to

love and learn of Me while I am so fully present with you."

To this day, we can sit on His porch with Mehera, the beloved of the Beloved, and sit by His chair with those who lived and worked with Him daily. Such intimacy is a blessing beyond words, given to a very few. How fortunate are Beloved Baba's lovers to be allowed to inhale the fragrance of His Divinity while hearing the Story of His humanity! Now that He is taking His mandali to Him, and we are called to a greater work, we may find ourselves scrambling a bit to be sure that we have taken full advantage of this rare chance to catch hold of Him.

The days of intimate contact with the Beloved through His mandali are dwindling to a precious few. But even as these special days pass away, and He takes His dear ones Home, a new and exciting chapter of His Life with us begins. While we can only see the tip of the iceberg of His work, reports from everywhere signal a new surge of His love in hearts throughout the world. A record number of new people are coming to His Home in Myrtle Beach, and many Baba groups throughout the world report new activity and new energy.

Ready or not, the time has come for us to take our places on the stage of His divine love drama. We need not feel unready, because His timing is always perfect. And we should not mind our unworthiness, because He has chosen us just as we are. In fact, our very unworthiness is the precondition for sharing in His Work, enabling us to remember that He alone does the Real Work.

Our Beloved invites us with open arms to be workers in this glorious time of His Awakening. As he has so often reminded us, this is the opportunity of many, many lifetimes: "At this stage you cannot know what real Love is, but through working for Me as you should

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# NEWSLETTER

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continued from the first page

work for Me, you will arrive at that ripeness where, in a moment, I can give you That which you have been seeking for millions of years."

Avatar Meher Baba ki jai! The victory is His.



## SONG OF THE NEW LIFE

Listen to the silent words of Meher Baba;  
The life of all lovers of God is in these words.  
You who are serious to follow the New Life  
Will renounce your ephemeral existence.

We have taken to this life in which we rely only upon  
God;  
Our will is strengthened by our oath.  
We merrily sing the song of hopelessness;  
We invite all calamities and difficulties.

We neither wail over lost hopes, nor complain about  
promises,  
Or covet honor, or shun disgrace.  
Back-biting is ended and we do not fear anyone;  
This is the tenor of our New Life.

No confusion in the mind now, neither are any ties left;  
Pride, anger, lust and greed are sloughed off.  
No religion for any of us, nor care for physical and  
mental aims.  
The Sheikh and the Brahmin are now in the same boat.

There is for us all no small or great.  
Neither disciple, master, nor Godhood exist.  
Brotherliness is the link,  
And our common enjoyment of suffering.

This world or the next, hell or heaven, we are no longer  
concerned with.  
*Shaktis* and *siddhis*, occultism and miracles, we are no  
longer plagued with.  
All false impressions have been purged from the mind;  
Now we live with the active present.

Dear ones, take seriously the words of Baba.  
"Although now I am on the same level with you,  
Yet all orders from me, good, bad, or extraordinary,  
You should carry out immediately, leaving the result to  
God.

"Even if the heavens fall,  
Do not let go the hand of Truth;  
Let not despair or disappointment ravage and destroy the  
garden of your life;  
You beautify it by contentment and self-sufficiency.

"Even though your heart be cut to bits, let a smile be on  
your lips.  
Here I divulge to you a truth:  
Hidden in your empty hands is treasure untold;  
Your beggarly life is the envy of kings.

"God exists indeed, and true are the Prophets,  
Every cycle has an Avatar, and every moment a *wali*.  
For us, however, it is only hopelessness and  
helplessness,  
How else can I describe to you what our New Life is?"

A translation of the song  
composed by Dr. Ghani  
31 October 1949



## The New Life will be kept alive by those:

Who live the life of complete renunciation of falsehood, lies, hatred, anger, greed and lust; and who to accomplish all this, do no lustful actions, do no harm to anyone, do no backbiting, do not seek material possessions or power, who accept no homage, neither covet honour nor shun disgrace, and fear no one and nothing; by those, who rely wholly and solely on God, and who love God purely for the sake of loving, who believe in the lovers of God and in the reality of Manifestation, and yet do not expect any spiritual and material reward; who do not let go the hand of Truth, and who, without being upset by calamities, bravely and whole-heartedly face all hardships with 100% cheerfulness, and give no importance to caste, creed and religious ceremonies.

This New Life will live by itself eternally, even if there is no one to live it.

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# C A L E N D A R

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## **SEPTEMBER 12th (Saturday) - FILMS OF AVATAR MEHER BABA**



Coordinator: Michael LePage.

## **SEPTEMBER 18th - DEVOTIONAL PROGRAM**

An evening of songs, readings, short talks and films presented by Larry Pesta. Coordinator: Bing Heckman.

## **SEPTEMBER 25th - SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: DICK ANTHONY**

Tonight Dick Anthony will speak on "Following Meher Baba as an Internal Master". There will be a discussion after the talk. Coordinator: Louise Barrie.

## **OCTOBER 3rd (Saturday) - "THE ANCIENT ONE"**

A repeat of the internationally acclaimed multimedia slide show produced by Cherie Dreyfuss, Ed Van Buskirk and Michael LePage. Coordinator: Bing Heckman.

## **OCTOBER 9th - SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: URSULA VAN BUSKIRK**

Ursula met Meher Baba in March, 1966. Tonight she will share with us the story of that meeting and the travels that led to it. Coordinator: Louise Barrie.

## **OCTOBER 16th - THE NEW LIFE**

A special meeting celebrating the anniversary of the beginning of Meher Baba's New Life. Presented by Larry Pesta. Coordinator: Bing Heckman.

## **OCTOBER 23rd - RELATIONSHIPS AND BABA**

Tonight's panel and group discussion will focus on how our relationships with family, friends and dear ones are affected by our relationship with Meher Baba. Coordinator: Carol Singer.

## **NOVEMBER 1st (Sunday) - FILM FESTIVAL**



Come savor an afternoon of films of Avatar Meher Baba. The location and times will be announced.

## **NOVEMBER 7th (Saturday) - SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: RICK CHAPMAN**

"A Meeting With Meher Baba: The Avatar of the Age". Rick first met Meher Baba in 1966 and will share the impact of that meeting with us tonight. This program will be of interest to people who are newly acquainted with Meher Baba as well as to old timers. Coordinator: Bing Heckman.

## **NOVEMBER 13th - BABA AND BRINGING UP CHILDREN**

Tonight's panel and discussion promises to be a lively one! Coordinator: Louise Barrie.

## **NOVEMBER 21st (Saturday) - CONCERT FUND RAISER**



Join in an evening of musical entertainment with a focus on Baba. Our special guest will be announced. Coordinator: Malinda McCulloch.

## **NOVEMBER 27th - REMEMBERING BABA**

Come share in a group discussion of the ways we commune with and remember Baba. Coordinator: Ron Greenstein.

## **DECEMBER 5th (Saturday) - PHOTO FESTIVAL AND SALE**

A special event to make the photos taken by each and all available to one another. Come and view each other's collections and place your orders for copies. Just in time for Christmas, too! Please contact Ron Greenstein at (415) 525-3364 so we can share your special prints or slides. Coordinators: Ron Greenstein and Karen Lundegaard.

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Coordinators: Program, Karen Lundegaard • Finance, Ron Greenstein • Membership, Bing Heckman • Publicity, Harold Jamison • Service, Carol Singer • Archives, Michael LePage • Bookstore, Ben Leet.

## BOARD MEETINGS

Meher Baba Center of Northern California Board meetings are open to all members. Call Karen Lundegaard at (415) 549-1736 for the date and time of upcoming meetings.

## PHONE TREE

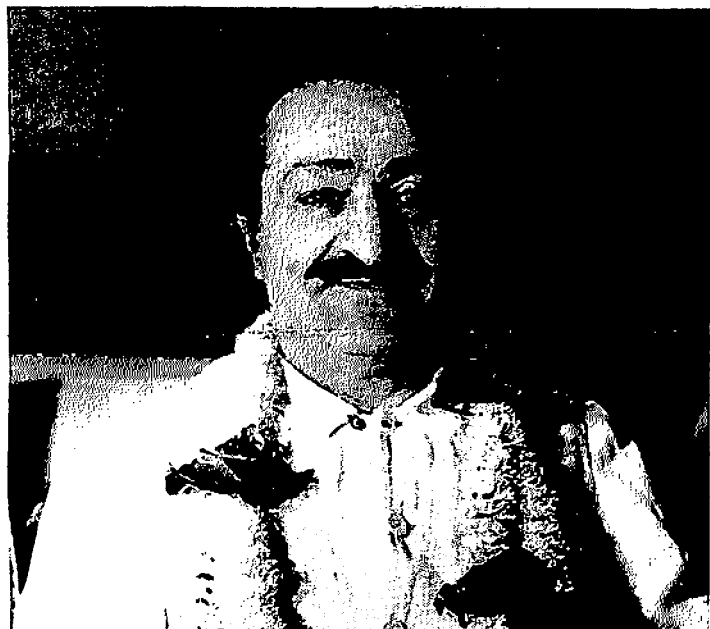
We are attempting to organize a workable phone tree. If you have not been contacted and would like to be included, please mail your name, area code and phone number to the office or leave the information on the office answering machine, (415) 845-4339.

## MEHER BABA INFORMATION - "THE BOX"

Worknights at Meher Baba Information are Thursdays, 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Work ranges from responding to requests for information to processing orders for books and other literature, and many new projects. If you would like to help, call Rick Chapman or Gary Freeman at (415) 562-1101.

## CHILDREN'S BARBEQUE

On Saturday, September 5 a barbeque will be held at the home of the Stovalls, 954 Acalanes Road, Lafayette, CA. The festivities will begin at 11:00 AM and all ages are welcome. Please bring snacks, salads or desserts to share; main course and juice will be provided. Call Annie Stovall at (415) 284-2773 for more information.



## ARTI

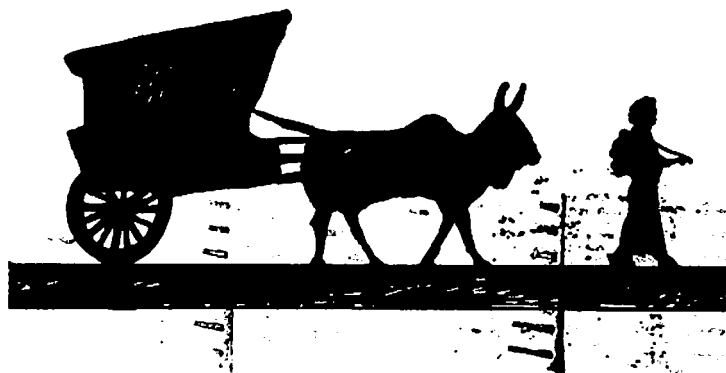
Each Sunday morning at 10:00 AM, Arti is performed at the home of Ron and Lisa Greenstein, 600 Albemarle, El Cerrito. Phone: (415) 525-3364.

## TRUSTWALLA

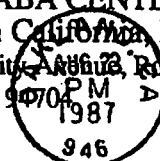
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## REMINDER

There are sometimes last minute changes in the meeting schedule. Please check the answering machine at the office, (415) 845-4339 for up-to-date information.



MEHER BABA CENTER  
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2131 University Avenue, Room 235  
Berkeley, CA 94704



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# QUARTERLY

N E W S L E T T E R

2131 UNIVERSITY AVE., RM. 235  
VOL. 17

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704  
WINTER 1988

## AN INTERVIEW WITH BHAU KALCHURI



water is now being obtained from Ahmadnagar. Through great difficulty and much bureaucratic red tape the Trust was able to obtain permission to transport water across a municipal limit. Because the entire area around Meherabad is a drought stricken area there are severe rules pertaining to water and its uses. In explaining the exceptional privilege of obtaining this

water Bhau stated "...but this is just Baba's compassion, I should say. Baba's help that we could get the supply...Still more water is needed each year as more and more pilgrims come...Beloved makes the arrangements...according to the need. So water facility to a certain extent is solved." To help with water retention the second objective is a re-forestation program, trees are planted to help hold water in the land. This is an ongoing program.

