



INsights

Community Newsletter

"On Baba's first visit to the U.S.A., in May, 1932, in New York, he gave an interview to Frederick Collins of Liberty Magazine, during which he said:

... "I believe in self-control, not in coercion. Coercion is based on oppression, and results in fear and hatred. Self-control requires courage and may be induced by love. A person will do many things for those whom he loves which he would not ordinarily do, which he would not ordinarily have the strength of mind and power to do. How many habits has a person been able to break through love which he would never have the strength to break without love? And when the love is universal love, all habits which are detrimental, either to the individual or to the social order, will be dissolved in its light.

"It is the same with the economic situation you were asking me about. There is a very close connection between a man's character and his circumstances, between his internal environment of thoughts and desires and his external social environment. 'As within, so without' is the law.

"If a man is dissatisfied with his environment, it is usually because he does not know how to properly adjust himself to the environment. Instead of thinking, how can I get out of this? And becoming discouraged and depressed, one should think, what is the lesson that I should learn from this experience?

"Poverty, if cheerfully endured, and providing one does one's best to find work, develops humility and patience, and can greatly assist spiritual progress. It is a test of character. I know it is difficult to be cheerful when starving, but all worthwhile things are difficult."

Baba concluded, "Even millionaires are unhappy unless they have learned to think and live rightly."

"Would a general acceptance of your doctrine of love bring about a more equitable distribution of money?" Collins asked.

"It must," Baba emphasized. "Suppose we all loved each other as deeply as we now love the one whom we love best. The most natural desire of love is to share what one has with the beloved. The desire to share with everyone would produce a condition in which it would be a disgrace, rather than an honor, for anyone to possess more than anyone else."

Taken aback, Collins asked, "Do you expect to do all this at once?"

"No, but sooner than you think. People will respond," Baba replied.

"Why?"

"They will have to."



Meher Baba Center of Northern California

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Dear Reader,

This newsletter is a resource for the group. We, the editors, wish to enliven your month with reports and ideas that will remind you of Baba's presence and also motivate you to participate and contribute, not money but your inspiration.

For instance, I was driving the car one morning and I heard a poem about a turtle. I was so reminded of Baba's theme of evolution and Mani's pet turtle Augustus that I wanted to share it. Last night I read Kendra Crossen Burrough's report of Diane Cobb's recent talk at Myrtle Beach, as reported on her blogspot "Kendra's Notebook." Diane, age 15, and her friends in 1956 created a women's group called the Stinkers' Club to compete with men's Alligator Club. They made cards and drew a skunk on the card. They presented Baba with the President's card, and called him the "Chief Stinker." One can enjoy on YouTube the presentation of the Baba video "[You Alone Exist](#)." Now I've reported those inspirations.

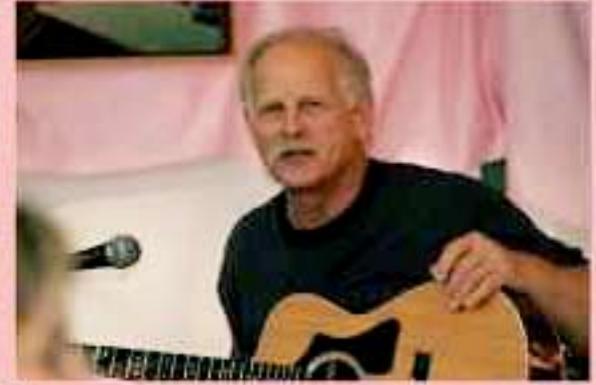
As you may recall, "Being greater than the greatest, spiritual infinity is also smaller than the smallest; and it can equally express itself through happenings irrespective of whether they are outwardly small or great. Thus a smile or a look stands on the same level as offering one's life for a cause, when the smile or the look springs from Truth-consciousness." (The Infinity of the Truth, Discourses, page 119)

Insight is the title of the Newsletter, and it also may be thought of as InReach. We are still developing the Newsletter's potential. Contact us with stories, inspirations, events you witnessed so that we can be reminded of Beloved Baba's grace in action. You may have no thought at this moment of anything you could contribute, but keep the door open when a voice speaks up.

