

QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER

2131 UNIVERSITY AVE., RM. 235
VOL. 22

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704
WINTER 1992

THE "EAT & RUN"

BY HEATHER NADEL

I think many of us who follow Baba but did not know of Him when we were young, have stories of His touching our lives in childhood. Here's one of mine:



I was born in San Francisco and spent my early childhood in Menlo Park. One weekend, my grandmother, who lived in San Francisco, took my sister and me to her apartment for a visit. I was five and my sister was three. After a day there, I think our rambunctiousness got to her, because the next day, Grandmother announced that we were going for a drive in the country. She was a real nature fanatic, and as we drove over the Golden Gate Bridge into Marin County, she kept pointing out things like the bay, the cliffs, the gulls. "Oh look, girls, there's a redwood!" My sister and I would look for a minute and then go back to playing in the back seat. The gorgeous woods and meadows of Marin were lost on us. I don't remember a bit of it. But as we drove down the main street of a small Marin town, suddenly I spotted something fantastic. It was a huge neon sign in the shape of a hamburger with 15¢ written on the burger. Very realistic. Tremendously exciting. Extremely BIG! I shrieked and pulled my sister over to the window. "Look at that! It's a big hamburger!" We got so excited. We just couldn't get over it—a huge, garish neon hamburger hanging in the sky. We stared until it was out of sight and then talked about it all the rest of the weekend. Poor Grandmother.

Some time later, our family moved to Kentfield. We kids were nervous and anxious about the change. You can imagine our delight when, driving down the main street of our new town for the first time, we saw—you guessed it—the BIG HAMBURGER. Wow, what a cool place! We were suddenly thrilled about the whole thing.

However, things were not as rosy as they seemed. Our parents immediately caught on to our obsession with the Big Hamburger and the drive-in it advertised, and we were told that we were never, never to set foot there.

Hamburger or no hamburger, the "Eat and Run" drive-in was a BAD place. Forbidden. It was the only place in town we couldn't go. It was rumored that they even served horsemeat! If you ever so much as looked at it, horrible things would happen to you. BAD people go there. GOOD people only eat at Woodlands Restaurant, across the street near the grocery store

(boring, believe me!).

The school board obviously felt the same way about the "Eat & Run" as our parents did. The drive-in was right next to the school, separated only by a chain-link fence, but was strictly off-limits to all the children. But how could they expect a chain-link fence to shield us from the fascination of the "Eat & Run?" At lunchtime we kids would hang on the fence trying to get our fill of "badness." Bikers with beards and Harleys would roar in and we would stare at them and the blondes with their beehive hairdos and tight red pants. If the bikers left, we could always gawk at the teenagers in their souped-up hot rods. They would race around the parking lot and then get out and lounge against their cars smoking cigarettes. It was heaven—I mean, you just couldn't find anything anywhere that was badder! I knew my brother was truly out of my parents' control the day I saw him having a milkshake with his gang at the "Eat & Run."

Oh how I envied him, daring to enter the Underworld, while I resisted, terrified of being metamorphosed into BAD. To my parents, it was Babylon. For me, it was the most interesting place in our little town. People actually wore black there (I was dying to wear black, just once!). And they rode around on fast, sleek shiny machines (I could only ride my blue Schwinn). And they drank milkshakes out of generous, oversized paper cups (Woodland Restaurant served their milkshakes in puny little glasses). It had such a grip on my psyche that even years later when I came back to Kentfield from college, I felt the pull of the "Eat & Run". I couldn't resist—I went for a milkshake. But I was so nervous I could hardly drink it. The "Forbidden Zone" was still off-limits to me.

Continued on back page

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IN SILENCE AMIDST DIVISION

Years went by. I moved to India, and one day I was in the trust office compound hanging around with Adi (Adi K. Irani) in his room. Adi was telling jokes and stories, and we were having fun, when suddenly I remembered that he was with Baba in 1958 when Baba went to Lud Dimpfl's home in Kentfield. Baba was on His way from Myrtle Beach to Australia with the mandali. They had a one-day stopover in San Francisco, and Baba decided to spend the night at Lud's house. Joanie Dimpfl-Harland can tell you all about it. Anyway, Adi and I started talking about that visit, and I told Adi that I grew up in Kentfield, in fact, right down the street from Lud.

"Oh," said Adi. "I'll never forget that place. You see, poor Lud wasn't prepared for Baba's visit, as all the family had gone to be with Him in Myrtle Beach. And now Baba was coming to his house and nothing was ready for Him. But Baba wanted to go there, so we went. Of course, there wasn't any food in the house, so Lud and I got in the car and went out to buy some food for Baba. But it was some holiday and all the stores were closed. Nothing was open in town, so finally we ended up at this fast-service food place. I think we got a milkshake for Baba and some finger chips (french fries) for the mandali. That place had the funniest name. Let me see, what was it? 'Run & Pay?' 'Eat & Go?' 'Go & Take?'"

"Adi," I said, gasping, I couldn't believe what was happening. I could hardly speak. "Adi, do you mean the 'Eat & Run?'"

"That's it!" Adi beamed, "It was the 'Eat & Run!'"

It was so fantastic I could hardly grasp it. Then I started laughing. There was my psyche's Den of Darkness, and in the middle of it sat Beloved Baba smiling at me, light-



ening it all, redeeming it all, enjoying His milkshake from the "Eat & Run." Jai Babà!

ONE MORE ANECDOTE ABOUT MARIN

Maybe some of you remember those calendars that Richard Deane had printed up in the late 70's or early 80's. Above each month was a big color picture of Baba, different shots from His 1956 visit to the West. When I moved to Meherabad I put one of those calendars on the wall in our room, by the side of my desk.

One day I was sitting at my desk and feeling very low. It was an old, familiar kind of "lowness" and I started examining it, trying to figure out where it came from and what it was about. After some time, I had a memory of feeling just that way when I was six years old. This made me sad, and I began to feel sorry for that little six-year-old, so confused and lost. And all of a sudden, I felt upset with Baba, and in my mind started asking Him, "Where were you when I was so helpless and confused? You say you love me—where were you when I was six years old?"

Just as I had this thought, I was startled by some sound at my side and I looked up. It was just a bird outside, but my glance fell on that calendar. There was Baba, standing near Coit Tower, smiling. And there was the San Francisco Bay. And what was that land mass beyond the bay, behind Baba? Oh my goodness, it's Marin County! Where I lived! Yes, where I lived. In 1956. When I was six years old.

It was one of those transcendent moments, beyond time. Baba reached right out of that calendar to tell me: "See, I was there, I was right there loving you all along."

MEHER BABA CENTER
of Northern California, Inc.

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SPRING 1992
VOL.22

KITTY DAVY IS UNITED WITH BABA

In remembrance of Kitty's passing at 4:50 am, December 3rd 1991, we are reprinting excerpts from "Come and See", an article she wrote for the Meher Baba Journal in 1938. In her introduction to Love Alone Prevails, Kitty Davy reminisces about writing this article:

"Baba had asked each of us to contribute an article to a new magazine on impressions of our first experiences of ashram life....when the final day came for handing my article to Baba, alas, I did not have it finished— my excuse or mood being that I was not a writer but a music teacher! I was still at the typewriter when Baba appeared at the door

to take my attempt, which I had entitled "Come and See." Baba watched over my shoulder until the article was completed, then with a beaming smile He gathered the papers together and left. Later the thought occurred that perhaps Baba was indicating a time would come when I would feel the responsibility to share my writings with others — not to emphasize my own personal experiences but for the unfolding of one more aspect of Beloved Baba, one more saying of His, one more example from Meher Baba's actions for us all."

Come And See

"Come and see the Acropolis at Athens,," writes one enthusiast to his friend at home. "Come and see the Ellora Caves," writes another; "to see these alone is worth a trip to India." "Come and see the famous masterpieces in Florence; their beauty will leave a lasting impression," writes a third.

Many there are ever ready to spend their savings, their earnings, their fortunes on these different quests; but how few are ever prepared to spend time or money on the Quest of the spirit which seeks for the perfection of beauty that is manifested in the human-divine form — the vision of Divine Love....

Said One long ago, "Come and see," in answer to His disciples' question, "where dwellest Thou?" They came, they followed, they forsook all and found the "pearl of great price."

Today, nearly 2,000 years later, this same Voice spoke to a little group in answer to the same question, saying: "Come and see." They obeyed and are here — a small group gathered from all parts of the world; not in Nazareth, but in a spot not very different — Meherabad — situated on a hill looking down upon the village of Arangaon to the south and to the north Ahmednagar, the famous military fort of past days. A

group not unlike that early group. Some like wavering Peter, some like doubting Thomas, some with the intuition of John, some with the weakness but the supreme love and faith of Mary Magdalene; some filled with the cares of the household like Martha, some like Mary — calm and never ruffled, looking up at her Master with eyes that tell how she understands, ever ready to respond to His mood, ever thoughtful of His human needs and not worrying Him with her little cares and troubles after a weary day's work. How Jesus must have loved that thoughtfulness for His human side, for we know that He was indeed tired at times.

Today can be observed a little scene not unlike that of 2,000 years ago. Meher Baba, our beloved Master, coming up the hill in the midday tropical sun and, before He has had time to enter his room, being besieged by one wanting a letter to be signed, another with some petty grievance, another with some domestic matter of no importance, and Meher Baba patiently listening, not turning away, weary and tired though He be after bathing and feeding the god-mad down below....

Up on the hill live the women from the West, sharing now in closest detail the life of the Eastern group, who have been here since its foundation. The youngest member of the group is Meher Baba's own sister, Mani. All live an active and busy life, secluded only in the sense that — except for the Master — no men enter the precincts. Outside the boundary wall is the women's hospital, a few steps only from the sacred spot where Meher Baba has gone into seclusion for months at a time, and which previously was the site of the Prem Ashram.

Such are the surroundings of Meher Baba's earthy spiritual home, the atmosphere of which is beyond comparison. One speaks from experience, having only recently returned from a six-months tour of India, visiting during that period the recognized spiritual places, and returning to this place — set on a holy hill — to breathe again with joy inexpressible the pureness of its air, the freshness of its breezes and the beauty of Divine Love and Peace woven into every grain of its soul. This is Meherabad, the radiating center of all Meher Baba's activities; the place of pilgrimage for the future.

What have we seen? One, like Jesus, who draws followers to Him through love. One who says, "I have only love to give and all I want is love." One who does not promise his followers earthly happiness, but who says nevertheless, "Be happy, be cheerful. Do not worry, do not brood." Thus teaching from the very beginning that self-mastery holds the golden key to Divine Perfection.

(continued on the back cover)

NEWSLETTER

MEHER BABA NETWORK

Many Baba Lovers in the Bay Area have expressed interest in finding ways to increase the sense of community. During the past year, several efforts have been made to find ways to overcome feelings of distance among us.

Two fellowship meetings were scheduled last year to discuss ways to improve the sense of community. The success of these meetings led to a succession of fellowship meetings. Participants favored engaging in goal directed activities (such as last year's "Being Is Dying By Loving" musical) and more intimate gatherings in people's homes (such as the Discourse meetings). Participants also wanted an "Information Central" for activities and gatherings.

In response the Board established the Meher Baba Network. Ron Greenstein (510-525-3364) and Dick Anderson (510-930-8319) volunteered to direct people to activities and to gather names of people interested in participating in new activities.

Here are the results to date of these efforts and a summary of activities already in progress in northern California. If you want to participate, call the contact person listed below. If you want to start a new activity, or add your name and interests to the data bank, call Ron Greenstein or Dick Anderson.

NEW ACTIVITIES

BAY TO BREAKERS CENTIPEDE

Be a pair of legs in a "Blue Bus" entry in the May race or help with the construction. Leave a message at 415-845-4339.

CALENDAR PROJECT

Help create a calendar of important events in Baba's life, with quotes, photos, etc. Proceeds will support the Avatar Meher Baba Center of Northern California. Contact Roman Babiak at 510-273-9426.

COMMUNITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

This will be a facilitated workshop for Baba Lovers to enhance our capacity as a community to share and experience contact, trust, and love.. Our goal is to become less defensive and isolated from each other. The workshop will take place on a weekend in June (dates to be announced.). More information will be available at a later date.

SAILING ON THE BAY

Renting a sailboat for weekend cruising with a group of Baba-Lubbers. Contact Brad Mandell at 510-223-4002.

THEATER GROUP

Participate in creating a Baba play and being part of the production. Call Debbie Tyler at 707-554-8535

NEW CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

As a result of the fellowship meetings a group of parents met and set in motion a schedule of children's activities on the 4th Sunday of each month. Families with children will participate in activities coordinated by the parent(s) in charge that month. A committee was formed to work with children on skits. Also, meetings are being planned for older children.

February 23, 1992 - 2:00 - 4:00 PM

CHILDREN'S BABA BIRTHDAY PARTY

*Harding Park Club House
C Street, El Cerrito*

This will be a pot luck. Birthday cake and activities provided. Coordinator: Sue Jamison 510-236-7993.

March 29, 1992 - all day (fifth Sunday of the month)

TRIP TO MONTEREY AQUARIUM

If enough parents express interest, plans will also be made to spend Saturday night at a Monterey motel. Coordinator: Lisa Greenstein 510-525-3364.

April 26, 1992

Call for details and directions.

Coordinator: Ursula Van Buskirk 510-947-0495

May 24, 1992

Call for details and directions.

Coordinators: Sue Jamison 510-236-7993 and Emiko Larson 510-526-2309.

A children's phone tree is being formed. To be included call Raine Eastman-Gannett at (510) 649-0433

ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS:

LOVE STREET SINGERS AND PLAYERS

This group puts on at least two performances a year - one in June and one in December for the Holidays, Contact Raine Eastman-Gannett at 510-649-0433.

MEHER BABA INFORMATION

If you want to help disseminate information about Baba to people worldwide, then you can volunteer time at "The Box". Contact Rick or Sheryl Chapman at 510-562-1101.

MEN'S MEETING

A men's support group has been in progress for almost two years in the Berkeley area. Contact Joe Elia at 510-236-4479.

SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS

An outgrowth of the fellowship meetings are semi-monthly gatherings held at homes. Flexible formats involve informal sharing of experiences in Baba's Love. Contact Greensteins at 510-525-3364. *Next meeting is February 28th at 7:15 PM at the Harland's in El Cerrito. Call 510-234-9647 for directions.*

AVATAR MEHER BABA CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC.

