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# MEHER BABA CENTER OF NO. CALIF INC.

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# QUARTERLY

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## NEWSLETTER

6923 STOCKTON AVENUE  
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## A Letter to Dr. Martin Luther King

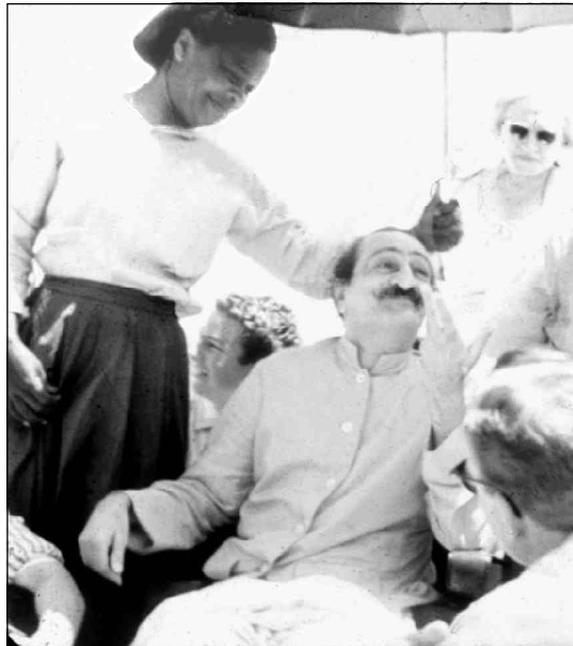
*Beryl Williams, an African-American woman who met Meher Baba when He visited the U.S., wrote this letter to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his wife, inviting them for Baba's darshan. We do not know whether Reverend King replied but, as we have recently celebrated Dr. King's birthday, we wanted to publish an excerpt from the letter Beryl wrote. The complete letter can be found in the Glow International, February 1986, pages 10-13, Copyright 1985, Naosherwan Anzar.*

Dear Rev. & Mrs. King:

This brings to both of you, your able associates and each member of the congregations of souls in Montgomery, deep Love and Blessings from Meher Baba.

The accompanying biographical sketch and photos will tell you more about Him than I can include in the brevity of this letter, but He is widely recognized in the East (India being His birthplace), and by an increasingly large number of people all over the world as the Avatar (Saviour) of the Age, the one who emanates the rare quality of Divine Love and who, by his Presence and Spiritual working in the world, enables the Humanity of the present day to imbibe It and progress more rapidly in the awareness of itself as soul and realize the Spiritual Emancipation and Freedom, which is and ever has been the birth-right of every soul born on Earth into a human body (regardless of the sex, shape, color or size of that body).

It is out of a profound respect for your inherent wisdom and sensitivity to the human plight and your determined efforts to serve the cause of Truth with spiritual weapons that I, and many others, take our hats off to you. Yet, I can never be content merely to cheer you (even though sincerely). Only one who loves God deeply can have the courage to declare, in the face of such tremendous odds and before God and the whole world, that His Truth is



*Beryl Williams with Baba at Myrtle Beach, 1958.*

worth living for and worth dying for — this Truth that we are all One — and for you there is no other way but to live it. For me, your work derives spiritual significance from the fact that many other God-lovers, like yourselves, are cooperating today in living and serving (each in his/her own way) their various roles in the larger task of which yours seems to be part and parcel, in order that human consciousness may be prepared to receive a fresh Dispensation of Light from above and reshape the conditions of human life into a more perfect harmony for the furtherance of the Divine Plan for the Earth.

Perhaps we may not ever meet personally in this life, still, I bow in recognition of yourselves and

your associates as kindred souls who are making their own contributions to this glorious venture. In the spirit of sharing the treasures of lasting value I send this priceless contribution to your cause, and by the Grace of God it then will abide in your own and many other deeply receptive hearts. It is in this faith I greet you all.

