



“The Master feeds upon the love of his disciples and utilizes the spiritual forces released by them for his universal work.

In this way the Master is like the relay station that receives a song only in order to broadcast it to the world at large. To

love the Master is to love all, not merely symbolically but actually; for what the

Master receives on the inner planes of consciousness he spiritualizes and distributes. Thus he not only strengthens

the personal links that the disciples may have with him but also gives them the

privilege of sharing his divinework.”

Avatar Meher Baba

*Discourses*, 7th ed, pp. 189-190

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# INsights

## Community Newsletter

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[www.MeherBabaMeherBaba.org](http://www.MeherBabaMeherBaba.org)

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

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



This newsletter (and past issues) will eventually be available in pdf form on the **Center Website**, above.

### Our Web Genie!

Check out the newly updated website, with Thanks to Jeanne Mojé MacDonald (link on sidebar).

Newsletterwallas: Ben Leet,  
Lisa Greenstein Cherri Nelson

### Dear Reader

This month we have news about an upcoming event; a story from Joan Dimpfl Harland about her father, Lud; a prayer from Marie Rhodes; and a poem. The editors are grateful for the contributions that came in this month. Keep them coming.

This past week two well known workers for and lovers of Meher Baba passed on, Don E. Stevens and Dr. G.N.S. Moorty. Don became a familiar name early in our understanding of Meher Baba as he co-authored an important book with the avatar, Listen, Humanity; and he was an infrequent but cherished visitor over the many years. Dr. Moorty arrived late, in the spring of 2004, for only one visit, but he left us with his book Wonders of Silence. Moorty, a professor of philosophy in

India, travelled India at Baba's request giving talks about Baba, and he "billed" himself as "the talkative disciple of the Silent Master." We would love to share any memories of these two men that our readers can provide in our next newsletter.

We also received news that Nick Dascalos, a pillar of the Denver group, passed away last week after suffering a heart attack. May they all rest in Baba's loving embrace.



There is a youtube video of Adrienne performing at the El Cerrito Meher Baba Center last Friday (April 29th).  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nMaugafCkw>

Adrienne Shamszad will be hosting 4th Friday night concerts and performances (see the calendar on our website).

Ward Parks is coming to visit our group, Saturday, May 7 & Wednesday, May 11. To participate or for more information, call 925-376-4325.



## Lud Dimpfl's Suitcase Story

by Joan (Dimpfl) Harland



Lud Dimpfl, on Baba's right (Eruch on left)

In the 1950s, Lud Dimpfl was an unlikely candidate for meeting the Avatar - an agnostic chemical engineer working for Chevron Oil in Richmond, California. As fate would have it, he shared an office with another conservative, Don Stevens. Lud soon became a Sufi under Murshida Ivy Duce.

On meeting Baba for the first time (Myrtle Beach, 1952), Lud said, "I want to come to India to live with You." Baba embraced Lud, saying "Today you have made Me very happy." When informed by Murshida Duce that Lud had a wife and four children, Baba then said, "Come to India when I call you in a year." That

"year" proved to be in Baba time, and the invitation was to the Men's Meeting in September 1954. As later told by Lud, long before 1954, he had unfortunately told everyone at his work what he thought of them, certain that soon he would be whisked away to India for good.

### Three high points:

That September 1954, Lud was given the manuscript of *God Speaks* to bring back to Ivy Duce and Don Stevens for editing and publication. In May 1958, Baba unexpectedly spent one night's stopover at Lud's house in Kentfield. The Avatar survived on a milkshake from the only restaurant open that Memorial Day weekend, a local hamburger joint called the Eat and Run. (The Eat and Run became a spiritual symbol for Heather Nadel; see [http://www.meherbabameherbaba.org/newsletters/enews\\_2009.09.pdf](http://www.meherbabameherbaba.org/newsletters/enews_2009.09.pdf)).

(Continued on next page.)



## Lud Dimpfl's Suitcase Story (Cont.)

by Joan (Dimpfl) Harland

Then, beginning in the '60s, Lud bloomed in the warm energy brought by young seekers. Lud relished nothing more than sharing his Beloved with new Baba lovers.

### **Lud's Suitcase Story**

In June 1954, Baba invited all of his men followers to come to Ahmednagar (described in the book *Three Incredible Weeks*). Although hoping to stay permanently in India, Lud Dimpfl was thrilled to be one of the 17 Western men who attended the Men's Meeting. Their needs were diligently attended to by the mandali; Baba emphasized that He wanted the Western men to be completely comfortable. They were housed dormitory-style, upstairs in the Water Tower at Upper Meherabad (formerly used for the women mandali), with a sheet between beds for privacy. The beds were assigned, and Lud's bed happened to be across the aisle from that of Joseph Harb, a fellow-Sufi from San Francisco. One day Lud came back to his bed to find Joseph had left his suitcase open on his (Lud's) bed. Lud overlooked it, being on his best behavior. However, it happened again, and then again. Finally, Lud could bear it no more, and one day, when no one was in the upstairs room, he took Joseph's suitcase and dumped the entire contents on top of Joseph's bed! Just then Baba's car arrived for the daily meeting with the Western men, downstairs from the dormitory room. Lud headed downstairs, but on second thought ran back, furiously stuffed all Joseph's clothes back in the suitcase, and flung it back on his own bed. As Lud entered the meeting room, he heard Baba "saying" to Francis Brabazon, "Francis, if you're ever angry with someone, don't dump the contents of their suitcase on their bed!" To which Francis responded, "Of course not, Baba - why would I ever do a thing like that?"