President, Darrell Rupe - Vice President, Alexandra Cons - Secretary, Roman Babiak - Treasurer, Jack Mormon Board of Directors: Soussan Adham, Roman Babiak, Alexandra Cons, Harold Jamison, Raj Mehta, Darrell Rupe, Paul Williams. Newsletter: Roman Babiak, Alexandra Cons, Keith Gunn, Lisa Greenstein, Betty Lowman, Cherri Nelson, Trustwalla: Jack Mormon (P.O. Box 1250, Berkeley, CA 94701)

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C A L E N D A R

EVENTS FOR SPRING 1992

Meher Baba events are held on Saturday nights except for meetings held on the **FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH** unless otherwise indicated below. **B** Bookstore **C** Childcare

TIMES- Events start at 8:00 PM and normally end by 9:30 PM unless otherwise noted.

LOCATIONS - Events are held at the Albany Methodist Church unless otherwise noted. The church is at the corner of Marin and Stannage, two blocks east of San Pablo Avenue in Albany (North of Berkeley) Take the Albany exit from Interstate 80.

To check for program changes call 510-845-4339.

FRI. MARCH 6 **B** **C**

SHIREEN BONNER

The daughter of Baba's brother Adi tells stories about her Uncle Baba and growing up in a Baba family in England.

SAT. MARCH 7 - 7:00 PM

POT LUCK DINNER WITH SHIREEN AND JAY BONNER

The Bonners requested this chance to visit informally. The dinner will be held in Fremont at the Mehta's home. Call Raj or Damyanti to RSVP and for directions - 510-790-7188

SAT. MARCH 14 - 7:00 PM **C**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (WITH HORS D'OEUVRES)

Exercise your right to vote in the new board and approve this year's budget. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres hosted by the outgoing board while hearing a recap of last year's accomplishments.

SAT. MARCH 21 **C**

KITTY DAVY MEMORIAL

Join us in a tribute to her life of love and service, and the spontaneous goodness that enriched, by example, the hearts of many Baba Lovers. Possible film or tape of Kitty.

SAT. MARCH 28

NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

The pleasure of the Beloved's presence in "The Ancient One" and "Stay With Meher Baba" - plus popcorn.

FRI. APRIL 3 - 7:00 PM

CHILDREN'S NIGHT

An evening free from parenting. Entertainment for all of Beloved Baba's children. Young and old will enjoy this special program - sweets and refreshments served.

SAT. APRIL 11 - FUND RAISER **B**

JAMIE NEWELL CONCERT

Arlington Community Church
52 Arlington Avenue in Kensington

Love for the Beloved expressed in the country blues of this Nashville singer-songwriter. Suggested donation \$10.00

SAT. APRIL 18

A TRUST UPDATE

A look at the inner workings of the Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Trust - its accomplishments over the years.

SAT. APRIL 25

HOW I CAME TO BABA

Hear the "Baba Stories" of some fellow Bay Area Baba Lovers and marvel at the intricate workings of Divine Love.

FRI. MAY 1

FILM NIGHT

Recover from the work week by gazing at the Divine Beloved in Irwin Luck's film "Avatar Of The Age."

SAT. MAY 9 **B**

RON AND DARRELL CONCERT

Two distinct vocal and guitar styles blend and balance in love for Beloved Baba. Darrell Rupe and Ron Greenstein give a concert of original songs and Baba favorites.

SAT. MAY 16 - 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

FLEA MARKET FUNDRAISER

Friends Meeting Hall

Vine and Walnut in Berkeley

HELP WANTED - to collect, price and sell. Experience the joy of drudgery and raise funds for the Avatar Meher Baba Center of Northern California. To contribute items or time call Roman Babiak at 510-273-9426.

SAT. MAY 23

BABA, SPORTS AND SPIRITUALITY

Learn about the games and sports Baba played and what he said about the spiritual significance of some of them.

SAT. MAY 30 - Noon to Exhaustion

PICNIC WITH GAMES BABA PLAYED

Cordonices Park

1301 Euclid Ave. at Eunice in Berkeley

Pot Luck food and drinks - bring your own meat for the grills. Games like 7 Tiles, Ati Pati, Gili Danda, Cricket, etc. Also a children's playground and the Berkeley Rose Garden.

LOCAL MEETINGS

El Cerrito - Sunday Mornings - 10:00 AM

Arti and singing.

Contact the Greensteins at 510-525-3364

El Cerrito - Thursday Evenings - 7:15 PM

"Discourses" reading and discussion.

Contact Louise Barrie or Dick Anthony at 510-524-1440.

Fresno - Wednesday Evenings - 7:30 to 8:30 PM

Arti, and a varied program.

Contact Sharon or Phil Scott at 209-449-0877

Palo Alto - Friday Evenings - 8:00 PM

Arti, singing, and readings.

Contact the MacDonalds at 415-322-0886

Petaluma - Sunday Mornings - 11:00 AM

Arti, readings, and fellowship.

Contact Hermann Loew at 707-778-1195.

Sacramento - Sunday Mornings - 11:00 AM

Singing, readings from "Lord Meher", and food.

Contact the Busfields at 916-448-4264

If your regularly scheduled local meeting is not listed please call 510-273-9426 to get it into the next newsletter.

(Continued from front cover)

Picture Mcher Baba with His group of men and women disciples and without even the spoken word noting their every frown, every anxiety, every thought and feeling, and perhaps in front of all or taking one aside, spelling out on his board (His self-chosen means of communication): "What is wrong? What has upset you? Are you worrying about anything?" There stands the Silent One alongside you with His infinite love and knowledge, helping to bring to the surface and to have spoken out all the pent-up feelings, any of which are sanskaras from the past as well as the present, some of which you are not even conscious of. And saying at the end: "Will you promise Me one thing? You say you love me. You say you want to please Me and to see Me happy. Then remember, be happy and do not worry. I will help you. I know all, I know how deep is your love. Just do as I say. Love Me, and leave the rest to me."

From: Treasures from the Meher Baba Journals, Sheral Press, Copyright 1990 by Meher Spiritual Center

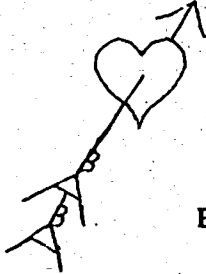
Kitty's Valentine To Baba

Sent February 14, 1958

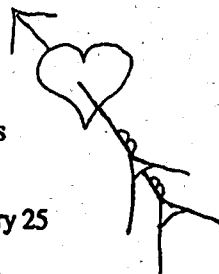


To
Baba My Valentine
of the

Unending Past the Unending Present the Unending Future



to
BABA
with the Universal Heart
of
Ageless Limitless Timeless
LOVE



to
BABA on His Birthday, February 25
a message of Love
That springs from His Heart
That dwells within His Heart

From: Love Alone Prevails, Sheral Press, Copyright 1991 by Meher Spiritual Center

LETTER FROM THE TRUSTWALLA

Greetings and JAI BABA - Followers of Avatar Meher Baba:

For the past two and half years I have been the "Trustwalla". That is the person designated by the community and then agreed upon by Mani Irani to collect money to be forwarded to India. The money that you donate to The Avatar Meher Baba Trust helps, and is used for, the necessary ongoing work in India. These donations go to two distinct areas:

1. Money goes to support the resident persons and Mandali that Baba designated in His Trust Deed.
2. Ongoing work on projects that Baba named in His Trust Deed:
 - Amartithi (and associated costs for Indian and foreign Pilgrims),
 - Upkeep of Mcherabad and The Samadhi (Baba's Tomb),
 - Purchase of property bordering on Mcherabad
 - Schools for village children,
 - Scholarships for village children,
 - Health clinics for local villagers,
 - A rural health clinic,
 - Animal veterinary services for local farmers,
 - Etc.

All the donations that you give, go directly to the Trust. The Trust is upholding Baba's orders for the work He set out in His Trust Deed.

You can help The Trust with this work by regularly (or when the feeling strikes) sending checks to the "Trustwalla".

When you give a donation, I will send you a receipt and also a pre-addressed envelope for your next donation.

To be involved in the vital Baba Work, please forward your checks to the address below, or phone 510-601-0569 for more details. Make checks payable to "Jack Mormon."

Jack Mormon
PO Box 1250
Berkeley, California 94701



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BY HEATHER NADEL

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I was born in San Francisco and spent my early childhood in Menlo Park. One weekend, my grandmother, who lived in San Francisco, took my sister and me to her apartment for a visit. I was five and my sister was three. After a day there, I think our rambunctiousness got to her, because the next day, Grandmother announced that we were going for a drive in the country. She was a real nature fanatic, and as we drove over the Golden Gate Bridge into Marin County, she kept pointing out things like the bay, the cliffs, the gulls. "Oh look, girls, there's a redwood!" My sister and I would look for a minute and then go back to playing in the back seat. The gorgeous woods and meadows of Marin were lost on us. I don't remember a bit of it. But as we drove down the main street of a small Marin town, suddenly I spotted something fantastic. It was a huge neon sign in the shape of a hamburger with 15¢ written on the burger. Very realistic. Tremendously exciting. Extremely BIG! I shrieked and pulled my sister over to the window. "Look at that! It's a big hamburger!" We got so excited. We just couldn't get over it—a huge, garish neon hamburger hanging in the sky. We stared until it was out of sight and then talked about it all the rest of the weekend. Poor Grandmother.

Some time later, our family moved to Kentfield. We kids were nervous and anxious about the change. You can imagine our delight when, driving down the main street of our new town for the first time, we saw—you guessed it—the BIG HAMBURGER. Wow, what a cool place! We were suddenly thrilled about the whole thing.

However, things were not as rosy as they seemed. Our parents immediately caught on to our obsession with the Big Hamburger and the drive-in it advertised, and we were told that we were never, never to set foot there.

Hamburger or no hamburger, the "Eat and Run" drive-in was a BAD place. Forbidden. It was the only place in town we couldn't go. It was rumored that they even served horsemeat! If you ever so much as looked at it, horrible things would happen to you. BAD people go there. GOOD people only eat at Woodlands Restaurant, across the street near the grocery store

(boring, believe me!).

The school board obviously felt the same way about the "Eat & Run" as our parents did. The drive-in was right next to the school, separated only by a chain-link fence, but was strictly off-limits to all the children. But how could they expect a chain-link fence to shield us from the fascination of the "Eat & Run?" At lunchtime we kids would hang on the fence trying to get our fill of "badness." Bikers with beards and Harleys would roar in and we would stare at them and the blondes with their beehive hairdos and tight red pants. If the bikers left, we could always gawk at the teenagers in their souped-up hot rods. They would race around the parking lot and then get out and lounge against their cars smoking cigarettes. It was heaven—I mean, you just couldn't find anything anywhere that was badder! I knew my brother was truly out of my parents' control the day I saw him having a milkshake with his gang at the "Eat & Run."

Oh how I envied him, daring to enter the Underworld, while I resisted, terrified of being metamorphosed into BAD. To my parents, it was Babylon. For me, it was the most interesting place in our little town. People actually wore black there (I was dying to wear black, just once!). And they rode around on fast, sleek shiny machines (I could only ride my blue Schwinn). And they drank milkshakes out of generous, oversized paper cups (Woodland Restaurant served their milkshakes in puny little glasses). It had such a grip on my psyche that even years later when I came back to Kentfield from college, I felt the pull of the "Eat & Run". I couldn't resist—I went for a milkshake. But I was so nervous I could hardly drink it. The "Forbidden Zone" was still off-limits to me.

Continued on back page

IN SILENCE AMIDST DIVISION

Oh, Meher Tell us how to be one heart with Your mind.

We all know we want to grow into this some day, some lifetime, but, tell us how to do it now, today!!!

Now is when we need this gift.

Now we are trying to make a new home for You.

Now we are trying to arrive at Your will.

Now we are worrying about spiritual guidelines, members of each center and money.

Now we are divided over words and ideas and visions.

Oh, Meher Tell us how to be one heart with Your mind and tell us quick!!!

We all know we are part of You, but why is it that the part we are expressing is Your leela?

Why not show us how to express Your harmony?

We promise You; Once You have Your new home you may play in Your mischievous way.

But now, couldn't You give us the gift of Your clear-sightedness?

Oh, workers at the Project Mariposa Don't Worry.

Just call My name and I am there.

Just call My name and I become the leader.

But I like a little leela.

Much of My creation does not make Me smile.

So just remember, it is Me being mischievous in you and your dissenting neighbor.

If you remember this, then your gift of making Me smile is priceless.

Don't worry, you are speaking with one heart and with My mind.

Only I'm the ultimate ventriloquist and I speak from many sides of the circle.

Be reassured, you called My name and I became the leader.

Oh, future members of the Project Mariposa My name was called and I became the leader.

Be in My new home and give me the gift of a smile.

2991 ,71 rebotcO ainorfilaC ,asopiraM—XOBRAT

A NOTE FROM DARRELL RUPE

As I was looking over our winter schedule, I realized that many of our meetings have become individual performances, although we have no stage. The talents of our group's performers seem to pull us together for Baba by our heartstrings. Every Baba lover is invited to join in the sharing by reading passages that have brought inspiration, to express ideas or concerns or to contribute refreshments. I also invite all interested Baba Lovers to come to the January 1st meeting so we may gather a broad spectrum of ideas for future programs which, do not forget, will include the 100th birthday celebration of our Beloved Meher Baba. -Jai Baba!

CHILDREN'S GATHERING

SUN. FEB. 28 - MEHER BABA'S BIRTHDAY - 1-4 PM

Come celebrate Baba's birthday. Bring equipment for games of all sorts. Bring food to share.

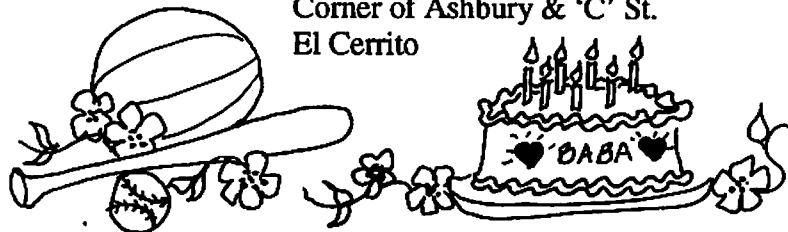
Coordinators: Lisa Greenstein 510-525-3364

Louise Barrie 510-524-1440

Location: Harding Park

Corner of Ashbury & 'C' St.

