



INsights

Community Newsletter

Special Message given by Avatar Meher Baba on His Birthday 25th February 1969

“To love Me for what I may give you is not loving Me at all.
To sacrifice anything in My cause to gain something for your self
is like a blind man sacrificing his eyes for sight.
I am the divine Beloved worthy of being loved because I AM LOVE.
He who loves Me because of this will be blessed with unlimited sight
and will see Me as I AM.”

February, 2009

Vol 2, Issue 2

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www.MeherBabaMeherBaba.org

info@MeherBabaMeherBaba.org

CerrittoCentercalendar@gmail.com



Dear Reader

If you'd like to listen to audio recordings of stories told by Padri, Adi, Darwin, Dr. Bharucha, Filis, Bili Eaton, where do you go? If you want to hear again the talks that were delivered to the Meher Baba League, where will you go? This issue tells you the answer. We also offer some [www.hot spots](#), a note about the lending library, and a poem by Dick Holmes.

We are also passing along a special request for personal stories from the **MBPPC Trust** Library at Meherabad. As an example of what they are seeking, we share a story from one of Bal Natu's books, *Tales of Meher Baba's Love*.

Stories like these comprise a book called *The Heart Chronicles, Discovering Divine Love* by Terri Zee. Here one finds 41 tales of Baba's transforming grace. Baba is constantly writing his story of love on his jivatma souls who apparently feel separation from the Oneness of his Reality of Love. That said, it's up to Him to inspire you to write, or read, or neither. Jai Baba.

Enjoy!

Ben Leet, Editor-In-Chief,
Lisa Greenstein, Graphics-Noodge
Cherri Nelson, Photoshop genie and pdf conversion

If you would like to keep this newsletter from becoming a **snoozeletter**, please consider sharing your musings, poems, or personal Baba stories. You can send writings or jpegs to us at meherbabacenter@gmail.com.

Happy Birthday Avatar Meher Baba – 115!

See our program announcement on www.MeherBabaMeherBaba.org for Baba's birthday celebration — held Saturday February 28—12-4 pm in El Cerrito.

Correction from December's newsletter: the bookstore in L.A. is the Love Street Book Store, not the Love Street Lamp Post Bookstore. Thanks, Dina. Great material there for sale!



Meher Baba Center of Northern California

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Audio Recordings from our Archives

by Ben Leet

Last month we brought you news about the archived films of Meher Baba, a project located in Norfolk, England. This month we report on our own archives.

The MBCNC has an extensive library and archive of audio recordings. We have in fact 269 recordings dating from 1967 to 2002. Since 2002 the talks have been recorded on video format. The old audio cassette tapes were in danger of disintegration after all these years, so Larry Thrasher determined to save them on an electronic, hard-drive digital storage system. We now have resurrected the old “tape library” in the new format of CD-Rs, and we announce the availability for borrowing of 37 of these talks. (See list at end of article).

I began writing this article one night while listening to the first tape in the library, a Darwin Shaw talk from 1967.

“We don’t expect someone who has climbed to the top of Mt. Tallak and told us of the wonderful view of Lake Tahoe, we don’t expect him to bring Lake Tahoe down here. We understand. We have to go up there, and climb up to the top of Mt. Tallak to see this view. It’s simple. We understand this. We have to make the effort. It’s something we have to do.

But how unlogical people are when they expect God, the Avatar, to perform a miracle for them, and they don’t have to do anything. See how illogical it is? We do have to do something. We have to become aware of our need, of the urgency of our need, of the immediacy of his presence, of the possibilities that are open for us at this time.

This is the rare good fortune for each one of us to be in incarnation at the time of the Avatar. He can respond consciously to us. He does respond. This is his work, this is our destiny.”

Darwin gave this talk to the Sufis in 1967 at their Center in San Francisco. And the text version is the seventh shadow of the audio version. I’ve heard this talk on tape several times in my life, many years ago. But tonight I’m listening to it on a CD-R thanks to tape-to-digital-to-CDR walla Larry Thrasher.