## **Community Workshop with Daniel Stone – June 18 & 19**

### **To all Baba-Lovers in Northern California,**

We are pleased to announce our upcoming Bay Area community workshop on Saturday, June 18, 10 A.M. - 6 P.M., with an informal gathering on Sunday, June 19, to reflect and share. All are encouraged to come to what we hope will be an inspiring and energizing weekend of connecting with one another in Baba's love.

This workshop will be the second in the last year in which we will look at ourselves as a community of Baba-lovers. The previous workshop was held

(Continued on next page.)



## Community Workshop (Cont.)

in September 2010, when approximately 30-35 people gathered for two days to explore how we have developed as a Baba-lover community and center of activities. There was also an effort at envisioning a community that would fulfill our diverse aspirations.

In this upcoming workshop we hope to continue and deepen our effort by focussing on the core question, "How can we enhance the way we come together as a community of Baba-lovers?" This question will leave space to explore many related questions including:

- What does it mean to be a community and how does that relate to one's individual relationship with Baba?
- What are our feelings, hopes, and aspirations about being in this community?
- How can our community offer scope for our diverse experiences and expressions?"
- What are our commitments moving forward?

This workshop will largely revolve around a facilitated conversation that will include dialogue in the total group as well as small group discussions. The retreat will once again be facilitated by Daniel Stone, a professional facilitator and long-time Baba-lover who is based in the Washington DC area (you can go to [www.danielstone.com](http://www.danielstone.com) for more information).

The workshop will be held on Saturday June 19 at the Talbots' home from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with a lunch provided. On Sunday there will be a get together at the Talbots' home from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. for both those who were not able to come on Saturday and those who had participated. After some free time to snack (potluck) and chat informally, we will come together to share and reflect on what happened during the retreat.

We believe these workshops are genuine opportunities for us to deepen our relationships with one another. Consider this from Baba: "I am always with you and I am not away from you. I was, am and will remain eternally with you, and it is for promoting this realization that I have severed external contact. This will enable all persons to realize Truth by being bound to each other with internal links." We hope that you will come to this retreat so we can together strengthen our community here in Northern California.

In His Love,  
The organizers



If I am selfish, unforgiving and judgmental  
Please forgive me and love me anyway.

If you are selfish, unforgiving and judgmental  
I will forgive you and love you anyway.

If I am fearful, guilty and unkind  
Please forgive me and love me anyway.

If you are fearful, guilty and unkind  
I will forgive you and love you anyway.

If I am jealous, gossip and am dishonest  
Please forgive me and love me anyway.

If you are jealous, gossip and are dishonest  
I will forgive you and love you anyway.

If I am self-centered, illogical and unreasonable  
Please forgive me and love me anyway.

If you are self-centered, illogical and unreasonable  
I will forgive you and love you anyway.

God is Love and Love must love,  
Love as God Loves Everyone.



Poetry

## Ode To Laughter

by Max Reif

Just now I was laughing at something very silly  
that I'd thought of and shared with a friend,  
and I found myself suddenly feeling astonished  
at the miracle of laughter and how one can still rattle the guts  
whole-heartedly that way, after six decades in this world.



I tell you, my laughter  
was like bells from a high tower  
in the clear morning air, radiating out,  
shaking everything, everything free!  
(oddly like the way a duck shakes  
himself off  
when he gets out of the water).

I say bells from a tower because laughter  
leaves me feeling tall as a tower  
and clean, clean as the silver  
sound of bells.

All the grime of the world's exhaust,  
gone!  
The nagging hands of clocks, banished!  
This ridiculous "senior citizen" status  
(I'm the same person I was when I was  
three, after all)  
Dispelled; arthritis pain forgotten!

I am young and strong, ready again to face the world  
bearing twin swords of poetry and laughter,  
running out onto the battlefield shouting,  
"Here I come, world!  
Better watch out,  
I love you!"



Meher Baba Center of Northern California

# INsights

## Community Newsletter

### 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

The meeting schedules can be downloaded in PDF form from the website (above). The center is open for drop-in and bookstore visits most Saturdays 1 PM to 4 PM (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 Ave. About two blocks onward, the Center is located on the left side of the street. Refer to the address above.



Meher Baba Center of Northern California

# INsights

## Community Newsletter

### **Announcements** (cont.)

**More Local Meetings** (Continued on next page)

### **More Local Meetings**

Lafayette – Sunday Afternoons

Monthly meetings 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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