El Cerrito



MEETINGS - Meher Baba events are held on Saturday nights except for meetings held on the **FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH** unless otherwise indicated below. **TIMES**- Events start at 8:00 PM and normally end by 9:30 PM unless otherwise noted. **LOCATIONS** - Events are held at the Albany Methodist Church unless otherwise noted. The church is at the corner of Marin and Stannage, two blocks east of San Pablo Avenue in Albany (North of Berkeley) Take the Albany exit from Interstate 80. To check for program changes call 510-845-4339.

♥ **Bookstore**

FRI. DEC 4 - REMEMBERING INDIA

An informal evening of sharing impressions, stories, and precious remembrances of our pilgrimages to Baba's Meharabad and Meherazad. Children are encouraged to participate.

SAT. DEC. 5 - SUN. DEC. 6 - MARIPOSA PLANNING WEEKEND

All are welcome. RSVP to Pearsons (209) 966-5078.

SAT. DEC. 12 - DAVID MIOTKE PERFORMS

Baba's Musician's Musician gives us an evening of music inspired by the Beloved.

♥ **SAT. DEC 19 - CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Please bring appetizers or desserts to contribute to a festive evening. Raine Eastman-Gannett will lead us in Christmas Carols.

FRI. JAN 1-POT LUCK AND COMMUNITY PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING 7:00 PM

Diner and discussion about Baba Programs for the year to come. Everyone is welcome! Held at the home of Darrell Rupe and Soussan Adham, 3118 California St. Berkeley (510) 549-3118.

♥ **SAT. JAN 9 - IRWIN LUCK'S FILM AVATAR OF THE AGE WILL BE SHOWN.**

SAT. JAN 16 - CIRCLE DANCING FOR BABA

Baba loved to have people dance for Him. Come prepared to create dances together.

SAT. JAN 23 - GENERAL MEETING

Though not the Annual General Meeting, this will be of interest for all members. We will get an update on the Mariposa project and discuss other issues.

♥ **SAT. JAN. 30 - AMARTITHI**

On this special evening, we will gather in remembrance of Baba's dropping His body and join in the worldwide keeping of silence from 9:30 to 9:45 PM.

FRI. FEB. 5 - QUESTIONS FOR BABA

Everyone gets a turn to randomly select a question that was asked of Baba, and to hear Baba's responses.

SAT. FEB. 14 - CHILDREN'S TALENT NIGHT

A reprise of last year's successful, entertaining performances put on by the children for the adults.

SAT. FEB. 20 - FUND RAISING CONCERT FOR MEHER MINORS

Margaret Bernstein in concert, playing music from her album "Full Circle," inspired by her journeys to India.

THURS. FEB. 25 - MEHER BABA'S 99TH BIRTHDAY

♥ **SAT. FEB. 27 - MEHER BABA'S BIRTHDAY PARTY 7:00 PM.**

Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. in Kensington. A special public gathering in memory of the Beloved's 99th birthday, complete with cake, films and entertainment.

LOCAL MEETINGS

El Cerrito - Sunday Mornings - 10:00 AM
Arti and singing.

Contact the Greensteins at 510-525-3364

El Cerrito - Thursday Evenings - 7:15 PM
Discourses reading and discussion.

Contact Louise Barrie or Dick Anthony at 510-524-1440.

Fresno - Wednesday Evenings - 7:30 to 8:30 PM
Arti, and a varied program.

Contact Sharon or Phil Scott at 209-449-0877

Los Gatos - Friday Evenings - 8:00 PM
Arti, singing, and readings.

Contact Cherri Nelson at 415-325-2231

(The Palo Alto meeting has temporarily moved to Los Gatos because Hugh and Jeannie MacDonald are in India!)

Petaluma - Sunday Mornings - 11:00 AM
Arti, readings, and fellowship.

Contact Hermann Loew at 707-778-1195.

Sacramento - Sunday Mornings - 11:00 AM
Singing, readings from *Lord Meher* and food.

Contact the Busfields at 916-448-4264.

Walnut Creek - Wednesday Evenings 8 to 9:30 PM

Please call Helen Riehl 510-935-0167 or Gil Shepard at 510-930-8670 for directions

If your regularly scheduled local meeting is not listed please call 510-273-9426 to get it into the next newsletter.

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Board of Directors: Soussan Adham, Roman Babiak, Noreen Graham, Laura Hogan, Hermann Loew, Dee Mehta, Darrell Rupe,

Newsletter: Alexandra Cons, Keith Gunn, Lisa Greenstein, Betty Lowman, Cherri Nelson

Trustwalla: Jack Mormon (P.O. Box 1250, Berkeley, CA 94701)

Years went by. I moved to India, and one day I was in the trust office compound hanging around with Adi (Adi K. Irani) in his room. Adi was telling jokes and stories, and we were having fun, when suddenly I remembered that he was with Baba in 1958 when Baba went to Lud Dimpfl's home in Kentfield. Baba was on His way from Myrtle Beach to Australia with the mandali. They had a one-day stopover in San Francisco, and Baba decided to spend the night at Lud's house. Joanie Dimpfl-Harland can tell you all about it. Anyway, Adi and I started talking about that visit, and I told Adi that I grew up in Kentfield, in fact, right down the street from Lud.

"Oh," said Adi. "I'll never forget that place. You see, poor Lud wasn't prepared for Baba's visit, as all the family had gone to be with Him in Myrtle Beach. And now Baba was coming to his house and nothing was ready for Him. But Baba wanted to go there, so we went. Of course, there wasn't any food in the house, so Lud and I got in the car and went out to buy some food for Baba. But it was some holiday and all the stores were closed. Nothing was open in town, so finally we ended up at this fast-service food place. I think we got a milkshake for Baba and some finger chips (french fries) for the mandali. That place had the funniest name. Let me see, what was it? 'Run & Pay?' 'Eat & Go?' 'Go & Take?'"

"Adi," I said, gasping, I couldn't believe what was happening. I could hardly speak. "Adi, do you mean the 'Eat & Run?'"

"That's it!" Adi beamed, "It was the 'Eat & Run!'"

It was so fantastic I could hardly grasp it. Then I started laughing. There was my psyche's Den of Darkness, and in the middle of it sat Beloved Baba smiling at me, light-

ening it all, redeeming it all, enjoying His milkshake from the "Eat & Run." Jai Babà!

ONE MORE ANECDOTE ABOUT MARIN

Maybe some of you remember those calendars that Richard Deane had printed up in the late 70's or early 80's. Above each month was a big color picture of Baba, different shots from His 1956 visit to the West. When I moved to Meherabad I put one of those calendars on the wall in our room, by the side of my desk.

One day I was sitting at my desk and feeling very low. It was an old, familiar kind of "lowness" and I started examining it, trying to figure out where it came from and what it was about. After some time, I had a memory of feeling just that way when I was six years old. This made me sad, and I began to feel sorry for that little six-year-old, so confused and lost. And all of a sudden, I felt upset with Baba, and in my mind started asking Him, "Where were you when I was so helpless and confused? You say you love me—where were you when I was six years old?"

Just as I had this thought, I was startled by some sound at my side and I looked up. It was just a bird outside, but my glance fell on that calendar. There was Baba, standing near Coit Tower, smiling. And there was the San Francisco Bay. And what was that land mass beyond the bay, behind Baba? Oh my goodness, it's Marin County! Where I lived! Yes, where I lived. In 1956. When I was six years old.

It was one of those transcendent moments, beyond time. Baba reached right out of that calendar to tell me: "See, I was there, I was right there loving you all along."



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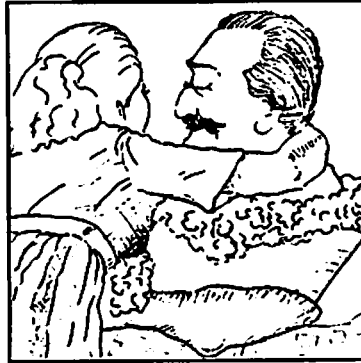
2131 UNIVERSITY AVE., RM. 235
VOL. 22

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704
SUMMER 1992

A CHILD'S EXPERIENCE OF MEETING MEHER BABA - Part 2

by Wendy Haynes Connor

The fall 1991 newsletter contains Wendy's account of her first meeting with the Avatar in 1958, when He came to Myrtle Beach. This second chapter is taken from the 1962 East-West Gathering.



In 1962 the news came that we had been waiting for since 1958—that we could go to India to see Baba. This was to be the first East-West gathering. We were so thrilled, because Baba said that we would be able to spend four days with Him. I was 11 by this time. One of the most exciting things about the trip was that I would get to miss three weeks of school. I remember my friends and teachers thought I was very strange to go to India. Young girls didn't have masters in those days. By this time, I realized that I was going to see God in human form.

I was feeling very in awe of seeing Baba and very shy. The first day we got to meet the women mandali. I couldn't believe how natural and loving they were. They treated us like family. I was very lucky to be a child, because I got to spend time with the Girls inside Guruprasad. Thousands of people would be out back in the pandal, and Baba would be on the stage. I would often be behind Baba peeping out a little window that was inside the palace. I found out it was Mehera's little hiding place too. Mehera always liked to watch Baba as much as possible. She couldn't come out, of course, since she was in seclusion from men under Baba's order.

One day when I was looking out that little window at the back of Baba's head, Baba suddenly turned around and twinkled at me, as if to say, "What are you doing? I know you're there!" I was so happy Baba noticed I was there. A few minutes later, Mani came rushing up to me with a garland that somebody had brought. It was very beautiful, made out of jasmine flowers, and she asked me, "Would you like to take this to Baba, out on the platform?" At first I felt very

shy, because there were so many people, and then I realized that I would get to see Baba, to put it on Baba. So I came out from behind Baba and went around to the front. Baba looked surprised and happy to see me. He leaned His head over so I could garland Him. And then He enfolded me in a wonderful embrace

that seemed to last forever. Everybody disappeared, all those thousands of people.

One morning, when Baba was seeing people in small groups, the Girls dressed me up in a sari. This was my first sari, I'd never seen one up close. They wrapped it all around me and put makeup on my face, which was very exciting, and a little red dot on my forehead. They said, "go show Baba!" I went out, and Baba was in the middle of something, but He stopped. He was so appreciative! He looked very pleased and said, "Wendy looks so beautiful, doesn't she?" And everybody had to agree, of course. I felt very happy.

Another morning, Baba had arranged for a quawali singer, one of the best in India, to sing for the Westerners. I tried every morning to get as close to Baba as possible. This morning I got the place of honor right next to Baba's chair on the floor. I settled in very comfortably, and then this woman began to sing. It was very hot in the room. As you can imagine, I began to get very drowsy. At 11 years old, I didn't appreciate this kind of music yet. It was rather "sing-songy" and a little monotonous to my untrained ear, and as she went on I began to get more and more sleepy. I leaned next to Baba's chair, got comfortable, and suddenly I was out. I know I was asleep because suddenly I felt a nudge in my elbow. I sat up and looked at Baba and He gestured, "Don't you like the music?" with a twinkle in His eye. "Oh yes, Baba," I said, sitting up straight. It was so funny, when I think of Baba poking me. Of course, I didn't go back to sleep again that day.

While we were there, at one point, an image came to my mind that has stayed with me. I felt as though we were inside a bubble, all of us, the whole East-

NEWSLETTER

WIN A TRIP TO INDIA!

Enclosed in this newsletter are tickets for our Fly-to-India Sweepstakes. Please return your ticket stubs and checks to participate in this exciting event. Your donation to the Meher Baba Center of Northern California is greatly appreciated and helps to support our working together in His love. The Drawing will be held July 19 at the Garden Party for Bhau Kalchuri at the home of Keith and Jan Gunn. For further information, call (510) 845-4339. Additional tickets can be purchased at meetings.

COMMUNITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

**Saturday, June 13, 8 AM - 6 PM and
Sunday, June 14, 9 AM - 1 PM**
Berkeley Conference Center
Parlor Room, 2105 Bancroft Way

Facilitator's fee and room rental cost to be divided among the participants.

An Ad Hoc committee of people interested in doing a facilitated Community Building Workshop emerged from recent fellowship meetings. The purpose, briefly, is to expand our trust and understanding of one another's hearts, become more loving and appreciative of our diversity, as well as experience the truth that Baba is the basis for our unity—yes, we want to warm up!

If you would like to reserve a space in the workshop (deposit required), phone Joe Elia at 236-4479. Space is limited to 50 people (room capacity). Reserve early!

INSPIRATION PAGE

We want to offer space in upcoming newsletters for drawings, poetry or other writing inspired by Meher Baba. You are encouraged to submit material for the feature to:

Lisa Greenstein
600 Albemarle
El Cerrito, CA 94530

We cannot guarantee inclusion in the "most next" newsletter and publishing is at the art director's and editor's discretion.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

A group of parents have set in motion a schedule of activities for children and families, generally on the 4th Sunday of each month. Meetings are also being planned for older children.

June 28 - Origami Workshop 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Annie & Vern Stovall's home
Call (510) 938-2126 for directions
Come create paper critters with Emiko Larson

July 12 - Pool Party and Potluck Lunch

10:00 - 12:00 PM meet at Livorna Pool in Walnut Creek
12:00 - 2:00 PM Potluck lunch at Home of co-ordinator
Annie Stovall (510) 938-2126

August 24 - Fun at Lafayette Reservoir 1:00 PM

Pedal boats • Rowboats • Children's Playground
Meet at the pedal-boats and bring food to share.
Co-ordinator: Karen Talbot (510) 376-4325

SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS

Informal gatherings are held semi-monthly, in north Bay Area homes, for fellowship, sharing, singing. Flexible formats. Contact Greensteins for next time and location (510) 525-3364.

LOCAL MEETINGS

El Cerrito - Sunday Mornings - 10:00 AM

Arti and singing.
Contact the Greensteins at 510-525-3364

El Cerrito - Thursday Evenings - 7:15 PM

God Speaks reading and discussion.
Contact Louise Barrie or Dick Anthony at 510-524-1440.