The third objective is the facilities to house the pilgrims. At present there is the Pilgrim Center housing about 56 people at a time. Darmashala houses about 26 pilgrims, and there are three large hostels to accommodate a large number of pilgrims. Amarthithi draws thousands of people each year with more coming each year. In 1987 25,000 people paid homage at the tomb of Meher Baba, 5000 of which stayed in the current facilities for three days. Accommodations were not sufficient so in 1988 a new hostel was built and accommodations were increased by 3,000 more. The new hostel is the same size as previous three, but of multi-purpose construction. There will be a stage built so that the facility will be utilized for plays, skits, etc. during programs and holidays. Construction is ongoing, with focus on bathrooms and toilets. The fourth objective is land accumulation. At present there is enough land to hold Amarthithi programs (about 250 acres total) but each year there are thousands more to accommodate. In India there are very strict regulations concerning land purchasing and development. At present there are about 35 acres purchased at the back of Baba's tomb, at least 70 more are needed for buildings and facilities. 39 have been allocated for medical facilities and 39 acres of land have been allocated for use in educational programs. 100 more acres are needed to accommodate future pilgrims coming to celebrate Amarthithi based on projections comparable to Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

In India regulations set the limit of owning agricultural land to 50 acres. Non-agricultural land has no limit, but it must have a building(s) currently in use or a home being occupied on it. To convert land from agricultural (land with no buildings) to

On Sept. 1, 1988, Chris Pearson interviewed , Bhau Kalchuri. The topics covered in the interview concerned the Avatar Meher Baba Trust (firstly) and the Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust. The article which follows is a brief synopsis and contains quotes of Bhau Kalchuri's.

Bhau began his interview by giving a brief history of the Trust . He stated "Avatar Meher Baba Trust was created in the year 1959 by Baba Himself. But the Trust was dormant for ten years when Baba was physically present. He would not allow the trustees to take donations. After he dropped his body the Trust started functioning. There are two Trusts: one is Avatar Meher Baba Trust (firstly), and the other is Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust." Both Trusts are set at Meherabad, India.

In AMBT there are 41 beneficiaries named by Baba Himself. Funds received for this Trust are used for the support and well-being of the beneficiaries so that they may continue to concentrate on the tasks assigned to them by Baba. On the event of death, the deceased members share of funds is turned over to the AMBPPCT. Upon the death of the last beneficiary the AMBT will cease to exist. As it stands now 50% of all funds received by the AMBT currently goes to the AMBPPCT with the remaining to be divided equally by the living beneficiaries.

The AMBPPCT is the Trust that addresses the details of accommodating the pilgrims, the continuation of the spiritual work begun by Avatar Meher Baba, and the various projects undertaken by the trust in Baba's name. Bhau is certain that no other Trust in India has so many objectives.

The first objective of the Trust is to provide adequate water for lands, villages, citizens and pilgrims. Meherabad is a drought stricken area. Baba gave priority to all water facilities. Currently there are 26 open wells and 12 more wells and still requirements cannot be met. Water cannot be obtained from Arangaon, the closest village, for they cannot meet their own requirements. Bhau was pleased to report that additional

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# N E W S L E T T E R

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non-agricultural (land with buildings), construction must begin and be completed within a specified time span. This is the regulation that severely limits the Trust's ability to buy land. Also, foreigners cannot buy land themselves so special arrangements must be made for them.

Bhau expressed his concern that in the future people will think that the current Trust did not concern itself with the land problem. That people will think that they should have purchased thousands of acres immediately. Because of legal difficulties this is impossible. To use Bhau's words "...not that we don't think about it, but we are just helpless because the law is there."

Further objectives for the Trust are the medical and educational facilities. The medical facilities include a dispensary, a hospital, and a veterinary clinic for animals. The dispensary is completely paid for by the Trust. It has been ongoing for many years and serves the medical needs of Arangoan and surrounding villages. Dr. Alan Scott will be giving a presentation of his experiences at the dispensary (see calendar for details). The Meher Hospital building is continually under construction and this past month marked the first series of eye operations performed there. There was a joint effort between the government of India and the Trust, in sharing the expenses for the patients needing this operation.

The educational facilities include a farmers educational center, primary and high school buildings. Plans are underway for the construction of a college building. All building and operational costs are paid for by the Trust.

The farmers educational center brings experts from universities in to help the local farmers with their crops. The primary school started two years ago with a kindergarten, last year a first grade was added, this year a second grade. The high school is fully operational. A college will be added to continue the education of the students currently in the high school. Both English and Marathi mediums are used. Scholarships are available to students from surrounding villages for higher educational purposes if they pass their primary school examinations. Aid is also given to surrounding villages for use in upgrading their educational programs.

Bhau was then asked about the plans for the superstructure that is to be built to protect Baba's tomb. Bhau stated "It is under the deed. This is Baba's wish that superstructure will be constructed. So superstructure of course, we are going to construct, but it will take time...time in the sense of course, under income tax law, medical and educational...these are the two objects which are considered "public charitable", so we must fulfill those objects. Afterwards when all the "public charitable" objects which are under the Trust deed are fulfilled, then we will have full concentration on the superstructure. And it will

be a monumental building. So we will devote time for that, but planning of course...we will not be there when the work will start, we will die. So the planning will be there so that when it is time, the work can be taken up. Ted and others are interested in submitting plans so we just asked them...all right you just submit illustrations and prepare them. Afterwards we will decide."

Chris remembered getting a circular several years back from Mani suggesting that Baba Lovers donate \$10.00 per month.

That these monies would be sufficient to keep the Trust running. Bhau said that the Trust had now come to another conclusion about funding and donations. They have decided not to ask for funding from Baba lovers. He stated that when pilgrims came to India that they would see the many projects that were underway in Baba's name. He stressed the donations should come from people's own hearts and should not inconvenience them unduly. Bhau also recommended that donations be made through the trustwalla because they had specific instructions about how to send funds and which tax breaks could be taken advantage of, and how to allocate funds for specific projects. Bhau suggested that all donations not being sent for beneficiaries should be allocated for a specific propose (such as educational supplies, bandages, etc.) to help with tax breaks.

When asked if there was anything else he wished to discuss Bhau made the following statement "You ask me...I can tell...but this is true...that the Trust projects are just expanding and expanding and we need money for that. It is not that we don't need money, but at the same time now, we think that Baba Lovers they are growing and growing, and they are also aware of that fact. So why should they not take up the initiative. Initiative in the sense that they should give what they can and not be inconvenienced or uncomfortable. Whatever they can spare, and that out of love, through their hearts. They should send on their own. They should not just think that the Trust should give any instruction about it. From their hearts they should donate, out of love for Baba."

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## MEHER BABA CENTER OF NORTHERN CA, INC

President, Bing Heckman • Vice-President, Irene Meyers • Secretary, Janice Quatrieri • Treasurer, Karen Lundegaard • Office Manager, Fred White.

*Board of Directors* : Louise Barrie • Lisa Greenstein • Joe Elia • Bing Heckman • Irene Meyers • Janice Quartieri • Fred White

*Coordinators*: Program, Louise Barrie • Finance, Lisa Greenstein • Membership, Janice Quartieri • Publicity, Bing Heckman • Service, Janice Quartieri • Archives, Michael LePage • Bookstore, Ben Leet • Newsletter, Melissa Penn.

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## BOARD MEETINGS

Meher Baba Center of Northern California Board meetings are open to all members. Call Janice Quartieri at (415) 527-6739 for the date and time of upcoming meetings.

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# C A L E N D A R

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**FRIDAY-SATURDAY MEETINGS** - Meher Baba meetings are held at the Albany Methodist Church, Stannage Avenue and Marin in Albany. The first meeting of each month is on Saturday, with the remainder on Friday. All programs begin at 8:00 PM sharp and normally end at 9:30 PM with time for visiting before and after the meeting. To check for program changes call (415) 845-4339.

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## **DECEMBER 3RD (Saturday) - STORIES MEHER BABA TOLD PART II**

A continuation of the popular meeting from last quarter. Storytellers will share favorite tales as told by Avatar Meher Baba. Coordinators: Irene Meyers & Louise Barrie.

## **DECEMBER 9TH - MEHER HOSPITAL**

Dr. Alan Scott will discuss his experiences working in the dispensary at Meher Hospital (in Meherabad). He will also talk about the need for supplies and support. Slides will be shown. Coordinators: Janice Quartieri & Fred White.

## **DECEMBER 16TH - MEHERA'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND FILM NIGHT**

A brief talk and film on Avatar Meher Baba's most devoted lover. Share your favorite Mehera story over ice cream and cake! Coordinators: Melissa Penn & Janice Quartieri.

## **DECEMBER 23RD - NO MEETING - HAPPY MEHERMAS!!**

## **DECEMBER 30TH - NO MEETING AT ALBANY CHURCH - BUT - SPECIAL VIDEO NIGHT AT THE HOME OF JANET & FRED WHITE. 7:30-10:00P**

Videos of Baba will be shown. Please call to RSVP and receive directions (843-4417) as seating is limited.

## **JANUARY 7TH - DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY DANCE PARTY & BAKE SALE!**

Dance away the post-holiday blues too "DWBH" and other hits of the late kaliyuga. Suggested donation \$5.00. Coordinators: Lisa Greenstein & Janice Quartieri.

## **JANUARY 13TH - BABA BABA BABA**

Larry Pesta leads a talk and discussion on the importance of repeating Baba's name. Coordinators: Bing Heckman & Louise Barrie.

## **JANUARY 20TH- GROWING UP WITH BABA**

A panel of Baba lovers will share their experiences of growing up in Baba families. Coordinators: Janice Quartieri & Fred White.

## **JANUARY 27TH - HOW I CAME TO BABA**

A panel of guests will speak of their personal experiences in coming to Baba. Coordinators: Ron Greenstein & Irene Meyers.

## **JANUARY 30 - (MONDAY) AMARTITHI 9:00PM**

January 31st is the 19th Amartithi, the anniversary of Beloved Baba's physical passing in 1969. At Baba's samadhi (tomb) on Meherabad Hill in India, 15 minutes of silence are observed by the throng of lovers that gather there each year on this occasion, from noon to 12:15 pm when Baba dropped the body. Our special

Amartithi program will culminate in 15 minutes of silence from 10:30 pm to 10:45 pm, simultaneous with all the lovers at the samadhi. Our Amartithi celebration will feature slides, readings, and just before the 15 minute silence time, the special film of Beloved Baba's entombment known as "The Last Darshan" will be shown. Coordinators: Janice Quartieri & Ray Powell.

## **FEBRUARY 4TH - EXPERIENCES WITH BABA**

Robert Dreyfus, who met Meher Baba in 1965 and spent four years living with the Mandali in India, will give a talk about his experiences. Coordinators: Louise Barrie & Irene Meyers.

## **FEBRUARY 10 - IMAGINATION - A TALK & DISCUSSION WITH GREG HARLAND.**

Recently arrived from LA, Greg is re-presenting a talk he gave in southern California. This talk concerns using imagination to enter the world of mental life, making mental contact with Avatar Meher Baba to expand one's spiritual experience. Coordinators : Greg Harland & Melissa Penn

## **FEBRUARY 17 - INTRODUCTION TO MEHER BABA , A BRIEF LOOK AT HIS LIFE & TIMES**

A multi-media introduction to Meher Baba's life, message, and Avatarhood...music, readings, and film. For those new as well as old to Meher Baba's message. Coordinators: Lisa Greenstein & Melissa Penn.