This, then, is not an invitation for you to join a new organization or accept a foreign creed, nor abandon your Religion of love in Christ. Certainly it is not everyone's good fortune to meet a Being of Meher Baba's Spiritual Greatness in person, One who just by His Presence is able to impart to those who come to Him as much of the sublime awareness of the Soul as each is capable of absorbing, so that the soul knows once and for all its own worth in the sight of God. To Him it is unimportant what we take Him to be, it is quite sufficient if we have love. Through the interplay of love with Divine Love working through the fabric of our lives, our humanity is gradually transformed into Divinity. Then God is known to be our Self and the Real Self of all. All this becomes quite

intelligible if we study the lives of the Avatars (Saviors) of the past; i.e., Zoroaster, Rama, Krishna, Buddha, Christ, Mohammed etc., not to mention all that has been written about and saints and Perfect Masters of our own day. No, our Age is no exception in God's Plan for His Creation!

Perhaps you would want to give all this adequate reflection and consideration, though I'm well aware that many people on hearing about Meher Baba are able to perceive as most natural the fact that Christ walks the Earth a man among mankind today just as He did in Ages past. Their hearts have always known it intuitively, so to them it is but a final confirmation. I wouldn't be surprised if you are among these enlightened men and women, or potentially so. If you should feel this to be of value to you and yours and wish to have further information as to time and places for the interviews, then, do write that I may send you all the particulars. Then you and all who are able to can make full use of a golden opportunity.

You will find in this sacred assembly true brothers in God — of every race, nationality and religion — who out of a profound love for God, have offered their lives in their entirety on the altar of His selfless service. They have no time to waste in superficial considerations of sect, class and the racial distinctions between one member of the human race and another, since the object of their lives is to love and serve the One God who resides in us all. They understand humanity to be the living flower garden of Divinity, each by his very being contributing in a unique way to the perfect blending of the whole, so, everyone has his place and his importance equally in the eyes of God. These noble souls, by the life they lead confirm man's dreams of brotherhood as a living breathing truth, which all can and will experience: In spite of all that those misguided by appearances may say or do in the desperate struggle to maintain the edifice of self-created horror in which they attempt to encage their own soul. Eternal Truth has again decreed a New Dawn and is making all the necessary preparations for what will be. Therefore, the gate is open to all who are ready to be not only witnesses, but intimate participants in the era of Light, Love and Truth, that is rolling back the clouds of darkness of a dying Age. Those like yourselves who have found that darkness intolerable and are playing an active role in its dissipation should be able to take the name of our Beloved Jesus with a new fervor. The certainty that God does answer prayer, in Person, should bring to your steadfast hearts a new treasure to foster and cherish.

It won't be long, dear ones before each one finds himself/herself a conscious part of this Mighty, Infinite Ocean of Love that is once again spreading Itself over the face of the Earth, easing the hearts of men in order to erase completely from his memory, eventually, the lie of

separateness, difference, hatred and fear including all that is based upon it. Love will restore to each soul its own forgotten Unity of Being, one's only credentials for admittance into its ever widening embrace is his or her love for God. In that love lies our guarantee of participation in the New Dispensation of Divine Love.

**Yours in His Love and service, Beryl Williams**



## I Saw Him Flying Through the Air

*In October of 2003, with our new center completed and ready for use, Harold Jamison had this experience and shared the story via e-mail. Our thanks to Will David for the illustration.*

On Sunday late afternoon I was in front of the center waiting for someone and a car slowed down as they neared the center. The car stopped back from the center a bit and the woman driver seemed hesitant and since I couldn't figure out what was going on I approached her car thinking she needed directions. She said no but wanted to know if I was connected to the center and I said yes, She turned to her young daughter, maybe 5 or 6 who was in the back seat in a child car seat and said her daughter had seen a man all in white flying through the air and he flew into the center. When he flew everything changed to a blue color like the sky. I asked the girl if she would like a picture of Meher Baba and she seemed excited by the idea so I went and got some written material that had Baba's photo in it. I asked the girl if she could read and she said no but she could look at the pictures.

I was so dumbstruck by the experience I didn't ask any other question and the mother and the child drove off with the girl looking excitedly at the Baba pictures.