Fresno - Wednesday Evenings - 7:30 to 8:30 PM

Arti, and a varied program.
Contact Sharon or Phil Scott at 209-449-0877

Palo Alto - Friday Evenings - 8:00 PM

Arti, singing, and readings.
Contact the MacDonalds at 415-322-0886

Petaluma - Sunday Mornings - 11:00 AM

Arti, readings, and fellowship.
Contact Hermann Loew at 707-778-1195.

Sacramento - Sunday Mornings - 11:00 AM

Singing, readings from "Lord Meher", and food.
Contact the Busfields at 916-448-4264

Walnut Creek - Wednesday Evenings 8 to 9:30

Please call Helen Riehl (510) 935-0167 or Gil Shepard at (510) 930-8670 for directions

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To check for program changes call 510-845-4339.

FRIDAY JUNE 5 - GUTTA MEETING.

The board of directors invites the community to a gutta meeting. We want to provide an opportunity for everybody to actively participate in the meeting and to express their views about programs, meetings in general and anything else concerning the group. The name comes from the Manzil E Meem period, in January 1923, when Meher Baba proposed to the mandali living at the Manzil that a nightly meeting should be held at which every one could freely express himself, regarding "domestic" matter, followed by some entertainment.

The Gutta meeting will be a time when there is no 'regular program'. Everyone is encouraged to attend and to bring instruments, ideas and enthusiasm. It is an experiment and an opportunity to improve communications and also to promote a warm and friendly atmosphere. The Gutta meeting is not a general business meeting, nor is it just a discussion group. Gutta means **WINESHOP**. Ideally, what will happen at such a meeting is that people will come together and explore things that can bring us closer to Baba and to sip the wine of His love while we are together as a group.

SAT. JUNE 13 - FILM NIGHT.

Come and join in on Meher Baba's 1956 United States tour.

SAT. JUNE 20 - INDIAN COOKING CLASS AND FUNDRAISER - 6:00 PM SHARP

Dee Mehta will teach us her authentic recipes for: Thor Ke Dal, Onion Pulao, Gobi (cauliflower), Puris and Chai. Only those attending the class (\$15 donation) will share in the meal that follows. Reservations must be made by Tuesday, June 16th

in order to allow for food purchasing.

SAT. JUNE 27 - BRING YOUR OWN BRABAZON NIGHT

Come and bring your favorite Francis Brabazon poem, ghazal, play, song or story to share as we sample the diversity of art forms of Baba's poet.

FRIDAY JULY 3

No meeting scheduled, as many will be at the L.A. Sahavas Program.

FRIDAY JULY 10 (NOT SATURDAY!) SILENCE DAY REMEMBRANCE.

For those who wish to gather in observance of the 67th anniversary of Baba's silence, Baba's sadhra will be on display from 4 PM to 9:30 PM for garlanding, meditation, and contemplation. Silent films will be shown beginning at 8 PM.

SAT. JULY 18 - BHAU SPEAKS

Bhau Kalchuri has been one of Meher Baba's mandali since 1952. He was Baba's night watchman for many years, and has written numerous books on Baba, including the multi-volume epic *Lord Meher*. Bhau has spent much of his life in the Lord's wineshop, so don't miss this opportunity to share the wine of the Beloved.

SUN. JULY 19 - POT LUCK

Garden Party with Bhau at the home of Keith and Jan Gunn 52 Charles Hill Rd., Orinda (Take Hwy. 24 to exit St. Stephens, go North side of Hwy., take access road toward Walnut Creek. Turn left at Charles Hill Rd. Watch the signs carefully.

SATURDAY JULY 25

No meeting scheduled as many of us will be at Bhaustock III in Mariposa (July 24 - July 26).

AUGUST

There will be no meetings during the month of August. For other meetings, see "Local Meetings".

Special Note: Ben Leet is organizing weekend hikes during the month of August. Dust off your hiking boots and call him at (510) 834-2321 to join.

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Newsletter: Alexandra Cons, Keith Gunn, Lisa Greenstein, Betty Lowman, Cherri Nelson
Trustwalla: Jack Mormon (P.O. Box 1250, Berkeley, CA 94701)

(Continued from page 1)

West Gathering, a huge bubble floating in space and suspended in time. It came from that feeling of timelessness with Baba. Everything had stopped and it was just Baba.

The last official day, we were offered a final embrace from Baba. When it came my turn, I got about arm's length from Baba, when, for some reason I stopped and looked into Baba's eyes. At that moment, everything in the room disappeared. I disappeared, and there was just this experience of love flowing between us in a circle of love, but I wasn't there. Just Baba was there. It was so powerful that I felt myself starting to fall. Then suddenly that sensation was gone. At that moment, I looked up and found that I was still standing in the same spot. Baba was looking at me with a little twinkle in His eye, as if to say "What did you think of that?" I went forward to embrace Baba. Later that morning when Baba said good-bye, He picked up the hem of his garment in His hands and said, "Hold fast to my damaan with both hands. Don't let go." The last thing I saw was the hem of His garment flitting around the corner. It stays in my mind, just a little flicker of white.

The next two days were taken up with going to Meherazad and Meherabad. When we came back to Pune, to our amazement Baba sent word that we could go see Him one more time. We couldn't believe it! Baba said we could meet Him at Bund Gardens at 7:30 the next morning. We were so thrilled to have one more glimpse. The next morning, we all assembled under the Neem tree at Bund Gardens, and Baba sat there looking so beautiful. They had brought a chair for Baba to sit in. I don't remember Baba saying anything. We simply sat

together in silence. It was as if all the noise in Pune stopped. There was not a sound. We sat for I don't know how long. Then Baba stood up to go, and began to make His way slowly to the car. I wanted very much to get up close to Baba one last time, because I felt in my heart that we wouldn't see Baba this way again. Somehow, I found myself pushed to the back of the crowd, and I couldn't get close to Baba. The harder I tried, the more I got pushed back. I remember feeling so panicked. Suddenly the crowd parted and I found myself by the car, on the side opposite Baba by the driver. Baba wasn't looking at me. and the car was moving. I was crying by this time. Suddenly Baba turned and looked at me. I heard Him say with the inner voice, "Don't be sad, Wendy, I will always be with you," and the car pulled away.

I feel that Baba has always been with me. It is I who absent myself from Him. I had to learn and am still learning what it means to love Baba and to live a life for Him. I feel it's a daily process, an unfolding within, and that with every effort I make to please Baba, no matter how small, that with that effort, Baba's voice becomes clearer and clearer. I often think of Baba's work in the New Life, and what a miracle it is that He created through His own example this path of love. Baba has made it possible for each of us to find Him within, and if we can be alert to His voice within, we can please Him more and more. In essence this means putting ourselves aside more and more and putting Him first more and more, until He becomes the only focus in our lives. I've often heard people ask, "How do we love Baba now that He's gone?" Of course the answer is obvious - Baba isn't gone, but I think that part of the struggle we have is going though the pain of trying to find Him within. And learning to live for Him alone, just for Him.



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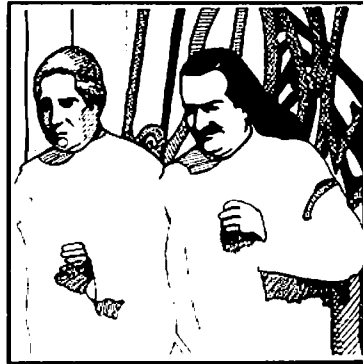
LOVE, SURRENDER AND OBEDIENCE

This is transcribed from Andy Muir talking at the LA Sahavas in 1992. Andy came to Baba in the 1940s, first meeting Baba in the body on May 17, 1952. In response to the question, "When did you first realize that Baba was who He said He was?"

Andy gave a somewhat unexpected answer, as follows:

I didn't realize He was who He said He was until I actually met Him. I accepted intellectually the concept of His being God, and the basis of that was that I felt that this man would never lie to me. That was the only proof that I had or needed, but I didn't realize that my acceptance of that fact had been purely intellectual until I found myself embracing Him in the Barn at Myrtle Beach, looking into His eyes. Then the fact that He was God was completely unimportant to me. It is a strange paradox that at the very moment I was totally convinced beyond all doubt that He was God, it didn't matter anymore. My level of acceptance of Him was His humanity and I was totally satisfied with His humanness. That was as far as I could go, because I am human and I can only respond to humans as human beings. I couldn't possibly understand what a saint is, let alone who God is. But I said after I met Him that I didn't care if He was the garbage man, that I loved Him and that was all that mattered to me.

Baba taught me the lesson of unconditional love, the kind of love a parent will give to a child. I had never known that in my life. It was so remarkable that when I first saw this man whom I had never seen before, I just ran into His arms and grabbed Him in an embrace. He didn't allow me to think about meeting God or meeting an important person. He took that all out of my mind before I went into the Barn. It's quite amazing to me that even then, He was taking care of my thinking. My greatest moments with Baba have always been when my mind was not involved. Consciousness, yes, but no thinking process. The feeling and remembrance of that meeting when Baba said of me, "He loves Baba very much," and



then said, "Baba loves him very much" was all I ever needed to hear. All of the book reading and all of the discussions and all of the meetings and all of the talks are all icing on the cake. Knowing and accepting His love was the key. I could never love someone in the abstract. I had to meet Him, it was necessary to have His

physical presence and to see him with my physical eyes. My love for Him would otherwise never have gone beyond a concept, an idea. But now, over the years, He has shown me His infinite compassion and care in so many ways. I know from the pattern of my life that I couldn't possibly have been worthy of that unconditional love. He told us one time in the Barn, "The idea of anyone being worthy of My love is an insult to God" because the person who could say that could not be aware of that unconditional love. At one time, prior to meeting Him, I had written a letter to Baba in which I said that I hoped to become worthy of His love. I put it that way because I knew I would be doing really well to be worthy of any person's love, let alone God's. In the Barn, I felt Baba was speaking directly to me.

Now you see how wonderful it was to hear Him in at our first meeting saying that I loved Him and He loved me. It solved everything. All of the doubts and worries and intellectual concerns that came to me later were meaningless in the light of that. He also told other people other things that were just exactly what they needed to hear.

As a child, obedience always meant something that I would avoid if I possibly could, because it meant I had to do something that I wouldn't want to do. But obedience with Baba is doing something out of love that brings us joy and happiness. It's also a gift from Him. There is no way we can obey Him except by His grace. If we could only see all our trials and tribulations as a manifestation of His love. It sounds crazy, but it's true. Many times, the things we work for and strive for in life are actually poison, the toxic waste of the spiritual path. His love is the

Continued on back page

NEWSLETTER

GROUP CAMPING IN YOSEMITE SEPTEMBER 25 - 27

All are invited for a weekend of tent camping, barbecuing, and/or hiking. We have reservations for 30 in the Yosemite Valley for two nights (Friday and Saturday). Space is limited, so please reserve early. Cost: \$6 per adult, \$3 per child. Call Greg or Joan Harland for details (510) 234-9647.

MEHER BABA INFORMATION

Meher Baba Information is an information center which distributes materials about Avatar Meher Baba worldwide. If you would like to help, call Rick or Sheryl Chapman at (510) 562-1101.

AUCTION TIME! WE NEED YOU!!!

November 14 is the date of the Auction/Fundraiser to benefit the Meher Baba Center of Northern California. We will be auctioning art, goods and services provided by our very talented and capable Baba community. In order to make this event a success, your donations are essential. You can donate art or goods for the auction, or be creative with your professional skills, talents, or hobbies. Dinners, picnics, musical skills, lessons, classes, entertainment, health care, or whatever special skills or talents you have can help make our auction a success! Please contact Noreen Graham at (510) 601-7388 or write to 3817 Clarke St., Oakland CA 94609 with your donation idea, or if you can help coordinate and organize this event. This has been one of our most successful fundraisers in the past, so please help out to "Make-It-So" once again.

"When the Word of my Love breaks out of its Silence and speaks in your heart, telling you who I really am, you will know that that is the Real Word you have always been longing to hear." - Meher Baba

FAMILY GATHERINGS (ALL ARE WELCOME)

SEPTEMBER 20 - A DAY AT STINSON BEACH - 1:00 PM - SUNSET

Meet at the Albany Methodist Church on Stannage and Marin, then caravan to the beach. Bring food for Pot-Luck dinner. Coordinator, Alisa Dreyfuss (510) 526-6078

OCTOBER 25 - AN AFTERNOON IN THE PARK 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Meet at the Harding School Park on C Street in El Cerrito, one block south of Fairmount and Ashbury. Bring softball equipment, or whatever games you like. Coordinator, Louise Barrie (510) 524-1440.

NOVEMBER 22 - ACTIVITY TO BE ANNOUNCED

Call Carol Singer (510) 234-7230



Eruch Jessawalla's mother Gaimai went home to Beloved Baba on June 22, 1992 at Meherazad. She had been Baba's devoted servant since 1938, when He called her entire family to leave all and follow Him.



Meher Baba Center of Northern California, Inc.

President, Hermann Loew • Vice President, Roman Babiak • Secretary, Debby Tyler • Treasurer, Jack Mormon
Board of Directors: Soussan Adham, Roman Babiak, Noreen Graham, Laura Hogan, Hermann Loew, Dee Mehta, Darrell Rupe,
Newsletter: Alexandra Cons, Keith Gunn, Lisa Greenstein, Betty Lowman, Cherri Nelson
Trustwalla: Jack Mormon (P.O. Box 1250, Berkeley, CA 94701)

MEETINGS - Meher Baba events are held on Saturday nights except for meetings held on the **FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH** unless other wise indicated below. **TIMES** - Events start at 8:00 PM and normally end by 9:30 PM unless otherwise noted. **LOCATIONS** - Events are held at the Albany Methodist Church unless otherwise noted. The church is at the corner of Marin and Stannage, two blocks east of San Pablo Avenue in Albany (North of Berkeley) Take the Albany exit from Interstate 80. To check for program changes call 510-845-4339.

♥ **Bookstore**

Friday, March 5. Meher Baba in Our Lives.

On the first Friday of each month Harold Jamison will coordinate a free and frank discussion of how Meher Baba guides us and how we follow Him.

Saturday, March 13. Annual General Meeting

Come and vote - exercise your right to choose the new board and approve this year's budget. We'll also hear a recap of last year's accomplishments by the outgoing board.

Saturday, March 20. ♥ Songs by Artists Baba Liked.