From
Ben Leet -editor
and Lisa Greenstein-graphic noodge

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Community Newsletter



Oregon Summer Sahavas 2008

by Steve Siemenda

photos by Dave Lowman

"In reality each of us is a guest In the house of God."

*from "Intoxicated," a ghazal by Meher Baba
translated by Naosherwan Anzar*

Every sahavas is uniquely defined - the gathering of lovers and guests in the place, in the time, becomes a rich, ephemeral sandpainting of its own colors, rhythms, textures, and themes.

Every sahavas is a beautiful and passing form; from all directions lovers come to be in His Presence, and in the coming together, the lovers form His Presence.

Every sahavas becomes a house of God in which the Host-Guest relationship is sacred and symbiotic. (Indeed, the Latin root for "host" and "guest" is the same - for one cannot exist without the other.)

On August 15-17, Meher Baba was Host to a gathering of some 70 of His lovers at the 2008 Oregon Summer Sahavas. Annually, the grassy flats and slopes, the fields and trees at the home of Betty and Dave Lowman in Scotts Mills becomes Baba House (so named by Bhau Kalchuri during one of his several sahavas visits).

The Host provided a dramatic and varied setting for the feast: Daytime temperatures climbed past 100 degrees on Friday and Saturday ("Baba is grilling our sanskaras," commented Jean Wilson). A full moon Saturday night rose during Dhuni, eclipsing the stars only to be itself eclipsed in the later hours by a bank of storm clouds. Magnificent displays of lightening shot

(con't on next page)



"In reality each of us is a guest in the house of God. (con't)

hours by a bank of storm clouds. Magnificent displays of lightening shot across the sky, thunder rumbled and cracked the heavens, bringing a brief downpour of warm summer rain. The storm broke the fever of the hot spell, and Sunday was clean, crisp, and fresh.

It was against this backdrop that sahas attendees enjoyed the company and insightful commentary of Naosherwan Anzar. Born into a family of Baba lovers in Dehra Dun, India in 1946, Naosherwan shared memories of his relationship with Baba as a child and youth. But he centered his presentations on the directive given him by Baba in 1966 to "share My message of love and let the world know that I am God in human form."

In response, Naosherwan began publishing the quarterly journal Glow International (now in its 42nd year) in 1966. The author/publisher of numerous book on Meher Baba, he also directs Beloved Archives, which collects, preserves, and catalogues thousands of documents, photos, and other artifacts from Meher Baba's life and teachings.

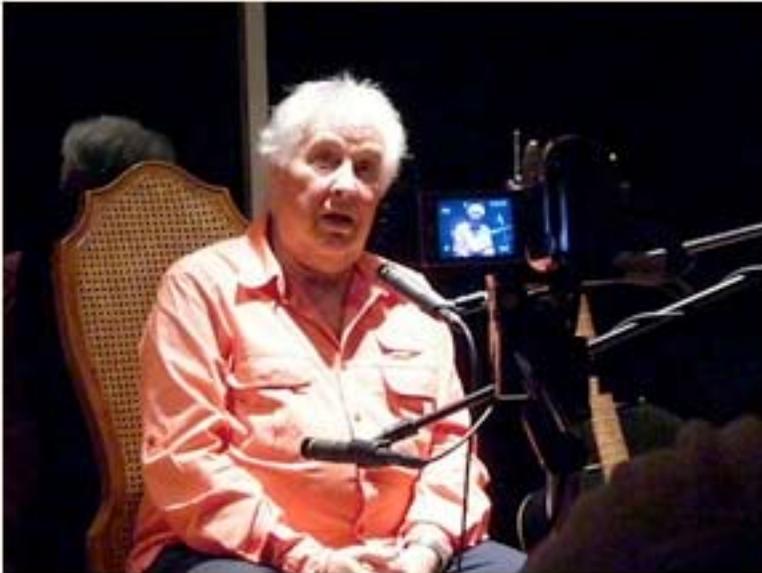
In His Grace that afternoon, many hearts were pierced with the immediacy of such conviction in the feeling of Oneness in Him.