### **Meher Baba Center of Northern California, Inc.**

*President, Brian Drygas, Vice President, Ron Greenstein, Secretary, Ed Munnich, Treasurer, Cheryl Longo*

*Board of Directors: Brian Drygas, Ron Greenstein, Pam Johnson, Katie Mink, Ed Munnich, Doug Ross, Fred White, Janet White*

*Communications Director: Mary Weiss • Newsletter: Alexandra Cons, Editor • Betty Lowman, layout • Library: Alexandra Cons*

*Office Manager: Pam Johnson • Bookstore: Katie Mink • Trustwalla: Jack Mormon (P.O. Box 2288, Richmond, CA 94802-1288)*

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# C A L E N D A R

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**Meetings are held Saturday nights at 7:30, doors open at 7 PM.** Directions to the new center: From Hwy 80 in El Cerrito, take the Central exit east, toward the hills, cross San Pablo, go under the BART tracks to Richmond Ave. turn left, go a few blocks to Stockton (the first stop light), turn right at Stockton, go a couple of blocks, park on the street. The center is on the left side of the street, 6923 Stockton Ave. El Cerrito, CA.

**\*Note:** We need volunteers to help set up and clean up before and after meetings. If you are attending a meeting and can come a little early to set up, or stay and clean up, Please lend a hand!

## **March 6 - Nada Om Bhajans & Artis**

Rani Didi Gannesh (our Raine's Indian pseudonym) is releasing, this evening, her follow-up to Nada Om Mantra. This new CD will be called "Nada Om Bhajans and Arti's." The CD contains seven of the favorite Bhajans of the women written by Mirabai, Tulsidas, Tukaram and Bramanand; and three of Meher Baba's Arti's: Adi Satchetana, (Hindi Arti) Boojave Nare, (Gujerati Arti) and The Australian Arti done India fusion style. Come join us in your best Indian clothes and be transported home to India.

## **March 13 - Movies at the "Center Theatre"**

Presenting movies of Meher Baba and His lovers.

## **Sunday March 21, 2:30 to 5 PM - Women's Tea**

Tea in traditional Mehera style with focus on Baba in our daily lives. Potluck, please bring treats to share.

## **March 28 - No Meeting**

## **April 3 - Karaoke Night, Once More with Feeling**

This "open mike" meeting was so popular last quarter that we are doing it again. Come and perform your favorite music, or read devotional poetry. Candle-lit cafe-style tables will create a cabaret atmosphere.

## **April 10 - Easter Weekend, No Meeting**

## **April 17 - No Meeting**

## **April 23 & 24 - New! Urban Sahavas with the Rileys**

Tom Riley met Meher Baba in 1958. His wife Cathy Hass Riley is an accomplished musician. We are fortunate to have them as our special guests this weekend. The Urban Sahavas is a special new event for which there will be a suggested donation. To attend all of the weekend events, the amount is \$32. Sunday only is \$12. Reservations are needed for the full sahasavas. Reservations are not needed for Sunday only. There is limited seating at our center — please reserve early. All Saturday meetings will be held at the center; Sunday meetings will be at the home of Alan and Karen Talbot, 721 Crossbrook Drive, Moraga. Call them at (925) 376-4325 for directions.

**Saturday, 10 AM to Noon "Meeting Meher Baba"**  
Tom Riley will talk about how he came to Meher Baba and describe his meetings with Meher Baba in 1958.

**Saturday, 2 to 4 PM "East-West Gathering and More"** Tom will talk about the East-West Gathering and events since then, and show slides of his artwork.

**Saturday, 7 to 9 PM - Cathy Riley in Concert**  
Singer-songwriter Cathy Haas Riley has performed and taught music for more than 25 years. She has produced two cassette tapes and, recently a CD. We are fortunate to have her as our musical guest this weekend.

**Sunday, 10 AM to 12:45 - Sunday pot-luck brunch then a talk by Tom Riley at the Talbots' home**

**Sunday, 1 to 2 PM - Encore Cathy Riley Concert**

## **May 1 - East-West Gathering, Part 2**

You dedicated sticklers are invited back for the second half of this fun meeting. Bring your EWG books, your voices, for this reading in the round participatory singing/reading meeting and transport yourself to Baba's side at Guruprasad with Raine Eastman-Gannett and Sue Jamison. Dip into this rich experience once again.

## **Sunday May 9, 3 to 6 PM - Robert Dreyfuss' story of meeting Meher Baba**

Robert Dreyfuss will tell his story of meeting Meher Baba in November, 1965. Potluck dessert afterward.

## **May 14, 15, 16 - Retreat with Dr. G.S.N. Moorty**

Dr. G.S.N. Moorty, a longtime Indian Baba lover, is making his first visit to the US. Peter Ravazza has arranged a weekend with him at the Presentation Retreat Center in Los Gatos on May 14, 15 and 16. For more information about the retreat, go to the new website [inthegardenofthebeloved.org](http://inthegardenofthebeloved.org), or call Peter at (510) 769-1839.

