



# INsights

## Community Newsletter

“ I would like you all to belong to certain groups. Why? Because you can cooperate and tell others about Me and share your thoughts. You learn much more than when you remain by yourself. When you listen, exchange thoughts, prayers, My presence is there. Where there are five collected together, Parameshwar is there, I am there. If you are talking of Me, having love for Me, then there I am...”

Avatar Meher Baba from *Love Alone Prevails* by Kitty Davy, pg.470

September, 2010

Vol 3, Issue 8

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[info@MeherBabaMeherBaba.org](mailto:info@MeherBabaMeherBaba.org)

[CerrittoCentercalendar@gmail.com](mailto:CerrittoCentercalendar@gmail.com)



### Dear Reader

This month we are writing about some up-coming events in September that we hope you will want to attend.

The newsletter's editors always appreciate contributions and suggestions. You might awaken the writer in you and share something of value with your fellow sojourners.

This newsletter (and past issues) will eventually be available in pdf form on the [www.MeherBabaMeherBaba.org](http://www.MeherBabaMeherBaba.org) website.

Newsletterwallas: Ben Leet, Lisa Greenstein Cherri Nelson



### Bay Area Baba Lovers Community Meeting

Lisa Greenstein

By now you've probably read some emails or heard talk about the upcoming Bay Area Community Meeting with Daniel Stone, Sept. 11 & 12th. So, how did this come about? Well, there was an awareness that even though urban sahas'as and the bi-monthly Sunday circle are well attended, maybe we could do more with our resources? So the MBCNC board sent out a survey questionnaire to get the community thinking about what is working for us and what needs improvement. The intention was to review the results and then present for a group conversation at an open community meeting. By the time the questionnaire results were ready to review, we had our 2010 Annual General Meeting and a newly elected board set about to plan for the event.

Anne Speirs suggested inviting Daniel Stone (fellow Baba-lover from Washington, D.C.) to facilitate. He is well known for his successful facilitation of the Myrtle Beach Center board in dealing with some sticky issues as well as the need to make changes. This is not to say that this is the case with us. However, after participating in a group conference call on Saturday Aug. 28, I feel we are in good hands with Daniel as facilitator, if we do find that this is so.

The conference call was open to anyone (previous email) and was attended by Dick Anthony, Steven-Barrie Anthony, Billy Baum, Madeline Ducas, Greg Dunn, Brian Drygas, Lisa Greenstein, Ron Greenstein, Ellen Peskin, Anne Speirs, Alan Talbot, Karen Talbot, Janet White. Daniel asked us to consider what we hoped to accomplish over the weekend and what kinds of conversations we would like to have. On a micro-level we talked about questions like:

What is our level of connection as a community and what do we want?

How do we address divisions that have occurred?

Do we need to bridge the gap in connection between the informal Baba groups and the formal group, and if so, how? "Is it even possible to have a sangha wherein we support each others' spiritual lives in relation to Baba, and simultaneously have a less intimate, more public group structure and activities, without inadvertently setting up a kind of in-group hierarchy?"

—Madeline Doucas

What role does the community want the board to take?

On the macro-level, we spoke about the possibility of creating a new vision for the group as we enter the next phase when the mandali are no longer with us.

Daniel asked us to think about the nature of the change/s that need to take place and whether they should be incremental or transformational. Opinions on this were pretty divergent, but in digging a little deeper, two areas for further exploration surfaced. One was, to look at improving the way we relate to each other interpersonally. For example, how can we be more welcoming of new Baba lovers, or Baba lovers who are new to the area. The other was to look at how we share our personal journeys with Baba in connection with each other.

By the end of the call there was much enthusiasm that this workshop/meeting could lead to a re-vitalization of the community.



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### Bay Area Baba Lovers Community Meeting (cont.)

Lisa Greenstein

Next we talked logistics and it was decided to CHANGE this to a two day meeting, starting on Saturday and continuing on Sunday (September 11th and 12th), from 10 am- 4 pm each day and be open to everyone to attend all or part of it. There will be opportunities to have facilitated small group conversations and larger group conversations.

Everyone is welcome and invited to come both days or only part of the time as you are available. The board will provide snacks, beverages and a luncheon- so don't miss out on this opportunity to share your thoughts and feelings. Every voice is important!

**About Daniel:** Daniel Stone is one of the world's leading facilitators of dialogues and conversations and has worked for large and small organisations. He designed and facilitated a dialogue for Deepak Chopra's Alliance for the New Humanity in Costa Rica for 500 people about the transformation of consciousness. Among his many experiences are extensive work with the Board of Directors and staff at the Meher Center in Myrtle Beach where he assisted them in designing and implementing a new governance system for the Center and in developing its current strategic plan. In addition, he created the Meher Baba Washington Gathering in 1976, and provided leadership to this group for nearly 20 years.

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If you think you may be coming please RSVP- so we can have a head count for the food: Ron Greenstein performs@mindspring.com (rsvp is optional- just come!)

For more information contact Ann Speirs- 510 860 6450 or any board member.

**Please Note:** meeting dates – Sept 11 & 12, 10 a.m - 4 p.m.  
Location to be announced, watch for an email announcement,  
or contact Ron or Ann.

### Upcoming Talk by Rick Chapman, September 18 – El Cerrito Center

Rick Chapman will be giving a talk titled, 'Meher Baba and the Yoga of Love.' The talk will begin at 7:30 p.m. Arrival time at 7 p.m.

The lending library and bookstore will be available prior to and after the talk, and for the first time in the U.S., Rick's recent book, *Meeting God In Human Form*, will be available. (It was first published this past January and until now has been available solely at Meherabad in India.)

Rick found out about Baba in the 1960s and had the rare opportunity of having Baba's darshan in Mandali Hall, Meherabad in August, 1966. Since then, Rick has spoken and published materials about Baba in accord with Baba's wish that he do so. It has been many years since Rick has been able to schedule a talk to our local Baba group, apart from his participation in panels with Allan Cohen and Robert Dreyfuss.





americans love poetry so bloody damn much,  
they lovingly collect it and spade it into mulch.  
my favorite book is that big fat norton anthology;  
it's made for students of physical anthropology!  
the problem is that poetry is not a common art,  
but something buried in text, and not recited from heart.  
did you know that the most loved poet of all time – hafez,  
never wrote a line, but by word of mouth became the buzz!  
let's face it – we don't have the conversational rhythm,  
to turn our speech into poetry, and surpass the hymn.  
rap might be the answer were it not so crude and violent:  
beauty always longs to fulfill itself in soft silence.  
darvish cries out for that speech that turns into lovely song –  
he hugs the verse of that australian, francis brabazon!



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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](http://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.

#### 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](mailto:ambkj@aol.com)

#### Meher Baba Information

For introductory information about Avatar Meher Baba, e-mail [info@MeherBabaInformation.org](mailto: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 (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)



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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](mailto:info@premsay.com)

Los Gatos – Sunday Evenings

At the home of Clint Snyder

Call (408) 395-6865

Sonoma County - Arti happens once a month,

Usually the first Sunday. Locations vary.

Call Ellen Van Allen at (707) 528-0357 for specific information.

See more information on the website.

Contact for messages to newsletterwalla: [meherbabacenter@gmail.com](mailto:meherbabacenter@gmail.com)

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