In recent years Vern Stovall has been video-recording many talks. Thank goodness. One day we hope they too will be available. But before the video was the tape recorder. You may remember hearing some of these talks delivered to us at the Berkeley Friends’ Meeting Hall, and the Albany church. For a listing of the 37 talks available now in this library go to meherbabameherbaba.org and find the library button, then download a pdf. file of the “Audio Recording Library.” (And view the listing at the bottom of this article.) Over time more talks will become available for borrowing.

Yes, borrowing them is possible now. These CDRs are stored upstairs at the Stockton Street Center on the book library shelf. When you take them home, we recommend that you make yourself a copy just for yourself. That’s right, copy whatever you wish. And, to be clear, do not sell them.

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Audio Recordings from our Archives (cont.)

by Ben Leet

The 37 talks are sectioned into five bundles, each bundle with seven talks. You can take home a bundle at a time. You may also consider making a donation for this service as it did involve some expense. But, that is strictly voluntary. (But, though it may be too obvious, you must also return the CD-Rs you borrow.)

Larry says, "It's all about redundancy." He wants them to be "peppered around." While individuals may have their copies, he also hopes to create several "hard drive" storage sites, and, for now, to disperse the CDRs like seeds, the farther and wider the better the chance of survival. Eventually Larry hopes to donate a vinyl recording machine to the Trust in India so that all Baba recordings will be stored on the most stable and "archivable" material, vinyl.

There are five internet sites currently broadcasting talks about Meher Baba: BabaRadio, MeherMedia, MeherCast, Meherabode, and MandaliHall. I hope that they all will enlarge their selections and possibly include some from the MBCNC library. That event is not too far off in the future.

<http://avatarmeherbaba.org/babaradio/>
<http://www.mehermedia.com/>
<http://www.web-animator.com/mehercast/index.html>
<http://www.meherabode.org/library>
<http://www.mandalihall.org/>

Let's imagine that Mehera, Mani, Eruch and the other mandali were today available for visiting, in 2008. My guess is that 90% of those reading here would have airline tickets for India in less than 24 hours. But, that's not in the cards; the mandali are not available. We have to wait maybe 700 years. And if you read really closely Baba always said "after 700 years," and I take that to mean 1400 years or more. The closest we can come is our memories, and that is a hazy experience, at least for me. But in future decades and centuries the closest access to these wonderful people, the mandali, will be through audio tapes, video recordings, films, and writings that we pass down.

Larry Thrasher has repeated to me several times that these recordings will be, in his opinion, the most important audio material that our generation passes down to subsequent generations. They will be coveted and studied. Did not Baba say that his prayer "You Alone Exist" will be sung in every household on the planet. Maybe that's exaggeration. But it is plausible and sensible to me that these tapes and CD-Rs will be highly valued by those who catch the scent of the Avatar and wish to get as close as they possibly can.

If you have some tape recordings from Mandali Hall or elsewhere that you wish to preserve, you should contact Larry Thrasher. He has helped others and will extend his expertise to you. Contact the **newsletter** and we will relay to Larry.

Copying from the Love Street Lamp Post, Third and Fourth Quarter, 2007, page 19, "Meherabode Listening Library. Hey audiophile! The Meherabode audio library has

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Audio Recordings from our Archives (cont.)

by Ben Leet

been upgraded with a new media player that has better sound quality and loads the talks more quickly than the original system that was used. We've added more speakers, musicians and poets, too.

Tune in to <http://www.meherabode.org/library> and enjoy a treat! Have a cup of tea listening to Filis one afternoon, then an inspiring talk of Darwin's ... plus much more!"