## **FEBRUARY 25 (Saturday) BABA'S 94TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

Stay tuned for further information!  
Coordinator : Joe Elia & Board Members

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## **OTHER BABA MEETINGS !!**

**FRESNO** : Meetings on wednesday evenings - 7:30 - 8:30pm.  
For info call Sharon or Phil Scott : (209) 266-9094.

**SACRAMENTO** : Meeting is first friday of every month at 6728 Fair Oaks Blvd. #406, Carmichael. For info call Marilyn Buehler : (916) 966-4740 or Marie Rhodes : (916) 723-6631.

**SAN FRANCISCO** : Meeting/dinner first friday of every month. Enjoy an evening of wining & dining at local restaurants. Share stories, conversation & connections. RSVP a must!! Call Larry Pesta (415) 441-7008 at least two days prior to event. Guests welcome.

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### TRUSTWALLA

Our Trustwalla is Jenny Califf who is currently serving her fourth year in this responsible position. Many thanks Jenny for your contribution ! All who wish to share on fulfilling the commitments laid down by Baba through the instrument of the Trust should contact Jenny c/o Safeguard, 74 14th Street, SF 94103 Phone : (415) 864-3377

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### FUND RAISER A GREAT SUCCESS !!

This years rummage sale rained in dollars...1800 of them to be exact!! Our heart felt appreciation to Cindy Lowe for her hard work and dedication in the making of this successful event. Let's remember to save for next years sale!!

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### OTHER COMMENDATIONS

It's time to say goodbye to two members who've stepped down from many years of service. Alan Talbot has turned over the position of treasurer to Karen Lundegaard. Alan served as treasurer for 8 years. We appreciate your dedicated service of balancing the budget, Alan (which is more than we can say for some members of public service)!

Ben & Lee Wright have left the newsletter staff, turning the work over to Melissa Penn. Both Ben & Lee served long and well, surviving deadlines and changes in getting our newsletter out in a timely fashion in spite of it all. Thank you Ben & Lee for your excellent service in creating the professional publication we've all grown to appreciate !

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### CHRISTMAS SALE

Sunday December 4th, 1-3pm

The Greenstein's will host a showing & sale of Ray Powell's imports. 20% of the money received from the sale will be donated to the Meher Baba Center of No. California. Call for directions: (415) 525-3364.

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### CHRISTMAS POTLUCK !!

Janice Quartieri is interested in sharing her home for a potluck on Christmas Day. Suggested time is 4pm. If interested please give her a call ASAP to make arrangements. (415) 527-6739.

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Anyone interested in the coordinating of making sandwiches for the poor over Christmas holidays should contact Janice Quartieri (415) 527-6739.

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### MEHER BABA INFORMATION - "THE BOX"

Worknights at Meher Baba Information are Thursdays 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Work ranges from responding to requests for information to processing orders for books and other literature, and many new projects. If you would like to help, call Rick Chapman or Gary Freeman at (415) 562-1101.

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### RAFFLE!!

Elena Alvarado has hand-made with love a quilt which she has donated for a raffle. The quilt can be seen and raffle tickets bought at meetings for \$1.00 per ticket. The drawing date will be announced.

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MEHER BABA CENTER  
of Northern California, Inc.  
2131 University Avenue, Room 235  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
938



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# QUARTERLY

N E W S L E T T E R

2131 UNIVERSITY AVE., RM. 235  
VOL. 17

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704  
SPRING 1988

## Quest for Perfection in Oriental Mysticism

*The following are excerpts from a paper prepared by John Bussanich. Thank you John, for permission to reprint these portions.*



The subject I wish to address in this paper is one that is far removed from what we might call normal human experience. So I hope you will indulge my admission at the outset that I don't understand what I'm talking about, i.e. the experiences I propose to discuss are far beyond my own and, I would add, of the vast majority of human beings. But this should not deter us from considering, sympathetically I hope, some of the most remarkable achievements of the human spirit. By the quest for perfection I mean something rather specific: the notion of deification or God-realization. I have chosen to explore this theme in the lives and writings of several Oriental mystics largely because the evidence for it is much more abundant in the Oriental traditions than it is in the West.

I would like to quote at some length from the Visionary Diary of Ruzbihan al-Baqli not only because it contains stunning accounts of the mystic's approach to God but also because this text has not been published:

*I saw God on the roof of my house, with the qualities of might, majesty, and eternity. I saw as it were the world entire, a resplendent light, manifold and great. And he called me from the midst of the light, seventy times: "Ruzbihan, I have chosen you for sainthood and selected you for love. You are my friend and lover. Fear not nor sorrow, for I am your God, and I see you in your every aim." I saw as it were from zenith to nadir that he was an ocean, and it was like a shining sun. My mouth opened without my willing it, and all of the ocean entered into my mouth. No drop remained without my drinking it.*

*I saw God once again, in the most beautiful form, and I loved him for his beauty and qualities, and I was worried about nearness and union with him. And I did not stay distant, but humbled myself. Then he appeared to me with something in his hand. I said, "My God, what is this?" He said, "Your heart." I said, "Has my heart such a station that it lies in your hand?" He gazed at my heart, and it was like something folded up, so he spread it out. And my heart covered heaven and earth. I said, "This is my heart?" He said, "This is your heart, and it is the vastest of all things." He went as though it were still in his hand to the angelic re-*

*gions, and I went with him, until I reached the office of the Hidden of the Hidden. I said, "Where are you going?" And he said, "To the world of eternity, so that I may look in it, and create the wonders of reality in it, and forever manifest in it with the attribute of divinity." And I said, "With what quality do you exist in eternity?" He said,*

*"There is no way for you to know that." And I implored him and said, "I want that!" And the lights of greatness appeared, and I became vanishing and annihilated.*

*I saw one night a great ocean, and the sea was of red wine. I saw the Prophet sitting cross-legged in the midst of the deep ocean, drunk, and in his hand a cup of wine from that ocean, which he drank. When he saw me, he ladled out a cup of wine and gave it to me to drink. After that something was revealed to me, and I knew he was above all the rest of creation, since they die thirsty and he is drunk in the midst of the ocean of beauty. In the hidden world I saw a world illuminated with a brilliant light, and I saw God in the clothes of beauty and majesty and glory, and he gave me to drink from oceans of love, and honored me with the station of intimacy, and showed me the world of holiness. When I passed through the air of eternity I stopped at the door of power, and I saw all the prophets present, and I saw Moses with the Torah in his hand, Jesus with the Gospel in his hand, David with the Psalms in his hand, and Muhammed with the Quran in his hand. Adam imbued me with the Most Beautiful Divine Names, Moses nourished me with the Torah, Jesus nourished me with the gospel, David nourished me with the Psalms, and Muhammed nourished me with the Quran. I learned something of the elite and lordly sciences by which God possesses his saints and prophets.*

Now I turn to Tukaram whose accounts of searching for God, seeing God and becoming God have been discussed very little by scholars of mysticism. I begin with his painful experience of what many mystics have called the dark night of the soul, the state where everything is doubted:

*I have grown powerless to make my way. My cries are of no avail. Tuka does not know how to sacrifice himself to God and God has become indifferent to him. God's impotence is now proved. His name has no power. My love towards you is gradually diminishing. Enormous sin stands in the way. My mental agony increases. To me, God is dead.*

After this despair, Tukaram attains the mystical vision and God-realization.

*I see God's face, and the vision gives me infinite bliss. My mind is riveted on it, and my hands cling to his feet.*

*continued on the next page*

# NEWSLETTER

continued from the first page

*As I look at Him, all my mental agony vanishes. Bliss is leading me to an ever higher bliss.*

*I have become entirely careless of objects of sense. Divine joy is seething through my body. My whole body has been filled by the heat of Divine passion. My tongue has become uncontrollable, and ceaselessly utters the name of God. All my emotions have been unified in God, as the rivers in an ocean.*

*I cannot know the night from the day and the unceasing illumination exists at all times. How shall I be able to describe the great bliss I enjoy? I have worn the ornaments of Your names, and by Your power nothing is lacking to me.*

*When the body is emptied, God came to inhabit it. By my bodily death, the unending light began to burn. At one stroke, Tuka became non-existent, and his personality came to an end.*

*When God comes to live in a man, He deprives him of everything except Himself. The marks of God's presence are that He allows no desires in a Saint, nor any affection.*

*I gave birth to myself and came out of my own womb. All my desires are at an end, and my end is achieved. When I became powerful beyond measure, I died at the very moment.*

*Tuka looks on both sides, and sees Himself by himself.*

*Deep has called unto deep, and all things have vanished into unity. The waves and the ocean have become one. Nothing can come, and nothing can now pass away. The Self is enveloping Himself all around. The Time of the Great End has come, and sunset and sunrise have ceased. The death-cry "I am God" emerges loudly.*

*I will conclude this survey of dizzying experiences of becoming God with perhaps the most mind-shattering testimony of Bayid al-Bistami:*

*I vanished into almightiness, and forded the seas of dominion and the veils of godhead, until I came to the Throne; and behold, it was empty. So I cast myself upon it, saying "Master, where shall I seek You?" Then He unveiled, and I saw that I was I, turning back into what I sought, and I myself, not other than I, was where I was going.*

*Bistami got into serious difficulties for saying: "Glory be to Me! How Great is my Majesty!"*

*I gazed upon My Lord with the eye of certainty, after He had turned me away from other than Him and had illumined me with His light; and He showed me marvellous things of His secret. He also showed me His Selfhood, and I gazed upon my identity with His Selfhood; and there passed away my light in His light, my power in His power. And I gazed upon Him with His Selfhood.*

*You are the Seeker and You are the Sought.*

*He made me unique in his Uniqueness, and one in His Oneness; and He attributed me with His attributes. Go forth with my attributes unto my creatures, that I may see My Selfhood in your selfhood. Whosoever sees you will see Me.*

The status and function of the perfect man is a complex topic and one that has not been discussed very much. Tukaram speaks to this issue in these words:

*In order to continue the spiritual tradition, I have been crowned king of the spiritual world. The white umbrella now unfurls itself; the banner of the super-conscious state flutters in the air; the mystic sound fills the universe.*

*A Saint devotes himself entirely to the happiness of others. He worships God in helping his fellow beings. To us there are neither friends nor foes; for wherever I look, I see the vision of God.*

*Immense joy is derived from the feet of the Saints. It is for this reason that people live at their feet. One cannot even so much as stir from that place, as all of one's anxieties come to an end.*

*The Saint is indeed a boat by which one can cross the ocean of life uncontaminated by the stream of existence.*

*The Saints incarnate in this world only in order to uplift the unholy, and to increase happiness and devotion to God.*

*Saints are truly robbers, who on coming to the house, deprive the owner of his clothes and pots. They rob him of everything in his possession, and take it way to a place from which there is no return.*

*Sainthood can be acquired, says Tuka, only at the cost of life. He who is not prepared to sacrifice his life, should not brag of spirituality.*

*That man alone is a great Saint who bears imperturbably the buffets of the world.*

*This brings me to my concluding point: these great masters, or perfect men, have spoken to the issue of false saints, an important consideration in the present age [Tukaram]:*

*Many people look like Saints, but they are not Saints. Saints are not those who go on pilgrimage, or to a forest. Saints are not those who wear garlands and white marks on their body.*

*The true Saint can never show any miracles. He has no long list of disciples with him. He does not go instructing people who do not care for his advice. He is not a philosopher who can argue about trifles. He does not whirl round himself a fire-brand of ecstasy.*

*He who can tell what is going to happen in future, or can give news of the past or present—I'm entirely weary of these fellows! Those who follow their powers, and try to make reality square with their words—these will go to hell after their merit is exhausted.*

The Perfect Man is the archetypal reality of the universe; the instrument or means by which revelation descends into the world; and the perfect model for spiritual life and the ultimate dispenser of esoteric knowledge.