Al Jolson sings "Swanee," Chic Henderson sings "Begin the Beguine," and we'll also hear Paul Robeson, Jim Reeves and Cole Porter, among others. Come and see why these were the Beloved's favorites

Saturday, March 27. ♥ Margaret Bernstein in Concert.

Last month's concert was cancelled because of a scheduling conflict at the church. This is the rescheduled performance of music from her album "Full Circle." A \$6 donation, requested at the door, will go to the Youth Sahavas Committee.

Friday, April 2. First Friday discussion of Meher Baba in our Lives.

(see March 5)

Saturday, April 10. Phyllis Ott Talks and Exhibits Recent Work

Phyllis, a graduate of Harvard who studied with Hans Hoffman, worked with her husband and fellow artist Lyn to create the 17 beautiful murals at Meherabad, as well as many other portrayals of the Beloved. During her darshan with Baba in 1965 Baba gestured, "Phyllis sees my face perfectly."

Saturday, April 17. ♥ The Love Street Singers Perform.

Come for an evening of music including the premiere of *The Chorale and Arti in F Major*, a lovely piece written especially for The Love Street Singers by L.A. Baba Lover Pris Haffenden.

Saturday, April 24. Storytelling and Films.

Bring your favorite Baba story to share and enjoy two short Baba films.

Saturday, May 1, 12 PM. A May Day Picnic!

A potluck picnic on Angel Island. Together, once again, we will try to learn the games that our Beloved loved to play. Be sure to call the office, 510-845-4339, for a recording of the final details.

Friday, May 7. First Friday discussion of Meher Baba in our Lives.

(see March 5)

Saturday, May 15. Meher Baba in the Media

Kevin Mossburger will co-ordinate a meeting which will review themany, many ways Baba used the media.

Saturday, May 22. ♥ Remembrance of Mehera's joining the Beloved.

An evening of songs, poetry, reading and rejoicing co-ordinated by Raine Eastman-Gannett.

Saturday, May 29.

No meeting tonight, in anticipation of another visit by Baba's mandali member Bhau Khalchuri in Mariposa. Call the office, 510-845-4339, for details.

LOCAL MEETINGS

El Cerrito - Sunday Mornings - 10:00 AM

Arti and singing at the Greensteins at 510-525-3364

El Cerrito - Thursday Evenings - 7:15 PM

Discourse reading and discussion.

Contact Louise Barrie or Dick Anthony at 510-524-1440

Fresno - Wednesday Evenings - 7:30 to 8:30 PM

Arti, and a varied program.

Contact Sharon or Phil Scott at 209-449-0877

Palo Alto - Friday Evenings - 8:00 PM

Arti, singing, and readings.

Contact Cherri Nelson at 415-325-2231

Petaluma - Sunday Mornings - 11:00 AM

Arti, readings, and fellowship.

Contact Hermann Loew at 707-778-1195

Sacramento - Sunday Mornings - 11:00 AM

Discourse meeting second Tuesday of each month.

For times and locations of these and Sunday morning gatherings, call Marilyn Buehler at 916-925-4451

Walnut Creek - Wednesday Evenings 8 to 9:30 PM

Please call Helen Riehl 510-935-0167 or Gil Shepard at 510-930-8670 for directions

If your regularly scheduled local meeting is not listed please call 510-273-9426 to get it into the next newsletter.

Meher Baba Center of Northern California, Inc.

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DELIA

Baba's beloved Delia de Leon passed away on Thursday January 21, 1993. She was His 'Leyla,' along with 'Saroja' (Kitty Davy) and 'Zuleka' (Maragaret Craske)—His Frivolous Three. Delia met Baba in 1931 in England on His first trip to the west, and was thereafter His devoted follower, going with Him on His early travels in Europe and India. Delia was an actress by profession, and spent most of her life in London. Her home near Kew Gardens became a center for those wanting to learn more about the Divine Beloved.

Below is a poem that Delia sent to Baba. He loved this poem and had it translated and read aloud twice.

A POEM FOR BABA FROM HIS BELOVED LEYLA

*"If He offers thee His embrace
Run His caress to meet
If not His withholding is sweet.*

*If thou hast served Him well
Given Him all that was thine
Loved only the Divine
He never will part from thee,
Wholly in Him shalt thou dwell."*

Meher Baba Information

"The Box" sends information about Meher Baba to interested people worldwide. To volunteer, call Rick or Sheryl Chapman at (510) 562-1101.

SHERIAR FOUNDATION

The Sheriar Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation formed in 1989 to "broaden awareness and deepen the appreciation of the spiritual values exemplified in the life and writings of Meher Baba."

Contributions from those wishing to support the Foundation make possible specific publication and video productions. One book in the works, *God-Brother, Stories of my life with Meher Baba*, is an illustrated collection of charming stories written by Mani. *Conversations with The Awakener*, by Bal Natu, was the Foundations' first book publication. The Foundation serves as an umbrella for the Baba-publications activities of Sheriar Press, and has also produced, to date, six video productions. The Foundation has accumulated hundreds of hours of video tape of Meher Baba's disciples and of places most deeply connected to His life and work, and is currently producing darshan, a multi-faceted exploration of being in the presence of God. An extensive list of additional video projects is under consideration.

Those interested in helping move this plan of action forward, or in receiving a brochure, may write or call Sheila Krynski, Andy Lesnik or Ann Conlon at Sheriar Foundation, 3005 Highway 17 N. Bypass, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577, (803) 448-1106.

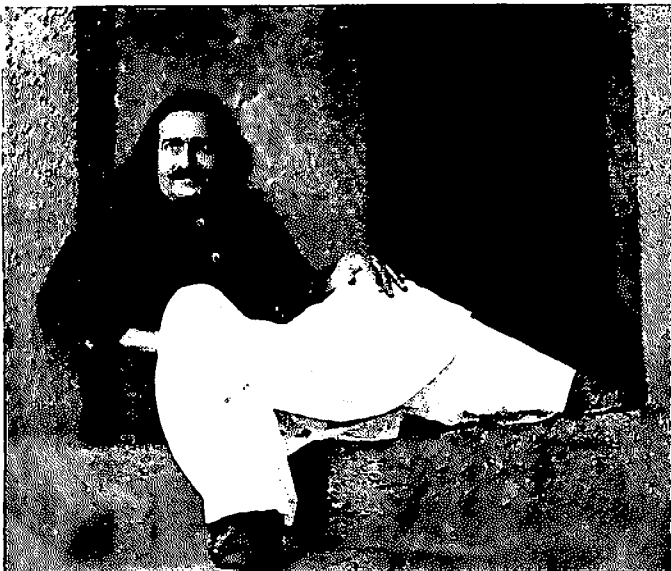
The Trust

All who wish to share in the commitment laid down by Baba through the instrument of the trust contact Jack Mormon, P.O. Box 1250, Berkeley, Ca. 94701

MEHER BABA CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA INC.

2131 University Avenue, Room 235
Berkeley, California 94704

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QUARTERLY

N E W S L E T T E R

2131 UNIVERSITY AVE., RM. 235
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This is an excerpt from Professor A.K. Hazra's book The Memoirs of a Zetetic. Professor Hazra met Meher Baba in the 1950s and had many remarkable experiences with the Beloved. (A zetetic, by the way, is an intellectual who resists acknowledging God's existence.) Professor Hazra says "In their ignorance, zetetics resist His knowledge; in their helplessness they defy his power; in their blindness they defy His light. If they could only be free of the inhibiting and corroding influence of their intellectual wisdom, their hearts would open up to the flow of His grace."



BABA'S COMPASSION

In the previous chapter, I have related two incidents of physical healing done by Baba. In this chapter, I am going to describe how Baba could assuage mental suffering as well. After my father's death and the death of my grandmother and uncle, mother was in such agony of mind that it was a pity that we could do nothing to cheer her up. From time to time, thinking of her lost relatives, she used to break down and we all felt invariably gloomy. As she was a widow, she, according to Bengali Brahministic tradition, was supposed to wear a plain white sari and wipe away the vermilion mark on her forehead that was the symbol of a woman whose husband was alive. All this and many other rules she imposed upon herself as directed by custom and it all only succeeded in reminding her of having lost her husband thus perpetuating the mood of unhappiness that time, the great healer, might have cured her of sooner or later. Then came the darshan days at Poona and I insisted on her going for Baba's darshan with the hope that it would act as a healing balm on her deeply wounded heart. When we finally entered the darshan hall and sat down in front of Baba, He looked at us with great understanding and compassion. Baba's eyes rested on me: (The following story makes more sense if one understands that Baba and Amiya's mother had no languages in common. Amiya therefore translated for his mother from English into Bengali.)

"Where are you all staying, Amiya?" He asked.

"At Ganeshkhind, Baba."

"Why are you living so far from here? Could you not stay in a hotel near this place?"

"Baba..." I hesitatingly replied, "it's firstly because my cousin resides at Ganeshkhind."

"Is that all?" He asked. I knew that I had to give the complete explanation from the way He looked at me.

"Baba, it is also because my mother doesn't want to eat food cooked at a hotel."

"Why does she not want to eat food at a hotel?"

"Baba, because she has become a widow and a widow in our caste takes food either cooked by herself or by some relative who should be a Brahmin."

Baba's eyes peered into mine at the statement. After a moment's pause He said, "Amiya, am I not your Father?" With tears coming to my eyes, I replied, "Yes, Baba, you are - you are indeed my Father." "Well, how can your mother be a widow, then?" and Baba pointed His finger at mother. "You are right Baba, she can't be a widow," I replied. Baba's face suddenly assumed tremendous brightness and austerity. With calm but divine seriousness He further gestured with His hand making a circle in the air.

"Amiya, I am the husband and father of the entire universe. Know that for sure."

I bowed my head in assent. Baba continued, "There is no need for your mother to shun food prepared at hotels and feel that she is a widow." I told mother what Baba conveyed. I told her not to feel like a widow bereft of a husband because she had Baba's grace - the symbol of help and protection. Mother perhaps did not understand all that was meant. But after leaving Guruprasad Hall, I noticed a change coming over her, slowly but steadily, she began to come out of her mental gloom, the sudden outbreaks of weeping ceased and although she still maintained some of the rules imposed on her by custom, she

continued on next page

was no longer in the throes of agony as she often used to be in the past. Baba had started healing her wounded mind, her tortured heart in His imperceptible manner from that moment and now I never find mother lamenting over the loss of her dear relatives.

Another episode comes to my mind connected with that darshan. I have already mentioned that a poor youth, the servant of a [lawyer] was with us. His wages were not adequate, though, to save money for the expenses involved in the trip to Poona for Baba's darshan. But such was his love for Baba that he decided that he would save a few rupees every month by curtailing some of his needs to have enough money to pay the railway fare. I do not know how much sacrifice he had to make to do that but by the time we were ready to leave Jabalpur for Poona, this youth, 'M', was also ready. At last he had his desires fulfilled. When he sat in front of Baba with us, Baba cast a loving glance at him.

"Who is he, Amiya?"

"Baba, he is 'M' from Jabalpur. He is a servant of a lawyer's family. He loves you and, being poor, he saved a few rupees every month for about six months to come to you for your blessings."

Baba looked at 'M' with infinite compassion. Then He said, "'M' is it true that you have saved rupee after rupee every month to have my darshan?"

"Yes, Baba" replied 'M'.

"Do you love Me so much?"

"Yes, Baba, I love You."

Baba again looked at 'M'. "How much money do you get every month?"

"I get thirty rupees every month, Baba." Baba wore a quizzical look in His eyes. "You get thirty rupees every month? Well, 'M', you are richer than I am! I do not even have a penny, just see!" Baba put His hand in his coat pockets and showed their utter emptiness to 'M'. We all looked at Him. "'M', I am very poor. I am the poorest of the poor. Yet, being God, I am also the richest of the rich. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Baba."

"Never consider yourself to be poor, 'M'. You love me and I love you. I am very pleased with your love for me. Come and embrace me." 'M' rose and went up to Baba. Baba gave him such a tender embrace that we felt as if the ocean was being poured into the cup. 'M' came back to his seat with tears streaming down his cheeks. He no longer appeared oppressed with the sense of poverty which he had in his mind and about which he often used to talk to me at Jabalpur.

During the darshan period which was for about a fortnight for me and mother, at last the day of parting arrived. It was morning time. Mother and I were getting ready to leave. Suddenly, I thought of first paying a short visit to Baba for a farewell glimpse and then go to the station. We sat in a three-wheeler. Mother said in Bengali, with a sigh of longing, "I wanted to have a ride in Baba's own car!" I was surprised beyond measure.

"What are you dreaming of, Mamma? This is a child-like expectation on your part. Who can travel by Baba's car? It is meant for Him and a few of His Mandali. So, give up the idea." Perhaps my tone was gruff and I saw a shade of humiliation come over mother's face. But she said nothing. Truly, Baba's car was meant for Baba - the Godman and not for such ordinary beings as us. So she kept quiet and we reached Guruprasad Palace by the three-wheeler. Inside the gate, with its nose toward the road, stood Baba's car. It meant that Baba was in the hall and we could have a parting glimpse of Him. As we went ahead to the porch, a man from the Mandali came up to us. "Amiya, where are you going?"

"Why, for Baba's darshan, before we leave Poona. Is it not possible? Will He not give His darshan?" The gentleman nodded his head and said, "Well, Amiya, Baba left for a house visit a few minutes ago. So you can't see Him." Mother and I looked very much disappointed. Then I looked at the car and could not help asking - "But Baba's car is here!"

"Yes. He has gone by another car. And He instructed me to tell you that He has left His car for your mother and yourself to go to the Poona railway station. So please go in it or you would be missing your train." As we got into the Godman's car, a sweet fragrance greeted us. The driver started the car and we were off for the railway station. I looked at my mother. She looked proudly back and said, "You talked as if you were not my child, but my father. But see how Baba, the omniscient One has fulfilled my desire to travel by His car. So, remain the child that you are, OK?" Well, she was right, and I was wrong. As the car sped toward the station, I could not help wondering again about Baba's omniscience and love for us. How fortunate we were indeed to be loved and taken care of by One who knew the slightest wish and thought that sparked in any mind in the world.

MARIPOSA PLANNING MEETINGS

By-laws for the proposed Mariposa Center are being created in monthly meetings held at the Pearsons' house in Mariposa. If you are interested in being part of this process, call Chris Pearson at (209)966-5078, or call Bryan Drygas, (408) 356-3512.