CDRs copied by L. Thrasher,
December, 2008

- A. 1. Darwin Shaw, 1967 2 discs
- B. 22 Minoo Kharas July 6, 1978 1 disc
- B. 33 Aloba, February 1, 1971 2 discs
- B. 36 Adi K. Irani Feb. 12, 1970 2 discs
- B. 37 Mehera June 27, 1975 2 discs
- B. 38 Padri 1975 2 discs
- B. 41 Mani and Eruch Feb. 2, 1970 2 discs
- B. 42 Mani Oct. 18, 1986 2 discs
- B. 45 Aloba May 7, 1988 2 discs
- B. 45 Aloba same same
- B. 50 Amrit 1990 1 disc
- B. 51 Mehera Dec. 17, 1977 2 discs
- B. 55 Mehera Feb. 14, 1981 2 discs
- B. 55 Mehera same same
- B. 56 Bal, Eruch Sept. 20, 1983 2 discs
- L. 2 Rick Chapman July 9, 1976 1 disc
- L. 3 Henry Kashouty July 2, 1975 2 discs
- L. 4 Lud Dimpfl 1972 1 disc
- L. 5 Ivy Duce April 1, 1972 2 discs
- L. 6 Irwin Luck June 7, 1974 2 discs
- L. 7 Alain Youell Nov. 1, 1974 2 discs
- L. 8 Bill LePage June 23, 1974 2 discs
- L. 9 Shaw Family July 4, 1976 1 disc
- L. 10 Jim McGrew July 3, 1977 2 discs
- L. 11 Dr. Bharucha July 19, 1973 2 discs
- L. 19 Eruch August, 1980 1 disc
- L. 20 Eruch August, 1980 1 disc
- L. 21 Rano Gayley July 11, 1970 2 discs
- L. 26 Pete Townsend Sept., 1976 2 discs
- L. 28 Filis Frederick Oct. 30, 1981 2 discs
- L. 29 Ursula Van Buskirk Unknown date 2 discs
- L. 30 Eruch and Mani July 10, 1983 2 discs
- S. 11 Opening Talk July, 1981 2 discs Southern California Sahavas
- S. 12 Bili Eaton 1981 2 discs
- S. 15 Dr. Bharucha 1981 2 discs
- S. 16 Dr. Bharucha, Bili Eaton (discussion on sex) 1981 2 discs

Adi K. Irani unknown date 2 discs
37 Talks on 67 discs



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The Bal Natu Project

by Ben Leet

Meherabad Hill Library is an official organ of the A.M.B.P.P.C. Trust, Ahmednagar (M.S.) India 414006. The library is taking up the continuation of the “Bal Natu Project,” which was very dear to Bal Natu’s heart. Bal Natu was a resident of Meherabad for several years, and he ran a project of collecting Baba stories from the Baba pilgrims visiting there. The stories are very touching and reflect upon Beloved Baba’s inner working as to how He would draw different souls in different ways to Him, exclusive to each individual.

Bal Natu published these beautiful stories in a series of books which were not only cheap and affordable but very popular also. Two books in the series are entitled *Showers of Grace* and *The Compassionate Father*. After Bal Natu’s passing away, his cherished project came to an apparent end, but now the Meherabad Hill Library is reviving that project and requesting Baba lovers all over the world to send their stories to the library, with a limit of 4-5 typed pages (1200-1500 words). The most welcome aspect of these stories would be how Baba initially drew one to Him or any such episode which would be worth sharing with other Baba lovers.

These stories can be sent via e-mail as an attachment, and a separate typed copy can be sent directly to the library by post or pilgrim courier. Stories can be submitted in any language and then translated into English. The library’s mail address is Meherabad Hill Library, Post Meherabad, Ahmednagar (MS) India 414006. The library’s e-mail address is: hill.library@ambppct.org.

These stories will be made available in the library to readers, and when enough material is collected, then the publication of these stories can be taken up. At this point in time, the library has received several lovely stories, but more stories are needed in order for the collection to reflect the richness of the Baba community’s experiences. So please do submit the story of your most precious moments with the Beloved. You will have an enchanting stroll down memory lane, and Baba can use your story to awaken the hearts of others to the beauty of His love.