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# C A L E N D A R

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**FRIDAY-SATURDAY MEETINGS** - Meher Baba meetings are held at the Albany Methodist Church, Stannage Avenue and Marin in Albany. The first meeting of each month is on Saturday, with the remainder on Friday. All programs begin at 8:00 PM sharp and normally end at 9:30 PM with time for visiting before and after the meeting. To check for program changes call (415) 845-4339.

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## **MARCH 5th (Saturday) - IMPRESSIONS OF INDIA**

Herman Lowe and Jim Hastings spent two months in India, including Armartithi and Baba's birthday in 1987. They also traveled to many places around India where Baba did his work. Their talk will be illustrated with a complete slide collection. Coordinator: Malinda McCulloch.

## **MARCH 11th - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 1988 AGM will begin at 7:00PM. Under the by-laws of Meher Baba Center of Northern California, the voting members shall 1) discuss and vote on a budget for the coming year; 2) consider other old and new business; 3) elect a new board of directors; 4) elect a nominating committee for next year's AGM. This year's nominating committee will present a slate of not more than three candidates for each of the seven board positions. Candidates will be announced at Friday meetings at least 30 days before the AGM. According to the bylaws you are a voting member if you: 1) have a sincere interest in Avatar Meher Baba; 2) live in Northern California; and 3) have attended meetings of our group or supported it in other ways during the preceding year. If you are eligible, please notify us to add your name to the membership list by signing a sheet provided at Friday meetings, or by calling Bing Heckman at 415-494-6443. Notification of your eligibility to vote will be mailed to you two weeks before the meeting along with a list of candidates. We urge you to attend this meeting. Participation in selecting our leadership is the way to assure that our meetings and other activities will suit our needs and be in the spirit of Meher Baba's love. Coordinator: Bing Heckman.

## **MARCH 18th - THE NEW HUMANITY**

Max Reif and Ben Leet will lead a discussion on Baba's description of the New Humanity and how we experience it in our own lives. Coordinator: Karen Lundegaard.

## **MARCH 25th - FILMS OF AVATAR MEHER BABA**

Coordinator: Louise Barrie.

## **APRIL 2nd (Saturday) - TREASURES OF BABA**

Through the years the Center has gathered many treasures related to Beloved Baba, among them His sadra and a painting by Lyn Ott. These and many other items in our archives will be on display and their history and significance will be explained. If you have any other items you would like to share,

please call one of the coordinators: Ron Greenstein (415) 525-3364 or Ben Leet (415) 834-2321.

## **APRIL 9th (Saturday) - CONCERT FUND RAISER**

Tonight Cathy Haas will make a rare West Coast concert appearance to support our fund raising efforts for this year. Cathy's superb singing has graced many of the most popular Baba albums over the last decade. Coordinator: Michael Le Page.

## **APRIL 15th - WHAT ME WORRY?**

Larry Pesta leads a discussion of Baba's call to the "mad" lifestyle of not worrying. Coordinator: Bing Heckman.

## **APRIL 22nd - PREPARATION FOR ALOBA**

Aloba is one of Baba's Mandali who still resides at Meherazad. He said in 1984, "If my simple presence can't make you laugh, then there is no purpose for Aloba!" Come and learn more about him and help plan for his visit. Coordinator: Ben Leet.

## **APRIL 29th - A MUSICAL EVENING**

A night of music with David Miotke and guests. If you are interested in doing a song, contact David at (415) 549-1487. Coordinator: Carol Singer.

## **MAY 7th (Saturday) - ALOBA**

Here's your chance to have India come to you! Come share in this extraordinary visit with one of Baba's dear Mandali.

## **MAY 13th - ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN**

Are you curious about how non-Baba-lovers perceive Him and His followers? Come hear a panel of those involved with His lovers for their unique perspective. Coordinator: Carol Singer.

## **MAY 20th - FILMS OF AVATAR MEHER BABA**

Coordinator: Malinda McCulloch.

## **MAY 27th - BABA AND PRAYER**

This meeting explores prayer as a means of keeping close to Baba and doing Baba's work. What has Baba told us about prayer? How did He make use of it with His followers? Presentation and discussion to be led by Malinda McCulloch and Ron Greenstein. Coordinator: Malinda McCulloch.

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## **MEHER BABA CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC.**

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Board of Directors: Louise Barrie • Bing Heckman • Ron Greenstein • Michael Le Page • Karen Lundegaard • Malinda McCulloch • Carol Singer.  
Coordinators: Program, Karen Lundegaard • Finance, Ron Greenstein • Membership, Bing Heckman • Publicity, Harold Jamison • Service, Carol Singer • Archives, Michael Le Page • Bookstore, Ben Leet.



## BOARD MEETINGS

Meher Baba Center of Northern California Board meetings are open to all members. Call Karen Lundegaard at (415) 549-1736 for the date and time of upcoming meetings.

## PHONE TREE

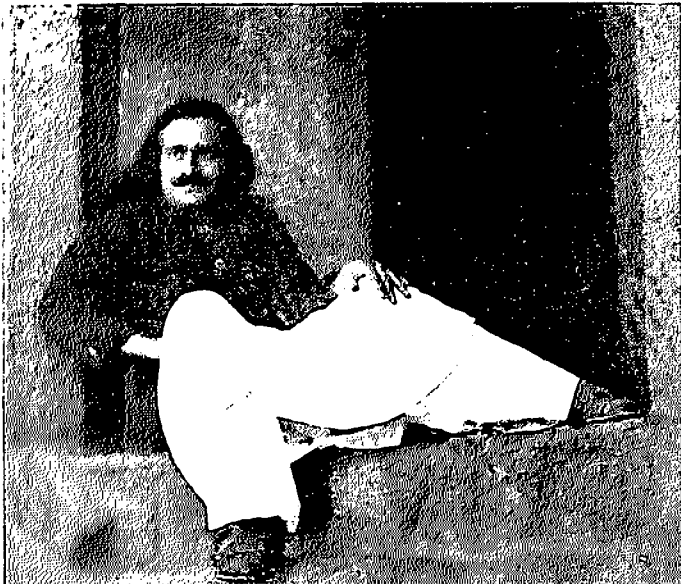
We are attempting to organize a workable phone tree. If you have not been contacted and would like to be included, please mail your name, area code and phone number to the office or leave the information on the office answering machine, (415) 845-4339.

## MEHER BABA INFORMATION - "THE BOX"

Worknights at Meher Baba Information are Thursdays, 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Work ranges from responding to requests for information to processing orders for books and other literature, and many new projects. If you would like to help, call Rick Chapman or Gary Freeman at (415) 562-1101.

## SAN FRANCISCO ZOO TRIP

An afternoon of fun has been planned for children of all ages on Sunday, June 12th. Bring your picnic lunches and meet at noon in the picnic area at the entrance of the Zoo. The group will depart at 1 PM for a tour of the Zoo. Call Karen Talbot at (415) 376-4325 for more information.



## ARTI

Each Sunday morning at 10:00 AM, Arti is performed at the home of Ron and Lisa Greenstein, 600 Albemarle, El Cerrito. Phone: (415) 525-3364.

## TRUSTWALLA

Our trustwalla is Jenny Califf. All who wish to share in fulfilling the commitments laid down by Baba through the instrument of the Trust should contact Jenny c/o Safeguard, 74 14th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Phone: (415) 864-3377.

## REMINDER

There are sometimes last minute changes in the meeting schedule. Please check the answering machine at the office, (415) 845-4339 for up-to-date information.



MEHER BABA CENTER  
of Northern California, Inc.  
2131 University Avenue, Room 235  
Berkeley, CA 94704

1988



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# QUARTERLY

N E W S L E T T E R

2131 UNIVERSITY AVE., RM. 235  
VOL. 17

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704  
SUMMER 1988

## ALOBA

*The Newsletter staff was privileged to interview Aloba on Friday morning, May 6th. We present here excerpts from our delightful conversation with him.*



After one week at Meher Ashram, I was sitting with Meher Baba and suddenly I embraced Him tightly, then I put my head on His feet. I loved Meher Baba so much I wanted to become one with Him, just crush myself into His body and become one! That was the moment.

"Aloba says, 'Meher Baba has not broken His silence yet.' Aloba says, 'Meher Baba has not manifested Himself to the world yet'. In Aloba's belief, Meher Baba soon is going to break his silence and soon Baba will manifest publicly all over the world. These are some things that have some weight in them. This is what is important. The other things are unimportant."

### The Best Days of My Life

*What were the early days like with Baba?*

When we first entered Meher Ashram, we would see Meher Baba with His woolen cloak. On first sight a great respect for Meher Baba automatically came to our hearts. I saw everyone obeyed Meher Baba, everyone. Meher Baba was the top figure, through his money the whole ashram ran. The school, hostel, hospital, everything ran only by Meher Baba's money.

Meher Baba loved us so much, more than our fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters. He loved each one of us so much that we forgot all other love from this world. Slowly by passage of time, we felt so in love with Meher Baba that the hardest thing to imagine in the world would be that you would be sent away from His school.

Everything was provided free to the boys at Meher Ashram - food, clothing, bedding, books, pencils, medical treatment. Having God's love added to all this - that is the charm of it! Those were the best days of my life, I will never forget them. I especially remember the taste of the simple breakfast of tea and bread, especially the bread, even after 50 years!

*Was there one moment when you came to know Baba as God?*

All of the boys at Meher Ashram were like that. We would weep at the sight of Him - tears from all our eyes, not just me alone.

### Invisible Strings

*How did you re-connect with Baba after your uncle took you away from Meher Ashram to Bombay when you were 12?*

I completed my schooling in Bombay for five more years and left the school in 1934. In 1935 I engaged myself as a cashier and manager of a restaurant in Bombay. At that time the seed of love that had been sown in my heart by Meher Baba started to grow. I seemed to feel invisible strings pulling me to Meher Baba. I started reading Hafiz and others. The memory of Meher Baba was revived in my mind so strongly I could not resist it. I had to leave Bombay to go to Meher Baba. I made secret preparations, packing a few clothes in a bundle. Having told no one, after finishing my job one night, I went to Meher Baba. I took the night bus to Poona and another to Amednagar. From Amednagar I went to Meherabad, but Meherabad was dilapidated - no school, no ashram, nothing. I found a person there that told me Baba had gone to Nasik.

So I arrived in Nasik to meet Meher Baba. By this time I had been traveling four days and nights on a bus without proper food or enough sleep. I took a tonga to the Sarosh Auto Works where Baba was staying. Meher Baba was not there, a person told me that Baba had gone out and may return in one or two hours.

I was very tired. I looked around and found an old bus that had been brought in for repair and I went inside to sleep. After some time I heard a rattling on

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# N E W S L E T T E R

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the window and I came out. A person said, "Who are you?". I said, "My name is Ali Akbar. I have come from Bombay, then to Meherabad. I want to see Meher Baba". He told me to sit down and he went into an office.

I looked around and realized there were six people standing in a line looking at me. I was asked why I had come. I said I had come for Meher Baba. One of them was Meher Baba and I did not recognize Him at all! When I had last seen Him He had a long moustache and wore a long coat over His thin body. Eight years had passed and His moustache was short, He had gained weight, wore a hat, silken coat and trousers and had no alphabet board.

