



“Do whatever needs to be done, but do it as a spiritual being; as one who knows he is divine by nature and united with the whole of life in essence. Do it as if you are doing it for me or for God. Do it with equal consideration for the interests of all concerned, for God is equally in each. Do it with utmost concentration, yet with utter detachment from the results of action. Leave the fruit of action to me or to God. Do it as if it were the most important thing in the universe, yet let it be destroyed, or ignored, or ridiculed, without concern, or let it be praised without elation. Leave the response to me or to God. Do it, in short, as if you were not doing it at all, but as if I or God were doing it through you.”

Avatar Meher Baba

date and place unknown, *Practical Spirituality* by John Grant, pg. 208
from *The Unstruck Music of Meher Baba*, ed. Maude Kennedy, pg 1



INsights

Community Newsletter

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Dear Reader

Since our last newsletter the MBCNC has held three significant meetings and participated in a fourth: we held a two day conversation on the future activities and directions of this group, let us call it a renewal colloquy (my dictionary defines colloquy as "a high level serious discussion"), we hosted a talk by Kacy Cook, long-time resident of Meherazad, accompanied by an auction on behalf of the Meherazad Free Dispensary-\$9,400 was raised, thirdly, Rick Chapman visited our El Cerrito center to pitch his new book Meeting God in Human Form and speak about "The Yoga of Love", he filled the hall, and lastly the New Life Sahavas at Meherana attracted many familiar faces from the northern California group. The renewal meeting has fired up some intense conversation on the internet and the conversation continues. And, lastly, the regular Sunday afternoon meetings continue to attract a small and faithful gathering.

I was awaiting a "vision" statement from the Renewal Conference, but apparently this is not quite ready in mid-October for newsletter publication. The document is a joint effort, continually growing and changing, and its formal debut will be forthcoming.

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

Newsletterwalla: Ben Leet, Lisa Greenstein Cherri Nelson



Bay Area Baba Lovers Community Meeting

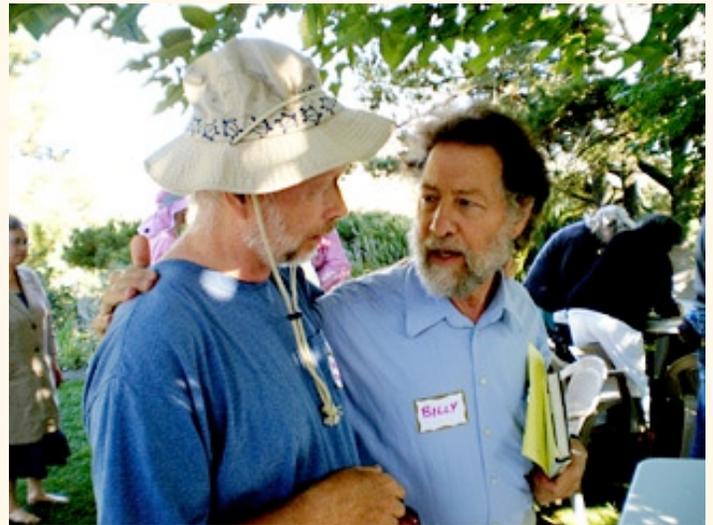
Here are a sample of responses from attendees of the Renewal conference that was led or facilitated by Daniel Stone.

Eva Greenstein

Cool breezes washed across our faces against the stark green backdrop of the Talbot lawn. Daniel, a peaceful soldier, stood before us with perfect posture, arming us with the tools needed to work in harmony toward love and light. Like popcorn, the group sizzled with sentiment; up, speak, up, rebut, up, retort, up; until a full kettle steamed with alike thoughts. We entered the internal process of imagined soup, meditating together with God's cosmic big dipper swirling us into Oneness. Then we began to build a group sand castle, constructing the framework from a base of supportive listening, intersecting ideas and concrete visions. Before the day closed, Baba's gaze washed over us and we were eternally reminded of the real purpose of being there.

Lisa Greenstein

The group conference calls, prelude to the workshop, and Saturday were very intense. But the feeling I had was of gratitude for everyone who came to participate because of their love for Baba and their belief in the importance of the continuance of MBCNC. The community workshop setting at the Talbot's home was lovely. We sat out in the backyard on a warm weekend in the tree shade with views of distant hills. The surrounding beauty and yummy lunch helped to sooth the edginess of the group.