C A L E N D A R

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To check for program changes call 510-845-4339.

♥ **FRIDAY SEPT. 4 - FILMS OF MEHER BABA**

A blessing of this technological age is having moving images of the God-Man on film. Come and delight in His grace and beauty.

SATURDAY SEPT. 12 - DHUNI AT MUIR BEACH

Gathering and potluck will begin at 4 PM and the dhuni will be lit at sunset. Bring a blanket and musical instruments.

SATURDAY SEPT. 19 - A TASTE OF INDIA - 7:00 PM

Once again, Raj and Dee Mehta bring us India in Fremont! This festive feasting is available only to the first 50 adults (only) who RSVP. Call (510) 790-7188 before September 12.

SATURDAY SEPT. 26 - OPEN MIKE NIGHT -

A talent night for the Beloved. This gig has a direct line to the Beloved through highest quality heart-cord. Singers, dancers, jugglers, poets and artists who wish to show their paintings, please contact coordinators Raine Eastman Gannett (510) 649-0433 or Sue Jamison (510) 236-7993.

FRIDAY OCT. 2 - COMING TO BABA

Jack Mormon hosts a panel of Baba lovers who share their tales of stepping into the Beloved's divine net.

**SATURDAY OCT. 10 - GUTTA MEETING
7:00 TO 10:00 PM**

The original Gutta at Manzil e Meem was Baba's idea. It was an opportunity for everyone to express himself from matters to do with the Manzil. For us, it is an opportunity to exchange views, ideas, suggestions, criticisms, etc. regarding our meetings and the group as a whole. The goal is to clear the air and to come a little closer to each other, thereby recognizing Baba in each other and coming closer to Him. Gutta means wineshop, and Baba, the eternal Saki, invites all of us to sip the wine of His divine love (bring pillows if you like). Moderated by Hermann Loew

♥ **SATURDAY OCT. 17 - ERUCH ON LARGE
SCREEN VIDEO**

Eruch Jessawalla, one of Baba's long-time intimate companions, tells the New Life story of the Imampur Mosque and other tales of life with the Avatar. This high-quality tape has never been shown in the Bay Area

**SATURDAY OCT. 24 - JEWISH MYSTICISM AND
FOLLOWING MEHER BABA**

Meher Baba said He would bring the world's religions together like pearls on a string. In this spirit, Susan Chernilo will share her explorations into New Age and ancient Jewish mysticism. You can leave your prayer shawls and yarmulkas at home, but come with open hearts, prepared to share.

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 31 - HALLOWEEN PARTY AT
SOUSSAN ADHAM & DARRELL RUPE'S HOUSE**

Come costumed as a mandali, mast, sadguru, Baba pet, or whatever moves you. 3118 California St., Berkeley. (510) 549-3118.

♥ **FRIDAY NOV. 6 - TODDY SHOP 7 - 9:30 PM**

Patterned after the toddy shop at the L.A. Sahavas, this is an informal evening of music, stories, and socializing. The chai shop will be open and refreshments will be available. Bring your instruments and your joy. This should be a fun evening for young and old.

SATURDAY NOV. 14 - AUCTION TIME

Who knows what fascinating and unexpected items will be found? From the most sublime artwork to the most mundane, but necessary, services. Come and share in the fun and fundraising this evening.

SATURDAY NOV. 21 - MOVIES IN BERKELEY

In an effort to present Meher Baba to the greater public, we will show movies, present music, and host a discussion. Please come to share Baba with someone new to us, although certainly not to Baba. Trinity United Methodist Church, Bancroft Way and Dana St. Berkeley, 7:00 to 9:30 PM.

**SATURDAY NOV. 28 - THANKSGIVING ON THE
FARM**

Hermann Loew will host a potluck at his home in Petaluma (a large turkey will be provided). Everyone is invited. Starts at 2 PM, dinner at 4:30. RSVP by November 26. (707) 778-1195.

LOCAL MEETINGS

El Cerrito - Sunday Mornings - 10:00 AM

Arti and singing.

Contact the Greensteins at 510-525-3364

El Cerrito - Thursday Evenings - 7:15 PM

God Speaks reading and discussion.

Contact Louise Barrie or Dick Anthony at 510-524-1440.

Fresno - Wednesday Evenings - 7:30 to 8:30 PM

Arti, and a varied program.

Contact Sharon or Phil Scott at 209-449-0877

Palo Alto - Friday Evenings - 8:00 PM

Arti, singing, and readings.

Contact the MacDonalds at 415-322-0886

Petaluma - Sunday Mornings - 11:00 AM

Arti, readings, and fellowship.

Contact Hermann Loew at 707-778-1195.

Sacramento - Sunday Mornings - 11:00 AM

Singing, readings from "Lord Meher", and food.

Contact the Busfields at 916-448-4264

Walnut Creek - Wednesday Evenings 8 to 9:30

Please call Helen Riehl (510) 935-0167 or Gil Shepard at (510) 930-8670 for directions

If your regularly scheduled local meeting is not listed please call 510-273-9426 to get it into the next newsletter.

sweet wine that makes everything else wonderful. He is the catalyst that makes all nature beautiful to us. There is no life other than that which He gives us. Not only did he give us life in the manifestation of the love of our parents, but He formed every cell in our bodies. There is nothing that He is not. He does not demand anything of us. He never points His finger at us and says, "You've been bad," or "You've been sinful." He calls these mistakes, and that's what they are. The concept of hell is totally foreign, because we know that He can do nothing but love us, and love all of mankind. Even if there were such a thing, and we had to go there to see Him and be with Him, it would be Heaven.

I've learned recently about the concept of surrender. I always thought that surrender was to be avoided at all costs. Surrender always meant to me that you had to give in, to beg for mercy or something like that. But that's not it, not what He means. Surrender to Baba is victory, not defeat. It's a paradox that we would lie at His feet in submission, that it would be a lessening of what we are, but it's not. It's the only way we can become what we are, to realize what we are. Surrendering totally, completely to Him, His guidance and His care is exactly what we have looked for all of our lives. The love that we have looked for all of our lives in other people is that love He gives us. That's why we're so often disappointed in our relationships, because we anticipate that the other person, through love, can give

us what He can give us. But He is the only one, the only source of love. There isn't any other. Love on any level, from the most physical to the most cerebral, is from Him. All of the attributes that the spiritual path can demand of us are only obtainable by His grace, through love. Baba said to the mandali that they should never demean or discount anyone's love for anything, unless it is motivated by selfishness. We should always be careful not to criticize others for their direction or the scope of their love, because love is a sacred thing even when it is being misdirected and misused. We should always respect it in others. We all must be very careful not to be critical of other people's concepts and ideas, or love of God. I saw a man on television one day who remarked that he had been talking to God that morning. I sat there alone in the room and thought to myself, "Oh come on, what are you trying to run on us?" And then I thought if I went and told that man that I had physically embraced God Almighty and kissed Him he would say exactly the same about me. So, how do I know he didn't talk to God this morning? That's between him and Baba, so don't ever judge other people's relationships to Baba. It's exactly what it needs to be, whether we agree with it or not. He never makes mistakes, we have nothing to worry about. How could we worry when our captain is Baba who could never fail us, who has promised us that at the end of that long long trail awinding, all of our dreams and all of our wishes and desires will be fulfilled? Jai Baba!



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QUARTERLY

N E W S L E T T E R

2131 UNIVERSITY AVE., RM. 235
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SUMMER 1993

Delia: A Personal Remembrance

by Paul Birchard



It is difficult to convey in print the wonderfully loving, spontaneous, thoughtful and humorous qualities of our dear friend Delia de Leon, who passed away January 21st around 6:30 P.M. GMT. She was not an intellectual—she freely admitted incomprehension of *God Speaks*, and bafflement at the enormity of the concept of GOD actually taking on a human form. She didn't appear to be engaged in great good works; she never discussed such things. What she did possess, as Meher Baba Himself affirmed to her in more than one letter, was love; unconditional, completely surrendering, constantly attentive love which was awakened the moment they met in a box at London's Coliseum Theatre in 1931, during an evening's performance of the operetta *White Horse Inn*.

Delia kept in touch all the time—sometimes several times every day—with a large circle of friends and family. After her funeral, there was a party at Barbara and Fred Freiji's home, and after a champagne toast a voice asked: "Who was Delia closest to?" In the fraction of a second Malcolm Harrison dryly quipped: "British Telecom!" (the phone company!) It was, for me, a wonderful privilege, to have Delia as a friend, one with whom I felt very close over the past four or five years. I came to feel that she was a tremendously powerful undercover agent for Baba, as it were, working silently as a channel for His work of awakening hearts to His presence, attuning those who came in her orbit in some way to Baba's rhythm and demands. Such an idea cannot be proved, I suppose, but there

have been many who have remarked how Delia came more and more to embody Baba's mannerisms over these recent years, some characteristic physical gesture of His popping out unexpectedly and completely without guile

or artifice. I feel that her "cover" was her worrying and fretting, which have become legendary. Some of that was due to the disciple's drive for everything to be exactly right for the Master, and for any possible slip-up to be recognized in advance and considered in planning. The fact that, in practice, this seemed to mean fretting over "little" things ought to point us toward Baba's own statement that "it all depends upon the particular yardstick used." To me it seemed that Delia was the kind of lover whose lips were sealed by God, so that not even smoke would escape to draw attention to the fire within.

Delia was an actress. This ought not to be forgotten. She co-founded the very first "fringe" theatre in Britain, "The Q," located in Kew, near Richmond, in 1924. Though Delia wasn't particularly active in it from 1931 onwards, it flourished until 1956 and Baba attended performances there twice. It was, I believe, the blueprint for the wonderful flowering of British theatre which occurred in the 1960s, when new writing was born in and for small theatres all over the country, and whose fruit is seen today in the British winners of our own Oscars.

Several months ago, Delia was particularly incensed at some aspect of her treatment at the Abbeyfield home where she lived. She rang down testily to the person on duty who came up immediately and began to bustle about. I didn't think this particular situation was really the fault of the person being berated, and I tried to say something to mollify things. While the person's back

N E W S L E T T E R

was turned, Delia turned to me and gave the faintest gesture, her eyes twinkling, and I could see her acting up a storm for the benefit of the person thus bustling! I had to ask myself if I was really seeing what I thought I was seeing, and I concluded that I was. Delia was acting, extremely convincingly, the frail, testy Grande Dame role she often assumed. It was almost as if she was doing it to keep in practice.

I do not mean to suggest by the foregoing that her complaints were unfounded or trivial, or her conduct always premeditated. She was unhappy, and it was a blow to spend her final years in a home, however nice. As Matthew Price wrote of her:

"Not that Delia suffered in silence. She contrasted her plight longingly with that of Kitty and Margaret, spending their last years 'in the lap of luxury.' But she would never contemplate leaving England. This was where Baba had put her and this was where she would stay. And though she would complain bitterly about the imperfections of people in the home, she never allowed her friends to do anything about it, or remonstrate in any way. The result was, we could do little in concrete ways. She loved flowers, fruit, the telephone, but she wasn't really interested in changing her situation.....I realize now that her gift to us was to let us share in her frustrations and worries."

In her recent translation of RUMI, entitled *Look! This is Love!* Professor Anne Maria Schimmel quotes one of Rumi's poems about Zulaykha. Even though Baba reserved the name "Leyla" for Delia, I feel it exactly catches her essence.

*And when she said: "The wax is melting softly!"
That was to say: My friend was kind to me!
And when she said: "Look how the moon is rising!"
And when she said: "The willow is now green!"
And when she said: "The leaves are all a-trembling!"
And when she said: "Beat firmly all the rugs"
And when she said: "The bread is all unsalted!"
And when she said: "The spheres are going wrong . . ."
She praised something – that meant, "His sweet embracing."
She blamed something – that meant, "He's far away."*

One of the first people Delia befriended when she went to live at the Abbeyfield home was a Mrs. Harris. She was fine, down-to-earth lady and they got on well. Mrs. Harris passed away a couple of days before Christmas last year, and when I talked to Delia a few days later she seemed very upset and forlorn. Knowing that Delia took Baba's words about death completely to heart, I felt that deep down underneath she must be unperturbed. When I said to

her after a few minutes, "Well, it's sad for Mrs. Harris but it's a tragedy for you," she came out with a bit of a chuckle!

The song "Begin the Beguine" was the bedrock of my friendship with Delia. I happened to sing it after one of her talks in Los Angeles in 1978, and it became a shared anthem. One spring day, a couple of years ago, I was in London, and Delia wanted me to take her in her wheelchair to nearby Kew Gardens, the serene and beautiful botanical gardens visited by Baba. I was pushing her, the sun pouring down, all was perfect.....except for one thing. "Now, sing 'Begin the Beguine'!" commanded Delia! This was the first time I fully realized her sparking self-deprecating sense of humor. She was poking fun at herself!

Delia was helpful and intuitive, but not always gentle with it. One man told me that back in the late sixties or early seventies he was going through a very hard time in his marriage and was in turmoil as to what he ought to do—should he leave? But what about the children? What was best? Ought he to go? Delia considered some moments and then assured him: "Well, I'd think she'd be very much relieved!" Eventually he did leave and she was!

There have been so many wonderful, eloquent heartfelt things written about Delia lately, but I hope this gives some flavor of what it was like to spend time with her. She was natural, which made it much easier for those with her to relax and be themselves. And this is what Baba wanted. He put people at their ease. Some time ago Delia dictated to me a short piece to commemorate Kitty Davy. It began: "Kitty was unique." The same is true of our dear Delia. There never was anyone like her. Thank you, dear Baba, for giving us her loving companionship for so many wonderful years.

MEHERAZAD NEEDS YOUR HELP

Jal Dastur writes that the chemical plant on the road to Meherazad has had two chemical spills recently, releasing pollutants into the soil and water around Meherazad and causing sickness among the people living nearby. This condition is serious. Please help to protect Baba's home, its precious surroundings and his dear resident mandali by writing letters to the Indian officials listed in the enclosed flyer. Even if you have written before on this subject, there is an expanded list of officials who may be able to help. The situation is increasingly urgent. Make your voice heard today!

C A L E N D A R

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♥ Bookstore

Friday, June 4 Memories of Adi K. Irani

Robert Dreyfus will host an evening of stories which reflect Adi's humor, wisdom and love for his master Meher Baba.