They all went inside the office for one or two minutes. When they returned Baba brought an alphabet board and had removed His hat. I saw the alphabet board and His hair flowing. In less than a second I was struck with His divine glory! I fell at His feet in the dust of the street. They picked me up, but I could not bear the sight of His glory, His divine light, and I fell down again. Once again I was picked up, and once again I fell down! After the third time, Baba seriously looked at me and said, "Behave!", then continued, "Go to Bombay and stay there one month. After one month, you come".

I was taken in Baba's car to a restaurant and had a meal, and then to the railway station where a ticket was purchased for me from Nasik to Bombay. Everything was paid with Baba's money.

In Bombay, I did not get a job, I passed the days until I could return to Baba. But Baba "turned the key" for me. After two weeks a letter arrived telling me not to come as planned, but to wait until I was called. So I took the opportunity to run a small tea shop with a partner, the Iran Restaurant in the Colaba section of Bombay.

In 1937 there was a historical birthday celebration in Nasik for Meher Baba. American men and women prepared food for the poor to be distributed by Baba. I went to the celebration and Baba asked about my life in Bombay. When I told Him about the tea shop, He said "Good". Baba instructed me to come and visit Him on the first of each month. He also called me to Him four or five other times during the year for special occasions.

## Show All Your Cards to Meher Baba

*How do you remember Baba? What one time stands out in your memory as a most special time?*

First of all, Baba was very soft, very kind. But to those who committed mistakes, Baba would suddenly change. He would be harsh, a hard task-master to correct us. Had not Baba corrected me, for example, I would not be a refined man. Only through mistakes and Baba being harsh and seemingly cruel to me did I change my life.

*Did you ever want to leave Baba?*

Yes, at one point that feeling did come. Actually, it was Baba who wanted to throw me out of Guru Prasad! One day Baba told me to go and call Dr. Donkin who was staying at the Poona Club. It was about one mile from Guru Prasad. I went by bicycle and told Dr. Donkin that Baba wanted him, so he said to come in. A man from the hotel overheard me and started talking to me about Meher Baba and asking questions. I answered his questions which took very little time, only one or two minutes.

On my return to Guru Prasad, I saw an old woman sitting on the railway bridge. I had seen her whenever I went on my daily errands. She had nothing to eat or drink, sitting there in the hot Indian sun, so I decided to go and get her some food. The first shop I came to was closed, so I went on a little farther and then returned with food for her. This caused me to be about 25 minutes late to Guru Prasad.

Upon my return, Meher Baba looked at me and said, "Why are you late?". I told Baba, "I was talking about you". Now, this was true, but at the same time I was lying to Meher Baba.

Baba said, "How much did you talk?". I said, "Baba, I did not keep track of the time, but I was talking about you."

Again Baba said, "You are late." Baba was constantly telling me I was late and asking what I had been doing. But I did not explain to Baba that I had purchased food for the old woman. Meher Baba is God, He watches every action of everyone in every part of this world, whether it be in China or in Russia or Iran or in any part of the world. No one can hide anything from Baba's eyes or Baba's knowledge. But I still did not reveal what I had really been doing.

Baba became very angry because of my two mistakes. The first mistake was an error; the second mistake was my lying to Meher Baba. Baba wanted me to go to Dr. Donkin, call him to Guru Prasad, and return. Upon my return I could ask Baba's permission to take food to the old woman. I should have shown all my cards to Meher Baba, but I did not do that.

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# C A L E N D A R

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**FRIDAY-SATURDAY MEETINGS** - Meher Baba meetings are held at the Albany Methodist Church, Stannage Avenue and Marin in Albany. The first meeting of each month is on Saturday, with the remainder on Friday. All programs begin at 8:00 PM sharp and normally end at 9:30 PM with time for visiting before and after the meeting. To check for program changes call (415) 845-4339.

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## **JUNE 4th (Saturday) - BABA MUSIC**

Local musicians will share music for the Beloved tonight. Coordinator: Ron Greenstein.

## **JUNE 10th - REMEMBERING FILIS FREDERICK**

Filis' birthday was this past May 31. Tonight we will remember her life with Baba and view a wonderful video of a talk she gave near the end of her life. Coordinator: Ursula Van Buskirk.

## **JUNE 17th - FILM PREMIER FUNDRAISER**

This is the first Bay Area showing of Irwin Luck's new film. A special donation is encouraged to help defray the costs of producing this extraordinary film. Coordinator: Malinda McCulloch.

## **JUNE 24th - "NO STRINGS ATTACHED"**

Sanskaras..... What are they? Who wants them? What do we do with them? A talk and discussion led by Larry Pesta. Coordinator: Bing Heckman.

## **JULY 2nd (Saturday) - NO MEETING TONIGHT**

There will be no meeting tonight because so many of our members are attending the Sahavas in Southern California.

## **JULY 8th - SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: DR. GOKARAN SHRIVASTAVA**

Dr. Shrivastava met Baba in the 1950's. He is currently in the U.S. as a visiting professor of Botany at the University of Iowa. He will share stories and talk about Baba groups at home in Madhya Pradesh, India. Coordinator: Bing Heckman.

## **JULY 15th - THE PRAYERS MEHER BABA GAVE US**

Larry Pesta will present a discussion on the spiritual significance of the prayers Baba composed and encouraged His Mandali and followers to say. Coordinator: Louise Barrie.

## **JULY 22nd - STORIES BABA TOLD**

Baba often told stories to deepen understanding and illustrate spiritual points. Many of these stories are found in Baba's literature and many have been passed on to us by the Mandali. Tonight's panel will retell some of the stories the Avatar told. Coordinator: Lisa Greenstein.

## **JULY 29th (6:30 PM) - A SOCIAL EVENING**

Bring a main dish or a salad. A film of Meher Baba will be shown after dinner. Coordinators: Janice Quartieri & Linda Delgado.

**REMINDER:** There are no meetings scheduled for the month of August. Looking forward to seeing everyone in September!

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## **SAN FRANCISCO ZOO TRIP**

An afternoon of fun has been planned for children of all ages on Sunday, June 12th. Bring your picnic lunches and meet at noon in the picnic area at the entrance of the Zoo. The group will depart at 1 PM for a tour of the Zoo. Call Karen Talbot at (415) 376-4325 for more information.

## **WEEKLY ARTI & DISCOURSES IN SAN FRANCISCO**

Tuesdays at 8 PM (beginning June 7, 1988), Larry Pesta will host a weekly performance of Arti and discussion of Meher Baba's Discourses. The meetings will be held at the Dolores Street Church, 208 Dolores Street (at 15th Street) as part of Open Arms for Meher Baba outreach. Everyone is invited! Call (415) 441-7008 for more information.

## **PHONE TREE**

We are attempting to organize a workable phone tree. If you have not been contacted and would like to be included, please mail your name, area code and phone number to the office or leave the information on the office answering machine, (415) 845-4339.

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## **MEHER BABA CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC.**

President, Bing Heckman • Vice President, Malinda McCulloch • Secretary, Gary Cook • Treasurer, Alan Talbot • Office Manager, Fred White.  
Board of Directors: Louise Barrie • Gary Cook • Linda Delgado • Lisa Greenstein • Bing Heckman • Malinda McCulloch • Janice Quartieri.  
Coordinators: Program, Louise Barrie • Finance, Lisa Greenstein • Membership, Janice Quartieri • Publicity, Bing Heckman • Service, Linda Delgado • Archives, Michael Le Page • Bookstore, Ben Leet.

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When Baba asked why I was late and I lied, Baba became very, very angry. The degree of Baba's anger shot up to 99%. He was about to tell me to take my bedding and leave, which I would have done.

What I did was to stand in front of Baba and inwardly pray to Meher Baba to forgive me. Baba was sitting and had become very red-faced. He was very serious and very tense and very red. This was a sure sign of danger. I didn't want to leave and I didn't want Baba to throw me out, so I continuously prayed, "Baba forgive me. Baba, I will never do it again. Baba forgive me".

Then slowly, slowly, slowly Meher Baba began to become normal again.

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*On the subject of bringing more of God into one's life:*

In India people spend millions of rupees each year to purchase flowers to offer to their Gods, past Avatars, this and that to use when they perform Arti.

In America there is no such thing. There are some photos in the house, but no one performs Arti, no one brings flowers. They are happy just to have Baba's photo in the house. Of course it is good that Baba's photo is in the house. But it is like a flower pot, it needs water or it will die. The water is in the form of our Arti to Baba, even if it is only two minutes a day.



## BOARD MEETINGS

Meher Baba Center of Northern California Board meetings are open to all members. Call Janice Quarrieri at (415) 527-6739 for the date and time of upcoming meetings.

## MEHER BABA INFORMATION - "THE BOX"

Worknights at Meher Baba Information are Thursdays, 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Work ranges from responding to requests for information to processing orders for books and other literature, and many new projects. If you would like to help, call Rick Chapman or Gary Freeman at (415) 562-1101.

## TRUSTWALLA

Our trustwalla is Jenny Califf. All who wish to share in fulfilling the commitments laid down by Baba through the instrument of the Trust should contact Jenny c/o Safeguard, 74 14th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Phone: (415) 864-3377.

## ARTI

Each Sunday morning at 10:00 AM, Arti is performed at the home of Ron and Lisa Greenstein, 600 Albemarle, El Cerrito. Phone: (415) 525-3364.

MEHER BABA CENTER  
of Northern California, Inc.  
2131 University Avenue, Room 1  
Berkeley, CA 94704 • 1988



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# QUARTERLY

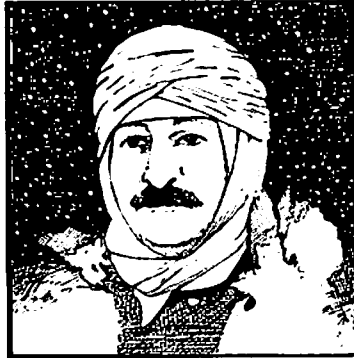
N E W S L E T T E R

2131 UNIVERSITY AVE., RM. 235  
VOL. 18

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704  
WINTER 1989

## A Mehera Story

*Visitors to Meherazad frequently enjoy talks by Mani, Meher Baba's sister in which she movingly relates the experiences of life around Baba. In this narrative recorded in August 1989, she gives us a glimpse into her relationship with Mehera, Baba's beloved.*



I wonder if anybody has noticed this pin that I have on. One stone is missing and it has been painted so that the missing stone won't show up so much, but this has a history. It has a delightful history; somebody asked me this morning and I thought that it would be nice to tell it.

This is a pin that was given to me in the 1940s by Arnavaz on the occasion of her engagement to Nariman. It came at a time when we didn't have even costume jewelry like we have now. It was a very special thing, and I would often put it on when we went out with Baba. Whenever there was an occasion, we took out our finery from the bottom of the trunk and we would dress up, so this pin always served. We were in Hyderabad, and I remember I put this pin on a sari to go to a cinema with Baba. Afterwards, I couldn't find the pin. I looked all over, but I'm never sure of myself, I never trust my memory and I hate to say that I lost it, because maybe someone will think someone has stolen it. Somehow it came out, Mehera missed my pin and inquired about it.

"I can't find it, Mehera," I said.

"Oh," she said, "The servant must have taken it," because we had a new servant.

"Oh, I don't know about that," I said, "Maybe I misplaced it."

"But you just said you looked everywhere" Mehera said. You see in some ways Mehera was stronger than I was, and I didn't want to face it, that's the whole point.

I said, "No, no I'm sure not - I'll look again ..."

"No," she said, "you leave it to me."

I don't know what she must have discussed with the servant, very nicely, but whatever she said, the servant brought the pin, and along with it she

brought a pair of scissors that nobody had missed. She'd stolen a pair of scissors as well, you see, and then when Mehera saw that instead of one thing she's given back two things, I heard Mehera say, "And now you must go home and get the third thing also."