If you are a member of a Baba group or near a Baba Center, please print out this e-mail and leave it out at your group’s meetings or at your Center. Also, please have the attached copy printed in your group’s newsletter.

Jai Meher Baba

Gokaran and Urmilla Shrivastava
Librarians, Meherabad Hill Library



My Coming to Meher Baba from *Tales of Meher Baba's Love*

P. Madhusudan

The night before seeing Meher Baba for the first time, I had the only dream that I remember in my life. It was a wonderful dream and thus impressed me, otherwise, I don't generally give much importance to them. In the dream, as I was going for a walk, I saw a beautiful white marble temple. It was very large, and there were many small white temples inside it. All the people gathered there were wearing white.

Bhajans were being sung and lectures were being given there. Some old ladies were discussing something in Hindi and one of them asked me, "What do you want?"

I said, "Do you know where God is?"

She replied, "Do you want to see Him?"

"Yes, I want to see Him."

"Do you want to see Him in human form?"

"Is it possible?" I asked.

"Yes, but there is a condition. Once you visit Him, you will not be able to go back. So get permission from your mother and father, and then come."

I practically ran to my house. I found my mother doing some household work and told her what had happened. I asked, "Shall I go?"

She said, "You dear fool! Why do you come back to ask such a thing? Go!"

I ran back to the temple and said to the ladies, "Now I have permission from my mother. Tell me now the way to go. Where is God?"

They gave me directions, and after I had gone a certain distance, I saw a most beautiful sea. Never in my life have I seen such lovely water, rocks and colors.

As soon as I saw the water, I took off my clothes and dove in. I don't know how to swim, but I did in my dream. And as soon as I entered the sea I saw the waters part high on both sides, just like in a scene from the movie, *The Ten Commandments*, which I saw later. After taking a few steps, I saw a huge person standing before me. I could not even see His face. He was so beautiful, attractive, and marvelous. At first I could only see His feet. Then I was able to see His resplendent face, with His beautiful eyes, smiling at me. And He had four hands, with something in each hand. He asked me, "Oh you fool, where are you searching for Me?"

"I have been directed by those ladies," I replied. "That's why I have come here."

"But this is not the way to search for God."

"Then?" I asked.

He said, "Follow me."

(Continued on next page)



My Coming to Meher Baba (cont.)
from *Tales of Meher Baba's Love*

P. Madhusudan

I saw Him going and said to myself, "I have just found Him!" So I ran towards Him, but as soon as I got near, He disappeared. "Oh, What a fate!" I thought. "I was just catching Him, and now He is out of sight. But I was fortunate to at least see Him once — though I didn't touch Him."

Then I saw that His halo remained; it was moving, and it drew me to the big temple which it entered. The temple had a small door, so I put my hands on the portal and looked in. I saw the halo start moving around a black statue of Krishna holding a flute in a graceful posture. No one else was inside, and everything but the statue was white. Then the words came, "Sing a bhajan. So I sang in a bhairavi (Indian classical music) tune. While I was singing, I felt someone shaking me, and I opened my eyes. My brother was saying, "Wake up, you are to go to Ahmednagar. What are you doing? The whole night you were muttering — I was trying to wake you.

It was four a.m., and someone came to take me to Ahmednagar. I was in a most joyous mood. I was beginning the most precious day of my life, and the dream had been such a wonderful experience.

Eight of us journeyed to Ahmednagar, and were greeted by Adi K. Irani, Avatar Meher Baba's long-time secretary. He came, just like a prince, and asked sharply, "You came from Poona? You know that Baba is in seclusion. Who is the fool who directed you to come today?"

As soon as I heard Adi, I thought --- is this a sadhu? What kind of secretary is he? Look at the way he is talking to us! I said to my friends, "Come on, I don't want to see Baba."