Saturday, June 12 The Alphabet Board

"You westerners," said Eruch, "you're always pestering us about sex!" Tonight you'll have a chance to pester Baba with questions about what He had to say about sex, dreams, diet, America, God, Love, suffering, gossip—you name it.

Saturday, June 19 Meher Baba and Healing ♥

Baba lovers who practice physical or psychological therapy will discuss how Baba influences their work. Scott Maloney will lead with thoughts on what a Chinese healer told him, "Never put in a needle without first offering a prayer."

Saturday June 26 Ron and Darrell

Their third annual concert, featuring old and new songs to and about Meher Baba.

Friday, July 2 No Meeting

No meeting because of the L.A. Sahavas.

Saturday, July 10 Silence Day

7:30-9 PM. Silent movies featuring the Silent One, "East-West Gathering" and the "Love Comes West" slide show.

Wednesday, July 14 - Sunday July 18

Mandali Visits

We once again will be honored by the visits of two of Beloved Baba's Mandali. Meheru Irani will be with us from July 14-16. Meheru, who is Mehera's niece, was also her close companion for many years. This will be her first visit to our group. Welcome, Meheru! Bhau Kalchuri, another of Baba's dear ones, hardly needs an introduction, as he has so often been our guest.

Wednesday, July 14 Pot Luck Dinner with Meheru

7 PM at Jeff and Cindy Lowe's, 1000 Woodhaven Way, Oakland. Take Route 13 (Warren Freeway) to Thornhill Exit. Take Thornhill less than one mile to first stop sign. Turn right on Woodhaven. The first intersection is Indian Way, park there. For food coordination, call (510) 339-9094.

Thursday, July 15 Sightseeing With Meheru

Meet at Muir Woods, 10:30 AM. (Food is available there, but those on special diets should consider packing lunch.) Caravan itinerary (places Baba visited) available at Muir Woods and at Silence Day meeting. (Kevjn, Mossberger is map-wallah)

Friday, July 16 Meheru's Talk

7-9:30 PM. First Unitarian Church at Berkeley, Lawson Rd., Kensington. Map available at Silence Day meeting.

Saturday, July 17 Bhau's Talk

At 7:30 PM. Chapel of Albany Methodist Church.

Sunday, July 18 Pot Luck Garden Party With Bhau

2:00 PM. Laurie Brook's address is 1213 Clover Ln., Walnut Creek. Call 933-5846. For directions, refer to the back page of this newsletter.

Saturday, July 24 Divine Humor ♥

Sharing stories from Meher Baba's life which reflect His sense of humor. If you'd like to participate, please call Christopher Maier at (415) 331-3120.

Saturday, July 31 Meher Baba and Business

"God is a businessman," said Baba. "Sinners are His liabilities, saints are His assets. His eternal business is turning liabilities into assets." Raj Mehta will lead a discussion among Baba-lover business people on how Meher Baba shapes their business practice.

August

No meetings in August. See you in September. Jai Baba!

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Please call Helen Riehl 510-935-0167 or Gil Shepard at 510-930-8670 for directions
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Photo below: "Krishna Feast" at Meherabad, 1937. L-R, Baba, Mehera, Norina and Delia (holding the pot).



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BABA

The Board of Directors is currently seeking one additional member to fill a vacancy. Also, volunteers are needed for Service, Fundraising and Baba's 100th Birthday Committees. If you are interested in any of these opportunities to serve in Baba's Love, please contact Kevin Mossberger at (415) 721-0851.

July 18 Pot Luck Directions

From Berkeley: Approach the 680/24 Interchange in the third lane from the left. After taking the right-hand split to 680 South, immediately take the first left-hand exit labeled Walnut Creek. Take the first right onto Boulevard Way, then take the first left to Nicholson and second right to Clover Lane. Second house on the right.

From Concord: Take the North Main exit and turn right on North Main Street. Go $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile; turn right on Ygnacio Valley, then left on Oakland Avenue (across from the West Bart Station). Take Oakland to the end. Turn right on Mt. Diablo Blvd., then immediately left on Boulevard Way. Take first left onto Nicholson and second right to Clover Lane. Second house on the right.

THE TRUST

All who wish to share in the commitment laid down by Baba through the Trust should contact Jack Mormon, P.O. Box 1250, Berkeley, CA 94701

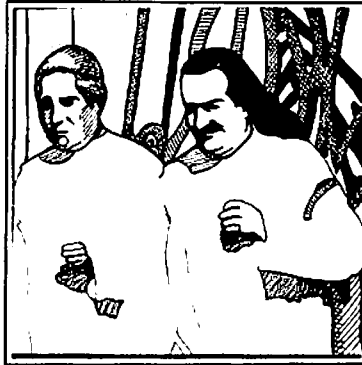
MEHER BABA CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA INC.

2131 University Avenue, Room 235
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Mandali Memories: Carmen Masi

This article, about one of Meher Baba's close ones who is little-known in the West, is from a conversation with Arnavaaz Dadachangi.



About Carmen Masi, I'll just tell you in short, because to tell a whole life is impossible. She was a very sweet and gentle lady. I'll first tell you how she became a Baba lover. When she was 15 years old she was married, in Bombay, to a man who was then 45 years old. Carmen Masi felt real repulsion toward that man, and not because of his age, but in those days the girls had no say in the marriage. After she was married, her husband knew that she was very unwilling. All told, he made her bear him three children, sons, and he used to starve her and her eldest son as a way of retaliating for her attitude toward him. She was very, very unhappy.

In the same building lived her cousin, whose husband was a Baba lover. His name was Rustomji. He said, "Come, Carmen. I will take you to a man who will give you peace." So, on the quiet, she went and met Baba. As soon as she met Baba, she was attracted to Him. She told Him the whole sad tale of her life. Baba, for some reason, told her to cook dal and rice for seven days, and to feed it to any female dog. Carmen Masi followed the order, but naturally she couldn't leave the house, so Rustomji collaborated by taking the food out in search of a suitable dog.

After about 20 years of marriage, when her third son was about a year old, her husband died. Her cousin, who was living in the same building, also died. Rustomji, the Baba lover who had first taken her to Baba, was very fond of Carmen Masi, and he wanted to marry her. Marriage was the last thing in Carmen

Masi's mind but Rustomji went to Baba and pleaded with Him to allow him and Carmen to marry, because he was getting old and frail and needed someone to look after him. Baba consented and the upshot was that Carmen had a second marriage. Baba used to go and

visit her house after she married Rustomji. Even at this time she was very poor. The second marriage lasted only about 10 years, after which Rustomji died. Rustomji didn't leave anything for her. The oldest son got married, and he had a son, but the burden on the oldest son to provide for his family was such that they could hardly make ends meet and he couldn't help Carmen. Now her sons were older, and they were earning money for the family, but they were not educated. As a consequence, the family was very, very poor.

Around that time, Baba called Carmen Masi to join the women's ashram on Meherabad Hill, where He kept her for quite a number of years starting in the late 1930s. At that time, for purposes of Baba's work, Mehera was never left alone. Day and night there was always some woman in her presence. Baba made Carmen Masi Mehera's roommate for this period and she and Mani faithfully carried out Baba's order that Mehera should never be alone.

After quite a number of years spent in this manner, in 1941 Baba sent Carmen Masi back to Bombay. After she returned to Bombay, one of her sons took ill, and so she had the responsibility of caring for him and had only one son to help her. Her love for Baba was so deep that she never complained and never asked for money. I used to ask her how she managed in the midst of this deep poverty. She told me, "I don't know how I manage it. There is a box in which I keep the money. I use it, and by the end of the month it just suffices."

(continued)

Even from that, she used to save and give to Baba. Jal Dastur remembers being with Baba one time at a gathering when a man came up to him and offered Him thousands of rupees. Baba turned the man's gift down, using the special way He had of doing it without hurting the giver's feelings. This consisted of saying, "You keep it for now. I don't need it at present, but if I need it I will call you later." Later in the same day, Carmen Masi came into the room to bow down to Baba, carrying with her a five rupee note that she had wrapped in a silk scarf. Baba took it and pressed it to His forehead just above and between His eyes. At that time, five rupees was more than it is today, and for a poor woman in Bombay it must have taken weeks of scrimping and saving, a few annas at a time. One day Baba said, "Why don't you keep your money. You don't have enough." From then on she had the order not to give Baba any money and, on the contrary, Baba used to help her.

Before the New Life, Baba gave us silence for one month in July. Then Baba wanted to go for a change of scene to Panchgani. Baba called my sister Nargish and Dina Talati and Carmen Masi. When Baba would come through Bombay on some trip, He used to let us know that He was coming. He would drive past my sister's house, along that road. So our little group used to be me, Nargish, Dina Talati, Carmen Masi, Dr. Aloo Khambatta, Mehru Billimoria, in total perhaps seven to ten women. We would gather and we would take his hand through the car window, but only for a moment and then He would be gone. Sometimes He would come for a small gathering to our apartment or Nargish's, and we would have a small gathering for the close ones.

There's a wonderful incident that happened once. Baba was in my apartment in Bombay. Baba told me not to tell anyone, not even my family, that He was there in Bombay. One day Baba and I were at the dining table. Baba was having His lunch when the doorbell rang. I went to see who it was. It was Carmen Masi. I didn't know what to do, so I went to Baba. I said, "What shall I do?" Baba said, "Don't let her come in here." But Carmen Masi was an elderly person, like a mother to me. I just looked at Baba. How to tell her

to go away? Baba just smiled, "OK, tell her that I am here, but that I see no one and she should go away." When I opened the door, I said, "Carmen Masi, Baba is here but He doesn't want to see anyone." Can you imagine the expression on her face? "All right," she said, and just left. No sooner had she gone down than Baba had me call her, not for an embrace, not to say anything, but just so that she could fold her hands and see Him from a distance. She came up, she stood there looking at Baba, and Baba smiled. That was it. She said nothing. She just looked at Baba, took her darshan, so happy, and then she left.

In the end, she suffered a stroke. I knew that there was no one to look after her, and stroke was a very expensive disease to treat, so I immediately informed Baba. Baba sent me a message to take a bowl of water, to take His name, and to sponge her whole body. So I took the help of one Baba lover, and we went there and sponged her whole body, taking Baba's name. It really helped, very much. After we followed Baba's instructions, she could sit up, she could eat, she could ease herself, the only thing she couldn't do was walk. All her movements except walking were restored. After a couple of years Baba dropped His body. Carmen Masi was heartbroken, and she died after three or four years.

Carmen Masi was a quiet, sweet, jovial person. We lived with Baba and there were many, many stories, but now it's difficult for me to say any more. Her life was coming and going all the time to be with Baba, just like us. Baba said that Carmen Masi would be His father in His next advent.

ATTENTION BABA'S VISUAL ARTISTS!

A slide show and slide registry of visual art reflecting Meher Baba's life, message or relationships with His lovers is being developed for Baba's 100th birthday. Send slides or videos to: Images of Love, 1538 Elm St., El Cerrito, CA. 94530. (510) 237-9257. Deadline: November 1, 1993. Include up to five identified slides or a video.

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♥ Bookstore ❁ Childcare

Friday, September 3 East is East and West is West, but Tonight the Twain Shall Meet

Raine Eastman-Gannett and party will sing a selection of Mirabai bhajans, ghazals and qawaals.

Saturday, September 11 We Need YOU!! Be in on Baba's Biggest Birthday!

Meher Baba's 100th birthday will be celebrated in February, 1994. The Trust has directed that each Baba community plan for and celebrate His birthday locally. As it is a centenary celebration, ideas include a significant public presence and multiple events and gatherings, in various venues and media, over the period of time around His birthday. Does designing publicity inspire you? How about creating artistic or informational materials? Come and join a communal discussion and brainstorming, as the time is upon us now to plan for this exciting event. We need your ideas!

Friday, September 17 Rummage Sale Preparation

6-8 PM: Set up and price items for Saturday's rummage sale, Friend's Meeting Hall, corner of Walnut and Vine Streets, Berkeley.
8-10 PM: work and preview sale for workers.

Saturday, September 18 Rummage Sale

8-10 PM: More work and preparation
10AM-3PM: Public sale. Who knows what treasures have lurked in the closets and attics of Baba's lovers? Come to the corner of Walnut and Vine, in Berkeley, to find Marvelous Maya's special items.

Saturday, Sept 25 Mandali Memories ♥

Ursula Van Buskirk will host a meeting remembering Filis Frederick and show a lovely videotape of her. Bring your favorite Filis stories.

Friday, October 1 Tea and Poetry

Come for chai and bring your favorite poems about the Beloved. Original poetry especially welcome.

Saturday, October 9 Bunty Kelly

Margaret Bernstein's mother Bunty Kelly was one of the ballet dancers introduced to Meher Baba by Margaret Craske. She met Baba in 1956, '58 and '62. Tonight she will share with us her love for the Divine Beloved.

Saturday, October 16 Meher Baba and Psychotherapy

A panel of psychotherapists led by Michael LePage will discuss their work and how it is influenced by their relationship with Meher Baba.

Saturday, October 23 Bill and Peggy Stevens ♥ ❁

Join us as these visitors from Tennessee, representing a family of three generations of Baba's Lovers, tell us "How to Love Him More."

Saturday, October 30 That Old Time Religion

That old-time Alan Talbot, and others from various religious backgrounds, will talk about what became of their old time religions after they heard about Meher Baba and discuss how they teach their children about God.

Friday, November 5 The East-West Gathering

David Miotke will recreate this glorious event in music and song.

Saturday, Nov 13 2020 Visions

In 1950 Baba led a group up Seclusion Hill and remarked that in 70 years people would have to wait days to get up that hill. Is this because He will have broken His silence? Come share apocalyptic and utopian visions of the future.

Saturday, November 20 Begin the Beguine ♥ ❁

Baba's favorite song, which He said had great significance, will be heard in classic recordings and glimpses of the Divine Beloved will grace the silver screen.