Speakers and musicians are typically the warp and weft that form the textures and colors of sahas. Musical guest Jim Meyer provided the lyrical complement to Naosherwan's commentaries in a series of concerts through the weekend. One of the most prolific and enduring singer/songwriters for Baba, dating back to the early 70s in Myrtle Beach, his musical sets were at turns tender, fiery, soulful, playful. A poet troubadour laced with more than a dash of jester, Jim offered an array of ballads, blues, rock, spirituals, and more, all infused with a Divine Whimsy that distinguishes him as one of the most engaging and compelling of Baba's minstrels.

Other musicians who shared the stage included Gay and Greg Dunn, Ron Greenstein, Marc Lane, Scott McKeig, Jeremy Wilson, and Jim Wilson. MC Jim Wilson formally concluded the Oregon Summer Sahavas Sunday afternoon with these words: "I wish to thank everyone who helped make this wonderful gathering possible. And they are 'Meher Baba.'"

Then tents were struck, parting hugs were aplenty, and the guests dispersed like petals gently blown from a bough back into the currents of daily lives - each carried on the breeze of the Host's Divine Hospitality.

by Steve Slemenda



Why is it that we say 'Jai Baba'
when a parking space magically appears,
but curse when someone else nips into it!
Is that not too his will?
Does he not know, in his infinite knowledge
that had we parked our car in that space
we may have been trampled underfoot
by a herd of stampeding elephants..
and that the time for that is not quite right...

yet!

On Saturday September 27, we had the great treat of hearing Michael perform his spoken word at the home of Karen and Alan Talbot. You can find out more about Michael's CD's and books at:

MichaelDaCosta.com

Announcements

Center Library Note:

Would you like to be a "patron"? We have a library for your reading pleasure and convenience. Our library is housed upstairs in a book case at the MBCNC Center on Stockton Street. We have had 14 borrowers over the past year. You may access a list of the holdings at the web page meherbabameherbaba.org; look for library, and open the book or video pdf files. When you visit the Center remember to check out the library books. We would also like donations. For a list of books we need, see the section at the end of the library holdings. Contact the Newsletter about donations.

Fundraising Committee

The Center's Fundraising Committee needs your help. Bring your creative ideas and work to implement them in a Baba loving team effort. Committee meetings to be arranged as projects dictate. For more information contact Celia: cloffice@comcast.net

Meditation hour:

The center will be open Tuesday evenings, 7pm - 8pm for silent meditation.

The Trust

All who wish to share in the commitment laid down by Meher Baba through the Trust should contact Jack Mormon, ambkj@aol.com

Meher Baba Information

For introductory information about Avatar Meher Baba, e-mail MeherBabaI@aol.com, or write to P.O. Box 1101, Berkeley, CA 94701.

Meher Baba Center of Northern California

6923 Stockton Avenue
El Cerrito, California 94530
(510) 525-4779

Meher Baba Center of No.CA website

Meeting schedules can be downloaded in pdf form from website. Center is open for drop-in and book store most Saturdays 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. (check website for details)

Directions to our Center:

From Highway 80, Interstate 5, going north or south, in El Cerrito, take the Central Avenue exit. Exit east, toward the hills. Cross San Pablo Avenue. Go under the BART train tracks, and less than a block after the tracks, turn left on Richmond Avenue. Head north on Richmond Avenue until Stockton Avenue (the first stop light), turn right on Stockton. About two blocks onward, the Center is located on the left side of the street. Address: 6923 Stockton Avenue, El Cerrito, CA, 94530. Phone: (510) 525-4479.

More Local Meetings

Lafayette - Sunday Afternoons

Monthly meeting at the home of Kirk & Marlene Allen. Please call to confirm. (925) 284-4066

Sacramento - Several Gatherings Each Month

Times and locations vary.

Contact Mike and Jean Ross, (916) 359-2954 or Cheryl Johnson (559) 312-3751 for details.

See more info. on the web: website

Contact for messages to newsletterwalla:
meherbabacenter@gmail.com

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