My friends said to Adi, "We have seen Baba, but we have brought some new people. We don't want to ask anything, but just from a distance we want them to be able to see Baba."

Adi said, "All right --- but I can't promise it; it is against His orders. Baba has gone to Meherabad today, and when He is returning you might be able to see Him. So you can try."

We asked, "When will He be going back to Meherabad?"

Adi replied, "I don't know. He might go at any moment."

"And who will be driving the car?"

"I will be," Adi said.

"Oh, that's a good thing. When you see us, please slow down the car."

"That much I will do," Adi promised.

So we went to the city, had our lunch, and then waited on the road by the railway station. One o'clock . . . two . . . three . . . four . . . five . . . six . . . seven . . .

(Continued on next page)



My Coming to Meher Baba (cont.)
from *Tales of Meher Baba's Love*

P. Madhusudan

I finally said, "I won't wait here after 7:14 p.m., because I must take the bus to attend to my duties in Poona."

At 7:14, it was nearly dark, I stood, and asked my friends, "In which direction is your Meher Baba now?"

They pointed out to me the direction to Meherabad. I folded my hands, and said, "Wherever You may be, these are my salutations. I am going."

As soon as I bowed my head, He came. I saw a beautiful and tremendous light before me — the same light I had experienced in my dream. It was coming from Baba as His car approached. I could see that His was the form I had seen in my dream. I was so startled that I fainted.

But everyone else was running behind the car, and no one noticed me lying by the road. After some distance Baba motioned to Adi to stop the car. Baba opened the door and pointed to where I was lying.

Some of my friends came back, and picked me up and took me to Baba. Baba then called me over very close to Him, put His hand on my head, and conveyed, "I know you. I love you."

That was all. Then, afterwards I was called to Mahabaleshwar to sing bhajans for Baba, and so many other times since then. But I did not see Baba again as I had seen Him on the 21st of August, 1949. That first darshan, that was a beautiful and wonderful thing. That I can't forget. With Baba's grace, I have been singing His glory through songs ever since.

From *The Awakener*, Volume 14, No. 2. and
Tales of Meher Baba's Love, compiled by Bal Natu, page 170 - 173.



Meher Baba Center of Northern California

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Poet's Corner

Recipes for Gratitude

by Dick Holmes

Eternal Beloved

Thank you for this beautiful life,
this wondrous consciousness,
this holy charge to manifest
Your Divine Glory.

In the abundance of Your Grace,
move us beyond mere words
to the Loving Silence
of Your Living Presence.

And for Your Dear Sake,
All-Suffering, Compassionate Friend,
awaken us to our True Self
You are, the One and Only One.

Jeff Auen and Celia Lopez During Their Recent Trip to Baba's Spiritual Center in India



Jeff and Celia



"We were walking to arti one morning and just turning into the Samadhi area when we saw this termite hill shaped like a heart. How cool and Baba like."



Meher Baba Center of Northern California

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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.

Meditation hour:

The center will be open on 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 info@MeherBabaInformation.org or write to:

P.O. Box 1101,
Berkeley, CA 94701.

<http://MeherBabaInformation.org>

Meher Baba Center of Northern California
6923 Stockton Avenue
El Cerrito, California 94530
(510) 525-4779

Meher Baba Center of Northern CA website

Meeting schedules can be downloaded in pdf form from website (above)

The 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 on previous page.

More Local Meetings (Continued on next page)



Meher Baba Center of Northern California

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Announcements (cont.)

More Local Meetings

Lafayette – Sunday Afternoons

Monthly meeting at the home of Kirk and Marlene Allen.

Please call to confirm. (925) 284-4066

Sacramento – Several Gatherings Each Month

Times and locations vary.

Contact Marilyn Buehler (916) 812-9496 info@premsay.com

See more information on the [website](#).

Los Gatos – Sunday Evenings

At the home of Clint Snyder

Call (408) 395-6865

Contact for messages to newsletterwallas: meherbabacenter@gmail.com

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