Saturday, November 27 Meher Baba and the Feminine Face of God

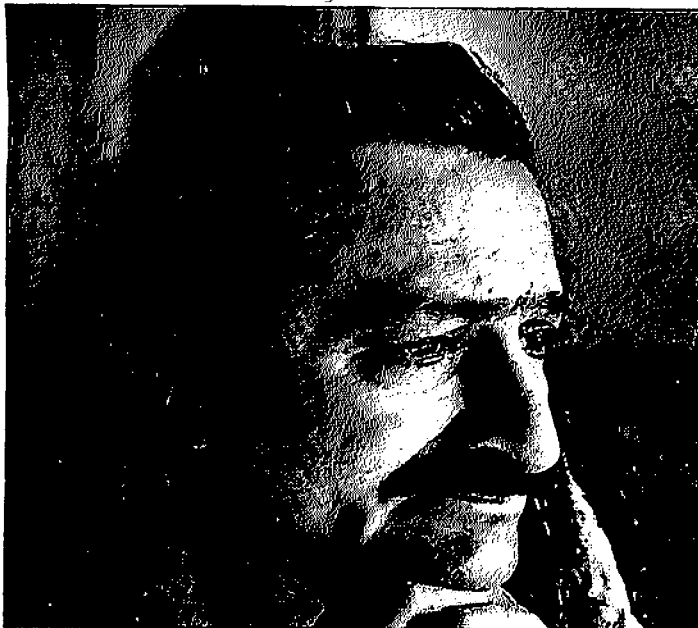
It is clear that Meher Baba's avataric advent has been a time of great change for women. This evening we will consider this unique advent in which, Baba said, for the first time, that God the Mother also plays Her part.

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artwork by Billy Ward.



The Falcon

by Nancy Furgal



*You are the Falcon
Who sweeps down to lift me
You are my wings of safety
Arriving in time - to take me
Through rocking waters
Endless drops of thunder
Into your comfort zone
You are the Falcon Captain
Looking out for one and all
This drowning sailor - drying her feathers
To embrace your ocean of love
You are my way, you are my home
Under your wings, I sing in safety
Come take me.*

This poem was inspired by Phyllis Ott's painting of Baba as the Falcon.

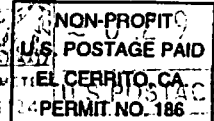
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MEHER BABA CENTER

OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA INC.

2131 University Avenue, Room 235
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QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER

2131 UNIVERSITY AVE., RM. 235
VOL. 24

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704
WINTER 1993-1994

Thoughts on Loving God

by Bill Stephens

Bill Stephens, recently a guest speaker at our group meeting, has given us permission to publish his thoughts on this ever-timely subject.



God-man, is not only possible, it is extremely practical. For the Christ is all we can know of God, and all we can aspire to be. In the perfect form of the Christ, God is simultaneously both man and God. He is the bridge between the finite world and all eternity.

"How do we love an ocean of peace that stretches endlessly with no boundaries, no shore, no bottom and no surface?"

Meher Baba tells us that the aim of life is to love God, and the goal of life is to become One with God. (So what does that say about the ambitions and pursuits of 99% of us, 99% of the time?) If we can accept Baba's words as truth, and really believe them, our life may well be transformed. For if loving God is the only worthwhile endeavor, then all other plans and schemes, regardless of their importance in the worldly sense, are by comparison superficial and of no consequence.

But loving God is "no game for the weak and faint-hearted," as Meher Baba also makes clear. To love God is to lose one's self in the Divine...to dance in blissful agony at the tip of a candle's flame...to penetrate into the essence of God's being while still performing our duties in the world.

Of course, all religions tell us to love God. But how do we go about it? How do we love the Infinite, which is beyond all attributes and concepts of the mind? How do we love an ocean of peace that stretches endlessly, with no boundaries, no shore, no bottom and no surface? It seems obvious that to love God in the abstract is beyond us. It is like loving deep sleep. We need it, we crave it, and at times we would rather have it than anything else on earth. But what is it, exactly? We cannot know, for we are unconscious when we experience it.

So loving the infinite aspect of God is impossible for us. But to love God in the form of the Christ, or

Adi K. Irani, a close disciple of Avatar Meher Baba for fifty years, often said that the God-man is greater even than God, "For God as God is not man," he would say. "And God as man is not God. But God in the form of the God-man is *both* God and man."

Why does Almighty God descend into the world of forms? Why does the Highest of the High take on the limitations of the human form and come down to our level? According to Meher Baba, God does it to give the world a spiritual push. And this is accomplished by awakening the Divine in us. In us, God is bound. So, from time to time (about every 700 to 1400 years, Meher Baba says) God descends as a human being so that we can learn to love God by loving the Christ. This is the divine drama God has played for eons of time. By freeing each of us (eventually) from the endless round of births and deaths, God experiences in every person the culmination of the divine journey from unconsciousness to God-realization.

The Divine Beloved is always there in the heart.

And how can we help God do this work? By loving God. And how do we learn to love God? We start by thinking of God, praying to God, reading about God, and spending time with persons who love God. Eventually, we find ourselves literally falling in love. And when that happens, God reciprocates by falling in love with us. This is the divine romance that the great poets, mystics, dramatists, and composers have attempted to illuminate since the beginning of time. But true illumination comes only from God, the object of our search.

(continued)

When in the course of our growth, we become aware that God is with us always, and is closer than our own breath, we search for ways to keep the current flowing, to trap and fan the flame that lights our soul from time to time. We seek ways to produce that occasional surge of joy that no drug and no human pleasure can duplicate.

The flame comes and goes. The sense of God's presence may fade as pressures of life and work crowd God out of our consciousness. But the Diving Beloved is always there in the heart, and in our subconscious, and we must seek to make this Love our constant companion. One way is to constantly repeat God's holy name.

For many centuries, monks and mystics have taught that the repetition of certain holy words is a powerful meditation that can be carried on in the midst of all activities. The word *Om* has been chanted in Buddhist and Hindu mantras for untold centuries. In the Middle Ages, the Greek Orthodox monks developed the famous Jesus Prayer *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner*, which was repeated constantly in the same way as a mantra. In Persia, the early Sufis chanted *Allahim, Illaha*. A popular mantra in India for perhaps thousands of years is *Jai Ram, Sri Ram, Jai Jai Ram*; and in recent years, millions of Americans have heard the mantra of the followers of the Hindu teacher Bhaktivedanta: *Hari Krishna, Hari Rama, Krishna Krishna, Hari Hari*.

Mantras that include a name of God, as most do, are especially effective because the repetition of the name imprints the subconscious mind. Remembering God is a way to awaken God in the heart. God is always there, of course, but is, as Meher Baba says, fast asleep in most individuals. If we constantly call out, God will slowly awaken, and once fully awake, will never sleep again. So we must continue to call out the holy name, and God will not have time to even doze, much less fall asleep.

In 1921, when Meher Baba and a group of disciples set out to walk from Bombay to Calcutta, Baba told his followers to silently repeat, as they walked, a name of God associated with their own religion. Zoroastrians were to repeat *Ahuramazda*; Hindus, *Parabrahma, Paramatma*; Moslems, *Allah Illaha*, and Christians, *God Almighty*.

Meher Baba is not the first spiritual master to have told us that all religions are basically the same because God is always the same. In the nineteenth century, the Hindu master Paramahansa Ramakrishna likened God to the water in the River Ganges. "There are different

places along the river where people draw water," he said. "At one place, the Hindus fill their pots and call it *jal*. At another spot, the Christians fill their vessels and call it *water*. But it is all the same, of course, no matter what you call it."

Ramakrishna was another advocate of the repetition of a name of God. He told a devotee:

"Japa means silently repeating God's name. When you chant this name with single-minded devotion, you can see God's form and realize the Divine Presence. Suppose there is a piece of timber sunk in the water of the Ganges and fastened with a chain to the bank. You proceed link by link, holding to the chain. Finally you are able to reach the timber. In the same way, by repeating God's name, you become absorbed in God and finally realize God."

LOCAL MEETINGS

El Cerrito - Sunday Mornings - 10:00 AM

Arti and singing at the Greensteins at 510-525-3364

El Cerrito - Thursday Evenings - 7:15 PM

Discourse reading and discussion.

Contact Louise Barrie or Dick Anthony at 510-524-1440

Fresno - Wednesday Evenings - 7:30 to 8:30 PM

Arti, and a varied program.

Contact Sharon or Phil Scott at 209-449-0877

Los Gatos/Palo Alto - Friday Evenings - 8:00 PM

Arti, singing, and readings. Please call Cherri Nelson for location, 415-325-2231

Petaluma - Sunday Mornings - 11:00 AM

Arti, readings, and fellowship.

Contact Hermann Loew at 707-778-1195

Sacramento - Sunday Mornings - 11:00 AM

Discourse meeting second Tuesday of each month. For times and locations of these and Sunday morning gatherings, call Marilyn Buehler at 916-925-4451

San Francisco - Wednesday Evenings - 7 to 8:30 PM

Discourse reading and discussion.

Contact Liam Mullan at 415 474-5442

San Rafael - Sunday Afternoons - 4:00 PM

Films, potluck and company.

Contact Bob Mckinney at 415 258-8106

Walnut Creek - Wednesday Evenings 8 to 9:30 PM

Please call Helen Riehl 510-935-0167 or Gil Shepard at 510-930-8670 for directions

If your regularly scheduled local meeting is not listed please call 415-221-8724 to get it into the next newsletter.

MEETINGS - Meher Baba events are held on Saturday nights except for meetings held on the **FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH** unless otherwise indicated below. **TIMES** - Events start at 8:00 PM and normally end by 9:30 PM unless otherwise noted. **LOCATIONS** - Events are held at the Albany Methodist Church unless otherwise noted. The church is at the corner of Marin and Stannage, two blocks east of San Pablo Avenue in Albany (North of Berkeley) Take the Albany exit from Interstate 80. To check for program changes call 510-845-4339.
♥ Bookstore ❁ Childcare

Saturday, January 22 The Second Coming

Many of the world's religions await the return of the Avatar, Christ or Messiah. Irwin Luck will lead a discussion of how this event is viewed in various religious traditions.

January 29 – February 28

A special month of programs is in preparation to honor Meher Baba's 100th birthday. Several groups and individuals are planning events around the bay area. The following schedule is the beginning, but expect to hear more as the time approaches.

Saturday & Sunday, January 29 & 30 The 25th Amartithi Celebration.

Saturday evening meeting: singing, reading and slide show.

Sunday evening meeting: doors open at 8 PM and program begins at 9 PM. We will observe 15 minutes of silence from 10:30 to 10:45 PM to coordinate with Baba's lovers observing silence on Meherabad Hill.

Saturday, February 5 Musical Concert ❁

Your favorite Baba musicians perform songs for the Beloved.

Saturday, February 12 Images of Love ❁

Wonderful works by Baba's artists worldwide displayed in a slide and sound collage.

Saturday, February 19 1894–1994: The Life of Avatar Meher Baba—A Song Cycle ❁

7:30 PM, First Unitarian Church, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. The Love Street Singers and Players perform an artistic musical and dramatic production based on the events of Baba's life.

Sunday, February 20 Children's Birthday Party for Baba, 1–4 PM

Games Baba played, talent show, birthday cake and more. Location: Vern & Annie Stovall's home in Walnut Creek, (510) 938-2126.

Friday, February 25 Meher Baba's 100th Birthday Celebration, ❁

An extended party and open house with music, dancing, cake and fun. Location to be announced

Sunday, February 27 Jim Meyer in Concert, 7 PM ❁

Jim, a well-known Baba singer-songwriter, joins us from Myrtle Beach for a special performance and fundraiser.

Friday, December 3 David Miotke Sings

David Miotke will be in the spotlight, singing about the eight types of lovers. Meher Baba said, "I am the song, its words and its melody, and I am the singer. I am the musical instruments and the players and the listeners, and on your level I explain to you the meaning of what I, the singer, sing."

Sunday, December 5 General Meeting 2 PM

Oops, at the last Annual General Meeting, we didn't approve a budget for this fiscal year, so we will do it at this special General Meeting. An important topic will be the budget for our celebration of Baba's 100th birthday. Come and give your two cents.

Saturday, December 11 Meher Baba's Name

Meher Baba, the Spiritual Dust Buster, said, "the most fortunate of all fortunates...are those who die taking My Name." The Reverend Larry Pesta will come will come out of hiding and lead a discussion of the importance of Japa in our daily lives.

Saturday, December 18 Mehera

A celebration of the Beloved's beloved's birthday. Raine Eastman-Gannett and Soosan Adham will host an evening of images, stories and songs about the purest soul in the universe.

Saturday, December 25 Christmas

No meeting, as people celebrate the fifth Avatar's birthday elsewhere.

Saturday, January 1 New Year's Day

No meeting. Resolution: Determine to be His

Saturday, January 8 Mandali Memories ❁

Bob Street, who knew him well, will tell us of the incomparable Padri.

Saturday, January 15 Meher Baba and Psychotherapy

Last time, the doctors called in sick. But now they're fit, and ready to discuss their work and its connection to their spiritual path.

Meher Baba Center of Northern California, Inc.

President, Mary Weiss • Vice President, Kevin Mossberger • Secretary, Tom Hart • Treasurer, Jack Mormon
Board of Directors: Ron Greenstein, Tom Hart, Christopher Maier, Scott Maloney, Kevin Mossberger, Mary Weiss
Newsletter: Alexandra Cons, Editor • Keith Gunn, Lisa Greenstein, Betty Lowman, Cherri Nelson
Trustwalla: Jack Mormon (P.O. Box 1250, Berkeley, CA 94701)

You Sing

by Ben Leet

You Sing, you sing,
in tranquility of being you sing
Unmoored
abandoned and lost
your song reaches all spheres—
Twirling in wisps of starpoints,
prancing artfully as dancers' points
lancing as light-flares into sunpoints
piercing a dark millennia of stillness
your voice splashes on universal heart
shores crying:

Awake!!

And as the soul's own soul force, lifts
hearts joyously together in day song.

From beneath earth's own shadow, from
the deeps

of cavernous self-made graves,
from beneath eternity's unmovable
mantle—your voice arises
and sings undaunted.

Neither distance's emptiness
nor time's obtuseness
nor spirit's aloofness
diminishes the warm embrace of your
sound,
your loving call.

The unmingled beauty of your
acceptance

beckons all to follow.

Your musical overture of soul-piercing
unity

unites us in the bonds

that never fail, that ever last.

You sing, beloved God, you sing.

THE TRUST

All who wish to share in the commitment laid down
by Baba through the Trust should contact Jack
Mormon, P.O. Box 1250, Berkeley, CA 94701



MEHER BABA CENTER
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA INC.

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