I couldn't believe it. And you know, she had taken a third thing, another brooch, and I hadn't even missed it. I said, "Mehera, you're absolutely a marvel, how do you do it?" So this is a very special thing for me. One stone had fallen off, and the servant girl refused to acknowledge that she had taken it. I knew it was there before, and had disappeared during the theft, but it never got resolved between us.

She has given me many lovely gifts every now and then. Specially after every time when .... Mehera and I who were so close together all of our lives, occasionally there would be little sparks. I could exasperate her, she could exasperate me, so when things like that would happen... Now a long time ago, on one occasion when Baba sensed that I was impatient with Mehera over something, He told me, "Don't be impatient with Mehera, you and Mehera have a connection that's way back, far away back, so don't get impatient."

I would always try, but one day, we were in Baba's room and she got exasperated with me, something that I wasn't doing right, I could be dumb sometimes, and Mehera said, "Mani, I know we have a long past connection, an ancient connection, that's all very well, and we have it in this life, OK? But that's enough - not in the next life - enough."

I said, somewhat coolly, "That's fine with me,

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# NEWSLETTER

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OK Mehera." So, by evening, she came with a present for me. Whenever she had said something that she thought wasn't gentle enough, she was a very gentle person, very sweet, she came and she would give me something. Usually it was a soap. She knew I liked fragrance, but sometimes some of the soaps she had were not fragrant. But they were very good. She used to say, "Read, read what's on the label, it's made of oatmeal, very good for the complexion."

"I know, Mehera, I love it." I still have two or three, but the last gift she gave me (she would give me other things, too) was this second pin, in the shape of a heart, which is very precious to me. This also has a story. She made me realize without saying it that this heart would be the last gift.



Somehow she knew or at least in her wisdom she spoke of things like that. She called me into Baba's room. I sat next to her and she said, "I would like to tell you something. When my time comes, see that I am in Baba's room before you carry me out. See that only Goher and you handle my body after I go to Baba, while making the arrangements for the funeral."

In the last week while she was sitting on the porch on that chair that you are used to seeing her sit in, it was a great thing. We were all united in seeing to Mehera, bringing her out from her bedroom to the porch with the support of our arms, Heather and Janet and Dolly and Rhoda, all were around her. After we, Goher and I and Meheru had seen to her ablutions and everything, then everyone would help Mehera and come sit down and then would begin the little lessons. Heather would teach Mehera to repeat words, so she would come up with a tray, it was a game, it was so

much fun. It was so tenderly we were caring for Mehera, and Mehera was like a child in that. You'd sometimes see a twinkle in her eye that amazed us. Mehera would be seated on the porch and there would be the tray, all kinds of things on it, cup, spoon, saucer, and Heather would say, "Now Mehera, what's this?" And Mehera would look at the thing and I knew she knew what the thing was, but she couldn't get the word for it. So she'd usually begin by saying, "Ba .. ba.." Heather would gently correct her, "No, Mehera" and sometimes she would get exasperated. Once Mehera said, "It's extraordinary, I never seem to get it."

"Mehera, you just said so much! This is cup!" And then she'd say, "Ca .. ca.. cup .." and then there would be so much joy. So once she was outside, and Janet would come with a set of boxes, and each person had her own thing to help Mehera. When she was seated among them, I would come away to the little cottage to do what little work I had to do, but I would keep an eye on her. I would come out now and then and the moment she'd see me go by, they tell me that Mehera would lose interest in everything else, and until I was out of sight and not seen by them, she would lose her attention on whatever else she was doing. When I heard that, I would purposely come out every now and then from whatever else I was doing to say, "Jai Baba, Mehera." One morning when I was out of sight for a time, she said to me very clearly, "And where were you all morning?"

"Mehera I was with you, it's only after sitting here on the porch with you that I had to do other things." Now this is all leading up to this little incident. The last morning that Mehera was seated on the porch in her chair, I was, again after a while, down at the little cottage, and I would peek out now and then and say "Jai Baba, Mehera." Each time, she folded her hands to me in namaste. I was very surprised. We're too close sisters for that. The gesture is used for a polite way of greeting someone (used by Mehera in saluting Indian visitors, for example) or a good-bye, but with me - never! I went back, and after a while I came out again to say "Jai Baba" to her. In a total of three such tries, each time very solemnly she did it. "Oh," I said to myself, "it's just a pattern that will reoccur today. I'll try it again tomorrow." But, she never came out again to the porch. Little things like that, signs, convince me that Mehera knew.

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# C A L E N D A R

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**MEETINGS** - Meher Baba meetings are held on Saturday nights at the Albany Methodist Church, Stannage Avenue and Marin in Albany. All programs begin at 8:00 PM sharp and normally end at 9:30 PM with time for visiting before and after the meeting. To check for program changes call (415) 845-4339.

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## DECEMBER 2 - MEHER BABA STORIES

Come hear and retell stories either told by Baba or told in Baba's presence. Meeting coordinated by Ron Greenstein.

## DECEMBER 9 - ON BEHALF OF THE TRUST

A production of classical/Baba/Christmas music by David Miotke, Peggy Rock and Raine Eastman - Mormon. Donations for the Avatar Meher Baba Trust in India are welcomed.

## DECEMBER 16 - BY GEORGE, WITH A TWIST

**7 PM  
Start!**

of St. Nick. This play, a musical satire of American presidents for kids of all ages, comes to us from Fantasy Theater, the honorary state children's theater. It is directed by Baba lover Tim Busfield. Show starts at 7 PM!!!

**DECEMBER 23** - No Meeting - Merry Christmas!

**DECEMBER 30** - No Meeting - Happy New Year!

## JANUARY 6 - FILMS OF MEHER BABA

A special event in the life of any Baba lover is the opportunity to see moving images of the Beloved. This month's films will be the short films from Nasik, Rahuri, Baba's visit to Seclusion Hill and the East-West Gathering.

## JANUARY 13 - BOB AND JANE BROWN VISIT

Bob and Jane are coming to sing up a storm for Meher Baba. Come join us on this special occasion. Suggested donation is \$ 10 (adults).

## JANUARY 20 - DANCE PARTY OF THE NEW DEC-ADE

Shake off the 80s and rock into the 90s dance party. Guest DJ, refreshments, \$5 donation.

## JANUARY 27 - INTRODUCTORY MEETING

Bring friends or new ones to Meher Baba to this introductory meeting at which Ed Van Buskirk, Harold Jamison and Michael LePage will speak.

## JANUARY 31 - AMARTITHI CELEBRATION

This year, Amartithi falls on a Wednesday. The meeting will start at 9:30 so that we can have a period of silence between 10:30 and 10:45, the same time that silence is being observed in

India.

## FEBRUARY 3 - LOVE COMES WEST

A slide show produced for the 1981 event held at the Palace of Fine Arts commemorating Baba's visits to America.

## FEBRUARY 10 - NAOSHERWAN ANZAR

Naosherwan, the publisher of The Glow and an intimate lover of Baba is coming to speak on his experiences with Meher Baba.

## FEBRUARY 17 - IMAGES OF THE MASTS

A talk, presented by Ed Van Buskirk, about Meher Baba's work with the masts, along with some rare slides of Baba with His divine children.

**FEBRUARY 24** - No Meeting - See Below

## FEBRUARY 25 - BABA'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

An afternoon party will be held at the Albany Methodist Church at 4 PM, with refreshments and entertainment.

## Special Events and Notices

### Meetings in Nearby Cities

**FRESNO:** Meetings on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30 PM. For information call Sharon or Phil Scott: (209) 449-0877.

**SACRAMENTO:** For information call Marilyn Buehler at (916) 925-4451.

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Meeting/dinner first Friday of every month. Enjoy an evening of wining & dining at local restaurants. Share stories, conversation & connections. RSVP a must. Call Larry Pesta: (415) 441-7008 at least two days prior to event. Guests are welcome.

continued on the next page

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## MEHER BABA CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC.

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*Board of Directors:* Marilyn Buehler • Ron Greenstein • Keith Gunn • Greg Harland • David Miotke • Larry Pesta • Ursula Van Buskirk.

*Coordinators:* Program, Greg Harland • Finance, Ron Greenstein • Membership, Bing Heckman • Publicity, Marilyn Buehler • Service, Larry Pesta • Archives, Michael LePage • Bookstore, Ben Leet.

### Discourse Meetings

Thursday Evenings, 7:15 PM. Baba's discourses are used to shed light on our daily lives with Baba. Location and leader will change as discussion meeting develops. Organized by Janice Quartieri and Ben Leet. Call 527-6739 for a phone message on location and leader.

### Arti

All are welcome to gather for Arti at the home of Ron and Lisa Greenstein, 600 Albemarle, El Cerrito each Sunday at 10 AM. Phone: (415) 525-3364.

### Trustwalla

Our trustwalla is Jack Mormon. All who wish to share in fulfilling the commitments laid down by Baba through the instrument of the Trust should contact Jack at P.O. Box 1250, Berkeley, CA 94701.

### Samadhi Photographs Sought

Photographs or slides taken prior to October 1971 showing the wall paintings inside Baba's tomb are requested by the Avatar Meher Baba Trust for their records. Materials should be sent to Pat Sumner c/o Avatar Meher Baba Trust, Postbag 31, Kings Road Ahmednagar, MS, India 414001 or to Sheila Krynski c/o Sheriar Press, 3005 Highway 17 North Bypass, Myrtle Beach SC 29557.

### Board Meetings

Meher Baba Center of Northern California Board meetings are open to all members. Call Janice Quartieri at (415) 527-6739 for the dates and times of meetings.

### Reminder

There are sometimes last minute changes in the meeting schedule. Please check the answering machine at the office, (415) 845-4339 for up-to-date information.

### Meher Baba Information - "The Box"

Work nights at Meher Baba Information are Thursdays, 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Work includes responding to requests for information, processing orders for literature and many new projects. If you would like to help, call Rick Chapman or Gary Freeman at (415) 562-1101.

### The Godfather

With a twitch of His little finger  
In the twinkling of His eye,  
While His hand seems to linger  
In the space between, you die.

What have you got to lose?  
Speaks the mock ingenuous face  
As His ministering hand's shake makes  
An offer you can't refuse.

Gareth Calway



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# QUARTERLY

N E W S L E T T E R

2131 UNIVERSITY AVE., RM. 235  
VOL. 18

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704  
SPRING 1989

## Surrendering to Meher Baba

Excerpts from a talk given by Charles Haynes,  
August 19, 1988 (with Charles' permission.)



Meher Baba says "Greater than love is obedience. Greater than obedience is surrender." I often wonder about the meaning of "surrender," an important term because for Baba, it is the highest form of love. It is difficult to know what it means, and whether or not one has surrendered.

Once, some years ago, I asked Eruch about it. A group of us were sitting in Mandali Hall, in front of Baba's chair. During a lull in the conversation, Eruch looked at me and asked, "What should we talk about?" I said the first thing that popped into my mind: "surrender." Eruch said, "Yes, alright...do it." Taken aback, I said, "That's fine to say, but what does it mean?" Eruch replied, "You people think I just say these things, but I'm not just saying it. Do it...Do it!" I said, "Well, I am trying. But isn't surrender the ultimate goal?" He said, "No, no, just do it now. Right now." I could only say "Oh, alright." Eruch added, "Then surrender again tomorrow...then the next day, surrender again. Why should we wait?" Then I began to grasp what was being said: surrender is something one does continuously, and each time one does it, it is a little bit more. One lets go a little bit more.