Vern Stovall and Billy Baum

I was concerned about how we would understand our past and whether we could ever have a consensus, or at least tolerate our differences about the MBCNC's relationship with Sufism Reoriented. By the end of the day I felt bogged down, sad and not sure if we would ever move forward. I wondered if the younger generation of Baba-lovers would just give up on us elders for

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Bay Area Baba Lovers Community Meeting (cont.)

being so mired in the past. But by the end of Sunday's vision meditation and the small group sessions following that, everyone seemed uplifted, in good spirits and kind to one another. It felt as if Baba had 'lanced the boil'.

I love that the process Daniel Stone used made sure that everyone's words were heard and included. He had a laser sharp way of cutting through the muck and finding common ground.

I suppose the highlight for me personally, was to feel how much love and caring was there and that we share a desire for open-hearted communication with one another.

Daniel Stone

Here it is several days since the retreat, and I am now on another coast; and yet I am still feeling the fragrance of having spent the two days with the group in Baba's remembrance. And what I am left with is a palpable sense of the commitment, and love of the people who gathered together for these two days with the sincere intent to find a way to not only work together for Baba, but especially to emanate His love in the way in which the work was done. There was certainly a wide spectrum of points of view that needed to be heard, held, and absorbed about both the past and the current reality of the group. And while it was perhaps a challenge at times (at least it was for me), out of that emerged a higher sense of harmony and unity of purpose, especially as a new vision began to be created. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been with this group in what will hopefully be a genuine revitalization and transformation in His love.

Celia Lopez

For the day and a half that I was at the retreat, I felt a mix of many feelings as Baba stirred the pot. I feel most people want an inclusive Baba community as do I, but we got stuck on old wounds that should have been addressed at a different meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to create a vision for the Center going forward. I don't think we accomplished that. I left with disappointment in my heart.



Bay Area Baba Lovers Community Meeting (cont.)

And the last contribution will be from Dick Anthony

I have repeatedly been struck since 1969, in my work with spiritual communities in all of the Avataric traditions, how many of them have begun to be transformed by a renewal of mystical contact with the Avatar, in whatever form He may be speaking to them. My own way of interpreting this phenomenon is that Baba has generally begun manifesting since his two darshans, in Chapel Hill (1967), and India (1969) while not physically present. That is, since 1967 he has increasingly been manifesting his mystical spiritual availability to all of these traditions, and that in turn has caused the sudden eruption of mystical movements in the late 60s and since, that has now resulted in approximately 40% of our general population, and a much larger percentage of our youthful population, viewing themselves as "spiritual but not religious".



Ed Munnich and Keith Gunn

He has promised that in his Meher Baba advent, He will not start a new religion, but that he will awaken those within all religions to the Avatar's presence within, and will bring all such religions together like beads on one string. I have been observing, through my work with such spiritual movements and tendencies, and have

been inspired by Baba's keeping His promise in this regard, since 1969, and increasingly on into the present.

Now as a community we have the opportunity, brought about by Baba, working through the leadership of his long-term devotee Daniel Stone, and others who have emerged and will continue to emerge among us, and especially at the weekend retreat that has begun a spiritual fire within us, to join the Avataric transformation of our hearts and minds that is now also occurring within mystical movements in all of the Avataric faiths.

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Bay Area Baba Lovers Community Meeting (cont.)

My hope and belief, is that we will conduct this transformative process in a fashion that is also capsulized in a statement within the Christian new testament, the gist of which is also expressed in mystical statements in all of the other Avataric faiths:

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as of sounding brass or of a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could move mountains, and have no love, I am nothing.” (1 Corinthians, 13, verses 1 & 2)

In Baba's Love,
Dick

Meherazad Free Dispensary – Kacy Cook Talk

by Ben Leet

The newsletter editor forgot to assign a staff reporter to this important event and the current newsletter cannot bring you an eye-witness report. In spite of this, we can report that, in fact, \$9,400 were generously bid in auction and collected for the support of this free medical clinic. Taking the text from an article in the Spring 2010 issue of Glow International, Healing at Meherazad, authored by Dr. Michael Ramsden, we can at least inform you that the clinic is “located about 2 kilometers west of Meherazad and is situated in the midst of a farmland owned by the Meher Free Dispensary Meherazad Trust which is separate from the Avatar Meher Baba Trust.”