## **Sunday May 23, 2 to 4 PM - Baba's Work in Iran**

A continuation of the talk given by Farhad Shafa earlier this year, relating his experiences in Iran between 1974 & 1979. He told many wonderful stories, giving us a glimpse into the history of Baba's important work there. Time did not allow for everything that Farhad had to share, so he is returning by popular request. As a special gift to us, he is also bringing musician Mischa Rutenberg, whose songs Farhad featured throughout his first presentation. Truly a lovely way to be reminded of our Beloved's Presence.

### **DISCOURSE MEETINGS RETURN**

Our circle for reading and discussion of Meher Baba's Discourses will meet at the center at 7:15 PM on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month: 11 and 25 March, 8 and 22 April, and 13 and 27 May. Call Janet White at (510) 843-4417 if you are interested.

## Center News

We are pleased and fortunate to have two new board members to fill up our new nine-person board (approved at our Annual General Meeting). Katie Mink, who runs the bookstore, and Pam Johnson, our office manager, are the two new board members. Speaking of the bookstore, Katie brought back a lot of items from her trip to Australia. Have a look. The upstairs area at the center is the home of our bookstore.

We have completely moved out of the University Avenue office, which we have rented for over 20 years. Ron Greenstein, Doug Ross, Ed Munnich, Fred White and Brian Drygas went through the material. Some stuff was thrown away and some stored at the new center and in Ron's garage. We were the last ones out of the second floor offices. The rest are boarded up. The old office building is no longer safe and we did not want to pay the extra rent.

As you may have noticed we have been trying out different ideas for meetings. We have added Sunday afternoon meetings and the well-received karaoke meeting. In April we have our first Urban Sahavas with Tom and Cathy Riley.

Don't forget to check out meeting information at our web site at [www.MeherBabaMeherBaba.org](http://www.MeherBabaMeherBaba.org).

We have decided to use the back room at the center, originally intended to be a break room, for storage for the time being. We need more storage space and we want to be tight about our funds and not spend the money to fix it up. We could really use some help with a fundraiser. If you can help, call Brian Drygas at (408) 927-6500.

### MEHER BABA INFORMATION

For introductory information about Avatar Meher Baba, e-mail [MeherBabal@aol.com](mailto:MeherBabal@aol.com), or write to P.O. Box 1101, Berkeley, CA 94701. See our online catalog of books and other materials at [www.MeherBabalInformation.org](http://www.MeherBabalInformation.org).



### LOCAL MEETINGS

#### *Lafayette - Sunday Afternoons*

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

#### *Los Gatos - Saturday Evenings - 8:00 PM*

Arti, singing and readings at the home of Clint and Sharon Snyder. Call them at (408) 395-6865, or Betty Lowman at (650) 323-1900.

#### *Petaluma - Sunday Mornings - 11:00 AM*

Arti, readings and fellowship. Contact Hermann or Jeanette Loew at (707) 778-1195. Please call ahead.

#### *Sacramento - Sunday Mornings - 11:00 AM*

Discourse readings and occasional gatherings. Contact Mike and Jean Ross, (916) 359-2954. Introductory meetings listed on our web page: [www.premsay.com/MeherBaba](http://www.premsay.com/MeherBaba)

#### *Santa Cruz - Thursday Evenings - 7:00 PM*

God Speaks readings and occasional videos. Call Buzz or Ginger Glasky (831) 457-0444.

To receive e-mail updates from the Center, send an e-mail to Fred White: [faledw@aol.com](mailto:faledw@aol.com)

Check out our new web site:

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

See program information and much more.

### THE TRUST

All who wish to share in the commitment laid down by Meher Baba through the Trust should contact Jack Mormon, P.O. Box 70383, Richmond, CA 94807-0383.

### FOR ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER CHANGES:

e-mail [amba42@yahoo.com](mailto:amba42@yahoo.com) or write or call:

Paul Christy 28 Domingo Ave. Apt.A,  
Berkeley, CA 94705 (510) 525-4779

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of Northern California, Inc.  
6923 Stockton Avenue  
El Cerrito, California 94530

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