My favorite image for surrender comes from the East-West Gathering in 1962. During the darshan, Baba gave an image that has stuck with me all these years. I was thirteen at the time, and sitting on the floor next to Baba. He was on the couch and I was concentrating on inching my way closer to His knee. Baba was conveying something about the breaking of His silence. He said that the time would come when it might seem natural to leave Him, to let

Him slip from our grasp. He said: "So I am telling you now that you must hold on to Me. That is the most important thing...to hold on to Me."

I became alert as Baba had touched on a topic I was most interested in as a child. Then Baba picked up the hem of His sadhra, held it in front of us and said: "Remember to hold on to My Damaan, because what will happen will make it easy for your grasp on Me to slip away. So you must practice holding on to My Damaan." He compared our situation to that of a child in a village crowd. Unless the child holds on to the mother's hand, it will get lost.

Baba then took His other hand, and held His damaan tightly with both hands. He told us, "Don't hold on with one hand, but with both hands, so if, by chance, one hand should slip away, you will still be holding on." Remember, Baba told us, hold on with both hands.

To this day, I keep that image before me. What does it have to do with surrender? It occurred to me as a child (sometimes children have the best notions) that if you are holding on with both hands, you have no free hands to hold on to anything else! To hold on to Him with both hands, then, means that we have to let go of everything else. To even begin to grasp His damaan with both hands, we have to begin to let go of all else. How can we hold on to what we want, if we are holding on to Him with both hands?

I feel that Baba is telling us that if we hold on with both hands (the beginning and end of surrender), it is then His task to help us let go of the world. He (Meher Baba within each of us- our Real Self) works constantly to help us to let go of everything false, and to cling only to what is Real.

continued on the next page

# NEWSLETTER

continued from the first page

The job of the Beloved is to get the lover to let go. We cannot do it alone. We will not do it. If it were completely up to us to let go, and to hold on only to Him, we would not do it. The ego is not about to surrender the illusory clinging that is its old, old habit. The ego is not going to voluntarily let go...we cannot outsmart it. That is His job. Ours is to remember Him constantly with love.

So, whatever happens, we must hold on to Him...trusting always, as we see that which is false stripped from our grasp, that Baba is doing His work of ego-elimination. As Baba has said, "To stick to Me means to keep Me pleased at the cost of your own comforts and pleasures. It means to remain resigned to My will, whether you keep good health or bad, whether you make money or lose it, and whether you gain name and fame or become the laughing stock of others."

Holding on to Him and being resigned to His will is not easy. Fortunately, it is a gift that Baba gives us gradually in our life with Him. Everything He does in us conspires to help us to hold on...and to let go of all else. How loving of the Beloved to work in us to inspire us to be wholly resigned to His will in all things. Resigned to His will...that is the true meaning of "surrender."

## OTHER BABA MEETINGS

**FRESNO:** Meetings on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30 P.M. For information call Sharon or Phil Scott: (209) 266-9094.

**SACRAMENTO:** For information call Marie Rhodes: (916) 723-6631.

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Meeting/dinner first Friday of every month. Enjoy an evening of wining & dining at local restaurants. Share stories, conversation & connections. RSVP a must. Call Larry Pesta: (415) 441-7008 at least two days prior to event. Guests are welcome.



## "PEARL" FROM NAGPUR

The Meher Baba Center of Northern California recently received a note from Mrs. Indumati Deshmukh, wife of the late Dr. C.D. Deshmukh, who thanked us for sending her our newsletter and enclosed a devotional poem, her own composition, entitled "Pearl."

There was a waiting  
and waiting  
and waiting.  
It showered at last!  
At last it showered!

It was a drop of His Grace  
that went to a mother-o-pearl.  
And a pearl came into being.

The pearl knew nothing.  
It knew not it was some being.  
Knew not, it could do something.  
It was all dark, dark, dark  
Nor could it sing as a lark!

But Lo! the Beloved  
one day, pierced through the pearl  
and showed it the way  
To Union, Joy and Eternal Bliss.

## MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING INFORMATION FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

This year's nominating committee will present a slate of candidates for each of the seven board positions. Candidates will be announced at meetings at least 30 days before the AGM. According to the bylaws you are a voting member if you: 1) have a sincere interest in Avatar Meher Baba 2) live in Northern California and 3) have attended meetings of our group or supported it in other ways during the preceding year. If you are eligible, please add your name to the membership list by signing a sheet provided at the meetings or by calling Bing Heckman at (415) 494-6443. Notification of your eligibility to vote will be mailed to you two weeks before the meeting along with a list of candidates.

## MEHER BABA CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC.


President, Bing Heckman • Vice President, Irene Meyers • Secretary, Janice Quartieri • Treasurer, Karen Lundegaard • Office Manager, Fred White.  
Board of Directors: Louise Barrie • Joe Elia • Lisa Greenstein • Bing Heckman • Irene Meyers • Janice Quartieri • Fred White.  
Coordinators: Program, Louise Barrie • Finance, Lisa Greenstein • Membership, Janice Quartieri • Publicity, Bing Heckman • Service, Janice Quartieri • Archives, Michael Le Page • Bookstore, Ben Leet.

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# C A L E N D A R

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**FRIDAY-SATURDAY MEETINGS** - Meher Baba meetings are held at the Albany Methodist Church, Stannage Avenue and Marin in Albany. The first meeting of each month is on Saturday, with the remainder on Friday. All programs begin at 8:00 PM sharp and normally end at 9:30 PM with time for visiting before and after the meeting. To check for program changes call (415) 845-4339.


 **FEBRUARY 25th (Saturday) 7:30 PM - MEHER BABA'S 95th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.** Come celebrate the 95th anniversary of the Beloved Avatar's coming among us. Music, film and birthday cake for all! Coordinators: Joe Elia and the Board.

**FEBRUARY 26th (Sunday) 2-5 PM - BABA'S BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR CHILDREN.** A special Baba birthday celebration for children of all ages, featuring the marvelous puppetry of Sandra Starr. Festivities from 2:00 - 5:00 PM, PUPPET SHOW at 2:30 PM SHARP! Pot Luck Snacks. At the home of: Vern and Annie Stovall (284-2773) 954 Acalanes Road, Lafayette

**MARCH 4 (Saturday) - TODDY SHOP.** An informal evening featuring Indian refreshment and music. Bring your favorite Baba poems and passages to share. Coordinators: Fred White and Janice Quartieri.

**MARCH 10th- FILMS OF MEHER BABA and QUILT DRAWING.** Elena Alvarado has lovingly hand made a quilt which she has donated as a fund-raising item to the Meher Baba Center. Raffle tickets can be bought at meetings for \$1.00 per ticket. Tonight's program will feature films of the Avatar and the drawing for the quilt. Coordinators: Irene Meyers and Joe Elia.

**MARCH 17th- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.** The 1989 AGM will begin at 7:30 PM. Under the bylaws of the Meher Baba Center of Northern California, the voting members shall: 1) discuss and approve a budget for the coming year 2) consider old and new business 3) elect a new board of directors 4) elect a nominating committee for next year's AGM. **We urge you to attend this meeting.** Participation in selecting our leadership is the way to assure that our meetings and other activities will suit our needs and be in the spirit of Meher Baba's Love. (See announcement p.2 for more details.)


 **MARCH 24th- AUSTRALIA NIGHT.** Michael Le Page will host an evening of Aussie devotion featuring music, readings of Francis Brabazon's poetry, readings from John Grant's book Practical Spirituality and films of Baba. Coordinators: Michael LePage and Lisa Greenstein.

**APRIL 1 (Saturday) 6:30 PM - MEHER BABA IN ITALY PASTA DINNER / FUND RAISER-** Come and get a "taste" of the days Meher Baba spent in Italy. Enjoy an authentic Italian dinner and hear stories of those wonderful times. Special Attraction: If we can obtain it, we will view a beautiful film showing many of the places Baba visited in Italy. Suggested donation : \$7.50 or quarterly donation.

**APRIL 7 - PERSONAL STORIES OF BABA IN OUR LIVE** Come to share your own anecdotes of life and times with the Avatar. Call Ron Greenstein if you want more information at 525-3364. Coordinators: Ron Greenstein and Louise Barrie.

**APRIL 14 (Saturday) - DISCOURSE NIGHT** Bring your favorite passage from one of Meher Baba's Discourses to read and discuss. Coordinators: Fred White and Janice Quartieri

**APRIL 22 (SATURDAY) - TWENTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE 1969 DARSHAN** From April to June, 1969, Baba allowed his Western lovers, many of whom had waited through years of His seclusion, to visit His home in India. Hundreds from the West honored Baba's invitation to what became known as "The Great Darshan." Join those who participated in this unforgettable experience as they remember and celebrate this event. Coordinators: Robert Dreyfuss and Irene Meyers.

**APRIL 28 - FILMS**  Films of Meher Baba will be shown tonight. Coordinator: Fred White.

**MAY 6 (Saturday) - 7-10 PM - AUCTION FUNDRAISER** Fine art by internationally acclaimed Baba artists, as well as many exceptional items and services from our local members, will be available in both live and silent auctions. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Coordinators: Lisa Greenstein and Janice Quartieri.

**MAY 12 - MEHER BABA, THE EARLY YEARS, PART II: KASBA PETH - MANZIL-E-MEEM** Slide show and talk hosted by Harold Jamison. Coordinator: Louise Barrie

**MAY 19 - NO MEETING TONIGHT**

continued from the previous page

### MAY 19, 20, 21 - OJAI CAMPOUT

We will have a camp-out and visit with Agnes Baron on Friday and Saturday nights on Meher Mount. Baba visited there in 1956. The weekend will include a dhuni and some clean-up work as well as a special time here with ocean and Ojai Valley views. If you are interested in going, please call Bing Heckman, 494-6443.

### MAY 26 - MEHER CENTER AT MYRTLE BEACH



An evening of appreciation, reminiscence and history of Meher Baba's home in the West. Coordinators: Allen and Karen Talbot.

### MAY AUCTION

Donations of excellent quality objets d'art, Baba art, framed Baba photos and services are requested. Services can be anything from cooking and serving a dinner party to babysitting or whatever your talent and imagination can provide. Call Lisa Greenstein, 525-3364.

### MEHER BABA INFORMATION - "THE BOX"

Worknights at Meher Baba Information are Thursdays, 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Work includes responding to requests for information, processing orders for literature and many new projects. If you would like to help, call Rick Chapman or Gary Freeman at (415) 562-1101.



### TRUSTWALLA

Our trustwalla is Jenny Califf. All who wish to share in fulfilling the commitments laid down by Baba through the instrument of the Trust should contact Jenny c/o Safeguard, 74 14th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Phone: (415) 864-3377.

### REMINDER

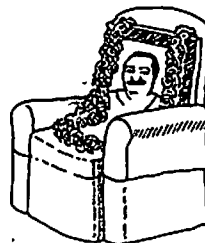
There are sometimes last minute changes in the meeting schedule. Please check the answering machine at the office, (415) 845-4339 for up-to-date information.

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. and Mrs. H.P. Barucha and their daughter are expecting to visit the Bay Area in mid-April. As soon as we know the dates of their visit we will schedule a time to meet them. Check our recording for details.

### BOARD MEETINGS

Meher Baba Center of Northern California Board meetings are open to all members. Call Janice Quartieri at (415) 527-6739 for the dates and times of meetings.



MEHER BABA CENTER  
of Northern California, Inc.  
2131 University Avenue, Room 234  
Berkeley, CA 94704



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



# QUARTERLY

N E W S L E T T E R

2131 UNIVERSITY AVE., RM. 235  
VOL. 18

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704  
SUMMER 1989

## The Mighty Beloved

Address given by Francis Brabazon  
at  
Guruprasad, Poona  
during The Great Darshan, 1969

JAI BABA!



thinking about myself all the time. After all, although He is God and sometimes is a Man, being one's own and the world's Beloved is His main job. Others can become as much God or as much Man as He, but only Baba is more beloved than any other beloved. And is infinitely worth serving.