The Dispensary was founded in 1976 and was enlarged in 2006, and “opened in November, 2007. It has 7500 square feet of space and six doctors serving over 120 patients 4 days a week.... There are approximately 24,000 patient visits yearly. Additionally, there are two separate programmes for epilepsy and diabetes serving 200 patients each on a monthly basis... It is impossible to know the full impact of the services provided to the many hundreds of thousands of patients served nor the effect on their families and communities over the years. The love of Avatar Meher Baba is given to each according to their need.”



The Meherana New Life Sahavas

by Ben Leet

While this event was not in the least sponsored by the MBCNC, it was attended mostly by northern California residents and members of MBCNC, as is usual. I'm sure the Meherana directors will issue a newsletter soon about their projects and successes over the past year.

I would like to inform the group that we had a great time, excellent food, lavish accommodations as usual, and interesting weather. Coincident with the weather was superb music. Greg, Gay and Aminta Dunn performed for our pleasure. I say "coincident with the weather" because before they began playing the weather was nearly perfect. By the time they had completed their set of songs the sky was filled with clouds and lightning was flashing in the distance, and the wind was breezing up.

After a break of about an hour Adrienne Shamszad began performing in her inimitable style. I stepped out of the pandal to observe the wind flurries that were shaking the dead autumn leaves out of the surrounding oak trees and whipping a froth of leaf action like a ballet performance. Soon the devas of the wind spied the tent in which Kebi was selling Baba books and assorted goods. Soon this tent was dancing above ground, straining the cords that were popping out of the ground, and a rush of audience leaped out of the pandal to hold the tent coming down altogether, eventually staking it firmly with serious cords and lashes. That evening it rained most of the night. My comment about the wind must take the place of any comment about the music, but the least I can say is that the wind and the weather played second fiddles to these truly talented maestros of music. This is not an exaggeration. An excellent time was had by all. May Baba continue to attend all our events, as he has promised (if we bring him to them).

More about the annual New Life Sahavas at Meherana, is a note from Cherri Nelson. Cherri has taken over the function of attending the children's pandal at these gatherings:

I always look forward to Sahavas, not only for the renewed injection of Baba's love with speakers and music, but also in just being with the kids in at the children's' pandal, taken on

(Continued on next page.)



The Meherana New Life Sahavas (cont.)

by Ben Leet

after Betty Lowman's departure to Oregon. Though I sometimes am disappointed in missing a good talk or hearing Bhau when he comes, being with the children and teenagers has always made up for that. And if Bhau comes, we get our own time with him.

I was whole heartedly delighted with this weekend, very glad I'd gone, as I almost didn't, and in spite of being rained out of my tent before dawn on Sunday morning. The musicians are so accomplished, heartfelt and Baba's love still permeated through the entire weekend. And, having spent time with Aminta Dunn over the years, I was thrilled to listen to her songs, which Dad says "are gushing out of her".

Christi Pearson arranged a program Saturday afternoon that I found particularly inspiring and absorbing on the New Life. I had a break, as children decided on other things to do temporarily, just enough time for me to participate in this program. Participants sat in a large circle and each took turns reading paragraphs from writings Christi provided, including the Song of the New Life. The writings prompted discussions, which in turn provided a new awareness for me of how important this period was, still is, for us all. I always hear something new when reading the discourses or books about Meher Baba or his devoted followers and this program didn't fail to create some new 'ah ha' moments and appreciation.

This gathering provided what I've always come to enjoy at Sahavas; renewed Baba love, music, deeper awareness and learning, time with children and young soon-to-be adults and further connection with the Meher Baba community.



Musical Guests the Dunn Family and Adam Caraco and Aliah Een at the Childrens' Pandal



Meher Baba Center of Northern California

INsights

Community Newsletter

Poetry Corner

by J. DeLyser

Like petals
On rice paper
Love imparts its gentle hues
Unto the hearts
Of friends.

from *Poems to Avatar Meher Baba*



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.

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.



Meher Baba Center of Northern California

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Community Newsletter

Announcements (cont.)

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)

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

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.