

"The more you think of Me, the more you will realize My love for you."

Meher Baba

May, 2012

Vol. 5, Issue 4



Meher Baba Center of Northern California

INsights

Community Newsletter

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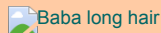
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calendar@meherbabameherbaba.org

Check out the newly updated website, thanks to Jeanne Mojé MacDonald (first link above).

Newsletter wallas:
Ben Leet, Lisa Greenstein, Cherri Nelson & Karen Talbot



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Dear Reader,

Kacy Cook will be our special guest at an afternoon tea in memory of Mehera on 'Mehera's Day', Sunday, May 20. Kacy enjoyed the privilege of attending to Mehera, Meheru, and the women Mandali at Meherazad beginning in 1978. She has many touching Meherazad remembrances to share with us. We will also be remembering Meheru. The tea will be held at the home of the Talbots at 721 Crossbrook Drive, in Moraga.

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Meherwan Merchant arrived in the Bay Area April 30. He began his 2012 U.S. visit as the guest speaker at the Southeast Gathering. He has been touring the U.S. visiting Baba Lovers in many cities. He is with us until he departs for the Oklahoma Sahavas, where he will be one of the guest speakers. Meherwan met Baba when he was forty days old.

His grandmother was Kharmenmasi. Pleader, one of Baba's mandali members, lived with his family when Meherwan was a teenager.

During his two week visit in the Bay Area, there will be many dinners, outings, and

activities with Meherwan. Friday, May 4, and Friday, May 11, there will be Parsi cooking classes beginning at 5 p.m. at the Talbots. Meherwan is an excellent chef.

Saturday, May 5, we will host an evening gathering at the Talbots beginning with a 6 p.m. dinner.

There will be an Urban Sahavas the following weekend -- May 12 and May 13. Cindy Lowe will be our musical guest. For more information about daytime activities, weeknight dinners, gatherings, and other get-togethers, you can phone Karen Talbot at 925-286-2864.

Everyone is invited for dinner each evening. Please call ahead to let us know if you are coming.

## Memories of Meherazad

By Kacy Cook



From late 1978 until 1989, I was extremely fortunate to spend all my days (except Fridays) in Meherazad. Of course, I was always happiest when I was near Mehera. It seemed Baba was always with her. What can I say? It was like that. Much later Mani told me that after Baba had dropped His Body, Mani felt His Presence the most when she was with Mehera.

In Mehera's time, Baba's Home was usually very quiet, elegantly still. Baba's Women did a beautiful job trying to keep the Bungalow free of distractions so that dearest Mehera would be able to keep her focus on Baba, whatever she was doing. The women took beautiful care of Mehera and helped her whenever she needed it. Of course there were the usual daily conversations...a retelling of a Baba story, letters to dictate, Mani's relating of a humorous event, mealtime conversation, good light teasing and so on. But at the back of it all was Mehera's happiness which Baba wanted and which the Women did everything they could to maintain. And that meant allowing her time to be alone with Baba.

Early on, Mehera and Goher asked me to do some work on Baba's photos. Perhaps the glass needed cleaning or the frame needed to be opened for repair, and sometimes the picture itself needed a little restoration. In those days when I'd open a frame back, I never knew what I'd find...newspaper from the 1950s, old medical records Goher had used as frame padding, and so on. I had no access to anything like new cardboard, let alone today's wonderful archival products, but Mehera and Goher and Meheru would always find marvelous things for me to work with. And of course, I was on a steep learning curve when it came to working with Beloved Baba's photos because most of them had been in

Baba's Home during His Time. I had to learn to use extreme care.

One day I heard Meheru urgently calling me from the Main Bungalow and I went running. It seems the wind had blown a curtain, which had knocked over a photo of Baba, and it had landed on the floor with the glass shattered. It was a true favorite of Mehera's, and Meheru had quickly wrapped the picture in cloth so that Mehera wouldn't have to look at the broken picture any more. When I got there, I could see the situation.