I am amazed and filled with joy to discover that the Beloved I have been serving for many years is truly a very mighty Beloved.

Of course, I have known all along that He was God. But there are so many Gods. There is the God which people see in a shape of illusion such as a sunset or a mountain view or a symphony, or whose hand is seen in one's not getting caught in a rain-storm or in obtaining a good job: no doubt a very comfortable and profitable God to have—well worth a Christian candle or some Hindu incense—but not a God to whom one would offer one's life. There is the God who rules the shining planes of consciousness: but sight of him would blind one. And the God who is beyond the planes is unknowable except by His own Grace. And He is extremely careful to whom He gives that Grace.

So when beloved Baba used to tell us that He was God, I used to think, "Yes, Baba, you are God all right—the One God and all the Gods— but what good is that to me?" In fact I used to get so fed up with Him being God that I wished He wasn't or I wished He was a sort-of-an Old Testament God to whom I could slaughter some fat lambs or a spotless young bull in return for some added acreage. I got so tired of His being so much God that I wrote a song about it and sang it to Him. It goes something like, "If only you were a bit less God, a bit more Man, I wouldn't feel so much like someone upside down in a garbage can."

But Baba wasn't going to become more Man just for my sake, so I had to settle for Him as the divine Beloved—one whom I could serve sometimes, instead of

But now a great problem arises. How to serve that One who is All-beloved, for whatever one does with love is done by Him. All that is done *for* the Beloved is done *by* the Beloved. And so one arrives at the painful conclusion that the Beloved alone exists—which means that oneself doesn't. And that's a terrible predicament to find oneself in—for one is still *there*!

The only solution I found was to accept the position: "You alone are and I am not, but we are both here." And having arrived at this acceptance Baba now taught me a poetical form capable of expressing all the shades of the impossible relationships of lover and Beloved. Such a form has not existed in English till now, because the lover-Beloved dilemma was not part of the British-American consciousness. And, of course, Beloved Baba being the author of this new form was (or seemed to be) delighted with my exercises in it.

And here is a delicious piece of humor in connection with this. There was a period when Baba had me read a new poem to Him three times every morning. Do you know why three times? Baba was memorizing them. Why memorizing them? So that He could quote them next time He comes back, in seven hundred years! That is really God-Man humor, isn't it. Then there were his extraordinary orders or commissions. His last was for thirty ghazals—ghazal is the name of the new poetical form He taught me. It happened this way. One morning after the usual morning business was finished, Baba said He wanted me to write thirty ghazals. Could I do that? I replied promptly and brightly, "No, Baba." This reply seemed to rather

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# NEWSLETTER

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astonish Him. He turned to the other mandali and said, "Well, what do you think of that? I ask this fellow to write thirty ghazals and he says, 'No, Baba.'" Then Baba turned questioningly back to me. I said, or rather groaned, "I don't know whether I can write one ghazal— and You ask for thirty. I don't think there are any more in my head." Then He says sympathetically and persuasively, "Try, and I will help you." So it was back to the stone-quarry again to cut and build thirty more little poem-houses, each one a bit different; for the Beloved likes variety.

But still I did not know what a mighty Beloved our Beloved is. This knowledge has come to me only recently—since Baba laid aside His body.

Now, the Beloved would not be the Beloved if He didn't have a thousand whims and moods, if He didn't play His eternal game of divine pretence; if He was not all ears for the lover's praise and stone deaf to his complaints; if He was not All-knowledge and All-ignorance at the same time. He would not be the Beloved if He did not decorate the walls of His wine-shop with pretty pictures such as "All the religions being drawn together as beads on one string" and "seven hundred years of peace"; and then invite the lover to cross deserts of heart-dryness and oceans of tears to receive the wine of His kiss; but when the lover at last staggers in at the door, the Beloved spends the whole time showing him the pictures and expecting his interest and admiration.

What a Beloved our Beloved is! What a Beloved we have chosen to serve! What is it to the thirst-crazed lover if a lot of glass beads are strung on one string? Will that make them turn into diamonds? What if there is seven hundred years of peace? Will not war again follow?

He would not be the Beloved if He did not tell the lover to stand up and sit down at the same moment; to become footless and walk; to become headless, and think; to exert himself to the utmost, and leave everything to Him.

Though it is not the time yet for us to know the wine of His kiss on our lips, we have received the kiss of His Word in our hearts. If it were not so, how could all you dear ones who have never seen His Man-form be here now?

Who but the Beloved of Beloveds could speak His Word silently in your hearts and make you come from across the world to take His darshan, to bow down to Him in your hearts? Such a thing has never happened before. I have been at mass darshans where tens of thousands came and bowed down to His Man-form. But to come thousands of miles to bow down to Him in one's own heart, that is of an entirely different order of devotion.

Why has beloved Baba given you people this extraordinary privilege? Because He required a few to do what the many, what everyone, must eventually do: journey across the world of illusion to take darshan of Him in their hearts. What a Beloved is our Beloved; what a mighty Beloved. This Word which He has spoken in your hearts, which will be spoken in every heart in the world, will lead you by the hand, and drive you with whips to the door of your Beloved, to the wineshop of your Master—where it will become your own pure song of praise and will cause the beloved winemaster to open the door and bring you in and pour for you a glass of the wine of self-forgetfulness and *Beloved-alone-remembrance*. The very Word with which He knocked on the doors of your hearts and aroused you to set your feet on the path to Him, the same Word will knock on His door and make Him open it to you—Himself. I bow down to this mighty One in each of you.

But you also have your parts to play on this grand journey you have begun—you must not leave it all to your Beloved. For every step the lover takes to the Beloved, the Beloved takes ten to the lover. But the lover must continually take that one step. We must practice taking beloved Baba's darshan, bowing down to Him in our hearts, every day, then every moment until we have continuous sight of Him.

Happenings will happen—even Grand Happenings. But they will not be that Happening which has to happen in our hearts. So do not look to these other happenings to nourish your faith; depend only upon His Word and its song in your hearts.

Be prepared for a long, long journey to have the Beloved's real darshan. But it may only take a mere seven hundred years to reach His door and bow down to Him for the last time and merge in Him forever.

JAI BABA! The Victory is His.

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# C A L E N D A R

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**FRIDAY-SATURDAY MEETINGS** - Meher Baba meetings are held at the Albany Methodist Church, Stannage Avenue and Marin in Albany. The meeting schedule is going through a transition to mostly Saturday nights. In the interim, be sure to read this calendar carefully. All programs begin at 8:00 PM sharp and normally end at 9:30 PM with time for visiting before and after the meeting. To check for program changes call (415) 845-4339.

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## **JUNE 3 (Saturday) - FILMS OF MEHER BABA**

A special showing of Irwin Luck's film "Meher Baba" - **Avatar of the Age** has been arranged for us. The film, which has been shown here once before, includes material completely new to all Baba Lovers.

## **JUNE 10 (Saturday) - INTRODUCTION TO MEHER BABA**

Greg Harland is going to lead a group meeting to which people who have never heard about Meher Baba, but would like to, are cordially invited. If you know someone who has shown an interest in Baba, please encourage them to visit. Greg will show the film "Meher Baba's Call."

## **JUNE 17 (Saturday) - SONGS AND STRINGS FOR THE BELOVED**

David Miotke, Ron Greenstein and others will sing, play and strum along for Baba's pleasure and amusement. Why not join us all in a mid-summer night's merriment?

## **JUNE 24 (Saturday) - AN EVENING WITH FRANCIS BRABAZON**



means  
bookstore  
will be  
present

Raine Eastman, who spent many happy times in Francis' company, will present a film, slides, readings and songs. Contact Raine if you have a Francis piece you'd like to read or sing.

## **JULY 1 - NO MEETING THIS WEEK**

In anticipation that many of us will be at the Los Angeles Sahavas, no meeting has been scheduled for this weekend.

## **JULY 8 (Saturday) - RICK CHAPMAN**

Rick Chapman will give a talk entitled "Entering the Silence."

## **JULY 15 (Saturday) - MEHER BABA'S SILENCE**

Larry Pesta will lead a discussion on the meaning and purpose of Meher Baba's silence. Come share your ideas and Silence Day experiences.

## **JULY 23 (Sunday!) FUND RAISER/GARDEN PARTY AT VAN BUSKIRKS'**

A gala affair at the home of Ed and Ursula Van Buskirk. The drawing of this year's Myrtle Beach Sweepstakes will be held at the party, which lasts from 1 to 6 PM. Adults and children welcome. Suggested donation \$ 15 per adult. Soft drinks will be there. Entertainment will be there. Hot coals will be available for those who wish to walk on them, or even barbecue. Bring food, bring swimming suits and come for an afternoon of fun in the sun.

## **JULY 29 (Saturday) - FILMS OF THE BELOVED**



A special event in the life of any Baba lover is the opportunity to see moving images of the Beloved. This month's films will be of the tour around America by Baba in 1956 (all reels).

**REMINDER:** There are no meetings scheduled for the month of August. Looking forward to seeing everyone in September!

## **Special Events and Notices**

### **Myrtle Beach Sweepstakes**

Note the flyer inserted into this calendar concerning the Myrtle Beach Sweepstakes. This year's sweepstakes drawing will be held on July 23rd, so only a little time remains to purchase your ticket to ride! Get your chance for a visit to Baba's home in the West by contacting your ticketwalla or Ron Greenstein at 525-3364.

### **Quilt Winner**

Congratulations to David Miotke, who won the beautiful quilt made by Elena Alvarado and donated as a love gift

continued on the next page

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## **MEHER BABA CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC.**

President, Ursula Van Buskirk • Vice President, Larry Pesta • Secretary, Janice Quartieri • Treasurer, Keith Gunn • Office Manager, Fred White.

**Board of Directors:** Marilyn Buehler • Ron Greenstein • Keith Gunn • Greg Harland • David Miotke • Larry Pesta • Ursula Van Buskirk.

**Coordinators:** Program, Greg Harland • Finance, Ron Greenstein • Membership, Bing Heckman • Publicity, Marilyn Buehler • Service, Larry Pesta • Archives, Michael Le Page • Bookstore, Ben Leet.

## The Coming Rummage Sale

Our annual rummage/garage sale is scheduled to be held the second weekend in September. Don't throw anything good away! This is your chance to donate it for the greater good. To find out more about what things move well, call Cindy Lowe at 339-9094 or Lisa Greenstein at 525-3364.

## Prashada ("Necklace of Praise")

Doug Stalker writes from New York City to announce a plan to share poems in praise of Baba back and forth between Baba lovers. The goal of this effort is to assemble one long poem, composed of many short pieces by various Lovers, in praise of the Beloved. Please contact him at 330 W. 101<sup>th</sup> Street N.Y., N.Y. 10025 for further details.

## Trustwalla

Our faithful trustwalla for years has been Jenny Califf. Starting July 1, Jack Mormon will be taking over the responsibility. All who wish to share in fulfilling the commitments laid down by Baba through the instrument of the Trust should contact Jenny c/o Safeguard, 74 14<sup>th</sup> Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Phone: (415) 864-3377 through June 30, 1989. Thereafter, they should contact Jack at P.O. Box 1250, Berkeley, CA 94701.

## Meetings in Nearby Cities

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## Reminder

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## ARTI

Each Sunday morning at 10:00 AM, Arti will be performed at the home of Ron and Lisa Greenstein, 600 Albemarle, El Cerrito. Phone: (415) 525-3364.

## Board Meetings

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2131 University Avenue, Room 235  
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