Meheru was trying to pacify Mehera, so when she asked me to go straight to the bazaar and get the frame fixed I simply said, "Sure." I took the cloth wrapped package and went on my way. Out of Mehera's sight I opened the package, carefully removed all the broken glass, saw that the photo was unharmed, dusted it off and packed it all up for a trip on my scooter into the bazaar. Luckily, the good framer was there. He cut a new glass immediately. We cleaned the glass and frame, carefully replaced Baba's photo, and the framer did the rest. I was left with the daunting challenge of returning Baba's photo to Meherazad, unharmed, via my scooter. By His Grace, early the next morning I arrived in Meherazad. Saying nothing, I simply handed the photo to dear Mehera and you should have seen her smile! Unforgettable, unbounded happiness. And in that moment I had a glimmer of what it was to please Baba. No wonder His happiness was their happiness.

Once, years later in Baba's House, Mehera was standing near the photo of Baba mentioned above. She beckoned me to her, reached behind the picture of Baba and brought out an adorable little round sandalwood box, about an inch across with a little point on top. To my delight she handed me the box. I said, "Wow, thank you Mehera" and gave her a little kiss on the cheek. Then she said, "For goodness sakes, open it." I hadn't even considered opening it. I felt pretty silly, but when I did I saw a beautiful, very clear little photo of Baba inside the box, and His Love poured out, just poured and poured. I was immobilized, and then Mehera said "I have been wanting to give this to you for a good month or two."

Oh my gosh. Even though Mehera had wanted to give this little photo to me for some time, she'd waited until Baba prompted her. He knew the exact right time for me to receive it, and it was perfect. And in her unparalleled wisdom and obedience to Baba, Mehera would even say, "Yes. It's much easier to do, than to **not** do." Perhaps it's less in our doing, and more in the waiting for Baba's nod to us that He can do what He'd like to do.

To end this little string of memories, I recall Mehera saying with such charm and love, "Appreciation is a big part of loving Baba." How beautifully she appreciated Baba's Hand in all of our lives, in everything. Many times when pilgrims and residents would gather in Meherabad for Baba's Samadhi Darshan and Arti, Mehera would ask us, "Why have you come here?" And then she'd say, "It is Baba's Love, and His Love alone that has brought you here."

May we all learn to appreciate Him more and more in each and every aspect of our lives in His creation.

Beloved Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai

Mehera's Message, 1988



Ben Leet just came across this message this in his files a few days ago.

Mehera's Christmas Message, 1988

Always keep Beloved Meher in your heart and in your thoughts,

Remember . . . it is not the speed with which you obtain your goals in life that counts,

But the time that you spare . . . and want to share . . . with your Beloved that really matters.

So . . . with every step you take in life . . . remember and try to please your Beloved . . .

Who is always with you, helping and guiding you on your journey home to Himself.

Who is the source of all goodness and light.

Always keep Beloved Meher in your heart and in your thoughts.

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 bookcase 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)

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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>

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**Meher Baba Center of Northern California**

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El Cerrito, California 94530  
(510) 525-4779

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

The meeting schedule is now included in our online calendar (web link above), and can be printed directly from the calendar.

Directions to our Center:

From Highway 80, Interstate 5, going north or south, in El Cerrito, take the Central Avenue exit exiting 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 and phone are listed above.

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More Local Meetings Lafayette - Sunday Afternoons

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

Sonoma County - Arti happens once a month, usually the first Sunday.

Locations vary. Call Ellen Van Allen at 707-528-0357 for specific information.

Sacramento area - Meeting times and locations vary

Contact Marilyn Buehler: inquiry@radiant-light.org www.radiant-light.org/meherbaba

Los Gatos - Sunday Evenings

At the home of Clint Snyder
Call (408) 395-6865

contact for messages to newsletterwallas: newsletter@meherbabameherbaba.org

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